



Dogs On Call Inc.

June 1, 2012

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Letter From the President

Spring has been very busy for DOC, dorm events were a great success for everyone involved and we met so many wonderful young people. Our Barnes and Noble event was very busy, children of all ages had fun filling their "Paws-ports" with stickers picturing all the dogs present at the event.

We are now moving into our summer events and your in box is beginning to fill with requests! Check your calendars and get out there and join the fun. If you have never volunteered for a DOC event, now is a great time to start.

A few weeks ago all members were sent the DOC member manual, please take time to read it over and sign the agreement page and send it back to Artie Berning. If you have any questions on the manual please email me at laura.deltadogs@charter.net

I hope everyone has time this summer to enjoy some of what Wisconsin has to offer with their furry friends. I know Kooper and I will be spending some time at the lake "just chillin"!

Laura Kuchta and Kooper

Pet Partner and R.E.A.D. Manuals

Dogs On Call, Inc. currently has several Pet Partner and R.E.A.D. manuals available that are not the "latest edition". The manuals are the version released before the current edition so they are not very old but we must use the most current edition of the manuals when we are teaching Pet Partner classes or R.E.A.D. workshops. We are offering these books to any DOC member who would like to update their current manual. It's on a first come first serve basis for \$5.00 per copy. If you would like them shipped to you the cost would be higher to cover the shipping cost (approximately another \$5.00)

If you are interested in a Pet Partner manual please email Artie Berning at deltadogs@gmail.com

If you are interested in a R.E.A.D. manual please email Laura Kuchta at laura.deltadogs@charter.net

DOC Visits City Hall

The City of Madison's Employee Assistance program sponsored a noon time seminar in March with therapy animals as the topic. Twenty employees attended the presentation, and there was considerable interest generated. Barb Wolf talked about Dogs On Call – who we are, what we do and where we visit in the community. Afterwards, everyone had a chance to visit with the teams and ask lots of questions



Barb Wolf

Thanks to Carol and Montana, JoAnn and Theodore, Karen and Raider, Liz and Charlotte, Karen and Zombie

DOC R.E.A.D. Teams Visit Sunset Ridge

Sunset Ridge Elementary School, part of Middleton-Cross Plains School District, celebrated Literacy Week the last week in March and invited R.E.A.D. teams to the school. DOC Team handlers shared information about their Pet Partners along with reading a dog themed book. Many of the classroom students continued building on their literacy skills by writing and illustrating thank you notes to Sophie, Molly, and Zombie for coming and visiting. The staff and students enjoyed our visit and hope we'll be back in the future.

Katie Kunz and Sophie



Katie Kunz reads to excited first grade students while Sophie smiles.



Sue Heidrich reads a story about a sled dog to interested third grade students as Molly listens.



All hands are on an appreciative Zombie while Karen Smith talks about the many activities and skills Zombie has acquired as a therapy dog.

Pet Partners Teams at Kids' Safety Night Teach How to Greet a Dog

The Madison Children's Museum was the fun-filled location for Kids' Safety Night on March 7, 2012. Safe Communities, a public/private coalition promoting safety for everyone in the Madison area, organized the event, which included many safety- and health-related displays and activities. Dogs On Call Pet Partners teams greeted dozens of youngsters who wanted to pet the dogs. Handlers helped the visitors learn the correct way to approach a dog ("May I please pet your dog?") and the finer points of hand-sniffing and ear-scratching. It was good to have several relatively new teams join us for the event.

Thanks to:

Marisa Welch with Billy
 Marlee and Julie Henige with Cooper
 Lauren Ogden with Lady
 Karen Smith with Zombie



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LADY

R.E.A.D. at South School

South School students participated Wednesday in the R.E.A.D. Program (Reading Education Assistance Dogs), sponsored by Dogs On Call, Inc. This program allows registered therapy dogs, along with their owner/handlers, to visit schools so students can read to them. It helps to improve children's reading and communications skills.

Front row: Legend Stoddard, Dakota Fry, Calob Hetzel, Christian Blackard

2nd row: Mallory Parce, Lauren Delp, Merasha Bauernfeind, Wyaett Wallis, Ethan Cornwell

3rd row: Samantha Cornwell, Rylee Stearns-Manske, Zach Jacobs, Jim Voltz

4th row: Travis Stanley, Deaunte Bolinger, Nevaeh Jensen, Gina Smith & Button

Back row: Jesseca Babecky, Adam Lindquists

Submitted by Gina Smith and Button

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Giving Back, My Journey With a Therapy Dog

Sheldon Schall



This is the fifth installment of an article written by Sheldon Schall, a member of Dogs On Call, Inc. since 2001. Sheldon was also a board member and the developer and editor of the first DOC, Inc. newsletter and only 'retired' from that position three years ago. Currently he is Chief of the Storage Regulation Section (flammable and hazardous materials) with the Department of Commerce. (For parts one through four of this remarkable story, please see previous editions of this newsletter found on the DOC website: www.dogsoncall.org.) In the last newsletter, Sheldon and Presley had visited with Helen at Creekwood Manor, an assisted living facility and also Jim at St. Mary's hospital. In this edition, the pair journey to Maplewood Manor and start visiting at Meriter Hospital.

During a visit to Maplewood Manor, two of the Manor staff were giving Presley some attention outside a resident's room. The resident could tell there was someone there with a dog and asked that the dog be brought into the room. A very petite woman was lying in bed and obviously weak and frail with limited mobility. I pulled a chair beside the bed and sat next to her as she weakly reached out to pet Presley on the head. With a voice that seemed to require an effort to speak, she asked if Presley could lie on the bed next to her. I told her that the therapy dog organization we belonged to prohibited allowing dogs on beds and I emphasized, "Presley weighs more than you do and she might injure you." I proceeded to make conversation as she was pleading to let Presley lay next to her. The nurse came in and whispered in my ear that the resident had so many health problems that the dog on the bed couldn't make things worse. So, hoping I would never regret it, I helped Presley onto the bed and had her lay on her side with her back against the lady and with her paws pointed away.

The resident reached out and put her arm around Presley and talked to Presley as she rubbed her face back and forth against the back of the dog. Presley has never tolerated long embraces or hugs and this was becoming a long hug so I was watching her closely. I could see Presley looking my way with what I sensed was a "get me out of here" expression. As I was grasping Presley to move her, Presley stretched her head back and gave the lady a big lick on the forehead as if to apologize for wanting to get up. We bid our goodbyes but as we were leaving the room I heard the resident say something but I could not understand what she had said. I asked the nurse if the resident was talking to us and as I walked down the hall I thought about what had just taken place with the resident and my dog. The nurse had told me what the resident said as we were leaving her room, "Lord, you can take me now."

Meriter Hospital in Madison has provided room accommodations for Dogs On Call meetings and classroom training sessions. Several DOC teams participate in physical rehabilitation animal assisted therapy within the hospital. Having experience with animal assisted activity and animal assisted therapy with children at the Mendota Mental Health Institution, I approached the Meriter Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital (CAP) about working with that part of hospital. The Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital treat children and adolescents affected by a variety of psychiatric illnesses. After several attempts to generate interest, Deirdre Green, a clinical Specialist with CAP, convinced the management to allow her to implement DOC visits on a trial basis. Initially there was reluctance from some of the staff, but Deirdre worked an evening time slot into the routine. The trial basis was short lived because the staff got onboard very quickly. Six DOC teams committed to working with CAP during the first years we were there.

Giving Back, My Journey With a Therapy Dog—cont.



Katie & Sophie, Lynn & Tootsie, Sheldon & Presley
Sue & Molly

Today CAP would like to have more therapy dog teams visit there but surprisingly, few handlers are comfortable with that type of AAT. Those of us who regularly visit at CAP really enjoy it but we all feel that the therapy dog potential is still not fully recognized

DOC Teams' First Appearance at Kids Expo

Dogs On Call participated in its first Kids Expo at the Alliant Energy Center on March 17 and 18, 2012. We were stationed in the Meriter Hospital booth, highlighting DOC's role in Meriter's therapy dog program. It turned out to be a challenging event, with loud musical performances close by, lots of tempting food passing near the dogs, and appearances by large costumed creatures – a moose, a coyote, and Bucky Badger! But the teams did a great job greeting the many children and parents who stopped by for a visit and talking about the Dogs On Call program. Pet Partners handlers also took the opportunity to teach children the correct way to pet dogs. For those children who were not fond of dogs, this was a good chance to meet "nice" dogs.

Many thanks to the teams that participated:

Andrea Stein & Shayna
Ben Welch & Billy
Deb Schoene & Swing
Jill Miller & Havana
Karen Peckham & Raider
Karen Smith & Zombie
Kate Chin & Ellie
Kay Lysne & Daisy
Laura Schmid & Angel
Lydia Zeller & Daisy Mae
Michelle Duke & Melody
Sue Reid & Sammy

Karen Peckham, Raider and Buddy



Billy and Ben



Billy and I visited the Kids Expo at the Alliant Energy Center, and he had such a great time... once he got used to the place! When we walked in a very loud drum was being played on the mainstage, and it was echoing all the way back to the entrance to the point that we had to shout to be heard as soon as we came through the door. After a second of initial hesitation, Billy let me lead him to the DOC area where he immediately figured out what he was there to do, and he settled in nicely (even though it turned out that our area was even closer to the stage!). He stood there for a while with me, being petted by kids galore. After about an hour, he laid down on the carpet and let people pet him while he dozed!

The only thing that made him tense up again? THE VACUUM! Yes, the nice Meriter people took out their vacuum to clean up the area at one point, and Billy would NOT stop barking at it! Not to worry, all of the families walking by thought it was hysterical, but wouldn't you know it... yup, that's my BRAVE beagle, being harrassed by an inanimate object. <sigh>

Ben Welch and Billy

Gypsy, Page Two



Remember the article about Gypsy from the September 2011 DOC Newsletter? She was the Australian Cattle/Catahoula Leopard dog who chose DOC member Kathy Wagner as her new owner? Kathy was at a rescue looking for the 'perfect' therapy dog and ended up with a semi-feral, hyperactive, fearful young girl who took one look at Kathy, walked away and then came back and curled up on her foot and fell asleep. So Gypsy had a new home.

At the writing of that last newsletter Kathy said that in the eight months Gypsy had been in their family, she learned to enjoy walks on a leash, attended obedience class and has overcome her fear of big noisy men with hats. She started agility and discovered that kids can be lots of fun even though they move quickly and are noisy. Most importantly, she learned to trust people.

Now for the mini-miracle: In December of 2011, Gypsy became a therapy dog! Kathy recently wrote an update about this wonderful girl:

"We are having a good time and Gypsy seems to be very comfortable. She makes sure that everyone knows she is available for petting. We have about 5 or 6 regular friends we visit in the common area of the nursing home we visit. We visit on the last Monday of every month but this past April, we forgot the month has five Mondays, so we visited on the wrong day. We ended up staying for some musical entertainment--a very loud electric piano and enthusiastic singer, 50 people in the common area, and lots of family, which didn't even bother her. I am constantly amazed at how she takes things in stride after being a semi-feral farm dog when we got her and not knowing much of anything about life with people!

"She is quite a dog, as playful and energetic as she is at home, she is just as quiet and focused when we visit. Down the road I think she might be a good fit for a hospice situation as she has such a peaceful gentle energy and nothing bothers her--in fact she will crawl under walkers if people are sitting down and she can't get to them."

Kathy Wagner and Gypsy

Pet Partners Charm Families at NICU Reunion

Because our teams were so well received at the Kids' Expo, we were asked to attend Meriter's NICU (Newborn Intensive Care Unit) Reunion on Saturday, May 5, 2012 at the Alliant Energy Center. This event brought together families who had infants in the NICU unit in the past five years. In addition to food, door prizes, and carnival-type games, there were three to four Pet Partners teams each hour for everyone to pet. The dogs did great at this high-stress event considering all the young children, toddlers, and infants and the challenges of lollypops waving around in the dogs' faces, high-pitched squeals, and rough petting. Now we know why that's part of the evaluation!

Thanks to the volunteers at this event:

Sharon Grinyer & Ty
Barbara Fuszard & Murray
Scott Hubbard-Vanstelle & Sky
Karen Smith & Zombie
Vicki Hugill & Riley
Pat Wende & Buttons
Staci Daugrid & Disney
Carol Mahlik & Montana
Dana Walker & Ozzie
Sue Heidrich & Molly
Andrea Stein & Shayna
Karen Peckham & Raider
Jill Miller & Havana

Karen Peckham, Raider and Buddy

Welcome New Board Member and Facilities Coordinator

The current Dogs On Call, Inc. board would like to welcome Lydia Zellar to the board. She replaces Sue Reid who retired from the board this spring. She has many volunteer hours in various places and is a new R.E.A.D. team. We look forward to her input on DOC matters and welcome her willingness to participate.

Lydia is in the process of becoming our new Facilities Coordinator, she will be taking this position over fully in the near future.

The DOC Board

A Therapy Dog Flyball Team????



I have two therapy dogs, Zombie and Shaka, who enjoy a number of activities in addition to therapy work. Zombie is a Dutch Shepard and Shaka is a Shepard/Akita mix. One of Zombie's favorite activities is flyball. Flyball is a relay race involving jumps and tennis balls. There are four dogs on a team. Each dog runs down a straight course with four jumps and a spring loaded box at the far end of the course. The dog hits the box which causes a tennis ball to pop out. The dog catches the ball and then returns to the beginning of the course going over all the jumps in the process. This scenario continues until all four dogs have successfully

completed the course by going over all the jumps and bringing the tennis ball back across the start line. The height of the jumps is determined by the shortest dog on the team so many teams include a 'height dog' so the jumps will be shorter and not involve as much time as the taller jumps. The course is 51 feet from the starting line to the box and your team is racing against other teams. Teams run against teams of similar speed.

This very simple concept can get a little difficult in the actual execution. Your dog needs to be at full speed when they cross the start line so a big dog like Zombie starts about 50 feet back from the line. I actually let him start running when the other dog is just turning around to come back down the course. If the other dog stumbles or runs slower or faster than expected we can have a bad pass (the second dog crossed the starting line before the other dog returned) and a red light comes on. This means the dog heading down the course from the box must rerun the course. In flyball the optimum pass is 1 to 3 feet (tip of one dog's nose to the tip of the other dog's nose) which requires a lot of practice so you know when to let go of your dog to start his leg of the race. Dogs also pass very close to each other when crossing the starting/finish line and some dogs will drop their ball before they actually cross the line. If the dog drops the ball, he must rerun the course after the other dogs finish. As there are other teams alongside your team and they are also running the relay, some dogs find it very tempting to join the other team's course. If a dog goes over to the other team's course, this is a foul or interference. If this sounds like controlled chaos, it's because it is!

Teams get maximum points for runs under 24 seconds. Fast dogs will complete the course in 4 to 5 seconds. This means they run 102 feet, complete eight jumps and catch a tennis ball at the box in those 4 to 5 seconds! Runs are timed to 0.000 seconds and the starts use Christmas tree lights just like drag racers. The current world record held by the team, Spring Loaded, is 15.158 seconds. This is the time of the entire team together. Spring Loaded has 2 whippets, a border/staffy mix and a border collie in their team.

A run under 24 seconds get each dog 25 points. Pins, plaques and titles are awarded as a dog accumulates points. There are two sanctioning bodies, NAFA (North American Flyball Association) and UFli (United Flyball League) and my dog, Zombie, runs in both venues.

A Therapy Dog Flyball Team????? Cont.

Zombie has been racing since 2006. He was about a year and a half old at the time and dogs must be at least a year to compete. Last fall we had the opportunity to go to nationals in UFLi on an Open team (a group of dogs who are from different teams running as a team for the trials). We had four women and 12 dogs in a camper for five days – an adventure in itself. Our teams raced Friday, Saturday and Sunday and we had more fun than I ever thought possible. The ribbons were wonderful but the experience was even better.

Zombie currently has 31,680 points in NAFA and 11,010 points in UFLi. If you figure a maximum of 25 points per run (and often we get 0, 1 or 5 points) then he has done well over his 1,707 runs. If this were just a matter of racing dogs this would have become boring a long time ago. Instead, the relationship with your teammates and the other teams makes this something very special. We often camp together at events and have team cookouts. People have done things as odd as bring a gigantic waterslide for adults or sent off beautiful Chinese lanterns toward the dark sky. You can never anticipate what someone may dream up.

An important thing to note is that there are quite a few therapy dogs doing flyball. Our team, Mostly Harmless, has three Dogs On Call dogs on our team alone. Equally amazing to me is how well dogs like Zombie transition between racing and 'therapy' dog. I have had him step off the racing mat where he is a ball focused idiot only to ask him for a down so a child can pet him.

Flyball is a sport for any breed or type of dog. Dogs can be fast or slow or anything in between. The biggest requirement is that the dogs are not aggressive to people or other dogs. Dogs that display these characteristics are dismissed from the sport for the safety of people and other dogs. A love of tennis balls is not even a requirement. My dog Shaka runs solely because of the people cheering him on and returns to me because of a pocket full of hot dogs. We have other dogs that do not compete but just attend practice for the exercise and fun. If you have never seen the sport I would encourage you to stop by and watch sometime. We hope to be hosting tournaments in Madison this winter and everyone is welcome to watch our practices.

Karen Smith, Zombie and Shaka



UW Hospital News

DOC-only Volunteer Orientation

In March, 13 DOC teams participated in the second DOC-only volunteer orientation session conducted by the UW Hospital. These Pet Partners teams took the first step in the process to conduct therapy dog visits at the UW Hospital.

While the UW Hospital does offer volunteer orientation sessions every month, the timing of these sessions is sometimes difficult for working adults to attend – 9:30 a.m. or 5 p.m. We had enough teams interested in becoming involved with the UW program that the volunteer department scheduled a special Saturday session just for us.

Several of the teams that attended the session are working their way through the hospital volunteer process and shadowing visits. We're very happy they'll be on the visit schedule soon!

New Room-to-Room and Drop-in Visits

In addition to the units currently visited – dayrooms of rehab, psych, cardiology, and a geriatric/general medicine unit -- the UW Hospital program has added the Surgical Waiting Area and the waiting room of the Carbone Cancer Clinic as visit sites. In May, DOC Pet Partners teams started their first room-to-room visits in the neurosurgery and neuro ICU units. Visits to these units can be on a drop-in basis, which is a departure from our usual scheduled-in-advanced visits.

This program is evolving; we're adding units and expanding our visit styles. Think about joining us!

U.W Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

Several of the UW Hospital Pet Partners handlers and their dogs attended the hospital's volunteer appreciation brunch on a Saturday in April. The dining room full of other volunteers looked surprised (even awestruck?) as the well-behaved Pet Partners teams walked through the crowd to our special seating area. The staff provided water for the dogs and a huge bowl of dog treats (wisely placed on an out-of-reach ledge). The buffet was extensive and delicious and I know the very good dogs in attendance got to sample some of the fare.

Are you having trouble viewing the Calendar on the DOC Website?

Many people have been running into trouble when trying to view the calendar of events on the DOC website when they use internet explorer as their browser. This is a problem with internet explorer, not our website. If you change your browser setting and use a different browser such as Chrome or firefox you will be able to view the full calendar and see everything we have scheduled for 2012 and beyond!

Meriter Hospital News

New Teams at Meriter

Barbara Fuszard & Murray have started visiting at Meriter and several other teams are in the shadowing process. We are happy to have them join the two dozen DOC teams already visiting there!

Meriter Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

The Sheraton Hotel hosted Meriter's volunteer appreciation luncheon in April, attended by several DOC Pet Partners teams. Yummy salmon or flank steak was on the menu. While no dogs were in attendance, the guests could see pictures of all the dogs and handlers (along with other Meriter volunteers) as a slide show ran continuously through the event. A slide also showed a quote from the nurse manager of the psych unit at Meriter, who noted how valuable the therapy dog visits are to that unit -- but we all knew that already!

Are you interested in visiting the UW or Meriter?

For information on getting started with therapy dog visits at UW Hospital or Meriter Hospital, contact Karen Peckham, kpeck.k9s@gmail.com

Billy's Meriter visit

Billy and I have been visiting at Meriter, and he recently had a really special visit with a patient.

We heard there was someone who had really missed his dogs, and we were asked if we could please stop in his room and say hello. We made it to the door of the room and the patient was sitting up on his bed... he immediately just LIT UP and invited us in. He sat up and got to where he could pet Billy comfortably, and we stayed there for an extra long time because it was obvious Billy liked him too. The nurse walked by once and smiled and said the patient had been talking about his own dogs all day. The two of them really hit it off quickly, and the patient was very appreciative of our time. To my totally untrained eye he just looked like he felt a LOT better after our visit. And, I have to say, ever since then Billy has seemed to be "on his game" the most whenever we're on that wing of the hospital, as if he knows there are patients there who will really appreciate him (which they ALL do, he's a natural).

Ben Welch and Billy



Greetings from the Beautiful Lodi Valley

Spring is a wonder here, the Sandhill Cranes are back and nesting, songbirds galore surround us, the corn is growing in our field, at night the 'peepers' sing a wonderful chorus, our garden is starting to look great, fresh bark mulch on the perennial beds that I am told not to chew on, lots of people out and about biking and hiking by our house and my family is busy running around to all kinds of activities.



Hi, this is Grady dictating to my mom as I don't know how to type. I am the Pet Partner of Maureen Heider. We have been an official team since 2008 but I have lived with her since I was 7 weeks old (in 2005).

Our favorite volunteer activity is the R.E.A.D. program. I love it because it doesn't take too much energy to sit or lie down and listen. I've never been one to exert more energy than needed. Retrieving? I may be a Labrador Retriever but once or twice is good enough for me. I prefer to lounge around and have people adore me.

Here's a little about what has been going on in my world.

The Lodi Library had a Birthday Party for me in January. They had balloons and cupcakes (I didn't get a cupcake but did get some yummy homemade dog treats). My mom, Maureen, brought a photo album of me for everyone to sign. It was a lot of fun.

This spring we have been going to the DeForest Public Library once a month and the Lodi Library once a week, three weeks of each month.

My mom & I were one of the 'Celebrity Readers' for 'Read Across America' at the Lodi Primary School. It was a fun day. We, read a book to six different classes instead of them reading to us! Mom read 'Jessica Worries – Hooray For Reading Day!' and the kids loved it! After that successful day, showing the staff how well behaved I was, we were asked to come to one of the classrooms on a regular basis.



Besides our R.E.A.D. sessions, I am also working with a member of our 4-H club. She doesn't have a dog of her own so she is using me as her project. We did this last summer as well. I go to training classes with her. Someone suggested that it wasn't fair because I am already trained but I proved them wrong. I choose who I listen to and when. She still has some work to do before I respect her and listen to her the same way I listen to Maureen. Besides obedience, we are starting to work on Rally and Showmanship. I have been told we have several Dog Shows coming up this summer – the Lodi Ag. Fair and the Columbia County Fair.

I will also continue to go to DeForest and Lodi Public Libraries once a week for R.E.A.D. sessions during the summer with Maureen.

When we are not running between piano lessons, soccer games, R.E.A.D. and 4-H classes, I love to lounge with my family and enjoy the Beautiful Lodi Valley!

Happy Summer Everyone!

Maureen Heider and Grady

R.E.A.D. Across America Week in Waunakee

How time flies! It is hard to believe that over two years have passed since my then six-year-old daughter, Alexis, first suggested to her Reading Specialist and Principle that there would be great value in exposing her peers to the joys of reading to a dog. Although a new concept to the school and district, Alexis was convincing and her own reading progress so remarkable that they were interested in learning more. For those who don't know, Alexis has Dyslexia. In combination with other interventions, Disney plays a pivotal role. His presence has helped create the paradigm shift necessary for Alexis to embrace new reading strategies, instead of remaining stuck or falling back into her old "unique" learning style and roundabout strategies. Partnering monthly with the Waunakee Library and RSVP of Dane County, Disney's encouragement continues to aid many local readers as they improve their skills and confidence.



It is truly a testament to the wonderful reputation of Dogs On Call, R.E.A.D., and Pet Partners, that the Waunakee School District believed enough in our mission to invite our teams to spend time with the students at Prairie Elementary during Read Across America Week 2011. That visit was so well received by students and staff alike that we were extended an invitation to participate again in 2012. What a compliment to our teams and the quality of work we do! On March 2, 2012, Artie Berning with Henry and Laura Kuchta with Kooper again gave generously of their time and joined Disney and me back at Prairie for a special day of classroom visits in celebration of Read Across America Week. Disney and I started the week visiting the youngest students in the building, and really enjoyed our time in Early Childhood. One little boy even said Disney's name a FEW times, which was a big accomplishment considering that he is rarely verbal without prompting. On Friday, our three R.E.A.D. teams split up and spent 20 minutes in each classroom. Each team shared a bit of information about their dog and the various work they do, read a special Dr. Seuss story to the class, demonstrated the dog's special R.E.A.D. training, promoted literacy, allowed the students to pet the dog, answered questions, gave out coloring sheets, and handed out either bookmarks or trading cards. By the time the school bell rang indicating the end of the week, our 3 R.E.A.D. teams had visited all 29 classrooms and made a positive impression on over 600 students.

I am forever grateful to Artie and Laura for going above and beyond to make this unprecedented event possible and so very successful, two years in a row. They are both extraordinary ladies, and have fantastic dog partners! Without their help, guidance, and participation, this amazing opportunity would never have taken off in such a way. Through teamwork and dedication we have been able to evolve Alexis' vision into an extra special reality that has been enjoyed by so many.

Whether at school working as a substitute or just enjoying time as a parent volunteer, not a day goes by that I am not approached and asked when Disney, Kooper, and Henry will visit again. They are all famous now at Prairie and each have numerous fans! Parents often come up and express how much their child enjoyed interacting with our teams, and share many nice things that their child reported about the experience. It has been encouraging to hear stories of children starting to informally read to their own pet at home, and know that we modeled a fun new way for them to enjoy reading. Obviously both our visits made a lasting positive impact on many. For that I am thankful and proud. Proud of what we do and how we do it, and thankful to have great teams to do it with. I look forward to expanding our impact within the Waunakee Schools and beyond. To Laura with Kooper and Artie with Henry, ...thanks a million for joining Disney and me! Your brilliant expertise in molding a little girls big vision into a workable reality for this school, two years in a row, means the world to Alexis. Hoping you are both up for making Waunakee history for a third time in 2013!!

Spring R.E.A.D. Class Enjoyed by All Members

Although I'm already a R.E.A.D. member I thought I would take the class again and am I glad I did. I forgot a lot of things! Plus, new ideas and techniques have been developed since I took the class a few years ago. Laura Kuchta, President of Dogs On Call and our R.E.A.D. director, is also a R.E.A.D. and R.E.A.D., the Next Page instructor and she guided us through an impressive day. Most interesting for me were the many different positions teams could use when doing a R.E.A.D. session. Laura demonstrated the best positions for teams and also demonstrated a new technique using bean bags. Even though I've had exposure to some of the information, I found I learned so much that day and I know the people new to the class learned even more.

Laura explained about R.E.A.D. and what makes a good R.E.A.D. animal. (Sometimes even guinea pigs are great at R.E.A.D.) She also explained how to set up a new facility for R.E.A.D. (she'll do most of it), and she gave advice on how to help a child with his reading skills and still make the experience rewarding. Teaching your dog to look at the book the child is reading or using the dog's paw to help break a difficult word into parts so the child can sound it out, were just a few techniques she told the group. She also explained how to talk to the child 'through the dog'.

At the end of the class Laura told us what to look for when we select books for our R.E.A.D. sessions. She told us that the way the print is arranged on a page can be either good for the reader or make it more difficult. The printing type style can also be an issue for young readers or readers having difficulty reading. Laura had lots of book examples for the class to look at and she discussed the pros and cons of many of the books.

She will be having another class in the fall so if you are interested in R.E.A.D. or you'd like a review, sign up for her informative and fun class.

Jan Hoffman, Griffin and Ryder



Laura, Kooper and Marlee Henige demonstrating reading to a student on bean bags.



Laura, Kooper and Pat Wende demonstrating reading to a student on a quilt or blanket.

Here's a tip for when it's time to switch your dog's tags on the split ring on his or her collar. Use a staple remover to separate the ring, then you can slide the tags off and on easily. Easier to hold and no broken fingernails!

READ Team Unexpected Surprise

(Adapted from an article by Sydney Krieger, Hometown News Correspondent)

On Saturday, April 14, The Cambridge Community Library hosted their first R.E.A.D. event in celebration of National Library Week April 8 to 14. All the publicity pictures of the R.E.A.D. team had been posted in the library for weeks and the photos showed an adorable Papillion named Daisy Mae. The kids had signed up for their first R.E.A.D. session and there was an air of excitement throughout the library. The children had their books picked out and they couldn't wait to pet and read to Daisy Mae. So when a large Dutch Shepherd named Zombie walked through the door of the library, you can imagine what the children were thinking. They were expecting a small, fluffy, adorable dog and they got tough looking Zombie. Although Zombie is a marsh mellow at R.E.A.D., the kids didn't know that – at first. Then they met and read to Zombie. And they loved him.

Unfortunately, Daisy Mae was sick that morning and Zombie was a last minute, much appreciated substitute. Karen Smith, Zombie's owner/mom, says that he really enjoys listening to kids read to him and the kids love him, too.

"Zombie and I are almost exactly the same age," an excited Madeline Buonincontro said, as she took a break from reading "Pigsty" by Mark Teague to Zombie. She and her sister Mallory, age 5, enjoyed the READ experience very much.

The Cambridge library staff was pleased to offer this opportunity to the community and plans to offer future READ events. Daisy Mae is all better now and has resumed her job as R.E.A.D. dog at the library.

Jan Hoffman, Griffin and Ryder



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ZOMBIE

I-tunes and I-Pad Apps



PetToxins
by the Treviso Media Group
The home and garden can be a minefield of poisonous plants for our pets. Many common plants found in your home, backyard, or acreage can be toxic to your dog, cat or horse.

Available from i-tunes for \$2.99 for use with iPhone, iPad and iPod touch.



PetTech PetSaver
By Jaargon Ltd
Pet Tech's PetSaver App for pet CPR, first aid & care information for DOGS AND CATS!

Available from i-tunes for 4.99 for use with iPhone, iPad and iPod touch.

Barnes and Noble a Hit Again!

We had kids and dogs and lots and lots of people throughout the Barnes and Noble East Towne at our Dogs On Call event Saturday, May 19. All the dogs had their own personal picture on 'stickers' and children were able to pick up a 'Pawspport' at our Dogs On Call information desk. Inside the Pawspport was a place for the stickers. The hunt began as kids wanted to find every dog and get a sticker so their Pawspport would be complete. We met so many kids and their parents and they were all interested in Dogs On Call and all the places we visit and the things we do in our organization. Some of the children collected all the stickers from the dogs on the first shift and then brought their parents back to the store to collect stickers from the dogs on the second shift. Even a few teenagers shyly asked if they could have a Pawspport and went happily around collecting stickers and meeting the dogs with the younger kids. We had a few parents carrying babies who were gathering the stickers for their child. This was a very fun day for the dogs, Dogs On Call members and all the people at Barnes and Noble.

Many, many thanks to those who helped make this day so successful:

Michelle Falleck and Kenny
Kay Lysne and Daisy
Maureen Heider and Grady
Terry Tyson and Kiwi
Pat Stevens and Wilson
Andrea Stein and Shayna
Julie Busche and Sadie
Laura Kuchta and Kooper
Tiana Kuchta and Kooper
Artie Berning and Sacajawea
Jan Hoffman and Ryder

Lauren Ogden and Lady
Marisa and Ben Welsh and Billy
Ashlyn Brigham and Harley
Marsha Baldwidge and Baxter
Christina Klock and Leelo
Lauren Ogden and Lady
Addison Pease and Kiki
Aleah Kuchta and Kooper
Gina Smith and Button
Jen Phipps and Eva

Thanks, also, to our members listed below who volunteered at this event without a dog. We always need members at events who can explain about our program and hand out brochures and other information without being 'on a leash'. The Barnes and Noble volunteers without a pet were extremely busy handing out the 'pawspports' and were also busy supplying teams with more stickers besides explaining our programs to the many Barnes and Noble visitors.

Laurie Ingwell
Bri Nestler
Hannah Stein

Also, many, many thanks to our incredible photographer: Dawn Brauner

Thanks, also, to our Pawspport designers, Gina Smith and Tina Smouter.

Keep going to see pictures of our teams and members at Barnes and Noble.



Laurie Ingwell, Hannah Stein, Bri Nestler,



Maureen and Grady



Marsha and Baxter



Andrea and Shayna



Laura, Tiana, and Aleah With Kooper



Christina and Leelo



Gina and Button



Artie and Sacajawea



Addison and Kiki



Michelle and Kenny



Lauren and Lady



Marisa and Ben with Billy



Lynda and Lola

Baseball Cards and Business Cards

Business Cards

Dogs On Call, Inc. has set up a template for Business Card on the Vistaprint website. If you are interested in ordering business cards please email Laura Kuchta at laura.deltadogs@charter.net for more ordering information.



Baseball Cards

There are currently 2 places that have templates set up to order baseball cards.

One is in MN, the minimum order from this business is 1000 cards, they run about \$105.00 shipped to your door. Lee does all of the set up work for you, they are UV coated like a sports baseball card.

The example below of Kooper's baseball card is from Lee.

The second option is from Amy Wurst, her business is located in Kansas City, MO

She will print fewer cards for you so if you are looking to have less than 1,000 cards printed, this is a nice option. The minimum order is 250 cards and they will cost about \$35.00 shipped to your door as long as they follow the same template as the card below and she has a minimum of 5 orders to run.

The example of Sammy's baseball card from Amy is also below.

If you are interested in ordering from either Lee or Amy please email Laura at laura.deltadogs@charter.net for more information.



Kooper

Breed: Shetland Sheepdog (Sheltie)
Sex: Male
Height: 17" at the withers • Weight 24 lbs
Birthday: January 18, 2006
Color: Blue Merle

Kooper is a Delta Society registered therapy dog, an ITA R.E.A.D. dog and a member of Dogs On Call, Inc. Kooper enjoys visiting hospitals, assisted-living facilities and college dorms. As a R.E.A.D. dog, he listens to children read books. This helps them improve their literacy skills.

Kooper's was born to be a herding dog, so he loves to have a job to do. One of his favorite jobs when he is not working as a therapy dog is to play soccer – he is a great goalie! He also enjoys camping and hiking with his family and playing with other family pets.

Learn more at
dogsontcall.org




Card by: Public Safety Printing Services
7025 Eagle Ridge Road • Corcoran MN 55340
Phone: 763-420-7434 • email: publicsafetyps@aol.com



Name: Sammy
Breed: Australian Shepherd Mix
Weight: 38 lbs.
Birthday: February 2, 2002
Color: Blue Merle

Likes: Back scratches and belly rubs, playing with Murphy and watching the horses

Tricks: Roll over, turn around, catch, frisbee, treat on the nose

Favorite Treats: Bil-Jac liver or rawhide chews

Sammy is a Pet Partners registered therapy dog, a R.E.A.D. dog and a member of Dogs On Call, Inc.



Pet Partners
Taking Lives, Improving Health

Learn more at dogsontcall.org.

Reverse sneezing in dogs

Posted May 01,

2012 in Dog Health

Reverse sneezing is exactly what it sounds like: instead of forcefully expelling air through the nose, your dog will forcefully inhale through the nose. This will cause a lot of snorting and wheezing and can be pretty alarming the first time it happens. However, generally this is nothing to worry about and doesn't have any negative effects on your pooch. Known clinically as paroxysmal respiration, reverse sneezing is completely harmless and there are no bad effects on your pet. Sometimes it may seem like your dog has something large caught in his or her throat, but that's not the case. An "attack" might last a few seconds to a minute or two.

The cause of reverse sneezing is not known. However, the problem seems to be exacerbated by allergies and environmental irritants like smoke, potpourri, cologne, and pollen. Dogs with longer noses and narrower nasal passages tend to be more susceptible to attacks of reverse sneezing

Diagnosis

Reverse sneezing is generally diagnosed by clinical signs and your pet's medical history. Your veterinarian will attempt to rule out other conditions that cause snorting and abnormal breathing such as upper respiratory tract infections, nasal tumors or polyps, and more. He or she might also recommend allergy tests or x-rays.

Treatment

Generally there is no treatment required for reverse sneezing. In the event of an attack, you can stroke your dog's neck to calm him or her down. Usually attacks end with a hearty exhale through the nose. If allergies are a contributing factor, your veterinarian might prescribe anti-histamines or nasal decongestants.

Submitted by Gina Smith and Button

Barnes and Noble Photo's



Julie and Sadie

Terry and Kiwi

Pat and Wilson

Ashlyn and Harley

Liz Talks to a 'Star'



(Adapted from an article by Doug Moe of the *Wisconsin State Journal*)

Earlier this year, Liz Morrison talked to a movie star.

Unlike a lot of stars, who can be moody, even brooding, in conversation, this star was relentlessly upbeat.

"A motor mouth," Morrison said.

Of course, he has a few issues. What's an actor without issues? Like many denizens of the silver screen, he worries about his weight. He gets along with his stunt doubles but would prefer to do his own stunts.

He also has four legs and is prone to barking.

The star Liz Morrison chatted with recently is Uggie, the scene-stealing dog in the Academy Award-winning film "The Artist."

Morrison, of Madison, is an animal communicator, and she was asked to communicate with Uggie as part of the cover story for the May issue of Sky magazine, the in-flight publication of Delta Air Lines.

Uggie is on the cover.

The timing couldn't be better for Morrison, who began taking classes in animal communication a decade ago but launched her professional website — www.yourpetwantstotalk.com — in January.

She's acquainted with the article's author, Twin Cities-based Sky senior writer Steve Marsh, who contacted Morrison in February.

"I'm hoping you will talk to Uggie," Marsh said.

"Who's Uggie?"

"The most famous dog in the world."

"I don't go to movies," Morrison said Tuesday, explaining how it was she hadn't heard of the dog that won the Palm Dog at Cannes in 2011 and stole the hearts of pretty much everyone who does go to movies with his turn in "The Artist."

Marsh arranged a conference call with Morrison in Madison and Uggie in California with his trainer, Omar Von Muller, and a representative of Nintendo, the game company that recently hired Uggie as its "spokesdog." (Von Muller retired Uggie from the movies. Uggie is now 70 in dog years, and, anyway, how do you top an Academy Award?) Marsh also was on the call in the Twin Cities.

Von Muller asked Uggie if he wanted to say hello.

Uggie let loose with a few barks.

The conference call was on a Monday. The previous weekend, Morrison, armed with photos of Uggie and having spoken with Marsh (who spoke with and was briefed on Uggie by Von Muller), said she communicated telepathically with Uggie. The Jack Russell terrier offered his thoughts on the movie business and life in general. The Monday phone call actually was for Morrison to share with others what Uggie communicated.

Liz Talks to a 'Star'

At this point it seems worth noting that many people have serious doubts about the ability of anyone to communicate telepathically with animals.

I first heard about animal communicators, or pet psychics, as they are sometimes called, a decade ago when I wrote a column about a Madison-area woman named Asia Voight, who was appearing at a Dane County Humane Society fundraiser billed as Madison's own pet psychic. (A year earlier, Animal Planet debuted a show called "The Pet Psychic," starring Sonya Fitzpatrick.)

Voight cheerfully conceded there are people who doubt her ability to communicate with animals, but added, "acceptance is really growing." She said many people have telepathic abilities they just haven't tapped into. "It's how we communicate with God," she said. "Most people pray and think God can hear them."

It was in classes taught by Voight — who continues her successful animal communicator business here — that Morrison said she first learned to access her own telepathic ability.

Uggie, she said, was especially verbose, young at heart and committed to Von Muller.

Reading the magazine story, and knowing actors, only one thing surprised me. I can't believe Uggie didn't say that what he really wants to do is direct.

Barnes and Noble Photo's



Ryder and the "Ruby Red Slippers"



Kiki

Veterans Program Expansion to Dry Hootch!

May 30, 2012

Dogs on Call, Inc., the sole provider of AAA and AAT at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital in Madison, has the unique opportunity to expand its services outside the medical setting to the veterans of multiple conflicts and wars.

A new resource center for veterans, Dry Hootch, in Middleton, has requested that we be part of their support system for the veterans who have returned to the Madison area. Dry Hootch (which means a drug/alcohol free home) will be providing not only a social venue (free coffee and snacks) but also a resource program to those soldiers who want it; services that will be free to the clientele will include: computer use/training, educational materials, study rooms, assistance writing resumes, peer to peer counseling sessions, marital support groups, job search help.....to name but a few! The public will also be invited to drop by to mingle with the vets....and that is also a great opportunity to spread the word about our program!

The center is so excited to have us a part of their programs---- Dogs on Call, Inc., will be on their website, Facebook, Twitter, and their newsletters.

Dry Hootch will be sending a calendar of events for each month. Our teams are free to sign up to participate (meet and greet) in any of the activities! We are also welcome to simply drop in whenever we are in the area, which is really terrific for those who visit at the hospitals (dog is already clean!) and then simply want to stop by on the way home! The center is open from 9am-8pm daily, so there is lots of flexibility for your schedule.

This program is a wonderful way to interact with those who have served our country.....and it counts as experience toward becoming part of the hospital program! Words cannot begin to express the gratitude of the veterans when they interact with our teams; it is the best therapy in the world for them and a powerful reminder to us about our purpose as Pet Partners!

Our participation will begin in July 2012. The center will be given a list of our teams who will be visiting, so be sure to sign up quickly!! Only these teams are allowed to visit or drop in.

The requirements to participate:

In-service training and orientation at Dry Hootch.

Teams with at least 3 months experience (nursing homes, hospitals, R.E.A.D., etc.) are very welcome to be a part of this great program.

If you are interested in this rewarding program, please contact Lynn Malayter at doglady02@yahoo.com

VA Program Coordinator, Dogs on Call, Inc.

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Articles written by members of the DOC on any topic/subject that may be of interest to DOC members are welcome. Non copyrighted articles or those that can be reprinted with permission are welcome as well.

Any article that is submitted may be edited for proper grammar or clarity.

Send all to: Laura Kuchta

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