



**April 2009
NEWSLETTER**

**AGM ALERT
Mark Your Calendars !**

**2009 OTD Annual General
Meeting**

**Tuesday May 26
7-9 pm**

**Ottawa Paramedic Service
Headquarters**
2465 Don Reid Drive
the same venue as last year.

In addition to the usual important business (finances, reports, awards), **Dr. Lynn Morgan**, of the Pretoria Pet Hospital and veterinary specialist on CBC's Ottawa Today call in program, will be our guest speaker. Details to be available soon.

Come and meet your colleagues.

Wanted!

**Writers,
Editors for OTD
Communications**

Lisa, our newsletter editor, is on maternity leave. If you have good writing skills and are comfortable doing basic layout (using Microsoft Word would be fine), maybe you would be interested in trying your hand for the next two issues – June 30 and September 30. (flexible).

Or maybe you'd like to try your hand at developing some of the web pages.

The communications committee would be happy to support you in this as to policy, content and past issues.

Please write Claire at communications@ottawatherapydog

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Carole Eldridge

Are any of you finding that time is now moving so quickly that each month feels like a week? I find the thought that our 2009 AGM will be taking place in just over a month (May 26th) amazing. Where has the year gone?

The Board and Committees have been very busy in the past four months:

- Our new and reformatted website will be on line by April 15, 2009 – please check it out
- The Evaluation Committee completed its pilot of the evaluation process for the READ program, and also updated the evaluation process for the Therapy Dog program. In addition:
 - 14 therapy handlers and dogs will be evaluated late March and early April.
 - Another Orientation is scheduled for April 27th with subsequent Evaluations in May.
 - From now on, Orientations and Evaluations will be scheduled a year in advance to allow for all to better plan their involvement.
- READ is expanding its school base to 7 schools.
- The Social Committee developed a plan for member engagement – thank you to Karine Langley who hosted a gathering at her home on Feb 28th.
- OTD now has a Facebook group presence – why not join us?
- We will be moving forward with our ‘telephone tree’ to ensure more direct contact with members.
- Handler and Facility Feedback forms have been drafted. Thank you to those who completed your Handler Feedback forms with your membership renewals – the information has been very helpful in planning our next steps. Facility Feedback Forms will be with you shortly.
- Creative fund raising options are in play.
- We have increased our public profile through presentations and attendance at community activities – thank you to those members who were able to assist with the Volunteer Marketplace.

I thank all of you who were involved in these activities. Your contribution is invaluable.

Plans for the AGM are well underway. We hope to share some new training options and volunteer opportunities as we all meet in person. Please mark the date of Tuesday May 26th (7-9 pm) in your calendars. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Lynn Morgan of the Pretoria Pet Hospital. Those of you who are CBC listeners will know her as the CBC’s Vet of choice for call-ins on pet behaviours. Lynn’s presentation will also include time for your questions.

See you all on the 26th!

OTD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carole Eldridge, Chair (chair@ottawatherapydogs.ca)
Susan Roberts, Vice Chair (vicechair@ottawatherapydogs.ca)
Pat Finn, Secretary (secretary@ottawatherapydogs.ca)
Tanya Mackin, Treasurer (treasurer@ottawatherapydogs.ca)
Margot Montgomery, Director (director2@ottawatherapydogs.ca)
Joan Allum, Director (director@ottawatherapydogs.ca)

Kate Miller

Since taking on this job as part time administrator for OTD in May 2008, I have talked to and e-mailed most of our members, new and old. The common thread running through many of our conversations was that people felt a little bit disconnected from other members and the board, especially since Marilyn's sad passing.

A few of us got our heads together and came up with a plan to get our members talking to one another. We hope that this will encourage a feeling of community amongst us, hopefully sharing experiences and stories of our volunteer work and beloved dogs.

It gets lonely out there sometimes!

We also hope that by opening up the communication "highway" we can facilitate and encourage discussion of any issues or problems that you, the members, might experience in your day to day volunteering.

Phone Tree.

We divided the 2009 member list into "teams" of 5-6 people with a Captain responsible for periodically calling their team members.

The phone tree will be used to send out "key messages" about OTD that will help answer questions about our organization. For example, how many times have you been asked, "What is Ottawa Therapy Dogs?"

(Here is an example of a key Message: OTD teams consist of a handler and their pet dog. We visit.....facilities, we have.....teams, we provide comfort.....to people in need. Etc)

And in the "just wanted you to know' category, we will tell members about upcoming newsletters (let us know if you aren't receiving them!!), important meetings such as the annual AGM, Fund raising events, social gatherings and....

If you would like to be a Phone Captain, please e-mail Kate at admin@ottawatherapydogs.ca

A Buddy System

For new members and their mentors!

Once new members are placed in their facility we don't want them to feel isolated and out of touch. So we have asked their Mentor 1 or 2 to 'adopt" them and keep in touch informally for at least the first year with OTD.

New members and buddies just seem to flow out of a natural connection between two people. For example, Joan mentored Shelley and Kasco for their first visits at Richmond Lodge last spring and are now good friends. Donna helped Jill and Bennie get started at Rosenthal Services this fall (OCAPDD) and talk frequently.

It seems to be working!

Why Should We Do This For Our Pups?

Carole Eldridge

I have told you stories about my beloved Sufur – the Therapy Dog bar none. He died far too young a year ago from Oesophageal cancer.

I also told you about the new rescue I was investigating. His original name was Rufus. That would be “SUFUR” backwards. How could I not take this as a good sign?

Yes, he had a major challenge – he was heartworm positive – Class 1. Then again, was described as a pup who loved the world and was afraid of nothing. I reviewed the treatment options with my vet, Dr. Lynn Morgan, and made the decision to adopt him. How bad could it be?

April 29th – PandaRu (nee Rufus) is given Round 1 of Immiticide into his right lumbar muscle. A Fentanyl patch is placed on his back (to give pain relief for the next 5 days). He stays at the vet’s for the day to be monitored to ensure there are no serious side effects.

April 30th – Round 2 – this time into his left lumbar muscle. Again – a stay at the vet’s for the day. He is in much pain – an additional pain drug is prescribed – that one is to be taken every 24 hours for the next 8-days.

May 1st at home – the day degenerates.

- By 11am I have an emergency call into the vet’s. PandaRu’s breathing is challenged – the major thing to worry about as the heartworms die and pass from the heart into the lungs is pulmonary embolism. Is this what I am seeing? Breathing seems to improve.
- By 2pm I have a pup that is in so much pain that whatever part of him I touch – he shrieks. I am supposed to severely limit his exercise but he seems to want to pee, so I let him into the garden. And then, he is in so much pain that he can’t walk back to the house (we are not talking about a large garden here). I go to gently lift him – another shriek. Now what? I am supposed to ensure that he is not stressed because that could increase the chances of a pulmonary embolism.



- 3pm – I can finally give him the next pain pill. By this point I have a pup in the house. He is standing and seemingly in so much pain in his legs that he would prefer to stand rather than lie down on the pillow options.
- I check the side effects of Immiticide – he has too many of the options. Again, I begin to panic.
- PandaRu has an ABSOLUTELY AMAZING VET. Her wonderful Tech calls. We talk and she alleviates many of my fears. Then – you have to know – even though it is a significant Birthday Celebration, Lynn calls to see how things are going. How many of you have this connection with your vet?

Trust me – you do not want to go through this day with your beloved pet.

May 2nd - Drugs are in play. PandaRu is better – he has finally eaten after 24 hours and not shared the meal with me in an altered form. I can begin to relax.

It took until late November 08 for the heartworm to be clear. Yes, that was almost 7-months of worry, concern, and much crossing of fingers. Dr. Morgan is now an expert on the permutations and combinations of that dreaded diagnosis – Heartworm.

It is that time of year to think about heartworm prevention. Please consider this option seriously.

Kate Miller

On Feb. 11th many happy shoppers at St. Laurent Plaza stopped to visit our OTD display and unexpectedly received on the spot "dog therapy". The purpose of the volunteer fair was to advertise and promote local charities and our dogs (and OTD volunteer members) stole the show. We did have some competition from a neighbouring CNIB guide puppy group - this just added to the fun.

A team of 11 OTD handlers and their dogs (including myself and Bro) rotated during the day on two hour shifts. Our volunteers, Margot and Jazz; Michelle and Pebbles; Georgia and Spring; Natalie and Caleb; Claire and Max; Karine and Bubba; Pearl and Maggie; Nyam and Calypso; Cathy and Gus; Bud and Maggie were fantastic; all on time, organized and informative.



Nyam and Calypso

Our table was extremely busy, particularly at noon hour, and we talked to more than 250 people over the course of the day.

People were very interested in OTD and the work we do. Our members handed out brochures, flyers and our new bookmark which was really popular with kids and their families. The OTD donation box collected over \$50.

Karine (with Bubba) was interviewed by "A" channel. The interview was broadcast that day on the 6pm news and the next morning on the 6am show.



Claire, May, Natalie, Caleb and Bro



Georgia, Spring and Bro



Karine, Bubba, Cathy, Gus and Bro

All in all, a very successful and fun day for everyone who volunteered for OTD.

I thank each and every one of you and your fabulous dog!



Therapeutic Paws of Canada would like to extend an invitation to Ottawa Therapy members to attend their upcoming educational seminar.

Date: Sat. May 2nd, 2009
Time: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Location: Annunciation of the Lord Parish - 2414 Ogilvie Rd. Ottawa
Cost: \$40.00 - includes breaks and lunch

Seminar will include the following presenters:

Laureen Osborne, Master Groomer and Dogs In Canada columnist will offer advice on how to properly groom your dog for a pet visit and how good grooming can assist you in detecting any physical changes in your pet. Copies of "The Pet Owners Guide to Dog Grooming" will be available for sale.

Catherine Lane, Dip. CFN well known consultant for Canine Fitness and Nutrition will provide suggestions on how you can improve your dog's nutrition by providing home cooked diets or by adding supplements to their daily diet.

Shannon Brownrigg of Algonquin College will present on First Aid for your pet. She will offer suggestions of what you can do in an emergency situation with your pet.

Dr. Eddy Beltran, DVM will speak about alternative medicine for companion animals.

Nancy Trus Ottawa East Team Leader will demo fun and entertaining tricks to teach your dog.

Information: dian.mctaggart@sympatico.ca

Registration: Cheque or Money Order enclosed with total payable to:
Therapeutic Paws of Canada to: Dian McTaggart, Therapeutic Paws of Canada, 77
Tiverton Dr., Nepean On, K2E 6L9

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Our revamped website will be up after April 15, 2009

www.ottawatherapydogs.ca

"The dog represents all that is best in man." (*Etienne Charlet*)



Lily completed April 3 evaluation

Johanne & Maki
 Diane & Hockey
 Joan & Cobber
 Kevin & Cobber
 Nancy & Paddy
 Mary Jane & Lily
 Sandra & Xecel
 Chantal & Prudence
 Jill & Bennie
 Claudia & Jazz

Claire & Max
 Shirley & Abby
 Janice & Azor
 Chantal & Tundra
 Joanne & Bianca
 Ellie & P.D.
 Carole & PandaRu
 Chantel & Jake
 Jeannie & Myron

Thank you!

Thanks to all who helped at the March 20 and April 3 Evaluations.

Volunteers: Brenda, Chloe and friends, John, Joan, Eric and sons, Darlene, Carole, Frances, Kate

Evaluators: Jeanie, Catherine, Susan and Ann

Facilities: Frances of The Training Hall, Kim Cooper of Best Friends School of Dog Training.

"FUR IN THE FAMILY"

A "dog inspired" retail healthy pet food store and an Ottawa area photojournalist who specializes in family and pet photography are joining forces to put forth a "Fur in the Family" photo shoot on two Saturdays in May.

The proceeds are going to a worthy canine charitable organization, and that just happens to be Ottawa Therapy Dogs!

Fur in the Family photos:

The idea and theme for the photo shoot is that *if you have a dog in your life, then you are never alone--he/she is family. So, why not a family photo?*

Group photos of people with their dog(s) will be offered.

The plan is to provide a lovely red velvet couch that folks and fur can gather round combined with a cement wall background that will create a funky atmosphere as a setting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: please wait for more "Fur in the Family" information on our web site and through our Phone Tree. (see article "Keeping in Touch")

Six Ottawa Therapy Dogs teams gathered together on Saturday, February 7th, to work on member web pages for the OTD website. While their humans focused on writing skills, the dogs lounged around and got to know one another. Check out the members' pages at www.ottawatherapydogs.ca after April 15 and see the results.



Pictured here are: Bella, the Bergamasco sheepdog, and Teresa; Tobie, the collie, and Claire; Azor, the cross, and Janice; Bro, the golden retriever, and Kate; Gogo, the miniature dachshund, and Karen; and Kasco, the greyhound, and Shelley.

Chantel and Chelsea were our founding R.E.A.D. team. Chelsea is starting to show her age so Chantel has now teamed up with Lola. They have just started visiting Lord Aylmer School in Aylmer. Chantel has forwarded the following two letters that she received from the classroom teacher.
R.E.A.D. teams are a treasure!



March 13, 2009.

Chantel,

Lola's introductory visit today was a very positive thing that happened in our classroom. The students were very excited to meet Lola and they behaved with respect towards her.

They really were curious about her and asked some very thoughtful questions. I sense that they all would love to have the opportunity to read with Lola and the manner in which it was handled (as a draw) was an excellent way to deal with that. I am sure that Lola will visit the whole class from time to time and the students will appreciate that. In regards to the 3 students who will participate, this morning's visit only validated that they are indeed excellent choices. Lola really brought out enthusiasm and spark in these children which I have not witnessed up to this point. I am really looking forward to seeing them blossom as classroom members and readers while participating in this program. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in allowing us the privilege of being a part of this. The students were talking about Lola for the rest of the day and I'm sure they will still be talking about her with their families this evening.

Until next week,

Lee-Ann Stencill

March 15, 2009

Hi Chantel,

*In regards to your visit in our classroom there was also another very positive outcome. Sarah, a very physically small girl in our classroom was in tears when I was explaining to the class about Lola's visit. I asked her why and she told us that she had been bitten twice by big dogs and she didn't want Lola to come. We assured her that Lola was specially trained to be around kids and would not hurt her, however, if she chose she could leave the room for the visit or sit at the very back, far away from the dog. She chose to stay in the back and watch from a distance. The aide in my classroom sat with her and told her to listen to her body and when she felt safe she could move closer if she desired to do so. By the middle of the session she was sitting front row and Lola would inch forward just a bit to lick her hand. She pulled away the first time and then we told her that Lola could sense that she was afraid and it was her way of saying "don't be afraid of me I won't hurt you". By the end of the session she was practically hanging off of Lola and hugging and kissing her good-bye. What a transformation! Lola can only be a very positive influence in our classroom. Can't wait for her next visit!
Thank you,*

Lee-Ann Stencill

Since you never know when an accident will happen, keeping a pet emergency kit at your home is a good idea. A smaller kit could be used in the car. You can put a first aid kit together yourself and buy the items separately, or buy one ready-made. If you make one yourself, use a small plastic tub with a tight fitting lid to store the following items:

Important Phone Numbers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Veterinary clinic phone number and directions to the clinic• Emergency clinic phone number and directions• Poison control center phone numbers	Bandaging Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Square gauze of various sizes - some sterile• Non-stick pads• First aid tape - both paper (easily comes off of skin) and adhesive types• Bandage rolls - gauze and Vetwrap• Band-Aids (for humans)
Equipment and Supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muzzle, or roll of gauze for making a muzzle• Magnifying glass• Scissors• Tweezers• Nail clippers and metal nail file• Styptic powder or sticks, Kwik Stop, or cornstarch• Penlight• Nylon slip leash• Eye dropper or oral syringe• Cotton swabs• Cotton balls• Clean towels - cloth and paper• Rectal thermometer• Lubricant such as mineral oil or KY Jelly (without spermicide)• Disposable gloves• Syringes of various sizes• Needle-nose pliers or hemostats• Grease-cutting dish soap• Bitter Apple or other product to discourage licking• Pet carrier• Towel or blanket to use as a stretcher, another to keep your dog warm during transport (some pharmacies and camping outlets carry a thermal blanket)• Cold packs and heat packs (wrap in towel before using)• Stethoscope	Nutritional Support <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rehydrating solution such as Gatorade or Pedialyte• Nutritional supplement such as Nutri-Cal, Vitacal, or Nutristat• High sugar source: Karo syrup Medicines* <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wound disinfectant such as Betadine or Nolvasan• Triple antibiotic ointment for skin• Antibiotic ophthalmic ointment for eyes, e.g., Terramycin• Eye wash solution• Sterile saline• Antidiarrheal medicine such as Pet Pectate• Buffered or canine aspirin• Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) for allergic reactions• Cortisone spray or cream, such as Itch Stop• Ear cleaning solution• Hydrogen peroxide (used to make a dog vomit)• Activated charcoal to absorb ingested poisons (consult your veterinarian before using) <p>*Watch the expiration dates on any medication, and replace as needed.</p>

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Ottawa Paramedic Service HQ (John Rathier)
The Training Hall (Frances Holmes)
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Low United Church

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The following merchants will provide OTD members a discount upon presentation of membership card:

Berry's Pet Food, Glebe Store
Critter Jungle, Hampton Park Plaza
TLC Grooming
Bark & Fitz, Westboro
Natural Pet Foods
Kalaidescope Kids, Glebe bookstore
Petsmart, Merivale Rd.
Scholar's Choice Moyer

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION.

KATE MILLER
OTD Administrator

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Hours: flexible, please leave a message and I'll get back to you ASAP.