

SPEAK!



Vol. 20, No. 1, Summer 2011 | Canine Therapy Corps newsletter

The Human-Animal Bond: A Professional and Personal Perspective

By David DeBoer

My first experience with therapy dogs was when I served as a volunteer counselor at Northern Illinois University, as students were returning to campus in the aftermath of the Valentine's Day shootings few years ago. Many students coming back to classes were not ready or interested in talking to us, the human counselors. We whiled away the hours trying to feel useful. Meanwhile, the therapy dogs didn't get a moment's rest. They provided a comfort that was intense and basic; the connection transcended language at a time when no words could really suffice.

As an administrator and a psychologist working at the Wellness Center at Loyola University, I was so impressed by the appeal of these dogs that I decided to try to bring such an event to our campus. We shouldn't need a tragedy to offer this kind of comfort and outreach to our students. So, last December, we invited Canine Therapy Corps to join our semi-annual Final Exam Study Day Stress Relief event, along with the chair massage folks, the chocolate meditation, etc. Jerry Kirkpatrick brought Dude and, before them, Cheryl Purdy showed up

with Maxine, an adorable tripod yellow Lab. Again, the students overwhelmed the dogs with attention. So many of our young people have left favorite pets behind at home, and our residential students are not allowed to have animals in the halls. The hunger for this kind of connection was intense and palpable, especially during the most stressful time of the semester.

Then, in January, my 7-year-old daughter, Grace, suffered a terrible accident at Chestnut Mountain Resort, a ski lodge. An unsecured table fell on her head and fractured her skull. Grace was in the PICU for over a week and was ultimately transferred to inpatient rehab at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, where she stayed for two months. On her first Wednesday evening at RIC, I took Grace to the weekly Canine Therapy Corps program. It was an awful and traumatic period for my daughter and my family, the last place we would ever want to be. However, the reunion with Dude, and meeting all the other dogs, provided a comfort beyond words. Grace loves animals more than anything—dogs especially—so it is impossible to convey how



Dude

deeply meaningful it was to us that this dedicated and committed group of handlers provides this kind of outreach. In a time of intense physical and emotional distress and challenge, these dogs provided an interlude of joy, pleasure and comfort that eased our suffering. My family will be always and forever grateful.

And here at Loyola, we hope we have established the beginning of a beautiful, long-standing relationship with the good people and animals of the Canine Therapy Corps.

Janet Rosen Eaton Left Indelible Mark on Canine Therapy Corps

by Callie Cozzolino

February 2011 marked the end of an era when Janet Rosen Eaton stepped down as Canine Therapy Corps' Executive Director. For a decade, Janet embraced the position tirelessly, doing whatever it took to propel the organization forward. Whether that meant cultivating and maintaining impeccable relationships with foundations and program partners, working seven days a week or volunteering as a Program Leader at Rice or Heartland Alliance IYC, Janet was an enthusiastic advocate and constant

cheerleader.

Janet can take considerable credit for the professional image and elite reputation Canine Therapy Corps enjoys today. She played a major role in the organization's transition from founder driven to professionally managed.

On a personal note, I could not ask for a better boss, mentor or friend. Janet tends to give of herself in spades and I was, and continue to be, a lucky beneficiary of her

generosity and kindness.

Canine Therapy Corps is fortunate to continue its relationship with Janet, who is a consultant grant writer raising money to support our worthy, and her beloved, cause.

Janet and her dynamic, larger than life personality left enormous shoes to fill. I promise to do my best to live up to the amazing legacy she worked so hard to build.

Kibbles and Bits

Welcome and congratulations to the new teams who passed the Canine Therapy Corps certification test in January, March, and June: **Mary Dellorto** and **Shayna**, a Doberman Pinscher; **Chaz Mitchell** and **Norman**, a Golden Retriever mix; **Steve Grubman** and **Polly**, a yellow Labrador Retriever; **Rik Liddle** and **Ralph**, a German Shepherd; and **Emily Stoddard** and **Kayla**,



Norman and Shayna

a chocolate Labrador Retriever. Welcome also, to the other new non-dog volunteers who went through orientation. The last several months have seen our volunteers hard at work

at a series of outreach events. In December and May, Canine Therapy Corps sent **Jerry Kirkpatrick** and **Dude**, **Cheryl Purdy** and **Maxine** and **Karen Wiles** and **Hogan** to Loyola University for two Exam De-Stress Events, which were held during final exam week, and a Wellness Event.



Kayla

This February marked the 150th International Kennel Club Show at McCormick Place, and Canine Therapy Corps was well-represented. **Linda Carr** and **Toby**, **Michelle Schwartz** and **Prada**, **Birgit & Amanda Mantilla** and **Olive**, **Cheryl Purdy** and **Maxine**, **Anne Maxfield** and **Hampton**, **Lisa Wiersma** and **Dubs**, **Callie Cozzolino**, **Beth Tap**, **Brian Inman**, **Louie Greenebaum** and **Eileen Schumann** were all on hand to spread the word about CTC's wonderful work. In May, Canine Therapy Corps made its debut at the Northwestern Memorial Hospital Nurses' Fair. **Cheryl Purdy** and **Maxine**, **Jerry Kirkpatrick** and **Dude**, **Liz Joyce** and **Maddie**, **Karen Wiles** and **Hogan** and **Judith Jaffe** and **Willow** were all in attendance. Also in May, Bark in the Park brought dogs and humans alike from all over the city to Montrose Harbor. Staffing our booth were **Judy Keitz** and **Lexi**, **Lisa Wiersma** and **Dubs**, **Lorie Latham** and **Bayla**, **Paul Schiff** and **Fannie & Libby**, **Steve Grubman** and **Polly**, **Callie Cozzolino** and **Beth Tap**. In June, for the 6th consecutive year, Canine Therapy Corps had a great time at Camp I Am Me which is sponsored by the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance at Camp Duncan. Working with the dogs is often a highlight of the children's time at the camp. A special thank you to the following volunteers who made the day special for all the children who participated: **Michelle Schwartz** and **Prada**, **Linda Carr** and **Toby**, **Noelle Gaffney** and **Tootsie**, **Anne Maxfield** and **Hampton**, **Marcia Slomowitz** and **Baguette**, **Barbara Brightman** and **Chiquita**, **Karen Wiles** and **Hogan**, **Callie Cozzolino** and **Rou**, **Charity Simpson** and **Dori**, **Rik Liddle** and **Ralph**, **Jerry**

Kirkpatrick and **Dude**, **Steve Grubman** and **Polly**, **Mary Dellorto** and **Gemma & Shayna**, **Mary Rein** and **Rue**, **Gail Kaplan** and **Emma**, **Joy Schmol** and **Beth Tap**.



Polly and Ralph

Recently CTC had an opportunity to show a small portion of its vast appreciation for its volunteers at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party at Market in the West Loop. Congratulations to **Sheryl Schiff** who received the McCarthy Award for Excellence, which is given to a volunteer to acknowledge outstanding contributions to the mission and work of the organization. Though Sheryl has only been a CTC volunteer since March 2010, she and her Beagles, **Fannie** and **Libby**, have had a tremendous impact on the organization. We also honored the following wonderful volunteers for five years of devoted service: **Denise Bloom & Chuck Postma** and **Ria**, **Linda Carr** and **Toby**, **Mary Rein** and **Rue**, **Teri Steichen** and **Lucky & Bogey**, **Kathy Zettek** and **Spencer**, **Debra Hadelman** and **Daffie**, **Birgit Mantilla**, **Eowyn Ford**, **Melissa Kelly**, and **Jacinda Bauman**. **Michelle Schwartz** and **Prada** and **Judith Jaffe** also received honors for an amazing 10 years of tireless volunteer service. Words cannot express our gratitude for the commitment and devotion our volunteers have shown over the years. We would truly be nowhere without them!



Olive and Prada

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Vol. 20, No. 1, Summer 2011

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In memory of Jerome Burke by Julie Shaw, Sonal Patel, John and Lisa Beth Sikora, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Grau, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Scheck, Kathy Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kuhn, Annette Kohn-Lau, Mary Burke-Dawson and Charles Dawson, James Muenzer, and Pati Nootbaar
In memory of Helen Ruud by James Ruud
In memory of Molly by Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Clark
In memory of Fritz Tobin by Nancy Goldstein

In memory of Wade by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ogrodnik
In memory of Derby Keitz by Anthony Pacenti
In memory of Star Jaffe by Donna Petersen
In memory of Begley by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Antos
In memory of Burly by Nancy B. Erlien
In memory of Jersey Sparrow and Dottie and Sparky Eaton by Lisa Wiersma
In memory of Dottie Eaton by Linda and Phil Abrahams
In memory of Jersey Sparrow by Lisa and Michael Sparrow and Kathryn and Tom Frank, Scott Rovner
In memory of Donald Hansen by Rhonda Milkowski
In memory of Libby Dellorto by Rhonda Milkowski
In memory of Sam, Libby, Hero and Dylan by Scott Allen Barber
In memory of Susan Dawson Waltz's dog, Bing, by Jennifer Turner
In memory of Turner Wiersma by Lisa and Michael Sparrow, Adam Arents, Bradley Harbaugh
In memory of Gus Stewart by John Stewart, Cindy Burlingham and Mr. and Mr. Randy Carlton

In Honorarium:

In honor of Barbara Young Morris by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ryan
In honor of Chiquita Brightman by M. Diane Brown
In honor of the CTC volunteer at Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital by Sonal Patel

In honor of Daisy Petersen by Gus and Mr. and Mrs. Peter W. Petersen
In honor of Turner, Dubs and Lisa Wiersma by Dr. Susan Wiersma and Dr. Timothy Kinsella
In honor of Kona by Joe Crimmins
In honor of Dr. Allen and Sue Bagdade by Terri Edelson
In honor of Eliana Brody's Bat Mitzvah by Elyne Handler

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Connie and Kelly Smith
Vail Sturgis
Beth Tap
Mr. and Mrs. William Vickers
Lisa Wiersma

Periodically, Canine Therapy Corps is the extremely fortunate beneficiary of estate bequests from individuals who were affiliated with CTC, benefitted from our work or wanted to honor someone who worked diligently on our behalf. Each of these gifts is particularly meaningful, not only because of the significant financial implications, but also because they affirm the impact our work has on people's lives. If you are interested in remembering CTC through such a bequest or other planned gift, we encourage you to do so. If you need additional information in this regard, please contact Callie Cozzolino (callie@caninetherapycorps.org or 773.404.6467)

Willow Transforms from Show Dog to Therapy Dog

by Judith Jaffe



I'm such a lucky colie-girl! In the first part of my life, I was a champion show dog showered with attention for being, well...perfectly beautiful!

Now, in my current life, I am a Canine

Therapy Corps dog working at both RIC and

in the visitation program on the oncology floor at the Lurie Center inside Northwestern Memorial Hospital. I still get showered with attention, but this time, patients grin a lot, talk baby-talk to me, tell me that I make their day brighter and help them momentarily forget their difficult circumstances. They rub my ears, compliment my silky coat and give me treats! And all I do is smile at them and communicate healing, loving thoughts!

One time, after only a brief visit with me, a

patient willingly accepted visits with the hospital chaplain and other supportive staff. I was thrilled to learn my small effort triggered a huge breakthrough for him.

The doctors and nurses also seem to enjoy my visits. I think that they benefit from this type of respite as well. They make me feel like a VIP when I visit!

It's quite wonderful to learn, at this stage in my life, that I'm much more than a pretty face...



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In Memoriam

In the past few months, Canine Therapy Corps lost four of its cherished veteran therapy dogs who together provided close to forty years of dedicated service and who literally touched thousands of lives during their tenure with us.



Star Jaffe, a Golden Retriever, passed the test in January 2002, but by that time she was already a veteran

Canine Companions for Independence facility dog working in the Chicago Public Schools. During her eight years with CTC, Star worked at Rice Child and Family Center, the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where she was featured in a video about our program. Star loved to play dress-up and could be counted on to debut a new outfit for special occasions. In her last months, Star mentored her sister, Willow, on her journey to become a CTC dog.

Jersey Sparrow, a Golden Retriever, was most recently credited with helping a young patient at Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital deal with the trauma of her cancer treatment, associating the hospital with Jersey instead of her illness. But years earlier, Jersey was one of the youngest dogs to ever pass our certification text, and he became a fixture at RIC, where his gentle demeanor made him a favorite of children, teens and adults alike.



Jersey was able to coax a teen's first smiles after he'd been disfigured in a fire and motivated the incredible recovery of a law enforcement officer after a nearly crippling accident. All Jersey needed in return was love, his Kong and macaroni and cheese.

Turner Wiersma, the very definition of a yellow Labrador Retriever, was also a veteran member of the "staff" at RIC. Turner, so named because he had been returned to the breeder, wore the name proudly, because he was the ULTIMATE fetcher. Turner was never seen without a tennis ball in his possession. Any client that needed to work on range of motion needed to work with Turner because he would play fetch forever. Turner helped a man who was newly blind learn to orient himself through a game of fetch based on the location on a clock. (Yes, Turner learned to tell time!) Well known for this



quintessential CTC photo, focused intently on the tennis ball floating through the air, Turner also worked at Haymarket Center, Heartland Alliance and Stone Institute of Psychiatry. In his sunset years, Turner tried to teach his tricks to Dubs, the newcomer to his family, but no one will be able to fetch like Turner.

Kate Vranicar Reeves was referred to as an "All-American" dog but that belies her elegance. Kate was found in the woods in Indiana, and shortly thereafter, lost one of her legs in an accident. That did not stop her from passing CTC's test on the first try. Kate was fearless, full of energy and an inspiration to everyone she worked at Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital, La Rabida Children's Hospital, Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education and the Heartland Alliance, where she finally, at age fourteen, reluctantly began using a wheeled cart. When working with children, Kate was in her element. She always participated fully in program activities, despite what people perceived as her disability.

Children who would likely spend their lives in wheelchairs would often worry about Kate, expressing compassion, comparing her disability to their own and finding an opportunity to talk about a subject that is sometimes off limits. Kate was a great role model for living life to its fullest, regardless of the challenges that come your way.

