

Summer 2016

Dogs On Call Inc.

Save the date

September 25, 2016

Annual DOC Picnic

More info to come
via email.

Letter From The President

Summer is here! I hope that everyone is making some time to get outside and enjoy the great weather we have been having the last few weeks.

Our time at the UW Dorms has come to a close for a little while, just until the summer is over, but that doesn't mean we aren't busy. Dogs On Call has been doing many dog bite prevention presentations this summer, as well as being at Mounds Dog Fest, and the Dane County Humane Society doing a "who we are and where we going" presentation. Our members do these presentations and events as well as their regular R.E.A.D. visits at libraries, and visits with patients at hospitals, nursing homes, assisted livings, prisons, and juvenile detention facilities. The members of this group amaze me!

Thank you for all that you do for Dogs On Call, and for the people that you visit. Every visit that you do is appreciated.

—Laura, Kooper, Oliver, & Shadow

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DOC Board Of Directors Elections

The Dogs On Call, Inc. Board of Directors will be holding our 2017 elections in early September. The positions that are open for re-election this year are: President, Secretary, and four Directors-at-Large positions. We will have four of our board members leaving our board at the end of 2016. Please consider running for one of the above listed positions. All terms are for two years. The board meets every other month on the fourth Wednesday. If you would like more information on any of the above positions, please email Laura at: laurak@dogsoncall.org

Remember, all DOC Board meetings are open to the general membership.

You Never Know Who You Will Run Into

Matilda & I have visited the Madison Ronald McDonald house only a few times and they are quite easy going visits with the residents and staff. Last month, we signed in and the volunteer pointed to the visiting room and said, "They are waiting for you." As we turned around, we could see the small room was filled with Girl Scouts. They had just finished making the night meal for the house and were heading home when they saw the event board which announced a therapy dog was coming, so they decided to stay later and meet her. For those who have gone on a dorm visit, this was a mini version of everyone petting at the same time! After we got settled, they asked some really great questions:



- ◆ Whose dog is this? She's our pet and I get to be with her every day.
- ◆ How often do train with her? Every day since she was a puppy.
- ◆ Did she have to go away to a special training place to learn this? Nope, we took her to basic obedience classes and had lots of interactions with other dogs and people. We have to take a test every 2 years to see how we are doing.
- ◆ How did you get her to sit and lay down without saying anything (Tilly will respond to just hand commands most of the time)? I can show you, would you all like to learn? Yes, Yes. I demonstrated the sit, down, and stand commands; then I asked if they wanted to try. Almost immediately, they formed a line and were ready to go. So for about 10 times in a row, Tilly sat, laid down, and stood for each of the kids.

The evening ended with the normal visits with the residents and staff, so all back to normal in Matilda's mind, I hope. She got extra Cheerios at the car for all her hard work that night!

Our second surprise visit happened at Mounds. We were wandering around buying food and treats, when someone said "Matilda!" from the end of the aisle. One of the nurses from unit 2B at the VA recognized Tilly and had to come and say hi. She thanked us for our time up there and hoped to see us on our next visit.

I'm amazed every time I experience visits like these or hear similar stories from others, of what an impact our pups can have on those around us.

–Lance & Matilda

Our Second Year At Ochsner Park

Dogs On Call had the pleasure to do our Dog Bite Prevention Program for the 4K children of the Baraboo School District. We presented on a gorgeous day at Ochsner Park in Baraboo to about 135 kids in groups of 15 at a time. Our teams were Artie, Karen & Zombie, Todd & Izzie, and Andrea & Samantha. This is our second year for the Baraboo 4K, and Mr. Olson, the principal, has asked us to make this an annual event.

–Artie & Henry

Dogs On Call, Inc. Clothing - Free To A Good Home

Dogs On Call has a few clothing items that have been donated for a member that could use them. They are all a size medium 10-12, and have the Dr. Dog logo on them, the items are listed below:

- ♦ two vests
- ♦ two sweatshirts
- ♦ two shirts

These items will be at the annual picnic for you to try on and take home with you if you are interested.

Sacajawea



I'm sad to report the passing of Sacajawea in April. As so many of us know, it's such a hard decision, but one I knew I would be making soon.

Sacajawea did therapy work most of her life, and brought comfort and smiles to countless people over the years. Sacajawea was 13.

I take comfort in the words of her doctor when she said, "After everything Sacajawea has done for so many people for so many years, I want you to know that I consider it an honor to help her through this."

Thank you to everyone involved in Sacajawea's life!

–Artie

New Member Profiles



Six years ago, **Ann S.** and her family were looking for a non-shedding and hypoallergenic dog for a family pet. They became enchanted with the Havanese breed, found a breeder near Chicago, and went for a visit. Ann says Howie picked them when he was four weeks old. After growing out of being a “terror” as a puppy, Howie is now a sweetie and natural therapy dog. He’s already honed his therapy skills with Ann’s 97-year-old mother; Ann says they are buddies. Luckily, Howie loves taking a shower, a handy trait for a busy therapy dog.

Ann is looking forward to visiting with Howie at a wide variety of facilities – hospice, prison, and dorms. She also enjoys painting, reading, and gardening.



Five-year-old LuLu, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, has lived with **Marie D.** for most of her life. LuLu really belongs to Marie’s daughter; she recently moved to pet-friendly housing, so now Marie has to share.

LuLu has quite the busy life with Marie, as they play fetch, run, and even do stand-up paddle boarding together. They also eat vegetables together – Marie says LuLu’s favorite is sugar snap peas, but she also favors celery, cucumbers, and sweet red peppers. Marie likes to travel, volunteers at the Overture Center, and spends lots of time walking in downtown Madison.

Marie has set her therapy dog sights on visiting at the VA or other hospitals.



Lisa C. planned to just ride along with a friend who was getting a puppy. You probably know what happened – Lisa came home with one, too. Ginger, now eight years old, is a Shih Tzu. She has a four-year-old dog brother, Toby, a German Shorthair Pointer.

Lisa has two daughters who are involved in many sports, so they all go to a lot of games. For more quiet activities, Lisa likes to read and go for walks.

With no particular facilities in mind for therapy dog visits, Lisa is open to trying different places and opportunities to see what is best for Ginger.



Kari B. knew about DOC’s UW dorm visits and for a long time has wanted to help at those events. There was a chance meeting with a DOC member, who told Kari about Pet Partners, and soon Kari and Luna, her five-year-old Newfoundland, were members. Kari’s not a stranger to therapy dog visits, as her other Newfie, Kona, was a member of Therapy Dogs, Inc.

“Active” doesn’t begin to describe Kari’s life – she teaches several types of fitness classes, enjoys bicycling, hiking, and downhill skiing, and, in whatever downtime she has, likes relaxing with a book. She and Luna also take many dog-training classes and attend dog shows where Luna is shown in conformation events.

As a Dogs On Call member, Kari would like to take Luna to the UW dorms (of course!), the VA Hospital, and possibly Agrace Hospice and the Columbia Correctional Institution.

–Karen, Scout, & Pete

That Is Why I Do This!

We all love therapy work, why else would we go through all the bathing, grooming, and prep work necessary for visiting. But every once in a while something extra special happens when visiting, and you have what we call a "That Is Why I Do This" moment! Here is one of mine:

A while back while Sacajawea and I were visiting with the veterans at the VA Hospital in a common room area. A young soldier who had just gotten back from Afghanistan joined us. He told us that he just had to put his dog down. Sacajawea walked over to him, sat right in front of him looking up at him. He started petting her, he hugged her, then put his head down into her neck and started crying. It seemed like a long time, but after about probably a minute he raised his head, sniffed, wiped his eyes, and said "There, I feel better now".

For just a brief moment my dog had helped this wonderful young man release just a little bit of his stress. That's Why I Do This!

We would like to make this a regular part of our newsletter. Please send your "That Is Why I Do This" stories to Laura at laurak@dogsoncall.org for future issues.

–Artie & Henry

Mounds Dog Fest

DOC once again had a booth at Mounds Dog Fest on Sunday, June 12th. We met many people and their dogs, and we even saw some former DOC members. The weather was just perfect.

DOC volunteers were: Karen & Zombie, Liz & Charlotte, Erin & Sheba, Sally & Mickey, Liz & Charlotte, Kym & Latte, Pat & Wallace, Sherie & Caleb, and Pat & Wilson. Gina, Todd, Scott, Debbie, and Artie were there without dogs.

–Artie & Henry

Remember the Two-Hour Limit

Please remember that Pet Partners has set a two-hour per day limit on visiting with your Pet Partner. It's always tempting to schedule a few visits on your "pet therapy day" so you can take advantage of that darn bath. But this rule is in place to protect our pets from overwork and the possibility of stress overload that can result from visiting with too many people in too many venues. If you have any questions about this, please contact any DOC board member.

Hospital News

Popular New Unit for Visiting Added at Meriter

If you were going to the admitting area at the hospital for a surgical procedure, wouldn't you like to see a bright-eyed dog with a wagging tail to greet you as you got off the elevator? Many people do, as we've had a great positive response to Meriter teams visiting patients and family in the A.M. Admitting area. These visits started with the idea that staff could use some stress relief, but everyone wants a piece of the action!

Friday mornings bring a unique experience for patients and therapy teams, alike. Meriter doesn't have a pediatrics unit, but Friday mornings are reserved for pediatric dental surgeries, so kids get to visit with the dogs and Meriter teams get to see kids!

Volunteer Appreciation Events

April 10-16 was Volunteer Appreciation Week; UPH-Meriter and UW Hospital and Clinics definitely showed their appreciation.

Meriter held a "Fun and Games"-themed luncheon at the Sheraton. Great food, as always, silly jokes by speakers, and a bingo game where we had to fill in the names of the volunteers who matched the fun facts in the squares, like, "Who can't swim?" "Who is left-handed?" "Who has five or more siblings?" It was a good get-to-know-your-fellow-volunteers game. Volunteer appreciation gifts were distributed and service pins were awarded.

UW Hospital and Clinics held a brunch buffet at the hospital with a lavish offering of food. This year's theme was "Space Travel" and the décor, party favors, and appreciation gifts followed the theme.

The picture shows: Karen S., Linda (John's partner), John K., Karen P., Michelle F., and Kay L. Not shown in the picture, because they are politely resting at our feet, are Zombie, Gypsy, and Daisy, some of the UWHC therapy dogs, who are always welcome at this event. The dogs received party favors, too, and a bottomless bowl of water!



Hospital News - Continued

Nurses' Appreciation Event at UWHC

For the third time, the UW Hospital and Clinics asked DOC to participate in therapy dog visits to just hospital staff in select units. Four teams participated this year, spreading out over the day so each of the three work shifts received visits. A UWHC staff person escorted each team to as many as 12 units.

The coordinator of the event said: "As always, the therapy dog teams were a big hit!! The nurses knew they were coming and I was receiving emails first thing in the morning asking where they would be. We sincerely appreciate your and your teams' time; it means a lot to the nurses to have your teams visit!"

–Karen, Scout & Pete

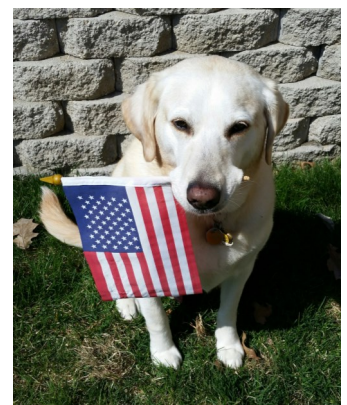
Pet Partner's Dress Code

Please remember the dress code that's in place when you're visiting with your pup, kitty, rabbit or miniature horse. This dress code comes directly from Pet Partners and, as a member of Dogs On Call, we're required to follow it.

It's always tempting to wear sandals to a visit in the summer...especially in the heat of the day. Alas, sandals are one of the things that PP says we can't wear. Also, please refrain from wearing "gym" clothes to a visit. Running pants or shorts, and tops or t-shirts with logos in place don't look very professional.

If you have any questions about the Pet Partner dress code, you can refer to your PP manual or ask one of the board members.

Scout is the Pet Partner of Ed. He is getting ready for his 4th of July visits.



DOC Party At Liz's House

On Sunday, June 26th, several DOC members got together at my home in Fitchburg for food, fun and fellowship. The only dogs present at the party were Charlotte and Lovey. Charlotte, of course, thought that everyone was there to see her. And I didn't have the heart to tell her that wasn't necessarily so. It's much easier to let a Bulldog believe what she wants to believe.

While it was so nice to have experienced members at the party, it was really great to have several new members there as well. Many stories were told, lots of pictures were shared and several experiences, both good and bad, were talked about to the benefit of both new and old teams. Many people told me that they really enjoyed hearing about other members' visits with their dogs. Especially what visiting tactics worked for them and which ones didn't work.

When we talk with fellow DOC members about our dogs and how we partner with our dogs to do this wonderful work, we learn from each other and we build a camaraderie that can last a lifetime.

Thanks to all of you who came to the get-together and shared your wonderful food and your very interesting stories. You graced my home with your presence.

Liz, Charlotte, & Lovey



Charlotte in her party hat, just waiting for everyone to arrive.

Member Reimbursement

Dogs On Call will reimburse each Pet Partners team that is a member of DOC \$20.00 per calendar year for business cards, baseball cards, or bookmarks that are purchased. There are templates set up on Vistaprint for business cards. Directions for accessing the Vistaprint account are in the Members Only section of our website. Often you can order 500 business cards for only a few dollars over the \$20.00 that you can get reimbursed.

There is also ordering information for baseball cards and bookmarks in the Members Only section.

If you have any questions about ordering any of these items, please email Laura at:

laurak@dogsoncall.org

Suggestion Box

The DOC board has decided to initiate a "suggestion box" on the Members' Only page on the DOC website. If you have a concern, a comment, a suggestion or a question, please feel free to use this tool to send us your thoughts. As we said in our email to the membership, all contributions to the suggestion box will be anonymous unless you indicate otherwise. There is a designated board member who will read the comments/questions and bring them to the rest of the board. If you want a reply to your comment/question, the board member will get back to you in a reasonable amount of time. ONLY this person will know your identity.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to let the DOC board know what's on your mind. We value your input.

Liz, Charlotte, & Lovey

DOC Teams Provide Comfort to UW Students and Staff After Orlando Tragedy

On Thursday, June 16th, Dogs On Call teams were once again called upon to help calm fears and anxieties after a terrible event. This time it was the mass shooting in Orlando, Florida. The UW's LGBT community and the UW Health Service requested a visit from DOC at the Red Gym on the UW campus. Five dogs and Pikachu, the bunny, shared their afternoon with several students and staff members who were struggling with their feelings at the deaths of so many young people. Everyone who visited with the dogs and Pikachu were very appreciative of being able to sit and touch a furry friend for a while.

Thanks to all the teams who helped with this visit. It seems DOC is doing more of these compassionate care visits after a tragic event. The teams who do these visits must be extra vigilant with their animals' emotional well-being as these visits can be filled with lots of stress, anxiety, and fear. While we always have to 'check-in' with our furry critters to make sure they're doing okay when on a visit, we really have to be 'in-tune' with our animals when they are confronted with extreme emotions like those at a compassionate care visit. Just something to ponder.

Liz, Charlotte, & Lovey

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