



Critter Chronicle

November '16

Editor: Nancy Ketchie, Secretary
Final Edits: Sheila Gurwitz, Director, Animal Records
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Welcome to the monthly newsletter for actively visiting Caring Critters Volunteers. The purpose of this newsletter is to update you on news, changes and other information critical to your participation in Caring Critters. If you are interested in sharing pet related information with other volunteers, please join our Caring Critters Yahoo Group by contacting Lisa Spencer at lspencer@gt.rr.com. Also check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CaringCritters> and our Facebook group page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CaringCrittersgroup/>! For more information - contact Lisa.

CARING CRITTERS GAINS ANOTHER AKC THERAPY DOG EXCELLENT

By Pat Wild

Willie, a British black Labrador and a Caring Critter since 2004, has been awarded the AKC Therapy Dog Excellent title (THDX) for 200 hours of documented visits. The Institute of Rehabilitation and Research, UT Memorial Hermann Greater Heights, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Krause Children's Center, and the SPCA are facilities where Willie completed most of his qualifying service.



I confess that the award was more about me wanting bragging rights for my dog than it was about Willie wanting anything other than cuddles from patients and a good fetching

game at TIRR and Memorial Hermann Greater Heights. So, I'll brag a little: Willie is such a joy. He's kind and gentle and just plain happy. His tail thumps on the mat at TIRR whenever someone just thinks about petting him.

But AKC Therapy Dog titles are also good for *Caring Critters*, breeders, and shelters. They are good for *Caring Critters* because they keep our organization at the forefront of the AKC, the country's leading organization on "all things dog". The AKC came to the therapy dog party late. When they finally recognized the contribution that therapy dogs were making, the AKC looked to organizations like *Caring Critters* for guidance for recognition guidelines and requirements for titles. We want to maintain at the forefront of therapy dog knowledge, testing, and certification. Too many organizations will jump on the bandwagon without the careful vetting that the AKC appreciates from organizations like *Caring Critters*.

Responsible breeders like their puppies to achieve AKC recognition because it underscores the quality of their breeding programs and discourages back yard breeding. Perhaps most important impact that an AKC Therapy Dog title can have is on helping shelter dogs find good homes. When the shelters like SPCA and BARC can show that some of their dogs achieve AKC recognition as therapy dogs, it shows that shelter dogs can be kind and sweet and can make good pets and companions.

If you'd like to get your dog an AKC Therapy Dog title, our secretary, Nancy Ketchie, can verify your dog's service hours and provide all the information the AKC requires. When your dog receives an AKC Therapy Dog title, consider letting the shelter, rescue dog organization, or breeder know about your dog. It will promote quality therapy dog organizations like *Caring Critters* and may just help a nice dog land a forever home.

Donovan - Animal-Assisted Therapy Dog

By Margaret Finelt

Donovan was a scared little pup who never left his kennel when he originally arrived at Marcie's house, his foster mom, in March 2013. Marcie felt it was best for Donovan to go to a quieter foster home and Kayla and Cong were kind enough to foster him.

We adopted Donovan on May 25, 2013, which happens to be our wedding anniversary from DREAM Rescue. Kayla and Cong came over one night for dinner, shortly after we got Donovan and they helped us to take Donovan outside in our backyard for him to do his business. This is when Donovan realized that our backyard was "safe".

A suggestion that Kayla and Cong had since we do not have a doggie door was to put bells out that hang from the door handle. This way when Donovan has to go out he can let us know by ringing his bells. They had been working with him on this at their house. This was a great idea.

Donovan continued to be scared of different things and to be honest we did not know how to handle it. I decided to find a positive based trainer and I found one, Pat Cox, in Bellville, TX. She was a God send. She also has become a great friend. Pat would show us how to work with Donovan with his fears as it appeared he had not been socialized when he was a puppy.

One of the break throughs for Donovan that helped build his confidence was learning to go through a dog tunnel. Initially, he was very scared. Pat would put treats out in front of the tunnel and in the tunnel and finally one day he went through the tunnel. Now, he loves tunnels.

We took him through training where he learned to have fun. He even has been a demo dog in some of her training classes. We kept working with Donovan with his fears. We decided to have Donovan temperament tested with a local animal-assisted therapy program, Caring Critters. If he passed the testing he would be working on a team with other therapy animals visiting hospitals, nursing homes, or other facilities.

We were thrilled when he passed his temperament test. He will be visiting a local hospital that our dog, Wesley, also a Caring Critter, visits at. What is so exciting to us is that Donovan is paying it forward. He will be bringing joy and love to others at the local hospital, like DREAM did for him and does every day for the other DREAM dogs.

Editor's note: Donovan just passed his Canine Good Citizenship test and has an AKC CGC title.

POLICY TIP OF THE MONTH

Recently one of our team leaders was out and about and ran into a member who was wearing her Caring Critters t-shirt even though she was not on her way to or from a visit. Remember - our t-shirts are our uniforms and should only be worn on visits. So, please, don't wear your CC t-shirt if you aren't out on CC business. And please don't give old CC t-shirt to charity organizations. No telling where they might end up!

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Do you ever fly with your pets through Denver International Airport? If so - check out the following information we received by email from Daris Serna, Communications Specialist at DEN.

I wanted to share some happy and important information for those who travel with pets through Denver International Airport (DEN). DEN has completed construction of three new "pet relief areas," conveniently located at the center of each of our concourses: A, B and C.

We know that many of our passengers travel with service animals or beloved pets, and we're sure opening these relief rooms on the concourses will provide a comfortable and welcoming area to take care of business before or after a flight.

Each of the rooms feature artificial turf flooring, with a drainage system and an artificial rock. Because owners are asked to clean up afterward, bags and disposal containers are also provided. The design of the rooms allow for a sanitary environment by making cleaning easy and efficient. The rooms include a wall-mounted sink, recessed soap dispenser, automatic hand dryer and paper towel dispenser. To bring the outdoors in, each room features a wall mural, showcasing Colorado's great outdoors.

And we still have our pre-security, outdoor pet relief area, located just outside door 200 on the west side of the Jeppesen Terminal. All pet relief areas are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Will you please help spread the word amongst pet lovers everywhere? We want them to know DEN cares about them and their furry friends. Here is the information on our [website](#), and [photos](#) and [news release](#).

FACILITY NEWS HAPPY HALLOWEEN

TIRR - Morning and Evening

Contributed by Nancy Ketchie

Halloween is always great fun at TIRR.

Some of the morning therapy team in costume (left to right): Janice Murphy and Peanut (AKA Tarzan), Pat Wild and Willie (the alligator), Nancy Ketchie and Ender (BeetleJuice), and Miquel Correll and Sandy (the jester). Busy getting flu shots were Diane Cook and Walter, Pat Busbee and Krypto, and busy fetching - Lyn Ivanowicz and Indie.



The evening TIRR team included (left to right): Howard Schultz & Cooper (the tiger), Cindy Patton & Sassy (the Princess), Hankje deHaes-Rodriguez & Chica, Cathy Jolly & Zoey, Joan Johnson & Polly, Convicts Lisa & Anthony White & Lexi, and Phillip Dee (AKA Dracula) & Woody (the skeleton)



CINCO RANCH

Contributed by Sheila Gurwitz

Rosie Cummings and Barney Gurwitz waiting their turn.



ROYAL OAKS (MANORCARE - WEST HOUSTON)

Contributed by Judy Wagner

Left to right: Judy Wagner & Teddy, Laura Hogue & Bradley, Anne Schoenewolf & Dixie, David Paul & Crosby, Brenna Glover & Nala



HO! HO! HO!... GOBBLE! GOBBLE!

As the holidays approach, don't forget to celebrate the season and bring a little holiday spirit to your clients by dressing up your pets and yourselves for your November and December Caring Critters visits. And e-mail us copies of your team's holiday photos for the newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Quarterly Meeting

The next quarterly meeting will be on Monday, November 14th, 7:30 pm, at T.H. Rogers. T-shirts and new pet photo ID badges will be available for pick-up by team leaders. All members are welcome; all team leaders are required to attend or to send a representative. While this is primarily a business meeting, feel free to come and learn more about how Caring Critters works.

OVERDUE VET FORMS

By Sheila Gurwitz

As of the end of October, the following vet forms are overdue. If you and your pet are listed, but you have already submitted an updated form; please contact Sheila to make sure she received the form. If you have not yet submitted your updated form, please do so immediately. Remember, **the rabies vaccination anniversary date is the DUE date for updating vet forms**, not the date when the form was completed or received.

If you have questions or need a blank form - contact Sheila at 281-463-3172, sheila.gurwitz@att.net. **Be sure to keep a copy of your vet form for yourself before mailing it in.**

Late Vet Forms: These forms are more than **30** days overdue. Team leaders, please follow-up with listed volunteers to ensure their annual vet records are brought up to date immediately.

		<u>LAST VET FORM DATE</u>	<u>RABIES VAC DATE</u>
David Paul	Crosby	07/15	09/13 (3)

Pets on Probation: These pets must immediately be withdrawn from visits pending the update of their annual vet records:

		<u>LAST VET FORM DATE</u>	<u>RABIES VAC DATE</u>
Cynthia Oualline	Louie	07/15	08/13 (3)

Retired

Kaaren Beale's Sadie became a Caring Critter in September 2015 and Toby became a Caring Critter in September 2009.

Belle Hick's Audrey became a Caring Critter in April 2016.

Mark & Robin Schier's Angus became a Caring Critter in September 2015 and Malcolm became a Caring Critter in September 2015.

Melina Thakoor's Dexter became a Caring Critter in September 2015.

Pets Gone to Heaven

Katy Casey's Tux Murphy became a Caring Critter in October 2011.

Laura Kress' Lucy became a Caring Critter in April 2014.

NOTE: Pets that have been out of the program (not visited) for more than 12 months must be temperament tested again. The next available Temperament Test will be in April 2017.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Contributed by Edens Houston, Treasurer

Unearned Income:

AmazonSmile - The AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to Caring Critters, but you need to use this Caring Critters specific link to access and shop at AmazonSmile: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/76-0334268>.

Randalls Good Neighbor Program:

To sign-up for the Randalls Good Neighbor Program - Ask Randall's to enter **code 1765** on your Randall's card account, and Caring Critters will receive a donation of 1% of the total purchase each time you use your Randall's card.

PET HUMOR

[Editor's note: In the spirit of the holiday season, we couldn't resist rerunning this article from our December 2005 Critter Chronicle. The member who contributed it is no longer with us.]

The Joys of Thanksgiving - A Funny Dog Story

For those of you who have dogs, or don't ever want to.... This is absolutely hysterical! I have no clue who wrote this, but it is the funniest story I have read in a LONG time. Fortunately this is not my story...

We have a fox terrier by the name of Jasper. He came to us in the summer of 2001 from the fox terrier rescue program. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this type of adoption, imagine taking in a 10 year old child whom you know nothing about and committing to doing your best to be a good parent. Like the child, the dog came with his own idiosyncrasies. He will only sleep on the bed, on top of the covers, nuzzled as close to my face as he can get without actually performing a French kiss on me. Lest you think this is a bad case of no discipline, I should tell you that Perry and I tried every means to break him of this habit including locking him in a separate bedroom for several nights. The new door cost over \$200.

But I digress. Five weeks ago we began remodeling our house. Although the cost of the project is downright obnoxious, it was 20 years overdue. AND it got me out of cooking Thanksgiving for family, extended family and a lot of drunk friends that I like more than family most of the time. I was however assigned the task of

preparing 144 of my famous yeast dinner rolls for the two Thanksgiving feasts we did attend. I am still cursing the electrician for getting the new oven hooked up so quickly. It was the only appliance in the whole damn house that worked, thus the assignment.

I made the decision to cook the rolls on Wednesday evening and to reheat on Thursday morning. Since the kitchen was freshly painted you can imagine the odor. Not wanting the rolls to smell like Sherwin Williams latex paint #586, I put the rolls on baking sheets and set them in the living room to rise for 5 hours. After 3 hours, Perry and I decided to go out to eat, returning in about an hour.

An hour later the rolls were ready to go in the oven. It was 8:30 pm. When I went to the living room to retrieve the pans, much to my shock one whole pan of 12 rolls was empty. I called out to Jasper and my worst nightmare became a reality. He literally wobbled over to me. He looked like a combination of the Pillsbury dough boy and the Michelin Tire man wrapped up in fur. He groaned when he walked. I swear even his cheeks were bloated.

I ran to the phone and called our vet. After a few seconds of uproarious laughter, he told me the dog would probably be OK. However, I needed to give him Pepto Bismol every 2 hours for the rest of the night. God only knows why I thought a dog would like Pepto Bismol any more than my kids did when they were sick. Suffice to say that by the time we went to bed the dog was black, white, and pink. He was so bloated we had to lift him onto the bed for the night.

Naively thinking the dog would be all better by morning was very stupid on my part. We arose at 7:30 and, as we always do first thing, put the dogs out to relieve themselves. Well, the damn dog was as drunk as a sailor on his first leave. He was running into walls, falling flat on his butt, and most of the time when he was walking his front half was going one direction and the other half was either dragging the floor or headed 90 degrees in another direction. He couldn't lift his leg to pee, so he would just walk and pee at the same time. When he ran down the small incline in our back yard he couldn't stop himself and nearly ended up running into the fence. His pupils were dilated and he was as dizzy as a loon.

I endured another few seconds of laughter from the vet (second call within 12 hours) before he explained that the yeast had fermented in his belly and that he was indeed drunk. He assured me that, not unlike most binges we humans go

through, it would wear off after about 4 or 5 hours and to keep giving him Pepto Bismol. Afraid to leave him by himself in the house, Perry and I loaded him up and took him with us to my sister's house for the first Thanksgiving meal of the day. My sister lives outside of Muskogee on a ranch, (10 to 15 minute drive).

Rolls firmly secured in the trunk (144 less 12) and drunk dog leaning from the back seat onto the console of the car between Perry and me, we took off. Now I know you probably don't believe that dogs burp. But believe me when I say that after eating a tray of risen unbaked yeast rolls, DOGS WILL BURP. These burps were pure Old Charter. They would have matched or beat any smell in a drunk tank at the police station. But that's not the worst of it. Now he was beginning to fart and they smelled like baked rolls. God strike me dead if I am not telling the truth! We endured this for the entire trip to Karee's, thankful she didn't live any further away than she did.

Once Jasper was firmly placed in her garage with the door locked, we finally sat down to enjoy our first Thanksgiving meal of the day. The dog was the topic of conversation all morning long and everyone made trips to the garage to witness my drunk dog, each returning with a tale of Jasper's latest endeavor to walk without running into something.

Of course, as the old adage goes, "what goes in must come out" and Jasper was no exception. Granted if it had been me that had eaten 12 risen, unbaked yeast rolls, you might as well have put a concrete block up my ass, but alas a dog's digestive system is quite different from yours or mine. I discovered this was a mixed blessing when we prepared to leave Karee's house. Having discovered his "packages" on the garage floor, we loaded him up in the car so we could hose down the floor. This was another naive decision on our part. The blast of water from the hose hit the poop on the floor and the poop on the floor withstood the blast from the hose. It was like Portland cement beginning to set up and cure. We finally managed to scoop it up with a shovel. I (obviously no one else was going to offer their services) had to get on my hands and knees with a coarse brush to get the remnants off of the floor. And as if this wasn't degrading enough, the damn dog in his drunken state had walked through the poop and left paw prints all over the garage floor that had to be brushed too.

Well, by this time the dog was sobering up nicely so we took him home and dropped him off before we left for our second Thanksgiving dinner at Perry's sister's

house. I am happy to report that as of today (Monday) the dog is back to normal both in size and temperament. He has had a bath and is no longer tricolor. None the worse for wear I presume. I am also happy to report that just this evening I found 2 risen unbaked yeast rolls hidden just inside my closet door. It appears he must have come to his senses after eating 10 of them but decided hiding 2 of them for later would not be a bad idea. If any of you have a suggestion as to how I can remove unbaked dough from carpeting, I would certainly appreciate your feedback...

MEMBERS BULLETIN BOARD:

Do you have something you'd like to share with other Caring Critters members? Just drop us an email - and check this section each month.

Great Free Driving App

by Sheila Gurwitz

Waze is a great free driving app that I've now been using for several months now. It will show you traffic jams, cars pulled off the road, police in the vicinity, places to eat, and you name it. This is useful for your commutes to Caring Critters visits, work, or even while driving on vacation. I love that it continually updates your estimated arrival time and will re-route you to avoid accidents. I hope you check it out.

New Product for Keeping Pet Teeth Clean

Posted by Les Farrington

ProDen Plaque Off Animal for Dogs and Cats - One of the Cavalier Rescue USA members posted the following about a product for removing plaque and tartar from one's critter's teeth. Don't know whether this has been brought to Caring Critters volunteers' attention. Not to be administered to pets with hyperthyroidism. http://www.vetuk.co.uk/pet-dental-care-proden-plaque-off-c-11_833/proden-plaque-off-animal-for-dogs-and-cats-p-298

Dog Food Recall

Posted by Nancy Ketchie

From the Dog Food Advisor, October 7, 2016

Mars Petcare has announced it is voluntarily recalling limited lots of its Cesar dog food products due to **potential choking risk** from small pieces of plastic that entered the food during production.

To learn which products are affected, please visit the following link:
[Cesar Dog Food Recall of October 2016](#)

COMMENTS

Thanks to all the volunteers who contribute articles and ideas to the newsletter. If you have any articles, comments, suggestions, or news you want to include in future issues of the newsletter, please send them to Nancy Ketchie, Attn: Caring Critters Newsletter, 1219 Indian Autumn Trace, Houston, Texas 77062-2062 or email to caringcritters@pdq.net.

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