

Dogs On Call Inc.

March 2014



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Letter from the President

I thought by the time this newsletter came out we would be enjoying warmer weather, boy was I wrong. Dogs On Call is however gearing up for a busy 2014. We have started out the year with our visits for R.E.A.D. Across America Week at the Prairie Elementary School and Sunset Ridge School. The children always enjoy having our teams read a book to them and learning about therapy dogs. The UW dorm visits are being scheduled for the spring season—even if it doesn't feel like spring!

Dogs On Call will be holding six Pet Partner training classes this year, and because of that we will be having more potential teams wanting to be evaluated. If you are up to be re-evaluated this year please sign up early. Our evaluation dates are filling up fast.

The R.E.A.D. program is growing in popularity, which means we are in need of more R.E.A.D. teams. If you are interested in becoming a R.E.A.D. team keep May 5th open. DOC will be holding a R.E.A.D. workshop at McConnell hall on May 5th and we would love to see you there.

Keep up the good work in 2014.

Laura, Kooper and Oliver

Evaluation Dates for 2014

Dogs On Call has the following dates scheduled for evaluations in 2014. Please schedule your renewal evaluation early as these dates fill up fast.

March 16	April 13	May 18
July 27	August 17	September 14
October 26	November 23	

Email Artie at artieb@dogsoncall.org to sign up for an evaluation.

Ronald McDonald House



Kay & Daisy, Pat & Wilson, Marlee, Julie & Cooper,
Mary & Sully, Jennifer & Ella, Todd & Izzie

Ronald McDonald House is a home created to house families from out-of-town who have children in the hospital. The Madison Ronald McDonald house serves all three Madison Hospitals. There are eighteen rooms, a large kitchen, family room, laundry facilities and playroom plus the house is staffed largely by volunteers and there are various community groups who help serve meals for families each night. This is a very important resource that is greatly appreciated by the families it serves.

I, myself, used the Ronald McDonald House in San Antonio, Texas, last year. My husband and I adopted our son, Nicolas, now almost one year old. He spent the first month of his life in the NICU, and the Ronald McDonald House of San Antonio graciously provided us housing and much needed support during a very difficult time.

The house there had two resident dogs, who we visited with each night when we came back from the hospital. We were emotionally spent by the end of the day, missing our own family and dogs, and their unconditional affection made everything a little bit better.

Their dogs were older and had arthritic joints, so we bought them orthopedic dog beds before we left. I also vowed that when we returned to Madison, we would bring DOC to the Madison Ronald McDonald house, so that families here could benefit from the therapeutic benefit of dogs, like we had. I felt strongly this was something I needed to do. My step daughter Marlee, and I approached DOC about the idea of Ronald McDonald for a facility and Lydia helped us in meeting with the house personnel.

The manager, Tara, was thrilled at the idea. There have been dog visits before, but nothing consistent. We officially made Ronald McDonald house a new facility last September. We have a strong core group of teams visiting. One team, Mary and Sully, deserve a special note as they visit nearly every Sunday. Ronald McDonald House also played a role in Mary's life and has special meaning to her. We have a wonderful group of teams and the families and staff look forward to seeing us each week.

The visits are at 6:30 pm Wednesdays and 6:30pm Sundays. We usually visit in the living room, and families come and go. The best visits are when there are siblings, as the children really love the dogs. The ages vary. It's a good facility for new teams, as it's a quiet setting and the number of visitors is usually not overwhelming.

If you would be interested in trying your dog at this facility, there is plenty of room in the schedule for additional teams! Please let Artie know of your interest and I would be happy to talk to you further. Thanks to DOC for giving me the opportunity to give back and share my passion for animal-assisted therapy.

Julie, Cooper and Oliver

Evaluators Practicum

An Evaluators Practicum will be held in Madison this August, hosted by Dogs On Call. If you are interested in becoming an evaluator there are prerequisites and steps that need to be completed before you can attend the practicum. This is not a fast process, so if you are interested apply through the Pet Partners website as soon as possible. Sorry, but we cannot help you with the first few steps; they must all be completed directly through Pet Partners.

These practicums are very popular, people attend from out of state, and the class is limited to no more than 10 students. The information will be posted on the Pet Partners website in early March.

Team Evaluator Practicum - **Madison, WI**

Date: Saturday, August 16, 2014

Start Time: 8:00 a.m.

End Time: 5:30 p.m.

Lunch: (provided/on your own)

Dogs on Call, is pleased to host a 2014 Team Evaluator Practicum for qualified Team Evaluator candidates on Saturday, August 16, 2014.

Prerequisites: To review the prerequisites, please visit our [How to Become an Evaluator webpage](#). *Completion of the Team Evaluator pre-requisites is required in order to attend the Practicum.*

Please Note: Attendees must have completed and passed the online Team Evaluator Course at least 30-days in advance of the class. Pre-registration through Pet Partners is required.

Location: Meriter Hospital-McConnell Hall, Classroom 9, 202 S Park St., Madison WI 53715

Cost: \$75, due 30-days in advance of class

Special Instructions: Students will be required to pay their own travel and lodging costs.

MERITER / UW HOSPITAL NEWS

This is Why We Do This: A "Wrong Turn" Turns Right

Immediately after stepping off the elevator, I knew we were on the wrong floor. I discovered we were standing in the lobby of the floor with the burn unit. As I was checking to see what floor we needed to be on, the double doors that led to the burn unit popped open. I could see two young boys in a playroom off the corridor, along with several adults (not in the unit itself). One of the adults saw my dog and asked if the boys could pet her. Of course they could! The boys, about 5 and 7 years old, came out to the elevator lobby, got their dose of hand gel, sat down on the floor, and started enjoying some dog time. They were full of questions and very polite. Whatever that family group was going through in the burn unit, visiting with the dog sure helped their day. I'm not sure who enjoyed it more, the kids hugging the dog and asking so many questions or the adults watching it unfold and smiling all of the time. It was one of those "Oh, my goodness!" unanticipated moments.

(Submitted by a DOC team member)

Hearts Melt When Billy Visits

Just two weeks ago, Billy and I paid a visit to Meriter (our first in a while due to scheduling issues on my end), and he had one of those patented DOC "this is why we do this" visits. He visited a patient on the general surgery floor who had obviously been there a while, and when we walked in the patient, who was seated in a chair at the time, just burst into tears and couldn't get situated fast enough to pet Billy. She just sat and talked to him for a good long time, and he just stared at her (she commented often on his big eyes never leaving her) and wagged his tail. He really seemed to bond with her and take in whatever she was saying to him so she could let some things go. I didn't hear it all, she was soft spoken and besides she was talking to Billy not me! It was a very touching moment. The nurse got a little choked up honestly; said the patient hadn't spoken much in a while and was really down. The nurse revealed that she hadn't had many visitors lately, so it was just the perfect thing for her that day.

Just served for ME as a good reminder of why we train and test and register and do all of this. Plus it reminded me of how good at this Billy is, (and likewise, all of our partners), and how selflessly he gives of his time to help people just like that.

Ben and Billy

If you have a "This Is Why We Do This" story to share in the DOC newsletter, please send it to karenp@dogsoncall.org. DOC teams can be anonymous.



Billy

MERITER / UW HOSPITAL NEWS

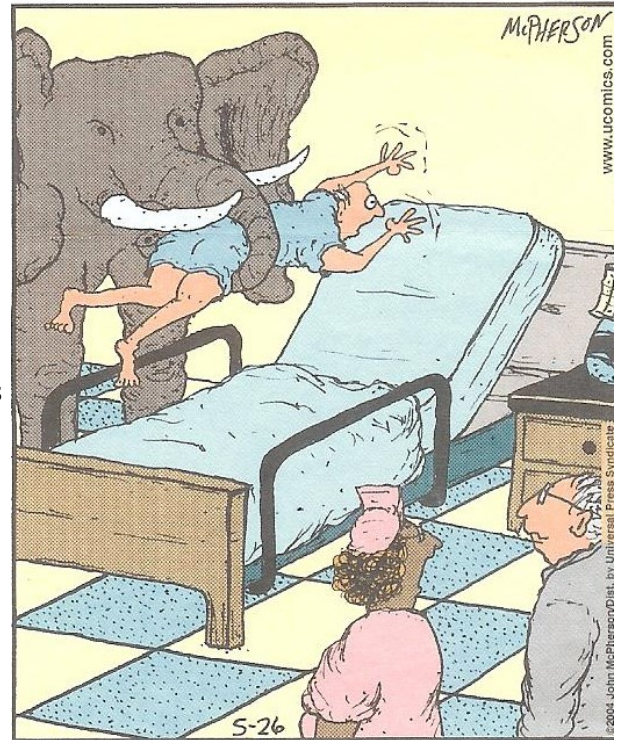
Welcome New Hospital Teams

Kathy and Abbey (Golden Retriever) at Meriter
Teresa and Gibson (Husky-Shepherd mix) at Meriter
Andrea and Samantha (Golden Retriever) at UW Hospital

So glad to have these teams join us!

If you've been thinking about a rewarding, flexible, variety-filled, fun, and welcoming place to visit with your dog, please look into Meriter or UW Hospital (or both!) as that place. We're not visiting "sick people." They're bored, lonely, tired of sitting in the hospital, missing their pets, or all of the above. And there are family members, visitors, and staff, too, always so happy to see a four legs and a furry face!

Contact karenp@dogsoncall.org for more info.



"We still have some kinks to work out with the new pet therapy program."

UW Hospital and Clinics' Health & Healing Week Features DOC Therapy Dogs

During the week of March 10, the UW Hospital and Clinics will showcase complementary therapies, such as music and art. Wednesday, March 12, from 11 to 1, will be Therapy Dog Day. Several DOC teams will be stationed at various places throughout the hospital's main floor to meet and greet visitors and explain what therapy dogs do. This is always a popular event and the teams are surrounded by people who are pleasantly surprised to see dogs in the hospital. Many want to know what we do and where we go; others are interested in getting their dog into the program. It's a great PR event for DOC!

Karen and Raider

Puppy Up! -- Madison Walk

Because everyone has been touched by cancer, I thought you'd be interested in knowing about an effort I have joined to help fight cancer in dogs and humans. On Sunday, May 4th, 2014, my German Shepherd, Angel, and I will participate in the Puppy Up! – Madison Walk. The purpose of the walk is to increase awareness about cancer in dogs and to raise funds for research into the common links between human and canine cancers. The Puppy Up! Walk is one way that the 2 Million Dogs Foundation uses to help people understand the links between human and canine cancers and to raise funds for translational studies that benefit both pets and people. I have lost family, friends, and dogs to cancer. I don't want to lose any more. Please join me in this effort – donate, walk, spread the word.

Here is the link to the main page:

<http://puppyupmadison.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1100323>

You can search for me, Diane Pelton, on the right side of the page ("Find a Participant") to support me, sign up on your own, or form a team (with Dogs On Call people or others).

Thanks for your consideration. Whatever you can do will be appreciated.

Diane and Angel



How are you handling the cold weather? This is how Gypsy stays warm. Maybe we should all follow her lead.

Gypsy is a Pet Partner with Kathy.

SAFETY NIGHT AT THE MADISON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Once again, Dogs On Call will participate in Safety Night at the Madison Children's Museum on March 5, from 5:30-7:30. This event, sponsored annually by partners of Safe Communities, provides fun, interactive education to youngsters and their families about how to be safe. There will be approximately 10 stations throughout the museum for kids to visit, one of which will be Dogs On Call. Handlers will give tips on how to properly greet a dog and, of course, the dogs are there for petting.

Thanks to the participating teams:

Lance & Matilda
Scott & Sky
Todd & Izzie
Patricia & Wallace

Karen and Raider

A Helpful Invention

Sometimes it's hard to juggle that little bottle of hand sanitizer, a leash, a list of rooms to visit, dog trading cards, moving bed trays, and whatever else. Kathy M. and I came up with a solution for one aspect that is working for us and it might work for you, too.

Maybe you've seen the rubber holders for hand sanitizer bottles. I found them at Bath and Body Works and Walmart; Kathy said Target has some, too. Prices range from less than a dollar for the plain variety to around \$8 for the cute, sparkly, decorated variety. Take one of those and a wrist coil key ring (found at Walmart, office supply stores, some hardware stores), put them together and adjust so that the bottle falls at the right spot in your palm. It will always be at-the-ready, without having to fish it out of a bag or pocket, and easy to flip the cap open and close with your thumb.



Karen and Raider

Calling All Dogs



Liz & Charlotte, Gina & Button, Artie & Sacajawea,
Jen & Honey,
Staci & Disney, Laura & Kooper

Dogs on Call was once again invited to the Waunakee Elementary School on Thursday, Feb. 27th for a special "READ ACROSS AMERICA" program. This is the 4th year DOC has been asked to share our dogs and our reading voices with students in grades K-4. Each team picks a book to read to the class while their furry friend sits on their lap or lazes by their feet. Unfortunately, Charlotte had a lot of the children giggling as she decided to make smiley faces at the group while her mama was trying to read "Muddy Paws" upside down to them. I don't think Charlotte understood just how challenging the whole thing was for me.

This year, six DOC teams attended this wonderful event: Artie with Sacajawea, Staci with Disney, Laura with Kooper, Gina with Button, Jen with Honey, and Liz with Charlotte. Each team visited 4 classrooms where the children were all anxiously

waiting for a chance to pet a dog. Besides reading a book to the students, the teams answered questions about DOC and their dogs. We also took the chance to do a little dog safety/bite prevention education. All in all, it was a great afternoon as evidenced by Charlotte's loud snoring heard from the back of the car all the way home.

The staff at the Waunakee Elementary School was so welcoming and easy to work with. There seemed to be many dog lovers among them as well. We especially want to thank Debbie and Sharon for their help in putting this event together and for their gracious hospitality.

Happy "READ ACROSS AMERICA" week everyone!

Liz and Charlotte

Does your place of work give credit for volunteer hours?

Some places, for example Amgen, Walmart, and Alliant Energy, will recognize their employee's volunteer work. These companies will give credit for the employee's volunteer hours and the credit is turned into a cash donation to the organization the employee volunteers for. Does the company you work for have such a program? Check into it and turn your hard work for Dogs On Call into a donation to the group.

Charlotte Helps with the Importance of Touch

Charlotte and I gave a presentation to the Sun Prairie Senior Service Providers Group on Wednesday, Feb. 26th at the Colonial Club in Sun Prairie. This group meets each month to hear speakers talk about topics of interest. They also "network" with each other and support each other's goals to offer the best health and home care for the elderly in our communities.

The topic for this month's meeting was the importance of touch. A massage therapist spoke first about doing therapeutic massage with the elderly population. She talked about the calming reactions she notices in her clients when she is working with them, how massaging a cancer patient's hands can help with pain control and sleep and even calm the agitation of someone with dementia.

Charlotte and I spoke next. Since Charlotte is such a small dog and since she wanted to show off her shiny clean fur, we stood on the stage so everyone could see her. Charlotte was very cooperative and just laid down while I spoke about Dogs on Call and what its many members do for their communities. It's so hard to know where to start, but I thought it was important to tell this group about some of the amazing things we notice when we take our dogs to visit the elderly wherever they live. For example, the excitement of a nursing home resident who has nothing to do but sit in his wheelchair all day, the smile on the face of a stroke patient who can't express herself very well except in jumbled words and the tenderness of a crippled hand as it reaches out to touch a dog's head. Touching a furry critter can help to lower blood pressure, pulse and respiratory rates. The simple act of petting a dog's head can help with pain control and decrease anxiety. Sometimes the changes are very subtle. Other times they can be fairly dramatic. Either way, there is a reaction and a change. And it all starts with the simple act of petting a dog.

I really enjoyed doing this presentation. The people in this group work very hard for the elderly clients in their care. They all recognize and value the presence of touch in this fast-paced world... especially if one is touching a furry head.

Liz and Charlotte

New DOC Members

Linda & Luna - Goldendoodle
 Amy & Rooster - Mastiff/Newfie/St. Bernard
 Emma & Sophie - Shetland Sheepdog
 Jeff & Bucky - Corgi
 Lisa & Sasha - Aussie/Lab
 Ryan & Sasha - Aussie/Lab
 Julie & Moses - Shepherd/Lab
 Beth & Roxi - Boxer Mix
 Jodi with Finch & Zuri - both Great Danes
 Jeff & Bella - Bulldog
 Mary & Sully - Chinese Crested Powerpuff

Therapy Dogs and Flyball?

Havana (Jill) and Zombie (Karen) play flyball when they are not working as therapy dogs. Our flyball team, Mostly Harmless (named after the Douglas Adams book "*Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*"), decided to try to go to Nationals this year. At the time it was a bit of a reach since we had just formed the team a year ago. We had a mix of very experienced dogs and very green dogs so anything could happen and at times did. We managed to place at the qualifier so we were eligible for Nationals at Purina Farms just outside St Louis, MO. Unfortunately our fastest set of dogs could not all go (the grouping you are placed in at Nationals depends on your fastest time of the year) but we found we had a team of 6 dogs and 6 women who could go. It wasn't our fastest team but we would go and gain experience and have fun.

The day before the actual start of the team tournament is for running special dream teams, pairs and singles. We entered 2 teams of pairs just for fun and to get the young dogs some experience. Well, would you believe that Zombie and his partner BB got a first place trophy (Division 3). Their team name was Beauty and the Beast. Given BB is a female Italian Greyhound and Zombie is a big male Dutch Shepherd I will allow you to figure out who was the beauty and who was the beast. Our other pair got second (we happened to be in the same division so we beat them for first).

The weekend then was all team competitions. We came up with our best strategy for getting a plaque (first through third got plaques, forth on down got nice ribbons). Well, lo and behold if we weren't running faster than we had thought we could. Seems our young (green) dogs rose to the occasion and our seasoned veterans were solid and steady. After 4 sets of races over two days it came down to our last race. We were racing the team that we were tied with for first place. Winner takes the first place plaque. In a strange twist I even knew the guy on the other team with the start dog. He also has a Dutch Shepherd and we had met at Nationals the year before. Long story short is that we stayed within the boundaries of what our dogs could do and ran clean and smart. They pushed and made mistakes. End of the race the plaque for first place, Division 7, was ours. It was a very special moment for the 6 of us who had done this just for fun with each other and our dogs. We are already talking about next year. It probably was the last time Zombie runs on the championship team because he will be 9 next year and we already have younger dogs that are faster.

And just in case you thought it was all just fun running after tennis balls, Havana and Zombie also got to show off their therapy dog skills. The event was open to the public and of course friends and family of participants. Havana and Zombie were able to meet people in a nice quiet manner when they weren't racing, including some people who were afraid of dogs, and they were able to show people how versatile dogs can be with a bit of training.



Elsie, Australian Shepherd, Zombie-Dutch Shepherd,
BB-Italian Greyhound, Havana-Smooth Coated Collie,
Callie-Border Collie, Jill-Kelpie



Zombie with the "goods"

Karen, Zomie and Shaka

PLEASE READ!! FREEZE-DRIED PET FOOD & TREATS = RAW FOOD!

As you know, Pet Partners has a policy against animals on a raw food diet from participating in their therapy animals program. The reason for this policy is that many medical professionals feel that "humans, especially those with compromised immune systems, may be at a higher risk of infection by interacting with animals who eat raw proteins." (From Pet Partners website, "Raw Protein Diet Policy" at <http://www.petpartners.org/rawproteindietpolicy>)

This policy extends to other animals in the household. "Any dog or cat from a household where raw food is fed [even if the raw food diet is not fed to the therapy animal] is not eligible to be a therapy animal registered with Pet Partners."

You may not feed your animal raw food for meals, but are you aware many treats are raw food?

Here's a list from Pet Partners of non-acceptable foods:

Any raw protein from an animal source, including beef, chicken, pork, fish, raw eggs, or other domesticated or wild animal meat. This includes raw proteins that are dehydrated, pasteurized (except the dairy products listed as acceptable), freeze dried, frozen or fresh. It also includes treats such as pig ears, raw bones, marrow bones, etc.

Notice "freeze dried." There are great little light-weight, non-greasy treats sold in stores that dogs love, but they're not allowed! You'll notice the packages of freeze-dried products include a warning to wash your hands with soap and water after handling, keep utensils separate, and wash countertops well if touched by the product. That's because of the contamination risk.

There is a four-week waiting period between the time your therapy animal stops eating raw protein and when they can begin visiting, "even if it is only a treat."

So what are acceptable foods?

Here's another list from Pet Partners:

- Canned, fresh or frozen fish that has been cooked (sardines, mackerel, tuna, etc.)
- Canned, fresh or frozen beef, chicken, pork or other domesticated meat that has been cooked
- Cooked eggs
- Soy and other plant proteins
- Raw, washed vegetables, grains, legumes, or other plants
- Commercial sterilized rawhide
- Commercially stuffed cooked dog bones
- Pasteurized, commercial yogurt
- Pasteurized, commercial cottage cheese
- Pasteurized, commercial cheese

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DOC Newsletter

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The DOC Newsletter is published quarterly and is available by E-mail to DOC members and representatives of organizations associated with DOC activities.

Submission Deadlines:

News and Articles are as follows:

February 15

Done

May 15

June 1, 2014

August 15

September 1, 2014

November 15

December 1, 2014

Articles written by members of 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

laurak@dogsoncall.org