



THE THERAPAWS WOOFER

Volume IV No. 1 Spring 2004

A Message from the President

Welcome ALL new members!! I feel very honored to share the Paws with our dedicated volunteers and board of directors. Jay Mahler and Deb Stern, our past presidents, have laid down a wonderful foundation for Therapaws, and I plan to build on that foundation, with your help.

We have grown by adding new teams and serving new facilities, and now it is time to fine tune our organization so that it will run even smoother. Cindy Stauch, our past secretary and current membership coordinator, has succeeded in getting our membership records updated and all of the facilities coordinated.

We appreciate everyone who has contributed in areas over and beyond their therapy dog work. Screening, testing, observing and committee work all take time and energy and I especially commend those dedicated to seeing this program grow and thrive.

The R.E.A.D. program is underway (see page 4), and we are still working with the Red Cross (although fortunately no disaster calls have been placed). We are updating our Web site into a professional site for those looking for information and studies done on therapy dog work.

Our future goals include further increasing the number of facilities served and serving our current facilities more efficiently. Our volunteer teams are dedicated, and we appreciate everyone's patience in what is often a long process for new applicants. The journey is always worth the wait.

We hope to engage our teams in more social activities throughout the year, and our holiday gathering was just the beginning. We are also planning educational opportunities such as a class for all interested Therapaws teams on Pet First Aid as a start (see page 9).

Thank you to all who continue to make Therapaws a fulfilling community service program and especially to the teams for bringing joy to all they visit.

Love Between the Paws,

Karen OConnor

Karen OConnor
President



Karen and her Golden Retriever, Kailee

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Meet the 2004 Therapaws Board and Officers

The business and affairs of Therapaws of Michigan, Inc. is managed by the Board of Directors, the governing body of the corporation. The Board meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., except in July and December. All Therapaws members are invited to attend the meetings at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium Blvd.

This year, the Board is looking forward to the successful start of the READ Program (Reading Education Assistance Dogs, see page 4) at the Dexter Public Library. Board President Karen OConnor will also be working with the Ann Arbor school district to start pilot READ programs for the coming year. The Board will also be revamping the Therapaws website; envisioning the website to be more of an educational resource, the Board would like to see updates that provide visitors with training information, studies on therapy dogs, etc. The Board also sponsored a Pet First Aid training course for interested members (see page 9) and hopes to continue to grow in an educational capacity.

Please feel free to contact any of the Board members with any of your questions/concerns. We encourage you also to attend the Annual Meeting on June 27 to meet the Board and some of your fellow volunteers.

Officers and their Dogs

President Karen OConnor Kaylee - Golden Retriever 734.426.3316 KWOC@aol.com	Vice President Margy Goodnoe Cooper - Chesapeake Bay Retriever 734.769.0576	Secretary (interim) Karen Eisenbrey Danny - Golden Retriever 734.944.5742 keisenbrey@earthlink.com	Treasurer Gale Marcoux Wally - Golden Retriever 517.596.3207 gsmarcoux@dmci.net
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Directors and their Dogs

Deborah Biggs Llndi - Newfoundland 734.649.1381 dbiggs@umich.edu	Scott Sample Bunny - Labrador Retriever 734.332.1321 scottsam@umich.edu	Mickey Sloan Torie - Golden Retriever 734.662.9570 micsloan@worldnet.att.net	Mary Ann Trainor Babe - Labrador Retriever 734.996.9770 mtrainor@earthlink.net
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Special Thanks

The Therapaws Board would like to thank Cindy Stauch for her faithful and devoted service as Secretary of the Board of Directors for ____ years. Cindy resigned from her position as Secretary to assist in the care of her father. Cindy has been instrumental in the growth of Therapaws and we would like to thank her for all of her hard work. We would like to also thank Karen Eisenbrey for graciously serving as interim Secretary. The transition has been smooth, due largely in part to Cindy's organization, and we look forward to continued success.

Therapaws Annual Meeting

Volunteers, including their four-pawed friends, are invited to join the Board of Directors for the:

Therapaws of Michigan, Inc. Annual Meeting

June 27, 2004 - Hudson Mills Metropark

2:00 - 4:00 pm

We have reserved the Pineview Group Picnic site so we can combine a little business with lots of fun and games, and snacks, of course. Driving directions and a map of the park can be found at www.metroparks.com.

Question? Call Karen Eisenbrey (734) 944-5742 or email keisenbrey@earthlink.net.

Get Involved: Therapaws Committees

There are many opportunities for current Therapaws members to become actively involved in some of the organization's committees. If you are interested in lending your talents to any of the committees listed, please contact the committee chair.

Legal

Description:	Works closely with Board regarding tax and insurance issues, By-laws, policies and procedures and managing newsletter.
Chair:	Deborah Biggs 734.663.1832 dbiggs@umich.edu

Special Projects/Fundraising

Description:	Works on special projects, the R.E.A.D. program, serves as Red Cross Liaison and handles all fundraising efforts.
Chair:	Mary Ann Trainor 734.996.9770 mtrainor@earthlink.net

Team Placement

Description:	Handles applications, screening, testing, and health record checks. Works with membership committee to ensure information is shared.
Chair:	Karen OConnor 734.426.3316 KWOC@aol.com

Membership

Description:	Maintains database of all members, verifies placements/ health records of teams, handles issues related to TD, Inc. registration, website.
Chair:	Cindy Stauch 734.358.1429 cstauch@umich.edu

Financial

Description:	Keeps all financial records, creates yearly budget, prepares taxes, payment of all debts, balancing budget and all accounts.
Chair:	Gale Marcoux 517.596.3207 Gale.marcoux@holcim.com

Training and Education

Description:	Sets up training classes and coordinates small group training, works with individual applicants, offers continued education.
Chair:	Scott Sample 734.332.1361 scottsam@umich.edu

Activities

Description:	Plans group events including summer and winter gatherings, maintains records, photos and scrapbook of events.
Chair:	Karen Eisenbrey 734.994.5742 keisenbrey@earthlink.net

Extended Care Facilities

Description:	Ensures that teams are arriving regularly, handles any concerns or questions, reports any problems to Board, coordinates with facility.
Chair:	Mickey Sloan 734.662.9570 micsloan@worldnet.att.net

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital

Description:	Ensures that teams are arriving regularly, handles any concerns or questions, reports any problems to Board, coordinates with facility.
Chair:	Ann Szlinis 734.697.7734 szlinis@yahoo.com

University of Michigan Health System

Description:	Ensures that teams are arriving regularly, handles any concerns or questions, reports any problems to Board, coordinates with facility.
Chair:	Margy Goodnoe 734.769.0576

Therapaws Updates and Opportunities

R.E.A.D. Program Update

Reading Education Assistance Dogs

Finally, after two years of finding a match, the READ program is off the ground. Kaylee and I will be starting at the Dexter Public Library on June 2, 2004. I met with the Library Director, Paul McCann, to discuss the "kick off" program. Once we get a feel for how this is going to go and we get some publicity on it(which Paul said he would provide), I am confident that more facilities will ask for us. I am pleased that we are able to start small and grow as Therapaws grows because I know many of you are eager to work in this capacity. If you are interested in sharing this once a week assignment for the summer, please call me as I would love to share the experience.

--Karen OConnor and Kaylee

Brag About Your Dog Online

Visit an online community for dogs and the people that love them! Post a picture of your best friend, share stories and advice, and make new friends on:

www.dogster.com



"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog."

Playtime For Your Puppies

(and a little research too!)

Study on Development of Social Relationships in Puppies
Professor Barbara Smuts of the Psychology Department at University of Michigan and her students are conducting an observational study on the development of social relationships in puppies. We will videotape and then analyze spontaneously occurring social interactions to investigate how puppies greet, play, and negotiate dominance relationships. We will compare our findings on puppies with similar observations on adult dogs. We are also interested in documenting how regular participation in a puppy play group may contribute to social skills and overall well-being of young dogs.

The taping sessions will be held on Sunday afternoons, time to be determined. The play sessions will be held in a large fenced yard at 3115 W. Ellsworth Rd in Ann Arbor. Sessions will be supervised by a dog trainer.

To qualify:

- Pups must be 10-18 weeks of age
- Current on all vaccinations
- Able to attend sessions on successive Sundays



If you would like to participate in this study, please call Scott Sample at 734 332-1361 or scottsam@umich.edu.

Tell us what you think of the new Woofer!

What would you like to see in the Woofer? Do you have any exciting news or achievements you would like to share? Please send all correspondence to the editor:

Halima Cherif
5712 Villa France Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
hcherif@umich.edu

Therapaws Helps Find the Way

Many of you know how large and sometimes confusing the University Hospital can be. Well, thanks to Bunny and the Hospital's virtual tour, visitors may now have an easier time getting around. Bunny, Scott Sample's Labrador Retriever, is featured as the Therapaws way-finding assistant. Visit the web at:

<http://www2.med.umich.edu/pcdv2/index.cfm?fuseaction=tours.UMHospitalG>

to get a special peek at Bunny!

University of Michigan Therapaws Event

On May 4, 2004, Therapaws was represented throughout the day at a conference for U of M nurses. This educational conference informed nurses on relaxation and stress reduction. Special thanks to Deborah Biggs and Indie, Karen Eisenbrey and Danny, Mickey Sloan and Torie, and Margy Goodnoe and Cooper for making the event a wonderful success.

Did You Know?

Today, Therapaws has more than 40 pet therapy teams. Teams visit patients at the University of Michigan Hospitals, including Mott Children's Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospitals, and the Veterans Administration Hospital. Regular visits are made to extended care facilities such as Alterra, Hillside Terrace, Heartland, Saline Evangelical, as well as to Rainbow Rehab, Maxey Boys Training School, and the Huron Valley Center.

Facts and Figures

Placement Statistics as of _____

___ teams in ___ extended care facilities
___ teams in ___ units at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital
___ teams at Veterans Administration Hospital
___ teams in ___ units at University Hospital

Thank you to all of our Therapaws volunteers who continue to make a difference in the lives of so many.

If you and your dog wish to become a Therapaws team, please contact _____ at _____ or via email, _____.

Therapaws Items for Sale

Have you looked at our catalog of Therapaws items lately? Does your pup need a new bandana? How about a baseball cap for you to keep the sun out of your eyes? Perhaps a canvas tote or fanny pack so you can display the Therapaws logo with pride? Please contact Margy Goodnoe, 734.769.0576 for a copy of the catalog or with any questions.

Help Foster the Bond

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

A DOG-GONE GOOD RECIPE

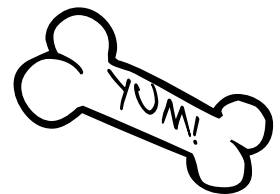
Peanut & Honey Cookies

Ingredients:

1 ½ cups whole wheat flour
1 ½ cups unbleached white flour
½ cup corn meal
1/8 cup powdered milk
2 tablespoons honey
2/3 cup peanut butter
enough water to make a stiff dough, usually 3/4 cup

Method

Mix all ingredients and roll into 1/4" thick dough. Cut dough with cutters and bake for 35 minutes in a preheated oven at 350°. Cookies will keep for a week, refrigerate for 3 weeks or freeze for 3 months.



Therapaws Summer Feature: Health and Safety for your Canine Friend

What To Do In A Pet Emergency

Taking good care of your precious pet friend is extremely important. In addition to ensuring your dog has all its routine, preventative medical needs attended to (updated shots, medication, etc.), every owner should have some knowledge of what to do in an emergency.

Below is a list of pet health emergencies compiled by The Emergency Veterinary Clinic of Cincinnati. If your animal has any of the following symptoms, call your local emergency care facility and tell the receptionist that you are on your way¹:



- **Difficulty breathing** (e.g. noisy respiration, blue tongue, gasping for breath)
- **Bleeding that does not stop from any part of the body**
- **Bloated or distended abdomen, or swollen or painful abdomen, with or without vomiting**
- **Inability to urinate or move bowels but continues to try or has bloody stool or urine**
- **Heatstroke** (i.e. heavy panting, extreme weakness, body temperature about 104°)
- **Inability to deliver puppies or kittens** (e.g. labor contractions for longer than one hour or more than 15 minutes of labor with the fetus or membrane showing)
- **Loss of balance or consciousness, or seizure** (includes tremors, coma, staggering, convulsions, sudden blindness, tilting of the head, biting at imaginary objects, sudden changes in disposition such as unusual withdrawal or out-of-character aggressiveness)
- **Pain** (severe or continuous)
- **Major trauma** (injury or shock from falls, vehicle accidents, wounds, cuts or broken bones)
- **Shows signs of: weakness, collapse, shallow breathing, rapid heartbeat, bewildered appearance or dilated pupils**
- **Ingested poison** (bring the container, commercial or chemical name of the product, or list of ingredients if you have it)
- **Penetrating wounds anyplace** (especially in the chest or abdomen)
- **Vomiting or diarrhea with blood or violent episodes**
- **Lameness and cannot bear any weight on the leg**
- **Any other signs that look serious such as: eye problems, severe itching with self-mutilation or severe hives**



¹This information was taken from the online Dog Owner's Guide, from an article entitled "What is an Emergency" by Norma Bennett Woolf, and is Copyright 2003 by Canis Major Publications. Used with permission. Please visit <http://www.canismajor.com/dog/> for more great and helpful articles about your dog.

Members Learn Valuable Skills at Pet First Aid Training Session

On May 27 a group of Therapaws members attended a very special training session on Pet First Aid at the Washtenaw County Red Cross Facility. This training session was sponsored by Therapaws for all of its members to ensure that their pets are healthy and happy, especially in their Therapaws work. Twelve members attended this class and learned valuable tools to protect their pets during emergencies from further harm, injury or suffering. Our members learned basic first aid techniques for dogs to common illnesses, injury and life threatening conditions.



First Aid for Your Pet Course

If you were unable to attend the special Therapaws sponsored Pet First Aid class, don't fear – the Red Cross offers the course regularly throughout the year. Below is the summer schedule of classes hosted at the Washtenaw County Red Cross facility. The course costs \$40 and includes instruction and materials.

Summer 2004 Schedule

Thursday, June 10 from 6PM-10PM

Thursday, July 22 from 6PM-10PM

Tuesday, August 17 from 6PM-10PM

For more information, please call 734.971.5300 or visit the web at:

www.wc-redcross.org

The Therapaws Community

The Woofers Therapaws Community section is an opportunity to get to know a little more about your fellow Therapaws volunteers. Meet new team members and familiar faces in our Volunteer Spotlight; share in the joy and excitement of Therapaws volunteers achievements; and find out about the wonderful media coverage that Therapaws has been receiving. This is the place to share your happy news, so please forward your story to the Woofers editor.

★ a TEN YEAR SUPERSTAR ★

Congratulations to **Nikki**, who was just recently awarded the **Bettie Wilson Award** for 10 years of Volunteer Service to St. Joseph Mercy Health System. Nikki, and her best friends **Joyce Williams** and **Greg Lyon**, have been bringing joy to the Rehab unit at Huron Woods since she was a puppy of 6 months! Nikki is in a well deserved semi-retirement, but continues to visit her friends at the Rehab unit once a month.

Congratulations Nikki, Joyce and Greg
on your award!



Joyce, Nikki and Greg basking in their glory!

★ THERAPAWS IN THE NEWS ★

Picture of Mary Ann and Babe??

Mary Ann Trainor, and her Chocolate Labrador Babe, were recently featured in a fabulous two page spread in the Volunteer Section of the Ann Arbor News on Saturday, May 22. A photographer followed Babe and Mary Ann during their regular visit to the Hillside Terrace Facility. Congratulations Mary Ann and Babe for wonderfully representing the Therapaws organization.

If you did not get a chance to see the article, please contact the editor for a copy.

★ VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ★

New Team Spotlight - Lana Berry and Casey

Please meet and welcome Lana Berry and Casey, her four year old Pembroke Welsh Corgi. Lana and Casey have been members of Therapaws since March and already have had a wealth of experiences volunteering in the University Hospital's 4th floor Thoracic Surgery unit. Lana and Casey are both finding volunteering to be extremely rewarding and Casey is loving all of the cuddling she gets to do with the patients.

One of Lana's fondest memories thus far is visiting a young woman who was recently diagnosed with terminal cancer. The woman, who was missing her dog from home, was waiting anxiously for Casey to arrive. Once Lana and Casey made it to her room, this woman sprang out of bed and played with Casey for fifteen minutes on the floor! Clearly, Casey was able to give this woman so much joy – even for a small period of time. It is these types of experiences that make volunteering with Therapaws so rewarding for both Lana and Casey.

Lana's advice to people who may be considering becoming new members is to be patient and stick with the process. She notes that it is more than worth it in the end. She also recommends that people who may be unsure whether or not their dog will be right for Therapaws – to go ahead and get tested. Lana says, "There are so many opportunities to make someone's day by sharing your dog. So it is worth trying to see if Therapaws is right for you"



Lana and Casey

Experienced Team Spotlight - Margy Goodhoe and Cooper



Margy and Cooper

Many of you may know Margy and Cooper, our experienced volunteer team in the spotlight. Margy, who is also Vice President of the Board, and her eight year old Chesapeake Bay Retriever Cooper have been volunteering with Therapaws for almost four years!

This team brings joys to the many residents and staff at the Hartland Nursing Home. Cooper enjoys the smaller, intimate environment and Margy enjoys the wonderful feeling she gets when watching Cooper. Margy is still constantly amazed at how much her dog can affect someone else. She says, "My favorite part of volunteering is watching the connection that people make with Cooper, and how the warmth they show each other spreads to me and gives me such a good feeling."

Margy has some very sage advice for all Therapaws owners, "The most important thing to remember is that your Therapaws volunteer is still a dog." She believes that sometimes we have a tendency to expect too much from our talented friends and forget that they are still allowed to act like dogs! She advises all volunteer to always read your dog when on site. If your dog's mood does not seem right, or he/she is not responding, it is okay to leave and come back some other day.

An experienced gardener will often start seeds indoors before moving them to an outdoor garden. Protecting the seeds and young plants in this manner increases the likelihood that the cultivated seedlings will survive and thrive outdoors.

I use a similar approach in training a new behavior. I start the training in a quiet, low-distraction, indoor setting. Just as the gardener knows to protect the young, vulnerable seedling from the many dangers they'll face outdoors, the skillful trainer knows it's necessary to protect and "grow" a newly founded behavior indoors before moving it outdoors.

Once the striplings have established roots and are viable indoors, the gardener moves them outdoors. In a similar manner, once a behavior has some roots, that is, once some learning has been established and correct responses are routine, it's time to take and test the behavior outdoors.

In the new-to-them outdoor world of winter-starved rabbits and unexpected frost, a young plant's survival is uncertain and many do not survive. Behaviors, thankfully, are not victim to spring frost or hungry rabbits, but their enemies are many and include noise, odor, movement and all things novel. Anything the environment "contains" is a potential threat to a newly begun behavior.

Trainers refer to these threats as "distractions" and a trainer is always "competing" with whatever distractions the environment may hold in attempting to plant, establish and grow new behaviors.

In the same manner that the untended garden is soon overtaken by invasive weeds or slowly consumed by hungry herbivores, so too is the fate of under-trained or abandoned behaviors as they slowly "wilt" and eventually die in the welter of the outdoor world.

As the gardener toils to protect the young, newly-moved plants from all that threaten them, the trainer too must be ever vigilant in protecting the just-established, neophyte behavior.

For the gardener this means keeping the soil rich and the garden free of weeds and nocturnal nibblers and for the trainer it means creating and maintaining a suitable environment for new sprung behaviors to become established and grow; one that is skill-level appropriate and one that won't overwhelm or overly distract the animal being trained.

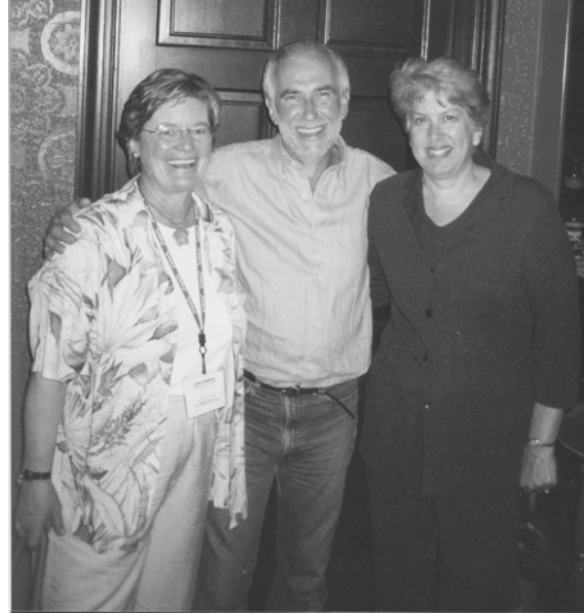


Therapaws Members Attend Canine Conference

Dr. Ian Dunbar is a veterinarian, animal behaviorist, dog trainer, writer, and, some would say, the pet dog's best friend. For thirty years Dr. Dunbar has been advocating off-leash puppy training and socialization as well as dog-friendly and owner-friendly training methods. His workshops are informative, enlightening and very entertaining.

Karen O'Connor and I were privileged to participate in his recent four-day workshop in Orlando, Florida. Described as his "Last Woofs" lecture series in the United States, he discussed the topics he has studied and taught throughout his career, including canine sexual behavior, social behavior, learning theory and dog-friendly training techniques that work with pet dog owners' lifestyles.

The highlight of our week-end was a trip to Sea World and the fabulous demonstrations of training techniques. The Pets Ahoy show included a dazzling array of four-legged, furry creatures, along with ducks and other birds. (We still want to know how they were able to convince cats to appear in public).



Karen E. and Karen O. with Dr. Dunbar

For those interested in hearing Dr. Dunbar's lectures, we have purchased the DVD, and plan to schedule some activity nights when we can get together to watch it. Stay tuned for scheduling information.

-- Karen Eisenbrey

A Training and Education Quiz

A dog whose tail is wagging is::

- a. Relaxed and friendly
- b. Ambivalent or uncertain
- c. Tense and aggressive
- d. Stressed and fearful
- e. It depends

The correct answer is E. It's impossible and potentially dangerous to attempt to determine an animal's temperament, emotional status or bite potential on any single factor such as tail behavior. I feel the reason humans so often and so quickly make this error in placing so much predictive value on what the tail is doing is that it's often the only part of the dog that's moving when attempting to determine "friendly or ferocious."

To make a correct "read," the appraisal must take into account the animal's overall look and disposition as well as the many specific observable characteristics, such as "hard or soft eyes" ear carriage, lip retraction (vertical or horizontal), tongue flicks, pilo-erected hair and so on, that lend information about the animal's emotional status and bite potential.

And so now we know, the tale told of the tail that tells is a tall tale indeed.

Therapaws™ of Michigan, Inc.

P.O. Box 92
Dexter, Michigan 48130

Board of Directors

Officers

Karen OConnor – President
Margy Goodnoe – Vice President
Karen Eisenbrey – Secretary (interim)
Gale Marcoux - Treasurer

Directors

Deborah Biggs
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

Therapaws of Michigan, Inc.

P.O. Box 92
Dexter, MI 48130

Important Reminder

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.

To: