



Letter From The President

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Summer is in full swing; I hope everyone is taking time to enjoy the beauty that mother nature gives us each year at this time. I personally enjoy all of the different flowers that bloom in Wisconsin. There is nothing like relieving some stress by spending some time in a garden. My daughter and I have taken on a new hobby -- succulents and a few bonsai trees. I think our "hobby" may get out of hand if we are not careful!

Dogs On Call has had a busy first half of the summer. Artie has sent out requests for help with dog bite safety presentations, events, and crowd at evaluations. This, along with regular visits, should keep all of our members busy. We need to remember that just because the weather is nice and our lives get busier, people don't quit getting sick and needing visits. Please do your best to keep up a routine visiting schedule.

As we move through the summer, the UW program will pick up again. Todd will be sending out dates when visits are scheduled. Libraries will be scheduling their fall reading dates soon; if you are a Read With Me team, please try to fill a date or two this fall, the children really enjoy reading to our Pet Partners.

Thank you for every visit that you do with your Pet Partner. You have brightened someone's day by taking time to visit them.

Laura, Kooper, Oliver, and Shadow

Pet Partners' Read With Me

Does your Pet Partner love children? If they do, maybe the Read With Me program is for you. Dogs On Call is having a hard time filling all of the library and school requests that we get for reading teams. If you are interested in signing up for the program, or for more information about the Read With Me program, please email Laura at Laurak@dogsoncall.org.

Laura, Kooper, Oliver, and Shadow

****Save the date****

- The annual Dogs On Call picnic is scheduled for September 17, 2017
- More information will follow via email.
- The picnic is for you and your Pet Partner.

On Wisconsin!

A busy school year of visiting on the UW campus has come to an end and Dogs On Call continues to have a positive impact on the multiple students and staff we visited. This would not be possible without the countless teams that have devoted many volunteer hours to the campus program. A total of 58 visits were conducted during the 2016-2017 academic year by 55 different teams. Here is a breakdown of the visits:

- 20 UW dorm visits
- 9 graduate schools visits
- 16 campus organizations and special event visits
- 4 speaking engagements with specialized classes
- 5 interviews conducted by students or staff
- 2 visits to MATC
- 2 visits to Edgewood College



On a personal note, I'd like to express my thanks to all of you who helped me during my first year as the UW Coordinator. Liz M. left me a "big pair of shoes" to fill, but it's been my goal to maintain the high standards she established.

I look forward to the upcoming year as the demands for our services grows. For new members or experienced teams looking for a busy, fun filled, and rewarding venue to experience, please join us for some visits this fall. It won't be long and you, too, will feel the Badger spirit! On Wisconsin!

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR FIRST EVENT OF THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

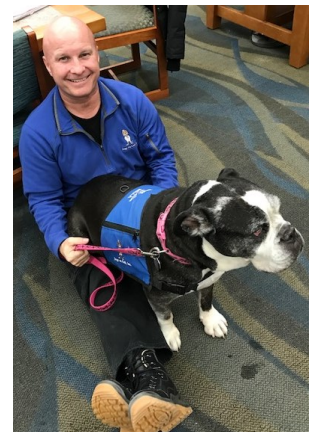
Thursday, September 7

4:00-6:00

Allen Centennial Gardens

"Student Welcome Party"

(details to follow)



Hospital News

Welcome Courtney and Chopper (German Shepherd) to both the Meriter and UWHC programs!

Welcome Kris & Journey (Golden Retriever) to UWHC!

UW Hospital Teams Busy This Spring

UW Hospital teams were busy this spring with many special events in addition to regular patient visits.

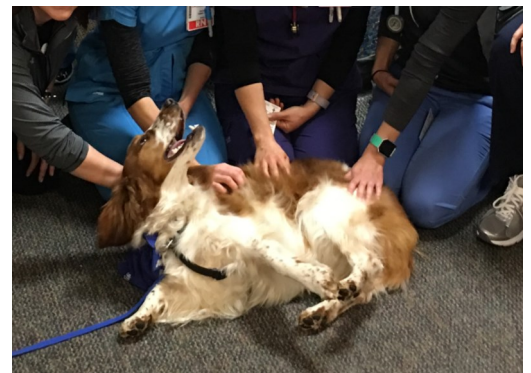
First, on April 22, many teams attended a Volunteer Appreciation Brunch. As always, our dogs are invited and again proved why they are special dogs – seven dogs in close quarters with the strong aroma of salmon, bacon, meatballs, and other delicacies.



Next, on April 27, several teams participated in the UW Health “Take Our Kids to Work Day.” Teams were scheduled for 1.5-hour shifts to greet the children as they cycled through a full day of health-related activities. Thanks to Andrea & Samantha, Ruth & Ike, Karen & Zombie, and Karen & Pete for meeting nearly 200 kids that day!

Finally, on May 11, teams visited the UW Hospital on all three shifts to give the nursing staff in many units some stress relief during Nurses’ Appreciation Week. Thanks to Andrea & Samantha, Ruth & Ike, and Karen & Pete. You can see Pete enjoyed the visit with the third-shift nurses in the neuro ICU, too!

Karen and Pete



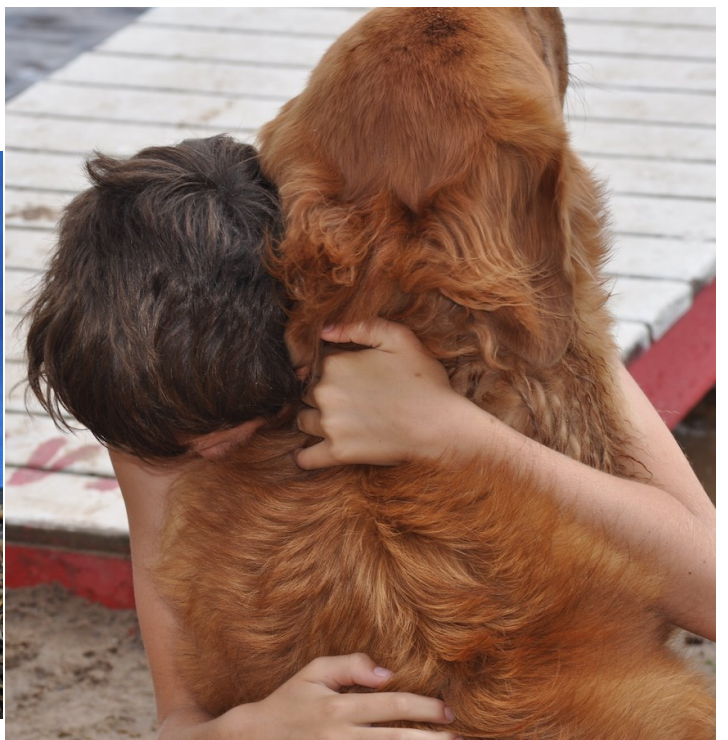
Rooster, The Therapy/Camp Dog

Rooster loves being a Dogs On Call Therapy Dog. His favorite visits are in the UW dorms, where college girls take selfies with him and marvel that he weighs more than they do. He also loves UW Hospital visits, especially the psych unit and Nurses' Appreciation Week. Anyone who has seen him at the hospital visits knows that if I stop walking to talk to anyone along the way, he will take a break and lie down. Maybe he's lazy, or maybe he just knows a good thing when he sees it...psych patients lying on the floor next to him, and nurses fawning all over him. I swear he's a ladies' man. He misses the visits during the summer, but he's also doing important work as a camp dog at Camp Deerhorn in Rhinelander, WI. He joins five other camp dogs on "staff," who all provide their own therapy to campers who are missing home or missing their own dogs. He loves playing with the other camp dogs, sleeping on the dock, and you can always find him waiting outside the dining hall, hoping that a camper will share his banana with him. He even suggested that we make trading cards like his for all of the other camp dogs, and they have been a huge hit with campers!

<http://deerhorn.com/about/deerhorn-dogs/>

He's loving his summer lounging in the sun, being petted by kids, but he looks forward to visiting back in Madison again this fall.

Amy and Rooster



4H Provides Eager Listeners

Every summer, 4H sponsors a Leadership Conference at UW for approximately 400 youth from the state of Wisconsin. For the past three years, DOC has been invited to present a two-hour workshop entitled, “What is Pet Therapy and How Does It Work?” The workshop, led by Todd T. and Izzie, along with Kay L. and Daisy, and Sherie S. and Caleb, covered several topics. Participants learned about the early beginnings of therapy work during WWII, the different kinds of roles for support dogs, and the organizational structure of Pet Partners and Dogs On Call.

Each of us shared our personal pet therapy journeys relating the many touching experiences we’ve had with our Pet Partners. Finally, we explained to the students that our dogs are an “instrument of love” and both the dog and the human on the other end of leash benefit from these experiences and our membership in Dogs On Call. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the world of pet therapy with the younger generation. Hopefully some of them are inspired to become therapy teams in the near future.



Todd and Izzy

Dogs On Call Suggestion Box

Do you have a suggestion on what could be done better in our group? What could have helped you more as a new member? Dogs On Call set up a suggestion box about 9 months ago and to date we have only received one suggestion from our membership! The Board occasionally hears things from members via email or word-of-mouth that we could be doing better and that is great! We would just like to be sure that all of our members know that our suggestion box is up and running if you would like to make an anonymous suggestion.

The Suggestion Box is accessible through the Members’ Only section of the website. Once you are in the Members’ Only section, there is a link to the Suggestion Box. If you have trouble accessing it, please contact a Board member for help.

The Dogs On Call Board of Directors



New Member Profiles



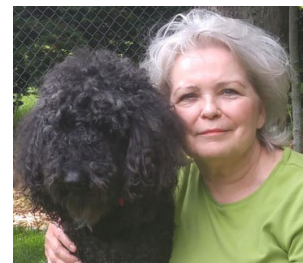
Mary H. lives in Fitchburg with five-year-old Happy, a Teddy Bear (a cross between a Shih Tzu and a Bichon) that she got from a breeder in Black River Falls. Happy shares Mary's attention with a fifteen-year-old cat named Emmie.

Getting involved with the Read With Me program at the Fitchburg Library is the main goal for Mary and Happy. Visits to Meriter Hospital are another possibility -- "for starters," says Mary. Being a part-time nanny for a little girl keeps Mary busy, but she loves it. She also enjoys playing tennis, walking, biking, reading, spending time with her two daughters and husband, and playing with Happy.

Janel J. also lives in Fitchburg. She had one Standard Poodle, Ebony, but thought she needed another Standard Poodle playmate, so she began contacting breeders. Baron joined the family a short time later. Ebony is five years old; Baron is four.

Hospital visits appeal to Janel and she's already started the process to volunteer at Meriter, St. Mary's, and UW Hospital.

For entertainment, other than playing with dogs, Janel enjoys writing, gardening, reading, and baking.



Adam H. adopted Bella four years ago from the Dane County Humane Society. Bella, now eight years old, is an Ori Pei, which is a Shar-Pei and Pug mix. She already had a start as a therapy dog because Adam says Bella helped him heal from his loss of his previous dog, a Newfoundland.

Adam also has a tabby cat named Montana. Bella and Montana are more or less roommates. They don't mind each other's company, but they don't do much together, either, says Adam. But when it's snack time, Adam says they will "double up the cuteness effort to reap the rewards."

There are many types of facilities that interest Adam and Bella – hospitals (including the VA Hospital), schools, hospice, libraries, nursing homes. They are open to trying them all.

Adam works full-time at the UW-Madison, but also finds time for music and concerts, traveling, biking, winter sports, radio, movies, and home remodeling.



Melissa W. spent several hours with a Lab mix rescued from northern Minnesota by Animal Rescue & Veterinary Support Services (ARVSS). It took just a short time to realize that Scout (now nine years old) was a special girl.

Scout is the only pet in the family, but Melissa keeps busy with her three children, ages four, two, and six months. In addition to running after kids, she likes running triathlons, Pilates, cooking, Badger sports, family time, and trips up north.

Melissa would like to visit hospitals and schools with students of any age, but is open to "visiting anywhere we could be of help."

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