

PAWSitive Therapy Troupe Quarterly Meeting

June 20, 2009

Present:	Paulette Allan	Donna Angeleri
	Debbie Arkin	Susan Avers
	Julie Bereckis	Penny Brcich
	Linda Chiaramonte	Tiffany Bohn
	Karen Click	Laura Dejmek
	Linda Guhr	Becky Jankowski
	Barb Kann	Diane Lauer
	Lisa McCarthy	Marge Lauterjung
	Kim Musyzinski	Catherine Rupp
	Linda Sechel	Virginia Sensenbrenner
	Mary Beth Turek	
 Absent:		
	Lisa Jo Clark	Rose Daniels
	Lisa Delcase	Wesley Gosselink
	Deb Heemskerck	Mary Helen Kuehn
	Kristin Ludwig	Colleen McLachlan
	Linda Nemeth	Nancy Pignotti
	Dixie Sherry	Kerrilynn Stachowicz
	Jennifer Voss	Elizabeth Zott

Hi everyone:

This will be the very first paperless newsletter—promise me that you will all faithfully read the email that I send each quarter with the newsletter attachment! Since Joan Czjacka, our program secretary retired at the end of June, we are officially without office/secretarial support of any kind. Joan told me that Loyola was looking to hire a replacement for her, but with the recent layoff of more than 400 Loyola employees, I am not too optimistic. So—we go bravely paperless into the new reality! The newsletters will be posted to the website as well each quarter—look for them in the “Files” section of the “Troupe Members Area”.

We did not really discuss much business at this meeting, since it was our annual Troupe cookout / social event. Nonetheless, here are a few important things that you need to know:

1. Welcome to New Members:

- a. We welcome Elizabeth Zott and her Flat-Coated Retrievers, Gem and Scout. Elizabeth is from Hinsdale, and she will be doing Little Friends, Fairview and the READ visits as family time permits.
- b. We welcome Tiffany Bohn and her Havanese, Desi. Tiffany lives in Downers Grove. She is interested in doing any of the visits on our calendar, so you may see her and Desi anywhere!
- c. We welcome Mary Helen Kuehn and her Newfoundland, Grace. Mary Helen is from Brookfield. She is currently also a member of the Rainbow Therapy program. She joined our Troupe because she is very interested in visiting at Hines and Loyola.
- d. Another new team to welcome is Margo Sorrick and her Bernese Mountain dog, Ripley. Margo lives in Plainfield, and is especially interested in participating in our READ programs, since she is an educator with the Wheaton School district.
- e. Lorelei Collins, and her Maltese, Wolffy, will be joining us next month. Lorelei lives in Downers Grove. She is interested in all of our visits, but is especially excited about being a part of the READ programs.
- f. Finally, we welcome Carol Pisanko and her Boston terrier / French Bulldog mix, Darla. Carol lives in Darien. She is interested in all of our visits, and is currently finishing her hospital orientation programs so that she can get started with us.

2. Updates on Current Members:

- a. Deb Heemskerk with Adi is taking some time off this summer because of family commitments. She hopes to be back with us later this year.
- b. Wesley Gosselink with Brie is still very busy at home as a new mom. She hopes to be back with us once life is a bit less hectic!

- c. Lisa Delcase emailed me that her Doberman, Jazmin, has been diagnosed with a serious heart condition. She has been undergoing treatment for the past couple of months. Lisa says that there is a very good possibility that Jazmin will need to retire from her therapy work.
- d. Colleen McLachlan and Sadie had a few weeks off following Colleen's surgery in May. She is doing great, and will be back with us very soon!

3. Bookmark / Calling Card Orders:

- a. Calling cards were distributed to those present who had ordered them. All Troupe members get an initial order of 100 calling cards. These are to be distributed with discretion to special patients / clients that we meet on our visits who would really appreciate the memento. Cards are not to be used on non-Troupe visits, such as library READ visits or individual visits that are not part of our calendar. The cost of 100 cards is \$35 for a new order and \$30 for subsequent orders. The Troupe funds pay for these cards, so use them wisely...
- b. Bookmarks were distributed to those members who are officially READ registered and plan on doing READ visits this fall when our school visits start up again. Bookmarks, too, must be given out with discretion. Children who already have a bookmark from your dog do not need to be given another bookmark each time they read to your dog again. Bookmark costs are \$30 for the initial printing of 100, and then \$25 for subsequent printing. Again, give these bookmarks out wisely...
- c. Those of you who just joined the program will need to wait until I place the next printing order—which I probably will not do until the late fall.

4. Troupe Clothing:

- a. Troupe polo shirts were distributed to those present who had ordered them. The Troupe pays for an initial polo shirt and apron for each member—additional shirts / vests can be ordered from our vendor, Pam Schiazzano of Dogwares, but you must pay for them yourself. Pam has our Troupe logo computerized on her embroidery machine, so if you would like additional clothing, you can contact her directly at dogwares@dogwears.com. Pam can tell you what kinds of clothing will work with our Troupe logo. Troupe colors must be royal blue or grey.
- b. If you have not yet received an apron, let me know. I had ordered extra aprons last year, and I have at least a dozen yet for those of you who don't have them.
- c. New people who did not get in on this order for Troupe shirts, you will be in the next order, which I will be placing this fall. I will let you know by email when I am ordering so that you can give me your size.

5. **Troupe Name Tags:** All but the very newest members should all have name tags now. If you do not have one, let me know so that I can put your name on the next order. The Troupe funds also pay for one name tag. If you lose it, however, you need to pay for the replacement....

6. **New Visit Updates:**

- a. Little Friends—the Little Friends visits are going very well. This is a program that provides day care for developmentally disabled adults. You and your dog should be comfortable with people speaking / laughing loudly; people with unsteady gaits and people who may pet a bit roughly. You must serve as a model for how to gently interact with your dog. Double-leash walking is also VERY popular, so make sure you bring an extra leash for your dog. Toys that can be retrieved are also enjoyable. Although this is a wonderful visit, it is probably best for the more experienced dogs. There is a lot of activity, and brand new dogs could be a bit overwhelmed at first. I am waiting to bring Jamie to this visit until he has a bit more experience.
- b. Mooseheart Academy—the children at Mooseheart absolutely LOVE the dogs. For many of them, this is the first chance that they have had to interact with a gentle, friendly, trained dog. Most of these kids have never had a pet, since their lives have been so chaotic. Kristin, our site leader there, has split the visit into two groups—boys and girls. If you have any questions about this visit, or would like to just come to observe to see if it would be a good visit for you and your dog, contact Kristin at kristinludwig@att.net
- c. Brian Glen School READ program—this visit will start in October of 2009. This READ visit is different from our other school visits in that we will not be working specifically with struggling readers. The school wants to use the READ program as an incentive to make reading more fun for all of the children. If you have any questions about this visit, contact our site leader. Karen at jclick@aol.com

7. **Financial Update:**

- a. Following our payments to Dogwares (\$435), LaGrange Printers (\$900), and Namifiers (\$35), our Troupe balance has dropped to \$3350. We needed every bit of those fundraisers from last year and earlier this year.
- b. Upcoming fundraising events: Happy Dog Barkery on August 22, Ruffin It at the Greene Valley Forest Preserve on Sept 20th and a Tastefully Simple party given by Kim. We need volunteers to help with all these events—please watch for my emails asking for help as we get closer to these dates.

8. **Website Updates:**

- a. The Meet Our Dogs page is coming along well. PLEASE, IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, EMAIL OUR WEBMASTER YOUR DOG’S PHOTO AND BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION. Our webmaster is Debbie Manning, and her email is debmanning1@gmail.com. I would really like to see all of our dogs represented. You can find the biographical format in the “Files” section of the Troupe Members Area on the website—it is entitled “Therapy Dog of the Month. You can download it, fill it in and send it right back to Deb. Please include your own biographical information as well. Right now we don’t have it posted, but that is in the future plans....
- b. As I said earlier, all of our important Troupe communications are now posted on the website in the “Files” section of the Members Area. The complete orientation manual documents are there, along with our newsletters, Troupe Directory, Therapy Dog of the Month forms, etc. The document entitled “Unit Guidelines” contains complete information, including addresses and directions for all of the locations that we visit. Please get into the habit of checking the website if you have questions about how to contact someone, or directions to a specific place.

9. Delta Classes / Testing:

- a. We congratulate Linda Chiaramonte on becoming our newest Delta evaluator! Linda will be doing the next Delta test for those who need to be retested. Linda and I will let you all know when that next date is...
- b. I have decided to take the summer off from doing therapy classes. I have had tons of people inquiring, and I have been telling everyone that I will start up again in the fall. With two young dogs to train, I need to focus in them first—otherwise it will be the case of “the shoemaker’s children having no shoes”! Both Lizzy and Jamie are training in obedience, Rally, agility and herding. We hope to start flyball training as well this fall. The more that I can do with them, the better the bond between us will be. This time is just too precious to let slip by. I am building my therapy dogs for the future!

10. Dancing Paws: The Dancing Paws group will be resuming practices in August. We have been asked to perform at the Oak Brook Library on August 15 and also in Villa Park on August 1. I would like to start taking some time each practice session to just work on a couple of freestyle moves that all of the Dancing Paws dogs should know. We will continue to perform at various events and we hope to add another group dance to our program. Our “Stretch” goal is to do another Nutcracker fundraiser for Christmas, 2010. We need to work hard to get our new dogs as good as the ones that we had in 2004! I would encourage ANYONE who would like to join the Dancing Paws to please join us at the next practice. We will have plenty of time to teach our new people and dogs all of the freestyle moves!

11. **Ashley Salee's READ booklet:** Ashley Salee, the daughter of Karen's and my holistic vet at Arboretum View, presented her wonderful READ booklet featuring Jasper as he prepares for his READ visits. Ashley chose this as her Girl Scout Bronze project. She has helped us out at several Delta tests and Dancing Paws events. She loves the therapy dogs, and hopes to be involved with therapy work one day herself. Ashley's booklet is entirely on computer, and thus can be easily individualized for other READ teams. All that she needs is photos of your dog in the various poses in the booklet. The contact person for this will be Karen, since she is the one who has worked with Ashley on this project. If you are interested in making a READ booklet featuring your dog, contact Karen at jclick@aol.com.
12. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be scheduled for the end of September or early October. We will have a guest speaker at this meeting—Dr Theresa Salee, DVM, from Arboretum View said that she would be happy to give a short presentation on the topic of our choice. Possible topics include vaccinations, infection risks to our therapy dogs from health care institutions, canine dietary guidelines /supplements, canine cancers, rehabilitation from injury, etc. I will be emailing you as we get closer to the date for your thoughts on this, and what you would like to hear....
13. **Calendar for July-September:**
 - a. The Cancer Survivor's event was cancelled—there is just not enough room for the therapy dogs to work comfortably where the event is now located.
 - b. READ visits will resume in October. September is the time that the teachers have to evaluate the students to see who would most benefit from a READ session with the dogs.
 - c. Both the Ruffin It and the Barkery event are on the calendar.
 - d. Dancing Paws practices will be posted as we decide on future dates. The first one is August 7.
 - e. Please try to email me your list of visits each month, so that I can post them on the calendar and everyone can see who has signed up for which visits.

Well, that is about it for now. It is almost time for Lizzy's class. It certainly is very different having three young and healthy dogs. I still miss my Rosie and Emma terribly, but I am beginning to become pretty attached to the young ones!

Becky, Don, Bonnie, Jamie and Lizzy