



Sherman, a devoted RIC volunteer.

A Game Called "Concentration"

Every Chenny Troupe volunteer knows that look: eyes riveted; posture erect; every fiber alert, awaiting the next command or toss of a ball. The intensity and attention that Chenny dogs bring to their duties is part of what makes them so good at what they do. It's also something we sometimes take for granted. Attention is often one of the cognitive victims of the injuries incurred by patients at Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Samuel, a young man in his early 20s, was just such a patient.

Unable to focus on the different aspects of his therapy regime for very long, Samuel lost interest in his exercise very quickly. However, he did find something that could hold him rapt: one of the weekly Wednesday RIC visitors from Chenny Troupe.

Sherman is a four-year volunteer, back at RIC after a long fall and winter recovering from a leg injury. Samuel met Sherman in March, when they were paired after the evening's initial group activity. Especially eager after being away from RIC for so long, Sherman was ready for Samuel. But more importantly, it seemed that Samuel was ready for Sherman too. And by the end of the evening's session, it was Samuel who was making sure Sherman kept focusing on the commands demanded of him. (Not always an easy task, as anyone who knows Sherman can attest to.)

"That was the first time Samuel was able to really focus on one thing," says Recreational Therapist Brienne Costa. "He kept his attention on Sherman, and that attention was returned, which kind of created a cycle."

continued on page 3

"Paws for Hope" a Great Success

Chenny Troupe's claim to fame has always been its volunteers, and this year's benefit was no exception. Virtually every aspect of the benefit was handled by volunteers, from the design of the invitation to the magnificent centerpieces. Program volunteers and their certified therapy dogs thrilled the audience of more than 300 with a demonstration of some of their special skills (not to mention some pretty wild fashion statements!) in a fantastic runway show. Media celebrities Mary Laney, Bill Zwecker and John Records Landecker added their talents to make sure that everyone heard the wonderful stories about our work. Special guest Bob Zalesny, a former patient at RIC shared his deep gratitude to Chenny Troupe and to Jersey, Lisa Rovner's golden retriever, who was instrumental in his recovery from a debilitating accident several years ago.



As if anything else were needed to make the evening a success, sumptuous buffets and an exciting silent auction with more than 100 gifts were available in the spectacular Preston Bradley Hall. Chenny Troupe's new video was debuted and reviews were a consistent "thumbs up!" **Paws for Hope** was a terrific celebration of hope and healing, a real tribute to our volunteers and an enormous financial success, helping to insure that we will continue to provide our innovative programs free of charge.

continued on page 2



Bob Zalesny and Jersey experience a joyous reunion at 'Paws for Hope.'

Let's Play RUFF

If you're looking for a fun and inexpensive social event where you can meet other dog lovers, look no more. LET'S PLAY RUFF, a casual evening aimed at boosting awareness for Chenny Troupe among twenty-, thirty-, and forty-something city dwellers, will take place on Thursday, September 19th at the Double Door in Chicago (Milwaukee and Damen) from 7 to 10 p.m. "LET'S PLAY RUFF will be really fun," says Jose Cruz, Grant Hospital volunteer and board member who is spearheading the event. "It's going to be a great way to meet people AND raise money for Chenny Troupe."

To encourage a large crowd, tickets are only \$15, and include a buffet and live music from a Chicago band. Double Door has graciously donated the fabulous location to help keep costs low and interest high. "We're hoping that the moderate ticket price will really encourage Chenny Troupers to invite their friends and ultimately spread the word about what we do," said Cruz. Over time, the goal is to make LET'S PLAY RUFF a very successful annual event that will draw a large crowd and interest new people in our work. "We are looking for Chenny Troupe volunteers who are

willing to sell tickets and recruit new volunteers by talking about their CT experiences at the event," said Cruz. For more information, please contact the office at 312-280-0266 or email Jose at: Jcruz31677@aol.com. Be sure to save the date and don't miss the first LET'S PLAY RUFF.

Tom Williams



TroupeTalk

Vol. 11, No. 2, Summer 2002

Executive Director
Janet Rosen Eaton

Associate Director
Caryl Horn

TroupeTalk news team:

Janet Rosen Eaton, Joe Frey, John Himmel, Tom Williams, and Sharon Van Den Hende
Layout: Barbara Gordon

We welcome your thoughts, contributions and articles. Pertinent addresses and numbers follow.

TroupeTalk, c/o Chenny Troupe
1504 North Wells Street
Chicago, Illinois 60610-1354
Phone: 312-280-0266
Fax: 312-280-0173

E-mail: chennytroupe@att.net
Website: www.chennytroupe.org

TroupeTalk is the official publication of the Chenny Troupe, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to motivating individuals with special challenges through animal-assisted therapy programs using certified therapy dogs. This publication may not be reproduced or copied in whole or in part by any means without the express permission of Chenny Troupe. Chenny Troupe has used its best efforts in collecting and preparing material for inclusion in this newsletter, but cannot warrant that the information contained is complete or accurate. Chenny Troupe does not assume and hereby disclaims, liability to any person for any loss or damage caused by errors or omission.

Copyright © 2002 Chenny Troupe, Inc.
All rights reserved.

"Paws for Hope" continued from page one

A special thank you to **Sheryl Dyer and Burberry's, Audrean Been of Columbia College, Richard Forsythe of Ruff Haus Pets, Alice Lerman of Barker & Meowsky, Style Dog and Coastal Pet Products** who dressed all of our human and canine models. Kudos and thank you to Benefit Chair **Lisa Rovner**, the **Paws For Hope Committee**, the volunteers who worked tirelessly all evening to be sure that everything ran smoothly, to all the volunteers and their dogs who practiced and practiced to be sure their routines were perfect, and to all our supporters and friends, without whom Chenny Troupe would not exist.



Duncan displays his modeling talent.

"Kibbles and Bits" continued from page four

companion of Grant Hospital program leader Ramona Condie and Sally Weiner. Wylee became a Chenny Trouper in February, 1994 and worked tirelessly until a week before her death. Accompanied by her sidekick Maybel, Wylee often made appearances at community groups, teaching people of all ages about animal-assisted therapy. She appeared in the newsletter countless times, posed for the 2001 benefit invitation, and donned Burberry fashions at Chenny Troupe benefits. Wylee will be missed by the many people whose lives she touched.

Dynamic Duo of Animal-Assisted Therapy Move from Hospital Green to Ivy Green

Jane Barden and Michael Jenuwine are going to be missed. In the four plus years since their adorable and playful dog, Jofi, became a canine member of the Chenny Troupe, this husband and wife team has made a meteoric rise through the volunteer ranks. This summer, Jane and Mike will be moving to Bloomington Indiana to further their careers in academia.

In that short span, this couple has worked at St. Joseph Carondelet Child Center, Gateway Foundation, ICRE and our newest program, La Rabida Children's Hospital. And that's just for starters. Jane and Mike have been key in developing Chenny Troupe's latest programs due to their awesome intellects. Armed with a Master's degree in Social Sciences, Jane has experience at the University of Chicago's social service review and ten years of clinical experience working with severely disturbed children and adolescents. Michael has a Master's degree and a PhD in

Educational Psychology as well as his law degree! Of late, Michael has been postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Health Services Research and Policy Studies at Northwestern University.

Besides their considerable input behind the scenes at Chenny Troupe, Jane and Michael have been consummate volunteers. Their amazing sensitivity to clients and their remarkable commitment to The Chenny Troupe week after week put them on the fast track to program leadership. In fact Jane and Mike had finished the last of their program leader training under the masterful hand of Chenny Troupe co-founder, Cathy Lawler.

We wish to thank this wonderful couple for all their time and commitment and wish them the best for the future. Because of the remarkable drive and passion of these two quintessential volunteers, perhaps "Chenny Troupe-Indiana Chapter" will be in the future.

John Himmel

"Concentration" ...from page one

At the end of many sessions at RIC, the patients' family members, guests, dogs and volunteers all gather for a little Show-and-Tell to demonstrate what the patients worked on with their dog for the night. When his turn came, Samuel chose to lead Sherman through the one and only trick he knows. Samuel placed a treat on Sherman's snout, balanced between his eyes and nose, and told him: "Stay, Sherman...stay, Sherman..." With his eyes focused straight ahead, looking over the treat on his snout, Sherman watched Samuel, waiting for him to give the word. "Stay..." Then, "Sherman...OK!"

Even if, after two tries, Sherman still couldn't catch the treat he flipped off of his snout, that didn't mean that he and Samuel had failed. But instead of neatly snatching a treat out of midair, Sherman had captured the attention of Samuel, who held his concentration as if suspended in time, recapturing something that had been lost.

Joe Frey

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!

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

- ❁ Spooky ❁ Scruffy
- ❁ Misty ❁ Riley
- ❁ Kasha ❁ Cinder
- ❁ Nikita ❁ Sam
- ❁ Sebastian ❁ Beau
- ❁ Pippin ❁ Sheba
- ❁ Nancy ❁ Stephy
- ❁ George

Donations have been made in memory of Wylee P. Coyote by:
Caryl Horn, Judy Keitz,

Honey Rosenfeld, and
Barbara and Don Niemann

Donations have been made in honor of the following:

Cathy Lawler, by Gruber & McBaine Capital Management LLC
Steve Dale and Robin Szarvas, by Richard Zwirner and Donna Heggie, and Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Finkle
Dr. John Kasmersky, by Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Brimberry, and Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Stemnock

A donation has been made in memory of:

Gertrude "Trudy" Hoffman, by the Macko, O'Connor and Hankes Families

On Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. until September 1, you and your dog are welcome aboard a 90-minute Mercury Cruise

Line trip on the Chicago River and the lake. Special thanks to Holly Agra, Mercury owner, who donated the proceeds of the June 23 kick-off cruise to Chenny Troupe. From an enormous Great Dane to Trouper China Bear, a Shih Tzu, passengers found the only cool breezes in Chicago on a sweltering morning. All agreed it was a wonderful trip (and no one got seasick!). Some of the dogs (and humans) followed the cruise with a sumptuous lunch at Cyrano's, which features a gourmet dog menu in addition to its regular menu. For more information, call the office or Mercury Cruise Lines.

Summer Heat and Your Dog

Heat stroke occurs in dogs exposed to high environmental temperature. Obese and old dogs are particularly affected. Heat stroke is indicated by a rectal temperature of 105°F to 110°F. The most frequently seen signs are panting, vomiting, and dehydration.

Immediate treatment is aimed at lowering the dog's temperature by immersion in cold water. Emergency veterinary care should be sought.

In the hot days of summer, the dogs should be kept indoors in a cool environment with plenty of air circulation. If your dog must stay outside, he/she should be provided with plenty of cold water and shade from the sun.

If your dog NEEDS to be left in your car (even if only for a few minutes), make sure your car windows are rolled down. This will keep the temperature in your car down. Also provide plenty of cold

water for your pet. NEVER leave your dog in a closed car for any length of time.

We would like to thank Dr. Ajaz Alvi, DVM for this information. His office is located at 5737 S. Archer Rd., Summit, Illinois 60501. We will have a guest vet column in each of our following newsletters. Please let us know if your vet would be willing to submit an article to us. Also, if you would like to have any specific topics or medical issues addressed, contact our office with the information.

Kibbles and Bits

On April 20, Chiro, a German Shepard/Rottweiler mix and his companion, Jason Skiersch passed our certified therapy dog test with flying colors. Jason joined Judy Deogracias, Jean Rom, Marilyn Goldman, and Frances and Eduardo Jimenez at a new volunteer orientation on April 23. Welcome to all!

Anyone interested in working with Chenny Troupe is encouraged to contact our office. If you would like to join with your dog, our next practice session is September 28 and the test will be administered on October 5.

Reservations are required. Sessions are limited to fifteen dogs, so please call

the office early to avoid disappointment. (312)280-0266

Chenny Troupe's new and improved website is coming! Technical problems caused our website to crash in January. We are working on an easy to use site, packed with more information. We plan to launch this site on August 1. The address will remain www.chennytroupe.org and you can still reach us at info@chennytroupe.org during construction. Special thanks to volunteers Julie Mucillo, Matt Pollack, Richard Jenkins and Steve Dale for their efforts.

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Wylee P. Coyote, a Welsh Pembroke Corgi, who was the dear



Jason and Chiro, Chenny Troupe's newest volunteer team.

continued on page 2



Chenny Troupe, Inc.
1504 N. Wells Street
Chicago, IL 60610-1354

www.chennytroupe.org

In this Issue:

- **Sherman, a Devoted RIC Volunteer, page 1**
- **PAWS FOR HOPE a great success, page 1**
- **Let's Play RUFF, page 2**
- **You and Your Dog are Welcome on a Cruise, page 3**

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chicago, Illinois
Permit No. 6461