

# the Therapaws Woofer

Volume III, No. 1 Fall 2003



## From the President

by Deb Odom Stern

I am so proud of what our organization has accomplished during the past 4 years since we first met in my living room and decided to move forward with plans to become a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. It is exciting to look back and see how far we have come!

Our membership is at an all-time high. We have a website and phone number where people can have access to learning about our program and how to become a Therapaws Member.

We have a wonderful selection of Therapaws logo'd items for sale.

I am especially thrilled with our current 'freshman' class — those teams that have joined us in the past year. As a group they are tremendously enthusiastic about Therapaws, and have naturally talented dogs. Many have already gotten involved helping with the administrative side of our organization. I am introducing each of them in this issue, and hope that you will have a chance to make them feel welcome at our fall get-together (to be determined).

For a long time I have carried tiny paw stickers with me, and I end each visit with, "Would you like a Madison-Was-Here sticker?" which I then put on the patient's ID bracelet. People love them! Even the gruff old guys want their sticker. Last month Deborah Biggs turned me onto the 'signature paw' that I have put at the bottom of this letter. It comes from Mini-Mug out of Toledo:

Pet Signatures  
Mini Mug House  
O: 419-537-9009  
F: 419-537-6566  
5650 W. Central Ave. Ste E  
Toledo, OH 43615-1526

I spoke with Shirley and she was terrific. I asked her if she could rush the order so I could have it for Madison's last visit to the Cancer Center. She got my order printed & shipped that day!

60 stickers for \$6.25 (including shipping)

The alliance that we have forged with the Washtenaw County Chapter of the American Red Cross is being used as the model for Red Cross chapters across the country.

In addition to working with their dogs, many of our volunteers also give much of their time to the running of Therapaws. To all of you, thank you for your dedication!!

Since assuming the presidency in January, this letter is ironically both my *Hello*, and also my *Good-bye* since I am moving to New York City for a year while my husband is on sabbatical. Of all of the things I have done in my life, working with Therapaws is the thing of which I am the most proud. Thanks to all of you who have worked with me over the past six years.

### In this issue

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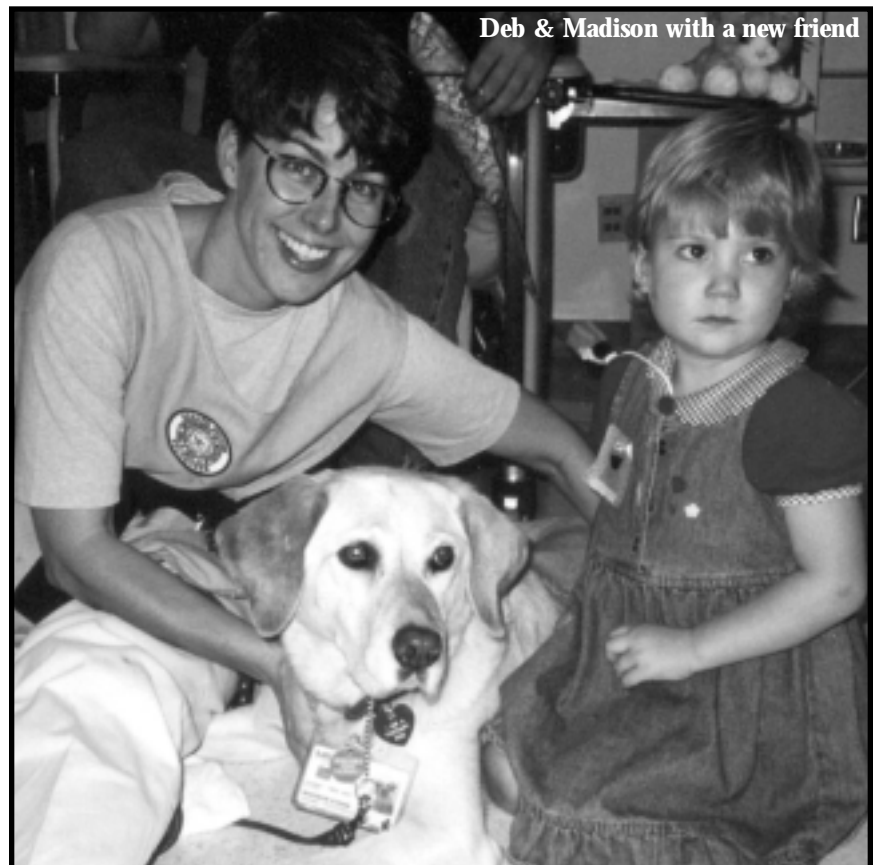
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# Welcome to our new members

**Deborah Biggs** and her Newfoundland, *Indi* (as in Indiana). They are assigned to UMH in Trauma-Burn. Indi recently got a little sister, *Kimba*, who hopes to grow up to be a therapy dog someday.

**Susan Contratto** and her Portuguese Water Dog, *Neka*. They are working at Help Source, an adult day care facility.

**Althea Dotzour** & her Golden Retriever, *April*. They are assigned to a new opening at UMH in the Cardiac Unit. Althea has volunteered to be our newsletter editor!! Thank you Althea!!



## A new member reflects after her first solo Therapaws visit by Althea Dotzour

It was such a joy to be at the hospital. So many people were so happy to see April that especially while waiting for elevators, I found I'd have to wait a few cycles because the people coming off would want to pet her. This is one of my first times volunteering in a hospital, and it is so wonderful to see people smile and feel better. One man said he didn't need to pet her so I sat a bit away from him and let April rest by my feet while I chatted with him. After a while he kind of teared up and asked her to come over, and he pet her for a while. People in hospitals are facing so much stress, and bringing a happy dog into the mix clearly helps the patients feel better.

**Karen Eisenbrey** and her Golden Retriever, *Danny-Boy* have been making visits to Maxey Boys Training Facility. Karen has volunteered to be our Social Chairman and is planning a get-together with dogs sometime in September. Thank you Karen!!

**Pat Haber** and her Chocolate Lab, *Gus* have filled an opening we have had for several years at Huron Woods at St. Joe's. We were just waiting for the right team to come along.

**Jan Kosta** and her Golden Retriever, *Lucy* are alternating with Margy & *Cooper* Goodnoe at UMH Pediatric Urology Clinic.

**Linda Kreft** and her Husky Mix *Indy* are working at St. Joe's in Specialty Select and Geriatrics.

**Sandie Langbehn** and her Westie *Sedona* are working at the UMH Towsley Outpatient Clinics.

**Katie Richards-Schuster** & *Billy*, a Newfoundland-mix, are at UMH Cancer Center every other Friday.

**Judy White** and her Collie-mix *Maddie* (as in Madison). They are working at UMH Adolescent Psych and have taken over for Ann Anterasian and *Cody* who were working at The Village at St. Joe's before being transferred back to California.

Welcome to all of you!!



## Who to contact and for what:

### You and your dog wish to become a Therapaws team

Karen O'Connor, 734-426-3316  
KWOC@aol.com

### New facility wanting visits from a Therapaws team

Cindy Stauch, 734-996-9605  
cstauch@umich.edu

### Community outreach and special visits

Connie Plice, 734-741-9601  
connie@sunward.org

### Extended Care Facilities Coordinator

Mickey Sloan, 734-662-9570

### St. Joe's Facility Coordinator

Ann Szlinis, 734-697-7764

### UM Facility Coordinator

Margy Goodnoe, 734-769-0576

### VA Facility Coordinator

Scott Sample, 734-332-1361  
scottsam@umich.edu

### General Questions

Therapaws Voice Mail, 734-332-9115

### If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation, please write to:

Therapaws of Michigan, Inc.  
Treasurer  
P.O. Box 92  
Dexter, MI 48130

revised August 2003

# Dog Letters to God

Dear God,  
Why do humans smell the flowers, but seldom, if ever, smell one another?

Dear God,  
When we get to heaven, can we sit on your couch? Or is it the same old story?

Dear God,  
Why are there cars named after the jaguar, the cougar, the mustang, the colt, the stingray, and the rabbit, but not ONE named for a dog? How often do you see a cougar riding around? We dogs love a nice ride! Would it be so hard to rename the 'Chrysler Eagle' the 'Chrysler Beagle'?

Dear God,  
If a dog barks his head off in the forest and no human hears him, is he still a bad dog?

Dear God,  
We dogs can understand human verbal instructions, hand signals, whistles, horns, clickers, beepers, scent ID's, electromagnetic energy fields, and Frisbee flight paths. What do humans understand?

Dear God,  
When we get to the Pearly Gates, do we have to shake hands to get in?

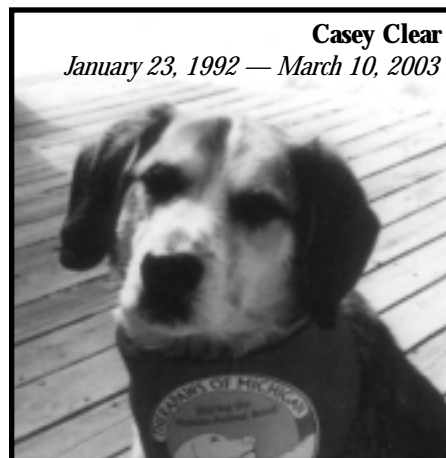
Dear God,  
Are there mailmen in Heaven? If there are, will I have to apologize?

Dear God,  
Let me give you a list of just some of the things I must remember to be a good dog:

- I will not eat the cats' food before they eat it or after they throw it up.
- I will not roll on dead seagulls, fish, crabs, etc., just because I like the way they smell.
- I will not munch on "leftovers" in the kitty litter box; although they are tasty, they are not food.
- The diaper pail is not a cookie jar.
- The sofa is not a face towel; neither are Mom and Dad's laps.
- The garbage collector is not stealing our stuff.
- My head does not belong in the refrigerator.
- I will not bite the officer's hand when he reaches in for Mom's driver's license and registration.
- I will not play tug-of-war with Dad's underwear when he's on the toilet.
- Sticking my nose into someone's crotch is not an acceptable way of saying 'hello.'
- I do not need to suddenly stand straight up when I'm lying under the coffee table.
- I must shake the rainwater out of my fur before entering the house.
- I will not throw up in the car.
- I will not come in from outside and immediately drag my butt across the carpet.
- I will not sit in the middle of the living room and lick my crotch when company is over.
- The cat is not a squeaky toy; so when I play with him and he makes that noise, it's usually not a good thing.

One last thing God...  
when I get to Heaven, may I please have my testicles back?

**In memory of Ruth Datz**, who passed away August 20, 2003. Ruth and her two poodles, Forte and Paphy, worked for many years at the Veterans Hospital and also Whitehall convalescent home. Ruth was also a tester/observer for Therapy Dogs, Inc.



**Casey Clear**  
*January 23, 1992 — March 10, 2003*

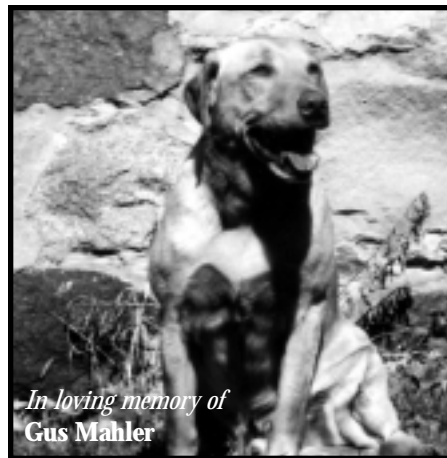
## In Loving Memory by Janet Clear

My Dear Casey,  
Many hearts you have touched...  
As gnarled hands worked to feel you  
When eager little fingers grasped your fur  
While lonely souls gently stroked your head

Great joy you have brought...  
Smiles, upon entering a room  
Laughter, for endlessly racing after balls  
Cheers, when performing your many tricks

Lessons you have taught...  
Devotion and trust  
Gentleness and patience  
Joy and friendship and love

My life has been enriched because of you.



*In loving memory of*  
**Gus Mahler**

## Therapaws of Michigan, Inc.

P.O. Box 92

Dexter, MI 48130



## Announcements

### PLEASE DON'T LET YOUR CERTIFICATION LAPSE!

Be sure to keep your certification with Therapy Dog, Inc. current. Each of us has either a January or July renewal date (located on your membership card). A signed renewal form and check is due the first of the month. You are given a 45-day grace period after which your certification will expire. If your certification expires, you must get in line to go through the entire certification process again.

No matter when your renewal dates with Therapy Dogs, Inc., please send a copy of your updated membership card to Cindy Stauch when you get it.

Enclosed with this newsletter, you will find our updated membership list. Please send any corrections to Cindy Stauch at [cstauch@umich.edu](mailto:cstauch@umich.edu). Cindy Stauch is now the keeper of the Therapaws membership database. Please be sure to update her if your information changes.

Thanks to Jay Mahler for getting our website up and running! Come visit us at [www.therapaws.org](http://www.therapaws.org). Suggestions or additions can be sent to Jay Mahler.

We often use e-mail to keep our membership informed of what's happening. If you haven't already, be sure to sign up for the Therapaws list serve. It's simple: just send an e-mail to [mdaemon@mahler.com](mailto:mdaemon@mahler.com) with 'subscribe Therapaws' in the body of the message.

The Red Cross offers a pet first aid course. For more information call our local Red Cross or go to: [www.redcross.org/news/ds/0109wtc/011002dogs.html](http://www.redcross.org/news/ds/0109wtc/011002dogs.html)

Anyone who has a dog that is a great retriever and who is interested in visiting Maxey Boys Training Facility, please call Karen Eisenbrey 734-944-5742. (The boys really enjoy playing fetch with our dogs!)

You should have received a catalog with lots of great Therapaws items for sale. Margy Goodnoe hopes to have the fanny packs and a canvas bag (like L.L. Bean's) available soon. As soon as she does, she will send a flier announcing the new items. Any questions, or if you did not receive a catalog, please contact Margy at 769-0576. Regarding Women's shirt (either white polo or chambray) sizing:  
Small = 6-8  
Medium = 10-12  
Large = 14-16

For more exact measurements, call Margy

Thank you to Alice Leiberson, DVM of Dogma for the fundraiser she organized to benefit Therapaws, and her generous donation

Farewell to Joyce & Bob Taylor & Trill, who are retiring from many years of therapy dog service. You will be missed!