



# THE THERAPAWS WOOFER

Volume V No. II, Fall 2004



## A Message from the President

Therapaws continues to grow and to flourish! But we could not grow and flourish without our very special donors, an extremely hard-working Board of Directors, our very dedicated members, and of course our beloved four-legged companions. We appreciate and thank you all for your time, your generosity, and your love and enthusiasm for the work Therapaws does.

We are especially grateful to John McCarthy of McCarthy Computer Consulting, Inc. for donating his time and expertise to creating, developing, and designing a new Therapaws website. When it goes live in mid October, we will be working towards a website that will become interactive, user friendly, educational, informative, and punctuated with top of the line graphics and video clips. It is our vision to be available to the general public and to our membership using the latest in communication technology. The general public can see the good work that we do and our membership can share their photos and stories, and learn all about our planned events. Look and add your personal touch to your new site at [www.therapaws.org](http://www.therapaws.org) in mid October and join in our many new activities. We have teams in training to teach all of you how to use this site if you need help. We will post training dates for you as soon as possible. Hopefully, we will be able to keep in touch as a group more easily than ever before. It's been said that one of the best things about being a Therapaws volunteer is that we get to work on our own and one of the worst things about being a Therapaws volunteer is that we get to work on our own.

To try to remedy this, the Board has been sponsoring a number of activities where we can meet with each other.

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Last December we had a holiday party (no dogs) and plan to have another one this coming holiday season; this past June we turned our Annual Meeting into a picnic for members and dogs; another outing for our teams will be held in October (see inside for details). We also have developed a Mentor Program to help facilitate communications so our handlers don't feel like they are all on their own.



Karen and her Golden Retriever, Kaylee

*Continued on next page.*

## Reading to a Dog is Fun-damental

In the last issue of "The Woofers" we announced that the R.E.A.D. program finally gained a foothold in our area and we are pleased to announce that now we have a presence in both the Dexter Library and the Chelsea District Library. Therapaws team member Michelle McCarthy has become our organization's R.E.A.D. coordinator and will be working with her dog Leo at the Chelsea Library. Karen O'Connor and Kaylee; Grace Bowles and Cassie; Denise Pitcher and Gianni; Pat Haber and Gus, and Cathy Leadley and Dixie will be working with youngsters at libraries in Dexter and Ann Arbor as they come on line .

This has been a long labor of love for Therapaws and to finally get this far is very gratifying. We thank Michelle for her hard work and for the energy she is putting into this very important program that will now have a dedicated coordinator. As Michelle approaches more facilities throughout Ann Arbor and other areas, more R.E.A.D. volunteers will be needed. If you and your dog wish to become a part of this program, please email Michelle at: [jpmamem@chartermi.net](mailto:jpmamem@chartermi.net).

Becoming a R.E.A.D. volunteer calls for some extra effort. There is a \$25 fee to be a member of this program, which is good for the life of your dog. The R.E.A.D. program originated in Salt Lake City, Utah, under the auspices of Intermountain Therapy Animals. The R.E.A.D. name is patented and new members must go through training using their materials, which include a video and a manual. Each volunteer must pass a test and once they are certified are required to wear some type of authorized R.E.A.D. identification. The training kit costs \$75, which Therapaws will pay for. Therapaws also will be supplying paperback books and other useful materials to the children in the program to help them enjoy reading with an assistance dog.

Thanks to financial help from our major donor and from fundraising activities, we plan to keep this program equipped with all the necessary materials the children and volunteers will need to make R.E.A.D. a success in our area. As always, we are grateful to those Therapaws teams who will be adding their energy to this project.

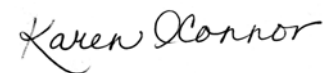
### *Message from the President, continued.*

Each Board member has been given a list of members and they will call each member on their list to see how things are going with them and with their assignments. It will be another communication tool and will help us know if our volunteers are happy with their assignments or not. We want our members not only to become a team, but to team up to become one companion family in Therapaws.

The R.E.A.D. program has gone public at the Dexter and Chelsea Libraries. Michelle McCarthy, our new R.E.A.D. coordinator, is preparing to add new facilities to this program. We have many teams interested in partnering with R.E.A.D., and as public awareness grows, the program also will grow.

Keep bringing smiles to all you serve and serve all who need a smile.

Love Between the Paws,



Karen O'Connor  
President



Joy McCarthy and Leo the Library Dog

The October 7<sup>th</sup> issue of the Chelsea Standard presented a full page story about Leo the Library Lab and the R.E.A.D. Program, along with a history of Therapaws.

## Community Corner

### Holiday Bell Ringing Campaign: Salvation Army asks for Therapaws Volunteers

The Salvation Army has asked if Therapaws members would be interested in helping their bell ringing campaign during this coming holiday season. James Mueller, Development Director of The Salvation Army advised that a partnership with the Humane Society has been very successful. Humane Society handlers bring adoptable dogs to stand with the bell ringers and that many people are attracted to the area because of the dogs and that many extra kettle contributions resulted. They plan to have the Humane Society again but would like to have Therapaws Teams as well.

According to Mr. Mueller, there are 40 kettle locations in the Ann Arbor/Saline area and he would use Therapaws Teams (depending on how many volunteer) in the higher traffic locations. Teams would be asked to do two-hour shifts, from 12 noon to 2 P.M. on four Saturdays, Nov. 27 and Dec. 4, 11, and 18th. Therapaws would not be positioned in areas with Humane Society dogs.

Although Therapaws would not be allowed to do any direct fund raising during that time, we would be able to hand out our literature, which could result in donations. Our teams would be insured for this event through our affiliation with Therapy Dogs, Inc.

If anyone is interested in helping the Salvation Army, please let us know what dates would work for you and your dog. It will be outside and it will be winter, so give it some thought and let us know. Email Mary Ann Trainor at [mtrainor@earthlink.net](mailto:mtrainor@earthlink.net) or call her at 734.996.9770.



## Special Thanks

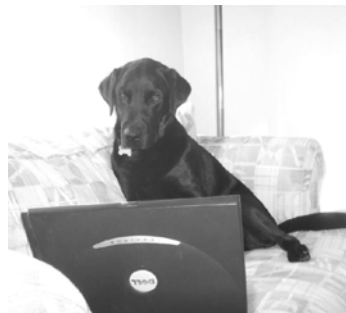
Therapaws would like to thank the generosity of an anonymous donor who has graciously contributed to the growth of our organization. Our donor has funded many of our new programs, including this newsletter, that allow us to continue and further our outreach to the community. With the help of this incredible gesture, we hope to take Therapaws to new heights.

If you or someone you know would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Therapaws of Michigan, Inc., please send to the Treasurer:

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

## Dogs Have a Place on the Web

The world wide web provides a wealth of information to any one seeking it. The next time you are surfing, check out these fun and interesting websites made especially for pet lovers. And if you happen to come across a site that might be of interest to others, please share!



These sites are Leo approved!

For dog-related books  
[www.dogwise.com](http://www.dogwise.com)

For pet dog trainers  
[www.APDT.com](http://www.APDT.com)

For a really cool dog magazine:  
[www.thebark.com](http://www.thebark.com)

For natural dog care and training  
[www.whole-dog-journal.com](http://www.whole-dog-journal.com)

# Tattle Tails

## You can Bathe Your Dog and Leave the Mess Behind

Dog-O-Mat, a do-it-yourself dog wash at 1443 Jorn Court (off Packard), gives a 50 percent discount to Therapaws members. The facility has three large, waste-high tubs and hand-held showers for owners to give their dogs a bath. Dog-O-Mat supplies the shampoo, towels, wash cloth, brush, and an apron for the dog owner. This is a wonderful service for people with large dogs. You have 30 minutes to give the bath and you leave the mess there.

Fees are very reasonable and based on the size of the dog. Dog-O-Mat also provides hair dryers and will clip your dog's nails for an additional fee. The staff is friendly and accommodating and there is always a treat for your dog when you are finished.



Make sure you mention Therapaws when you pay the bill. Call 734.332.9541 to check hours and days they are open. Check their website at [www.dog-o-mat.com](http://www.dog-o-mat.com).

Carolyn Kinsler, the Dog-O-Mat owner, has another website: [www.annarbordog.com](http://www.annarbordog.com), where you can find information on Paws Run Recreation Area, a private 18-acre, fenced-in piece of land where dogs can run without leashes. Therapaws teams are eligible for discount membership.

## You May be the Owner of a Canine Criminal

Did you know that Michigan State law requires all dogs four months old or over to have a dog license? The annual license fee is \$10.00 per dog; \$5.00 per spayed or neutered dog, and \$5.00 for seniors (dog owners), age 65 or older. You may buy a dog license through your city, county, or township treasurers' offices. Call your local treasurer to see about getting your dog license through the mail.



## Get Designer Pet Wear at Discount Prices

Dogma Catmantoo is a specialty pet boutique located at 206 N. Fourth Avenue between Catherine and Ann Streets in downtown Ann Arbor that offers discounts to Therapaws members. The shop carries super premium dog and cat foods and unique gifts, collars, bowls, beds, and apparel for your dogs and cats. Owner Alice Liberson offers discounts to Therapaws members. The boutique is open seven days a week. Call 734.929.0022 for store hours. Their website, [www.dogmacatmantoo.com](http://www.dogmacatmantoo.com), is in the process of being created.

## Humane Society of Huron Valley is Full Service

The Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) Veterinary Clinic, long known for low-cost spaying and neutering, has expanded into a full-service veterinary clinic. HSHV now offers a full range of preventative health care for your dog or cat, including vaccinations, well pet exams, soft tissue surgeries, diagnostic services, and treatments. For conditions beyond the scope of primary care, clinic veterinarians will refer you to a specialist.

In addition, HSHV provides medical grooming, dental cleaning and tooth extraction, prescription food and medications, and legal forms for international, interstate, and airline travel. Call 734.662.4365 for an appointment. For further information, visit their website at: [www.hshv.org](http://www.hshv.org).

# Therapaws Happenings: Mark your Calendars!

## Go Play Day

Give your hard-working therapy dog a little R&R at "Go Play" Day, date to be determined. Weather permitting, Karen and Danny Eisenbrey will host an afternoon in their fenced yard. Teams will be able to participate in a variety of games, including a Canine Congeniality contest and relay races.

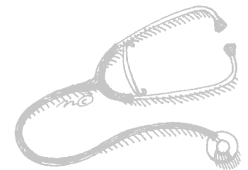
More details to follow!

## Another Opportunity for Pet First Aid Training

The Washtenaw County Chapter of the American Red Cross will be offering another chance for Therapaws members to attend a Pet First Aid class. The four-hour class teaches pet owners basic first aid techniques for dealing with everything from common illness and injury to life-threatening conditions. Those who attended the first Therapaws-sponsored class this past May are certified to act in the event of such emergency either for their own animal and/or for another animal.

If you were unable to attend the first class, we invite you to attend the next one on Thursday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> from 6 to 10 P.M. The class will be held at the new facilities of the Red Cross at 4624 Packard Road, just east of Carpenter Road. Therapaws of Michigan will pay the \$40 per person cost for its members to take the class. No dogs (or cats) to attend.

If you wish to participate, please email Mary Ann Trainor at [mtrainor@earthlink.net](mailto:mtrainor@earthlink.net), giving her your name, email address, and phone number in case she needs to reach you. If you do not use email, phone her at 734.996.9770 and leave a detailed message with your name and phone number if she is not available to take your call.



## R.E.A.D. Program Kick-Off

The Chelsea District Library is hosting a kickoff event to introduce to its patrons the R.E.A.D. program. Come and bring your kids to meet Leo the Library Lab and hear more about this fun program.

Saturday, October 23, 2004  
2 – 3 P.M.



## Ring in the New Year with TP Save the Date!

Avoid the holiday rush, celebrate the New Year with Therapaws on Friday, January 7.

Details to follow.



# News You Can Use: A Reminder to Handlers

Many of us have been making Therapaws visits with our dogs for a number of years. We automatically know what is expected of our dogs during a visit and what is expected of us, but some issues bear repeating. Following is a list of standards for both dogs and handlers, which is also helpful information when asked by someone what they need to do to become a Therapaws team.

## **DOG HEALTH STANDARDS**

1. Complete physical exam by veterinarian.
2. Current on all routine vaccinations as well as any additional immunizations requested by a given facility.
3. Free of internal parasites (negative fecal test repeated every 6 months).
4. Free of external parasites (fleas, ticks, etc) any insecticide treatment must be administered not less than three days in advance of a visit to prevent contact with possible harmful residues.
5. Negative heart worm test and application of heart worm preventative.

## **TEMPERAMENT STANDARDS** (Evaluated by approved Therapy Dogs, Inc. Screener)

1. Obedience training: Walk on leash without pulling, follow basic commands.
2. Gentle and mellow behavior, active tail.
3. Well socialized, eager to meet people, eager to be touched, including paws.
4. Used to traveling in cars.
5. Calm response to different people calling name at same time.
6. Able to be placed in position, stay, and remain calm when touched by strangers.
7. Able to maneuver between crowded furnishings and equipment.
8. Tolerant of sudden loud noises, voices, reaching hands, approaching wheelchairs, walkers, canes, etc.
9. "Leave" food or debris on floor.
10. Trays, commodes, urinals, etc. may not be sniffed.

## **CONDITION OF DOG FOR VISIT**

1. Clean, odorless coat, well brushed to remove maximum loose hair.
2. Clean teeth, clear eyes and trimmed nails.
3. Dogs should not be fed for at least two (2) hours prior to visit.

## **OWNER CRITERIA**

1. Be neat and well groomed.
2. Be sociable, friendly, extend empathy but not sympathy, be good listener.
3. Be familiar with and respect facility standards, rules and procedures.
4. Maintain strict confidentiality.
5. Be punctual; notify coordinator at least 24 hours in advance if unable to make scheduled visit.
6. In an emergency, notify facility and then coordinator if unable to make scheduled visit.

## **ANIMAL WELFARE**

1. Visits in a facility should be limited to a maximum of two (2) hours or less if inside and/or outside temperatures are uncomfortably high.
2. Availability of an area and dish to provide water to the dog.
3. Availability of an outside area for exercising the dog before, during, and /or after the visit.
4. Owner has right to terminate a given visit if dog shows signs of stress.

# Sharing the Human-Animal Bond

## Pain Management Never Felt so Good

Recently, the University of Michigan's Sedation Analgesia and Pain Management Program invited Therapaws of Michigan to participate in an event during Pain Management Month in September. It was their feeling that therapy animals can go a long way in helping to manage pain. The Board was delighted to have Therapaws participate in this event and pleased that therapy dogs are being acknowledged as helpful in such situations.



Margy Goodnoe, University of Michigan coordinator for Therapaws, reached out to some of our teams assigned to U. of M. and four of them were able to attend the event on Wednesday, Sept. 15, in addition to their regular assignments. On hand between 11 A.M. and 2 P.M. at the Towsley Triangle were Mary Anzalone and Tinker, Mary Lou Black and Molly, Jan Kosta and Lucy, and Mickey Sloan and Torie. Mary Ann Trainor staffed the table where we had Therapaws brochures, cards, photos, and a laptop display, courtesy of Cindy Stauch. Deborah Biggs, a U. of M. regular, was on hand to take photos.

Towsley Triangle is on the second floor of the hospital and located where several hallways intersect so there was a constant stream of staff, patients, and visitors throughout the three hours. It was difficult to tell who enjoyed it the most, the hospital staff or the young patients who stayed around to hug the three Golden Retrievers and be treated by a visit from Dr. Molly. Dr. Molly, a dachshund, was all decked out in hospital scrubs and a toy stethoscope. What a delight to watch the interaction and to fully understand what it means to share the human-animal bond.

We wish to thank Kelly Hawthorne and all the other members of the Pain Management Program for hosting us. According to Ms. Hawthorne, the Therapaws presence brought more visitors to the area than any other event they sponsored during Pain Management Month. Incidentally, each of the Therapaws handlers commented on how good it felt to be a part of this event.



## Canines Made Up the Quorum: Therapaws Annual Meeting

A couple dozen Therapaws members and their canine companions joined the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting on June 27, 2004 at Hudson Mills Metropark. Between the hours of 2 and 4 P.M., Therapaws members conducted a little business, but mostly had a lot of fun playing games with their dogs.

All the canines got along well even though the competition was Olympian. For instance, four dogs were entered in the tail-wagging contest. Three of the dogs won a three-way tie for first place. The fourth was a Corgi, who must have been standing in the wrong line because his tail was too short to wag. All were given treats and plenty of praise.

Attendees were treated to a delicious repast of fruits, vegetables, cheese, snacks, dips, and plenty of cold beverages. Team members received treats for their dogs and token gifts for themselves (like dog litter bags), along with membership lists, directories, and other such business items.

Many thanks go to Karen Eisenbrey for all her work in making this a very successful event.



Therapaws members enjoy fun in the sun!

## Paws and Remember

**PAWS and REMEMBER** is a program sponsored by Therapaws of Michigan, Inc., that affords a way to express your sympathy or your congratulations to a loved one, while providing needed funding for the work of Therapaws. If you wish to acknowledge the death of a person or pet, or celebrate someone's birthday, anniversary, or graduation, you may do so by making a donation to Therapaws in their name.

Therapaws will send a personal and customized letter to the bereaved or the celebrant, indicating that you have made a donation in their memory or honor. For your tax records, you will receive an acknowledgment from Therapaws indicating that you have made a tax-deductible donation to Therapaws of Michigan, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

For instructions on how to make a donation and express your condolences or your congratulations, access our web page at [www.therapaws.org](http://www.therapaws.org) and go to the **PAWS and REMEMBER** link. If you are unable to access the web page, leave a phone message at 734.332.9115 and someone will contact you. You will be asked to supply the following information:

1. Your name, your complete address, email, and phone number.
2. Name of deceased (person or pet) and complete mailing address of bereaved, or
3. Name of celebrant, occasion, and complete mailing address.
4. If a pet, indicate name/type of deceased pet, (Fido/Tabby), (cat/dog).
5. Amount of donation, to be paid by check.

Once your check has been received, Therapaws will send a personalized letter to the bereaved/celebrant, in your name.

### SAMPLE LETTER

Mr. & Mrs. John Doe  
1234 Main Street  
City, State, Zip

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Doe:

(Mary Smith) has made a donation to Therapaws of Michigan, Inc. in loving memory of your (dog/cat), (Fido/Tabby). Please accept our condolences. We at the Therapaws organization know how important our pets are to us and we are especially appreciative of people like you who love and care so deeply for the four-legged members of your families.

This donation will help further the work of our organization, which is to facilitate healing and provide emotional and social support for those who are hospitalized or reside in long-term facilities. Through team visits, Therapaws brings the healing power of their companion dogs to those in need.

In addition to making regular visits to hospitals, extended care facilities, and rehabilitation and detention centers, Therapaws teams also visit schools and camps to talk to youngsters about pet safety and responsibility. Recently, we developed a partnership with the Washtenaw County Chapter of the American Red Cross to become a part of their disaster planning efforts. We also are looking forward to establishing a R.E.A.D. program that will make dogs available for children to read aloud to in an effort to boost their reading skill and confidence.

Once again, please accept our sympathy and that of your friend, (Mary Smith). (Fido's) memory will be kept alive in the work of our organization.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Trainor  
Coordinator  
*PAWS and REMEMBER Program*

### SAMPLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Mary Smith  
123 Main Street  
City, State, Zip

Dear Ms. Smith:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, members, and furry friends of Therapaws of Michigan, we would like to thank you for your tax-deductible donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_. Your donation will enhance our program significantly.

As we grow as an organization, our visions and goals are continuing to expand to meet the needs of a broader spectrum of facilities, community needs, and counties. Our owner/dog teams greatly appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Trainor  
Coordinator  
*PAWS and REMEMBER Program*  
501(c)(3)

**Therapaws™ of Michigan, Inc.**

P.O. Box 92  
Dexter, Michigan 48130  
734.332.9115

**Board of Directors**

**Officers**

Karen OConnor – President  
Margy Goodnoe – Vice President  
Karen Eisenbrey – Secretary  
Deborah Biggs - Treasurer

**Directors**

Scott Sample  
Mickey Sloan  
Mary Ann Trainor

Therapaws of Michigan, Inc., a canine-assisted therapy program, is dedicated to promoting and fostering the human-animal bond in therapeutic and educational settings.

Visit us on the web:  
[www.therapaws.org](http://www.therapaws.org)

**Important Reminder**

**Please don't let your certification lapse!**

Be sure to keep your certification with Therapy Dogs, 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.

**Therapaws of Michigan, Inc.**

P.O. Box 92  
Dexter, MI 48130

**To:**