

# Dogs On Call Inc.

## Letter From The President

This has been a busy summer for DOC. We have had booths at Beat the Blues Cruise, Puppy Up, Czar's Promise, UW Police Dog Jog, and Edgerton Police Department's National Night Out. We have done 8 Dog Bite Prevention Programs including our annual presentation to all, this year 125 of the 4K kids in Baraboo. In addition we spoke at 9 presentations, held 7 evaluations so far, 4 Pet Partner Workshops so far, and many Meet & Greets. A huge thanks to that wonderful group of members who, in addition to their regular visiting, volunteer to help over and over.

We are adding something new to the members page on our website. Members have asked to have the ability to communicate with each other, so with each members permission we will list your contact information: first name, last initial, email address, and dogs name & breed (we all know that we know each other by our dog more than our name). We will send an email about this towards the end of the month.

Please plan to attend our annual DOC picnic to help us celebrate our 20th year. It will be held on September 15th

Enjoy the rest of your summer!



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## **An Active Year at UW**

Many of our members support the Wisconsin Badgers in different ways. However, there is a devoted group of DOC teams that show their support by visiting students and staff with their pet partner. After a busy year, I calculated some interesting statistics that sum up our involvement.

- 66 visits were held this past school year.
- 5 additional visits will be held this summer.
- 341 “slots” needed to be filled to provide enough animals for the various events.
- 50 different teams volunteered numerous times. Thanks to EVERYONE!
- Visits were also held at Edgewood College, 2 Madison College campuses, and a Tech School in Portage.

Although we were busy, the feedback that follows from several members highlights the benefits of visiting the UW campus. If you're looking for a new activity with your pet partner this fall, the following remarks may encourage you to join the UW family!

### Sheila Hart and Betty

*“I’m overwhelmed by how friendly, polite, appreciative, and talkative the students are. Betty enjoys the energy, enthusiasm, and affection of campus visits.”*

*“Campus visits have also made me aware of the different support groups and organizations students are involved in on campus. This shows how much they care about each other and the community.”*

*“I always leave a campus visit feeling uplifted and optimistic about our next generation.”*

### Melody Moore and Joy

*“Students are exuberant and don’t mind telling you how much they love your dog! They are so respectful which gives me a lot of hope for the future. It makes me proud of UW.”*

*“One student had just lost her 12-year-old dog who looked like my dog, Joy. There were hugs and tears all around. Students do benefit from connecting with our pets.”*

### Jodell Quamme and Jordy

*“The students come to a visit and tell us that we’ve made their week better or that they had a bad day which is now so much better. Some of them tell us that they enjoy collecting our trading cards and have them displayed in their dorm room or on the fridge in their apartment. I leave visits knowing why volunteering on campus is a good fit for me and Jordy.”*

### Christine Zuengler and Jasmine

*“Jasmine and I really enjoy the campus visits at UW. Having two college-age kids myself, I can speak from experience that I know how much the kids miss their dogs while they are away at school. It’s ‘good therapy’ for me as I miss my kids while they’re away at school.”*

*“At one of my last visits this spring, a young man told me he was graduating. He thanked me for all of the visits and support he received from DOC throughout his years at UW. He then pulled out a worn trading card from his wallet and told me he kept ‘Izzie’ with him throughout his UW years ever since he met her while living in the dorms his freshman year. Another graduating student expressed her appreciation for all of the dog visits. She said the dogs were what she was going to miss the most about UW.”*

## An Active Year at UW - Continued

### Todd Trampe and Izzie

*"Some of my favorite visits are to the grad schools. While the students are working on advanced degrees and are older, they are as excited, expressive, and appreciative as the freshmen we visit in dorms."*

*"Walking into a room of EAGER students waiting to greet our dogs reaffirms why I enjoy coordinating the UW program. We are repeatedly told that visiting with our dogs 'is the best day of the semester' followed by, 'can you please come every day because we really miss our family dog?'"*

ON WISCONSIN!

**Todd & Izzie**

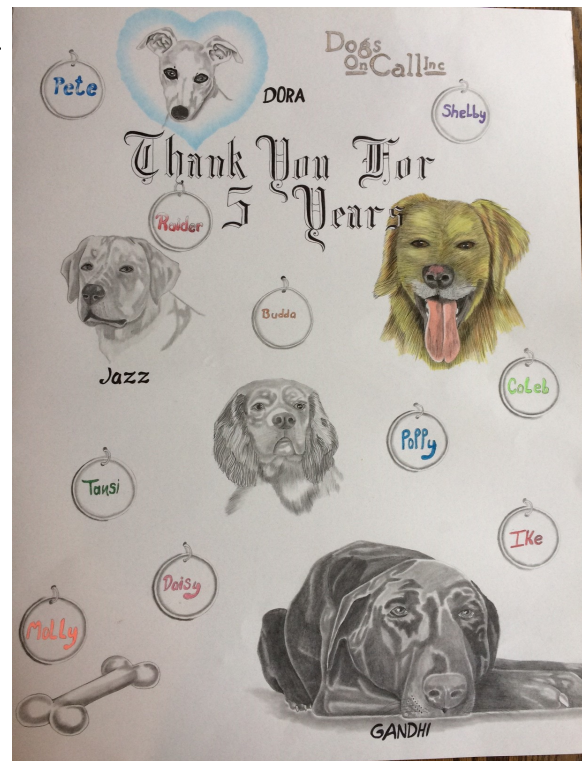
## Columbia Correctional Institution Celebrates Five Years Of DOC Visits

May 2019 marked the fifth year that DOC teams have been visiting inmates and staff at Columbia Correctional Institution in Portage. The teams visiting that month were presented with a huge (18" x 24") card, illustrated with pictures and names of the dogs that have visited with the men. One of the inmates did the drawings on the front. Inside, nearly 30 inmates signed the card, offering words of appreciation for our visits.

Teams who visit there are always impressed by what a difference our visits make. The simple act of petting a dog and a little conversation with an "outsider" generate smiles and good feelings that last longer than that moment.

If you'd like to join us in the program, contact me at [karenp@dogsoncall.org](mailto:karenp@dogsoncall.org) for more information.

**Karen & Pete**



## DOC Teams Go To Camp

The summer provides special activities for many of us involved in Dogs On Call. For some teams, that means going to camp at the Dane County Humane Society. By attending Camp Paw Prints, our dogs meet with 120 campers while their humans inform them about pet therapy. We talk about what makes therapy animals special, how to register and test through Pet Partners, places to visit, and the benefits of doing therapy visits.

Campers have a chance to ask questions and we are always impressed with their thoughtfulness. Our time ends with an enthusiastic and friendly meet and greet. It is our hope that we are helping to encourage future DOC volunteers.

A loud and sincere shout-out to Mary-Happy, Sheila-Betty, Eric and Lydia-TJ, Ginny-Coco, Barbara-Samson, Melody-Joy, Beth-Maggie, and Todd-Izzie who are DOC's summer campers!

**Todd & Izzie**

## New Member Profiles



**Kendle and Remy** live in Middleton now, but they spent recent years in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Remy is two years old and a Labrador mix with beautiful gold-colored eyes. She was adopted in Alberta. Kendle and Remy volunteered as a therapy dog team in Calgary before they moved to Wisconsin.

Kendle would like to continue her therapy dog activities with children and young adults, focusing on the Read With Me program and campus visits.

For fun other than therapy dog visits, Kendle does improvisational theater. She and Remy also do a lot of hiking.

**Marsha adopted Murphy Rose** from Animal House Shelter in Illinois after she was picked up from the street. Her vet guesses she's a Beagle-Rottweiler mix, maybe about seven years old. Marsha says she's mellow, quiet, and very obedient.

Murphy favors visiting with children and the elderly, says Marsha. Before joining Dogs On Call, they visited residents at St. Mary's Care Center and helped with a summer reading program at the Mt. Horeb Public Library. They hope to broaden their visits as members of DOC.

Marsha is a 6th grade language arts and literacy teacher, so she is very busy during the school year. In the summer, she has more time for favorite activities of reading, canoeing, kayaking, gardening, and traveling.

**Karen & Pete**





## Hospital News

### So Many Requests!

Last year, Meriter and UW Health partnered their services. To accommodate the transfer of UW Hospital patients to Meriter, they are expanding their supply of patient rooms. More patients at Meriter means even more visit requests! But that doesn't mean UW Hospital visit requests are fewer. Actually, an increasing number of units at UW Hospital are requesting visits from therapy dogs. And now Mercyhealth Janesville joins the VA Hospital, St. Mary's, Stoughton, Sauk Prairie, Upland Hills Health, and Reedsburg Hospitals in wanting our dogs. Each hospital has unique visiting arrangements, so there's bound to be something that works for where you live and your schedule. I know "traditional" hospital visits aren't for everyone, but there are lots of varied opportunities. Let's talk! [karenp@dogsoncall.org](mailto:karenp@dogsoncall.org).

### Meriter's Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Hospital Expansion

Does your dog like young people? This may be a good opportunity for you to do a world of good for young people experiencing mental difficulties.

October 2019 is the expected opening date for the huge expansion to this facility on Madison's west side. The staff there wants to ramp up therapy dog visits to accommodate the increased patient population. I have visited with these young patients for ten years with two dogs; for both dogs, it was/is a favorite place to visit. Visits are easy – dayroom environment and no hand sanitizer! It's 30 minutes with young children and 30 minutes with teens. Your dog will get non-stop petting as you sit and chat or do simple activities with the patients. As of now, the visit day would be Saturday, during a one-hour window between 9-11 a.m.

You will have to become a Meriter Hospital volunteer, but the process is easy and you don't have to visit at the main hospital unless you want to (but it would be great if you did!).

Contact Karen at [karenp@dogsoncall.org](mailto:karenp@dogsoncall.org) for more information.

### UW Hospital & Clinics Honors Volunteers

UWHC held another scrumptious brunch for their volunteers in early May. The hospital's therapy dog teams were well represented by John & Hannah, Karen & Pete, Kay & Daisy, and Ruth & Ike, as well as former therapy dog volunteer Amy, who lost her Pet Partner, Rooster, but now has Bozeman, a Newfie waiting in the wings to join DOC when he gets old enough.



Pete, Ike, and Daisy

## **Hospital News - Continued**

### **Meriter Volunteer Week Activities**

Meriter Hospital showed its appreciation for all its volunteers with numerous activities throughout one week in April. Cake and other treats, breakfast, chair massages, and an informational class on suicide prevention were offered.

### **Nurses' Week Visits**

At Meriter, special visits were made to the staff in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit. Therapy dog team aren't allowed to visit there, but staff was able to come out of the unit to pet the dogs and get some well deserved stress relief. Thanks to Jan, Mike, & Cricket, Sandy & Molly, and Sheila & Betty for their effort.

Several UW Health facilities around Madison were covered for Nurses' Week visits – UW Hospital (two shifts) and UW Health Junction Road clinic on Madison's west side, UW Health-The American Center and UW Health East clinic on Madison's east side. Thanks to Andrea & Samantha, Karen P. & Pete, Karen S. & Zombie, Kay & Daisy, Pat & Wilson, Ruth & Ike, and Sheila & Betty who covered what seemed like many miles to bring smiles to the hard-working nursing staff.

***Karen & Pete***

## **Beat The Blues Cruise**

In April, Dogs On Call was asked to attend the first annual Beat the Blues Cruise to help raise awareness about suicide and prevention. The event was a 5K & 10K walk/run held at Keva Sports Center with proceeds befitting Journey Mental Health and Crisis Text Line.

Being the first time the organizers held this event, they were not sure how many to expect, but over 500 people showed up to participate! It was a fun event and thanks to members Janet & Chewie, Frank & Yahtzee, Eileen & Maddy, Barbara & Samson, Sue & Molly, Jodell & Jordy, Jeff & Bella, Kris & Journey, Marnie & Finn, Robbin & Loki.

***Artie & Henry***



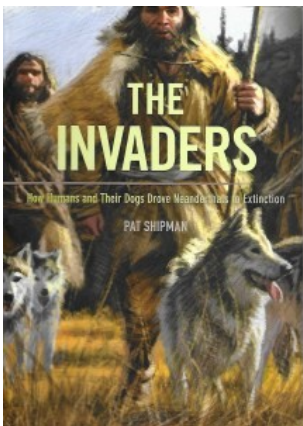
Kris and Journey, Janet and Chewie

## Prehistoric Dogs and Humans

By [Daniel Antolec](#)

Dogs and humans have a long history of living and working together, unique among species on this planet. In the modern age, dogs wear many hats...companions, herders, protectors, search and rescue, guides for the blind, bomb and drug sniffers...just to name a few.

During prehistoric times dogs served our ancestors as well.



In “The Invaders: How Humans and Their Dogs Drove Neanderthals to Extinction,” Pat Shipman, a retired adjunct professor of anthropology at Pennsylvania State University, chronicled in exquisite scientific detail the alliance between the two predator species.

That alliance conveyed mutual survival advantages at a time when dangerous mega-fauna roamed the landscape. [Dire wolves](#) and cave lions were among the many predators they had to contend with.

In December of 1994, a team of scientists explored a cave in the Ardeche region of France, the main entrance to which was buried by a rock slide some 20,000 years ago. With the entrance sealed, the cave interior was preserved. Advanced carbon dating placed human activity in the cave 32,000 – 36,000 years ago.

It was named [Chauvet Cave](#) after the caver who accidentally discovered a tiny entrance. In his documentary film, [Werner Herzog](#) called it “Cave of Forgotten Dreams: Humanity’s Lost Masterpiece.”

I consider the relationship between dogs and humans one of nature’s masterpieces.



Credit: Men of the Old Stone Age

## Prehistoric Dogs and Humans - Continued

The first anatomically modern humans in Europe lived during this time and are called [Aurignacians](#). On May 17, 2019, Kat Long posted an [article](#) (MentalFloss.com) listing 13 facts about the Chauvet Cave paintings which these ancient people created.

Fact number 7 on the list declares, "A Prehistoric Child's Footprints Were Discovered in Chauvet Cave." That may not sound terribly remarkable, but number 8 added "The Child Might Have Had a Pet Dog."

The child's footprints were near those of a canid, whose print was *more typical of a domesticated dog than a wolf*. Long wrote that a 2017 study concluded, "Dogs and wolves split genetically sometime between 41,500 and 36,900 years ago." (That study was not cited for reference in Long's article.)

Shipman refers to mtDNA data concluding, "Modern dogs originated in Europe...sometime between 32,100 and 18,000 years ago," (Page 179) and coincides with the presence of Belgian canids.

Further, Shipman argues the alliance between modern humans and dogs competed with Neanderthals for big game, "A distinct and ultimately decisive advantage for humans...at a time when climate change made both groups vulnerable." Our closest Hominid cousins went into extinction after 200,000 years of success.

Yes, in addition to the sudden presence of noxious methane in the living room, we have yet another thing to blame on the dog.

But there is more...After four months of painstaking research, scientists concluded that early humans also used dogs to predict the weather.

They determined that cavemen led a dog outside and tied it to a tree, and then made careful observations. When they returned to their cave they depicted their observations and weather interpretations in primitive yet beautiful wall paintings.

This is what the paintings depicted.

Dog is dry: Have nice day

Dog is wet: Rain. No play golf today

No see dog: Fog

Dog is white: Snow

Dog is shaking: Cold

Dog is bouncing up and down: Earthquake

Dog tipped over: Windy

Dog is twirling in air: Tornado

Dog barking up tree: Squirrel!

Dog is burping: Dog found dinosaur eggs...again. No breakfast for caveman today. Bad dog!

Linguistics experts agree that human language first developed due to our unique relationship with dogs. And thus "Bad dog!" were the first words ever spoken by prehistoric man and have remained in constant use ever since.

In addition to "Bad dog!" other words soon entered the lexicon, such as "Get off me," "No!" and "Bring back slippers!"

As a result of the foundation laid by cavemen, modern highly intelligent human dog owners are able to recite in a single breath, and without any effort or thought, extremely complex communication to their pets: "No! Get off me! No! Get down! No! Stop that! No! Come back here with my slippers you bad dog!"



## Prehistoric Dogs and Humans - Continued

Shortly after language development came the invention of fire, the wheel and electronic gaming devices. The world has never been the same since.

**Disclaimer:** OK, you caught me. I just made up the stuff about weather forecasting and the development of human language. *Bad human!*



Credit: Jeff Pachoud, AFP/Getty Images

Back to the facts.

The prehistoric art in Chauvet Cave and many other ancient caves show us the world as it was when dogs first joined us.

As reported on November 20, 2017, by Ryan F. Mandelbaum in Gizmodo.com ([“Ancient Cave Art Depicts Oldest Evidence of Dogs Wearing Leashes”](#)), humans on the Arabian Peninsula were hunting alongside dogs 8,000 years ago.

I suspect that the arc of Hominid development would have evolved quite differently, had it not been for the help of dogs. The least we can do is show appreciation and treat them with the respect and kindness they deserve.



Ancient and Modern Dogs Credit: Gizmodo.com

## **Prehistoric Dogs and Humans - Continued**

### **Resources:**

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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.

**Subscriptions**

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:

**Winter 2019**

**Done**

**Spring 2019**

**Done**

**Summer 2019**

**Done**

**Fall 2019**

**October 1, 2019**

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 K at:

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