

Weekly R.E.A.D.[®]

Reading Education Assistance Dogs[®]

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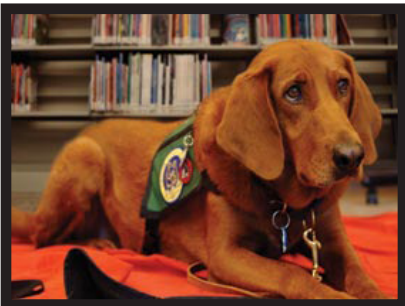
'Childhood success now helps a new generation of children'

Some of you have heard me say that "if you think you have an original idea, you haven't done your research." That's in regard to the fact that, while ITA may have launched R.E.A.D. as the first program model in which children read with therapy animals, we cannot claim to have invented the concept of reading with dogs—that's been going on for centuries.

We recently received more evidence from R.E.A.D. member Amy Bennett of Lenexa, Kansas, who found this old photo of herself reading to one of the family Bassets, Sam. Amy estimates this photo was taken circa 1970.



Amy says she struggled with reading as a child, and she instinctively found an inspired solution. Probably explains her enthusiasm for the program now, too. Her R.E.A.D.ing partner is Ginger, a redbone coonhound mix. Amy's family adopted Ginger in January of 2007 and soon realized she was special, with a talent for exuding a calm, quiet affection that puts people at ease. Amy and Ginger became Delta Pet Partners and then R.E.A.D. members. In addition to volunteering at two Johnson County, Kansas libraries, they also visit patients with Alzheimer's at a local nursing home and the mental health unit at a nearby hospital.



I am constantly delighted to hear everyone's stories—how each person and each animal came to become a volunteer therapy team and now puts their unique stamp on the experience of helping children love books and reading. What wonderful things you are all accomplishing! Thanks, and keep sharing with us at "R.E.A.D. Headquarters"—that really keeps us going!

— Kathy Klotz



READING EDUCATION
ASSISTANCE DOGS[®]

Celebrating 10 years
1999 - 2009

A PROGRAM OF
INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS