

# Dogs On Call Inc.

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## Letter From The President

It is officially Fall as I write this, however the weather has still been kind for our morning and evening walks. Our Dogs On Call teams that visited at Allen Centennial Gardens had great weather, and saw about 600 UW students during their time there. I am sure that Liz is receiving many emails for dorms visits already; watch your email for those, and sign up where you can. The students enjoy visiting with us.

As much as the students enjoy our visits, the hospital patients, nursing home residents, veterans at the VA and at Dryhootch, as well as the numerous other facilities that our teams visit, like to see us just as much. Please don't forget about them as the weather gets cooler and our days get shorter. It may be just a little bit harder to get the ambition to get out of our warm homes, but think about the smile that you will bring to someone's face when you walk through the door.

Dogs On Call will be participating in Badger Kennel Clubs Dog Fair again this year. It will be held on November 1, from 10-4. Mark your calendar, we will need teams with their Pet Partner and members without an animal. We hope to wrap gifts again this year at Barnes and Noble in East Towne Mall. This is a low-key, fun event for us. If you are a great gift wrapper, or if you would like to come and visit busy shoppers with your Pet Partner, watch your email in November for our dates.

Thank you for all you have done in 2015, and for all you will continue to do in 2016. Every visit touches a life in a positive way, go out and touch someone today.

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## *Laura with Kooper, Oliver, and Shadow*

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## Dogs On Call Annual Picnic

This years Dogs On Call Annual Picnic was another success. We had beautiful weather, great company in fellow DOC members. We were able to meet some spouses, children, and grandchildren this year. The food was fantastic, Don and Caleb did a fantastic job grilling the burgers and brats, and the dishes to pass are always great.

Every year I am amazed that we can get this large of a group of dogs together and they can all run and play and have a great time. Please watch for photos from the picnic throughout this newsletter.

## *Laura with Kooper, Oliver, and Shadow*

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## Hospital News

### UW Hospital Expands to the East Side

August 2015 marked the opening of the new UW Health – The American Center (“UW-TAC”) and UW Health Rehabilitation Hospital (“UW-HRH”) near the intersection of I-94 and Hwy. 151. Three Dogs On Call teams helped welcome visitors to the huge Open House celebration. Thanks to Pat & Wilson, Michelle & Kenny, and Kay & Daisy for participating. It was the hottest day of the year and the crowds were bigger than expected. You know those dogs worked hard greeting everyone!

With the opening of these two facilities, our visits at the UW Hospital will be changing around the first of the year. Both the orthopedics and in-patient rehab departments, where we have scheduled visits in the dayroom many times per month, will be moving from the UW Hospital (UWHC) on UW on the west side of Madison to UW-TAC. We are still in the planning stages of what new units we’ll visit at UWHC, UW-TAC, and UW-HRH. I’m hoping we’ll need many new teams to fill the visit requests. But new teams are always welcome! Contact Karen Peckham at [karenp@dogsoncall.org](mailto:karenp@dogsoncall.org) to get information on how to get started.

Welcome!

UW Hospital – Amy & Rooster (Rooster returns after being the official greeter at the Amy’s family’s camp in northern Wisconsin this summer.)

Meriter – Sherie & Caleb (Caleb will be visiting patients at both the main hospital and the Child & Adolescent Psych facility on the west side of Madison.)

### ***Karen with Scout***



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### Aideen and Pete

Aideen (Golden) and Pete (Welsh Springer) had a great time playing with each other at the Dogs On Call picnic. Are they future therapy dogs in the making? We hope so!

Aideen belongs to Barb and Zora

Pete belongs to Karen, Kevin, and Scout

## Billy The Beagle

Our sweet Billy, the Rockstar Beagle, is retiring from Dogs On Call this Fall.

On his behalf (because his vocabulary is somewhat limited) we wanted to thank all of you.

Billy was already a sweet pudgy little boy when we first had the idea of trying him out with D.O.C. four years ago. We kept running into Dogs On Call representatives at Mounds Fest and the like, and finally decided it was time. We were warmly greeted right away when we came to our class, by people who were excited to meet a new friend, but also by certain folks who were SO HAPPY to meet another Beagle.

We went to our first evaluation, confident that he would probably pass. Little did we know that Dogs On Call would open up a side of Billy that we hadn't ever seen before. He passed, complex, on his first try, with two different handlers on the same day.

Billy was a total pro every time we put his vest on. He would sit up even taller, wagging his tail, ready to go to work. His usual playful (and admittedly, sometimes distracted) Beagle self would shine through, but it was clear that he knew what he was there to do, always able to put the needs of those he was visiting ahead of his own.

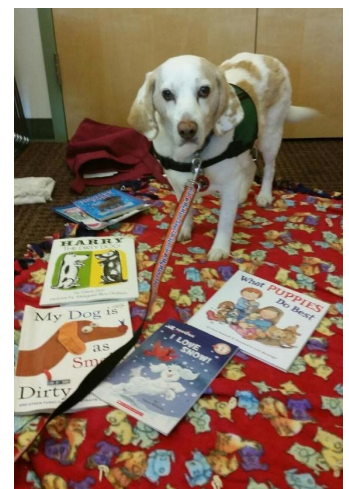
He was a fan favorite at Meriter and the DreamBank, and had a particular soft spot for children when he went on R.E.A.D. visits. Personally, one of our favorite stories was when he visited at a very loud and boisterous kids event at the Alliant Energy Center. The room was crazy busy, and he said hello to everyone he met, but in between he could be seen dozing off on the carpet, the high energy of the room not distracting him in the least. That is, until the booth organizer decided to vacuum the carpet... then Billy was in high alert, barking at the machine, making sure it didn't come any closer. All we could do was laugh and say "Yup, that's our brave boy."

In light of that story, it's ironic that Billy's hearing is what brings us to his retirement. His ears are playing tricks on him, it seems. Noises are louder, distractions are scarier, he generally finds it harder to relax and enjoy visits. So after 4 years in D.O.C., it is time for Billy to hand his vest to his younger sister, Leia, as she carries on the family tradition. Hopefully Billy will still be with us for a long time to come, but he will be happily relaxing and enjoying retirement.

Because of Billy, we have been so happy to have met all of you! Everyone in Dogs On Call has warmly welcomed our dogs and us, and we are so glad to have made so many good friends. We will continue working with and supporting Dogs On Call of course (Leia has been registered now for 3 years), but it was Billy's sweet spirit that brought us here and for that we are forever grateful.

Thank you all, for all that you do!

***Marisa & Ben, with Billy and Leia***



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## Edgerton Library Visit

On July 20th, six Dogs On Call teams visited the Edgerton Library. Kirsten, who is the youth librarian, asked us to give a short presentation about Dogs on Call and then do a meet-and-greet with the children and their parents. The six teams who helped with this visit were: Chelsea and Captain, Ginny and Amy, Barb and Zora, Pat and Buttons, Laurie and Sundance, and Liz and Charlotte.

Liz talked to the children and their parents about the different kinds of pets that are now members of Dogs On Call. She also outlined for them some of the characteristics we look for when assessing a pet to do this kind of work. For example, a therapy pet needs a nice laid-back temperament and a gentle easygoing manner. They need to tolerate loud noises and should not be intimidated to go into several different environments. But most of all, therapy pets must love people and want to be around them.

Barb gave a short presentation on the difference between a therapy animal and a service animal. She described for them that a therapy animal visits lots of different people to help them feel better. And, therapy animals love and can be petted. Whereas service animals work for one person and are focused on what they need to do to help their person. Service dogs should not be petted as this could distract them.

Before we started the meet-and-greet portion of the program, Liz talked briefly about the Dogs On Call 'Dog Bite Prevention Program.' She stressed the importance of always asking an owner if it's okay to pet their dog. Most of the time owners will say yes. But if they say no, that's okay.

There was a short question and answer session and then it was petting time. All of the teams really enjoyed sharing their dogs with the Edgerton Library children and their families. Across the room and above the squeals of laughter, these words could be heard by many little voices..."May I please pet your dog?"

### ***Liz with Charlotte and Lovey***

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## 2015 Board Of Directors Election Results

Our 2015 election had the most votes ever, coming in with 57 votes cast from our members. The results of our election are:

Liz M.—Vice President, 2 year term, starting January 2016

Laurie L.—returning as Director-At-Large, 2 year term, starting January 2016

JoAnn H.—returning as Director-At-Large, 2 year term, starting January 2016

Erin H.—new Director-At-Large, 2 year term, starting January 2016

The treasurer position was open and at the time of the voting, we had no candidates running for the position. The Board Of Directors received a bio from Fay A. for the position of Treasurer. The Board accepted Faye's bio and voted Faye A. into the position of Treasurer starting January 2016.



## The Dryhootch

Several years ago, some Viet Nam War veterans decided that veterans needed a safe, "dry" place to congregate and talk. So they started a not-for-profit meeting place called "The Dryhootch" in Milwaukee. Many free services were offered as the business community was asked to donate their time to help these veterans apply for college loans and home loans. They even offered financial planning assistance. PTSD groups for veterans were started. Counseling for families was also available. Many other services were offered as the community answered the call for help. It was a great success. So a few years ago, the idea was brought to the Madison area.

The first Dryhootch was located on the far west side of Madison. Again, many services were offered to the veterans, including regular visits from Dogs on Call. While veterans congregated there and took advantage of the services offered including the PTSD groups, it was decided to move The Dryhootch closer to the VA and the downtown area of Madison. So on Saturday, Sept. 5th, The Dryhootch had their open house at their new facility which is located at 2825-2 University Ave. Dogs On Call was invited to attend the open house and visit with the veterans and their families. The teams who braved the hot day were: Mary and Mac, Ed and Scout, Sue and Nutmeg, Sherie and Caleb and Liz and Lovey. There was lots of food at the event but I'm proud to say that while there was a lot of sniffing going on, none of the dogs tried to eat off of anyone's plate.

The Dryhootch has asked Dogs On Call to visit with the veterans and their families at their new location. Visits will be scheduled. Liz will be sending out an email in the near future requesting volunteers. So if you're interested, watch your emails.

### ***Liz with Charlotte and Lovey***



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## New Member Profiles

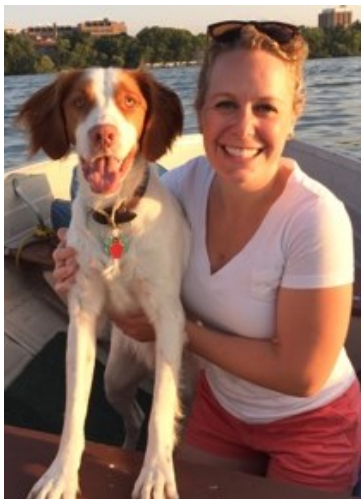


**Kym T.**, her Pet Partner Latte, and Merlin (a mini pig) live in Stoughton. Latte, a three-year-old French Bulldog from Minnesota, is a sociable dog who “loves any dog and everyone,” says Kym.

Kym says she would like to try many facilities and events to see how Latte likes each one. She is interested in the R.E.A.D. program, as well.

Latte joins Kym for camping every other weekend in the spring, summer, and fall.

Kym’s other interests are reading, watching movies, and cake decorating.



**Leeann K.** is Pet Partners with Griffey, a Brittany Spaniel, who is just over a year old.

Leeann is eager to try visiting in a variety of settings, but mentions particularly hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons.

Outdoor interests are hiking, running, golfing, and camping. Inside, Leeann likes to cook and bake.



**Mary K.**, from Stoughton, formed a special bond with her Pomeranian, Penny, while a friend was fostering her. Penny had a rough start in life – when she was a year old, she was found in a home with 12 other dogs and pregnant. She ended up at the Columbia County Shelter and was fostered by Mary’s friend until Penny delivered the puppies and the litter was weaned. By then, Mary was in love!

Penny’s visits to elderly relatives brought them much comfort, Mary writes. Maybe nursing home visits are in Penny’s future.

Mary’s hobbies are traveling, reading, knitting, and basket weaving.



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## New Member Profiles - continued

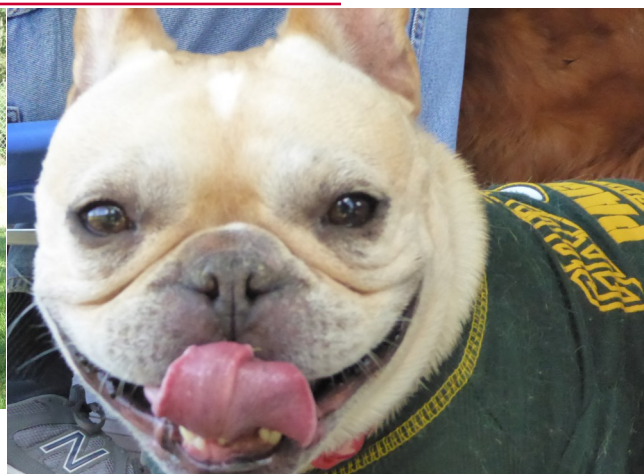


**Joan P.** lived in Colorado about seven years ago. She had just lost her 17-year-old Cocker Spaniel and was looking for a Golden Retriever as a friend for Jade, her Golden at that time. Joan found Shelby on Craigslist. The owner's husband was going to prison for violating parole; the owner also had four cats, two dogs, three horses, and a four-year-old son and was being evicted the next day. Joan says, "Of course, we took this beautiful eight-month-old Golden home!" Shelby left one houseful of animals for another. Joan's farm has three horses, two barn cats, two house cats, two pigs, chickens and guineas, and whatever foster dogs are there. As far as visiting for Dogs On Call, Joan is interested in working with all age groups and discovering what Shelby likes. Aside from Joan's interest in animal behavior and training, she enjoys reading, gardening, quilting, hiking, and birding.



**Kristi S.** was looking for a dog that would accommodate her family's allergies. A dog trainer friend recommended a breeder and soon Bentley joined the family. Bentley is a two-year-old Standard Poodle and he joins Kitters the cat and Maddie the horse. Kristi is interested in visiting with Bentley at Meriter and UW Hospitals. In her spare time, Kristi enjoys tennis and swimming.

***Karen with Scout***



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## A Special Birthday

Several of the UW Hospital teams have visited a young man with a disfiguring facial wound due to a gunshot. He has been in the hospital a long time and will continue to stay there through many reconstructive surgeries.

On a Tuesday afternoon, I received a call from one of his nurses, asking if there was any way he could get a therapy dog visit the next day, which was his birthday. She said the therapy dog visits were one of the few bright spots in his life.

I put out the call and was so happy at the response. Four teams were able to come for a birthday visit on less than 24-hours' notice. He had visits about every two hours on Wednesday afternoon from Karen & Scout, Andrea & Samantha, Lynn & Gypsy, and Kay & Daisy. The teams that were scheduled the next day for the regular evening visit at the hospital (Yvonne & Daisy and Amy & Rooster) also volunteered to stop by for a belated birthday greeting. The patient was scheduled for surgery on that day, so that visit had to be canceled.

Thanks to the teams for making this man's birthday as special as it could be under the circumstances. His nurses were so thrilled and grateful that we made this happen. We really were Dogs On Call!

***Karen with Scout***

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## Testing A Full Size Horse

In June, Artie, Laura, Gina, and Tiana, along with Kooper for the neutral dog, traveled to Sullivan WI to test our first full-size horse. Levi and his owner/handler, Sandrajean, passed Complex with no problem. What a great team they will be! Sandrajean took our Pet Partners workshop, but, unfortunately, lives too far from us to join Dogs On Call. Full-size horses must be tested indoors, but, unlike mini horses, must visit outdoors. Please be sure to read the

article Sandrajean wrote for us about Levi, also in this newsletter



We recently received an update from Sandrajean. Her and Levi are visiting at a nursing home and Angel's Grace Hospice in the Oconomowoc area. She has also been asked to visit Zacharia's Acres, an outdoor facility for children with disabilities, in the Oconomowoc area."

***Artie with Sacajawea and Henry***

**Tiana with Kooper, Laura, Artie, Levi and Sandrajean, Gina**



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## Levi

Levi was born in Illinois on 5/11/05. He is a Standardbred – a breed developed primarily for harness racing. Levi was freeze-branded on his neck (he is 3CA587) and he raced for about five years. He was retired from racing on Labor Day in 2012 and he went out on a win. Levi was fortunate to have been in the hands of an owner/trainer who has a reputation for retiring her horses from the track when they're still sound and young enough to go on to another career. She put Levi into the Racer Placer Standardbred adoption program and that is where I met Levi – at their adoption site farm near Palmyra, WI. Often Standardbreds who are not very successful or are injured, are euthanized or go to slaughter.

Levi was seven when we met and had never had a rider on his back. All of his work was as a pacer, in harness. With the help of Dave, who often helps the Racer Placers in starting horses under saddle, I trained Levi to walk and trot (NOT pace) and now we're working on canter. Levi has a lovely natural canter, but during the time he spent in racing, he was severely reprimanded for any canter – so we are taking it slowly and teaching him that it is no longer a punishable offense.

In the two plus years that we've had Levi, we've known him to be quiet, sensible, confident, willing, friendly and just plain fun to ride and be with. I rarely have to go out to catch Levi – he usually comes up to the barn when he's called – and that even includes the times when he sees that his saddle is out and waiting for him.

When I first began to ride Levi, his trot, or rather pace, at that time, was so fast and it was a totally foreign movement to me, that it was difficult to stay up on him. Now, he's developed a beautiful trot, and since I have ridden dressage for over 25 years, I would like to eventually show him in dressage.

He seems to truly enjoy going out on trail rides, too. We've taken him to the Kettle Moraine State Forest trails, alone, and with other horses. He seems to enjoy it either way.

Levi just seems to really enjoy attention and being around people. My husband and I took Levi to the nursing home where my Mom lived – this was only about nine months after we had adopted him. We kept him outside on a grassy area for the entire morning and residents enjoyed coming up and visiting with him. That experience is what made me think that Levi would be perfect for pet therapy-type visits. And that eventually led me to the Pet Partners program.

I am very happy to say that Levi and I passed our Pet Partners test with flying colors earlier this month and are now waiting to receive our registration which will allow us to make visits as members of Pet Partners.

I consider myself extremely lucky to have Levi in my life and I wish more people would consider these wonderful horses off the track, when they're looking for a mount.

***Sandrajean with Levi***

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## OccuPaws Event

On Sunday, September 20th, OccuPaws celebrated its 10th year as a volunteer service organization whose members raise and provide guide dogs to the visually disabled. This anniversary event was held at the Wisconsin Brewing Company grounds in Verona from 11am-3pm and was open to the public.

OccuPaws asked Dogs On Call to participate in their celebration by providing DOC teams who would be available to talk to interested visitors about Pet Partners, Dogs On Call and animal-assisted therapy.

In all, 11 DOC teams volunteered to help out with this event. Many thanks to Ellen and Zoey, Scott (unfortunately Sazzy couldn't come), Lance and Matilda, Jill and Havana, Mary Beth and Chance, Amy and Rooster, Kym and Latte, and Gina, who had to leave her little Button at home. Liz and Lovey also attended this event. Much fun was had by all and the dogs were very well behaved even though the DOC tent was situated right next to the OccuPaws food booth.

Congratulations to OccuPaws on their 10th anniversary as a very successful and dedicated volunteer service organization. They have provided and continue to provide many visually disabled people with wonderful guide dogs who help and lead their owners to a more independent lifestyle.

***Liz, with Charlotte, and Lovey***



**Ellen and Zoey**



**Lance and Matilda**

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**DOC Newsletter**

The contents of the DOC Newsletter represent the views and opinions of the authors, and not necessarily those of the DOC organization or its members, nor does publication constitute any endorsement.

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**Submission Deadlines:**

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<b><u>August 15</u></b>	<b>Done</b>
<b><u>November 15</u></b>	<b>December 2015</b>

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.

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