

Dogs On Call, Inc.

September 1, 2012



Dogs on Call, Inc.

Letter from the President

Some evenings sitting outside I feel the chill of fall in the air and I welcome the thought of cooler days and cuddling up on the couch with my furry friends. As the weather starts to turn and I look back at everything that Dogs On Call has been involved with this summer I am very grateful to be working with such a wonderful group of people and their Pet Partners.

Dogs On Call has done many Safety Events, from Madison to the Spring Green Area—and a few in-between! We had Mounds Dog Fest, which is always a huge event. The R.E.A.D. program has been going strong all summer in the Madison area and in out-lying libraries as well. We held our first Pet Partner class using the new format from Pet Partners last month and it went great.

Looking ahead, we have our DOC picnic coming up the end of this month, humans and dogs always have fun, no one ever leaves hungry and the dogs get to play in Don's fenced in yard or hike in the woods with their owners. DOC has been asked to come back to Gilda's club, and we have the Badger Kennel Club Dog Fair in November. The dorms will be busy again at finals, Liz is already getting requests for us to visit.

If you are new to DOC and are looking to come to an event, please sign up. Events are a great place to learn more about this great organization. If you are a seasoned event person, we love to see you come back to participate in events and help our new members learn the ropes.

I hope everyone has had a very enjoyable summer and is looking forward to a wonderful fall.

Laura and Kooper

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Pet Partner Classes and Evaluations:

- *September 16 - Evaluations*
- *October 13 - Pet Partner Class*
- *October 21 - Evaluations*
- *November 18 - Evaluations*

Theodore Retiring

I knew a short time after I brought the puppy I named Theodore ("Teddy") home that he was something special. Oh, he was adorable as all puppies are, but he seemed to have a grown-up soul right from the beginning. When I heard about Dogs On Call at a pet fair, I thought I'd give it a try. Many puppy classes later at the ripe old age of one, Theodore passed his Pet Partner evaluation- even rated "complex". It has been almost 8 years since that day, and it is with both pride and a little sadness that I must announce that Theodore will be retiring. He has had a good run, with visits at St. Marys, Meriter, UW Hospital, Creekwood Assisted Living, the dialysis unit and most recently the VA Hospital. The years, although filled with wonderful experiences, have begun to take their toll. Although he still loves to visit, the bath routine has become a struggle, because he has to stand such an extended period of time and his legs are just getting too tired.



Our experience with Dogs On Call has been extraordinary, and we will miss it very much, but the time has come to give this hard working guy a rest.

Thanks to you all,

Theodore ("Teddy") and JoAnn Kessler

24th Wisconsin Dog Fair November 4

Dogs On Call, Inc. will again have a booth at the Wisconsin Dog Fair located at the Alliant Center, in Madison, WI. Sponsored by the Badger Kennel Club, this is a fun event for DOC members as hundreds of people stop at our booth to pet our dogs and learn about therapy animals. The shifts for our volunteers are usually an hour or two at the most and are a great experience for new members who will have an opportunity to learn more about Dogs On Call and be able to greet visitors to the DOC booth. Plus, before or after your shift, you'll have time to see many of the demonstrations, a variety of dog breeds and can shop from vendors with everything 'dog' for sale. Demonstrations go on all day at the Dog Fair and include obedience, Police Dog Demos, Dancing with your Dog, Agility and many others. I'll be requesting volunteers for our booth in October and I hope many of you will be able attend the Dog Fair. (We always need volunteers 'without dogs' to answer questions and speak with Dog Fair visitors while other members are concentrating on their Pet Partners.) So hope you'll volunteer for this event.

Jan Hoffman, Griffin and Ryder

Summer School Safety Lessons

The presenters and Pet Partner teams had a busy summer inspecting “trees” and “rocks” and giving dog bite prevention programs to a number of summer school classes. Again in 2012, Dogs on Call was on the agenda for Madison Safety Town, four week-long sessions designed to teach children who are heading to school in the fall how to safely navigate while walking and biking to school and how to safely encounter new things along the way.

Dogs On Call also spoke to kids at Hawthorne (pictured are Daisey and Conan lapping up the attention) and Mendota Schools in Madison, and 3 classes at Sauk Prairie Elementary School while JoAnn Holston and Polly Cisco taught dog-bite safety classes to elementary students at Arena Grade School, Spring Green Grade School and Plain Grade School.

Teams and presenters involved were Artie Berning & Henry/ Sacajawea, Karen Smith & Zombie/Shaka, Gina Smith & Button, Helen Noncek & Daisey, Wendy Ellis & Conan, Kay Lysne & Daisy, Pat Stevens & Wilson, Karen Peckham & Raider, Bonnie Shattuck & Rusty, JoAnn Holston and Molly, Polly Cisco and Vincent, Barbara Fuszard & Murry, Jan Hoffman & Ryder, Katie Kunz & Sophie, Marisa Welch & Billy and presenter, Barbara Wolf.

Thanks to everyone who participated!

Barbara Wolf and Zora



Helen Noncek and Daisey at Hawthorne School



Wendy Ellis and Conan at Hawthorne School



Katie Kunz with Sophie and Marisa Welch with Billy met with one hundred 4K, K and 1st grade students at Madison Mendota Elementary School to inform students how to be safe around a dog with the message to always ask the owner before petting a dog.

HOSPITAL NEWS

Meriter Hospital

Several new teams have joined Meriter Hospital's DOC crew. So happy to have these teams with us!

Andrea Grosse with Samantha, a Golden Retriever

Pat Stevens with Wilson, an English Springer Spaniel

Hennah McCoy & Michelle Palay with Kameo, a Border Collie mix

Greg Shortreed with Jake, a Labrador/Golden Retriever mix

Take a look at the DOC page on the Meriter web site (www.meriter.com/patient-visitor-center/therapy-dogs-on-call) to see all the teams visiting. But even with the number of teams, there is always a high demand for visits in many areas of the hospital (both in-room and group situations), so we always need more teams. Visit schedule is very flexible. Join us!

UW Hospital

Ashlyn Brigham and Golden Retriever Harley are a welcome addition to DOC's UW Hospital teams. Two more teams are going through the shadowing process and we're eager to get them started.

In addition to dayroom visits in Rehab and Psych, we've started in-room visits in two Neurology units. Raider and I visited with one patient who had been there quite a while (as is not unusual in all the units we visit). As we left the room, the nurse said that was the first time she had seen the patient smile in a long time. Our visit made such a difference in that person's day. (For more on the backstory of this patient, which was unknown at the time of the visit, see the story on "UW Hospital Volunteer Ambassador.")

On another day, a visit in the Psych unit saw one particular patient come into the dayroom, shaking and quietly crying. After several minutes of petting one of our visiting dogs, she was calm and smiling. It was obvious to everyone in the room what a dramatic effect the dog visit had on this patient.

Two examples of why we do these visits!

Please consider joining us at Meriter Hospital or UW Hospital (or both!). Contact Karen Peckham at karenp@dogsoncall.org for more info.

Karen Peckham & Raider



Raider greeting the painted cow in the UW Hospital surgical waiting area

Karen Peckham Selected for UW Hospital's Volunteer Ambassador Program Honor

Three times each year, UW Hospital and Clinic's (UWHC) Volunteer Services department selects four volunteers to honor as "Volunteer Ambassadors." This program designates volunteers who have gone above and beyond in service to the organization, the patients, and staff.

As DOC's UW Hospital program coordinator, Karen was recently honored to be chosen as a Volunteer Ambassador by Michael Rosenblum, UWHC Volunteer Services Manager. On August 17, all the Ambassadors, their family and friends, and UWHC administrators and staff attended a fun, beach-themed luncheon. Raider, Karen's Pet Partner attended too, and was treated to iced sun-shaped dog biscuits. UWHC Patient Relations Coordinator Mary Manering said a few words about Karen's involvement with the therapy dog program, as well as how much the hospital appreciates the Dogs On Call team visits. Mary then read the following email that she recently received from a nurse manager:

"We had a patient who suffered a subarachnoid hemorrhage or better known as a brain aneurysm. This patient was having so much difficulty sleeping, was becoming confused and very anxious. The patient had not slept for 17 days or nights because of his anxiety and the severity of his disease. This patient was treated with many medications to help with depression and delirium. The staff tried massages, music, and exercise to help calm down this patient. The patient became so anxious he would crawl out of bed and often times would be yelling out.

On the 17th day of this patient's admission he had a very special visitor. A beautiful dog named Raider came to his room. When Raider walked into the room this patient's eyes lit up and for the first time we saw him smile. There was an instant bond. I believe Karen and Raider sat with this patient for almost half-hour. It was a "little miracle" to see this patient calm down and relax. After Karen's and Raider's visit was over, the patient was a new man. He was thinking clearly and began to relax. He kept talking about Raider and how happy his visit made him. The reason why Raider touched this patient so deeply was because it was the one-year anniversary of his dog's death. The patient stated that Raider was his "miracle on four legs" who helped him heal physically and emotionally. For the first time in 17 days, this patient was able to sleep. The patient's health became so good that he was discharged directly from the ICU.

Please let Dogs on Call know how much we appreciate their time and energy. UW hospital has many high skilled personnel and equipment but nothing can replace "the holistic touch of dog."

(Karen Peckham is the DOC coordinator for the U. of Wisconsin Hospital and is also the coordinator between Meriter Hospital and Dogs On Call.)

Dogs at Gateway Tech

The 2011/2012 school year makes the third time that Dogs On Call made an appearance at Gateway Technical College in Elkhorn, WI. The staff and students always look forward to seeing us during final weeks. This year we also attended the Health Fair presented at the college.

On a personal note, thanks so much to Debbie Schoene and her pet partner, Swing, for going that extra mile and filling in for me when I made an unscheduled 'visit' to the hospital – as a patient! Even though it was the Christmas holidays and Debbie was very busy, she didn't disappoint the students and not only met her visiting schedule but picked up mine as well. That took some doing to rearrange her work hours and other commitments. I can't thank Debbie and Swing enough. And of course, all the staff and students at Gateway Tech were so glad they were there.

Lynda Prejna and Lola



Lynda and Lola learning about x-rays while visiting at Gateway Tech



Deb and Swing visiting at Gateway Tech. An instructor is showing them how a calibrating machine works.



New Email Addresses

Dogs On Call now has their own .org. Many of the board members have switched email addresses so please make the following changes to your contact list:

Artie Berning artieb@dogsoncall.org

Jan Hoffman janh@dogsoncall.org

Karen Peckham karenp@dogsoncall.org

Liz Morrison lizm@dogsoncall.org

Karen Smith karens@dogsoncall.org

Lynn Malayter lynnm@dogsoncall.org

Dawn Brawner dawnb@dogsoncall.org

Laura Kuchta laurak@dogsoncall.org

Lydia Zeller lydiaz@dogsoncall.org

Dogs On Call Annual Picnic

September 30 10:00-?

This is a fun day for DOC members and their families! And of course, your Pet Partner is invited too!

The picnic is held at the home of Don Machnik, S185 Lyndon Road, Wisconsin Dells 53965. Don has a huge fenced in yard and ten acres of woods and field. Plenty of room for everyone!

Don is supplying the brats, hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers. We also have all the plates, cups, etc. along with soda, water, tea, & coffee. We ask that you bring a dish to pass - anything you want - from past experience I can tell you that this crowd is easy to please!

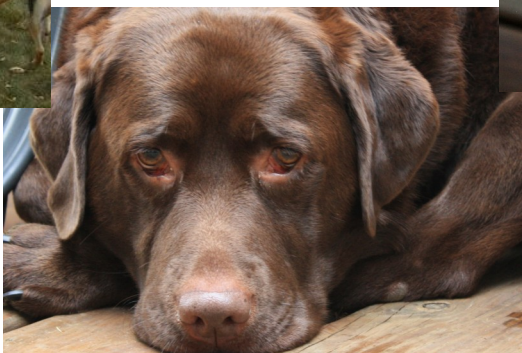
If you Google Don's address, the pointer is pretty accurate. He lives almost at the corner of Lyndon Road and Raedel Lane. There will be signs. If you come 90-94, get off at exit 87. If you come Highway 12, you might want to get on 90-94 just when you get into Lake Delton and get off at exit 87 if you want to avoid the tourist traffic.

Please let me know if you plan to come so we can estimate the brats, etc., but if you decide to come at the last minute, that's fine too!

Hope to see you there!
Your Dogs On Call Board



Fun at the DOC Picnic—Come
with your dog!



Giving Back, My Journey With a Therapy Dog

by 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 five 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 started visiting at Meriter Hospital and the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital (CAP).

My knowledge of the canine species has expanded significantly through the Delta Society therapy dog evaluator accreditation process, but more so trying to become smarter than the children at the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital (CAP). Some children are very knowledgeable about dogs and many ask very interesting questions about dogs in general or about the Bernese Mountain Dog breed. The question I am asked most often about Presley is “does she shed a lot?” and that always brings out conversations about shedding of dogs or cats. I find that people believe shedding is the result of changing seasonal temperature. The length of daylight triggers shedding, not temperature. Temperature effects only coat density and speed of growth. Shedding begins at the rear of a dog and progresses forward.

The CAP hospital has a children’s wing and an adolescent wing. The goal is to spend at least thirty minutes within each wing. Adolescent visits are typically laid back conversation and social interaction. Visits in the children’s wing are just the opposite and quite often the kids are bouncing off the walls. The staff to child ratio during our visit is usually one staff person to three children but with four or five kids talking at the same time and wanting Presley’s attention, it can be a challenge to me and confusing to the dog. There have been sessions where I pulled the plug in less than fifteen minutes. My typical approach was to have Presley in a down stay and have the kids sit around her while I asked various dog questions, such as “How many toes does a dog have?” During a visit a girl asked me, “What are those things that hang under a dog’s butt?” I’m not sure if I turned red or white, but I turned Presley around (fortunately she is a female) and pointed out she had nothing under her butt and proceeded to point out features of her head. As I distracted the kids to her head, the two staff people in the room were struggling to contain their laughter.

Giving Back, My Journey With a Therapy Dog - Continued

Two CAP visits are particularly memorable. As I was wrapping up a session with a group of adolescents, one of the staff asked if I would mind staying longer and spend some time with a girl and her father. The father and daughter were brought into the room and although the staff person left the room, she stood right outside the door by a window. As the girl was petting Presley, I noticed horrendous cuts and burn marks on her arms that were visible when her sleeves were raised. This indicated to me that she was a “cutter” – intentionally cutting or burning herself. As much as I have asked the mental health professionals to explain this illness to me, I cannot grasp the number of adolescents I have interacted with who have cut and burn marks. Looking at this girl I could tell this particular mental illness extended across the family economic wealth spectrum because wealth was obvious from the father’s clothing and accessories. As I was leaving that day, the staff person expressed appreciation that I took time with Presley to visit the girl and that it ‘was very helpful,’ but I never knew specifically how we had helped this young girl.

My second memorable visit was a session with a group of adolescents during a time period where parents could also visit. They were given the opportunity to join with their children and participate during the dog visit. This session was a social interaction for everyone in the room, some more interactive than others. As I left the session, two of the staff who walked me out were talking about how well a father and daughter got along in the sessions because their comments to each other were about Presley. The staff told me that usually the father and daughter could not hold a three minute discussion without one of them “blowing up” and that they had had a peaceful conversation for almost an hour during this session. I believe that interaction demonstrated the research that “feel good” hormones are increased and cortisone (a stress hormone) levels go down when we are with dogs. I left believing that Presley was therapy for that father as much as the daughter and maybe the doctor’s recommendation should be they get a dog. In fact, several times I have thought that maybe a good bond with a family dog might reduce or eliminate the meds some of these kids are on. On several occasions, while interacting with both children and adolescents at CAP, I heard comments relating to how they could tell their secrets and troubles to their dog because they would listen even if they were being silly, they could trust their dog and the dog wouldn’t belittle them. A comment that I occasionally heard from adolescents was their “dog was a good friend to be with when they wanted to be alone.”

Every time I drove out of the CAP driveway after a therapy dog visit, I thanked the Lord for giving me a healthy family.

The final segment of Sheldon and Presley’s journey will be in the December 2012 edition of the Dogs On Call, Inc. Newsletter.

DOC Member Spotlight



Ty

"Hi! My name is Sharon. I am a native Madisonian - born and raised on the eastside - a graduate of East High School and the UW-Madison. I have two children who are now in their late 30s and while they were growing up, I taught quilting classes at Madison College (MATC). I am a Sunday School teacher and currently work in the claims division of a large insurance company on Madison's east side.

About 2 and 1/2 years ago, the opportunity presented itself to become a dog owner. TY was a 4 month old Cockapoo whose owner could not lavish on her the attention she desired or deserved. A good dog is a disciplined dog so we enrolled in the dog training classes at PetSmart. While in those classes it was decided TY and I would work toward becoming registered as a Pet Therapy team. After passing all the classes PetSmart offered, TY sailed through her AKC Canine Good Citizen test. As they say, "The rest is history." TY and I passed the Delta Society exam in late March of 2011.

We visit Meriter Hospital twice a month as a thank you to the great care the staff gave my mother while she underwent chemotherapy six years ago.

Being a DOC member has been and continues to be a very rewarding volunteer activity for TY and me."

Sharon Grinyer and Ty

Dogs On Call Member Ties the Knot



DOC member Michelle Falleck was married August 18 to Steven Meyer. Best wishes to Michelle and Steven. Michelle's Pet Partner, Kenney, is second from the right.

Mini Horses an Evaluator's Dream

My first opportunity to evaluate a mini horse came the latter part of August and both horses, Kyle and Rosie, were wonderful animals. Because the horses are similar to a large dog in size, it was easy to do the hugs and examinations required in an evaluation. The only thing not required was for the horse to 'sit' and 'down' although owner Betty Burgess said they could 'down'. Under the observation of our head evaluator, Artie Berning, I lifted hooves, checked ears and mouth and played with a tail. Both mini horses were calm and friendly and I could see how delightful they would be in a nursing home. They were both serene as the test progressed and they went out for a walk and met loud and noisy strangers who gathered to pet them. Something I learned after the evaluation: mini horses don't need horse shoes. Their hooves are very hard and don't crack on hard surfaces as do those of standard size equines. Kyle and Rosie won over my heart with their gentleness and their sweet dispositions and I wished I could take them home with me.

Jan Hoffman, Griffin & Ryder



Artie, Jan, Betty and Kyle



Artie, Jan, Betty and Rosie

DOC Coming Events

(All DOC members may participate in the following events. Contact

Jan Hoffman, janh@dogsoncall.org for more information.)

Sept. 30 -- Dogs On Call picnic

Oct. 9 -- Gilda's Club (Kids)

Nov. 1 -- Gilda's Club (Adults and Kids)

Nov. 4 -- Dog Fair at the Alliant Center (DOC has a booth)

Nov. 17 & 18 -- Women's Expo Also at Alliant Center

Jan. 26 & 27 -- WELL Expo at the Alliant Center

Our Secret!



As soon as I said it, I knew that I goofed. Charlotte and I were at The Capitol Lakes Health Care Center for one of our bi-monthly visits. We walked into the lounge (where we meet with the residents) and found ourselves in the midst of the largest crowd we've had yet. Most of these residents have either Alzheimer's or some form of dementia. And while Charlotte and I have been going there twice each month since January of this year, we are not always recognized as being old friends. I know this and have adjusted to it, but I thought I recognized some new faces in this crowd this time. So, I very confidently said to the group..."who here has never met Charlotte before?" One woman, who has been there since the beginning, spoke up and said..."we don't know if we've ever met Charlotte before." As fast as I could, I moved on to introducing Charlotte and myself to the group while I silently hit myself over the head. I'd like to say I won't ever make this mistake again, but then I also said I wouldn't put my underwear on backwards anymore. Whoops! Wrong secret!!

Going on....this same woman always asks me every 2 minutes or so, how old Charlotte is. With this visit, she didn't disappoint. She did, however, add a second part to her question....."how old is Charlotte and how long do you expect her to live?" If she had asked me this question just once, I think I might have made it through the visit without another mistake. But after being asked this same thing about 10 times, I started to giggle. Fortunately I was fast on my toes and ready for an excuse for my laughter. I just pretended that Charlotte had passed some gas.....then everyone giggled. I was saved!!! Thanks Miss Charlotte for your sacrifice.....

Liz and Charlotte

Cell Phone Use During Visits

Please remember to leave your cell phone in your car when making Pet Partner or R.E.A.D. visits. If you must take your phone in with you when you are on a visit, make sure that it is on silent, not vibrate. Do not answer calls, text messages or emails while you are visiting unless it is an emergency. This is a courtesy to the patient or young reader that you are visiting with, they are entitled to your undivided attention during the visit or R.E.A.D. session.

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.

Money still available for bookmarks and business cards

DOC will cover \$20 of member expenses for printing bookmarks, business cards or baseball cards. Every member may receive a \$20 reimbursement as a once-per-year expense on either of the three mentioned above. You may use printers who already have our DOC information or you may choose one of your own.

DOC has had a number of donations and the board has decided to use those donations to help our members with the cost of bookmarks, business cards or baseball cards. We will continue to reimburse members as long as there is money available.

For more information, please contact: Laurak@dogsoncall.org

Mounds Dog Fest

What a hot day for our Mounds Dog Fest participants but we are so grateful for their attendance. Lots of people visited our booth, petted the dogs and asked about Dogs On Call and Therapy animals. Many thanks to Gina and Artie for organizing the booth and keeping the fans going on a sweltering day. Mounds Dog Fest is an annual event for Dogs On Call and we always enjoy talking with all the people who attend.



Artie and Satch, Lauren Ogden and Lady, Karen Smith & Zombie, Kathy Yelk & Bella

Artie Berning and Satch, Ben Welsh and Billie, Ingird Danler and Ruby, Sharon Gringer and Ty, Gina Smith, Vicki Hugill and Riley

National Dog Week Sept 24-30

September 24-30 is National Dog Week. If you are out doing visits this week, take the time to do a little “education” if the opportunity arises. Our dogs are loyal companions, excellent “cuddle buddies” and as those of us who work with therapy dogs already know, they can enhance the human life.

Please take some time during this week to do something special with your dog and remember everything that they do for us each and every day without hesitation.

Make sure to give them an extra hug as every moment we have with our furry friends is special.

Laura and Kooper

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