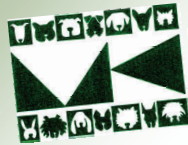


# NEWSLETTER



## MO-KAN PET PARTNERS

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

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2008

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Teams,

Spring is just around the corner and I know all of us are very anxious for warmer weather so we can get out with our pet partners. We have been cooped up way too long and I am really tired of the cold. On May 4, 2008, we will have a spring picnic which I hope many of you will attend. This is a great time to get out and meet the other teams and enjoy their company. An invitation was sent via email and there is further information in this newsletter for our picnic. We will have a very short meeting at this picnic. Please RSVP to Patty Levine (816-505-3692 or [palev5@kc.rr.com](mailto:palev5@kc.rr.com)).

The Board has been working very hard to improve our organization and I am asking your patience and support while we work through this process. This organization is only as good as its members and we need your help. One of ideas is the forming of a mentoring committee and you will hear more about this in the near future.

I have personally talked with Diane Bell of Delta and she and Larry Norvell, President, have agreed to come to K.C. in approximately 4-6 months to meet with all the Mo-Kan teams. I think this will be a very informative, fun meeting

and hope everyone will be able to attend. As soon as I have a definite date from Diane I will pass this along.

Our general election meeting will be held June 25, 2008. This year we need to elect three officers; a Vice President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. In addition we need a person to serve as President for 2008-2009 to complete the term after the resignation of Ann Rosenwasser. If you would like to volunteer for one of these positions, please contact a member of our nominating committee, Suzi Bidwell (913-631-9587, [martingrove@kc.rr.com](mailto:martingrove@kc.rr.com)) or Carol Wells (816-943-1422 [dallbyhand@wmconnect.com](mailto:dallbyhand@wmconnect.com)). Both of these ladies have offered to serve on this committee and I want them to know that the Board is very appreciative of their support.

I was brought to my attention that Mo-Kan needed new mats to be used at the evaluations. We have ordered these new mats and plan to have them in place at our next evaluation date, April 12, 2008. As usual volunteers are needed for these evaluations. If you are able to volunteer your time, please contact Joyce Maas (816-942-6890 or [pemcor@kc.rr.com](mailto:pemcor@kc.rr.com)) and she will set you up with your duties.

As you will see with this edition of our Newsletter we have a new editor. Laurie Barksdale will be writing this for us and welcomes your input with articles, announcements, etc. The Newsletter will be published quarterly and downloaded to our Website. Laurie is also the "keeper" of the roster so any updates should be sent to her ([yanyo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:yanyo@sbcglobal.net)). Sue Manning has done a marvelous job with our website and I encourage each of you to check the website regularly. Please check the Members Only page for the roster, hours forms and facility agreement information. If anyone has trouble viewing these pages please contact Sue at 816-763-9710 or [omaning1@kc.rr.com](mailto:omaning1@kc.rr.com). Completion of the Hours form for the first quarter of 2008 (January 1 – March 31) is due by April 10<sup>th</sup> and should be sent to Sue.

The Board is always open for suggestions to improve our organization. Please contact any Board member with your suggestions. Stay warm and dry and give your pet partner and all your fur babies a big hug.

Patty Levine  
President

### Inside this issue:

President Message	1
May Day Picnic	
Volunteer Opportunity	2
Read Training	
Evaluation Results	
KC Expo	3
Book Reviews	
Reminders	
In the News	
HS Wish List	4
Going the Distance	
Carol Wells & Jonah	5
New Members	

"I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me they are the role model for being alive."  
Gilda Radner

## Party time—May Day Picnic—May 4, 2008

**TIME:** 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Swansons Dog Park, 6241 Woodland Road, Shawnee, Kansas 66218  
**WHAT TO BRING:** Yourself and your pet partner, lawn chair, \$10.00 May Day basket to exchange with a pet partner

In addition there will be a brief Mo-Kan general membership meeting. Mo-Kan will provide snacks and drinks along with games to play with our pets. If you would like to bring a donation for the Humane Society of Greater K.C. their wish list located on page 4.

Please RSVP to Patty Levine ([palev5@kc.rr.com](mailto:palev5@kc.rr.com) or 816-505-3692) We look forward to seeing everyone for a fun time.



ROOM ENOUGH FOR ONE MORE



**Evaluation Results**

A successful evaluation was held in February. Congratulations to all the new teams that passed the evaluation.

Debra Baker and Australian Cattle Dog, Sally

Debra and Gary Meyer and Newfoundland, Katie

Dr. John Fales and Golden Retriever, Spencer

Konnie Lutz and Golden Retriever, Spencer

Marie Kersten and Shetland Sheepdog, Nicky

Becky Meadows and Bassett, Sydney

Carol Wells and Dalmatian, Jonah

Emma Stone and Australian Shepherd, Gwen

Scott Gentry and Mixed breed, Bulova

Paula Haffner and Australian Shepherd, Bailey

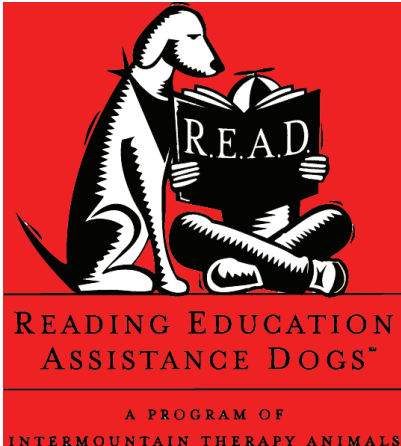
Clayton and Lisa Mark and German Shepherd, Ace

Sonya Stroh and Kerry Blue Terrier, Pattianne

**Thank you to all the volunteers that helped to make this a successful evaluation.**

Evaluator—Heddie Leger  
Organizer—Joyce Maas

Laurie Barksdale  
Patty Levine  
Sue Manning  
Clarence Manning  
Carol Wells  
Rhonda Gentry  
Sharon Parker  
Amy Bennett  
Shirley May  
Dana Marsh  
Ron Leger



**R.E.A.D. Workshop**

Hello to All. The Spring R.E.A.D. Workshop will be held March 30, 2008 at the Antioch Library, corner of Shawnee Mission Pkwy. and Antioch in Merriam, KS.

The address is: 8700 Shawnee Mission Pkwy.

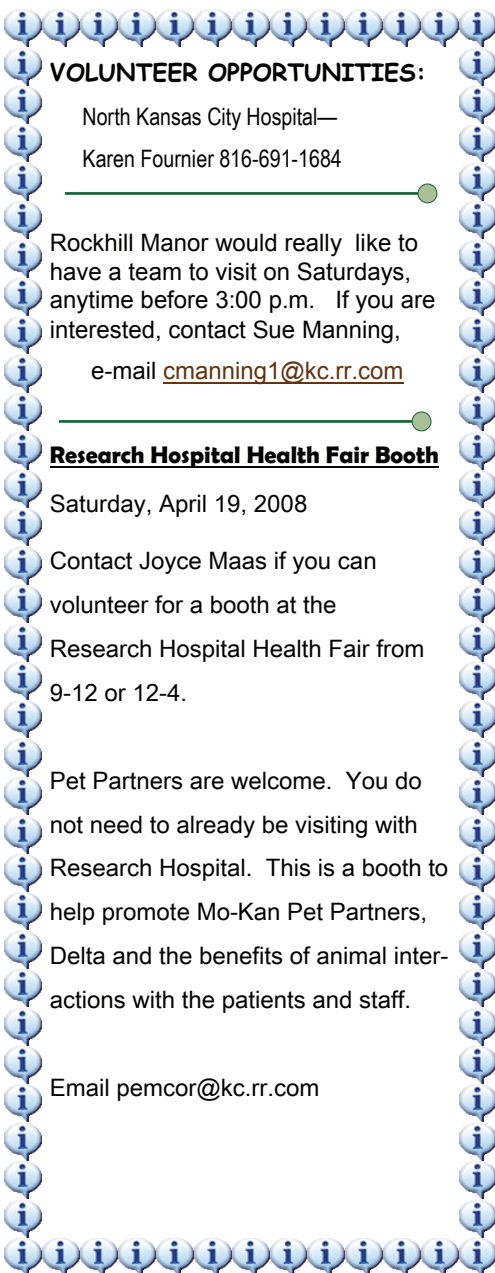
**Time: 1:00 -5:00, Sunday.**

The fee for the workshop is \$79.00. This amount will cover the manual, training, and food. (This is not a membership. That you will do after the training. It is an additional fee of \$50.00 for a lifetime membership. This is sent directly to Salt Lake City, R.E.A.D. Headquarters.) You will see videos about how the R.E.A.D. program is conducted, its purpose, and hear about experiences from the veteran R.E.A.D. Teams. I hope to see all of you there. We always have a good time...very relaxed. Please send the following to me ASAP, as it takes about four weeks for manuals to arrive. I have some, but might need more. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at #913/681-6831 any time. I tried to have the workshop sooner, but the facility wasn't available until the 30th.

R.E.A.D. Veterans: You're most welcome to attend the workshop, free of charge. I'd love to have you come and share your experiences with the new recruits. Food will be provided. However, I do need an R.S.V.P.  
Sincerely,  
Shirley May  
Certified R.E.A.D. Instructor,  
Missouri/Kansas.



*Children and Dogs are as necessary to the welfare of the country as Wall Street and the railroads." ~ Harry S Truman ~*



**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

North Kansas City Hospital—  
Karen Fournier 816-691-1684

Rockhill Manor would really like to have a team to visit on Saturdays, anytime before 3:00 p.m. If you are interested, contact Sue Manning,  
e-mail [cmanning1@kc.rr.com](mailto:cmanning1@kc.rr.com)

**Research Hospital Health Fair Booth**

Saturday, April 19, 2008

Contact Joyce Maas if you can volunteer for a booth at the Research Hospital Health Fair from 9-12 or 12-4.

Pet Partners are welcome. You do not need to already be visiting with Research Hospital. This is a booth to help promote Mo-Kan Pet Partners, Delta and the benefits of animal interactions with the patients and staff.

Email [pemcor@kc.rr.com](mailto:pemcor@kc.rr.com)

## Volunteers Needed

### KC Pet Expo

April 19-20, 2008

We still need Booth volunteers for the KC Pet Expo at Hale Arena.

The goal of the The Kansas City Pet Expo is to provide the public with an opportunity to learn about both common and not-so-common animals that are found as pets, and the products and services that are available to provide optimal care

for these animals.

You can bring your pet partner with you to meet and greet with the public about Delta and Mo-Kan Pet Partners.

We need one team per time slot. Plus you can stay to enjoy all the fun, freebies and excitement the Expo has to offer for free.

Time slots run for 1 hour 30 minutes are available from 1:00 pm—7:00 pm on Saturday and from 11:30 am –1:00 pm ,

1:00 pm -4:00 pm on Sunday.

We just love to have fun

Volunteering for the Expo fulfills part of our 4 visit requirement for the year.



Please contact Rhonda Kern to reserve your spot at kerncollies@copper.net .

For more info about the KC Pet Expo go to this site-

<http://www.patrihaproductions.com/PetExpo/>

*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

Next meeting—May 4, 2008 at May Day Picnic  
Bring your pet partner  
1:00—Swanson' s Dog Park

General Election Meeting—June 25, 2008  
First National Bank -College Blvd & Lamar -  
Overland Park—NO Pet Partners allowed

Please feel free to send your stories to Laurie Barksdale 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.

If you are looking for some fun books to read, check out:

The Dog Lover's Book of Crafts  
Jennifer Quasha

The Culture Clash  
Jean Donaldson

Holy Paws, How my dog helped me heal from abuse  
Jeannine Fox

**Don't forget your facility forms and keeping track of your volunteer hours. First Quarter time-sheets are due April 10, 2008 to Sue Manning.**



## Our next Evaluation is **Saturday, April 12th, 2008 WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!**

Please consider helping out, particularly if you are looking to fill your 4-visit per year requirement. Helping at evaluations or other events are considered as valid visits for this purpose.

Registration forms can be found on our Mo-Kan website or contact Joyce Maas for a form or to volunteer.



### In the News

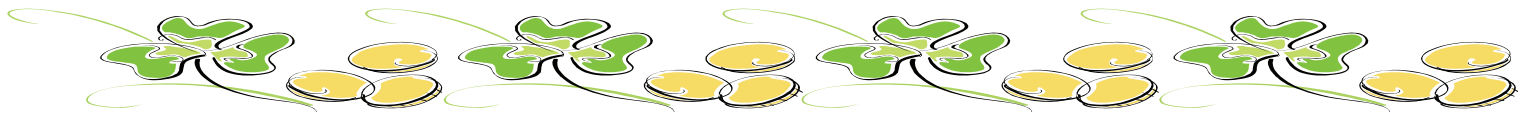
Check out the Winter 2008 publication of the Animal Welfare Institute's Quarterly magazine, AWI and you may notice this photograph of Cheryl Roht's sheltie, Robbie taken at Antioch Library. The AWI article discusses the R.E.A.D. program working in New York City to help reduce the illiteracy rate with children.

This picture of Robbie also made it on to a Valentine sent out by R.E.A.D. headquarters last month.



Please donate these needed items or money for our local Humane Society at our May Day picnic. (Picnic details on page 1.)

- Small animal anesthesia machine used for spay/neuter surgeries
- Industrial quality dryer
- Canned kitten food
- Science Diet pet food: Canine and Feline Growth, Canine and Feline Maintenance
- Unopened dog or cat food
- Dog & cat treats
- Small dog biscuits
- Used bath and hand towels
- Wire dog crates, medium to large (the "suitcase" type that fold down are great)
- Plastic kennels or carriers for medium to large size dogs
- Small ceramic food bowls (no plastic)
- Large dog spay packs
- Industrial quality clippers
- Portable table top display
- Liquid hand soap (antibacterial)
- Laundry soap and bleach
- Sponges (one side scrub type)
- Paper towels
- Stamps
- Small and large trash bags
- Litter boxes with hoods
- Dog and cat toys
- Dog collars and leashes
- Solid color two-pocket folders
- Donor database program
- Dog and cat beds
- White and colored copier paper
- X-Large dog kong toys



## GOING THE DISTANCE TO HELP OTHERS—

Cabernet and Sake spent a fun-filled week at a friend's house while their human, Amy Wurst, jetted over to Shanghai, China to volunteer for the Special Olympics Summer World Games. Amy has been a volunteer with Special Olympics in Missouri and North Carolina for over 20 years. Special Olympics is an international non-

profit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition. Special Olympics offers children and adults with intellectual disabilities year-round training and competition in 30 Olympic-type summer and winter sports. Amy's passion for this amazing organization began when she was asked to fill in as a basketball referee for a local competition. She was hooked immediately. Her involvement has led to games management, Sports venue management and her current positions as a Board Member for Special Olympics North Carolina and Aquatics Sport Director for Special Olympics Missouri. While Amy says she really had no desire to go to China, to be asked to be an international volunteer for the World Games was an something she just couldn't pass up. She has had amazing experiences volunteering at previous World Games' in Raleigh, NC, Anchorage, AK, and Dublin, Ireland.

One of her first assignments in Shanghai was to assist with Opening Ceremonies, getting various "honored guests" hooked up with their country's delegation of athletes. There were royalty and celebrity all around, but she didn't have much of a clue. As she worked one of the stadium tunnels, she got to meet Michelle Kwan who marched in with Team USA in addition to Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver. The rest of her week was spent working in the operations center, Attending competitions and doing some sight seeing around the city. At the end of a hectic week, she was very glad to get back home to the USA and her dogs. The next Special Olympics Summer World Games will be in Athens, Greece in 2011...we hear she has already submitted her application!

Submitted by Amy Bennett/Shirley May



**MO-KAN PET PARTNETS ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 7496  
Overland Park, KS 66207  
info@mo-kanpetpartners.com

**President:**

Patty Levine—816-505-3692  
palev5@kc.rr.com

**Vice President:**

Laurie Barksdale—816-734-4630  
yanyo@sbcglobal.net

**Vice President- Reading Program**

Shirley May May—913-681-6831  
Maymayluvdsals@sbcglobal.net

**Recording Secretary**

Sue Manning—816-763-9710  
cmanning1@kcr.com

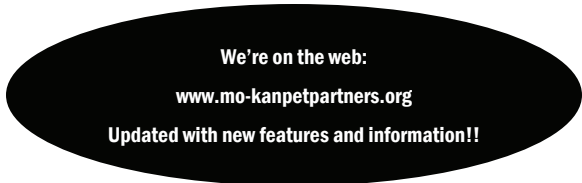
**Corresponding Secretary**

Joyce Maas—816-942-6980  
pemcor@kc.rr.com

**Treasurer**

Merrily Shultz—973-768-1193  
merrily@mtswesties.com

*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



**OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS**



**Welcome to our new Mo-Kan Pet Partner Members!**

Debra and Gary Meyer with Newfoundland, Katie  
Dr. John Fales and Konnie Lutz with Golden Retriever, Spencer  
Emma Stone with Australian Shepherd, Gwen  
Paula Haffner with Australian Shepherd, Bailey  
Clayton and Lisa Mark with German Shepherd, Ace

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



**Congratulations to Carol Wells and Jonah for earning their TD (Tracking Dog) title in February.**



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.

