

The Caring Canine Chronicle

Volume 1, Issue 2

July 2001

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Delta Society Proposes Changes

In an effort to improve the standards for testing therapy dog/handler teams, Delta Society has carefully reviewed its Pet Partner Skills and Aptitude Tests.

New testing procedures will be implemented in the fall in order to ensure consistency and fairness of the tests. Some of the tests may be omitted and others may change.

Another change in the works pertains to equipment that may be used during the test.

Slip collars (such as the "choke" or "training" collar) of any kind will be prohibited. Head collars such as the Halti, Promise Collar, or Gentle Leader will be permitted. Martingale collars made of cloth will be allowed. Flexi Leashes are prohibited.

Keep these changes in mind when you are preparing to recertify.

Exact details of these changes will be available late summer or



early fall.

Contact Shari Sternberger for more details at that time or to register for the screening October 20, 2001.

Shari can be reached at 301-854-0403 or shatzy@aol.com.

Volunteer Picnic

NCTD will hold its annual volunteer picnic at 3:00pm July 29 at Marlene Truesdell's house.

All volunteers, spouses, children, and dogs are

welcome to attend. It promises to be lots of fun with food, games, agility, and lots of friends!

If you plan to come, please RSVP to Mi-

chelle Cohen by email at therapybeagles@cablespeed.com or 301-776-4742 with the number of people attending and what dish you would like to bring to share.

Volunteer Appreciation Night A Success

If you weren't able to make it, you missed a lot of fun at the Volunteer Appreciation Night at NIH on March 26th.

Volunteers were recognized for their years of service with awards such as pins, tote bags, and mugs.

Facility staff were also recognized and awarded t-shirts.

Marlene Truesdell baked a cake that was shaped like and decorated as a therapy dog. Every-

one enjoyed that, and a lot of other goodies, too.

We watched the news clip of Linda Solano's partner Willow winning the AKC ACE award for Therapy Dog.

Linda presented the organization with the award check she received from the AKC. Thank you, Linda!

Check out the pictures Mark Cohen took that night on the Website, www.nctdinc.org,

under the Photo Gallery.

Thank you Holly Parker for setting everything up for us.

And a big "Thank You" to all volunteers for your hard work and dedication to our organization!

Where would we be without all of our wonderful volunteers?

Taylor Manor Program Expands

Taylor Manor is expanding its program. They are adding new units for teams to visit. They would also like to go from one visit to two visits per month.

More teams will be needed on a regular basis in order to meet the needs of the facility.

If you aren't familiar with Taylor Manor, it is a psychiatric facility for adolescents. It is located in Ellicott City, Maryland.

The regular visits are the second Wednesday of every month. The schedule for the additional visit is yet to be determined.

If you are interested, please call the facility coordinator, Harriet Meyers at 410-381-4755 for more details.

You will need to observe one visit without your dog before you begin visiting.

New Brochures Coming Soon!

Marketing Solutions, Unlimited; a graphic design company; graciously provided National Capital Therapy Dogs, Inc. with free design work on a new brochure.

Thanks to the hard work of the

graphic designer's intern, we are ready to go to print!

In the next month or so, the materials will be printed and distributed.

We are always ready for new teams to join, so give a business card out whenever you meet someone that might be interested in joining. Or, ask your vet or favorite pet store to display our brochure!

Off Lead Program

The Board of Directors has instituted a policy for Off-Lead work which states that all off-lead work will be done by teams that have passed an off-leash test and will be done under the direct supervision of a therapist for goal-oriented intervention.

Minimum qualifications for a team to test are as follows:
One year of active visiting as a Delta Pet Partner Team with National Capital Therapy Dogs.
A minimum of six visits at the facility where the team will be

working off leash in animal assisted therapy.

The facilities that qualify to participate in the pilot program are National Institutes of Health, IvyMount School and Roland Park Assisted Living.

All teams are expected to visit on a regular basis, keep written records, and meet on a regular basis with the health care professional supervising their animal-assisted therapy work and the training director.

General requirements for the testing: team should be able to perform skills from PPST section of the Pet Partners test with dog off lead. In addition dog must demonstrate a stop during recall and other off lead skills.

These are the only circumstances in which off-lead work will be allowed.

To register to test or for more information, call Linda Solano at 410-547-8035 or email mycitydogs@aol.com.

Beltsville Community Center Update

For those that visit at Beltsville Community Center, there will be no visits during July or August. The children are off for the summer. The fall schedule will be determined in August.

The Maryland Parks and Planning Commission is considering relocating the program in the fall

to another location near College Park. Additional sites are also a possibility and we would need additional volunteers.

If the location is changed, a site evaluation will be conducted to determine if we can continue to visit with this program.

The facility coordinator, Michelle Cohen, will keep in contact with the staff coordinator and keep volunteers up to date as to the latest information.

Call Michelle at 301-776-4742 or email therapybeagles@cablespeed.com with any questions.

Updated Volunteer Roster

Included with this newsletter, you will find an updated volunteer roster.

It has pertinent information such as volunteer's names, addresses, email addresses, phone numbers,

partner's names, and which facilities the teams visit. You will find it useful in keeping in touch with other volunteers.

Please take a moment and verify your information.

If your information is not accurate, please call Michelle Cohen at 301-776-4742 or email therapybeagles@cablespeed.com so that it can be corrected in our files and in the next distribution of the roster.

NCTD now has its very own
Phone Number!
301-585-NCTD (6283)

NCTD, Inc.
P.O. Box 234
Highland, MD 20777
<http://www.nctdinc.org>
info@nctdinc.org



We're on the Web!
www.nctdinc.org

Notes:

- ✓ NCTD sells lots of NCTD Gear at cost. Items include denim shirts, polos, tees, and sweats. Contact Michelle Cohen at by phone at 301-776-4742 or email therapybeagles@cablespeed.com for details.
- ✓ If you need to be **recertified**, please call Shari Sternberger at 301-854-0403 or email shatzy@aol.com.
- ✓ Remember to check your information in the roster!
- ✓ Mark your calendar for Volunteer Picnic on July 29th at 3:00pm at Marlene Truesdell's house.
- ✓ If you have not attended an Open Floor, please mark your calendar for the next session on June 30th at Florence Bain Senior Center. Please contact Linda Solano for more information at 410-547-8035. (*One open floor session per year is mandatory to visit NCTD facilities*).
- ✓ **Have you hugged your dog today?**

Condolances

Losing any pet, especially a Pet Partner, is a terribly sad time.

Our hearts go out to:

Shari and Wayne Sternberger in Highland, MD. They lost their english setter, Merlin.

Mark and Michelle Cohen in Laurel, MD. They lost their beagle, Daisy.

Barbara White in Rockville, MD. She lost Maggie, her black lab.

Welcome

Getting a new puppy is an exciting adventure. We welcome the following prospective Pet Partner's:

Shari and Wayne Sternberger recently got Haley, an english setter puppy.

Mark and Michelle Cohen brought home Brady, a beagle puppy.

Good luck!

Congratulations!

The following teams became Pet Partners:

Shelly Amsden and "Pete"

Wayne Britt and "Bruno"

Debra Ekman and "Jake"

Danielle Frum and "Cobber"

Allison Hickey and "Jesse"

Fran Paradise and "Riley"

Stephanie Partridge and "Connor"