

Tag Motivates Young Girl to Recovery

Chenny Troupe dogs all know that there is more to life than a good scratch and a bowl of food. They sense the importance of their work, and are always looking forward to finding that special client that can really use their help.

Tag and his guardian, Mary Ann Alexander, met "Julie" two days after she arrived at The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. She was six years old, and could not talk, walk or unclench her tiny hands. Julie had been in a terrible car accident that claimed the life of one of her sisters. She slumped in her wheel chair, and could only open one eye. As Tag slowly approached her, she began to smile, and that was all Tag needed for encourage-

ment. That first night, Julie and Mary Ann worked at opening her hand and placing the ball in it. Julie could not release the ball, but Tag sat patiently.

The second week, Julie was sitting straighter in her chair. Julie had been practicing all week so that she could throw the ball to Tag. The ball was in her hand, and she uncurled her fingers to allow the ball to fall. Tag scurried to pick up the ball and return it to her. Julie did it again and again, with Tag returning the ball to her. Tag provided the motivation for this young child to continue to work at the simplest tasks that were critical to her recovery.

In a few short weeks, the change was

noteworthy. Julie's parents and therapists were thrilled with her progress. As Julie worked to provide Tag with a new challenge, she inched closer and closer to her goals. She regained trunk strength and control of motion so that she could raise her arms over her head to throw a ball. Most remarkable of all was the last Chenny Troupe session that Julie and her family attended before her release. With minimal assistance, Julie rose out of her wheelchair, and walked across the room with Tag!

Chenny Troupe is proud that we continue to be an important part of the treatment provided to patients while they are in rehabilitation at this terrific facility.

Tennis Balls = Therapy? Absolutely!

Chenny Troupe's Executive Director, Janet Rosen Eaton, presented a keynote address at the 2003 Brain Injury Association of Illinois Education Conference in Lisle, IL. Janet was joined on the podium by Dawn Henry, a speech and language pathologist

at Carle Therapy Services in Urbana. She is also one of the founding members of Canine Connections, an animal-assisted therapy group.

The conference was attended by medical professionals as well as survivors of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and their friends and families. A number of attendees, both survivors and therapists, remarked on their experiences with Chenny Troupe; one client even remembered the breed of his canine therapist.

Janet stressed the importance of continued motivation in the long process of recovery, and explained how the dogs can help. She then turned the program over to the dogs. Canine and human volunteers worked with members of the audience, demonstrating the therapeutic value of various obedience and agility tasks.

The finale demonstrated that any activity, well planned and thought out, can be therapeutic. Some Canine Connection therapy dogs also play flyball, an exciting sport that involves releasing a dog to run a course with hurdles, catch a ball released by tapping a box, and return to the start. Flyball is a difficult game, and it



Logan jumps the hurdles on his way through the flyball course.

can take more than a year to train a dog to play well and safely. Sparky, Penny, Logan and Georgie, Canine Connection dogs, are all pros who have provided half time entertainment at University of Illinois football and basketball games, and they were ready to go.

Attendees who had TBIs were invited to participate. One person holds the leash and gives ready, set and go commands. The "starter" works on vocalization, standing balance, hand-eye coordination and

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Did You Know?

- That there are more than 5.3 million Americans currently living with disabilities caused by traumatic brain injury?
- That there are 1.5 million new injuries each year?
- That 250,000 Illinois residents are among that number?
- That the total cost for hospitalization and rehabilitation for victims of TBI is \$4.8 BILLION, annually?
- That adolescents and young adults, and those over 75 years are most at risk for TBI?
- Chenny Troupe volunteers help many of these victims stay motivated to continue their long recovery process.

Chenny Troupers Help Homeless Pets

Prada was the first Chenny Trouper to cross the finish line at PAWS annual "Run For Their Lives" on a beautiful October Sunday morning. Her guardian, Michelle Schwartz and others participated in the lakefront walk to raise money to encourage animal adoption and population control efforts in Chicago. Volunteer and Board member Steve Dale sent the runners and walkers on their way, encouraging them to train their pets and reach for the gold, the Chenny Troupe Therapy Dog blue collar and vest. Meanwhile, volunteers Lisa Wiersma and Turner, and Executive Director Janet Eaton staffed Chenny Troupe's booth. Lisa shared her experiences at the Rehabilitation Institute of

Chicago while Turner wowed the crowds with his ball playing and patient sit-stays. Prada, Michelle, Nancy Spokany, Wendi Mancini, Steve Dale and Robin Szarvas (with their dogs Lucy and Chaser) joined Turner to meet and greet potential new Chenny Troupers. We had a great crowd, and we hope to see many of them at the next practice and testing sessions!

Put Chenny Troupe on Your Holiday Gift List

Here are a few suggestions:

Printing Services for our newsletter, annual appeal, invitations, posters

Event set up materials - banner, table, pop up tent

Color Laser Printer

Graphic design services

Obituaries

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of three Chenny Troupe therapy dogs.

"Chessie" Lawler was the beloved companion of Cathy Lawler and Olivia, a miniature dachshund. Known to all as the "grande dame" of Chenny Troupe, Chessie worked in virtually every program over her incredible eleven-year career as a therapy dog. Chessie was a dog that needed a job. She loved to chase tennis balls or a fetch a Frisbee, especially if a child in rehab had tossed it. Chessie could open any jar, can or sealed box of treats in secret, and consume the entire contents before anyone noticed. She touched the lives of thousands of people over her years of service, and everyone will miss her.

"Penny" Van Den Hende followed her good friend Chessie by just a few days. A kind and gentle dog, Penny's passing leaves a void in the Van Den Hende family. After Penny was certified in 2000, she worked with Sharon at Schwab, La Rabida and ICRE. Karen and Max, a cairn terrier, joined Sharon and Penny at work the following year. Penny loved to work with the children most of all, and was always ready to get in the car when it was program night.

"Chessie" Smith was the best friend of Vic Smith. Vic and Chessie volunteered at Lincoln Park Hospital (formerly Grant Hospital) from early 2000 until last spring. Chessie was always willing to speak up for Chenny Troupe, and appeared on our behalf at many events and festivals. Chessie was an avid swimmer and ball player. She even played lacrosse at our 2002 benefit!

Our deepest sympathy to Cathy, the Van Den Hendes and Vic. These remarkable animals will be missed by all those who were touched by their short but meaningful lives.

Tennis Balls...Absolutely! *continued from the front page*

impulse control. Another is mid- course, giving an "over" command as the dog runs the hurdles, and is working on focus, vocalization and arm movement. Stationed at the box, the "loader" must look at the size of the dog, grasp and place a ball of the appropriate size in a chute. This requires cognitive skills, and physical skills of grasping, bending and releasing. Everyone has so much fun that they don't realize all the skills that they are working on! They are also learning to work cooperatively and interact socially, which are critical skills for recovery from brain injury.

Chenny Troupe has been invited to participate with Canine Connection at camps operated by the Brain Injury Association of Illinois next summer. It will be a rewarding experience for any Troupers who are able to come. They will be able to help some remarkable children and adults enjoying summer and working toward recovery, and may get a chance to play flyball!



TroupeTalk

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Canine Hip Dysplasia: What can be done?

What is hip dysplasia?

Hip dysplasia is the malformation and degeneration of the coxofemoral joints. To put in simple terms, it is the poor development of the hip joint that allows the femur to slide out of the acetabulum. This chronic laxity leads to debilitating degenerative joint disease.

Is my dog at risk?

Historically, German Shepherds, Retrievers, especially Golden Retrievers, and other large breed purebred dogs develop hip dysplasia. Genetics is the biggest predisposing factor for this condition, but I have seen dysplasia in mixed breed dogs and even in small breeds like Lhasa Apsos. Vets see this condition most often in young Retrievers and older Shepherds.

How is it diagnosed?

The only way to diagnose hip dysplasia is through x-rays. These x-rays should be done under sedation to insure proper positioning. We recommend early screening in all large breed dogs and typically do this around six months of age at the time they are being neutered or spayed. We also recommend hip radiographs for dogs that are limping and showing pain when you extend their hip(s).

What are my treatment options?

There are three surgical options for correction of hip dysplasia. Triple pelvic osteotomy involves cutting the pelvis in three specific places and then placing an appropriate step-like bone plate that rotates the acetabulum to provide more coverage over the head of

the femur. This procedure can only be done in young dogs, usually less than nine months of age, that show no evidence of degenerative joint disease. Total hip replacement is the best anatomically correct procedure; it is most often used in mature patients that do not respond to conservative therapy. It involves replacement of the degenerated joint with a prosthetic acetabular cup and proximal portion of the femur. This procedure may have a limited lifetime. Finally, femoral head ostectomy is the surgical removal of the head of the femur creating a muscular joint, thereby eliminating the bone wearing down on bone. It is considered a salvage procedure, but it is the least expensive and can be done by many Veterinarians. Most dogs are initially managed medically and also postoperatively as are those that are not good surgical candidates. Medical treatment involves reducing the dogs weight, anti-inflammatories (Rimadyl, Etogesic) and joint fluid stimulants (Adequan, glucosamine/chondroitin).

Can I prevent my dog from developing hip dysplasia?

The most important factor in preventing hip dysplasia is to get your dog from a dysplasia free line of dogs. OFA certification and Penn hip studies are good guides but neither can guarantee that your dog will not develop hip dysplasia. We now think that oversupplementation during the early growing months may be a contributory factor to orthopedic lesions; that is why diets specific

for large breeds may be beneficial. And finally, don't let your dog get fat and don't overexercise your pet. If it looks tired or sore, rest it.

For more information, contact your Veterinarian or go to internet sites like http://www.golden-retriever.com/canine_hip_dysplasia.htm.

J.B. Bruederle, DVM

Burnham Park Animal Hospital
1025 S. State Street, Chicago

Healing Hearts



Send the Gift of Healing...
by supporting Chenny Troupe dogs
as a gift for the holidays or any
special occasion.

Donations

Donations in memory of, or in honor of a special pet or person are always welcome and help us continue to provide our programs free of charge. We even have edible birthday cards for your canine friend's special day!

Dr. John Kasmersky and Broadway Animal Hospital have made contributions to Chenny Troupe in memory of the following pets:

- 🐾 Rambo
- 🐾 Chessie
- 🐾 Shadow
- 🐾 Boo
- 🐾 Molly
- 🐾 Fifi

Donations were made to Chenny Troupe:

- In memory of "Chessie" Lawler:
Caryl and Jerry Horn
Janet and Larry Eaton
Teresa Marshall
John Vranicar, Colin Reeves
and Kate
Judy Keitz
Cynthia Aldridge
Volunteers at Lincoln Park Hospital
- In memory of "Bisby" Harrison:
Nancy and Mike Golden

- In memory of "Penny" Van Den Hende:
Caryl and Jerry Horn
Judy Keitz
John Vranicar, Colin Reeves
and Kate
- In memory of "Chessie" Smith:
Vic Smith
- In memory of "Bo" Kozon and "Boo" Von Gundy:
Judy Keitz
- In memory of "Spinks" Cesarz:
Kay and Bill Carmichael
- In honor of Dr. John Kasmersky:
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hurter

Kibbles and Bits

Chenny Troupe is happy to announce the addition of **John Vranicar** to our Board of Directors. John and his dog Kate have been working at LaRabida and ICRE since January, 2002.

Condolences to long time volunteer **Teresa Marshall** on the loss of her mother. Teresa, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

The dogs pictured here passed the Chenny Troupe therapy dog test on September 20, 2003. All three are already hard at work. Koa is at Schwab, Bonnie Blue at Rice, and Nero is at Somerset Place. We welcome new volunteers without dogs: Nancy Duke, Eileen Fitzsimmons, Barbara Bergard, Amy Fehrman, Kate Dunn and June Andersen.

Congratulations to five-year volunteers **Ann Cort and Duncan, Joe and Stephanie Frey and Sherman, and Patrick and Kat Thornton and Foxie.**

Ann and Duncan work at Lincoln Park and Joe, Stephanie, Sherman, Pat, Kat, and Foxie all work at RIC. We are happy to have you as volunteers and proud of all the great work that you have done for Chenny Troupe.

Many thanks to **Michelle Schwartz, the Volunteer Committee, and the Marketing Committee** for planning



New therapy dogs (pictured left to right): Nero, a three legged cattle dog mix owned by D'Arcy Von Schultz, Bonnie Blue, a mixed breed owned by Barbara Burns, and Koa, a black lab mix owned by Lori Fong.

our first and very successful Take Your Dog to Dinner. Plans are already in the works for next year's event.

Special thanks to the following restaurants for participating. Please keep them in mind when choosing places to frequent for dinner:

Ben Pao, Blyss, Bordo's Eatery & Sauce, Brasserie Jo, Butterfield 8, Cafe Ba-Ba-Reeba, Cyrano's Bistro, Dunlay's, Mon Ami Gabi, Nacional 27, Papagus, Phil & Lou's, Scoози, T's Bar and Restaurant



Diners and their dog enjoy Mon Ami Gabi.



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