

September 2013



Dogs
On Call Inc.

Letter from the President

Labor day has traditionally marked the end of summer and “things” are supposed to slow down. If you look at page 11 of our newsletter, you will notice that is not the case for Dogs On Call. Liz is busy scheduling dorm visits, we have our annual picnic on Sunday, September 29, and Badger Kennel Club Dog Fair and The Women’s Expo are right around the corner. With all these great opportunities to get out with other DOC members, I hope to see many of you this fall.

Summer was also busy for DOC. A few of our members who have Pet Partners that are also rescue or shelter dogs were invited to make a TV appearance on Wisconsin Public Television; make sure to read all about it on page 3. We had a very dedicated group of members who held many presentations for children on dog bite prevention. This is such an important thing to teach to young children, would you be interested in helping next summer?

Thank you to our DOC members for making time in your busy schedules to visit with your Pet Partners. I know sometimes it is really hard to add “just one more thing” to your busy day. Just remember, you may be the only visitor that person sees that day.

Laura Kuchta, Kooper and Oliver

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Dogs On Call Annual Picnic September 29, 2013 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 back yard with ten acres of woods and field. There is plenty of room for everyone. We have some very nice prizes this year, and you'll receive one just for showing up!

We will have a short annual business meeting and announce the results of the Board elections.

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

If you Google Don's address, the pointer does not take you quite far enough down Lyndon Road. 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, turn left at the first set of traffic lights, which is County Road H at Burger King. Follow County Road H to Lyndon Road which you will see on the right. Lyndon Road crosses County Road H, but there is a slight jog. You will see Lyndon Road first on your left, but just a few yards ahead you will see it on the right. There will be a sign at the corner where you should turn. Let me know if you need more detailed directions.

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

Your Dogs On Call Board

RSVP to: Artie Berning at Artieb@dogsoncall.org

608-963-7802



Information on DOC Picnic

Some members have inquired about bringing other family dogs to the picnic besides their Pet Partner. We have always allowed members to bring their other well-behaved family dogs, and we will continue that policy, but only if you feel 100% sure that your other pet can join the other dogs without an incident, and without excessive noise. We are always pleased at how nicely the dogs get along off leash and being able to finally visit each other, but it can take one ill-behaved, or overly excited dog, or a continually barking dog to cause an incident. Remember, this is an event for teams to get together, to relax, and to visit with each other; something we do not have a chance to do at our many DOC activities, so please use your best judgment!

And remember, if your Pet Partner does not enjoy running with about 40 or more other dogs you are welcome to come "dogless".

Dogs on Call at Wisconsin Public Television



Bri and Gerry, Karen and Raider, Dr. McConnell, Jen and Eva

On Monday, August 5th, three DOC Pet Partner teams brightened the Wisconsin Public Television (WPT) airwaves by appearing on camera during the fundraising breaks. That night, WPT was airing “Shelter Me: Let’s Go Home,” a wonderful program about shelter dogs and the good works they are capable of when someone gives them another chance.

Dr. Patricia McConnell made a guest appearance interviewing each of the PP teams. She also talked about the contributions shelter dogs give to the world every day in a wide variety of jobs. Appearing with Dr. McConnell were Karen Peckham and her Pet Partner Raider, Bri Nestler and her Pet Partner Gerry,

and Jen Phipps and her Pet Partner Eva. Raider, Gerry, and Eva were all rescue or shelter dogs at one point in their lives. Besides being important family members now, they each bring love and comfort to everyone they visit as members of Dogs on Call.

While the Pet Partner teams were being interviewed on camera by Dr. McConnell, each dog sat quietly in a chair doing what they do best...sharing their unconditional love and affection by simply being dogs. The furry critters didn’t know that their abilities to calm nerves and lower blood pressures reached out to many in the television audience that night. They were all just happy to be with their partners and the many people at WPT who wanted to pet and spend some time with them. It didn’t matter to the dogs that they were on camera while WPT reached out to thousands of viewers asking for donations to a worthy cause. But it sure made a difference to the viewers who decided to contribute during this part of the program. I think everyone would agree, “Dogs on Wisconsin Public Television” was a huge success.

Liz Morrison and Charlotte

Upcoming Evaluation and Class Dates

September 8 Evals at Meriter Hospital

October 20 Evals at Meriter Hospital

November 10 Evals at Meriter Hospital

October 19 Pet Partner Class

October 26 R.E.A.D. Workshop

December 1 Evals at Dogs Welcome

If you are available to help on any of our evaluation dates please contact Artie at Artieb@dogsoncall.org

Patricia McConnell

As Liz referred to Dr. McConnell in her article about Wisconsin Public Radio, I thought I'd give readers a quick bio of this incredible local animal behaviorist. Patricia McConnell received her Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and continues there as an Adjunct Professor teaching "The Biology and Philosophy of Human/Animal Relationships." She is a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (CAAB) and has been committed to improving the relationship between people and animals throughout the years. She has dispensed advice on Wisconsin Public Radio's "Calling All Pets" which was heard in over 90 cities around the country. Also a prolific writer, Dr. McConnell is the author of such acclaimed books as, "The Other End of the Leash," "For the Love of A Dog," and "Tales of Two Species," besides writing many books and booklets about dog training and pet behavior problems. She also is a regular contributor to "Bark" magazine as well as many other periodicals.

Besides writing, Dr. McConnell started and was co-owner of Dogs Best Friend Training, LLC, and, until recently presented seminars about dog behavior and training throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. I was fortunate enough to attend one of her seminars and it was a lively and very informative day that passed much too quickly. She kept my attention throughout and because Dr. McConnell is such a warm and caring person, I felt I had made a new friend by the end of the session.

Dr. McConnell lives in rural Wisconsin near Black Earth and has two dogs, two cats and a small flock of sheep. Her blog: www.patriciamcconnell.com/theotherendoftheleash/

Jan Hoffman, Griffin and Ryder

Mounds Dog Fest



Nancy Kaufman & Eva

DOC participated in the Mounds Dog Fest again this year on June 9th. The weather forecast was possible rain, but we were lucky enough to get by without getting wet or excessive heat as we have dealt with in past years. And once again, we were able to obtain a booth in the vendor section rather than the rescue section. We spread the word about Dogs On Call to many people, along with speaking to lots of potential teams.

Since this is one of our longer events--six hours--many teams were required to man the booth. Thank you to all who volunteered: Nancy Kaufman & Eva, Liz Morrison & Charlotte, Pat Wende & Buttons, Kellie Utz & Torrie, Pat Stevens & Wilson, Kay Stevens & Derby, Karen Smith & Zombie, Ben Welch & Leia,

Marisa Welch & Billy, Artie Berning & Sacajawea, Jan Hoffman & Ryder, Gina Smith, Amy Cavaletti, Mary Schatz, and Anna Bezruki

Artie Berning, Sacajawea and Henry

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER AT UW HOSPITAL

“Dog Days of Summer” was the theme of the UW Hospital’s volunteer appreciation luncheon in July for the therapy dog teams at UW Hospital and American Family Children’s Hospital.

Dogs On Call members in attendance were:

Liz Morrison
Pauline Witte
Kay Lysne and Daisy
Vicki Hugill and Riley
Michelle Falleck and Kenny
Yvonne Gern and Daisy
Karen Smith and Zombie
Karen Peckham and Raider

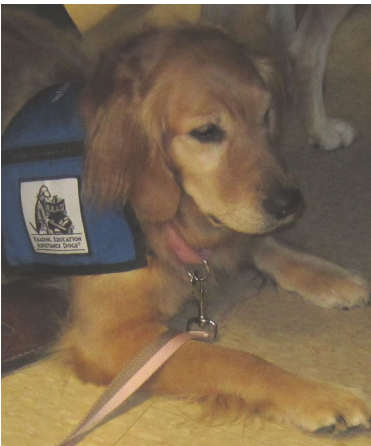


Also in attendance were several hospital administrators, staff, and many teams from the American Family Children’s Hospital Pet Pals therapy dog program. (The UW Vet School administers that program.)

After the initial greeting of people and dogs, we sat down to a delicious lunch, heartwarming and praiseful speeches, and ended with group photos and dog-themed prizes and treats.

The Volunteer Services Department, headed by Michael Rosenblum, went all-out to make sure our teams know they are appreciated. He read several comments from staff members about the value of our dog visits to patients and staff. A simple and direct message from one unit said, “WE LOVE DOGS ON CALL!” A big thank you from me, too, to all our hospital teams’ participation and dedication!

Karen Peckham and Raider



DAISY



KENNY



RILEY



RAIDER & ZOMBIE

HELP! SOS! HELP! SOS!

Visit requests at Meriter Hospital are going unanswered and that's not good! Unit staff is asking, "When are the dogs going to be here?" Well, when are the dogs coming?! We need MORE TEAMS to satisfy the demand.

Consider these benefits to visiting at Meriter:

- Flexible schedule – come according to your own schedule.
- Choice of units to visit – try them all, find a favorite that works for you and your Pet Partner.
- Welcoming staff – they come pouring out from behind desks for a chance to say hello.
- Appreciative patients – your visit has a good chance to be the bright spot in someone's day.
- Plenty of support from DOC – you won't be out there on your own.
- Many additional benefits as a Meriter volunteer – discounts on movie tickets, local attractions, phone service, meals & snacks at Meriter, and gift shop items. Also free parking, free use of exercise facility, free flu shots ... and more!

We ask for the MINIMUM commitment of one visit per month for six-months. That's hardly anything when you consider what you went through to become a Pet Partner! By then, you'll be hooked on the great feeling you'll get when volunteering. (See the "When Are You Coming Back?" article in this newsletter.) More visits per month are welcome!

To get more mileage out of that dog bath, a Meriter visit can mesh with another DOC event. While you're in town for one visit, take a little break, then stop in at Meriter.

Please contact Karen Peckham at karenp@dogsoncall.org for more information or to start the process!

Welcome New Members

So far, the following teams have joined Dogs On Call this year.

Jean Krieg & Jimmy - Mix
Kathy Mast & Abbey - Golden Retriever
Pat Ringelstetter & Wallace - American Staghound
Teresa Speciale & Gibson - Husky Mix
Jennifer Tamulevich & Ella - Portuguese Water Dog
Mary Winkler & Sully - Chinese Crested
Ron and Barb Garner & Ginger - Yellow Lab

Welcome!

“WHEN ARE YOU COMING BACK?”

I think all our teams have heard that sometime from patients or even staff at Meriter or UW Hospital. Our visits make such a difference in the lives of those we visit and in our own lives, as well.

Here are some comments I've received –

From our hospital team handlers:

-- I enjoy this volunteering immensely. I wish I had been doing this long ago.

-- This is the best volunteer work that I've ever done.

-- Nearly every time I've visited, there has been at least one patient that has said that our visit was the highlight of their day.

-- If it's just one person [that we visit], that one person has the opportunity to meet (the therapy dog) and it affects their life for that day.

From hospital staff:

-- I am a nurse who works on B6/5 inpatient psychiatry. I am writing to tell you how grateful I am for the Dogs on Call program. I always bring my patients, as your visits never fail to brighten their days. It is very helpful for them and for me it is a real treat to see them smiling, connecting, and interacting with the dogs and great volunteers. It is a fun, warm, and relaxing time. Most importantly it seems that your visits give them a time away from their worries, anxiety and sadness.

And family:

-- You have no idea how much these visits mean to the patients.

Hospital visits aren't scary – the patients aren't bloody, violently sick, or writhing in pain! They're bored and lonely. Many are missing their own dogs or other pets. There are so many opportunities at the hospitals to make a difference in someone's life – and your own!

For more information on Meriter or UW Hospital visits, contact Karen Peckham at karenp@dogsoncall.org. DO IT NOW!

Karen Peckham and Raider

New Meriter and UW Hospital Teams!

Welcome to Blythe Novacheck and Golden Retriever Maisy as they join the DOC teams at Meriter.

Also, welcome to Jill Miller and Havana, a Smooth-Coated Collie, to the UW Hospital program. They are visiting with friends and families of patients at the UW Hospital's Surgical Waiting Area and Carbone Cancer Center.

MEMBER PROFILES



Michelle Duke and her nine-year-old Schipperke, Melody, often travel from Janesville to Madison for DOC events. They regularly visit at Mercy Manor in Mercy Hospital in Janesville.

Michelle worked with a breeder and picked a seven-week-old male Schipperke, Trevor, to be a show dog. The breeder also had two females from the litter; one was destined for the show ring and the other was offered as a pet at 15 weeks. Michelle purchased the "pet," and Melody ended up finding her niche as a therapy dog.

Michelle's house is often a temporary home to other dogs, as she does training for OccuPaws Guide Dog Association and also has rescue dogs for short stays and fostering. Though most of Michelle's spare time is devoted to dogs in some way, she also enjoys reading and horseback riding.



Jan Hoffman is a long-time DOC member with Pet Partners Griffin, a 13-year-old West Highland White Terrier, and Ryder, a nine-year-old Cairn Terrier. She got both dogs as puppies from a breeder. Those two busy boys share their home in Spring Green with Dixie, a Staffie-Jack that Jan adopted. Jan proclaims Dixie to be "the sweetest dog I ever had."

Jan and her Pet Partners visit at Gilda's Club, Meriter Hospital, do R.E.A.D. and various DOC events. Jan is also a Friends of the Library member (in Spring Green), is involved with "Wings Over River Valley" (a Bird City group event), enjoys gardening, supports the local animal shelter, and transports rescue animals one day a week. Jan is also a Pet Partner Evaluator and Instructor.



Barbara Fuszard lives in Middleton with Pet Partner Murray, a five-year-old Black Lab/Hound mix that she discovered at the Dane County Humane Society in 2009.

Murray and Barbara have a busy schedule, visiting at Meriter and UW Hospitals, UW dorms and libraries, and Gilda's Club. Barbara's other interests are interior décor, motorcycling, reading, and snowshoeing.



Lynn Kalhagen traveled in a blizzard on Valentine's Day many years ago to get her Golden Retriever. Lynn and ten-year-old Tahoe visit at the UW dorms, Dry Hootch, and some fairs and special events. Another passion of Lynn's is volunteering for the Badger Honor Flight.

MEMBER PROFILES

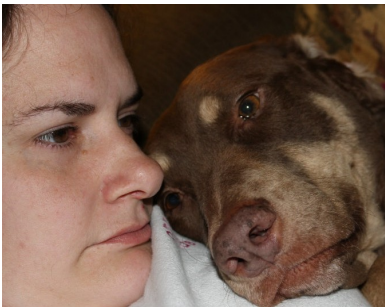


Pauline Witte made a trip to Southern Illinois to decide between eight six-month-old Collie pups. She chose wisely, as seven-year-old Lady now charms patients at Hyland Park Nursing Home and UW Hospital. A Norwich Terrier named Scooter also is part of the Witte household. Pauline enjoys hiking, gardening, and writing poetry.



Ashlyn Bringham adopted her Golden Retriever Harley from Wisconsin Adopt a Golden Retriever (WAAGR) in 2010. He's seven years old and has a Golden brother, Scout, who is three years old. Harley visits at UW Hospital and enjoys greeting students at UW dorm visits.

Watching movies, reading, and, of course, playing with her dogs are some of Ashlyn's favorite spare-time activities.



Michelle Falleck adopted Kenny, a Chesapeake Bay Retriever, from CBR Rescue and Relief when he was about a year old. Kenny's now eight years old and shares Michelle's attention with Alli, a ten-year-old Rottweiler/Shepherd mix; Hudson, a seven-year-old Chesapeake Bay Retriever; Carbon, a four-year-old Doberman/Shepherd mix; Lilly, a 17-year-old Domestic Short Hair cat; Spinach, a six-year-old Maine Coon cat; and Argos, a California Striped King snake (he's not telling his age).

Kenny soaks up the petting he gets during visits to UW Hospital and Meadowmere Assisted Living. Michelle enjoys kayaking, arts & crafts, reading, and photography.



Lydia Zeller's Pet Partner is Daisy Mae, a four-year-old Papillon, and possibly the smallest member of Dogs On Call. Lydia's daughter's decided that was the dog breed they wanted and Daisy Mae was purchased from a Papillon breeder. Cats Iris and Henry complete the household.

Daisy Mae's size may be small, but she handles a busy visit calendar: Wynwood West (assisted living), Avalon (assisted living & memory care), Capitol Lakes Terraces (assisted living), Capitol Lakes Health Care Center (skilled nursing), and R.E.A.D. programs for the third grade at Lincoln Elementary and the Cambridge Community Library. Not to be outdone by the big dogs, Daisy Mae is involved in agility.

Aside from "driving Miss Daisy" to therapy dog visits and agility class, Lydia enjoys gardening, hiking, and reading in her spare time.

MEMBER PROFILES



Barbara Wolf is one of the charter members of Dogs On Call. From 1997 to 2003 she visited with her Pet Partner, Golden Retriever Clytie – “the nicest dog.”

Barbara’s current Pet Partner is Zora, a seven-year-old Golden Retriever. Zora came from Tomahawk as an eight-week-old puppy. Her name, picked by Barbara’s mom, means “when the sun comes up; dawn” in Croatian. Zora has a Rally Novice title as well as two Novice Agility titles.

Twelve-year-old Milo, Barbara’s other Golden, is Zora’s half-brother. He never was a therapy dog. “He *needs* therapy,” she explains, as he barks at people in recliners. He did, however, earn his Rally Novice title. He’ll

probably stop there, because anything past that level is off-leash and, as Barbara notes, his joy is running – away from her most of the time.

Zora and Barbara currently visit at the UW dorms and attend DOC events such as Safety Town and the Children’s Museum Safety Night.

In addition to agility activities, Barbara’s other focus seems to be on the outdoors, as she enjoys skiing, bird hunting (with Zora, of course), and teaching hunter education.



Laura Kuchta and Pet Partner Kooper, a seven-year-old Sheltie, are familiar sights around DOC events. Did you know Laura also owns a therapy cat? Oliver, a three-year-old Sealpoint Siamese, recently became a new member of Dogs on Call. Also in the fur-and-fin family are Jazze and Franklin, both Siamese cats; Cornelius, a lop-eared rabbit; and a large fish tank for the cats’ entertainment.

Kooper was originally destined for the show ring until he was seven weeks old. At that point, the breeder in Illinois realized he was going to be less than half-an-inch too big for the show ring. Laura had the opportunity to purchase

him and the rest is therapy dog history!

Oliver was only six weeks old and weighed just a little over one pound when he joined Laura’s family. Laura says he was “free to a good home,” but to nurse him back to health was quite expensive! He’s always been an affectionate cat and is quite useful as a pillow or mountain for driving Matchbox cars over.

Kooper and Laura visit at St. Clare Hospital in Baraboo, attend R.E.A.D. events at the Baraboo and Reedsburg Libraries, visit UW dorms, and help at other DOC events. Oliver is just getting started in his therapy animal career at St. Clare Hospital and UW dorm visits. Laura is investigating which facilities welcome cats and finding where Oliver will feel comfortable.

Laura and her husband have two sons and two daughters and their activities keep the family busy. Otherwise, Laura enjoys reading, scrapbooking, knitting and crocheting, teaching swimming lessons, gardening, and cuddling with her furry children.

MEMBER PROFILES



Dana Walker of McFarland needed the help of her young sons when picking out their Golden Retriever. The breeder had two dogs with litters two days apart – 21 dogs to pick from! That was 10 years ago, when Ozzie joined their family. Dana and Ozzie cover most age groups in their visit schedule, going to UW Hospital, Meadowmere assisted living facility, and UW dorm visits. Hiking, bicycling, and gardening are favorites outside activities for Dana; she enjoys cooking as well.

Deb Nelson describes two-year-old Jinks as “the Goldendoodle that wasn’t.” Jinks was purchased from a breeder as a Goldendoodle, but, as she grew, Deb says it was obvious “there was not a bit of Poodle in her.” DNA test results showed 100% Golden Retriever. “Which is just fine with us!” adds Deb. The Nelson household also includes Loki, an 11-year-old Labrador/Golden mix, and Chico, a 10-year-old cat. Deb, who lives in Milton, visits with Jinks at The Glen, an assisted living facility in Whitewater. She also enjoys camping and canoeing.

Karen Peckham and Raider



Coming Events:

Sept. 7 – Touched Twice
Sept. 21 – noon-4pm Dry Hootch event "Guitars for Vets"
Sept. 25 – 6:30-7:30pm Dry Hootch orientation for new teams
Sept. 29 – DOC Picnic
Oct. 6 – 7-8:30pm Sellery Hall (UW-Madison)
Oct. 14 – 6:30-8pm Witte Hall (UW-Madison)
Oct. 15 – 6:30-8pm Jones House (UW-Madison)
Oct. 17 – 6:30-8pm Ogg Hall (UW-Madison)
Oct. 19 – GRRoW (Golden Retriever Rescue of WI)
Tails for Trails all breed dog walk
Oct. 28 – 4-5:30pm Event at Epic
Nov. 3 – Badger Kennel Club Dog Fair
Nov. 23 & 24 – Women’s Expo

DOC Presentations

This has been a busy year for DOC presentations! So far this year, we have done a total of 22 presentations, ranging from Dog Bite Prevention to Therapy Talk Presentations. Our audience has included 5-year-old kids at Safety Town, 4-H groups, schools, and nursing home residents. New this year were six presentations we did for Dane County Humane Society's Camp Paw Print. In the Reedsburg school district, we presented our Dog Bite Prevention to every student at two of their elementary schools.

Years ago when I presented my first Dog Bite Prevention program with Polly Cisco, we would do an unofficial count, and discovered that about 70% of the kids we talked to had been bitten; almost all of them by a dog they know. Our unofficial count this year has brought that number down to 50%. And maybe you have noticed that kids are asking "May I pet your dog?" instead of just running up to the dog. Now if we can just get to the parents!

Our present Dog Bite Prevention Program instructs kids what to do if approached by a strange dog, but since we are finding out that most of the incidents involve a dog they know, we are in the process of re-doing our program by giving instruction on what to do, and what not to do around dogs they know. If you have any comments or suggestions to improve our program we would love to hear them!

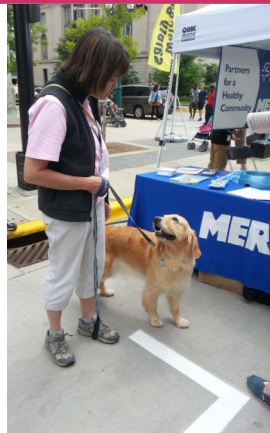
This is a long list, but we really need to thank those who helped make these programs a success. A special thanks to Liz Morrison, Barbara Wolf, and Sue Reid for helping present. Thanks to Gina & Button, Laura & Kooper, Mary & Izzie, Liz & Charlotte, Barb & Zora, Todd & Izzie, Deb & Mickey, Karen & Zombie, Kelly & Torrie, Michelle & Melody, Nancy & Eva, Artie & Sacajawea, Mary Jo & Harry, Pat & Wilson, Sue & Murphy, Karen & Raider.

Artie Berning, Sacajawea and Henry

Safety Saturday



Marsha & Baxter



Barb & Zora



Charlotte

Safety Saturday

The Madison Capitol Square was filled with thousands of people on June 8th as they looked at displays and took part in demonstrations for Safety Saturday. Sponsored by the City of Madison Fire Department, booths were located in the arms of the Capitol Square crossroads and featured a variety of safety equipment, life-saving demonstrations and of course, Dogs On Call. Meriter Hospital again allowed DOC the use of a portion of their booth and while Meriter volunteers were demonstrating Heimlich maneuvers, Dogs On Call teams were greeting crowds of parents and children. All of our teams explained to the kids how they should always ask to pet a dog first and then pet after the owner has said okay. After the quick lesson, kids were able to pet all the canine Pet Partners and they received a baseball card or picture of all the dogs. The point of Safety Saturday is to educate parents, children and the public on ways to make safe decisions about things like wearing bike helmets, using smoke alarms and being safe around dogs. As the Farmers Market was also occurring during Safety Saturday, there were plenty of people around to see the booths and our teams. This is a yearly event and I'm hoping even more teams volunteer for next year's Safety Saturday at the square. Many Thanks to our volunteer members: Marsha and Baxter, Barbara and Zora, Lance and Matilda, Karen and Zombie, Kay and Daisy, Liz and Charlotte .

Jan Hoffman, Griffin and Ryder

Co-Chairs Needed for Events

If you have wanted to get more involved in DOC, now is your chance. I'm looking for a few co-chairs to help with some of the events that are coming up later in the fall. You only need to volunteer for one event. I'll be with you most of the time, but it will be nice to have another member 'in charge' of one of the events with me. It's easy to do and you won't need to worry about a dog bath as we prefer our 'in charge' members to be without a dog. It's difficult to talk with people who visit our booths, assist the booth volunteers, and watch a dog, so we suggest the pups stay home when people are co-chairing. This is a great volunteer opportunity for those of us who are members without a dog, too.

To be a co-chair we'd prefer you have been a DOC member for at least a year.

The events are: Badger Kennel Club Dog Fair on November 3, Women's Expo on November 23 and 24, and the Well Expo on February 7 & 8.

If you are interested in being a co-chair for any of the events, please contact me, Jan Hoffman at janh@dogsoncall.org

Hope to hear from you soon.

Jan Hoffman, Griffin and Ryder

Along the rusty barbed wire fence they strolled, up the gentle grassy slope and across the broad plateau. Cutting northeast through the corner of the cornfield they bumped steadily into stubborn stalks, tripping on some of them and stepping over others with ease. The man in particular found the route more troublesome than his dog, who seemed to glide effortlessly through the patchwork of green and tan fiber rubble. Rushing eagerly ahead, she often stopped to glance reassuringly back toward her two-legged companion, who was still plodding ever so slowly through the field, damp sandy soil turning to fine mud beneath his boots on that chilly fall day.

Upon passing a fallen oak he noted with sad irony that the only tree in the woods still clutching its colorful leaves was dying, broken at the base by some unseen force. Those stronger trees still standing above the edge of the cornfield had lost all their color and most of their leaves, which blanketed the same woods that the two wanderers soon entered. Had the Standing Ones cast off their colors in tribute to their fallen brother, the man wondered? Three tall aspens marked a natural gateway to the wonders of the Standing Ones. In their presence, the man suddenly felt insignificantly young, realizing how many human generations had passed since the great oaks before him sprouted from acorns in the soil. They stood in stoic silence, lending a sense of permanence to the transience of life upon this Mother Earth. From simple acorn, to robust tree, to fallen decay...and the hoop remained unbroken.

Beneath the shelter of tall looming trees and smaller thick shrubs gently hugging the earth, they saw several lodges of small four-leggeds: the cozy dens of woodchuck, or skunk, or opossum perhaps? Unable to resist her growing curiosity, the black Labrador embedded her unthinking head deeply into a den hole, probably never considering whether her unannounced visit would be so clearly understood as the curiosity of an innocent visitor or the intrusion of a hungry predator. No one was home this day, or at least they did not see the need to repel the intruder with a sharp bite on the nose. Happily wagging her great heavy tail, she scooted backward and returned to the land of daylight and late autumn breezes...and the hoop remained unbroken.

Onward they walked, climbing the gentle slope of that woodland hillside until reaching a clearing still farther north along the path. There they peered through a tangle of branches and gazed down toward the soft green meadow beyond, and up again to the light blue sky above. That was when they first saw the two Red-tailed hawks gracefully floating in gentle circles above the trees. Peering steadily into the stiff north wind, the man's eyes watered. He closed them tightly to clear away the tears, and dreamed of the Winged Ones...

A Man and His Dog

by—Dan Antolec



*Great Mystery, I am coming.
Great Mystery, I am coming.
Great Mystery, I am coming.
See me rise on feathered wings.*

*Through the clouds, I soar to you.
Through the clouds, I soar to you.
Through the clouds, I soar to you.
Upon this sacred path.*

*I dance for you, Grandfather.
I dance for you, Grandfather.
I dance for you, Grandfather.
In swirling circles of flight.*

*To Mother Earth, I now return.
To Mother Earth, I now return.
To Mother Earth, I now return.
The hoop, still unbroken.*

...as he braced against a sudden frigid gust, which could have come from the very wings of the giant bald eagle Waziah itself. Feeling grateful to behold such divine beauty, he watched as the hawks swirled out of view, rising ever higher until they disappeared from view. Had they gone to the Grandfather, the bewildered man asked himself?

Climbing still higher upon the hill the wanderers emerged from the thicket and skirted past the cornfield. Stepping through the tall frost-covered grass, they came once more upon the old rusty fence that marked the beginning of their journey. With the circle completed, the man marveled at the wonders of a land he called Wyldhaven and understood, if only for the first time, his place in the world. It was a new ending, a new beginning...and the hoop was still unbroken.

Samantha was his first puppy, his last puppy, and they spent a lifetime together.

2013 Board of Directors

President:

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