



Paws'itive Tales

Paws'itive Teams Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 2

Fall/Winter 2007

As the Heart Beats, So the Rest Follows

by Marilyn Schultz

Founders of Paws'itive Teams, Carol Davis and Charli King, asked me to write an article to mark the 10th anniversary of PT. They wanted me to interview people involved with the organization, collecting their thoughts concerning the last ten years and speculations about the future of PT.

So I asked. And I listened. And I learned that the years have marched to the heartbeat of compassion.

Volunteer **Tom Grall** remembers his hospital room doorway filling with Carol and her dog many times as she came to visit. He could only talk about the many kindnesses extended to him and the fact that both Carol and Charli "go out of their way to help anyone anytime—they understand the meaning of friendship."

When asked what attracted her to PT, Board Member **Gerry MacDonald** says simply, "compassion." When she attended her first PT outing, at Petco Park, she saw, amid the chaos and difficulties of overseeing graduates and dogs and trainers and volunteers, "people who were so alive, I was sold."

PT supporter **Mary Clare Schlesinger** was leading a post polio support group when Charli conducted a demo with Linda Wilson and her partner, 'Chamois'. She found all three "personable, easy to talk to, and inspirational." And today, she says the pictures of PT memories, specifically those of Annie, PT's facility dog, that flash on the screensaver of her computer still lifts her spirits.

Puppy sponsor **Karen Colson**, who attended one of PT's therapy classes and has continued therapy work, claims that she's

"not sure that Carol and Charli really understand what they have created and the light they have spread in the world."

For her, seeing the pups she has known becoming fully-trained service dogs and "living up to their potential in helping such special people is breathtaking."

Puppy sponsor **Joan Henkelmann** says frankly that it is "because of Carol and Charli I want to sponsor another dog. . . . They are articulate and passionate." She won't forget Carol and Charli's visits with Joan's sponsored pup-in-training, 'Chauncey', to her husband before he died. On one visit, Joan was concerned when her German Shepherd put Chauncey firmly in his place. Carol and Charli assured her that Fritz's

"correction" was a good thing, a part of the training process. Joan appreciated their focus on the on-going process of training.

The idea of process is crucial to PT's philosophy. As a writing teacher, I constantly remind my students that a piece of writing is an on-going process, not a product. And that is what the people I interviewed feel is the most unique aspect of Carol and Charli's vision: their insistence that, once a dog is custom-trained in the home of its trainer as a service dog team member, it continues to be a part of an extended family that is restricted, wisely, to the greater San Diego area, with follow-ups and ongoing activities. The dog is never just a product that is sent off with a wave and a "good luck." As **Barbara Gosink**, former board chair and supporter of PT from its founding, puts it, "[PT's] bond with the dog is never broken." Concerning this happy fact, Barbara says PT's vision has remained unchanged.

Board member **Lynne Hiatt** has seen much growth in PT. She remembers

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"...the years have marched to the heartbeat of compassion...and all of you involved have joined that healthy heartbeat."

Paws'itive Teams

501(c)(3) non profit corporation

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

It was a great honor on the 1st of July to be invited by Paws'itive Teams to serve as their new Executive Director, attempting to replace the irreplaceable Carol Davis. Carol will now be concentrating on continuing the growth and maintaining the high quality of PT's training programs as Director of the Paws'itive Teams Service Dog Program.

Exactly one year prior to joining PT, I had "fully" retired after a career of nearly 40 years in the nonprofit world as director of a 501(c)(3) technical association headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin. It didn't take me long to figure out that being "fully" retired wasn't all it was cut out to be. When I saw the article in the Spring/Summer Paws'itive Teams Newsletter on the search for a new Executive Director and began to take a closer look into the history, mission, and organization of PT, it became evident to me that this is an organization with a mission that I could (and should) fully embrace.

In my first two months as PT's new ED, I have been immersed in a significant learning curve as I have attempted to familiarize myself with the internal workings of the organization and the many programs that PT has developed over the past 10 years. In addition, I have tried to meet with as many PT Board members, volunteers, and graduates as possible to better understand their personal hopes and aspirations for the future of PT. After this initial "getting my feet wet" period, I can state without any doubt that PT is a rock solid organization (both financially and organizationally) that is here to stay. It is a tremendous tribute to the skill and dedication of PT's founders, Carol Davis and Charli King, and of the many, many volunteers, supporters, graduates, and donors, that PT is the class organization that it is today.

We are not, however, without challenges, and certainly significant opportunities exist for making PT even more viable than it is today. Top on the list of challenges is the need to find a permanent home (training center, meeting room, storage space, and office). This need, as many of you know, has been a pressing issue for some time. Finding a suitable facility near the I-15 corridor that is affordable and

can meet our needs is a daunting task. The best option appears to be to try to join forces with other organizations that serve similar clientele. We are constantly looking for possibilities, and we would greatly appreciate information from any of our supporters who may have ideas regarding possible facilities.

As with most organizations, nonprofit or profit, we need to continue to improve cash flow and to develop a long-range achievable financial plan. To that end, in the coming weeks and months we will be working on:

- continuing to grow the Paws'itive Teams Endowment Fund (established in cooperation with the San Diego Foundation),
- exploring ways of generating earned income to help lessen our reliance on contributions,
 - launching a Planned Giving program that can create financial benefits for both the donor and Paws'itive Teams,
 - reaching out to potential new contributors who recognize the invaluable services that PT offers the citizens of San Diego County,
 - and perhaps most important, practicing good "stewardship" with our many loyal supporters and donors.

The programs and services that PT currently offers are vital and growing. We now have ten Graduate Service Dog/Partner Teams and are currently working on placement of two Service Dogs who have completed their basic training. We have two certified Facility Dogs working as a team with their health care professional handlers at New Dawn High School and Polinsky Children's Center. The Paws'itive Teams Animal Assisted Therapy Program now has 23 certified Handler/Therapy Dog Teams working in three facilities and plans are being made to expand the program into two new facilities. The 6-week Therapy Dog Prep School is fully booked through May of 2008, and has already graduated more than 300 teams.

I am proud and honored to be involved with this very special organization. Paws'itive Teams touches the lives of many and provides deserving individuals residing in San Diego County with a unique opportunity to improve their quality of life.

Art Brauner
Executive Director

ON LINE DONATIONS

You can donate via the Paws'itive Teams website through **PayPal**, the internet's most popular and secure electronic funds transfer service.

Donate using credit card or bank account.



Art Brauner

Meet Our Newest Pup!

HIGGINS (aka Shadow II)

Born: March 7, 2007
 Breeder: Doree Johnson
 Trainer: Pat Goldhamer
 Sponsor: Sacred Heart Parish School



Higgins with Mom 'Hannah' and breeders



Higgins at school assembly

stinking hot it is. Syd and I have heard a whole other language here describing this phenomenon. We'd like to throw out a few colorful phrases to give you a handle on how amazingly hot it truly is. I don't think there is anything more descriptive than a red neck talking about the weather such as *"It's so hot the birds have to use potholders to pull worms out of the ground."* There are also the other standbys that aren't nearly as expressive: *"It's so hot outside that you could fry an egg on the hood of my car"* or *"It's hotter than the devil's underwear."* But Sydney and I agree the best phrases are those about dogs, *"It was so hot today I saw a dog chasing a cat and they were both walking"* and my old favorite, *"It's so hot outside I saw two trees fighting over a dog."*

Well after all that laughing, I must tell you that having fun getting good exercise was also very high on my list of reasons for getting this pool. In all seriousness, I needed to swim (exercise) for my health. As Sydney gets older, I also wanted a fun way for her to get her exercise, while at the same time stretching and toning those joints and muscles. I want Sydney to outlive me so I've got to work at keeping her in tip top shape. Most of you know that nearly all dogs (especially retrievers) love nothing more than a dip in a stream or a splash in a big pond, puddle, or pool.

It is incredibly important to me that Sydney enjoys all facets of life; she's my best friend and dog partner. But, in addition to just being good, clean fun, swimming is incredibly beneficial to this dear animal. Swimming increases her heart rate, increases blood flow, and improves her lung capacity, without the damage a hard, hot run on land would do. Moreover, just like you and me, our dog's metabolisms slow as they age and their desire for exercise declines. Their joints can get less limber. Calories from the same amount of food can no longer be burned off as easily, and they can pack on pounds pretty easily. That said, I want to keep Sydney in top form and hold back the time when she's content to do nothing more strenuous than walk to her food bowl.

SWIMMING FOR MY SERVICE DOG'S HEALTH!

By Christie Childers

This summer, my service dog Sydney and I invested in a great pool! It is often referred to as an "endless pool" where you swim against a current, hopefully in place. We have loved this new addition to our backyard. Many asked, *"Why buy a pool?"* Well, let me give you a couple of significant reasons. First, summers (and late spring and all of fall) are incredibly HOT here in Texas, where I moved a year after being matched by Paws'itive Teams with Sydney. In fact, on a church marquee last summer after over 40 days above 100 degrees, I saw the statement, "No, it actually is NOT hotter than hell!" Sydney and I love the coolness of the air after a dip in the pool! Also, we get amazing exercise from swimming (or paddling after a ball in Sydney's case). I love the water and years ago I was on the US Disabled Sports Team as a swimmer. Sydney just loves to get in, chase the ball, get out and wait for me to throw it in again! To her, exercise just doesn't get better than that.

Sydney and I moved to this crazy hot place (Dallas) in 2005. As we've begun to adjust to the weather we have also begun soaking up the culture. Any discussion here in Texas inevitably turns to how



Any ideas where to find a doggy "swim cap?"

ANGELA AND 'OTIS'

FACILITY DOG TEAM—Spring 2007



by **Angela Wastrack**

Otis was placed with me as a Facility Dog to work at Polinsky Children's Center (PCC), a facility where abused and neglected children can live when it is not safe for them to stay with their caretakers. My role at PCC is to provide individual therapy to children with behavioral or emotional issues. I am a trained play therapist.

Many of the kids at Polinsky are doubly stressed—initially by the abuse and later by their removal from everything familiar. An affectionate well-trained dog can offer a lot of love to a child in pain. Such a dog also lends normalcy to a circumstance that is far from normal.

Otis has worked with me for several months now and each day we discover new possibilities for his "interventions." One encounter was with a little boy who acted out his distress by hitting and biting people without provocation. Ever since he was very young, adults had repeatedly violated this little boy's trust. Although he has trouble communicating with and relating to people, he loves dogs and immediately took to Otis. Single-handedly, this wonderful dog was able to de-escalate the little boy and get him back on track.

The opportunities for Otis's service to these children seem endless, and each day I look forward to discovering new possibilities. Otis and I have started walking the kids (especially those who are reluctant to enter class) to school. Otis simply loves his job! During the morning we visit the toddlers and whenever we come near that cottage, Otis's tail won't stop wagging. He is often greeted with shouts of "doggie" or "perro".

Otis is learning a few new things with the help of another resident. This 17-year-old is hearing-impaired and fluent in American Sign Language (ASL). With his help, I started teaching Otis sign equivalents for some of his basic commands. This same young man is interested in becoming a veterinarian and he assists me during grooming. We have done this a few times now and this depressed teen is clearly becoming more confident and relaxed.

Otis is such a wonderful addition to the mental health staff at Polinsky.

Let's see what happens tomorrow!



Team 'OTIS'

Chris Marckese (trainer)
Angela Wastrack (partner)

'OTIS' FOUND HIS NICHE

Niche – "a situation or an activity specially suited to a person's interests, abilities, or nature." (As defined in The American Heritage College Dictionary)

by **Chris Marckese**

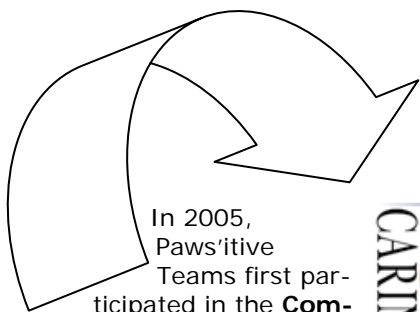
We humans should be so lucky as this three-year-old Facility Dog. At a very young age Otis has found his calling in life or his "niche". As Angela states, "*Otis simply loves his job.*" Just by being himself – a loveable, goofy, sweet golden retriever, he is paw-sitively impacting many lives.

For over two years I nurtured, socialized and trained Otis. I always envisioned the end result would be placing him as a service dog assisting an individual with a physical disability. Although he was a wonderful student and learned his service dog skills enthusiastically, behavioral issues made it apparent that the role of service dog was not in his future. You can't force a square peg into a round hole. As Paws'itive Teams had recently and successfully placed our first Facility Dog, Annie, perhaps Otis could be matched in a similar position. He just had too much to offer not to utilize his skills and temperament to help someone. And we hit the jackpot with Angela and the Polinsky Children's Center. Not only is Angela a very dedicated and innovative therapist, but she also has a wonderful family, a husband and two children who adore Otis as well. (A Facility Dog does not live in a facility but with his handler in the home.)

For several months during transition training Angela and I (and Otis) got together twice a week for our sessions. Mid-day on Tuesdays we worked in a

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Federal employees can help Paws'itive Teams!



In 2005, Paws'itive Teams first participated in the **Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)**, receiving over \$4,000 in pledges from Federal employees. Last year, pledges climbed to nearly \$10,000. This year we hope you can help us reach \$15,000!



Are you a Federal employee? Do you have any relatives or friends who work for the Veterans Administration, Secret Service or any other Federal agency? Please, if you do know any federal employees who may be interested in designating PT as one of their (or their sole) choices for 2007 contributions, be sure to tell them about us and give them our designated CFC number. **Encourage them to participate!**

CFC #: 85391

The CFC is a once-a-year (September 1 to November 2) workplace-only charitable drive exclusively for U.S. Federal employees in which the employees can choose which charities they would like to receive their donations.

To be eligible to participate in the CFC, each charity must be designated as a tax-exempt non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The OPM screens all CFC participating charities to ensure that they are registered as 501(c)(3) charities to which donor contributions are tax deductible. In addition, all CFC charities are reviewed annually for public and financial accountability, as well as for evidence that they are providing services on a local, state, national, or international level (depending on the type of application).

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playroom at the Polinsky Children's Center (PCC).

Sometimes Angela and I would brainstorm on games and tasks she could teach Otis in order to calm a child, build confidence in a child or make a child feel safe – that they would not be hurt again. Something as simple as using the “basket” skill in order for a child to interact with Otis in a friendly game of basketball could help a child realize how much fun it can be to play with pets and not abuse them. Using clicker training, Angela was able to quickly teach Otis on command to put his paw on top of a very large stuffed animal, a lion that was in the playroom. Sometimes a child would project this large stuffed lion to be someone that had hurt him or her in the past. By Otis “being the boss” and dominating the lion with his paw, the child would feel safe once again. (Due to confidentiality our sessions never involved children at PCC.)

Because of the wide range of emotions that understandably surface at PCC, this isn't the place for a sensitive dog. Due to his even-tempered, happy-go-lucky demeanor, Otis is not affected by emotional roller coasters. And like many retrievers, anyone that throws a ball or gives him a treat is his new best buddy.

Unlike a service dog, we will never be able to measure or acknowledge the people that Otis assists. Even Angela may never know just how many lives her Facility Dog impacts or in what way. That will always be a mystery of this new career path that we haven chosen for Otis. But at the most challenging time in these children's young lives, Otis is providing unconditional love and assisting them to overcome what life has unfairly thrown at them. **That is Otis's niche.**

La Jolla Festival of the Arts by Charli King

Well, we had another great booth this year. Thanks to our volunteers and graduates, we showed the public what service dogs can do. The booth had lot's of activities with many different service dog props loaned to us by PT service dog trainer, Judy Fridono. The public seemed impressed as they watched our young pups show off! And as usual our spinning wheel was another crowd pleaser. We distributed several different brochures and free coloring books for the kids. As always our photo board was a hit. One of our graduates, Michael, and his service dog 'Reid' helped staff the return booth at the front gate. While Michael stamped the hands of the patrons to return, 'Reid' helped say goodbye to everyone who attended the event, especially the children.

I thank you all for helping staff our PT Booth. *Because of you, we were a big hit again this year!*



by Carol Davis

Our tag line sums up a key element in the Paws'itive Teams organizational structure. This carefully thought-out decision to place dogs only locally has enabled us to guarantee quality follow-up support to our graduate teams. Transition training and the certification of a service dog team is only the beginning. Once the dog becomes a part of the partner's daily life and leaves the security of the training environment, tasks need to be customized and there are adjustments in day-to-day living patterns for the dog.

For these reasons, our training staff maintains on-going contact with our working teams, beginning with support as needed, by phone or in person, from the dog's individual trainer.

Also, we schedule semi-annual outings exclusively for our working teams and trainers. Even the

trainers' new canine trainees are excluded, as we want to assure that our trainers

can give their undivided attention to working with the graduates. Last fall, we were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the San Diego Zoo, giving us plenty of opportunities to work on public etiquette and unique distraction issues.

Our outing last spring included a lecture and demonstration of canine dental care by Kathy Klein, a pet dental hygienist who does anesthesia-free teeth cleaning. After teaching us effective techniques for maintaining good hygiene, Kathy consulted with each graduate while the trainers set up stations around the room for ear cleaning, nail trimming and deep brushing

of the ecstatic canine partners!

Another very important aspect of our on-going support is our annual in-home visit with each of our graduate teams. This provides our trainers an opportunity to observe tasks used regularly in the

home environment, discuss any behavioral issues which may have arisen, give pointers on teaching new tasks, and address any health issues. While this is a time-consuming component, we are finding it extremely valuable and much appreciated in keeping our working teams on track.

This individualized approach fosters a sense of trust and keeps all of us, trainers and graduates, very much like an extended family. *Paws'itive Teams is proud to provide Service Dogs for San Diegans!*

SERVICE DOGS FOR SAN DIEGANS

ESCONDIDO MEDICAL THERAPY UNIT AND ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

by Kathy Smith

The PAAT (Paws'itive Animal Assisted Therapy) program is a special program of Paws'itive Teams in which a dedicated group of dog handlers volunteer both their time and their dogs to assist with goal-directed therapy. As a physical therapist for California Children Services, I work to help children accomplish functional goals. A trained dog is a valuable motivator to help these children progress.

Several children have participated in the PAAT program over the past six months. They, their families and the therapists really look forward to visits from the PAAT team volunteers. With a paw up from the therapy dog team, often children are more willing to work on challenging therapy goals. As a therapist and animal lover, I really look forward to working with the dogs and their handlers, mostly because I have seen how the program has helped to motivate our patients. It is always amazing for me to see how well trained and well behaved the dogs are despite the many distractions they experience in this setting. And, in addition to the skills the dogs already demonstrate, the handlers are always willing to teach them new skills to address specific therapy goals of different children.

I am grateful to the devoted and enthusiastic

group of volunteers who work so hard to make this program such a success. These volunteers are remarkably professional and the results of their dedication has been an absolute blessing.

The process of setting up this program took over a year because the proposal needed to be approved at so many different levels throughout the County of San Diego. During this process several PAAT volunteers spent a great deal of time meeting with me regularly so that we could work together to design a program that would benefit our children.

After several months of seeing the program implemented, I can definitely say we accomplished our goal. The children, families and therapists who have been involved thoroughly enjoy the program, while the children progress towards their functional therapy goals. *The program has been a complete success!*



Kathy Smith with PAAT dogs, 'Java', 'Toby' and 'Stolle'.

Thera-TEA PARTY

by Judy Fridono



My dog Rina and I are volunteers for the Paws'itive Teams PAAT (Paws'itive Animal Assisted Therapy) program. We work with Kathy Smith, a physical therapist at the Escondido

Medical Therapy Unit. Kathy is one of the most creative therapists I've ever met. She incorporates the dogs into goal-directed therapy in innovative ways so that the children don't realize they're actually in a therapy session.

On one of our visits Kathy wanted one of her young therapy clients to practice carrying dishes from one location to another so she could re-create her newly-learned skill at home by helping to set the table. Kathy came up with the idea of having a tea party where Rina became Yizel's special guest!

Yizel carefully set the table with a tea cup for herself and decided Rina would prefer a bowl to a cup. She was right! Yizel then placed two dishes on the table. She had to walk from the table to the sink so she could fill up the water bowl for Rina and carefully walk back to the table without spilling it. Rina was very happy to lap up the water placed in front of her.

Next, Yizel got a tray and put the water bowl on it, plus two doggie cookies. She then had to balance the tray while walking. She used very deliberate motions to place the tray on the table, taking the water bowl off without spilling any! I wish I could say the same for Rina, but she enjoyed the cool drink nonetheless. Then Yizel offered Rina one cookie at a time,

skillfully placing it on the dish in front of her. Rina waited patiently for the delicious treats, which she gobbled up quickly. Rina then gave Yizel that look of "can I have seconds please?" This gave Yizel a chance to repeat her skillful walk back and forth from sink to Rina! Before the party was over Yizel had made several trips to refill the tray, and never realized how much effort she was putting into her therapy.



Rina waiting for the tea party to begin!



Toby loves Thera-Tea Parties too!



Therapy Dog Prep School graduates—August 2007

Therapy Dog Prep School Snap Shots



Rhiannon and 'Nugget' practice greeting techniques with instructor Charli King.

SHIFTY EYES AND SHENANIGANS

by Matt Sparks



My service dog Noggin is notorious for finding the hole--in my defense! While snooping for every possible opportunity to break out, he'll keep one eye on the sniffin'--and one eye on me. His 'modus operandi' is to wait until he thinks I'm not paying attention and then, ever so delicately--

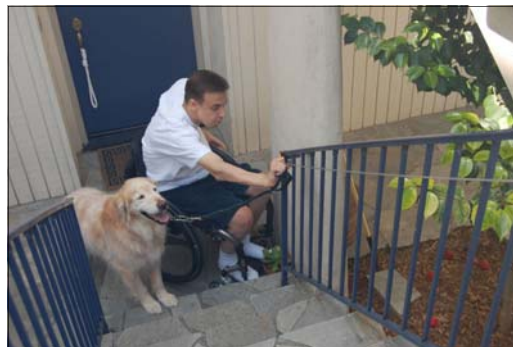
bolt! When we're at my parents' house, his destination is predictable as he finds his way to the golden at the end of the street. At my condo in Mission Valley, however, things are different.

In the early days, Noggin was fine. I would have him wait at the bottom of the stairs, while I went up, or down, the lift. One day it malfunctioned slightly, and dropped about an inch. The noise spooked Noggin. From that point on, he would not stay put. Since both traffic and coyotes (saw one 20ft. from my door) are a constant threat, I had to do something. I had very few choices at that time, or so I thought. We had to get in and out of my place! I happened to be watching a show on the Discovery Channel, called "Beyond the Limits", about climbing Mount Everest--and there it was.

The climbers would "hook in" to a safety line as they made their ascent and descent, to keep from falling off the side if they slipped, as many have. The safety line was, simply, a rope stretched between steel posts at some interval. Climbers would attach one safety line, by carabiner, to the far side of the post, before unhooking the other--this way they were always hooked in. The carabiner allowed a free slide to the next post. Noggin's free-ranging days were over.

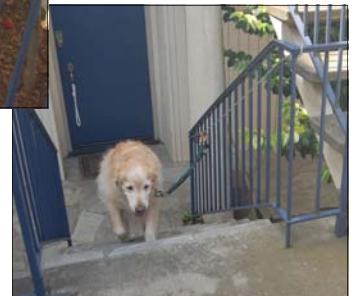
I made a trip to my local Lowe's/Home Depot for some supplies. A length of cable, two clamps, and a lock, was all it took. I clamped one end of the cable, and ran the other end through the loop. This created a basic slip knot to secure the cable at the top of the stairs. Next, I clamped the other end-loop, stretched it down along the railing, looped it around the top rail, and used the padlock to secure it--this way it's removable.

Now, when Noggin and I leave, I can clip him in, go up the lift, call him to the top of the stairs, unclip, and load him into my truck. Reverse it for going in. Not only does this insure his safety, but he's



Matt and 'Noggin' problem solve!

learned the noise the lift makes won't hurt him.
No more unauthorized shenanigans!



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when the "little pebble that was Cameo [PT's first pup] hit the water of our world, starting with a small pond [of the first dogs and graduates] . . . then growing into a pool, and now, ten years and however many dogs later, a good-sized lake." She, too, realizes that the vision of the founders has never wavered. As she puts it, "PT has always been accepting of all: [all] have always been included, loved, welcomed, and made to feel important."

So what will the future hold for PT? Several I interviewed say they envision much growth in the therapy field. They cite the success of the new Paws'itive Animal Assisted Therapy (PAAT) and Facility Dog programs. Mary Clare notes the endless possibilities for dogs to help at nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and

schools. Gerry has "been excited from the get-go" about the power of PAAT.

Barbara sees the challenge of the next years in growth vs. original vision. As PT grows enough for its founders to delegate more responsibilities to others, even now with the hiring of an Executive Director, it is exciting and encouraging to realize that Carol and Charli's vision of personal, hands-on attention will remain firm amid the challenges of new opportunities.

It turns out that, despite the growth of PT, with more trainers and

graduates and exciting new programs, in the most important way, PT has not changed one bit: the big hearts of Carol and Charli still pulse strongly throughout PT with the same vision of ten years ago.

And all of you involved have joined that healthy heart-beat.

HOW DOES A SERVICE DOG SPELL R-E-L-I-E-F?

by Robin Smith

Chauncey and I traveled to Independence, Oregon last month to visit some good friends. Independence is about an hour from Portland in western Oregon, and is a beautiful old town of only about 7,000 people. While there we had a chance to experience a real small town Americana Fourth of July with a carnival, pancake breakfast at the firehouse, parade and, of course, fireworks! I'm a born and raised big city kid so this was really a special treat for me.

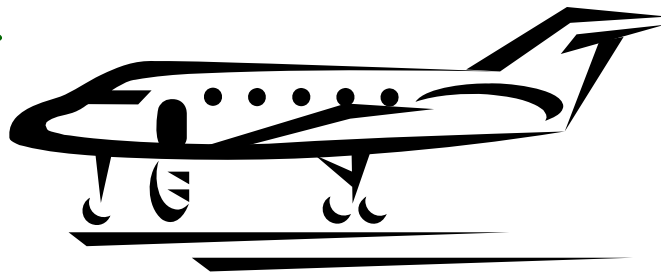
Chauncey and I enjoyed our stay and were sad to leave, but when the time finally came we made sure that we left for the airport in plenty of time. What we didn't count on was the highway construction on I-5 near Portland and the subsequent traffic snarl that came along with it. Four lanes narrowed into one at rush hour and what started out to be a leisurely drive to the airport turned into a frantic bumper-to-bumper fiasco as time grew slim before our flight.

We finally arrived at the airport about twenty five minutes before our scheduled departure. I still had to pick up our boarding pass, check our bags, go through security, and most importantly for Chauncey, find a place for him to toilet. I asked everyone that I could find along the way if they knew of a place where Chauncey could go but to no avail. Nevertheless, there we were, getting on the airplane and poor Chauncey's eyes were swimming. We found our seats onboard and took off for the first 1 hour and 20 minute leg of our flight toward San Diego with a stop in San Jose. During the flight, I could tell that my poor boy was really uncomfortable. By now we have all learned to recognize our dog's cues and Chauncey was definitely letting me know that he really had to go.

The plane finally landed in San Jose. Chauncey and I remained in our seat near the door and listened as the seemingly endless line of deplaning passengers filed past the flight attendants who recited the obligatory "Bub-bye, bub-bye, enjoy your stay, bub-bye". This seemed to take forever and I knew that somehow I had to find a way for Chauncey to get his business done and soon. Not the least of our problems however was that my wheelchair had been stowed and I couldn't get out of my seat.

After all of the departing passengers were off the plane and before I could ask, one of the flight attendants asked me if Chauncey might need to relieve himself. I said yes, he sure does! She offered to take him off the plane for me. I told her the command for toileting (*Better go now!*) and off they went.

Several minutes later, the flight attendant and Chauncey returned, but the flight attendant looked very flushed and out of breath. She said (huffing and puffing), "*I have a story to tell you.*" This is what she told me:



"I took Chauncey down the causeway onto the tarmac under the plane. I did as you said and commanded him, 'better go now' several times but all he did was look at me and finally just laid down. I petted him, I said it again, but he just lay there. Chauncey began to attract attention from others. A baggage worker came over and tried to help."

"Then an airplane mechanic and a Transportation Safety Administration official joined in. We were all trying to figure out what to do so poor Chauncey could toilet. Someone then suggested that maybe Chauncey didn't like to go on the concrete! The TSA official said excitedly, FOLLOW ME!! So we hurried up the restricted tunnel gaining an entourage like a downhill snowball along the way. We were all running behind the TSA agent who was frantically swiping his security card past each of the many secured doors so Chauncey could find sweet relief."

"Now far away from the airplane, Chauncey finally found a patch of grass in front of the terminal where he closed his eyes, lifted his leg and really let it flow. When we saw this, the mechanic, the TSA official, the baggage worker, myself and by now several more of Chauncey's new best friends burst into celebratory cheers, high fives and jumping up and down. By the way, Chauncey was pretty happy too!"

Afterward, I sent a special thank you email to the airline citing the very thoughtful flight attendant who went out of her way to make Chauncey's day. Oh yeah, one more thing; how does Chauncey spell relief?

S-O-U-T-H-W-E-S-T



Robin and 'Chauncey'

PT CELEBRATES TEN YEAR MARK! by Gerry MacDonald

It was a time to celebrate all that Carol and Charli have accomplished over the past 10 years. Our **10th Anniversary Celebration & Volunteer Appreciation Day** happened at the San Diego Indoor Sports Club on June 3. Over 100 people attended this important milestone. Volunteers, donors and breeders were recognized for their contribution in building this organization. KUSI and Fox 6 News covered some of these presentations and ended with Carol's personal interview.

There was a silent auction and custom-made note card packets were sold on the premises. People enjoyed hot and cold hors d'ouvres and soft drink beverages.

The affair ended with a sparkling cider toast to Carol and Charli – and the celebration cake didn't go unnoticed. Our service and therapy dogs also enjoyed a cake made especially for them.



Endow
San Diego

Paws'itive Teams is a partner in Endow San Diego's Nonprofit Partnership Program.

Please contact us for more information about our Planned Giving Program.

858-268-8286



The Nonprofit Partnership Program is a cooperative agreement only and limited to the Endow San Diego Program. No legal connection or inter-organization authority is granted or implied between participants in the program.

by Carol Davis

Wouldn't we all like an opportunity to write our own job description? Five-year-old golden retriever Kiwi did just that. Paws'itive Teams devotes considerable energy to matching our specially-trained dogs with careers that will bring out their best.

Some are partnered with individuals as Service Dogs, devoting their lives to their individual partners. Others switch to a different career path and become Facility Dogs, matched by PT with health care professionals who use them as assistants in working with clients. Kiwi, on the other hand, decided to combine a number of jobs in filling out his job description:

EDUCATOR: Kiwi loves hearing all the ahhs and oohs of school kids during presentations as he educates them by demonstrating service dog skills. He has clocked dozens of school presentations over the past few years and always looks forward to meeting lively children.

FUND RAISER: During the Combined Federal Campaign in 2005, Kiwi glowed proudly as he stood in front of a thousand sailors aboard the USS Boxer. For this year's campaign, he will be scheduled for a num-



PT AMBASSADOR

ber of presentations with Art Brauner, our Executive Director, at military sites, Social Security offices and even the FBI and Secret Service Offices.

INTERVIEWER: Kiwi's maturity and life experiences become a useful tool for our training staff while interviewing Service Dog applicants. In addition to allowing these "greenhorns" to give him commands and experience the feel of a well trained dog, Kiwi will often settle comfortably next to the applicant while we're talking, enabling us to evaluate how the applicant and dog relate to one another.

THERAPIST: Of course, Kiwi's favorite job responsibility includes the title of Therapy Dog. He became one of our charter PAAT (Paws'itive Animal Assisted Therapy) team members and frequently assists the special education teachers at Abraxas High School in Poway. Kiwi charms the kids into accomplishing important goals as they strive to transition into more independent living.

SPECIAL PROJECTS: Currently, Kiwi is on a very special assignment which enables him to live almost full time with Board member Stan Racik, who is struggling with a serious health condition. Kiwi seems to know that his presence is helping Stan in many ways. He seldom leaves Stan's side while at home and takes great joy in doing his "seal imitation" for Stan as he knows it will bring forth a smile ... a smile that heals!

Yes, Kiwi is a very special dog with a very important job description. He is truly an ambassador for PT.

A SPECIAL thank you.....

Paws'itive Teams is supported by many agencies, companies, and individuals. A very special thanks to you all! **The following contributions were received since our last newsletter.**

INDIVIDUALS

Kenneth Albertson
Lois Barton
Clare Bradsher
Arthur Brauner
Katherine Buco
Lawrence Bught
Carol Chang

Doris Day
Marne DeSilva
Mary Dreifuss
Hal Frank
Janet Fraser
Girl Scout Troop 1177
Girl Scout Troop 1269

Patricia Haines
Jeanne Hardesty
Joan Henkelmann
Dennis Huber
Kathy Ann Kearney
Meghan Margetic
Ellen Moore Fife

Denise Moossa
Barry Neichin, DVM
New Dawn High School
Nicola Parker
Nila Peel
E E Quinn
Donna Racik
Nancy Salisbury
Santa Fe Montessori

Monica Sexty
Paul Styrts
Dale Sutton
Daphne Triphon
Dale Walker
Bamby Werner
Sandra Younger
Gayle Zak
David Zuck

GRANTS

Torrey Pines Kiwanis Club
\$2,000

Sony Electronics
\$1,000

Las Primeras Womens Club
\$1,500

Rancho Bernardo Kiwanis Club
\$1,500

Petco Foundation
\$1,500

Rotary Club of Rancho Bernardo
\$1,200

Rancho Bernardo Lions Club
\$1,000

The Gold Diggers
\$500

Lady Lions of Rancho Bernardo
\$500

Soroptimist International of La Mesa
\$300

Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation
\$5,000

Ark Antiques
\$5,000

MEMORIALS

We extend our deepest sympathy to all of those who have lost a loved one. Our sincere gratitude goes to those who have contributed to our mission in the name of their loved one. Through the loss of life, each of us reflects upon our own life—this precious gift, so fragile and fleeting.

Given By:

Susi & Peter Pensel
Susi & Peter Pensel
Susi & Peter Pensel
Susi & Peter Pensel
Peggy Lanier
Lois Barton
Barbara & Jim McKown

In Memory Of:

Ruth Marsh
Arnold Meyer
Leila Lanier
Eleanor Heide Halligan
Leila Lanier
Warren
Ruth Marsh

PET MEMORIALS

Given By:

Susi & Peter Pensel
Linda Roth
Carol Chang
Barbara Hogan

In Memory Of:

'Cleo'
'Cookie'
'Lily'
'Oscar'

IN HONOR OF...

We appreciate donations made to honor birthdays or special holidays of friends and family. What a great way to honor a special person by enabling us in fulfilling our mission. **Thank you!**

Given By:

Mary Dreifuss
D Moossa
D Moossa
D Moossa
D Moossa

In Honor Of:

Stan Racik
Ann Kessler
Jan Ann Kahler
Jenny Craig
Joy Bancroft



Fund Raising Events

Ben and Jerry's Free Cone Day
David and Barbara Mittleman
\$1,815

PACIFIC BEACH LIBRARY

Our thanks to the **Summer Reading Program** for sponsoring PT for a second year. Donations made by the children in recognition of their reading goals came to **\$409.**
Thank you!

CORPORATIONS

Qualcomm Corporation
Albertsons Grocery



Photo left to right: Linda Truesdale, Krista Blakeley, Kathy Pickard, Chris Marckese, Pat Goldhamer, Charli King, Carol Davis.

Trainers' Outing

PT volunteer and puppy sponsor, Kathy Pickard, hosted PT service dog trainers on the Wild Animal Park Photo Caravan to thank them for all they do for PT. Thanks Kathy. It was a day we'll long remember.

Paws'itive Teams

PO Box 27018
San Diego, Ca 92198

www.PawsitiveTeams.org

The mission of
Paws'itive Teams

is to

train service dogs to assist mobility-limited persons in achieving greater independence and, through educational presentations and animal assisted therapy, enhance the lives of persons living in San Diego County.



Paws'itive Teams is an accredited program of Assistance Dogs International, Inc.

