

Summer 2018

Dogs On Call Inc.

Letter From The President

Seems like it was just yesterday when I was so excited to see my first spring flowers blooming. Now I am seeing trees starting to turn red and orange; but it is still summer, right?

Summer is drawing to an end and DOC is gearing up for another school season full of visits. Both on the UW-Madison campus and at area schools. As each of you are thinking about where you and your pet partner fit into visiting, please keep these venues in mind.

Along with our busy “school season” of visits, we must never forget that our therapy animals bring so much joy to patients in hospitals and skilled nursing facilities. Often the non-medical visits become so much fun that our medical facilities lack teams to visit. The joy that a therapy animal can bring to a person in the hospital is amazing—try it sometime. You just may get hooked!

DOC will be having a speaker on force-free training for any of our members that would like to attend on Saturday, November 3. We will couple this presentation with a Pet Partners mini workshop titled *Being The Best For Your Pet*. This will be held at McConnell Hall from 1:00—3:00 p.m. We hope to see many of you there.

Thank you for all the time you donated to DOC. Give each of your furry family members a big hug.

Laura, Kooper, Shadow, & Oliver

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2019 New Board Members

We would like to welcome our new members to the Dogs On Call Board Of Directors.

President - Artie B.
Recording Secretary - Marnie P.
Director-at-Large - Scott S.
Director-at-Large - Kris J.
Director-at-Large - Melody M.
Director-at-Large - Jen P.

Summer Kids' Programs

We had a busy summer of kids' programs.

We did 4 presentations to Dane County Humane Society again this year, talking to the kids about therapy animals and Dogs On Call.

We did our Dog Bite Prevention Program in Ochsner Park for the entire Baraboo 4K student body.

We presented our Dog Bite Prevention Program for Safety Town 5 times, teaching kids to be safe around both strange dogs and dogs they know.

We presented our Dog Bite Prevention Program to kids at the Neighborhood House Community Center.

Altogether we reached about 500 kids.

In addition to our children's presentations, we visited many other facilities. Armed Forces Reserve Center in Madison, Glacier Creek Middle School, Monona Lioness, Wisconsin Department of Children &

Families, Cottage Grove Triad, Madison Senior Center, Lussier Community Education Center, Sankofa Behavioral & Community House, East YMCA.

A thank you to our presenters; Todd, Karen S., Barb W., Erin, Jeff, Gina and Scott.

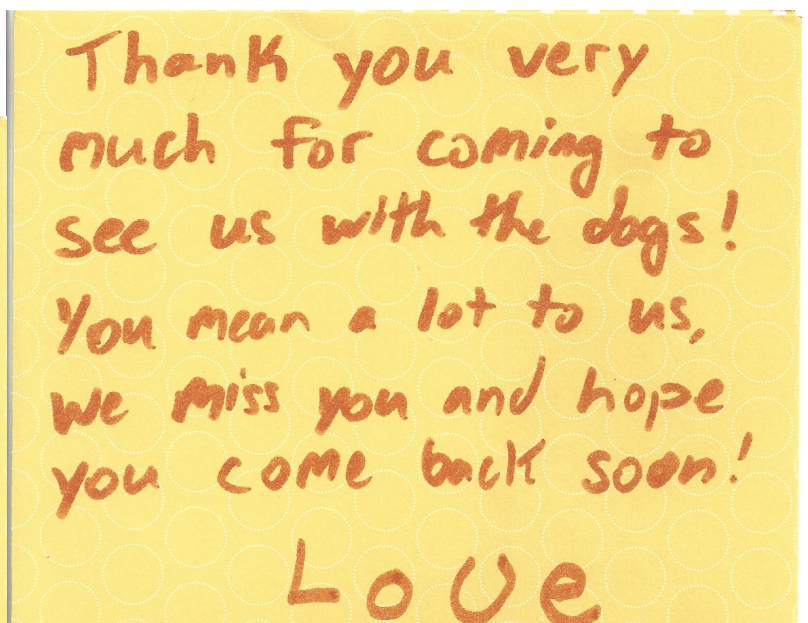
And a huge thank you to the many teams who gave up part of their summer to help with these very important presentations, many of them coming multiple times:

Todd & Izzie, Mary & Penny, Melody & Joy, Pat & Wallace, Barbara & Little Foot, Beth & Maggie, Sandy & Molly, Scott & Sazzy, Barbara & Samson, Andrea & Samantha, Karen & Zombie, Artie & Henry, Pat & Wilson, Chelsea & Captain, Joan & Shelby, Laurie & Alexander with Juno, Mary Ann & Mac, Kris & Journey, Melissa & Scout, Amber & Mia, Eileen & Desmond, Dana & Pierre, Bob & Charlie, Anja & Fritzzi, Kay & Daisy,

Janet & Chewie, Ed & Scout, Betsy & Vail, Amy & Rooster, Mimi & Nemo, Adam & Maurice, Marnie & Finn, Stephanie & Jack, Jeff & Bella, Christine & Jasmine, Dale & Poppy, Sue & Molly.

Good Job Teams!

Artie & Henry



One of many thank you cards that our teams received from their visit at East YMCA

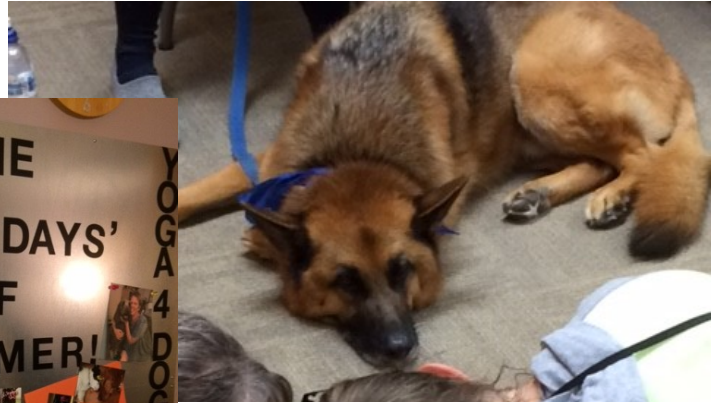
Dog Days Of Summer For DOC At Harbor Athletic Club

DOC member Courtney and her Pet Partner Chopper organized a DOC fundraiser at Harbor Wellness Studios. Courtney, who is the director of the Wellness Studios, offered a free Hot Flow Yoga class to those donating to DOC. After the class, visitors to the studio could visit with Courtney & Chopper, Karen & Pete, and Yvonne & Daisy. The event brought in \$185.00!

The pictures show a poster created by Courtney, the donation box, and a couple of class participants taking advantage of their flexibility to get photos of Chopper.

Thank you, Courtney!

Karen & Pete



Samson Enjoying Summer

Samson Fluffy White enjoys helping his grandmother Grace at Oakwood West. As a six-month-old Australian labradoodle, he entertained nurses, residents and his grandfather, Maurice, at Oakwood's skilled-nursing home. Nurses dropped prone on the floor to adore cute, little Samson with his long, adorable eyelashes. A seed was planted for therapy work, a way to provide joy to those experiencing life challenges.



In 2017, Barbara (mom and handler) and Samson became a therapy team. They have visited schools, libraries, retirement homes, and the UW-Madison campus. Samson enjoys his therapy mission and plans to expand venues in the future. Recently, in an unofficial capacity, Samson and sister Delilah brought smiles to every face as they ran along side grandma Grace while riding a rickshaw on paths and through parks near Oakwood. If you're lucky and need a smile, you may sight Samson and Delilah cruising Madison's west side escorting a rickshaw. So much fun!!

Barbara & Samson

Inappropriate Training Method Can Damage A Pet's Psyche

It can be confusing for pet owners to know what sort of help they need and where to find it. The lack of regulation and transparency in the industry can lead pet guardians into pitfalls.

One local example of this is from a family I know who had an 8-week-old puppy.

Like all puppy owners, they were struggling with potty training. A week later they installed an electronic containment (shock) system in the back yard. And the installer led the puppy to the edge of the yard to shock it, purportedly to teach the boundary.

What the puppy learned, unfortunately, was the backyard was a scary and painful place. It refused to leave the house. So the unintended consequences of a professional not understanding the situation were failed housetraining and a fearful puppy.

That's a risk people face when seeking training help, as well. Among approximately 50,000 dog trainers in the United States there is no educational standard or regulation of methods and equipment. Anyone may declare themselves a "trainer" and do practically anything to a family pet, with virtual legal immunity in most jurisdictions.

That is one reason it's important for pet guardians to understand the difference between training and behavior modification.

Training is about teaching dogs how to do things like sit and lie down on cue. There is no emotional component, and dogs choose behaviors in response to consequences which follow those choices. Trainers use operant conditioning for this.

Behavior modification is about changing the way a dog feels about something, like fear of the vacuum cleaner. There is an emotional component, and change occurs on a subconscious level. Trainers use respondent conditioning for this.

Recently, I worked with a 100-pound Labrador who would perch himself at the picture window, barking at everything which passed by or approached the home.

He launched himself against the glass until the person approached the door, such as for mail delivery. Then he ran to the entrance and launched himself against the storm door window.

If a visitor entered the home, the highly aroused dog would jump on the person's chest and clamp his mouth onto their arm, holding it while his eyes flared. Even if he settled down after a while, the Lab would jump and grab the person again whenever the visitor moved.

In that case, I first addressed the underlying emotional component and then taught the dog alternative behaviors. Today, he quietly watches from the window, and if a visitor approaches the door, he runs to his bed in the kitchen and lies patiently until he is released. Then, he approaches the visitor and sits, paying attention to his owner.

If I had thought of this as a training case, I would not have addressed the underlying stress and could not have modified the arousal. The unwanted behaviors would have continued unabated and somebody could have been injured.

Inappropriate Training Method Can Damage A Pet's Psyche – Cont.

If the dog's trainer would have used aversive methods that remain common in the industry, the dog would have been punished for the unwanted behaviors without regard to underlying causes. The goal of aversive punishment is to suppress behavior, and it might feel more intuitive or "normal" to some people, but research has shown that doing so creates more emotional instability in 75 percent of dogs and aggressive responses in the rest.

Some of my behavioral clients have experienced this.

To avoid this problem, be sure you choose a professional with accreditation or certification. This proves knowledge of learning theory, behavior, equipment, and pet care based on a standardized examination testing.

Several reputable entities offer this certification, such as the Pet Professional Accreditation Board, Academy for Dog Trainers, Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers and International Association of Behavior Consultants. These organizations maintain biographies of certified professionals that usually indicate their areas of expertise and have websites with search tools.

Don't stop there. Interview the trainer. The trainer should have questions for you about your pet, but remember, you are the one conducting the job interview in consideration of hiring them.

Ask about certifications and memberships, then research and verify that information is correct.

Ask about the trainer's methods – what happens if the dog gets it right or wrong. These questions will identify the professional's philosophy, methods and equipment.

Finally, ask what outcome you can expect. True professionals do not make promises or guarantees of results. It is unethical and unrealistic to do so. However, it is ethical to talk about probabilities based upon experience with other dogs and to explain the pros and cons of each option.

Options in any case include management, training, and behavior modification. The professional should write a plan for your consideration, with options from each category. Working as a team, you would then determine which options you are willing and capable of implementing, with coaching and support from the professional.

Finding the right help for the right problem is both a consumer rights issue and an animal welfare concern. Sadly, some of my clients were surprised when trainers they trusted failed to divulge their methods or the potential harm to their pet.

Let the buyer beware, and be your dog's best advocate. Doing so sets everyone up for success.

Daniel H. Antolec is a certified canine behavior consultant and accredited trainer and owner of Happy Buddha Dog Training. Buddha is Dan's happy Pet Partner.



Hospital News

Here are the moving stories of what our teams experienced during patient visits:

-- The mother of a patient going in for her fourth surgery said her daughter had never been as calm as she was after petting Daisy.

-- A man who had a stroke lay quietly in bed with his eyes closed. His daughter put his hand gently on Raider's head and helped the man stroke the dog's ear. The corner of the man's mouth slowly moved into a smile, to the shock and surprise of his family.

-- The woman lay in bed, staring into space. Zombie and Karen came in for a visit. The woman's hand was placed on Zombie so she could feel his fur. Karen spoke to the woman, telling her about Zombie. The woman quietly said, "Good dog." The nurse watching the interaction said that was the first time she heard the patient speak.

-- From a nurse in the cardiology unit: "Thank you so much for helping us set up a time for XXXX to see the dog; he was still raving about it this morning when I came in!! Most of us have never seen him smile, and from what I heard, he was grinning ear to ear this weekend! Thank you all for being so helpful and therapeutic! Patients like XXXX really benefit from these meetings."

-- We visit in the dayrooms of the psych units. Sometimes people are quietly sitting in the corner. They begin to interact with the visiting dog, start conversing with the handler, which leads to talking with other patients, and pretty soon they are having a nice, sociable visit. One time the patient came into the dayroom crying, but at the end of our 30-minute visit, she was laughing and sharing stories about her dog. The staff said the turn-around was amazing.

-- During a psych unit dayroom visit, Bella and Jeff met a young patient who just wanted to watch the dog. ("I don't like dogs because they bite.") But it didn't take long for Bella to charm the young man who so enjoyed petting Bella that he delayed going to dinner just so he could spend more time with her.

-- A little boy who had his tonsils removed refused to drink anything. Although he was eating solid food fine, he couldn't be discharged until he drank liquids. Buddy the dog demonstrated how he drinks water from a bowl. The handler asked the little boy to show Buddy how he drinks. The little boy had some sips of water from a spoon, and then showed Buddy how he uses a straw. Success!

-- Gina and Daisy visited a couple of veterans in the dayroom of the VA Hospital. One man had not eaten or been out of this room for two days, but, so he could see the dog, he got up, showered, brushed his teeth, and made his way to the dayroom for a long visit.

This is why we do this!

Karen & Pete

New Member Profiles



About 4-1/2 years ago, **Wendy** traveled to Ohio to get Jenga, a Belgian Tervuren, from a breeder.

Wendy says Jenga is large and active and she wisely is looking for visiting locations without fragile populations. There will be plenty of those for starting out.

In addition to photography and jewelry making, Wendy lists one of her hobbies as “pets,” and that’s confirmed with all the animals in her house. Joining Jenga in the family are two other dogs, a Beagle and Aussie/Border Collie mix; two Bengal cats; one ball python; and 20 poison dart frogs.



Bill and Jane were looking for an “extra white and large Yellow Labrador.” They found one in Atlanta four years ago and named her Morgan. She is currently the only dog in their Edgerton home.

Morgan will be visiting a wide variety of facilities – skilled nursing facilities, hospitals, schools, colleges, and rehab centers – according to Bill and Jane’s vision for her.

Bill is interested in all sports at both college and pro levels.

Jane enjoys traveling, reading, antiques, and the beach.



Jodell’s friend was dog sitting for a family who was fostering a Bassett Hound mix. The friend said Jordy was “sweet and snuggly.” Once Jodell and her family saw a picture of Jordy, they were hooked.

Jordy, now four years old, will be trying several venues to see what he likes to do. Plans are to try Read With Me, dorm visits, and maybe hospitals. Jodell helped make several quilts for a hospice facility and visiting there interests her, too.

Other than quilting, Jodell likes to read, sew, repurpose antiques, and spend time with her new granddaughter.



Ten-year-old Dewey, a Standard Poodle, came to **Ann** from a small breeder in Fall River.

Ann would like for Dewey to do campus visits and become involved with the Read With Me program.

Being outside as much as possible is where you’ll find Ann. She enjoys biking, kayaking, gardening, and reading.

New Member Profiles - Continued



Lee and Maddy, a nine-year-old Golden Retriever, live in Middleton. Maddy came from Appleton, where Lee's cousin breeds Goldens and Labs. Also in the household is a ten-year-old cat named Kitty.

Maddy will be focusing on the Read With Me program in libraries and elementary schools. Lee likes to read, do yoga, garden, hike, and camp.

Michael traveled to Green Bay to get Nick, a four-year-old blue merle Collie. Nick joins seven-year-old Clancy (a tri-color Collie), one-year-old Riley (a white Collie), and three cats.

Michael would like to take Nick to assisted living facilities, Agrace Hospice, and the Dane County Airport.

When he's not brushing dogs and cats, Michael likes to go fly fishing.



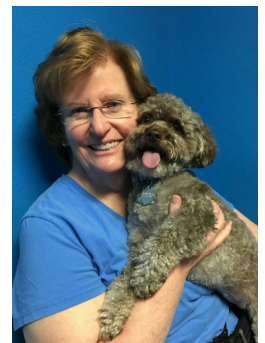
Eric and Lydia snagged St. Bernard TJ, the last of his litter waiting for a home. (Lydia had been a member of DOC with Tucker, also a St. Bernard, but Tucker passed away early in his career.) TJ has a younger brother, Max, (who is from the same parents and also a therapy dog) at home in Sun Prairie.

TJ currently visits at St. Mary's.

Sally "inherited" Kaylee when family members moved to an apartment and were no longer able to keep her. Kaylee, a Shih Tzu/Toy Poodle mix, is four years old.

The first visiting goal for Sally is to take Kaylee to visit with hospice patients and families. "It remains to be seen what the dog prefers," says Sally with a smile.

While Sally is at home in Madison, she enjoys music, writing, sewing, and quilting.



Tracy's Pet Partner is Oliver, an eight-year-old Springer/Collie mix. Tracy's family adopted Oliver from the Barron County Humane Society when he was two years old. Oliver's "brother" at home is Easton, a 12-year-old English Springer Spaniel.

Tracy plans for Oliver to visit libraries, schools, and hospitals.

Spare time for Tracy is involved with gardening, hiking, and reading.

Stephanie and her eight-year-old Newfoundland, Olive, live in Madison.

Olive will be busy, as Stephanie plans for them to visit schools, libraries, dorms, and hospice patients.

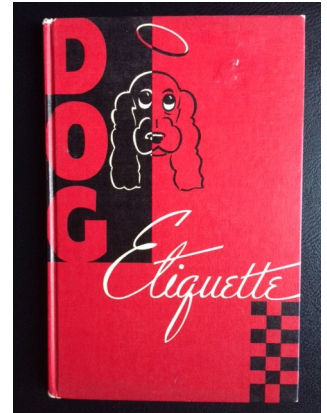
Stephanie enjoys acting, singing, tennis, golf, hiking, and also taking care of her fish, Luna.

Karen & Pete

Dog Training Horror Stories

I don't read horror stories. But in the collection of dog training books I have, there are horror stories worse than I could have imagined. Dog training methods in past years have been far from reward-based methods and would most likely constitute animal abuse in current times. Terms like "force," "chop," "jerk," and "jolt" abound.

"Dog Etiquette," a booklet from Ralston Purina dated 1944, suggests a cure for car chasing is to have the dog on a long leash that is tied to a tree where he can see cars. "When he dashes out, he'll get a jerk that may help break this bad habit." (Or his neck.) Alternatively, have a friend ride in the car and squirt the dog with water or "switch him severely with a long whip."



In "Home Obedience Training," a 1947 book by Fred Spooner, there is good advice, such as use immediate praise, speak in a tone of voice to "keep that tail wagging," and never tease a dog. But then the book takes a dark turn by offering these suggestions:

- For car chasing: Whip the dog, but not in the face.
- For excessive barking, several ideas presented, including: Full-force cold water from a hose or throw dirt down the dog's throat every time he barks.
- For killing chickens: "Severe thrashing with a chicken he has killed may do the trick." But a better solution is to wire a dead chicken (which has been soaked in coal oil) to the dog's collar and leave it tied on for several days.

Perhaps the largest and longest-running collection of cruel methods to cure problem dogs comes in, "The Koehler Method of Dog Training," by W.R. Koehler. Koehler was a dog trainer during WWII, instructor for various dog clubs, and trained several dogs that appeared in movies. The book was first published in 1962; the edition of the book I have is from 1979, the 23rd printing. It is still in print as of 1996 and as a Kindle edition in 2014, which makes me incredibly sad to think so many people bought this book and may have followed these tactics.

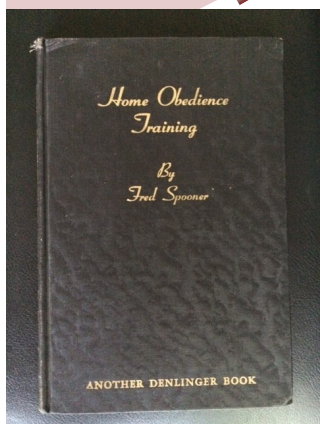
The first part of the book deals with basic obedience in a force-filled manner and the second part provides cures for "problems."

For example:

When dealing with a "protest biter," (protesting the handler's demands of training), the handler is to work the dog "to the point where the dog makes his grab." But before the teeth meet skin, the dog "is jerked from the ground" by his leash and collar and suspended in mid-air. *"However, to let the biting dog recover his footing while he still had strength to renew the attack would be a cruelty. The only justifiable course is to hold him suspended until he has neither the strength nor inclination to renew the fight."*

If the dog is too "big and formidable for anyone to hang up," the author suggests finding a piece of rubber hose, like a washing machine hose, about 16" long. Into this hose, slide a wooden dowel of the same length. This is the trainer's "tranquilizer." With this tool, the handler is to use a "chopping stroke" that *"brings the hose across the animal's muzzle between the eyes and the nose. If the correction was humane (forceful enough to be effective), the 'biting idea' was jarred from the dog's mind and replaced with the conviction that attack was not worth the numbing and inevitable consequences."*

Destructive chewing is cured by aversion. *"Select a piece of the material he has chewed (and you needn't catch him in the act) and place it well back, crossways, in his mouth. Use a strip of adhesive tape to wrap the muzzle securely in front of the chewed material, so that no amount of gagging and clawing can force it from him mouth."* Keep it there about an hour, he advises. But don't think that one instance will be curative. Do it again the next day, even if the dog hasn't chewed it. The author's surveys revealed that "80% of destructive chewers can be reformed" if this process is kept up at least six days.



Dog Training Horror Stories - Continued

To correct barking, *"Equip yourself with a man's leather belt or strap heavy enough to give your particular dog a good tanning. Yup—we're going to strike him. Real hard."* This method is also good for curing dogs who chase people who are running, skating, etc. *"Give him about five minutes of the hardest tanning you can administer. Use a belt heavy enough to make him really feel your efforts."*

And this helpful advice, *"Truthfully, it might be well to explain your situation to the police so they'll know you'll have to make a better citizen of your dog, even if you have to do it the hard way; then they'll be prepared to answer any protest from kind folks who would rather have your dog put to sleep than punished."*

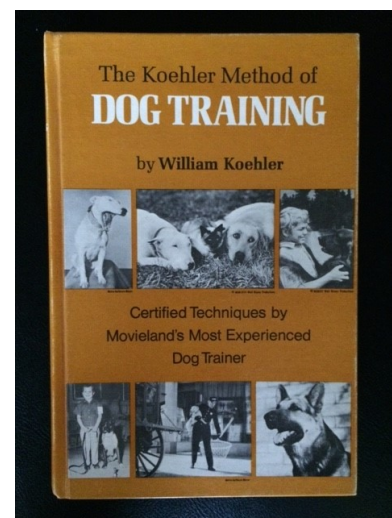
Other correction devices described are:

- throw chains
- slingshots using clusters of BBs, with recommendations of commercial-brand slingshots that shoot "harder and straighter" than home-made ones
- instructions for electrifying fences and screen doors (if the dog jumps or digs under fences or scratches at the door to come into the house)

For my last example from the book, the Koehler solution to hole digging by the dog. *"If you come home and find your dog has dug a hole, fill the hole brimful of water. With the training collar and leash, bring the dog to the hole and shove his nose into the water; hold him there until he is sure he's drowning. ... A great many dogs will associate this horrible experience with the hole they dug. However, to make sure of a permanent impression, fill the hole with water and repeat the experience the next day, whether the dog digs any more or not. ... Class surveys have shown that more than seventy percent of the dogs who experience this correction for as many as six consecutive days swear off hole digging."*

We have come so far.

Karen & Pete



Read With Me

As the school year is starting and children are being encouraged by their teachers to read more, this is a perfect time to think about becoming involved in the Read With Me program. If you feel your Pet Partner would do well working with children in a one-on-one setting, please contact Laura at lau-rak@dogsoncall.org for more information on the program.

If we can help children love to read, we are setting them up for success.

Laura, Kooper, Shadow, & Oliver

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