



# ruff DRAFTS

Fall 2018

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# DOGS WITH JOBS

DWAA member Laura Greaves knows a thing or two about working dogs. She is the author of *Dogs with Jobs: Inspirational Tales of the World's Hardest Working Dogs*. Below is an edited excerpt from the book.

## FRANKIE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE ASSISTANCE DOG

There are some employees who will never — can never — fully discharge their duties. Frankie the yellow Labrador is one of those employees. Working in a children's hospice, her job is to comfort sick kids and make them smile, and there are heartbreaking days when it's simply not possible. But Frankie will never, ever stop trying.

Frankie's role at Bear Cottage at Manly, on the northern beaches of Sydney, Australia, is essentially to just be there for the kids and their families. That might mean



playing ball with children in the hospice's long hallway, supervising activities in the playrooms or simply curling up on a patient's bed to watch a movie or take a nap. She can also retrieve dropped items for children in wheelchairs and even take washing out of the clothes dryer.

See *DOGS WITH JOBS* pg 7



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# President's

# COLUMN

By **Jen Reeder**

One of the things I love about being a journalist is that the job involves indulging curiosity – and you never know where an idea or story might lead. Years ago my local newspaper assigned me an article about a therapy dog program at our hospital. I was so inspired by the people I interviewed that I had my Lab mix, Rio, certified as a therapy dog and wound up volunteering with the “Super Dog” program myself.

The article won a Maxwell Medallion – my first – but better yet, led to countless meaningful encounters with hospital patients. The way my dog effortlessly spreads cheer and love makes me so proud. I wrote an essay about Rio’s therapy dog work for an upcoming anthology by Revell Publishing called *Second-Chance Dogs* – and I’m thrilled that several DWAA colleagues also contributed to the book. Who knew that newspaper assignment would have led to all of this?

That’s what DWAA, our contest and banquet are all about: celebrating our work and the dogs who inspire it. I’m so grateful to our Contest Chair, **Lauren Darr**, for her tireless efforts on behalf of the contest – it’s a huge job! Thanks too to the 90 judges who have volunteered and, of course, to our generous sponsors – there is a whopping \$15,950 up for grabs in special awards this year!

Please be sure to save the date for the DWAA awards banquet: Sunday, Feb 10, 2019, at the Hotel New Yorker in Manhattan. We’ll be announcing the winners of the contest at the banquet,



**Jen Reeder, President of the DWAA**

and attendees will hear keynote addresses from NBC correspondent and host of Animal Planet’s “Dog Bowl” **Jill Rappaport** and radio host/journalist/author **Steve Dale** of Steve Dale’s Pet World. The hilarious **Amy Tokic** is organizing a silent auction as well. It will be a night to remember!

Volunteers are the cornerstone of this great organization. Thank you so much to my fellow Executive Committee members **Laura Coffey**, **Lauren Darr**, **Marsha Pugh** and **Ida Estep**, Esq. and to the Board of Governors. **Mara Bovsun** is inspiring the next generation of dog writers through her amazing mentorship with Young Writers on the Web. I’m grateful to

See *PRESIDENT’S COLUMN* pg 11

By **Merrie Meyers**

Dear Readers;

Like most of you, I have a morning routine. Part of my schedule involves grabbing a cup of coffee and watching the Today show to follow the progress of SUNNY, a service dog in training, their "puppy with a purpose." (We had a brief article about Sunny in our last issue.) After their training is complete, assistance provided by Sunny and his canine colleagues will help hundreds of thousands of Americans live better lives.

From the military theater to the movie theater, our canine companions help to make our lives better, helping us deal with physical, social and/or emotional challenges. In recognition of the contributions and impact made by these wonderful animals, we've selected "Working Dogs" as the theme of our fall issue.

It's no small coincidence that our nation's recognition of two-legged and four-legged workers both occur in September. Labor Day celebrates contributions of the American worker. It began in the early 19th century and became a national day of recognition in 1894. National Service Dog Month, established in 2008, celebrates the ways that service and assistance dogs make our lives better.

The Department of State's Share America program estimates there are



Merrie Meyers, Editor of Ruff Drafts

500,000 service dogs helping people with disabilities in the U.S., including 1,600 military dogs currently deployed in the field or assigned to work with injured and recuperating veterans.

The theme for this issue prompted immediate and enthusiastic responses. Many of shared stories about your involvement in training dogs to provide pet assisted therapy in libraries, classrooms and hospital rooms. The work is meaningful to those being served and to you as well. I hope you enjoy reading these stories. I did. 🐾

*"From the military theater to the movie theater, our canine companions help to make our lives better..."*

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## Ruff Drafts

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### ISSUE DEADLINES

Spring, March 1  
Summer, June 1  
Fall, September 1  
Winter, December 1

The editor reserves the right to refuse and/or edit material, and is not responsible for errors in difficult to read copy. Every attempt will be made to publish information accurately. Submission implies right to publish all or in part. Unsigned or misleading material is not accepted. Material published is the opinion of the author and does not imply endorsement by the editor or DWAA. Neither editor nor DWAA assumes liability for information contained herein or typographical errors. Reproduction of photos and editorial is forbidden without permission.

# Nominating Committee Report

by **Su Ewing**

Mary Arango, Dusty Hellmann and I served as this year's nominating committee, but departing president Jen Reeder did our work for us, offering this slate of officers:

President, **Carol Bryant**

Vice-president, **Maggie Marton**

Secretary, **Kristin Avery**

Treasurer, **Marsha Pugh**.

Thanks, Jen, for making our job easy, and, thanks so much for serving as president. You, Laura Coffey, and Lauren Darr will be missed, but you've found some terrific replacements.

While the nominating committee thinks these people are terrific choices, remember that, according to the DWAA constitution, "Any Member in good standing may petition to run for a specific office if he sends to the Secretary, before November 1, a petition signed by ten (10) members in good standing."

## CAROL BRYANT

Carol Bryant is a pet influencer, writer/blogger, speaker, social media pro, and dog mom. She owns the trademark, "My Heart Beats Dog" and proudly wears the mantra on her left bicep.

A dog lover of the highest order is how Gayle King introduced Carol when she appeared with her Cocker Spaniel, Dexter, on Oprah Radio's Gayle King show to dish dogs.

While building her own blog and social media presence, Carol helped grow the BlogPaws Pet Blogging and

Social Media company as their PR, Marketing, Social Media Manager, and blogger. She is a familiar face in the digital pet park that is the Internet.

Bryant is also the founder of [Fido-seofReality.com](http://Fido-seofReality.com), a highly trafficked health and wellness dog blog for Cocker Spaniels and their canine friends. Together with her wife, Darlene, they formed Wigglebutt Warriors, which has raised over \$75,000 for homeless dogs to date.

She has appeared on many television segments, radio shows, podcasts, speaking engagements, and has contributed to numerous pet publications, including Dogster, Paw Culture, Dog Fancy, Fido Friendly, Pet360, AKC Family Dog, Today.com, and Hamptons Pet.

Carol is also engaged in public relations and social media as an event planner, pet product, and pet travel expert. She has helped numerous pet industry clients obtain coverage in various forms of media. Some of her previous clients include Morton Salt, Doodie Pack, and Benji the Dog.

Carol received the DWAA 2018 Distinguished Service Award sponsored by the American Kennel Club. A repeat nominee for the Dog Writers of America Maxwell Medallion and the winner of the 2015 Women in the Pet Industry Woman of the Year in the Advocacy Category, Carol's passion is dogs. Carol telecommutes, which adds an additional layer of professional innovation to

her career path. Google "Carol Bryant dogs" to explore her impact.

When not blogging, reading, or writing about dogs, the Bryant family loves dog-friendly road tripping, binge watching tv shows, and adding outfits to their dog's wardrobe closet. Carol looks forward to elevating the role of the dog blogger during her term with DWAA.

## MAGGIE MARTON

Maggie Marton is an award-winning writer immersed in the pet industry. She earned her MA in narrative nonfiction from The Johns Hopkins University and has written for dozens of publications including National-



Carol Bryant

Geographic.com, Pet Enthusiast Magazine, Bust Magazine, Bloom Magazine, and Pet Age Magazine, and she served as the Director of Content for BlogPaws. She wrote Clicker Dog Training, a how-to dog training book that utilizes positive reinforcement; Authentic Blogging, a guide for pet bloggers who want to attract and retain a larger audience; and The Zero-Waste Pet, an actionable guide for pet owners who want to lessen their impact on the planet. Maggie has spoken about pets at conferences and on radio and television, and she has been profiled in print and online. Her passion project is her blog, Oh My Dog! ([ohmydogblog.com](http://ohmydogblog.com)). Active in animal-welfare, Maggie served on the Board of Directors for the Monroe County Humane Association, and works with her local shelter, and pit bull education and advocacy organizations.

## KRISTIN AVERY

Kristin Avery has been a member of DWAA since 2015, and has been befriending and rescuing homeless dogs, cats, and other animals practically since birth. She received her MFA in Creative Writing and Visual Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2001. Kristin worked in nonprofit fundraising for more than 15 years, before leaving in 2017 to concentrate on her writing and rescue work. She now splits her time between her pet blog, freelance writing in the pet industry, and contract grant writing.

Kristin is proud to have received multiple BlogPaws Nose-to-Nose Pet Blogging and Social Social Media Awards and the Maxwell Medallion from DWAA for humor in 2017. Her blog, My Rescued Life (formerly The Daily Pip) provides resources, inspiration, and humor for animal lovers. More specifically, the site is about sec-

ond chances, rooting for the underdog, and choosing compassion as a lifestyle.

Kristin currently serves on the board of directors of Safe Humane Chicago and volunteers with several local rescues as well as nationally with Best Friends Animal Society. She lives in the Chicago area and shares her home with her husband, 12-year-old daughter, senior Yorkie-poo, two cats, and three mice.

## MARSHA PUGH

I have been the treasurer of DWAA since 2009 and serve on the banquet committee. In addition, I am currently an officer of the Italian Greyhound Club of America and a founding officer of the Mid-Atlantic Italian Greyhound Club of Central Maryland. As an active member, I serve as show chair for specialties, coordinate premium lists with dog show superintendents, and often serve as trophy chair. I am chair of the parent club's By-Laws committee, Specialty Guidelines chair, and Code of Ethics chair.

As a second generation dog person, I have been showing, breeding, and handling dogs since my earliest memories. From 2004 until its recent sale, I wrote a bi-monthly pet care column for *The Italian Greyhound Magazine*, a breed magazine with a long and distinguished history. I contribute to other publications on a freelance basis.

Prior to my retirement, I was the administrator of a multi-million dollar pension fund. Complete office management included reporting to the Dept. of Labor, IRS filings, trial balance accounting and operating under Generally Accepted Accounting Principals (GAAP), the accounting rules used to prepare and report financial statements.

I would appreciate the opportunity of continuing to serve the membership of DWAA. 🐾



Maggie Marton



Kristin Avery



Marsha Pugh

# Where There's a "Will" There's a Way

By **Lisa Begin-Kruysman**

It's hard to believe that National Dog Week enjoyed its 90th observance at the end of this September. In a world where moms and dads get one special day of honor, many people still find it hard to believe the American Dog can have *seven!*

In 2010, I launched a blog sharing my research and fascination with this seven-day celebration devoted to all things dog, and to build a platform for my book-in-progress *Dog's Best Friend: Will Judy, Founder of National Dog Week and Dog World Publisher* (McFarland & Co. - 2014). I believed that anyone who devoted such a great deal of energy and time to making sure every dog got their week deserved an official biography.

The more I learned about Captain Wm. Lewis Judy, the more inspired I became. Lawyer, military veteran, publisher and writer, the man was a natural promoter. With just a pedestal phone and a manual typewriter, Judy wrote love letters to the American canine and their devoted guardians from *Dog World Magazine* Headquarters in Chicago, Illinois. Whether addressing "regular" dog owners or those ensconced in the "Dog Fancy," Judy with his distinct writing style thoughtfully guided them through a multitude of issues and challenges encountered by those in the World of Dogs.

Despite the publication of *Dog's Best Friend*, my blog and a growing Facebook page, many people still aren't aware that this venerable seven-day celebration of dogs exists. Sure, most extol that every week is a

"dog week" but few embrace its official observance - always the last FULL week of September.

But my archival and primary research taught me that the promotion of a week just for dogs has never been easy. "National Dog Week Almost Got by Unnoticed," the *Free Lance-Star* of Fredericksburg, Virginia declared in June 1934. Upset at the prospect of National Dog Week slipping by unobserved, George Berner, a colleague of Judy's, took it upon himself to distribute 25 posters and 1,000 small stickers promoting that year's slogan, "A Dog in Every Home."

Alas, perhaps that enthusiastic slogan was part of the problem. As the Dog Weeks rolled on, Judy himself began to understand that while every dog deserves a good home, not every home is necessarily a good one for a dog.

But Judy always tried his best to enlighten. Today we face many of the same issues he addressed in the 30s and 40s; stray dogs (homeless animals), the quality of "pounds" (shelters), puppy factories (mills) and breed prejudice (Breed Specific Legislation). The "names" of these issues may change, but the challenges remain.



Will Judy

In Judy's poignant *Don't Call a Man a Dog*, published in 1949, his vision for the human-canine bond and the dog's value as a service provider was evident. "Dogs are doctors and psychiatrists as well as teachers," he penned, writing of how patients at veterans hospitals benefitted from dogs as "as companions, as therapeu-

See WILL JUDY pg 9

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*"The cult of dog ownership is founded upon a warm heart, upon consideration for those who can not speak for themselves, upon man's best friend, and in turn, this phrase requires that man be the dog's best friend."*

—Will Judy, 1949

# Dogs with Jobs

Continued from cover

“Frankie makes this building a home. She cares about everybody, whether you’re staff, volunteer or family. The more you love her, the more she gives back,” says nurse Annie Denison, Frankie’s carer. “She’s a friend to the children and their families. They think it’s going to be like a hospital and she makes it not like a hospital. To me, Bear Cottage would feel very empty without a dog in it.”

## VIKING ACCELERANT DETECTION DOG

Viking, a black Labrador, is a “sniffer dog” in the truest sense of the word. His official job title is accelerant detection canine and his powerful nose makes him an invaluable weapon in the fire cause and origin investigation arsenal.

“Everything in a fire leaves a footprint. The dog’s main purpose is to confirm or dismiss the presence of ignitable liquid,” says Station Officer Phil Etienne, who is Viking’s handler. “Everyone thinks their role is only to find, but that’s not always the case. We need to rule out deliberate actions where possible, too. If we have a fatal fire and the dog can rule out the presence of ignitable liquid, the investigation can swing in another direction.”

When Viking locates an accelerant, it’s always a big moment. All the accelerant detection dogs are rewarded with the same thing: playtime with a rolled-up towel and plenty of loud, enthusiastic praise.

Viking is three years old and will keep working with Phil until he’s eight or nine. When he retires, Viking will be adopted by a FRNSW member and Phil will train a new dog.

## CHLOE, JACKSON AND SWAYZE FILM STARS

Loretta Rabbitt doesn’t subscribe to the notion that dogs are hard to work with. After all, she is the owner and trainer of three of the most in-demand dog actors in Australia — and her troupe of performers are always consummate professionals. According to Loretta, the rules of a film set may mean nothing to a canine actor, but his bond with his trainer means everything. “I work very hard on that bond because if it isn’t there you won’t get them to work,” she says.

Music videos, television commercials, short films and even *Australia’s Got Talent* are all in a day’s work for these pooches.

Chloe is getting older and works a little less these days, though she does still appear in television commercials. But Jackson and Swayze are still very popular poodles indeed. “The jobs we want to do more of are the tough ones where they’ve got to do a lot of tricks because they get to use all their skills. It’s always fun to go out and do something where you’re a bit of a star,” Loretta says.

## FIGO GUIDE DOG

Audrey Stone has been legally blind, with limited vision, since birth as a result of macular degeneration. Now 64, she relies on four-legged help to get around her hometown of Brewster, a small village in Upstate New York.

In 2015, she and guide dog Figo were halfway across a local road when a school minibus suddenly turned into the street. As the minibus bore down on them, Audrey was directly in its path.

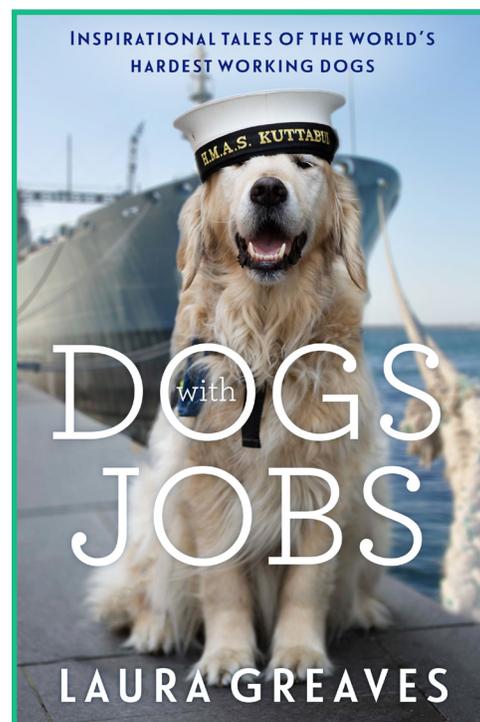
And then Figo’s protective instincts kicked in. In a split second, he broke away from Audrey, threw himself in front of the bus and bit the tyre. Audrey was also hit and knocked unconscious, but Figo took the brunt of the collision.

When she regained consciousness, Audrey was partially pinned under the school bus and with her limited vision she could see tufts of Figo’s fur stuck to the front tyre. She had a broken ankle, a broken elbow and three broken ribs as well as nasty cuts to her head that required stitches.

Incredibly, Figo had survived the impact. Though his broken right front leg was “swinging like a pendulum”, he was right by Audrey’s side — and refused to leave her even after emergency services arrived.

Both Audrey and Figo spent four months in hospital after the accident but were eventually reunited. “Once he came back it was like nothing had ever happened,” she laughs. 🐾

*Dogs with Jobs* by Laura Greaves, published by Penguin Random House on 27 November 2017, RRP A\$35.00.



Meet our

# NEW MEMBERS



Duncan MacVean, D.V.M.

## Duncan MacVean, D.V.M.

Dr. Duncan MacVean, a Sacramento, California, veterinarian, received his D.V.M. from U. C. Davis, and Ph.D. from U. C. Berkeley. His career included jungle wildlife research, consultant to the Malaysian National Zoo and Chicago's Brookfield Zoo, and professorships at two major universities.

*My Patients Like Treats: Tales from a House Call Veterinarian*, his first book, was released May 1, 2018. This memoir of experiences during 27 years of house calls has been described as James Herriot's *All Creatures Great and Small* meets Dr. Camuti's *All My Patients Are Under the Bed*. The book is available in hard cover, e-book, and audio.

## Lisa Richman

My name is Lisa Richman and I live with my husband and our dogs, Molly, Shostakovich, and Tavi. Tavi came home to us shortly after his 7 week birthday. From that very first day, we knew he had stories the world might want to hear, and a smile the world



Lisa Richman

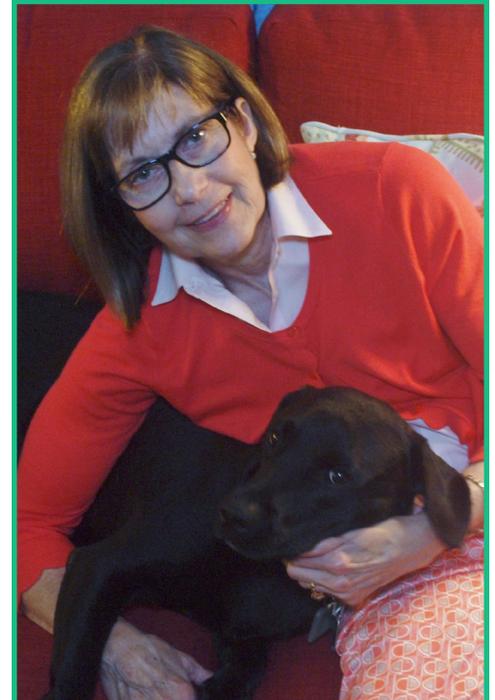
needed to see. I have watched him help people laugh, and think, and even cry. He shares his adventures through his Facebook page and his Tavi Tails blog and, with the encouragement of the wonderful people who follow him, will soon be publishing his first book. It is an honor to be his typist.

## Karin Spicer

Karin Spicer is a columnist for the Cox Media Group, where "Living in your pet's world" is published in *Dayton Daily News*, *Springfield News-Sun* and the *Journal News*.

With her Ph.D. from Ohio University, Karin started her career as a professor. Her numerous academic publications focused on education and frequently were published by the National Communication Association in *Communication Teacher*.

Her children's stories and nonfiction pieces are in international and national



Karin Spicer

publications like *Skipping Stones*, *Hopscotch*, *Cogniz*, and *The Flicker*.

Karin wrote books for Miami Valley Hospital including *Hats Off to Moms*, a story that helps children whose mothers are tackling breast cancer.

## Tom Shelby

Tom Shelby is an expert dog trainer with a specialty in search and rescue dogs. He has four decades of experience with over 800 training appointments a year. Creating harmony between two and four legged friends has given him the satisfaction of helping countless people and dogs. Tom is the author of the soon to be released *Dog Training Diaries – Proven Expert Tips & Tricks to Live in Harmony with Your Dog*



Tom Shelby

(Skyhorse Publishing), *Michelle and Me – True Stories of a Heroic Search and Rescue Dog* (Berkley), and the ASK THE DOGCHARMER column for the *Martha's Vineyard Times*.

Follow Tom on Instagram @dogtrainerdiaries and Twitter @dogtrainerdiary

## NEW MEMBERS

Please share a photo and a bit of background information, so we can get to know you! Please email our editor at [merrie.meyers@gmail.com](mailto:merrie.meyers@gmail.com).

# Will Judy

Continued from pg 6

tic measures.” He informed readers that “The presence and companionship of dogs...has helped patients on their way back to normal thinking and living.” In issues of *Dog World* and his other numerous titles, Judy credited dogs for their role in police work and the military long before it was commonly accepted.

What stood out for me is that Judy, trained for the ministry in his youth, preached that the emotional welfare of dogs was as important as the dog’s physical well-being, something that truly made him a dog enthusiast ahead of his time. He even declared that dogs had souls and went to heaven, something still debated by modern theologians.

Researching his life and body of work has shaped my career as a writer in more ways than I can describe. Did I mention that Judy was the co-founder of the DWAA? (A Special Award is now given in his honor in our annual Writing Competition). Whether I’m creating a blog post, short story or novel-length manuscript, I often conjure up my “Inner-Judy” for inspiration. And when facing the inevitable rejection that the publishing industry brings, I embrace my “Will” power asking “What Would Will Judy Do”? He certainly wouldn’t quit - writing on a daily basis, through negativity and injustice, trying to ensure that every dog - and dog loving human - would get their seven days, and more.

On September 20th, we honored Will Judy on the 127th anniversary of his birth. One has to wonder if he lived and worked today, how he’d use technology and social media to spread his Word of Dog.

Happy Birthday Captain Judy, and Happy 90<sup>th</sup> National Dog Week everyone! 🐾 of *Dog World* and his other numerous titles, Judy credited dogs for their role in police work and the military long before it was commonly accepted.

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Happy Birthday Captain Judy, and Happy 90<sup>th</sup> National Dog Week everyone! 🐾

# NEW RESCUE ANTHOLOGY

## from Major Publisher Features DWAA Members

By **Lisa Begin-Kruysman**

On September 18th, Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group, released a new rescue anthology titled *Second-Chance Dogs: True Stories of the Dogs We Rescue and the Dogs Who Rescue Us*. The book features four DWAA members: President Jen Reeder, Denise Fleck, Susan Willet and myself.

Working under the name of Callie Smith Grant, author Lonnie Hull Dupont says this book is similar to the other five collections she's edited. *Second-Chance Dogs* portrays "rescue" in many different ways; dogs aren't just rescue animals from shelters, but may have rescued a human or another dog.

Lonnie notes, "I want people to feel some happiness after reading these stories – and some sense that sometimes things pull together in a wonderful way. Sometimes in the end, the story is really about the human. That's fine, too."

Some of the anthology's 30 contributors are professional writers with a long list of publications in books and magazines. Some are trying to become

that. "There's something wonderful about getting a *New York Times* best-selling author in my books. But it's equally exciting to provide a writer's first publishing experience," she says. "Although some editing is always necessary, for me, the storyteller needs to be a writer."

Jen Reeder, a Denver-based freelance journalist, attended the Blog-Paws/CWA panel in 2016 in Arizona where she learned of the anthology. When Lonnie invited her to submit an essay, she sent "Gotcha Day" - a piece focusing on Jen's adoption of their family dog, Rio. Reeder says, "Rescuing our Lab mix changed my life. I also love writing essays. I thought it would be fun to see him get coverage in a book."

Reeder's essay highlights the importance of the rescue and rehoming of animals. On the anniversary of Rio's sixth "Gotcha Day" – the day Reeder and her husband brought Rio home – they returned to the shelter, where Jen presented the staff with the Maxwell Medallion she'd received in the DWAA Annual Writing Competition in the cat-

egory of "Best Magazine Article: Rescue." As Jen emotionally recalls, "I told them (and the readers) about his work as a therapy dog and that saving his life made a huge difference to strangers and to my family."

Based in Georgia, award-winning author Denise Fleck, the Pet Safety Crusader™, has taught more than 15,000 animal-lovers to make a difference in the life of an animal through Pet First-Aid, Senior Pet Care and Disaster Preparedness books and classes. She's won three Maxwell Medallions, one for her illustrated children's book *Don't Judge a Book by its Cover*, the first in a series that teaches kids, and reminds adults, not to judge an animal by its age, fur color or breed, but to look beneath the coat to find the treasure inside. Denise also serves as President of the Grey Muzzle Organization (aiding senior dogs) and on the Board of the Emma Zen Foundation (pet oxygen masks).

When an email found its way to Denise, she jumped at the chance to submit "Finding the Way Home," an essay about a stray blonde Shepherd that suddenly appeared one day in her girlhood neighborhood. Despite some familial resistance, Denise prevailed in having Blondie become a beloved family member. In turn, the dog returned her kindness in a very special way. According to Fleck, "It's a story of true blue canine loyalty and love!"

Susan Willet's award-winning original stories, poems, and humor have

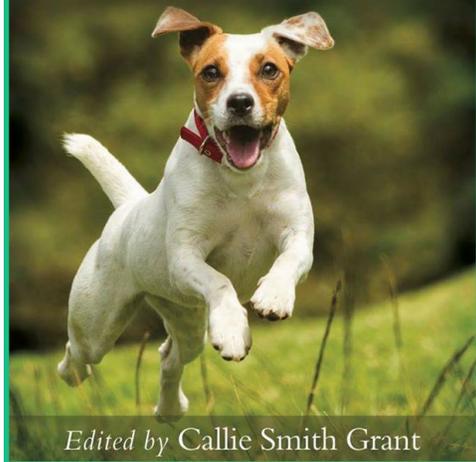
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“ I want people to feel some happiness after reading these stories - and some sense that sometimes things pull together in a wonderful way. Sometimes in the end, the story is really about the human. That's fine, too. ”

—Lonnie Hull Dupont

# Second~Chance DOGS

True Stories of the Dogs We Rescue  
and the Dogs Who Rescue Us



Edited by Callie Smith Grant

appeared in print and online, including her website [LifeWithDogsAndCats.com](http://LifeWithDogsAndCats.com). Based in New Jersey, she shares her home with three dogs and four cats – all rescues.

In 2016 Susan moderated a panel “From Blogger to Author: Getting Paid for Your Words, from Freelance Writer to Book Author” for the Cat Writers’ Association at the BlogPaws pet social media conference in Arizona. Susan recalls, “Lonnie (Callie) was one of the speakers, as was Lisa Begin-Kruysman, both of whom have become good friends and mentors.” The following year, Susan met up with Lonnie at BlogPaws again, and was asked to submit a story for her rescue anthology.

“All of my dogs (and cats, and other animals) were or are rescues. Because I write a lot for my blog, and because I’m currently working on a memoir that features my pets, I have a collection of stories that range from jotted-down ideas to blog posts to chapters. My challenge was to pick just one idea from among the many.” In the end, Susan selected two stories and sent them to Lonnie (Callie). She was thrilled

when she learned both would be included!

“What’s Wrong with Your Dog?” is the inspiring story of a dog disfigured after being hit by a car. “The Sound of Home” is the story of Susan’s rescue dogs Lilah and Jasper and how they came into the Willet household at a time when they needed them most.

Lonnie and I met while serving on a publishing panel at the BlogPaws Conference in Arizona. During a break she mentioned her upcoming anthology and I relayed the moving story of how our dog Teddy entered our lives in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. She asked if I’d be interested in contributing to the anthology. The result was “Surrender,” a story of a dog-blogger who after writing about fostering ended up keeping one of her “subjects”! It’s a story that resonates with many and Lonnie thought it would fit right in. I’m also thrilled to be contributing to her upcoming horse rescue anthology and happy for my fellow DWAA members who join me as contributors to *Second-Chance Dogs*.

As an author and an editor, Lonnie understands that readers never tire of stories of the right person and the right beast meeting for some good reason and that we can’t be fully human sometimes without having those wonderful non-humans to help us. “At Revell, we have a saying: ‘If they cry, they buy.’ And it’s certainly true for me.” 🐾

**Lisa Begin-Kruysman is a New Jersey-based blogger and author. The author of five books, her writer’s platform is inspired by her writing and work on behalf of National Dog Week; an American tradition celebrating 90 Observances in September – established by the Captain Wm. Lewis Judy, co-founder of the DWAA.**

**[Available wherever books and ebooks are sold. Second-Chance Dogs: True Stories of the Dogs We Rescue and the Dogs Who Rescue Us](#)**

## President's Column

Continued from pg 2

**Merrie Meyers** for editing Ruff Drafts, **Lea-Ann Germinder** and the team at Germinder + Associates for publicity efforts on behalf of DWAA, and to our social media guru **Shelley Bueche**, **Dawn Taylor** and **Lisa Begin-Kruysman**.

I’m delighted that we have an incredibly strong slate of officers: **Carol Bryant**, **Maggie Marton** and **Kristin Avery**, and that **Marsha Pugh** has graciously agreed to continue as Treasurer. It’s a lot of work to help keep DWAA evolving to meet the challenges of being a professional in an ever-changing publishing climate. Thank you so much to all of our volunteers, and to everyone who is a member of DWAA! Three cheers for dog writers and everyone whose work educates and inspires the public about man’s best friend! 🐾



# WOOFIE

## The Demo Dog

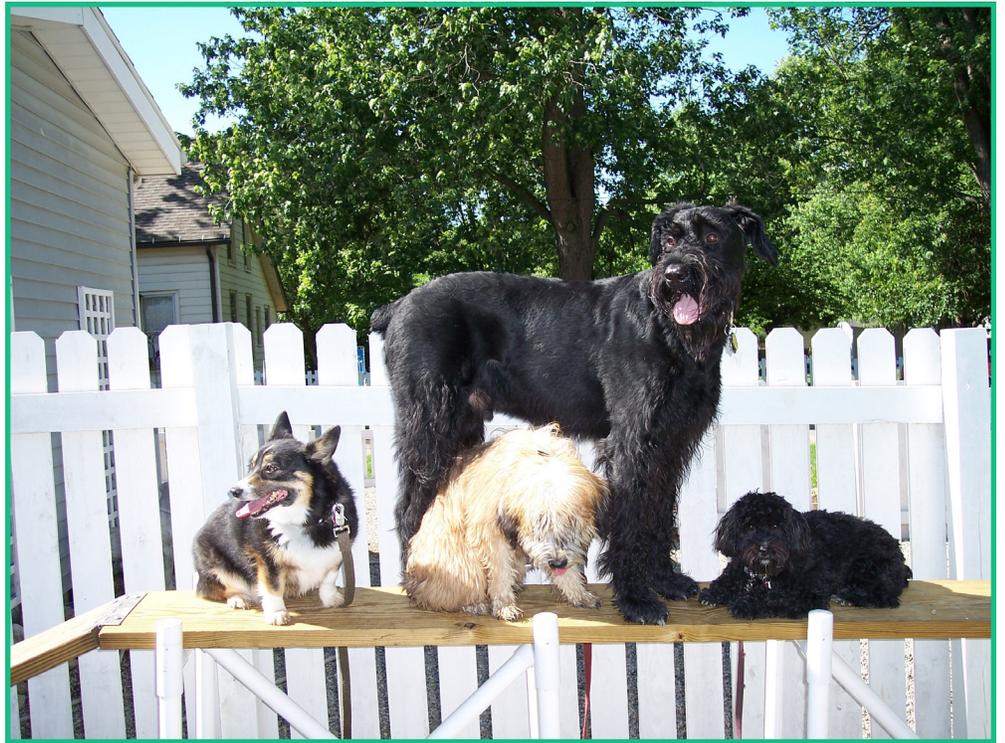


By **Laura Pakis**

Some men and women measure themselves by the work they do. This trait may apply to some of man's best friends too. Many people think dogs care only about food and fun, but those people never met Woofie. He accomplished more in his decade of dog training than some people do in three or four decades of a career. Here are some of the best moments of his career as a working dog.

Claude's Woofgang Pakis was a Giant Schnauzer and, more importantly, a staple in the Central Ohio community. He led parades down Franklin Street, and he sat patiently to read with local school children. Since he was 6 months old, he worked as the Demonstration Dog at Acme Canine alongside me, its owner and founder, Laura Pakis. Before he even grew into his paws, he was teaching fellow dogs and their owners.

It took Woofie several months to understand that I work with dogs. He would intensely smell me and give me a confused look after each lesson. Later, when we started taking in residences, he was jealous that other dogs would spend time in our home. Woofie eventually adjusted, but he always considered himself head honcho.



Even as a young pup, Woofie felt that Acme Canine was his to keep in order. After realizing his position in the Acme pack, Woofie could have easily become the class bully. Instead, he chose to be the peacekeeper, diffusing tense situations before they could get ugly. He was often seen stepping between two snarling parties and making it clear they'd have to go through him first. He basically functioned as another chaperone to watch over the boarding and daycare dogs.

Woofie had some credentials under his belt by age 2. He was certified as a therapy dog and an AKC Canine Good Citizen. He was trained in basic and advanced obedience, search and

rescue, and support work. He made appearances on NBC4 Columbus and Ohio News Network as well as in Acme Canine commercials. He also turned up in *Business First* and *Dog Magazine*.

Woofie's life was full. He put on demonstrations and shows at Huntington Park, WagFest, FidoFest, the New Albany Classic, and many other events. Of course, Acme regulars would recognize him from his business cards or the various paintings and photographs hanging around the facility.

Woofie's work took him through all types of precarious situations like sitting patiently alongside both school children and highly aggressive dogs

*See WOOFIE pg 16*

# Service vs. Emotional Support vs. Therapy

## By Any Name, a Valuable Service

By **Morgan Humphrey**

ASSISTANT EDITOR

It seems like there's always another story about a service dog saving its owner, or how the rules on emotional support dogs are shifting. Many people may struggle to distinguish between the two. Beyond it all, there is yet another type of working dog that many people may be confused about: therapy dogs.

While service dogs provide specific services that help their owners with a disability, and emotional support dogs provide their owners with support for anxiety and other mental illnesses, therapy dogs provide comfort to people other than their handlers. Unlike the previous two, they do not get any special treatment or liberties in visiting public places. However, many places such as nursing homes and hospitals are very open to visiting therapy dogs, as long as the dogs are certified. (For more information of the difference between Animal Assisted Interventions and types of service, visit a national pet therapy website, such as Pet Partners.)

Typically, dogs can begin therapy work upon completion of their Canine Good Citizenship (CGC). However, some organizations, particularly those that involve children or people with special needs, require registration with a certified agency.

Recently, I began training Cedric, my fluffy Pembroke Welsh Corgi, to do therapy work. He has had his CGC for a few years, but he has begun to mellow out in his middle age. He is turning 7 soon, and he follows commands with more

accuracy now that he has matured a bit. He absolutely loves attention of any kind, and is not picky about who gives him that attention. Cedric's even-tempered demeanor led to his serving as a "neutral dog" for testing other dogs. The neutral dog section is a part of several therapy tests, and involves the testing handler and dog approaching a volunteer handler and dog. The handlers converse briefly, and the dog, in order to pass the test, must not insist on meeting the volunteer dog. Cedric is excellent at remaining neutral and not reacting to other dogs or approaching them. I then shadowed my dog trainer, Mary Baker of Lucky Dog Company, for a trip to a nursing home without Cedric. Mary is qualified to certify dogs for Pet Partners, a national therapy dog organization.

Though I didn't have Cedric, the people at the nursing home loved to see pictures of him and learn about my dogs in addition to petting the working therapy dogs there. Next, I signed up to bring him to a session hosted by Mary, where she teaches people about therapy dogs and allows them to interact with them. As this was his first event, Cedric was a bit confused. However, when a family with three little girls approached him, he relaxed against them. He was totally content with interacting with people and sitting near the other working therapy dogs in the room. I was so pleased with how he sat calmly by my feet throughout the rest of the session that we have signed up to visit a nursing home in September. I am extremely excited to start working actively with him this fall! 🐾





## Life in the Fast Lane: My Red Setters

By **Loren Spiotta-DiMare**

"What were you thinking?" my friend asked as we watched Woody run lightning-speed laps along our fence line. I often echoed the same sentiment to myself. Celtic's Woodland Sunrise "Woody" was a Red Setter. Reds are a Field Dog Stud Book (FSDB) and AKC-recognized line of field-bred Irish Setters. Back in the 1950s, some setter folks bred Irish with English Setters to increase their hunting prowess. The cross worked. Descendants of these dogs are exceptional gun dogs. Many Red Setter owners today belong to the National Red Setter Field Trial Club and compete in field trials.

This is probably a good time to mention neither my husband, Lou nor

I hunt. But we are enamored with the sporting breeds, especially spaniels and setters. The consummate bird dog, I particularly enjoyed watching Woody perform the work he was bred for in our two-acre, fenced yard. He ran with the heart and speed of a greyhound. His movements fluid and catlike as he stalked his prey – fortunately never harming anyone.

We selected Wood as a companion for our 10-year-old Field Spaniel, Smokey, who had lost his long-time friend, Chelsea, a Welsh Springer six months prior.

As a boy, Lou admired show-bred Irish Setters. We were both attracted to Reds because of their smaller size and shorter coats. Both types are gorgeous

dogs and have the same frolicking Irish personality. But they are very different in appearance.

As an adult, Woody had the look of an athlete. He stood 22 inches high and weighed a lean 60 pounds. His chestnut coat had just a tinge of feathering on his ears, tail and legs.

It's difficult to describe Woody's high energy and intensity. He chased everything thing that moved from bees to bikes to cars. At the fence, he would twirl in place (I once counted 14 rotations) then propel himself forward in pursuit of the passing vehicle. Garbage truck drivers delighted in encouraging him by honking their horns.

At 5:00 in the evening, if Woody was in the house he would go into over-

drive and race around the family room banking his turns on the couch.

To his credit, Smokey accepted the little red ball of fire and the two easily became friends. But as Smokey entered his early teens, Woody's exuberance became too much. Smoke just couldn't keep up. Woody needed a more agile friend. So Rory, a three-year-old Welsh Springer, joined the family.

Woody was in a huff for about a week but then accepted Rory as his new buddy. It was great to see them hunt the backyard birds together. Woody would stalk as setters do, and Rory would rush in and flush. Smokey contentedly watched the young guys from the deck.

Rory was just an all-around good guy. He was a wonderful companion for both Smokey and Woody. But his presence didn't lessen Woody's intensity. The day that will forever be etched in my memory is the time Woody chased a helicopter. I kid you not. He was on our deck when the chopper flew overhead. Wood jumped off the deck (fortunately it was as only a few inches from the ground), head held high in the air and chased that Big Bird away. I was incredulous and never thought I'd witness that scene again in this lifetime.

While some of Woody's chasing behavior was harmless enough, the car chasing was of great concern. So I enlisted four dog trainers and two animal behaviorists to help me fix the problem. In the end, the best advice I received was "You'll never stop this behavior. Just keep him safe." So Wood was always behind a fence or on leash wearing a head halter.

Over time, Woody became my Heart Dog. He was especially gregarious and loved everyone young and old, human and canine. A trip to the vet was a social outing from his point of view. He

always enjoyed the doggie playdates we hosted for his friends. And he loved to shop. He especially enjoyed exploring the aisles at large pet food chains and was particularly fascinated with the fish on display. He also loved car rides. I could call him off deer by yelling, "We're going in the car."

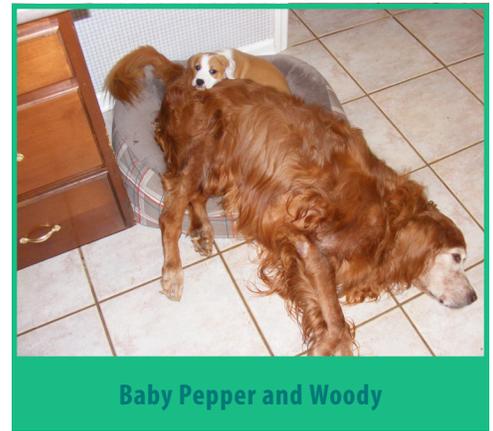
To channel Woody's energy, we enrolled in endless dog training classes: Obedience, Flyball, Agility, Tracking. We tried just about every Performance sport available at the time. Agility was his favorite. If I let him off leash when we entered the enclosed ring, he'd run the course on his own. Woody's motto was, "Let's have Fun, Fun, Fun!" And we did in all of our endeavors.

I remember taking a nap one day with Woody stretched out beside me. He let out a deep contented sigh as he fell asleep. And I thought, "Life doesn't get any better than this."

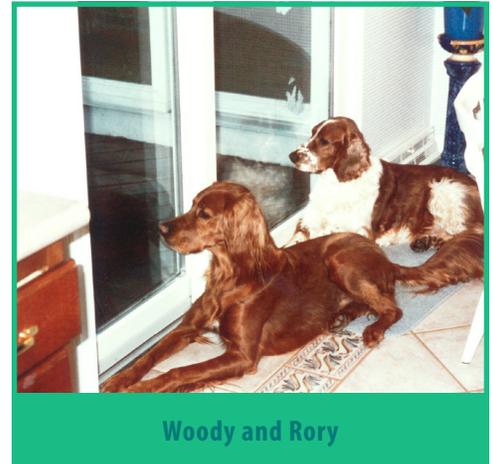
As the years passed, our canine family grew. Woody's new siblings included a Border Collie Mix, Chihuahua mix, Tibetan Spaniel, English Springer, English Cocker, and a hound mix during his twilight years. Pepper, the hound pup, adored Woody and always ran to him for comfort if one of the other dogs in our pack rebuffed her. I think she considered him her Grandpa. In turn, Woody was very gentle with the puppy and enjoyed her company. I think she helped keep him young at heart.

Woody was with us for over 16 years. He left for the Rainbow Bridge in the summer of 2016. Not a day goes by that I don't think about and miss him.

I was in my early 40s when we brought Woody home as a seven-week-old pup. At 60, I didn't think Lou and I could handle another high-energy Irish Setter. But last Fall, I started to rethink the decision. We had a pack now -- plenty of playmates especially Pepper, who was only two. Perhaps we



Baby Pepper and Woody



Woody and Rory

could handle another Irish. Maybe a show-bred this time. An older pup, say four months and a female. I shared my idea with Lou on a Saturday in November, suggesting we might adopt another Irish the following summer. His reply, "I'll consider it."

Monday morning, I received a photo of a four-month-old, female Irish from Lou sent via email. "She's not a show-bred. She's a field-bred I responded." His next message included the puppy's line: Celtic. She was related to Woody. I nearly burst into tears. What were the odds? I'm sure you know where this story is leading. A week later, a cousin and I drove to Pennsylvania and came home with Celtic's Merry Mandolin.

Lou and I adore Mandy. We're not sure how closely related she is to Woody but I like to think of her as his "niece." She has all of Woody's wonderful qualities as well as some of his nutty behaviors. Fortunately, she has

no interest in chasing cars. But she will twirl in place when I walk across the room carrying her food dish.

Celtic Red Setters have been bred with an emphasis on intelligence. Unlike Woody, Mandy is an escape artist. She left our fenced yard four times in four different ways. We were frantic and quickly had an electric fence installed in front of the traditional split rail and wire. Fortunately, Mandy respects it.

Like Woody she lives to chase birds and races after them at warp speed. I've nicknamed her "Flash." Since I work at home, I let the dogs out every three to four hours to play and exercise. Sometimes, Mandy will interact with the other dogs but most often she is streaking around the yard in pursuit of birds. When the rest of the pack tires out, they sit and watch Mandy run her laps.

One of my favorite pastimes is hanging outside with the dogs watching them enjoy themselves. We walk the fence line together or rest in a shady spot. Sometimes they stay by me. Other times they run off on a little adventure and then circle back.

One day a helicopter flew over ahead. I didn't think much of it until the chopper caught Mandy's attention. In seconds, she was chasing after the Biggest Bird she'd ever seen. I couldn't believe it! She and Woody are So Related!!

Mandy celebrated her first birthday in July. So far, we have taken a few obedience classes and a nose work class. No surprise, she did very well especially with nose work. We're about to start our first Agility class. I can't wait. I think Mandy will be a natural – just like her Uncle Woody. 🐾

**Loren Spiotta-DiMare has been a member of the DWAA since the 1980s. In addition to her current pack of seven dogs, she also has a Quarter Horse, four rabbits, a 54-year-old Amazon Parrot, 20 small pet birds and a goldfish pond. "There's certainly no lack of inspiration around here," Loren is fond of saying.**

## Woofie

*Continued from pg 12*

(at different times) simply to help both groups improve their behavior. In reality, it's obvious his dedication was as much to me as to his work.

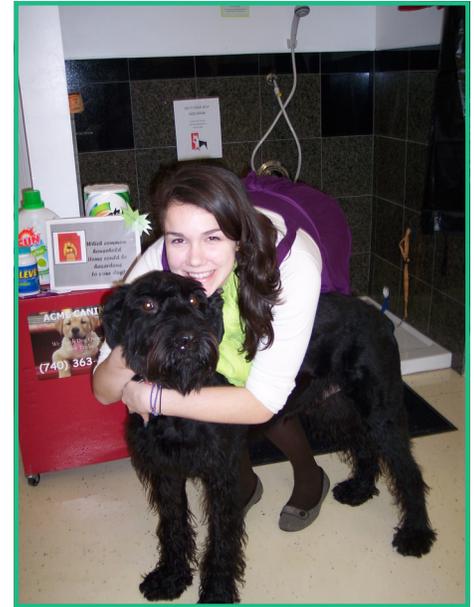
We had a special relationship. It could sometimes get very stressful in certain types of lessons. I could just feel the tension in the air. That's when he would look to me to block out the stress and focus on my confidence in him.

He trusted and respected me at a very high level. I truly felt he understood that when I ask something of him, I was telling him to bypass his instincts and follow through with what was being asked of him. This level of respect is what really set Woofie apart. He was so eager to please that he was willing to risk Downing next to an aggressive dog or letting rambunctious puppies climb all over him, if that's what I asked of him.

When Woofie and I first began Acme Canine in 2004, he would work alongside me seven long days a week. He usually traveled with me, acting as a distraction for excitable dogs. Every once in a while, however, he was forced to wait patiently to inspect all the scents I brought back at the end of the day.

It takes a special dog to handle the demands of performing commands at a high-level day in and day out. It's not only physically demanding, but also mentally stressing.

Despite Woofie's dedication to both me and his work, every dog has their day. He rounded out his first decade and began to slow a bit. Some ailments and close calls made me realize it was time for him to take it easy and just enjoy life as he sees fit.



Woofie enjoyed two years of retirement before crossing the rainbow bridge. He spent years helping countless hundreds of dogs and their families build healthier, happier lives together. In return, he asked for nothing except the love and respect from me and the joy in the act itself. Imagine if more people would live and work the way Woofie has. Now that's a dog's life. 🐾

**Laura Pakis is an experienced Certified Professional Trainer and owner/founder of Acme Canine. Having trained over 5,000 dogs and run a boarding and daycare facility for the past 13 years, Laura focuses her blog, [Spike's Dog Blog by Acme Canine](#), on training knowledge and the care and understanding of dogs.**

**A member of the Dog Writers Association of America, Blog Paws, Women in the Pet Industry and the International Association of Canine Professionals, Laura shares her experience through a variety of social medias and national and local magazines. She is an industry expert to the media and assists dog trainers worldwide with improving their training techniques, people skills, and business knowledge.**

# A Working Dog

## Rosebud, Continuing the Legacy of Sophie

By **Ted Slupik**

AS TOLD BY ROSEBUD

One of the groups of dogs recognized by the AKC is the “working group.” Although this is a somewhat subjective term, working dogs could also include therapy, herding, guard, search and rescue, and comfort dogs. The herding group was once part of the AKC working group up until 1983, when it was separated out into its own group.

I am now a 5-five year- old sable and white rough coated collie and part of the herding group. My name is Rosebud. I am fortunate to be the little sister of Sophie, the best therapy dog ever for over 13 years. As Sophie is now gone, I am continuing her important work and tradition.

One of the things that I get to enjoy doing to going to middle schools to talk to the students about volunteering and helping others through animal assisted therapy work. I have had lots of fun doing this and the kids really like me and look forward to my visits.

I have talked to as many as 250 students at one time and they pay extra close attention to me in class. At the school, we demonstrate and create “virtual visits” with one student pretending to be a patient and another student pretending to be a handler. Usually it ends up being pretty funny, like when we imagine that the patient is in the hospital because of a dog bite. Some of the students were so interested in my therapy work that they came with me as junior handlers to a local nursing home to watch me work as a therapy dog. I have now taught twelve junior handlers.

When my owner first started taking me to schools and talking about me, he told everyone that I was his “C” student and that Sophie was his “A” student. I have worked very hard at getting better in my work and this year the middle school students presented me with an “A+” certificate. I have finally moved up in the rankings!

During these school visits, I also get to visit with handicapped and disabled students with disabilities, which I enjoy very much. I don’t know how, but everyone tells me that I have an extraordinary talent in reaching these special kids.

My beginning was simple. I came from a litter of 8 collie puppies and we all looked the same. Can you tell which one I am?



I tried being a “real” working dog for a while and learned sheep herding. I went with a group of 12 collies to sheep herding class. Three of the collies wouldn’t even get in the ring and three others got in the ring and rolled in the “you know what.” I actually herded the sheep, first with smaller ones and then with the large ones. The trainer said that “I was special” because I was the only collie that could herd both clockwise and counter-clockwise. I got an “A” in sheepherding!

Although I liked herding, my main job is animal assisted therapy work. I perform my job weekly at a local nursing and rehabilitative care facility on Sun-

days. Some Sundays, I work alone and other Sundays I work with my friend, Brody. (More about that story next time.)

I also help teach and train other dogs to be animal assisted therapy dogs. My owner and I have taught and graduated almost 40 dogs from during a one-on-one class during the last 4+ years. Many of our therapy dog students are also senior dogs. I worked with Sadie, a puppy mill dog that was rescued after spending her life in a crate. She had to learn to walk; first on carpet and then on hard surfaces. Then there was Frankie, an abandoned white German Shepard dog who was found with buckshot in his chest. Originally, he was very afraid of people, especially men. He eventually was very sweet and learned to like everyone again. Then there was Bella, a seven year old blind poodle. Being blind did not deter her from becoming a therapy dog. First Bella followed me around by scent, into each room at the nursing home. Then she learned to follow her owner’s voice commands, following her instructions and the sound of her voice to know where to go. Once Bella graduated, most residents scarcely realized that she was blind. Everyone tells me what a great teacher I am after they graduate.

I have had lots of fun working at the nursing home. I still have a ways to go to catch -up with my sister Sophie who, over 13 years, spent over 2,000 hours doing therapy work. Gosh, if I did therapy work every day for an hour and a half for the next four years, I might get there!

The residents at the nursing home that I visit enjoy the holidays the most. I dress up for all the major holidays in-

*See ROSEBUD pg 19*

# A Sixth Sense

By **Barbara E. Magera, M.D., PharmD, MMM**

PUBLISHED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE ROYAL SPANIELS, SPRING 2014 EDITION.

When I look into your eyes, I understand your soul. Just by your presence, I know your character and personality. I feel your sense of joy and disappointment; happiness and anger; courage and fear.

As a member of the canine family, I see what humans cannot. I know your emotions before you speak. I know when disease is smoldering in your body before you know you are sick. Some humans attribute this to my keen sense of scent. But it is more than just sniffing. God gave dogs a "sixth sense". We canines know, I know, when you are teetering on the brink of death. As a comfort companion, I want to be with you during your last moments to make your transition easier. When your time has come, I am the first to see the angels approach.

A 91 year old woman sits in a hospital bed reading her Bible. The rhythmic pulsations of her oxygen tubing soften her faint wheezing. Recurrent pneumonia and lung infections scarred her delicate airways. As a young widow, she worked tirelessly as sole provider for her children. More than 30 years of mill work explains her sense of breathlessness. As I approach, her tired eyes lock onto mine. My presence brings a warm smile as she outstretches her thin arthritic hand to pat my head. "You are so beautiful" she softly whispers. "I am so glad you are here."

Although this lovely woman is very sick, I sense that she will not die tonight. Presently, she is weak but with time her strength will improve and she will enjoy her grandchildren. She is fighting infection that ravages her frail body but I sense she is in no immediate danger. When I leave her bedside, I hope her busy family will visit her. She yearns to see at least one of her six married children. A short visit with one of them would surely lift her spirits and accelerate her healing.

A 62 year man lies in an ICU bed. Tubes hang from every orifice. Alarms sound but no one rushes to his bedside. I see the letters DNR written over his hospital bed. Visitors immediately outside his room are holding hands and praying. They are red faced, sobbing and scared. I sense these are his close family members. They are God-fearing country folks who don't understand what is happening. They pray for a miracle. They are too frightened to return to his bedside. Swelling and bro-

ken skin grotesquely distort his body. Someone asks that I go into his room. Compassionate hands place me on his bed. His fingers gently touch my fur. Through swollen eyelids, his squinting eyes stare at my face. I am grateful to be the only living being he sees before he dies.

A 14 year old girl sits in a wheelchair flaying her arms with no purposeful movement. Her head bobs from side to side. Drool pours from her mouth. "I don't know what she wants" her caretaker shouts in frustration. I sit quietly in front of her and listen. I comprehend her thick and garbled speech. What I hear is a soft voice that speaks with clarity and perfect enunciation. She says "I am a beautiful person trapped inside an ugly and broken body. I am a human being who wants to be loved. Please help me." I immediately rush to her side. My eyes are wide and shining as I extend my head to her eye level. A shimmer of hope adorns her face. She moves her tremulous hand towards me. I raise my head high to touch her fingertips.

I love my work as a therapy Cavalier. I treasure my moments with the sick. My role is to comfort and assist them. I exist for them. Each patient is special to me. If I could speak to humans, this is my message: "Cherish each day of your life. Live each day with meaning and thankfulness. Be kind to each other for you don't know when illness may besiege you and your family. Spend time with the sick because your presence gives them hope and courage as they struggle through adversity. Know that I love them all." 🐾

**Barbara E. Magera, M.D., PharmD, MMM (Caracaleeb) is a Cavalier fancier who lives and practices medicine in Charleston, SC.**





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## Roxie

By Janice Biniok



*If you're going to scold me, I would prefer a shorter word count...*

## Rosebud

*Continued from pg 17*

cluding St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, which makes everyone I meet smile. Looking forward to participating, the residents invite visiting family members to enjoy us dogs too. For any children who may feel a bit uncomfortable visiting relatives in a nursing home, seeing us dogs in fun costumes is comforting. Over the years, I have developed a special connection with these people.

I love my work. I get to see so many happy and smiling faces when I greet them. Most of my dog friends that come with me also instinctively know how to live life to the fullest every day. I try to teach this to whomever I meet. My goal is to be an incredible impactful therapy dog that achieves something few can say they did; bringing joy, hope and warmth to people without uttering a single word. My owner tells me that "every dog that visits is special and every day is a gift"! 🐾