

# The Caring Canine Chronicle

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## From the Leader of the Pack

by Marlene Truesdell

The last two years as President have flown by, and I have learned a great deal about the Delta Society, NCTD, visiting with my Pet Partners, Bianca and Claire, and working with volunteers and facilities.

This group is making a wonderful and significant contribution and I am proud to be part of it.

Over the last two years we have increased our number of facilities and volunteers, re-instituted continuing education through open floors, created a beautiful new web site, established a central NCTD phone number, started the tradition of an Annual Picnic, and taken

a higher profile in the community through school programs, news articles, and community involvement.

How do we measure our success? Ralph Waldo Emerson once said ... "To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. That is to have succeeded."

I would like to thank all of our teams for their unselfish and generous gift of time and talent. I truly believe we have succeeded!

My husband read this letter and said it sounded like a good-bye...not on your life! However, it is a step-out-of-the-way to let someone else lead us in

the next generation of progress for NCTD. In this organization we have amazing talents for leadership that I will follow with pleasure and enthusiasm.

NCTD is maturing and now needs a shared responsibility across the organization which will allow for more personal attention in many areas.

Over the next month we will be restructuring our leadership to diversify our responsibilities and tasks. This will keep us viable and growing in a compelling and changing community.



## NCTD Implements New Delta Test



On Saturday, November 3, NCTD ran the new Delta Society Pet Partners Test for the first time. A total of ten teams were tested.

Evaluators commented that the test ran smoother

and had a better flow. The new scoresheet received mixed reviews. The teams being evaluated seemed comfortable with the test as well.

There will be a demonstration of the new test at

the Open Floor/Holiday Party at Florence Bain Senior Center Saturday, December 1st.

Check the website in a few weeks for next year's testing dates.

## NCTD Answers The Call For Help



In response to the attacks of September 11th in New York and at the Pentagon, NCTD has established a relationship with the American Red Cross to bring our teams to the National ARC Hotline Center, temporarily located in Fairfax, Virginia.

Our time there is spent relieving the stress and loneliness of those patient Red Cross volunteers who normally sit hunched over computer screens for hours on end channeling people to the correct information and helping people throughout the nation.

Calls from around the nation are routed through this office. It is a huge, dark warehouse-like building (old furniture store) without windows, and rows upon rows of computers manned by hundreds of caring and dedicated volunteers from around the nation.

It may not be as incredible or as visible as ground zero but the welcome we are receiving is warm, appreciative and overwhelming. We are supplying volunteers as long as visits are needed.

Although in Virginia, the place is easy to find, there is plenty of parking and is an easy visit for a novice team.

A warm thank you to the NCTD volunteers who are already signed up and visiting.

If you are interested in volunteering, please call Marlene Truesdell at 301-854-6231 for more information. Visits are between 10:00am and 4:00pm seven days a week.

## NCTD Begins Visiting at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital

This past summer NCTD began visiting at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital. The facility is located in Rockville, MD.

Currently, two teams are visiting. That's adequate for now, but more may be needed in the future.

The Adventist Center for Children at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital encompasses a 25 bed pediatric facility and a 5 bed pediatric intensive care unit. The units serve children with a variety of medical diagnosis.

If you would like more information on visiting at Shady Grove

Adventist Hospital, please call Marlene Truesdell (301-854-6231) or email [marlenerdh@aol.com](mailto:marlenerdh@aol.com).

The visits are scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month.



## Open Floor and Holiday Party

Mark your calendars for the Open Floor and Holiday Party scheduled for December 1st. It will be from 9:00am-2:00pm at the Florence Bain Senior Center in Columbia, MD.

The Open Floor is from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Remember, atten-

dance is mandatory at a minimum of one open floor per year to visit an NCTD facility. Come and practice your skills and meet the newest volunteers!

The Holiday Party will begin at 12:00pm and go until 2:00pm. There will be plenty of food,



friends, and (most importantly) fun!

Call Linda Solano (410) 547-8035 for more information.

## Governor Glendening Praises NCTD

Here is an excerpt from a letter that Maryland Governor Parris Glendening sent to the organization in recognition of our service to the community...

"I truly appreciate the on-going work of this organization as well as your dedication and commitment to improve and enrich the quality of life of thousands of Maryland residents..."

These animals work in physical, occupational, and psychological rehabilitation and visit many pa-

tients in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, mental health facilities and hospices to bring joy and a sense of belonging.

I am pleased to recognize the great service of these wonderful animals that enrich the lives of many of residents not only of our great State, but also through out the United States.

On behalf of all Marylanders, I thank...the National Capital Therapy Dogs, Inc. for your efforts to make a positive difference in the

lives of others. Please accept my best wishes for continued happiness in the years ahead."



## NCTD Community Outreach

NCTD has been out in the community letting people know just how wonderful we are! Here are a few events our volunteers have participated in:

- NIH Take Your Child to Work Day, May 2001 in Bethesda, MD

- Opening Day for Paradise Animal Hospital, September 2001 in Catonsville, MD
- Potomac Day Parade, October 2001
- Small Business Association Combined Federal Campaign Event, October 2001

- National Security Agency Combined Federal Campaign, October 2001
- National Youth Leadership Forum

Thank you to all the volunteers who took extra time of their busy schedules to staff these events and help make them successful!

## Volunteer Picnic a "Howlin' Good Time"

NCTD Volunteers and their dogs kicked up their heels (and paws) for a little fun at the picnic in September at the Truesdell's home in Woodbine, MD.

Activities included Burton Goldstein and MG demonstrating and teaching agility events.

Also, plenty of play time for the dogs and puppies.

Humans had plenty of grilled chicken, chips, salads and sodas while the canines enjoyed wiener-bobbing.

Thanks to Marlene for organizing

and hosting the volunteer picnic.



## National Capital Therapy Dogs, Inc.

P.O. Box 234

Highland, MD 20777

Website: <http://www.nctdinc.org>

E-Mail: [info@nctdinc.org](mailto:info@nctdinc.org)

Phone: 301-585-NCTD (6283)



*We're on the Web!*  
[www.nctdinc.org](http://www.nctdinc.org)

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- ✓ **NIH and Sibley need more volunteers.** Please contact the facility coordinator if you can help.
- ✓ NCTD Gear is available to volunteers at cost. Items include denim shirts, polos, tees, and sweats. Contact Michelle Cohen at by phone at 301-776-4742 or by email at [therapybeagles@cablespeed.com](mailto:therapybeagles@cablespeed.com) for details.
- ✓ If you need to be **recertified**, please call Shari Sternberger at 301-854-0403 or email [shatzy@aol.com](mailto:shatzy@aol.com).
- ✓ Remember to check your information in the roster! Contact Michelle Cohen at 301-776-4742 or [therapybeagles@cablespeed.com](mailto:therapybeagles@cablespeed.com) for corrections/updates.
- ✓ Mark your calendar for the **Open Floor and Holiday Party** on December 1, 2001 the Florence Bain Senior Center in Columbia, MD from 9:00am –2:00pm.
- ✓ Check the website regularly for updated schedule information.
- ✓ **Have you hugged your dog today?**

## **Condolances**

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

Our hearts go out to:

Pam and Shona Slaughter for the loss of their partner, Daisy (Golden Retriever)

Rosemary Bennett and Leona Karolewics for the loss of Sebastian (English Setter)

Sally Eller for the loss of her partner, Zephie (Standard Poodle)

## **Congratulations**

Rosemary Bennett would like to announce that Angel whelped a beautiful litter of 5 puppies, and they are keeping 2.

Lisa Connolly-Bailey had a baby girl, Arianna, over Labor Day. (How appropriate!)

Linda Solano would like to announce Jessie is "engaged" and will be bred in the beginning of the year.

Burton Goldstein and MG received their Companion Dog and Novice Agility degrees.

Linda Solano and Willow received the Turtle Award from the Continental Whippet Association. Willow also received her AKC Field Championship.

## **New Volunteers**

Darin Brown and Holly (Miniature Dachsund)

Catherine Carey and Promenade (Papillion mix)

Carrie Chan and Scooby (Great Dane)

Rhonda Kumm and Taja (Whippet)

Nancy McClear and Max (Golden Retriever)

Benj Nathan and Harleigh (Golden Retriever)

Gary Pettitt and Bailey (Schnauzer)

Julie Rosenthal and Lucy (Polish Lowland Sheepdog)