

NEWSLETTER



MO-KAN PET PARTNERS

"Yes, you can. If you put your mind to it, you can do it." Joan Kemp

December 2007

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

*Greetings to all from
Patty Levine, President,
and Laurie Barksdale,
Vice President.*

Patty Levine ~

I was born and raised in Kansas City. I trained and showed Arabian horses for 33 years before changing my lifestyle to the smaller creatures. My current pets are Amber (9 yrs. Pomeranian/toy poodle), Cheri (7 yrs. toy poodle) and Charlotte (9 yrs. rescue Toy Poodle). I first obtained Amber in 1998 to be a companion to my aging Pom-A-Poo, Pami Su. When she passed in 2000, I had to get Amber a friend so I bought Cheri. I heard so much about agility and wanted get a Poodle as I thought they were such cute/fun loving dogs that I could teach tricks to and be Amber's companion when I was at work. Then looking at Petfinder on the Internet every day I fell in love with Charlotte. Charlotte is a little 4-5 lbs. Toy Poodle that no one wanted because she had been so abused and was very afraid of people. I thought she would be a good friend for Amber since

Cheri was off with me most of the time doing agility. Cheri is my shadow.

I ran her in agility trials for four years, and she has earned her MX & MXJ.

Then we started obedience. She now has her CD title in obedience, and we are slowly working on the CDX. Cheri also has an RE title in Rally. We joined Mo-Kan in 2003 and have been visiting Garden Terrace Alzheimers facility in Overland Park for four years and Cedars of Liberty for one and one-half years. Cheri loves to visit, show off her tricks and get lots of head and back rubs. We also enjoy participating in the many animal shelter fun walks throughout the area.



On Christmas morning, I wish ...

**For every dog searching trash cans for breakfast ...
A filled bowl with his name printed in bright letters.**

**For every dog who slept fitfully last night, chained in a frozen yard ...
A soft, warm bed with a person snoring gently nearby.**

**For every shelter dog, spending Christmas morning in a soiled run ...
A forever home, filled with sounds and smells of family.**

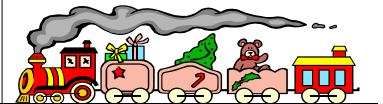
**For every " Christmas" puppy given today ...
A tolerant, caring owner who won't abandon you as you grow into a real dog.**

**For every ailing pet ...
Enough money for your owner to pay the bills to make you well.**

**For every lost dog ...
A clear, safe road, and well-marked path, to lead you home.**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Laurie Barksdale ~

Laurie is married to Adam who is a big OU fan. They have two Italian Greyhounds, Boomer and Sooner (Spunky Soo). They also have three cats. Boomer is Laurie's pet partner and has also been a member since 2003. We have always done the same visits together. Laurie also loves to do the dog walks

and contests. Laurie is very good at teaching the dogs tricks. She has taught Boomer and Cheri to play the piano, guitar, and drums. Sometimes Boomer will play and Cheri will dance. One time we even had an Alzheimer resident singing Jingle Bells while Boomer played the piano and Cheri danced. Laurie does agility with Spunky Soo. Boomer knows lots of other tricks, plays dead, plays soccer, high five and many more.



We just love to have fun



If you ever come across great press about one of our team members, please send the publication (original preferred) to Amy Bennett so she can put it in the scrapbook and/or Newsletter so we can let the rest of our members know what our wonderful volunteers are doing in our community and beyond on behalf of Mo-Kan and Delta.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS—BOOK REVIEWS

Each issue we will feature a member.

This month we are featuring two of our new officers. This is your newsletter. Please send information to be included.

Please feel free to send your stories to Heddie Leger or Amy Bennett to include in future issues of the newsletter. We want to create a publication that is newsworthy, full of interesting educational tips for our members, and worth sharing with potential pet partners. Your additions are greatly appreciated.

If you are looking for some fun books to read, check out Melanie Travis Mysteries, an entire series of entertaining books by Laurien Berenson. A bonanza for dog fanciers ... a likeable heroine, in a smoothly paced mystery. *Publishers Weekly.*

Therapy Dogs Today, by Chris Butler. Good reading for anyone that visits with their therapy dog. December 9th 2-4PM

Don't Forget the Christmas Gathering

Don't forget your items for the shelter AND most importantly your facility forms and time-sheets for recording purposes.



Our next Evaluation is Saturday, February 9th WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!
Please consider helping out, particularly if you are looking to fill your 4-visit per year requirement.
Helping at evals or other events are considered as valid visits for this purpose.

CONGRATULATIONS—TO GARY AND PENNY TURNER

The AKC/Eukanuba National Championship was recently held in Long Beach, CA. This is the most prestigious show in the country. It is invitation only and the top 25 dogs of each breed are invited. So only the very best show dogs in the country were there. Thomas (Brodie's dad) is the #1 Sheltie in the country so he was there. We

are pleased to announce that Thomas earned Best of Breed and Herding Group 2. This is an incredible accomplishment and actually bigger than his Best of Breed win at Westminster this past February. If you are interested you can see the results at the link below. Scroll down to the Herding Group. Thomas is CH Kylene Eden the Dragonslayer. Click on his name for his picture.

<http://www.akc.org/>

Check out the AKC Eukanuba National Championship



ANIMAL ASSISTED CRISIS RESPONSE TRAINING

From the KC Star, Northland edition. Liberty Tribune.

Several area Kansas City teams recently participated in an emergency assistance training. *Teams from the area were: Team leader-Julie Yoder, Gary Turner & Moritz (Bernese Mountain Dog) – Kansas City, Penny Turner & Brodie (Sheltie) – Kansas City, Cyndy O'Brien & Morgan (Yellow Lab) – Kansas City, Joanna Wolfe & Maddie (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel) – Kansas City, Heddie Leger—Hero (Rottweiler)* Visitors to Kansas City International Airport a few weeks ago saw a group of mild-mannered dogs riding the escalator, getting frisked by security and boarding an airplane.

Those same dogs and their owners also visited Olathe (Kan.) Fire Station No. 6 while sirens blared, air brakes shrieked and lights flashed.

In addition, the canines mingled in a room filled with actors as they simulated the aftermath of a tornado. They gathered at a "shelter," with people pacing, screaming and crying as they would in a real-life crisis situation.

The dogs' owners and the 14 animals, all certified therapy dogs, were attending a four-day Animal Assisted Crisis Response team training based in Overland Park, Kan. Among them was Hero, a 5-year-old Rottweiler from Liberty, and his owner, Heddie Leger.

Cindy Ehlers developed Animal Assisted Crisis Response in 1998 after responding with her dog, Bear, to the Thurston High School shooting in Springfield, Ore. She realized persons in crisis and natural disaster situations could benefit from animal-assisted therapy and knew dogs and owners needed special training to respond effectively.

Hero and Leger developed friendships with dog-owner duos from across the country who had assisted in the aftermaths of the World Trade Center attacks; the Virginia Tech shootings; Hurricane Katrina; the St. Paul, Minn., bridge collapse; and the Greensburg, Kan., tornado.

"The animal-assisted therapy teams bridge an emotional gap between the victims and the responders," Leger said. Those responders include doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians and mental health professionals.

Often, victims will shut down emotionally, stop thinking clearly, or lash out in the midst crisis or disaster. A dog's presence, and even more so petting the animal, can help reduce a person's blood pressure and help him think more clearly, Leger said. A biochemical change occurs through touch, according to the Animal Assisted Crisis Response manual.

It's also theorized that dogs know who to approach because distressed persons release a certain type of pheromone that dogs can smell, the manual says.

After a dog calms a victim, the dog's owner can then listen to the victims and help determine the professionals who can assist them the most.

"We're not there to cure or fix but to listen or assess," Leger said. "We might have to pull in a mental health professional if someone needs it. Or we might have to be sure someone is documented as being there by saying, 'Have you signed up?' Part of our job helps keep people from getting lost in the shuffle."

Gale Lothrop of Nebraska and her Belgian Tervuren, Mysti, were among the teams at the training. They were called out for two weeks to southeast Texas after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and one week in Blacksburg, Va., after the Virginia Tech shootings.

"While at Virginia Tech, we continually heard from the students that having the dogs on campus was the best thing the university had done for them," Lothrop wrote in an e-mail to Leger. "... They were so tired of having microphones stuck in their faces and being asked how they were feeling. Finally, they could just relax and be themselves with the dogs."

Part of the training that Hero, Leger and others attended — the tornado shelter situation and the fire department — was meant to mimic real-life situations so the dogs could get used to the associated sights, smell and activity.

Because certified trained dogs and their owners will be called out across the country in times of need, the airport experience also aided the dogs in learning the ropes of flying.

Furry Kids Refuge in Lee's Summit is holding a SantaClaws Pancake Breakfast and Photos with Santa fund raiser.

www.furrykidsrefuge.org for details

December 15—8am-Noon

Evaluation Results



A successful evaluation was held in November. Many thanks to all who participated in any way.

Re-evaluated:

Julie Krogh - Brussels Griffon - Fiona
Marcia Jones - Border Terrier - Zoe
Sharon Parker - Samoyed - Chimes
Patty Levine - Toy Poodle - Cheri
Sharon Parker - Samoyed - Honey
Laurie Barksdale - Italian Greyhound - Boomer
Sarah Grim - Persian Cat - Casper
Karen Nenow - Austrian Shepherd - Mariah
Cris Sigler - Standard Poodle - Sashi
Ken Kern - Rough Collie - Bishop
Ronda Kern - Rough Collie - Jasmine
Helen Jarrard - Border Terrier - Saydie
Paula Froog - Border Collie - Hershey
Shirley May - Dalmatian - Ky-An

We would like to thank the volunteers who helped.

Evaluators: Heddie Leger, Julie Yoder
Joyce Maas

Other Volunteers:

Dana Barry
Ann Rosenwasser
Merrily Shultz
Carol Wells
Kim Anderson
Clarence Manning
Scott Gentry
Cheryl Roht
Amy Bennett
Shirley May
Ron Maas

The human spirit is not dead. It lives on in secret. It has come to believe that compassion, in which all ethics must take root, can only attain its full breadth and depth if it embraces all living creatures and does not limit itself to mankind. ~ Albert Schweitzer ~

Support Your Local Shelter



MO-KAN PET PARTNERS ASSOCIATION

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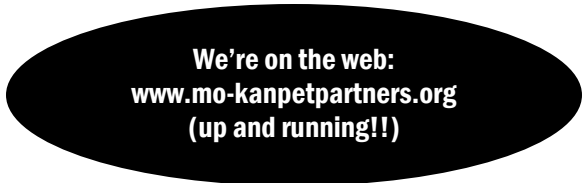
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Mo-Kan Pet Partners is a non-profit organization and an affiliate of Delta Society, an international organization designed to provide resources for teams working in animal-assisted activities and animal assisted therapy as well as service dog trainers. We are made up exclusively of volunteers and our purpose is to provide safe animal-assisted activity and therapy services to health and educational facilities. Since we are a Delta affiliate, our member teams are trained and evaluated using Delta Society methods and procedures and each team is registered with the Delta Pet Partners program. Our animal/handler teams work in hospitals, schools, nursing homes, libraries and other institutions and are eager to use our pets in such rewarding endeavors.



Mo-Kan Pet Partners is a 501(c)(3) corporation so all donations are tax-deductible.

If you wish to make a donation, please make checks payable to Mo-Kan Pet Partners and mail your donation to:
Merrily Shultz, Treasurer
15689 S. Blackfeather Street
Olathe, KS 66062



OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS



New facility being visited by Amy Wurst, with Cheyenne and Sake.

Turning Point located at 8900 State Line Road, Suite 240, Shawnee Mission, KS 66206.

"Turning Point's mission is to empower and transform the mind, body and spirit of individuals, families and friends living with serious or chronic physical illnesses. We provide innovative education services and tools that inspire people to take charge of their illnesses and live life to its fullest".

Also, anyone who would like to order Pet Partner trading cards can contact Amy Wurst at awurst@henrywurst.com or 816-701-0709.



- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**
- North Kansas City Hospital—
Karen Fournier 816-691-1684
 - Rose Brooks Center—
Kim Fletcher—523-5550
 - MidContinent Public Library—
Kimberly Howard—836-5200

Are you new to Mo-Kan? Have you received your Congratulatory papers from Delta? Are you ready to get plugged in? Then contact Joyce Maas and she'll be more than happy to help you find a facility to visit that will be a good fit for you and your Pet Partner teammate. See above for Joyce's contact information.