



Troupe Talk

Vol. 11, No. 1, Spring 2002

The Newsletter of Chenny Troupe, Inc.

Participate in the Miracle of Healing and Join Us at Our Annual Benefit

Be sure to join Chenny Troupe at our seventh annual benefit, **Paws for Hope**, on **Wednesday, May 15**. Enjoy a light buffet supper, sip California wines and bid on a huge variety of exciting items offered at the silent auction. Swing with Corybant, a jazz quartet while admiring the legendary Preston Bradley Hall and the magnificent Tiffany dome. Applaud wildly as Chenny Troupers, canine and human, stroll the runway and show you some of the wonderful things they do on a weekly basis to help restore hope and health to thousands of people in Chicago. After all, that is really what Chenny Troupe is all about.

Paws for Hope is our single largest source of income. It's one of the reasons we are able to provide our



PAWS FOR HOPE

remarkable AAT programs with no charge to any client or facility. When you support the benefit, you are helping the children with cerebral palsy at La Rabida, the stroke victims at Grant Hospital, the new paraplegic at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, the abused and neglected youngster at Rice, the gunshot victim at Schwab and the remarkable young people at ICRC. You are partnering with Chenny Troupe to develop new applications

for animal-assisted therapy, and assuring that we can open new programs and present our work to the medical community with great pride. You are reaching out to some of the most medically underserved people in our community, and bringing them the gift of unconditional love and attention from a four-footed therapist and his human companion. You are participating in the miracle of healing.

We are proud to announce that **McDonald's Corporation** is a **Platinum Sponsor** of **Paws for Hope**. Please call the office if you would like more information about the benefit, or would like to lend a hand in making this night the best ever. Watch for your invitation, and be sure to make your reservation!

Healing with Puppy Love at La Rabida

"DOGS!" Mary* yelled as she ran into the room. She headed straight for Jofi the Chocolate Lab. Jofi waited patiently; tail wagging, for Mary to reach her. When she did, she flung her arms around Jofi's neck and hugged, and hugged. Jofi held her 'down, stay' with a big smile on her face. KD the Golden Retriever, Dean the Yellow Labrador Retriever, Kate the "All-American" and Olivia the Miniature Dachshund, had their fans, too. Ray* pushed his wheelchair into the room and went immediately to KD. Head held high, he took her leash and told her to 'sit.' She sat, and he gave her a big kiss. Having three legs didn't stop Kate from responding to Steve's* command to "Come!" He patted her head gently when she arrived and sat obediently at his side. Mark* walked confidently into the room, called Dean to him, told him to 'finish,' and then gave him a treat. When Olivia saw Bob*, her tail wagged so hard her whole body wiggled. He held his head high, took her leash and gave her a treat from his hand. What's the cause of all this excitement? Chenny Troupe's program at La Rabida!

Established in 1896, La Rabida Children's Hospital and Research Center is dedicated to excellence in caring for children with chronic illnesses, disabilities or who have been abused, enabling them to achieve their fullest potential through expertise and innovation within the health care and academic communities. It is the only hospital in the country solely dedicated to this mission. Originally, La Rabida was housed in a piece of Chicago's architectural history. The Spanish government originally constructed the building as a replica of a monastery in Palos, Spain for the Colombian Exposition World's Fair in 1893. Today, La Rabida employs some of the nation's top professionals for the treatment of lifelong medical conditions, including arthritis, asthma, cerebral palsy, diabetes, lupus, sickle cell disease and developmental disabilities. It also provides Illinois' most extensive hospital-based program for neglected and abused children. La Rabida's young patients come from Chicago's diverse neighborhoods, surrounding suburbs and northwest Indiana.

These kids are learning to live with a chronic illness or disability. Sometimes, it's not easy. But for the hour they are working with the dogs, their chronic illness or disability is forgotten. Suffering from Cerebral Palsy, Ray's goals are to sit up straight and keep his



Kate enjoys being "treated" with love at La Rabida.

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Shelly Gasper and Jordy Mark Five Years of Chenny Service

“Your dog passed her test, now it’s your turn,” Ramona Condie, Program Leader at Grant Hospital told me. She explained that as a new volunteer I would learn to work with my client using an experienced Chenny Troupe “loaner” dog. Any concern I had about yet another “test” evaporated when my dog turned out to be Jordan. “Jordy” is a handler’s dream, a real poster dog for golden retrievers... and therapy dogs. And I already knew him because he and Shelly Gasper were instrumental in my coming to Chenny Troupe.

My dog Chessie had just passed the Therapy Dogs International test and Dr. Rubin, my Veterinarian, suggested I

explore service opportunities at Chenny Troupe. He felt it might provide greater challenge and reward for us. At his suggestion I went to the 1999 Chenny Troupe Benefit and Shelly and Jordy were the first volunteers I met there. Shelly’s knowledge of and enthusiasm for Chenny Troupe programs gave me the boost that got me here today.

Shelly first became interested in Chenny Troupe while she and Jordy attended Kathy McCarthy’s intermediate level training class. She saw a flyer on the bulletin board and talked to Kathy about the opportunities. She and Jordy passed the certification test the first time (Jordy says he pulled her through) and volunteered their first year at RIC. They moved to the Grant Hospital program the next year and have been a valuable volunteer team there ever since. Shelly has recently completed her training as a program leader, and will be running a new program this fall. Grant volunteers will really miss her and Jordan.

How many people do you know who would leave a comfortable job in the travel industry to go back to school for a Master’s Degree in Social Work and intern in a nursing home? Shelly seems to have been born with human service in her genes. Watching her with a client you see care and understanding that are truly extraordinary. We congratulate Shelly for over five years of continuous Chenny Troupe service and for her devotion to human service work.

What does Jordy have to say about all this? As long as Shelly is happy, as long as he has his hats, ‘Felix’ his life-sized kitty (whose stuffing is long gone) and filet on his birthday, he says he’s a lucky dog.

Vic Smith

“In order to keep a true perspective of one’s importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him, and a cat that will ignore him.”

Dereke Bruce



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New Heartworm Preventative Makes Remembering Treatment Easier for Pet Owners

Heartworm disease remains a serious threat to the canine population. It is caused by *Dirofililia immitis*, a blood parasite affecting dogs in all fifty states. It can be a life threatening disease.

Although most owners understand the importance of protecting their pets from heartworm, **COMPLIANCE** remains a serious problem with the traditional preventatives. Years ago the heartworm preventative was given daily. Recently, *HEARTGARD* was introduced as the monthly preventative of choice. Researchers have now developed a breakthrough six-month preventative called *PRO-HEART SIX*.

PRO-HEART SIX is a sustained release injectable medication that provides six-month protection. This virtually eliminates the problem of owner compliance, as your veterinarian assumes responsibility for administering the heartworm preventative.

This highly efficacious drug is called moxidectim. It has been widely used with great success as a parasite preventative. It is very safe and well tolerated. Although not yet approved for dogs less than six months of age, *PRO-HEART SIX* has been used in a wide variety of breeds and ages.

With this year's heartworm season fast approaching, please inquire with your veterinarian about this new and promising six-month heartworm preventative.

We would like to thank Dr. John Kasmersky, DVM for this information. Broadway Animal Hospital is located at 6320 N. Broadway, Chicago, IL 60660. We will have a guest vet column in each of our newsletters. Please let us know if your vet would be willing to submit an article to us. If you would like to have any specific topics or medical issues addressed, contact our office with the information.

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!

We have received donations in memory of:

Bandit, by Jean Foss
MacMutt, by DeeDee Rattner
Madison and Chelsea,
by Helen Fasano
Gandalf and Gretchen,
by Lori Kozon

Donations have been made by **Dr. John Kasmersky and Broadway Animal Hospital** in memory of the following cherished pets:

✿ Panzer ✿ Mike
✿ Maggie ✿ Reggie
✿ Thor ✿ Baby
✿ Razor

Donations have been made in memory of John Alexander by:

Mary Ann Alexander
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Strong
Richard Johnson and Liza Ballantine
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Magnuson

Donations have been made in memory of the following:

Christopher Penrose by Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Kraft
Berta Waese by the Berta Waese Trust, Joy Rasin, Trustee

Donations have been made in honor of the following:

Derby, by Mrs. Jean Keitz
Mary Ann Alexander, by Duncan Alexander and Kit Keane, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Alexander, Mrs. Natalie Culley, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Magnuson

Dr. John Kasmersky, by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Haffner III

Cathy Claeys,
by Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Claeys
Barbara Morris' Special Birthday,
by Wendy Coyne

Robin Szarvas, by Kathleen Glavin
Ron Price and Ann Sage Price,
by Mr. and Mrs. James Fadim

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Chez,
by Mr. and Mrs. John Swanson
and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nystrom
Roscoe Mursau,
by Dr. and Mrs. Bradford Smart

La Rabida...

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head up. For KD, he holds himself up for several minutes, and propels his chair across the room. Both Mary and Susie have speech goals as a result of their Down's Syndrome. But commanding Jofi to go through the tunnel in a loud voice isn't hard. Each one clearly and confidently calls Jofi through the tunnel as if it is a routine part of their lives. Bob's goal is to overcome his tactile defensiveness. Holding Olivia gives him many minutes of tactile sensation that is unfamiliar to him. After Olivia jumps down, he immediately wants her back on his lap.

Chenny Troupe is proud to volunteer for La Rabida's team of top professionals. After Dean completed the heeling pattern with Mark, Mark gave Dean a treat. Dean responded by licking Mark's hand. Unfazed, Mark wiped his hand on the volunteer's sleeve and asked, "Can we do that again?" "Of course Mark," was the volunteer's reply. "But this time, let's add a figure eight to the heel pattern." With a confident nod of his head, Mark gathered up his leash, looked at the volunteer and said "Dean heel." Yes Mark has it right: "Dean heal."

**The names of the children have been changed for anonymity.*

Cathy Lawler

Kibbles and Bits

Chenny Troupe is proud to be recognized as the “**Outstanding Community Organization**” by La Rabida, and will be honored at La Rabida’s 2002 Big Hearts for Young Heroes Luncheon. The event is being held on April 4 at the Knickerbocker Hotel.

Anyone interested in joining Chenny Troupe is encouraged to contact our office. If you would like to join with your dog, our next practice session is April 13, and the test will be administered on April 20. Please call the office to make reservations. Sessions are limited to fifteen dogs, so be sure to call early.

On January 19, we had nine dogs pass the test. We wish to welcome Carrie Hoffman and Thor, a Welsh Pembroke Corgi; Peggy Brennan and Murphy, a chocolate Lab; Chris Reagan and Cara, a Golden Retriever; Mary Dellorto and Kali, a Doberman Pinscher; Judith Jaffe and Star II, a Golden Retriever; Terry Tauber and Cody, a collie; Diane Guy-Bright and Marty, a Doberman Pinscher; John Vranicar and Kate, an All-American; and Stephanie and David Klein with Lucy, a Golden Retriever.

We welcome Julie Muccillo, Stacie Mathews, Ann Dudley, Christina Swartz and Jessica Swartz who attended our orientation as volunteers without dogs.



Congratulations to our largest graduating group ever, including seven first timers!

Earlier this month, Chenny Troupe had a booth at the **IKC dog show**. We had a great turnout and we were well received. The volunteers, both human and canine, enjoyed representing us and informing the visitors about our organization.

You have no doubt heard that giving chicken bones to your dog is a no-no. But according to Kymthy Schultze in *Natural Nutrition for Dogs and Cats*, the rule is “Never feed your animal companion cooked bone because it splinters and is difficult to digest. Raw, edible bones however are essential for your carnivore’s diet.” Schultze recommends starting your pet on raw chicken neck bones, which are a good source of cartilage.



Chenny Troupe volunteers and dogs dressed in their Emerald Isle finest to march in Chicago’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Saturday, March 16. Above is Katsyo Thornton with Foxy and Beamer.



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www.chennytroupe.org

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