

MO-KAN PRESS



MO-KAN PET PARTNERS

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

Joan Kemp



February 28, 2011

NewsFLASH oVI.2 2-2

<http://www.mo-kanpetpartners.org>



SUE SAYS.....

Hope all are safe and warm on yet another stormy event....Spring is coming....seriously!

Just a couple of reminders....

March, April and May evaluations....

We have received only a few requests for spots in these 3 evaluations. Just a note that we will NOT offer a June or July evaluation. Please review your renewal date to ensure you sign up for a spring evaluation

if you need it, even if you have not received a notice from Delta reminding of your need to evaluate.

Tips for Evaluations:



Remember....

...The evaluation begins when you step out of your car when arriving at the evaluation site and ends when you return to your car. Your hand should always be on the leash with complete control of your partner.

...Please allow your partner time to eliminate before entering the site.

...Please be aware of the time of your evaluation and give yourself enough time to find the location.

...If you are a volunteer, please dress appropriately.

...This is a simulation of a "real" visit for everyone attending the event.

Tips for Meeting other Teams:

...Ask permission before greeting. If the answer is no, remember the handler knows their partner best and is being proactive. This is not a personal rebuff. This answer should always be respected.

...Meet away from a therapy visit if meeting with unfamiliar teams for the first time. Don't approach an unknown team while they are interacting with a client.

...Don't greet while in an excited state...either handler or partner.

...Handler and partner should greet as a team with the partner on a short leash and the handler in control.

...Never should our clients or facilities see a "disagreement" between dogs. If you know certain dogs are not fond of each other, be proactive and don't wait until a problem arises. Dogs of the same sex, especially males that are in tact are often more aggressive toward another male. Dogs laying down and /or on their backs are in a submission position and usually are not willing to greet other dog at that time. Not all dogs are dog friendly and some handlers prefer their dogs not greet other dogs. Please respect that.

...NEVER take your eyes dog off your dog from the moment you arrive for a visit, incidents can happen in a moment. Always be alert and take necessary precautions.

Soon to come....

...In the near future, we will be planning our Annual Meeting. Please speak to one of the board members if you have a great idea for a speaker.

...Requesting a Nominating Committee. We will be electing President and Corresponding Secretary this year. Also, would like to have three committees...Social Events, OutReach, and Mentoring. If you are

interested in being on the nominating committee or one of the other committees, please contact one of the board members.

Thank you for all your efforts in servicing the facilities and clients. That is our primary job and all of our teams are doing a great job!!

Later,

Sue Manning



1) Member Corner: New to the NewsFLASH and NewsBLAST will be the "Members Corner". PLEASE send Cathy Leschena at tzuhouse3@me.com any newsworthy items, comments, pictures, reports of really fun or great visits. I want to start really sharing our experiences with each other and this will be the catalyst to do so.

*****So for this NewsFLASH, I would like to share a truly wonderful experience I had with Maddy at a hospital recently.*****

.....We arrived on the ward with our volunteer, and headed to the nurses station to pick up the sheet listing the rooms to visit. Immediately the nurse came up to me and asked if Maddy and I could visit her patient first. I said, yes, of course. She got very teary eyed

and told us the patient was dying. I was taken aback and a little worried about how Maddy would react....he normally just snuggles up next to the client, but also is sometimes unable to "control his licker"!!!! So the nurse proceeded to tell us the therapy dog visit was one of her patient's "last wishes".....again, I took a silent inward "gasp". As we walked in to the room, I was not sure what to expect....no idea if there would be a lot of equipment, how alert the patient would be....but as we entered the lady was lying back in the bed, but somewhat propped up, with only an IV pole near the bed. She began to smile and asked if Maddy could be on the bed with her. Of course, that is Maddy's favorite place to be I told her. So I sat him next to her about hip height....Maddy kinda looked up in her face and he VERY SLOWLY put his paws up on her chest and kinda "scooted" up to where his nose was rested just under her chin....he laid PERFECTLY still and made one tiny little lick under her chin. She smiled, pulled him closer and said...."this is JUST what I needed". They stayed that way for it seemed an hour, but I am sure it was only minutes, but was so perfectly sweet. The client's daughter was sitting next to her and she took my hand and said..."you just don't know what this means to my mother". After talking for a few minutes we left and as we did, my heart swelled with pride for my little Maddy. I learned all in that brief visit....JUST WHY WE DO THIS. We have had many visits, even though I still consider us "newbies" at this, and after each one I feel a sense of peace and a love for what we do....but this was just one of those moments that I will NEVER, ever forget. Many people talk about the dogs instinct and I know my Maddy had it that day....it was just as if he did know "exactly what she needed"!

- 2) Jayne has asked that when obtaining new Facility Agreements, that they be sent to her, not directly to Delta.
- 3) We have been invited to participate in WoofStock, Sunday, May 1, 2011. The event is from 8am to 2pm at Zona Rosa. We will need 6-8

teams. If you are interested, please contact Cathy Leschena who is responsible for OutReach. Email to tzuhouse3@me.com