



THE CARING CANINE CHRONICLE

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Good Luck Marlene and Bart

By Mark Cohen, NCTD President

When Marlene and Bart Truesdell first passed their team screenings with their laborador retrievers, Claire and Bianca, nobody knew at the time just how much difference they would make to NCTD over the 6 years they'd work with us.

Marlene and Bart, along with Claire and Bianca, were a big hit with their clients at numerous NCTD facilities. But Marlene was not satisfied just being a visiting team. She quickly decided that she wanted to help other volunteers, both in the Baltimore/Washington D.C. area, and throughout the nation.

Marlene became a Delta Pet Partners evaluator and helped NCTD evaluate hundreds of therapy animal teams. She later became an evaluator instructor—teaching potential evaluators how to evaluate therapy

animal teams.

Marlene also took over as NCTD President a few years after she started visiting with NCTD. During this time,



Marlene and Bart Truesdell at their Farewell Party

NCTD grew steadily both in numbers of volunteers and in reputation.

When I first found out that Marlene and Bart planned to move to Smith Mountain

Lake, Virginia, I told them that they didn't have my permission. Unfortunately Marlene and Bart already made their decision.

We had a great turnout for Marlene and Bart's farewell party at Dutch's Daughter restaurant in Frederick, Maryland. It was a big surprise for Marlene! (Bart helped us set up the surprise.) Thank you Julie for setting up and coordinating the farewell!

It was great working with both Marlene and Bart. I'm so proud to have worked with them and I know we'll miss Marlene, Bart, Claire, and Bianca. Best wishes to them as they enjoy your retirement and hopefully continue visiting with Claire and Bianca!

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Fall Training and Screening Schedule

The summer is almost over and soon it's time to start gearing up for the fall schedule of training and screening for new teams.

We are asking for volunteers to assist with these events. Please check your schedules and call the appropriate contact if you can help. Thanks in advance!

Important Dates:

Pet Partners Handler Training. Sept. 6. 9am-2pm. Ellicott City Senior Center. Contact Michelle Cohen by email at michelle@nctdinc.org.

Therapy Dog Training Saturdays Sept-Oct. 9-10:30am. East Columbia Library. Contact Julie Rosenthal (julie@nctdinc.org).

Pet Partners Team Screening. Oct. 25. 8:30am. Ellicott City Senior Center. Contact Harriet Meyers (harriet@nctdinc.org).

Also, if you know anyone who may be interested in volunteering with NCTD, now would be a good time to tell them about our fall schedule!

Fall Open Floor

The next open floor will be held on **November 8, 2003** at the Ellicott Senior Center at 9401 Frederick Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21042. It will begin at 8:30am for new volunteer teams and 10:00am for experienced volunteers. The session should end by 2:00pm.

Refreshments will be served. As always, there will also be games, prizes, and lots of fun!

We will continue issuing NCTD Photo Identification. This should be worn on the animal's harness, replacing the current "NCTD Please Touch" tag. (You must continue to keep your Pet Partners ID badge on your animal's harness or in your bag.)

If you do not have an NCTD Photo ID

yet, you have not attended an Open Floor this year! Come prepared with your current Pet Partner® ID so your ID# and expiration date can be included on your new tag. Also, we will be taking pictures, so prepare accordingly. These will be renewed every two years.



Robin Kirk presenting at the June 7, 2003 Open Floor

Whenever your Delta Tags are due, your NCTD tag will need to be renewed as well. You must attend one Open Floor per year and will still receive an updated sticker for your NCTD ID.

More information on specific topics or speakers will follow.

We have re-stocked collars and leads so if you have not received an NCTD collar and you have had 5 visits at an NCTD facility, you can claim your NCTD collar at the Open Floor.

If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Training, Linda Solano at linda@nctdinc.org or 410-547-8035.

Canine-Assisted Reading Education (CARE)SM Program

National Capital Therapy Dogs Canine-Assisted Reading Education (CARE) program aims to improve children's reading levels by having children read aloud to therapy dogs.

Dogs don't laugh at or correct children. Dogs create a safe, non-threatening environment for reading. As a result, children gain confidence in their reading ability and improve their skills. This is done at a one team/one child ratio.

NCTD worked with two schools during the 2002-2003 school year with great success. One child was featured in a local paper, The Laurel Leader! Check out www.nctdinc.org for the article text and picture.

Many new opportunities are available for the 2003-2004 school year. NCTD is also considering offering specific training for this program.



If you are interested in volunteering in a CARE program, please contact Margo Bechtel at margo@nctdinc.org or Michelle Cohen at michelle@nctdinc.org

2003 Board of Directors Update

Since Marlene Truesdell has moved and retired from the NCTD Board of Directors, we have a big void to fill! With all that she contributed, we will miss her greatly.

We are pleased, though, to welcome a very experienced volunteer who accepted our invitation to join the Board of Directors—Harriet Meyers.



Harriet Meyers and Wave

Harriet has been with NCTD for over 10 years with her partner Wave. Harriet and Wave visit Shepherd Pratt at Ellicott City (formerly Taylor Manor) and coordinate our program there.

She has been a willing helper at many NCTD events and will bring a lot of knowledge and experience to her new position as Director of Delta Relations.



NCTD Picnic a Rip Roarin' Good Time

This year's picnic in July was a real success:

- Great food
- We had a record turnout
- The weather was perfect
- There were no fights (and the dogs were well behaved, too!)
- Lots of fun!

Aside from the annual wiener-bobbing tradition, we also had an agility course and an instructor to teach our teams how to be safe and have fun with agility!

Thanks Marlene and Bart for arranging everything and hosting the party! We have always appreciated your generosity and hospitality.

Pictures are now on the website from the picnic, so get surfing on the net! If you would like to get any copies of pictures on the web site, contact Mark Cohen at mark@nctdinc.org and he can print or e-mail a high-resolution picture to you.



Barbara Murgo and Ross



Michelle Cohen and Brady



Volunteers enjoying good friends and food.

NCTD Films Video

NCTD recently embarked on a new outreach project—the creation of an NCTD video.

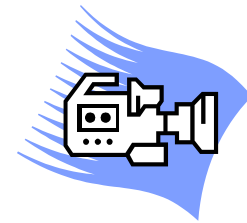
The video will be geared towards several audiences—potential volunteers, potential facilities, and potential contributors/sponsors.

Rosemary Bennett, our Director of Public Relations, is coordinating this project using her knowledge and experience in this subject.

Many of you have participated in or have somehow been involved in the creation of this video, and many thanks for your cooperation and help!

Most of the filming has been completed at this time and at the present is being edited for production.

Look for more updates on the status of the video soon! How/when it will be distributed is still being determined.



If you have any questions, contact our director of public relations, Rosemary Bennett, at rosemary@nctdinc.org.

Facility News

Roland Park Assisted Living (Baltimore, MD) needs a coordinator and volunteers for evening or day visits. Staff is very supportive and helpful. AAT goals are worked towards and achieved. A final schedule has not been established yet, but weekends are a possibility. Please contact Michelle Cohen at michelle@nctdinc.org if you are interested or can help.

Holy Cross Hospital needs volunteers. Please contact Rosemary Bennett at rosemary@nctdinc.org if you can help. Visits are monthly on the last Wednesday in the evening.

Chevy Chase House needs volunteers. This is a caring assisted living facility in Washington, DC. Visits are second and 4th Tuesdays of the month in the evening. Please contact Rosemary Bennett at rose-

mary@nctdinc.org if you can help.

Copper Ridge is a new facility that NCTD has screened and would like to start visiting. This is an assisted living facility in located in Eldersburg, MD. A final schedule has not been established yet. Please contact Julie Rosenthal at julie@nctdinc.org if you are interested.



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P.O. Box 234
Highland, MD 20777
Web site: www.nctdinc.org
E-Mail: info@nctdinc.org
Phone: 301-585-NCTD (6283)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ✓ **Roland Park, Chevy Chase House, and Holy Cross need more volunteers.** Please contact the respective facility coordinator if you can help.
- ✓ NCTD Gear is available to volunteers at cost. Items include denim shirts, polos, tees, and sweats. View our complete inventory at www.nctdinc.org. Contact Margo Bechtel (margo@nctdinc.org) to place an order.
- ✓ If you and your animal need to be **re-screened**, please contact Margo Bechtel margo@nctdinc.org to register for next screening on October 25, 2003.
- ✓ Remember to check your information in the roster! Contact Michelle Cohen at 301-776-4742 or michelle@nctdinc.org for corrections/updates.
- ✓ Check the website www.nctdinc.org regularly for updated schedule information. Click on the Current Volunteer Information button today.
- ✓ **Have you hugged your Pet Partner today?**

Did You Know...?

- Current volunteers have a special section of the website devoted to providing the most current information
- NCTD has a new reading program called CARE (page 2 for more details)
- NCTD has **new** shirts—contact Margo Bechtel at margo@nctdinc.org for more information. Check them out on the website under NCTD Gear

Pet Partners In-Training



Emma

4 1/2 Yr. Old Golden Retriever
Partner: Barbara Hals



Spring

1 yr old Golden Retriever
Partner: Pam Slaughter