

**Therapaws  
 of Michigan, Inc.**

**Officers**

*President*

- Karen OConnor
- Vice President*
- Margy Goodnoe
- Treasurer*
- Quinta Vreede
- Secretary*
- Mary Ann Trainor

**Directors**

- Deborah Biggs
- Robin Petrillo
- Scott Sample

**The Woofers**

A publication for and about the volunteer owner-dog teams of Therapaws of Michigan, Inc. The Woofers also may be viewed online at [www.therapaws.org](http://www.therapaws.org)

**Editor**

Mary Ann Trainor  
 (734) 996-9770  
[mtrainor02@comcast.net](mailto:mtrainor02@comcast.net)

**In This Issue**

- Spotlight on Belleville.....2
- R.E.A.D. shirts available.....2
- Bow Wow Wrap-up.....3
- A Message from the President:  
 Annual Meeting and Picnic.....4-5
- Paws & Remember.....6
- Puppies for Adoption.....6
- Dog Philosophy.....7
- Full-service AA PETSMAART.....7
- Groomin' & Cruisin'.....7
- Are you a Member?.....8



Should we, or shouldn't we, let them go in the water?

**Picnic-perfect weather provides backdrop for Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting and Picnic, held on Sunday, June 25, 2006 at Dexter-Huron Metro Park, went off swimmingly. The weather was warm and sunny and the river next to the picnic site provided a perfect respite for the dogs.

Our pet partners had a competition to see who could gulp down the most water while swimming and then who could get the most people wet when shaking the water off themselves. All of them were winners.

Many thanks to Robin Petrillo for picking the lovely

location and for the delicious sandwiches, snacks, and beverages for the humans and treats and water for the animals, and all other details. See the President's Message and more photos on pages 4 and 5.

**Holiday Party**

**Mark your calendars now for the Therapaws Holiday Party, Saturday evening, Dec. 2, 2006. Watch for your invitations. Sorry, no pet partners.**

# Spotlight on Belleville library: Latest facility to join Therapaws to R.E.A.D.

After holding several Therapaws to R.E.A.D. sessions this past summer at the Fred C. Fischer Library in Belleville, Tracy Dunbar and her dog Spencer and Happy Jolliffe and Flag will be hosting additional sessions in the library in October, November, and December. About 40 youngsters in grades K-2 read aloud to the Therapaws dogs this past summer. The fall sessions will target children ages five through eight who are reading on their own but could use a little practice with a patient and cuddly listener.

Kelly Skinner, youth services librarian at the Belleville library, coordinated both the summer and fall events. In a flyer sent to parents, Kelly advised that Therapaws dogs make perfect reading companions. "They are attentive and non judgemental listeners with whom children feel comfortable and relaxed."

William Zilke, staff writer for *The View*, a local Belleville newspaper, interviewed Tracy Dunbar this past summer for an article he wrote. Here are some excerpts:

"The children's books at the Fred C. Fischer Library are getting a little 'dog-eared' these days, and for once, that's a good thing. Tracy Dunbar of the Therapaws R.E.A.D program brought her spaniel mix, named Spencer, to the library to give the kids a chance to bond and improve their reading skills."

"As far 'fetched' as the idea may seem at first, having kids read to dogs improves a child's reading and communication skills. Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.) are registered therapy animals who volunteer with their owners/handlers as a team."

"For Dunbar, the Therapaws reading program is an extension of the occupation she loves so dearly. (She is a teacher in the Carleton Airport schools.)"

"Dogs are less intimidating to a child to read to, and being less threatening, the kids respond to them, happily taking an interest in reading to them at a very young age."

"Reading to the dogs increases relaxation and lowers blood pressure in children and adults. Learning to read is often less about intellectual limitation than about overcoming fears. The handler also is a skilled facilitator, shifting performance pressure off the child and providing support."

"Participating kids make enormous strides in reading and communication skills while, along the way, building self-esteem, confidence and social skills. Hundreds of registered R.E.A.D. teams like Dunbar and Spencer work throughout the United States and Canada."

"Intermountain Therapy Animals (ITA), which oversees the program, said R.E.A.D. is one of those ideas, that in the words of television personality Bill Moyers, 'pierces the mundane to arrive at the marvelous.'"

"The R.E.A.D. program has received critical acclaim from the Wall

Street Journal, and national magazines like Time, Parenting, Family Circle, and Our Children, the magazine of the National Parent Teacher's Organization. The program has even received kudos from television on the Animal Planet Network and during the Westminster Dog Show telecasts."

The Belleville library is the latest facility to join Therapaws to R.E.A.D. programs at schools and libraries in Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Dexter, and Ypsilanti. Any Therapaws team member who wishes to volunteer with R.E.A.D. should contact Karen OConnor at: kwoc@charter.net.



**Ready for readers at the Belleville library are Spencer (left) and Flag, R.E.A.D. partners with Tracy Dunbar and Happy Jolliffe.**

## R.E.A.D. polo shirts available

Red polo shirts customized with the Therapaws logo and R.E.A.D., are available to R.E.A.D. members. They come in small, medium, and large and are available with long sleeves for \$24 and short sleeves for \$20. Call Margy Goodnoe at (734) 769-0576 to place an order.



Thirty-five participants attended the Bow Wow Weekend training conference, 17 with their dogs.

## Bow Wow Weekend

The Bow Wow Weekend clicker training conference on May 6-7, featuring renowned training expert Virginia Broitman, was packed full with workshops that focused on: Improving your mechanical skills; maximizing your reinforcers; essential foundation skills; ways to “get” behaviors with special emphasis on shaping; enhancing creativity in both dogs and handlers; advanced training concepts; teaching skills to a fluent level; adding distractions and duration, and working at a distance from the handler; solving behavior problems with positive reinforcement.



These two canines took a nap after their sessions.



Mary Lynn Sanford and Logan (background) wait for conference training expert Virginia Broitman (foreground) to finish a session with a student.



Happy Jolliffe and Flag practice positive reinforcement training at the conference.



# Annual Meeting: A Message from the President

## Annual Meeting Report

Following is a recap of my report to attendees at the Therapaws Annual Meeting and Picnic, held June 25, 2006 at Dexter-Huron Metro Park and other important news you can use:

- Election of officers took place at the June 14th Board meeting. Officers are Karen OConnor, president; Margy Goodnoe, vice president; Quinta Vreede, treasurer; Mary Ann Trainor, secretary, and Deborah Biggs, Robin Petrillo, and Scott Sample, directors.

- Last year during Hurricane Katrina, Therapaws made donations to Noah's Wish, an animal welfare organization dedicated exclusively to the rescue and shelter of animals in disaster situations, and to the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine's Hurricane Katrina Emergency Animal Shelter program.

- Therapaws sponsored a Bow Wow Weekend dog training conference in early May. Seventeen participants attended with their dogs and 18 participants attended without dogs. Therapy dog teams registered with Therapaws, TDInc., Therapy Dogs International, and the Delta Society received 50 percent discounts. All proceeds went to Therapaws of Michigan. (See photos, page 3). Between the proceeds from the conference and the sale of our stuffed dogs, we made approximately \$1,000.

- We welcomed eight new members into the Therapaws organization this past year (*two more since the Annual Meeting*); two of our member teams retired (*two more took leaves of absence and three resigned since the Annual Meeting*); and one member is waiting to be retested with her new dog (*passed the testing*), which brings us to 54 member teams (*52 teams as of October 2006*).

- We serve some 43 settings in Ann Arbor and surrounding communities. This includes different floors, departments, and units within the hospitals, rehabilitation centers, assisted living facilities, psych centers, and schools and libraries where our Therapaws to R.E.A.D. program is thriving.

## Important Membership Information

The Board of Directors understands that volunteer Therapaws Teams spend a lot of time making visits to hospitals, extended care centers, libraries,

schools and special events, not only at the location, but driving to and from. We know that you not only spend your time, but your own money in gas and sometimes parking. We are very appreciative of all your time and effort, as are the people you visit. But we have to ask you to be diligent as well in following the Therapy Dogs Inc. (TDInc.) guidelines, as follows:

1. You must have yearly up-to-date health



**Sue Fischer and Callie, Scott Sample and Bunny, Ann Szlinis' daughter, and Ann Szlinis and Billy.**



**Robin Petrillo and Ben with Jeri Rosenberg and (where's Fred?)**



**Sandy Langbehn and Sedona with Karen OConnor and (where's Kaylee?)**



# Picnic-perfect weather provides backdrop

certificates for your dogs, or you cannot make visits on behalf of TDInc. or Therapaws;

2. You must be up to date with your TDInc. membership or you are not insured and you and your dog must NOT make visits on behalf of TDInc. or Therapaws;

3. You must make at least four Therapaws visits a year to maintain your membership in TDInc. Please make it your business to follow

through on these guidelines and be prepared to forward the health certificates and TDInc. membership information when requested to do so by Therapaws. If you have a problem following any of these guidelines, please contact one of the Board members who will discuss this with you.

It would be so much more helpful if each of you would keep track of your own membership than having one Board member follow up on every one of the 50 plus member teams, sometimes over and over again. Thank you for your help in this very important and time-consuming matter.

## Over and above

Speaking of making visits, I wish to thank all of our teams who attended the Cancer Survivors' Celebration in June and the University of Michigan Pain Awareness Event in September. We appreciate that you volunteer not only for your regular visits, but for extra-curricular events as well.

## Getting together

The Board is considering sponsoring quarterly events so we can get together as a group more often. These events will be low key and may include a winter walk in the woods with our dogs on a Saturday morning or an early dinner during the week. We will send emails and you can respond if you wish to attend. It's been said, the best part of volunteering for Therapaws is that you work on your own, and the worst part of volunteering for Therapaws is that you work on your own. We would like members not to feel like they are working totally on their own.

## With sincere sympathy

On behalf of all the members of Therapaws, I wish to express our sincerest sympathy to Margy Goodnoe on the loss of her Therapaws partner Cooper and Karen Eisenbrey on the loss of her Therapaws partner Danny. Margy is a Board member and Cooper was a regular visitor to Heartland Healthcare Center. Karen is a former Board member and Danny visited the University of Michigan, Arbor Hospice, and the Center for Forensic Psychiatry. We are grateful for their years of service.

*Karen OConnor*



**Ken Ray with the color spectrum of his labradors Grace (yellow), Quincy (chocolate), both Therapaws team members, and Cleveland (black).**



**Mickey Sloan (standing) took her turn introducing herself and telling of her Therapaws experiences, as did all picnic attendees.**

## How to Make a Contribution

Therapaws of Michigan, Inc. is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. To help further the important work of Therapaws, tax-deductible contributions or bequests may be sent with this form to:

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

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you wish your contribution to be directed to the **Paws and Remember** program in honor of—or in memory of—a person or pet, please fill in the information below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Person or pet (cat or dog)

Occasion: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deceased or celebration

Family's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relative or owner

Family's Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement letters will be sent to you and to the family, in your name.

[www.therapaws.org](http://www.therapaws.org)

Don't forget, you can celebrate a happy occasion or memorialize a sad one by making a contribution to the **Paws and Remember** program. Just fill out the form above and send in with your check to Therapaws, P.O. Box 92, Dexter, MI 48130.



Michael Curry plays with his stuffed Therapaws puppy almost as much as he does with Lucy, his real-life miniature Schnauzer. The Therapaws puppy is courtesy of Michael's aunt, Mary Ann Trainor.

## Therapaws puppies still up for adoption

These Therapaws puppies need a good home. They are housebroken, they don't bark, and they don't need to be fed or walked. They just need to be loved. Puppies are \$10 per dog if you buy directly; \$16 if you need it shipped to you. Four dollars goes to Therapaws.

Puppies come in black and yellow, with a red Therapaws neck scarf, and make wonderful birthday or holiday gifts. To adopt a puppy, please contact Margy Goodnoe at (734) 769-0576.



Everyone knows how photogenic kids and pets are. We see them featured all the time in television commercials. If you have an especially adorable photo of your own dog, or a youngster, with a stuffed Therapaws puppy, please email it to Mary Ann Trainor at: [mtrainor02@comcast.net](mailto:mtrainor02@comcast.net). We'll publish it in the next newsletter.

# Tattle Tails



## Dog Philosophy: More fact than fiction

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.

—*Anonymous*

Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.

—*Ann Landers*

If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went.

—*Will Rogers*

There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face.

—*Ben Williams*

The average dog is a nicer person than the average person.

—*Andy Rooney*

Anybody who doesn't know what soap tastes like never washed a dog.

—*Franklin P. Jones*

If I have any beliefs about immortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to heaven, and very, very few persons.

—*James Thurber*

My dog is worried about the economy because Alpo is up to \$3.00 a can. That's almost \$21.00 in dog money.

—*Joe Weinstein*

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you; that is the principal difference between a dog and a man.

—*Mark Twain*

You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and the dog will give you a look that says, 'Wow, you're right! I never would've thought of that!'

—*Dave Barry*

If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then give him only two of them.

—*Phil Pastoret*

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself.

—*Josh Billings*

A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down.

—*Robert Benchley*

If your dog is fat, you aren't getting enough exercise.

—*Unknown*

## New AA PETSMART is full-service

The new PETSMART recently opened at 2865 Oak Valley Drive in Ann Arbor is a full-service facility. In addition to pet food and all the usual pet accessories, it also includes a veterinary hospital, a pet hotel, doggie day camp, personal training camp, a grooming center, and adoption services.

While this writer has not used any of the specialty services, it is worth taking a tour of the facility. The store is well lighted, aisles are large, shelves well stocked, and there are plenty of staff to assist you. Each of the specialty services has its own entry way, all of which are attractive and inviting.

The facility is located at the Target shopping center off I-94 and Ann Arbor-Saline Road. You are welcome to bring your leashed dog along with you.

## 'Groomin & Cruisin' comes home

Pat Haber, a Therapaws Team member, reports on a mobile pet salon she used recently. "Groomin and Cruisin" comes to your home with their truck, where all the services are provided. Pat says that at \$70 for her Labrador-New Foundland mix, Gus, it was well worth the price. She said they did a great job and best of all, Gus didn't have to be in a crate waiting for his turn, as happens at a regular salon.

Call "Groomin and Cruisin" at (734) 368-1890 for an appointment, or visit their website at [groominandcruisin.com](http://groominandcruisin.com) for fees and services.

**Therapaws of Michigan, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 92  
Dexter, MI 48130  
(734) 332-9115



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)

## Has your membership expired?

It has if your registration with Therapy Dogs Inc. (TDInc.) is NOT current and if you have NOT sent the proper papers to Therapaws of Michigan, Inc.

- **For Therapy Dogs Inc.**, each member has either a January or July renewal date, which can be found on the back of your Therapy Dogs Inc. membership card. The TDInc. renewal form to be signed and returned with your check is sent to you by TDInc. 45 days in advance of the due date, which is either January 1 or July 1. It must be received by the TDInc. office on or before your renewal date or your membership expires, requiring retesting and reapplication.

- **For Therapaws of Michigan**, you must forward a copy of your paid TDInc. renewal statement and a current health certificate to Therapaws at P.O. Box 92, Dexter, MI 48130, after receipt of a form/letter from Therapaws requesting this information. If you are not registered with Therapy Dogs Inc., your dog is no longer insured and therefore should NOT be making any visits on behalf of TDInc. or Therapaws of Michigan.

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

To:

