



Dogs Building Opportunities for Nurturing & Emotional Support Therapy Dogs of Massachusetts

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Dog B.O.N.E.S. Therapy Dog Teams enjoy a
Fall get together/conference



Ttouch Demo



Clicker Training



Search & Rescue



Tricks That Bring Smiles

Fun was had by all paws in attendance at the *Paws for Fun* get together at Wind in the Pines Girls Scout Camp. It was a beautiful Fall day in Plymouth when Dog B.O.N.E.S. members gathered.

Members enjoyed their morning coffee and pastries in the lodge while a fire in the fireplace took the chill out of the early morning air. As mid morning arrived the sun was shining brightly and everyone moved outside for a Search & Rescue demonstration given by Cil and Speedy, a Gordon Setter. Cil Chenevert and Speedy, (Gordon Setter) work with the Massachusetts State Police and are members of the National Association for Search and Rescue as well as Dog B.O.N.E.S. therapy dog team members. Cil spoke about the training required to become an S&R team, as well as the techniques used for land and water recovery. Speedy proved to be true to his name as he quickly located a Dog B.O.N.E.S. member hiding in the woods.

As the day continued to warm the day, Katey Kintzer and Bacchus, (a golden retriever) Dog B.O.N.E.S. member and faculty member at Becker College introduced members to clicker training. Working with Dog B.O.N.E.S. members Max (beagle) and Lisa and Kelly and Tessa (Chihuahua), Katey demonstrated how skills and behaviors are shaped and rewarded using the clicker method. Ellen Brown and Willow (greyhound) then facilitated a Tricks that Bring Smiles demonstration. Ellen and Willow have teamed up and using the clicker training method, Willow eagerly showed us some of her tricks such as bowing, say your prayers, and give a kiss, which she uses to charm the seniors she visits in Swampscott.

While everyone took a mid-day break Lisa Ciampa, and Jade and Sabre (German Shepards) owner of Puppy Love dog training was on hand to test members for the AKC Canine Good Citizen certificate. Congratulations to our members VanGo, (Greyhound) Max (Beagle) and Pippin (Giant Schnauzer/Briard) who are now certified Canine Good Citizens.



VanGo Takes the CGC Test

Enjoying the day

Tellington Touch

Yukon relaxes in the lodge

MaryAnn McNulty, & Cloudy (Greyhound) Dog B.O.N.E.S. member and owner of Greyhound Photography, of Arlington, using the beautiful Fall foliage as a backdrop, took portrait pictures of each Dog B.O.N.E.S. Therapy Dog team.

Our members enjoyed an Italian buffet lunch in the lodge followed by a Halloween costume parade. In the lodge mats were set out for each team to sit on with their partner with paws as they practiced some TTouch techniques. Trudy Wallach, president of the Humane Treatment of Animals Coalition in New Bedford was on hand to show members the benefits of Tellington Touch, with not only our four footed friends, but with the variety of animals we share our lives and homes with.

All in all it was a very fun day for our therapy dog teams. Teams took time to learn and time to relax, to share experiences with other teams or to take a quiet walk in the woods. I know at least 2 dogs who slept all the way home and at least 1 human who went to bed early, happy to have spent the day in the company of some very special friends.



Baby Jazz

Tessa the football

Dr. Speedy

Hoola Anyone

Where's the lake?



VanGo the "greyhound bus"

Dylan

Stay tuned for information regarding our next get together on Sunday, March 7, 2004 in Medford.

Save the Date!!!!

Simon Davis-Millis, age 13, Dog B.O.N.E.S. member
Nominated for The National Association of Secondary School Principals and Prudential Volunteer Award for Outstanding Acts of Community Service.

Middle school student, Simon Davis-Millis was nominated by the Sage School for the National Association of Secondary School Principals and Prudential volunteer award. This unique program honors middle and high school students across the country for outstanding acts of community service.

State judges select the top youth volunteers in each state. All state level honorees receive special recognition and the top volunteers in each state receive silver medallions, \$1,000 awards and a trip to Washington D.C. for several days of national recognition events. In Washington, ten students are named National Honorees, which awards a gold medal, a crystal trophy and \$5,000, as well as \$25,000 worth of juvenile products to be donated to needy children in each of their communities.

Simon was chosen as the Sage School Nominee based on his volunteer work as a therapy dog team with Dog B.O.N.E.S.- Therapy Dogs of Massachusetts. With his collie, Cheshire, Simon has spent many hours visiting people with Alzheimer's disease and visiting children with special needs.

Simon was motivated to get involved by his desire to heal. Simon actively pursued becoming a certified therapy dog team after a family discussion. He enrolled himself, his mother and his dog in the Dog B.O.N.E.S. Intro to Becoming a Therapy Dog Workshop. He worked with Cheshire, his collie and passed the certification test. Since then Simon and Cheshire have made a large impact on the people they visit. In previewing a unit in a children's hospital they were planning to visit Simon remembers one incident in which there was a young child who had suffered a disfiguring accident and he says he realized that if he could allow that child to feel "normal", or maybe even good, for even a short period of time, he would have done a great thing. He thought it would be a hard thing to do, but he states "the reward of knowing that you have done a good thing for people who have a noticeable lack of good things in their lives is inarguable". Simon remarked "to witness their reactions is a truly phenomenal experience in knowing that you are doing something good, and makes me eager to continue this project."

Congratulations to Simon and Cheshire for a job well done! Dog B.O.N.E.S. is proud of the work you are doing!