

# The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Published for DSA's responsible dog-loving members and for the friends of dogs everywhere

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## The Great Escape!

P2

## Rainbow Bridge

P2

## Michigan Summer Camp

P6-12

## New Badges!

P3-5

## Positive Vetting

Training and Handling Ideas to Reduce Your Dog's Stress While at the Vet's

P13-14

## 2017 Goals Updates

P15-18

## Scout Scoop & Troop Talk

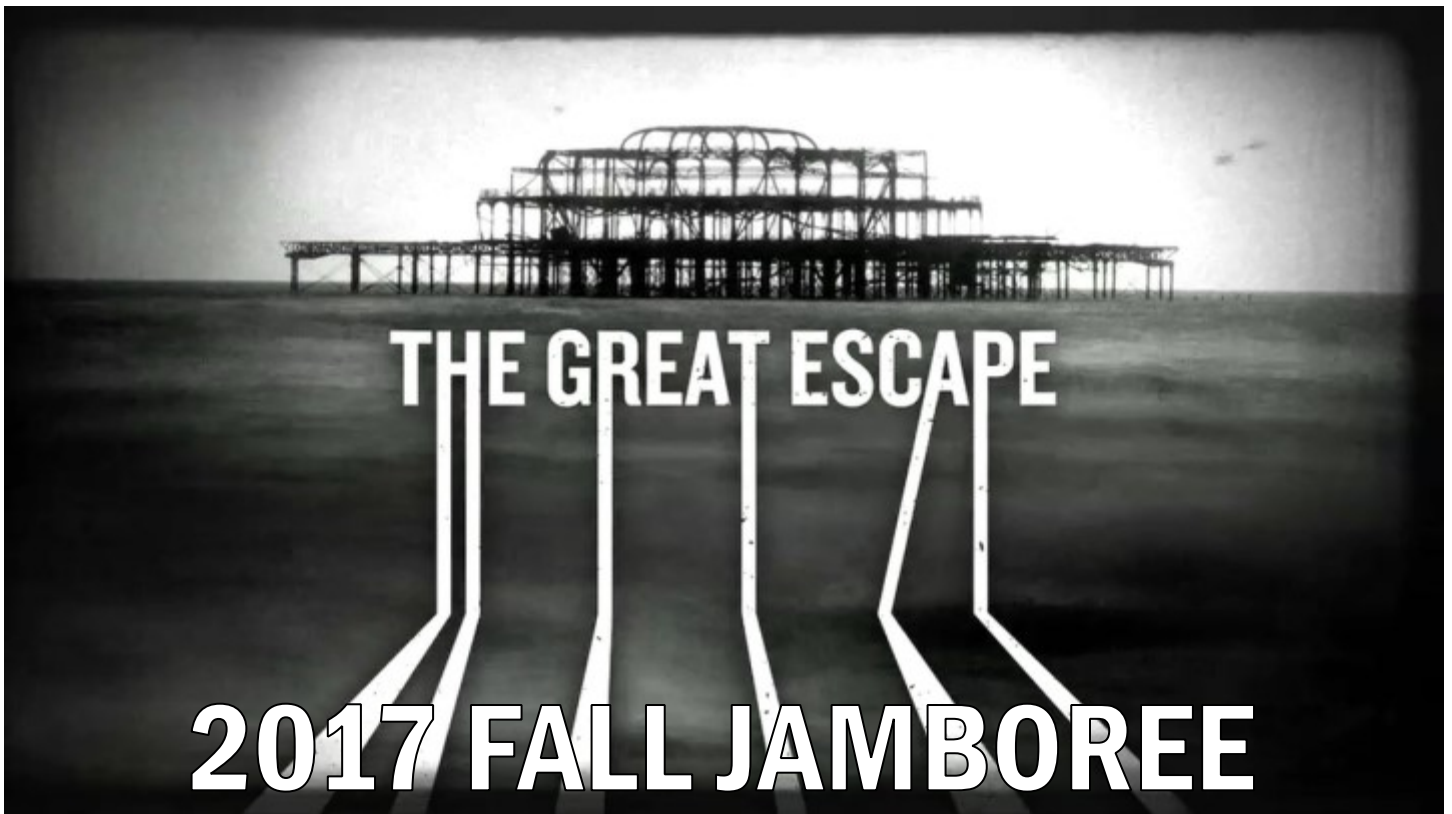
P19-43

*Pictured: Our 2017 MI Camp Staff*

Deadline: for the next newsletter is

**September 15th**

Please e-mail your news, articles, and pictures to [thescoop@dogscouts.org](mailto:thescoop@dogscouts.org)



You don't want to miss this one! The 2017 Jamboree will take place **October 20-22**. You don't need a team to join us, just a sense of humor, an active imagination and an expectation that you will have an unforgettable adventure as you work with others to ESCAPE!

The weekend will be packed with games and activities based on urban legends. Then, you'll take the clues you gathered during the weekend and work with others, applying the information you've gathered to the Sunday morning "lock in". Your clues will help you escape in the end!

The Jamboree is open to all DSA members. There is no charge for the weekend other than lodging and contributing to meal costs. Email Julie Benson at [bensonjulie@earthlink.net](mailto:bensonjulie@earthlink.net) to reserve your spot before the weekend fills up!

Picture source: <https://vimeo.com/26276078>



## Rainbow Bridge

Our condolences to Sue Bouchey on the loss of Michaelleen Ogh Flynn DSA (Micky), who crossed the rainbow bridge just short of 14-years-old.

# New Badges!

We are very excited to have 3 new badges ready for you and your dog to earn! The development of these badges took place through much research and discussion with subject matter experts over the course of the last year. The badges were introduced at Michigan Camp in June and July and campers were really excited to be among the first to work on them.

## Copy Cat

Copy Cat is a very fun badge based on the concept that dogs have the ability to learn new things by copying human behaviors.

To begin to work on this badge, your dog needs to have 3 behaviors that he can do reliably *using only a voice command*. That sounds pretty simple but dogs pick up on the smallest body moments including things like subtle eye movement or the slightest movement of a finger.

Once these 3 behaviors have been proofed it's time to introduce the "do it" command.

First you ask your dog to wait do the behavior you want him to copy.

Next say "do it" (new cue), a pause and your verbal command (old cue) and your dog performs the behavior. Then eliminate the old cue.

Once your dog can copy 3 known behaviors it's time to get creative and have some fun!

The next step is tricky because you have to find *2 completely new behaviors* that your dog will *copy without practice*.

It was fun to see the lightbulb go on with dogs at camp. Once they have an understanding of the concept dogs will do their very best to copy behaviors. Watch out though! Once dogs master the art of Copy Cat you just might find them opening a door to go outside or getting their own dinner from the refrigerator!

Copy Cat Badge information can be found in the Miscellaneous/Other Badge category on our website [dogscouts.org/base/copy-cat-badge/](http://dogscouts.org/base/copy-cat-badge/)

## Copy Cat Check-off Sheet:

\_\_\_ Handler can teach dog simple behaviors using positive shaping methods

\_\_\_ Handler understands "old cue" to "new cue" transition

\_\_\_ Handler can effectively help dog transition from an old cue to a new cue

\_\_\_ **Handler can explain the concept of social learning and how it differs from shaping**

\_\_\_ **Handler can describe the protocol for facilitating social learning**

\_\_\_ **Handler can explain how social learning could be used to teach the dog three helpful tasks**

\_\_\_ **Dog can do three behaviors on verbal cue with no handler body motion**

\_\_\_ **Handler and dog can demonstrate three known behaviors using the "Do It" protocol**

\_\_\_ **Dog can demonstrate two new behaviors using the "Do It" protocol**

\_\_\_ **Handler and dog can demonstrate a total of 5 behaviors using the "Do It" protocol**



## Other Links:

Additional research articles can be found on Claudia Fugazza's website: [www.doasido.it/en/](http://www.doasido.it/en/)

Official "Do as I Do" YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UC40ktPZovMjkswsXxVB7NWg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC40ktPZovMjkswsXxVB7NWg)

## New Badges! (cont.)

# K9 Nutrition

This badge is quite rewarding to work on with your dog and earn, but it does take time as it has several different components.

First, you have to learn about nutrition and be able to talk about what you feed your dog and why in detail. This includes how to read dog food labels, understanding how manufacturers market the foods they make, and the role nutrition plays in disease management and proper weight.

Your dog has to demonstrate the ability to stand quietly on a scale while his weight is measured and you need a record of his weight over the course of a year.

Finally, there are community service aspects including a healthy food drive to benefit a qualified shelter and additional community education requirements.

With this badge, DSA is not sponsoring or promoting any manufacturer or brand of dog food and we are not advocating any particular method for feeding your dog. The goal is that the handler have a thorough understanding of nutrition and the dog maintains a healthy weight. We want to help others within our communities by educating the public in the same manner and providing healthy food to those who need it most.

Though only a few dogs have earned this badge to date, we have already put thousands of pounds of dog food into local shelters and programs that help keep dogs in their own homes by providing food to those who can't afford it and may otherwise surrender their dogs. The badge was designed to let others know about Dog Scouts and it fits very well with our mission.

More information can be found at <http://dogscouts.org/base/k9-nutrition/>

## K9 Nutrition Check-off Sheet:

All behaviors must have been taught or re-taught to the dog (preferably using a new cue), using only positive reward based methods.

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler must demonstrate the ability to read nutritional labels on dog food products.

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler understands and can describe the role of nutrition in disease prevention and management, including allergies.

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler can describe signs that a dog is/ is not at a normal, healthy weight.

\_\_\_\_\_ Dog must be at a normal, healthy weight for its breed and/or size. If there is a medical reason why the dog is not at a normal, healthy weight, handler must provide a diagnosis from licensed veterinarian explaining the reason for the dog being over/underweight.

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler can describe in detail the diet chosen for their dog and the nutritional rationale for choosing that particular diet.

\_\_\_\_\_ Dog must demonstrate willingness to step onto a veterinary scale and remain still so that an accurate weight can be measured.

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler must keep a record of the dog's weight and provide this record for the past year. Record must include a baseline measurement and a minimum of 3 other weights recorded throughout the year.

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler and dog must conduct a healthy dog food drive, collecting donations of food from the public and delivering them to a qualified shelter or rescue organization. The food drive must follow stated guidelines and must include an element of public education.

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler and dog must perform a minimum of 2 hours of public education on nutrition in addition to time spent on the food drive. These hours can be a part of what's included at a booth or table for another purpose, or community event. The dog must be involved in educating the public.



## New Badges! (cont.)

### DOGa

To master the art of DOGa with your dog you'll need to learn and demonstrate passive and active stretching and how to use an inflatable "K9 gym" to work out your dog.

Inflatable disks, balls, peanuts, donuts and bones have become very popular with dog sports enthusiasts and this badge takes advantage of the availability of this type of equipment.

The badge requires your dog to do exercises with an increasing level of difficulty using different inflatables, including exercises with all four paws balancing on the equipment.

You'll need to develop an exercise plan specific to your dog's needs and keep a journal detailing progress toward goals.

You'll also learn your dog's body type and characteristics that affect exercise as well as your dog's height-weight ratio. These are important not simply to know for exercise purposes, but also to be able to choose other activities suitable for your dog.



We are VERY excited to have these new badges available and encourage you to check them out soon. All of the information for each badge is posted on our web site. There were many people who participated in the development of these badges and we would like to thank each of you, no matter how large or small the role you played. We also owe a HUGE thanks to Martha Thierry for the badge designs.

## DOGa Exercise Check-off Sheet:

All behaviors must have been taught or re-taught to the dog (preferably using a new cue), using only positive reward based methods.

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler can describe the dog's specific body type and its implications for athletic activities for the dog.

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler can describe the benefits of DOGa exercise and knows the specific types of exercises that will benefit his/her dog, including passive and active stretching.

\_\_\_\_\_ Dog remains calm and easily accepts passive stretching on both front and hind limbs.

\_\_\_\_\_ Dog can demonstrate 3 different active stretches.

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler can describe the various types of equipment, including inflatable platforms used for DOGa exercise and knows safety concerns to be aware of when using the equipment to exercise the dog.

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler understands how to transition passive and active stretching exercises to Inflatable platforms in order to increase difficulty and build proficiency.

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler can describe the 3-step approach to completing DOGa exercises and why it is used.

\_\_\_\_\_ Dog can demonstrate three different DOGa Exercise sequences that benefit different muscle groups using the 3-step method on at least 3 different inflatable platforms. The dog must perform exercises with all four feet on at least one of the platforms.

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler has created a DOGa training plan for the dog which includes activity at least 3 times per week and keeps track of DOGa exercise using a training journal. The training plan is clearly designed to build difficulty as the dog gains strength and confidence.

# SUMMER CAMP

This year, to give you a taste of Dog Scout Camp in Michigan, we collected some journal entries from some of our attendees, we hope to inspire you and encourage you in your journey. Perhaps one of your goals for next year will be to join us at camp.

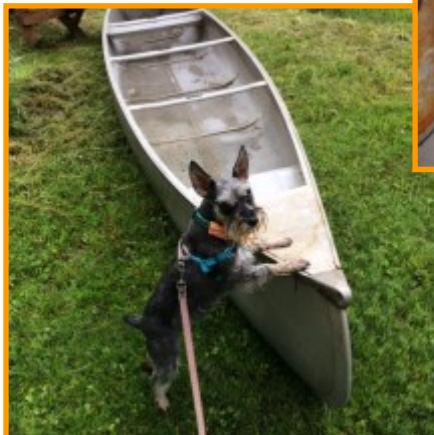
6/22/17

I was very proud of my golden retriever, Sally, this week. In the past she has been too nervous to go on the dog walk in the agility field. She climbed right on it with very little hesitation and few treats! I was so proud of her.

My black lab, Louie, and I worked on Beach Buddies requirements yesterday. He did better than I expected at doing a stay and leave it while another dog played in the water.

As a personal victory, I went on the paddle board in the pond. I have some anxiety in the water so I was happy to have Sally Hoyle encourage me to try.

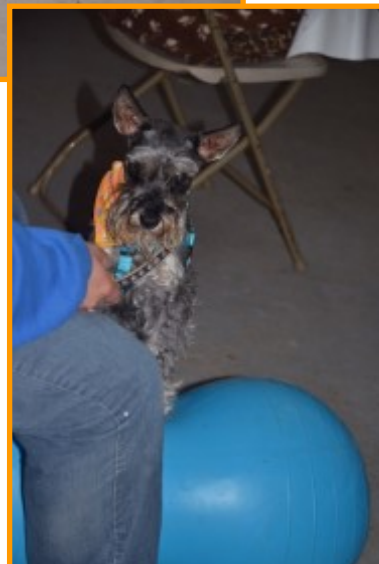
Amy Schupska, Louie & Sally



Dazzle working on the PhoDOgraphy badge



Dazzle using her nose



Dazzle in DOGa class

*Dazzle and I had fun at camp. We sure did learn a lot.*

*Thanks to all the staff for making it a safe place for us to learn and have fun.*

*Erika Burdette*

## Summer Camp—MI (cont.)



6/24/17

A great camp to attend being away for 10 years, it was nice to be a return DSA camper with a new dog, RRRalph! It also allowed me to be myself while learning really cool things about dogs and me! The leaders and staff did a great job and I am so appreciative for all they did. I really, really liked the organization of all the program. If the weather and trail condition would have been I would really enjoyed walking the trails. All in all, the weather was really nice and I am so proud that Ralph got his Dog Scout badge and several other merit badges! I'm also glad that Katy got her DSA badge and loved the bobbing for hot dog pieces. I thoroughly enjoyed the overall experience. I loved the size of the camp and all the great food too.

Thanks to all here at camp.

Charles Holmes



6/23/17

*Katy (11) found her favorite activity last night: Fun and Games Hot Dog Trick Contest. She cleaned the pool of hot dog pieces (8) but was then too full and distracted to do tricks. But good enough for second place ribbon!*

*Being a chow hound can sometimes be enough! She also earned her Dog Scout badge yesterday, so, all-in-all, a great day for a senior!*

*Barbara Holmes*

*P.S. This is our fifth camp (but it's been 10 years since #4) and this the most congenial group of campers we have ever seen!*



## Summer Camp—MI (cont.)

6/23/17

### Foxy's First Camp!

This was such a great experience for my "little" doggie! She had so much fun learning so many new things, meeting new friends both human and dogs (not so much the stuffed cat :-)!

This was a fun experience. We hope to come back as often as possible from Texas!

I had heard about camp from my friend, Wendy, for so many years and thought we would never get any badges, but we were not only able to get our Dog Scout badge, but two more and very close to two more! So much better than expected and so fun to experience with my awesome dog!

Laura Knízner & Foxy



6/20/17

Goldy loves DSA Camp. She loves running in the playground and playing in the pond.

6/21/17

If you haven't tried the new Copy Cat badge, the results were amazing. Goldy had 3 trained behaviors that we practiced before coming: Go to table, Around a pole, and Twist. After practicing further at camp because it was a new environment and more stimulating

we did it. It was very hard for me to give a command without moving a muscle, I didn't realize how much visual commands I give when I thought I was giving verbal only. The amazing part was when I had to come up with 2 behaviors she hadn't done before. I picked get into a container and knocking over a platform with head. The container was where the lightbulb went on. The container was as high as her chest. Wait, Watch, Behavior, Do it - She walked over to the container, put her head in it. I could see her thinking on how to get her leg in it. She walked around trying to figure it out. She looked at me, I decided to try a shorter container and it worked. Totally mind-blowing!!

Fay Reid





## Summer Camp—MI (cont.)

# Why I Teach Dog Scout Class at Camp

The great thing about Dog Scout Camp is the people who genuinely care about their dogs. It's a beautiful thing to see how Dog Scout class students absorb information and transform their relationships with their dogs in the space of a week. Students at the June 2017 Camp varied from first-time campers to a veteran who had the patience to work with her dog for three years to earn the DSA title. I enjoyed their success this week as much as they did – maybe more because I dream of great futures for all of them. It's not easy to be a teacher when students struggle and are frustrated, but in the end I know what I teach a few here at camp may influence many as they return to their homes. Lives are changed for the better, that's why I am a teacher at Dog Scout Camp, so each student becomes a teacher.

### Our Journey:

Monday – sits and downs

Tuesday – heelwork and stays

Wednesday – leave it (with a donkey!)

Thursday – stays and recalls

Friday – wrap up and graduation

### Class Wrap Up:

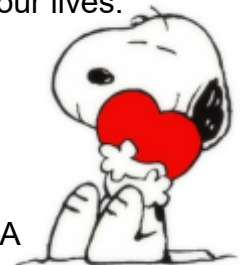
Everyone has a story about their dogs and they love to share them. When I ask students what their dog's new Dog Scout title meant to them, the reaction was so powerful and full of emotion that it took us all by surprise.



Our journey as a class took us from individuals to a group. We are now united as a team with a purpose.

I will remember them all and how this week changed all of our lives.

Sincerely  
Martha Thierry



### The Class:

Barb & Milo, DSA  
Charles & Ralph, DSA  
Barb & Katy, DSA  
Air & Morty, DSA  
Teri & Nero, DSA  
Laura & Foxy, DSA  
Paula & Lily, DSA  
Wendy & Sally, DSA

## Summer Camp—MI (cont.)

6/24/17

Hi, this is Morty speaking or writing!! That's right I am that smart ☺ My mom told me months ago that we will be going to a Dog Scout Camp! I have no idea what she is talking about and I am pretty sure she had no idea what to expect, except that this trip is all about me!!

My first time here at Dog Scout Camp made me realize how much my mom cares about me. She made



sure that I always have fun and be safe, and at the same time learning and developing skills that make me a well-adjusted pooch. She always tells me, in fact, she sounds like a broken record, that she is always proud of me and she trusts me to make right decisions. I trust her too!!

Here at camp I have met very nice people and dogs. I feel comfortable and able to relax. My mom told me training is a life-long process and we are making a good team ♥ I don't feel like I am being trained here; I feel more like play and games all the time. That makes learning new skills much more fun and easier for me.

I really hope we could make it next year. It was very nice to meet all wonderful and caring people here at Michigan Dog Scout Camp!

Have I told you I am a lucky dog!!

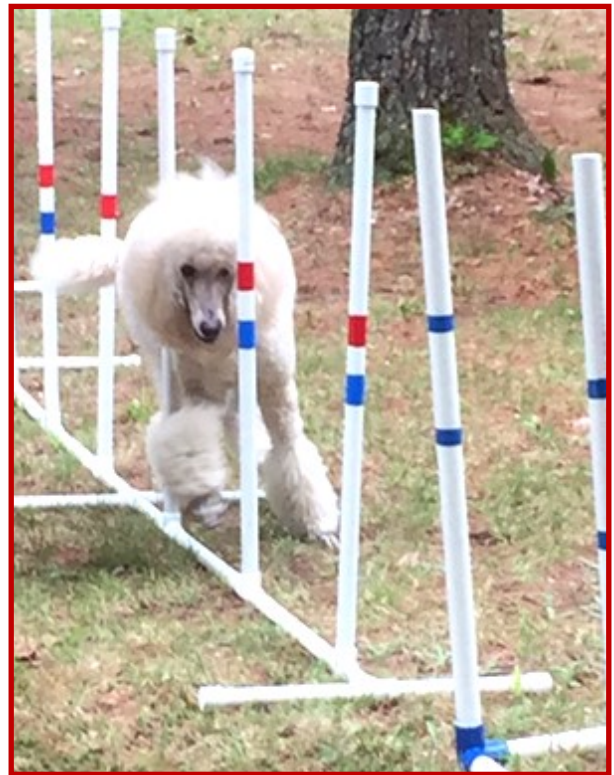
Take  
Care,

Miss  
Morty G.



## 6/20—60 Weave Poles!

Years ago Hallie completed her Agility badges. We worked at them multiple years and were thrilled with her progress. However, we didn't have an opportunity to test out for 60 Weave Poles. We were thrilled to see it offered at camp, and brought the old poles out of storage to practice!



What a fun afternoon to see so many dogs complete 60 weave poles . . . Plus Hallie completed successfully. Hurrah! She was happy to be on the agility field.

Robyn Porter

## Summer Camp—MI (cont.)

6/24/17

*This was my Sally's first camp. At 2 years-old, and as a street rescue just 7 months mine, she definitely learned a lot. We created communication lines and great distraction techniques for her dog reactivity.*

*She's such a bundle of extreme energy and, as a German Shepherd (my first) this is a whole new experience.*

*This is my third time at Michigan camp. My Border Collie, Pete, came in 2001 and 2002 when he was just 3 years and 4 years old. He flourished here!*



*My Ariel, a flat-coated retriever, was about 9 years old when she attended a TX mini camp (with Mart and Cindy).*

*I've always had reactive dogs and DSA has been wonderful for desensitizing them.*

*Now that I have another doggie DSA mom as a TX friend, we might be attending much more camps than before.*

*Wendy & Sally*

# camp

6/25/17

Camp had so many funny, surprising and heartwarming moments for me! I love teaching at camp and celebrating in the successes of campers and their dogs. And I always have fun with my own dogs, Sam and Katie, learning new things, playing games and just hanging out.

This year's new DOGa badge was really fun to teach. So many campers wanted to give it a try and I was so pleased to see their progress as dogs gained confidence throughout the week.

I also loved teaching 60 Weave Poles and Triathadog, and was really proud of the hard work campers did with their dogs while working on and earning these badges. Working with everyone on the hiking stick craft was fun and I was blown away with everyone's creativity and finished product.

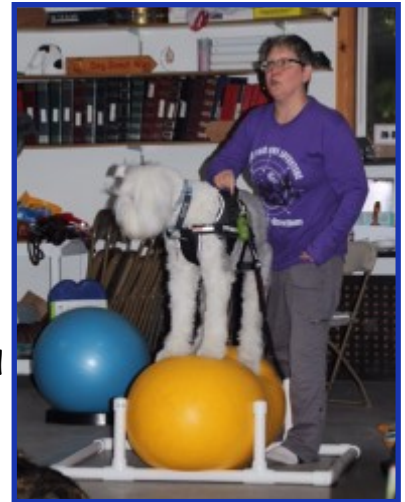


## Summer Camp—MI (cont.)

I was also really excited that no one burned the craft barn down with the wood burning tools 😊



My experience with Sam and Katie was just as memorable. Copy Cat was a goal for Katie and I and it was exciting to work on. She picked it up quickly and when she easily did 2 new behaviors using the "do it" protocol . . . that's 2 BRAND NEW behaviors that she performed on the spot to earn the badge! . . . I had tears in my eyes. Katie also loved being the demo dog for DOGa, doing her tricks routine in the talent show and doing some geocaching when we had the chance.



Sam also had a great time at camp. I was really proud of him for overcoming some of his stage-fright and finally playing his piano in public. He's known how to play for years but gets shy when people are watching so this was a big step for him. Sam also enjoyed playing the games and finishing up his Geocaching badge.

As I get ready to leave camp I'm already looking forward to coming back in July. I plan to use the weeks in between camps to build on the skills my dogs learned and practiced and prepare Sam and Katie to learn even more. I'm so blessed to have such wonderful dogs to share my life with and a fabulous place like Dog Scout Camp where we can enjoy spending time together playing and learning. I'm also extremely lucky to be a part of a staff that is focused and fun, and always supportive of one another and the camp experience.

We can't wait for July!

Sally, Sam and Katie



# Positive Vetting

## Training and Handling Ideas to Reduce Your Dog's Stress While at the Vet's

By Shirley Conley

I took my dog to get an adjustment at a vet office a couple of times a few years ago. It took one time for her to associate waiting in the examination room with the discomfort of the adjustment. The next time we went she started shivering and climbing on the bench to hide behind me. She has since transferred that negative association to a different vet and it's difficult to isolate whether she's connected the experience with the smell of a common chemical, the slippery floor, the stress hormones released from other sick animals, or just being out around a bunch of other people and dogs that causes her to be anxious, or perhaps she's picking up on my emotional state – after all we're usually at the vet because there's something I can't fix). While she's still amenable and will do as requested (and more compliant if a cookie is on offer), it reminds me that an anxious dog can be more difficult to diagnose (stress can affect temperature and chemistry and stiff limbs make observing joint and muscle issues more difficult) and/or provide medical treatment for. Based on a couple of the articles I read here are some tips that can foster positive associations and reduce the anxiety our pets can experience during their veterinary visits.

### 👍 Toy Time

If your dog has a favorite interactive toy at home, put it up for a couple of days before a scheduled vet visit and take it with you to play with in the examination room. Maybe you can ask the vet tech to hide it on the far side of the exam table before you enter, and while they're exploring the new room . . . surprise, who knew the toy would be hiding here . . . cue opportunity for a modified play time (taking appropriate precautions for the limited space and slippery floor). Just the simple act of bouncing a ball can engage a dog and move them away from the anxiety threshold. If you're interested in nosework venues, maybe taking an appropriately contained odor and have the vet tech stash it in one of the drawers or cupboards.

### 👍 Food Finds

Take a food puzzle along – high-value treats in a Jolly Ball or Squirrel Dude, peanut butter or cream cheese and some treats in a Kong, a small muffin tin with a couple of tennis balls to cover treats in the tin. How about an empty plastic water bottle with a some yummy dried treats inside. Some of these toys may be used to keep your dog occupied while the vet is checking him out too.

### 👍 Pet Partners

Which of the vet techs does your dog respond the best to? When the vet needs help in the exam room, ask for that tech if he/she is available. If your dog has to stay at the vets for some time without you, let that tech know that since your dog likes them, would he/she please watch over him. Remember, every visit is an opportunity to encourage all the vet techs to ask your dog to sit and to offer a paw, so they can give him a treat. The more positive social interactions you facilitate, the more confidence it will build in your dog.

### 👍 Thundershirts and a Home Base

If your dog is anxious, this would be a great time to pull out a compression shirt or wrap and let your dog wear it to walk into the hospital and while waiting. Take a mat for your dog to settle on – if you've practiced settle on the mat in other locations, this gives your dog an opportunity to perform a familiar behavior on a familiar target. Plus using a mat with a non-slip bottom will also help your dog feel more comfortable as he can keep his feet under him.

### 👍 DAP – Dog Appeasing Pheromones

Spritz some onto a bandana for your dog to wear. For a small animal in a carrier, place a pheromone-scented towel over the front of the carrier – with or without the DAP, covering the crate door

## **Positive Vetting (cont.)**

reduces unwanted interaction from other patients while in the waiting room (set the carrier next to you or on a shelf provided so your pet is off the floor).

### **👍 Pet With Purpose**

Gentle rubbing on the chest, T-touch on the ears and micro-fascia release along the muzzle can be done by you, or one of the techs – pass on your knowledge of what calms your dog so they have more information to better help other patients. Dr. Marty Becker, who founded Fear Free LLC (a certification program for animal hospitals to certify their vets and techs in Fear Free animal management practices) mentioned using a Kong Zoom Groom to massage the sides of a dog's neck, the chest, and around the base of his tail at his practice, it certainly wouldn't take much time or space to slip this little tool into a pocket for a road trip to the vet office if your dog likes it.

### **👍 Foundation Behaviors Applied in the Real World**

Every doorway should have a sit before and a wait after - paid for with treats. We don't know what's on the other side of a door, particularly at a vet office, so we want to assess where we're heading before we let our dogs venture through. Each area of the animal hospital is a new location to reward attention and calm. Be conscious of those bottleneck areas (i.e. the check out area where we have to stand around and wait to pay) – work on nose targeting to your hand to keep your dog safe while in close proximity to other animals and unaware people. Hands are usually the first thing a person will offer a dog to sniff, so it becomes a familiar target to greet and interact with new people and novel objects. When you're at home, practice restraining your dog so he becomes more comfortable with what may happen at the vets. Be sure to hold out paws as though he was going to get blood work, run your hands on his legs and put slight thumb pressure in various spots along his legs where blood may be drawn, or limbs may be grasped when checking for injuries. Roll the skin in the neck shoulders and hind quarters where shots are likely to be administered. Have you practiced giving your dogs pills recently, how about liquid medicine? Work on treat popping with your dog, and get a needless syringe and squirt something yummy into his mouth – yoghurt, kefir, or diluted broth might be a good options for this (Read up on where the best place to squirt medicine into a mouth is for the least resistance).

### **👍 Own the scale!**

The scale should be viewed by your dog as another target, take a minute to shape getting on and sitting still with the clicker and rewarding with treats. If necessary, place the mat your brought with you on the scale, have the tech re-set the scale to accommodate it, then send your dog to their "home base".

### **👍 Add to your file**

If your dog has specific idiosyncrasies, ask your vet to add it to your file (computer and paper) so it's on record for future visits. Maybe your dog has a difficult time being in close contact with a specific gender – getting it noted on your file so future visits can be less stressful for all makes sense.

### **👍 Training Trips**

Ask your vet office for permission to take your dog for treats and visits when you don't need to see the vet for a specific issue – practice calm behaviors and tricks in the parking lot, waiting room, and if available, an exam room, then head home on a high note. Naturally you'll need to find out when their slower times are (maybe lunch time or ½ hr before closing) so you can schedule your visits accordingly. Wouldn't hurt to bring a treat for the vet staff every now – treats create positive associations in people too

Sources:

<http://veterinaryteam.dvm360.com/11-simple-steps-reduce-pets-stress>

<http://www.dvm360.com/tricks-treats-how-train-pets-fear-free-veterinary-experience?pageID=2>

<https://fearfreepets.com/veterinary-visits-as-simple-as-1-2-3-fear-free/>

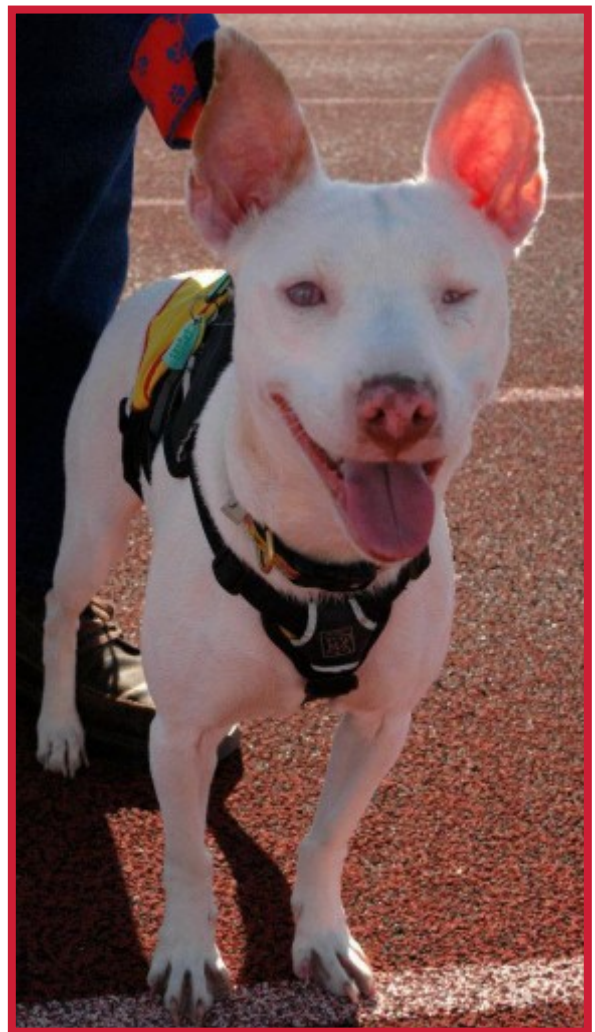
# Scout Scoop & Troop 2017 Goals Updates



Alex kept working on her dumbbell “hold” and earned her Retrieve merit badge!  
Cindy Ratliff & Alex



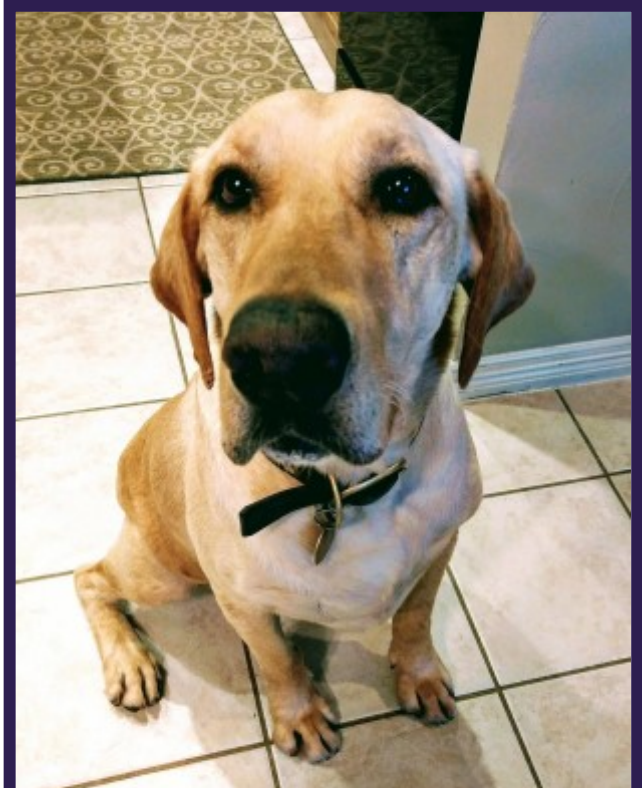
Charlie (above) and Lucy (right) just joined DSA and are Cadet Scouts. Their first goal is being able to achieve Dog Scout. We are very pleased that they are welcomed and accepted for being both deaf and blind. If they can become a Dog Scout we would hope to be able to achieve some of the badges. Thanks so much !!  
John & Carol Knight



**2017 Goals Updates**



**Drake conquered his down/stay and passed his DSA test!  
Connie Romano & Drake**



Jake has moments of greatness on the leash, but we are still working on the “consistent” loose leash walking especially when it comes to high level distractions.  
Tammy Doak & Jake



**Biscuit is still working on some of his badge goals for the year but one of Cheryl’s goals was to get involved with the troop oxygen mask committee. In May, the committee donated on behalf of the troop, 70 oxygen mask kits to the City of Fort Worth Fire Department! The troop’s largest donation to date!  
Cheryl Nava**



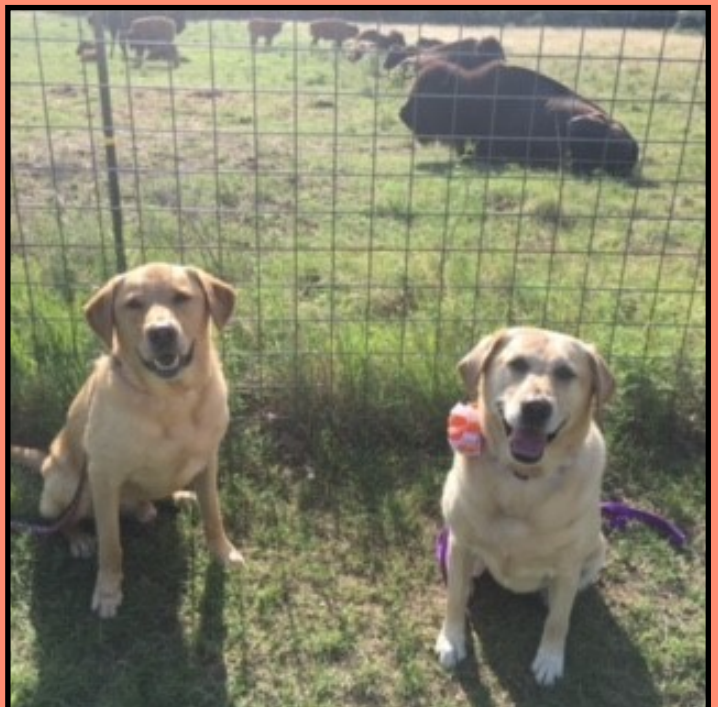
## 2017 Goals Updates



Cassidy not only made her goal of placing in the top 20% RAE division of 160 competitors at the AKC Rally Nationals in March, she actually placed in the top 10%!!  
Karen Deeds & Cassidy

**Always aim for ACHIEVEMENT,  
and forget about success.**

**~ Helen Hayes**



My goal was to get out and hike more (be more active) with the kids. Well, that is what we have been doing the last couple of months. Of course, troop friend, Rouen, goes too.  
Lisa Hamilton, Marla & Mason

## 2017 Goals Updates



Rouen is still very close to completing multiple badges, including her Therapy Badge. She continues to do her monthly Library visits for the kiddies to read to her and she loves every minute of it. And with a 1 day ten mile hike (& picnic lunch) when it gets cooler, she will have her next trail dog title.

Debbie Baker & Rouen

Well, Max was going to learn fetch by back chaining-but he won't do the first step which is to take anything in his mouth so he can then drop it—So far absolutely no luck getting him to take anything.

On the other hand, he earned his TDAA superior agility dog title this weekend, so we at least accomplished that!

Marcia Odal & Max



# Troop 119—TX

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

Troop 119 has had a couple of awesome months this summer!

We started the month of May by Mart, Cindy & Alex travelling to Tyler to do a First Aid presentation to Troop 230. Alex was a good demo dog and many Troop 230 dogs completed the requirements for the First Aid badge.



Later in May we starting our Summer Series of troop meetings (meaning indoors during the hot summer months!). We had a great Dog Scout class and many dogs worked on their Dog Scout certification. We had several new members in attendance as well as long time troop members who have new dogs to get certified. As a result, we have four new Dog Scouts!



Casey performs his 'come'



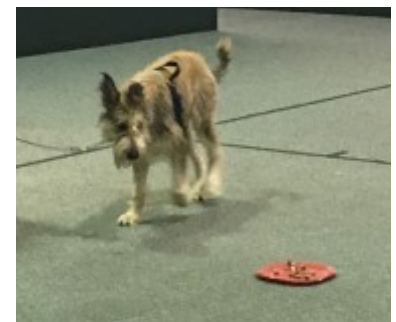
Jaime listening to Uncle Mart



Justin practices 'leave it' with the bird



Andy practices stay



Mulligan practices 'leave it'

Congratulations to Drake, DSA (proud mom & dad are Connie & Mike Romano), Casey, DSA (proud mom is Donna Francis. This little deaf guy passed his certification at a young-at-heart 13 ½ years old!), Justin, DSA (proud mom is Marcia Odal) and George, DSA (proud mom & dad are Susan & Tom Waits). Congrats to all our new Scouts & their parents for working so hard to achieve this goal!



Drake, DSA



George, DSA



Justin, DSA



Casey, DSA

**Troop 119—TX (cont.)**

In June we had a favorite meeting, Doggie Games! We had 3 teams of competitive dogs (at least their humans were competitive!) that played a variety of games that gave them opportunities to have fun as well as show off their skills at heeling, leave its, sits, downs, stays, go to a mat, lots of distractions, as well as lots of silly tricks (that their humans had to perform if the dog wouldn't).



Biscuit performs his required behavior



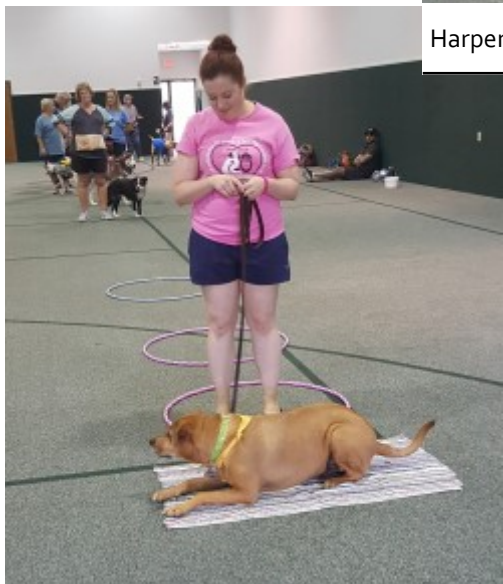
Mozzie leads the colored paw stays



Harper lets her mom pick up the cone



Duchess plays the mat game



Marz performs his mat stay



Boomer nails the mat game

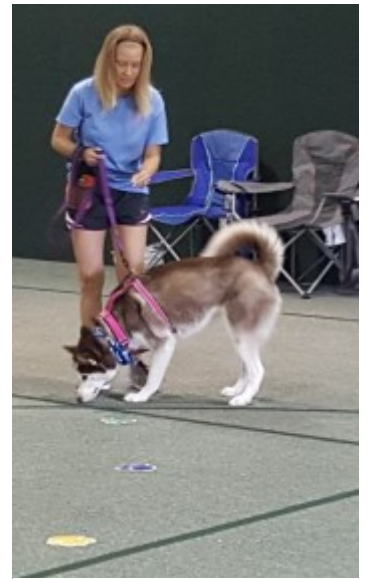
Troop 119—TX (cont.)



Mia & mom work on their required behavior



Daisy's not sure about Nick's performance

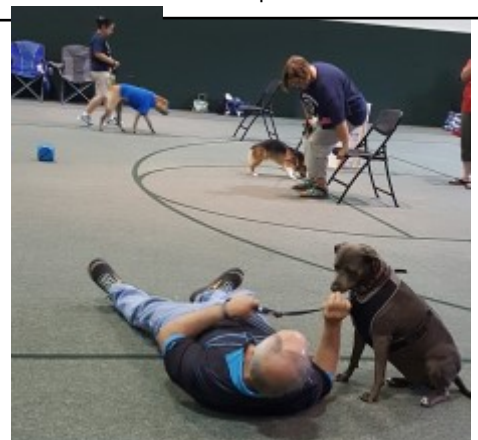


Eskie looks for the right colored paw



Ting Ting heels for the cheeseball relay

The dogs and humans had a great time and all the pooches were rewarded with homemade Dog Scout cookies at the end of the day!



Texie performs for the dice game



Chance watches for his cue



Austin finds the colored paw



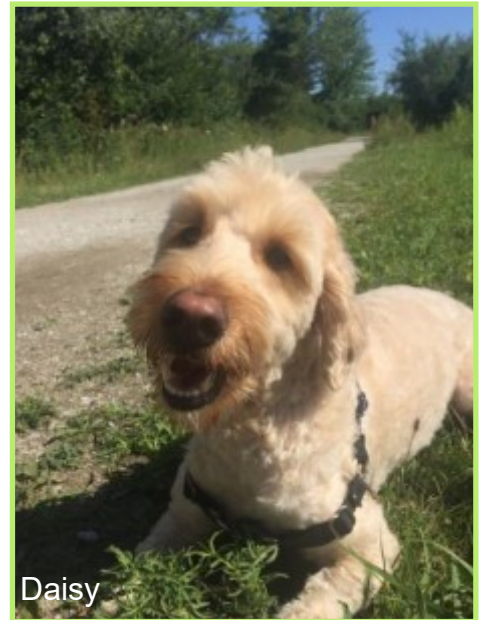
George plays the mat game

# Troop 177—IN

Robin Porter—Troop Leader



Beautiful waterside pose!



Daisy

On July 8, Troop #177 members hiked 2 miles at Eagle Creek Park, outside Indianapolis. Gail and Greg with Daisy, Sharon with Zena and Amy with Star & Piper enjoyed beautiful weather and views of the reservoir.

Robyn Porter and Hallie attended June DSA camp in Michigan for the first time in 5 years. It was loads of fun to see familiar faces and meet new people. Thanks to camp staff and fellow campers for making this such a fun week! We love camp!



Star and Piper



Zena



Hallie completing  
60 Weave Pole

# Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

## May—Barn Hunt

In May we had the opportunity to work our dogs in Barn Hunt. Each dog had a chance to practice with a blank, litter, and live tube while waiting for a turn on the course. We had some good runs and some good learning experiences for handling our dogs and keeping them motivated to work in the heat of the day. We really appreciated our host, Betty Ann, providing us with the workspace, rats, and guidance on how a trial is run, covering the rules, providing feedback on handling and observations on our dogs' behaviors.



Bling had 2 successful finds during our Barn Hunt activity.

## June

Not long after our activity there was an outbreak of Canine Influenza in our area. As a precaution we cancelled our June get together. During this time I worked on trick dog titles and became certified as a Trick Dog Instructor through *Do More With Your Dog!* I particularly like how the tricks for the DMWYD titles are foundation behaviors for many of DSA's merit badges.

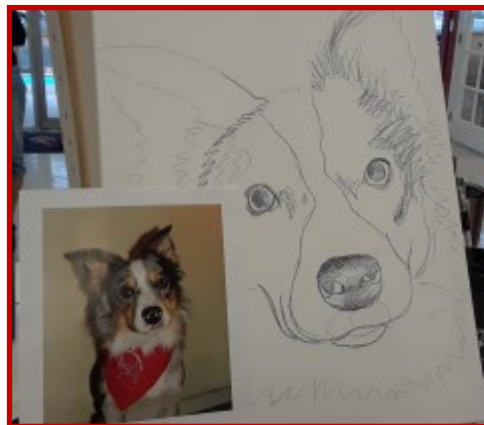
## July - Rally FrEe

Most folks were still under their self-imposed quarantine due to the Canine Influenza going around in our area. However Cyndi (with Casey and Jurnee) and Shirley (with Nim and Tachi) got together to work through some of the Rally FrEe signs. The Rally FrEe signs were good for helping our older dogs offer behaviors that were outside their normal traditional obedience behaviors. We had fun and our dogs worked through their initial "that's not what I get cookies for" outlook and began to realize there were many more opportunities for treats. Our younger dogs were a lot easier to encourage to perform the non-traditional obedience signs . . . a product of some of the great things we'd learned since starting the training of our older dogs that we'd incorporated into our foundation training with the younger dogs. It's a good reminder to try lots of things with young dogs so that when we focus on new skills and activities there's a foundation on which our dogs can confidently start from.

## July—Paint Your Pet

In July, I sent an e-mail out to the troop to let them know about a Paint Your Pet activity. Unfortunately the short notice and timing of the event was not good for the rest of the troop but I went with a couple of friends anyway. I've seen that other troops have done this activity—it can be set up as a private session and used as a fundraiser for the troop if there are sufficient people. I also know that some people are intimidated by this activity because they don't think they are artistic, but really it's just the next step up from "paint by numbers"! The instructor provides a shaded outline of your pet based on a photo you send in, and they guide you through the painting process. There were over 15 people in attendance, and everyone ended up with a picture they were pleased with. Some people like the art process, others like the human interaction the session affords—some studios sell snacks and adult beverages while others allow you to bring your own, but for me I found this activity somewhat therapeutic.

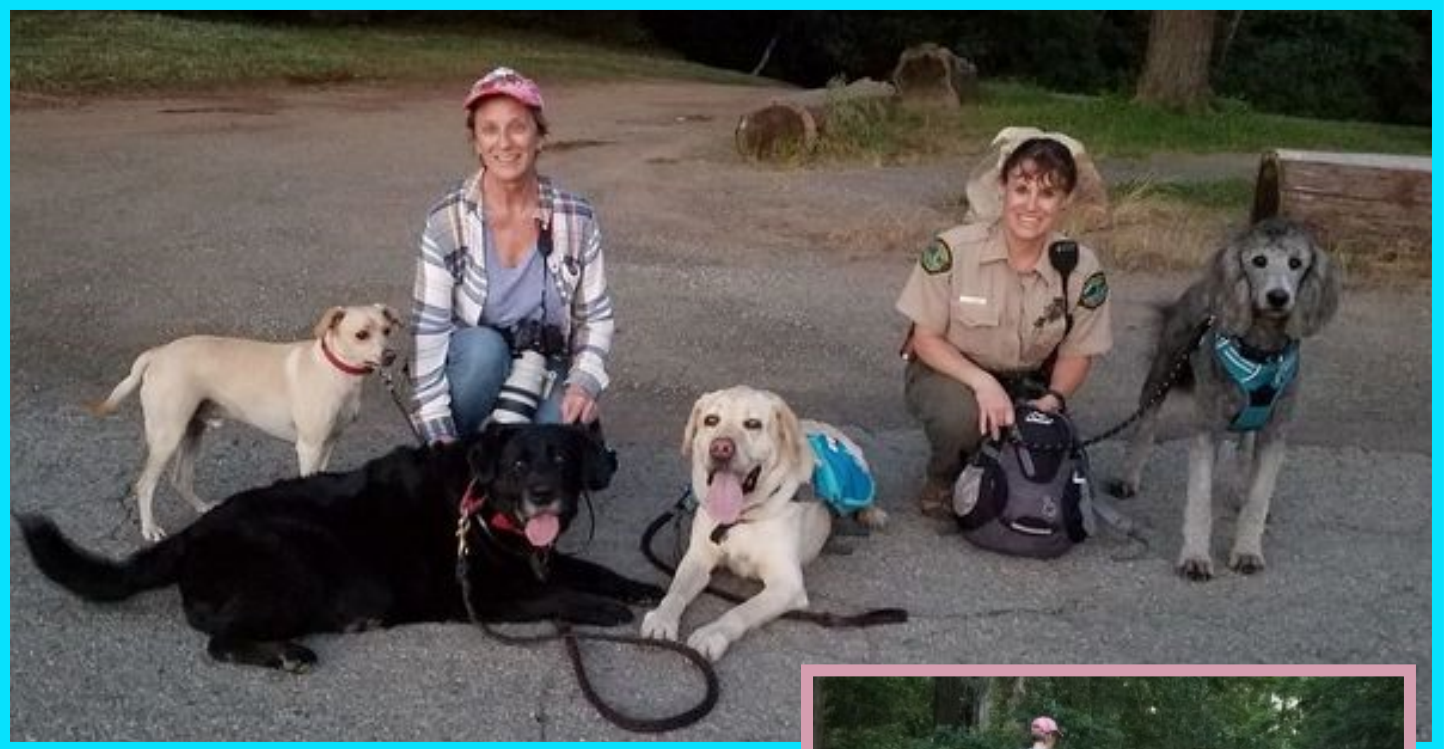
As I studied the dog in my picture acknowledged the physical characteristics that drew my eye and considered how, with my limited artistic abilities, I should translate that to my painting, it gave me a chance to think about his personality, what makes him unique, and the things that make me warm to him. I thought about his mindset, and focus, and how he responds to people and things. It was a time to reflect on our relationship and his impact in my life. So if you have the opportunity to "Paint Your Pet", take it, you too may come away with a greater appreciation of why the dog before you is the right dog for you at this time.



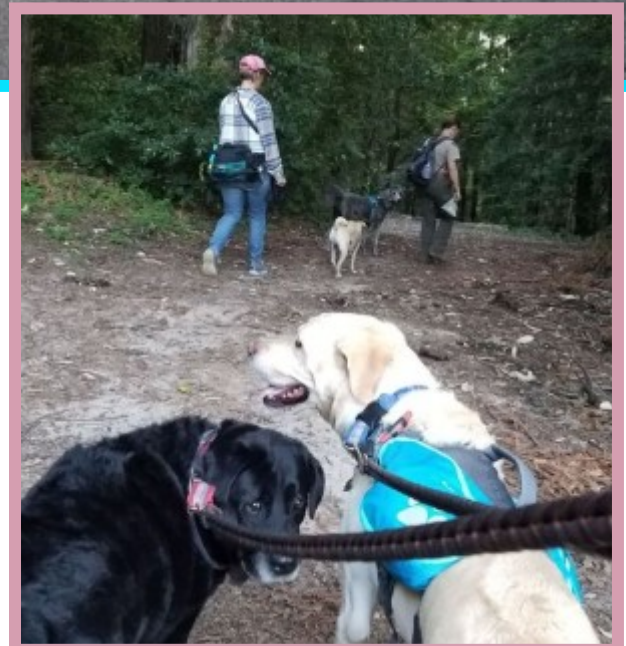
## Troop 198—CA (together with Troop 233 and Pre-Troops SF Peninsula and SF East Bay

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

We are half way through the year and the San Francisco Bay Area Troops are at full speed heel! The Peninsula Pre Troop in Burlingame, Troop 198 in Milpitas, Troop 233 in Morgan Hill and Troop 237 in the East Bay have been busy with lots of activities and we are helping one of our members, Brenda, that comes all the way from Sacramento start a troop out in that location. On May 19<sup>th</sup> some of us met at Mt. Madonna County Park in Watsonville for A Dog's Tale Dog Hike led by Ranger Blake at sunset.



Charlie with his Mom in back on the left, Duncan & Wyatt front and center and Ranger Blake and Yeti on the right.



Hitting the trail, Duncan asks, "Are you coming Mom?"



## Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On May 20<sup>th</sup> the East Bay Troop's meeting included Brain Games for dogs, such as spin-the-bottle, treats under the cups, find the ball and drop the toy in the bowl.

At the end of the meeting they all had special treats for Maurice's birthday



Copper finding the ball as Maurice and Kristie cheer him on.



Guppy holds the treat on her paws waiting for the OK to gobble it up.

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, the East Bay Troop #237 had a Dog Scout Information Booth at the fourth annual Hillside Festival in El Cerrito.



Troop members Ruth with Kobi, Stephanie with Ellie, Kristie with Maurice, Nancy with Tykie and Susan who is also with Ellie gather for a quick group shot in the booth before the Festival begins.



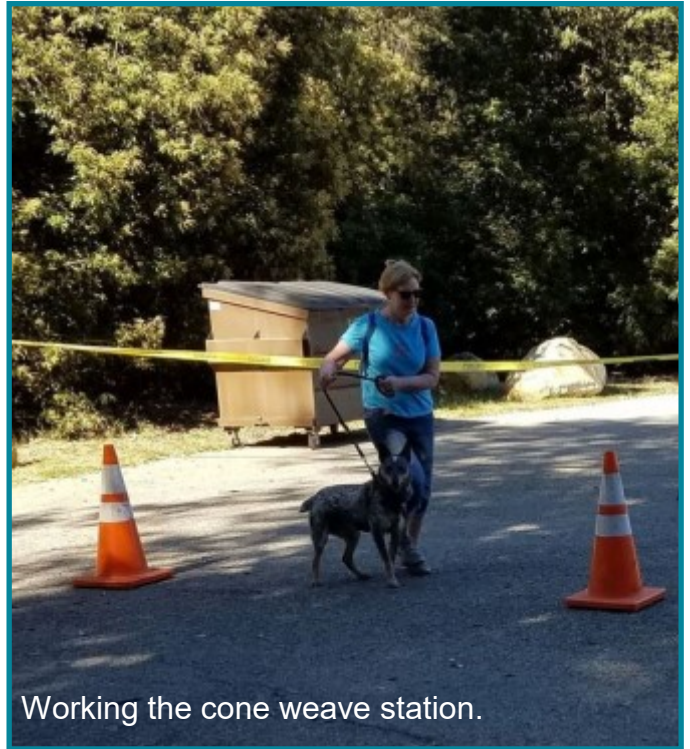
It was a great opportunity to show off their four-legged troop members and provide information to the community on how they can join the in the Dog Scout fun.

## Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Also on May 21<sup>st</sup> there was the Follow The Leader Dog Hike up on Mt. Madonna. Ranger Blake had set up a Focus Course for all the hikers to try with their dogs before the hike.



Kate with Cora doing a sit stay on the dog bed station of the course.



Working the cone weave station.

The hikers all stopped at Indian Rock Group site for a photo opp.



## Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On June 1<sup>st</sup> Brenda headed out to Sacramento with Guppy to take the American Temperament Test which she passed with flying colors and then just to top that off, Guppy also earned her CGC title.



Guppy and proud Mom Brenda posing with the ATTS judge after her great performance.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the East Bay Troop #237 put on a Canine Massage Training Class.



Ruth, one of the East Bay Troop Leaders walks around the class after giving her Massage Demonstration and helps the other troop members apply the techniques they just learned.

Everyone, especially the dogs enjoyed the relaxed bonding experience, here is Stevie enjoying the bliss of Nancy's massage.



Also on June 3<sup>rd</sup> some of our members attended the first in a series of free summer concerts called Vasona Vibrations at Vasona County park. The concerts are held to raise donations for Second Harvest Food Bank. Last year the concert series raised over 10K in donations.

CasiBlu, Baily, Wyatt and Duncan pose beneath the Band Stage as the Irish/American Folk Band, Celtic Heart sets up and does a sound check.

**Troop 198—CA (cont.)**



On June 4<sup>th</sup> we had our monthly Mall Walk About training at Stanford Shopping Center in Palo Alto, here we are practicing our down stays as we try and get a group picture in front of a Firehouse display set up in the Mall.

From left to right: Guppy, Cora, Duncan, Wyatt, Blitz, Luca with Judy and Spike with Donna.

On June 10<sup>th</sup> all the Bay Area Troop Members formed a Dog Scout Team and walked in a 5K Fund Raiser, the Dogs4Diabetics Lantern Run, 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for the dogs at Heather Farms Park in Walnut Creek. The event goal was to raise 70K, which was surpassed raising over 73K. Dogs4Diabetics runs a program for training and placing dogs that can alert their owners if their insulin levels go too high or too low.



Wyatt pulls the wagon with the Dog Scout sign with Duncan by his side. They let everyone know we were Dog Scouts walking for the cause!



Patty with Gracie lead the way with Patty G. and Crystal following behind and Frodo riding in style as Dave pushes his yard cart.

Near the finish line Kobi leads Ruth followed by Clewie and Issy leading Melissa and Jean



## Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Susan celebrates nearing the finish line with Stephanie and Ellie leading and Patty and Gracie following



Wearing their well deserved lanterns at the end of the walk are Brenda with Jada and Guppy, Natalie with Gigi and Jan holding Wyatt and Duncan.

On June 11<sup>th</sup> after the training session at the Humane Society in Milpitas, some of the cadets took the opportunity to take a patriotic picture.



Frodo and Crystal



Little Benny and Palo

## Troop 198—CA (cont.)



On June 17<sup>th</sup> the Milpitas Troop held their monthly meeting at one of the free summer concerts called Vasona Vibrations at Vasona County park. After the meeting we kicked back with some food and wine and enjoyed the Creole sounds of Grammy-nominated Andre Thierry and his band. The free summer concert series takes donations for Second Harvest Food bank during the concert.



Wyatt and Duncan show everyone where to drop off their donations.



After the concert, Patty with Crystal, Wyatt, Duncan, Jackie with June, Tacoma and Dino and Donna with Spike pose for a group shot in front of the stage.

## Troop 198—CA (cont.)



Stevie with mom Nancy leads the way across the bridge with Sadie, Copper and Senegal following with Carol, Pat, Dani and David. They had 16 humans attend with 14 dogs.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> Troop 237 had a Pack Walk on the Bay Trail near Point Isabel In Richmond.



The day was beautiful, as was the view.



And afterwards they enjoy refreshments at a dog-friendly café.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Troop 198 hosted their monthly Mall Walk About at Santana Row in San Jose.



Here is a group shot during the middle of the walk with, from left to right, Baily, Lily, Cora, Wyatt, Duncan and Kokoro practicing their stays.

## Troop 198—CA (cont.)

And then after the walk another practice of stays outside of Starbucks, From left to right: Dayton, Maxwell, Wyatt, Duncan, Kokoro, Cora, Baily and Jazz.

This was Baily and Jazz's first mall walk training and they did great! Good job!



On the Fourth of July Troop 237 had an information booth at the Old Fashioned Small Town WorldOne July 4<sup>th</sup> Festival at Cerrito Vista Park in El Cerrito. The event did not allow dogs, but Troop 237 was allowed to have troop members who were certified therapy dogs which was a huge hit with the crowd.



Copper and Pat with Kobi and Ruth behind them in front of the booth sharing information about both Dog Scouts and Pet Therapy.



Gracie arrives with Patty with Copper in the background and Kobi doing his therapy dog thing of getting petted by two happy young ladies.



Boy Scout meets Dog Scout, we love it when that happens. In front of the booth, Ruth with Kobi explains to this Boy Scout what Dog Scouts is all about.



## Troop 198—CA (cont.)

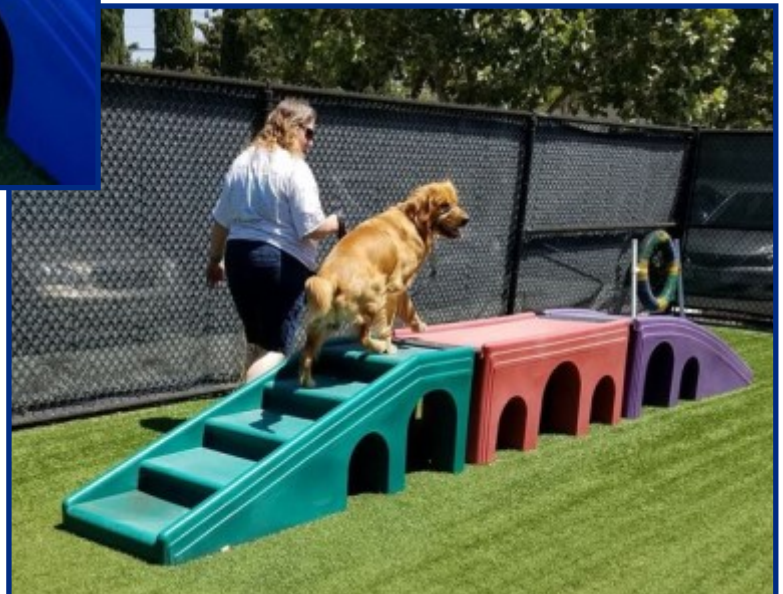
On July 9<sup>th</sup>, Troop 198 practiced sits, downs, stays, heels, and leave its with food and critters honing their skills for the Dog Scout test.

In between practice, Duncan, behind Denise and Kokoro checks to see if there are any treats left in the muffin tin game. Donna with Spike are keeping their fingers and toes crossed he gets lucky and finds something tasty.



New comers Juji with Comet watch Wyatt walk across the agility bridge

New comers Carlotta and Baily showing everyone Baily has this agility bridge down pat!



We keep meeting new people and doing new things while we practice our skills and spread the Dog Scout word, can't wait to see what the second half of summer brings!

## Troop 217—MI ~ The Motor City K9s

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Our troop has been extremely busy the past few months, especially with so many of us attending June and/or July camp in Michigan. But even with all the excitement of camp we've been able to get together for a couple of different activities.



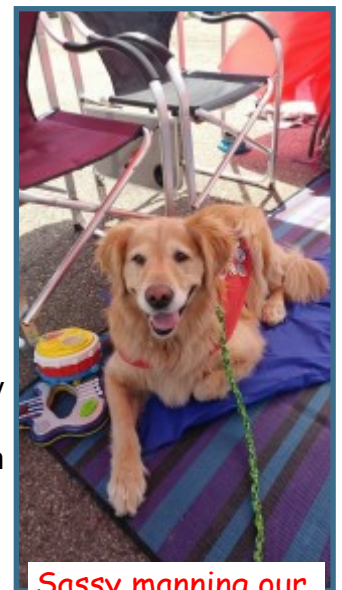
Caper, Katie, Tehran, Arden and Delta (with Sally and Claudette) all enjoyed the day even though it was a hot one

In June we had the opportunity to participate in the Garden City Flea Circus, a community event for pets and their parents with many different groups, vendors and rescues attending. Since several of us were working to complete the community service components of the new K9 Nutrition badge we decided to focus our booth on that subject. Troop participation was good and we had a number of members and dogs there including Michelle Neu and Sassy, Kristen Uitenham and Linus, Carrie and Dave Jones and Darby, Julie Lawler-Hoyle and Sam along with me and Katie. Since we knew several members of Troop 101 were working on the Nutrition badge too we invited them to come down and join us and were very happy to host Lonnie Olson with Kozi and Caper and Claudette Smith with Arden, Tegra and Delta at the event.



Katie at the Flea Circus

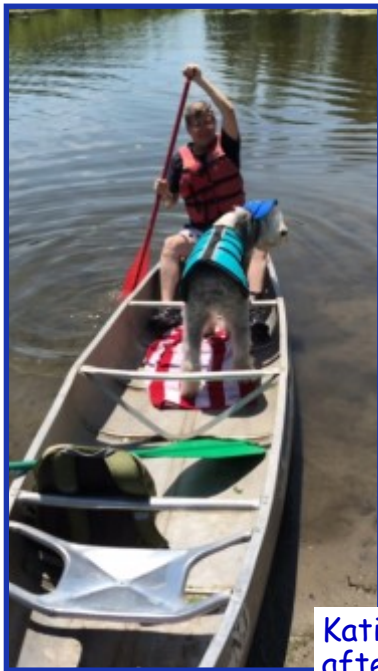
The event organizers provided us with two opportunities during the day to speak to the crowd from the main stage so we happily took them up on their offer and talked to those in attendance about how to read a dog food label, disease management and healthy weight. We also collected money that we donated to a



Sassy manning our Flea Circus booth

**Troop 217—MI (cont.)** local shelter ear-marked for healthy food. The dogs showed off tricks and played musical instruments in order to increase donations and Kozi was very successful in taking people's money and putting it in the collection jar. Though the day was hot the event was successful and we all had a lot of fun.

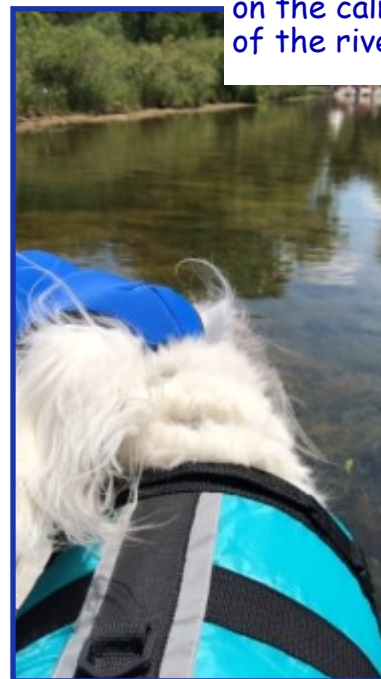
Lonnie with Caper and Kozi speaking at the Garden City Flea Circus



Katie and Sally pushing off after a break on the beach

In early July, Katie and I got together with Julie Benson and Shelby to video the remaining requirements both dogs needed to earn the Canoeing badge. It was another hot day and after waiting for an available canoe to rent we were able to get out on the Huron River and paddle. Though we were excited to go, we have decided that our canoeing career is over! With so many people out and the river running very swiftly our task was not at all easy. Both dogs did very well but the humans returned with frayed nerves and tired bodies and have decided to stick to kayaking and paddle boarding from here on out. We think Shelby and Katie enjoy those activities more anyway! Still, we like to challenge ourselves so we were glad to give canoeing a try and are thankful that we were successful under those conditions.

Katie enjoyed the view on the calm stretches of the river



Shelby getting ready to get back on the river after a break

# Troop 219—CT

Kelly Ford—Troop Leader

May and June were really busy months for Troop 219 as our Scouts earned a number of titles and badges. We cheered a Scout to our roster and celebrated her first merit badge too!



Congratulations to Teagan for earning her DSA Title and Puppy Paddler badge! Teagan also earned her Obstacle 2 and Obstacle 3 badges. She is so excited to be a Dog Scout.

Congratulations to Danica Joy for earning her Letterbox 3 badge and Letterbox Dog (LBD) Title!



Troop 219—CT (cont.)

Congratulations to Wyatt for earning his Letterbox Dog (LBD) Title!



Congratulations to Cody for earning his Puppy Paddler Badge!



We kicked off our Summer Strolls with a nice easy walk at Haley Farm State Park this year. Our Summer Strolls are every Tuesday evening (weather permitting) all summer long. This is a great way to enjoy the summer, get out and stretch our legs and maybe find a geocache too.

The weather has been perfect so far. We've been to lots of new places in South Eastern CT. The pups have found lots of streams to splash in when it's hot.

## Troop 219—CT (cont.)

At the end of May, we were joined by a couple members of Troop 207 from Ohio. We took them to beautiful Barn Island in Stonington and introduced them to geocaching.



### Barn Island with Troop 219 and Troop 207



In the beginning of June, Danica Joy DSA and Zora DSA attended the Fifth Annual Wakeda Letterbox event in New Hampshire. They were joined by Gwen DSA, Punkin DSA and Firefly DSA from Troop 207. The 5 year anniversary event was huge! With five days of letterboxing, five themes, and dancing bears! Yes, dancing bears in tutus.

We planted special event boxes at our campsite for the event. Danica and Zora planted a puggle circus series called "Pugglepoloozza". Gwen added a special "Fairy Doodle" series. Almost every campsite had special boxes hidden for us to find.

The event organizers went all out for the 5 year anniversary, with props and decorations. They did an amazing Candy Land series where you walked thru Candy Land, including the peppermint forest and the Gumdrop Mountain. We also enjoyed the Big Top series, decorated for the circus. We found a tiger jumping thru a hoop and some dinosaurs.

## Troop 219—CT (cont.)



There were fairies all over the campground. They were hanging from flowers and hiding in fairy houses. There was an Alice in Wonderland series as well. Danica really liked finding the Cheshire Cat. We found teapots hiding with special stamps inside. Did I mention the bears in tutus? They were huge!



Wakeda 2018 is already being planned for anyone who wants to join the fun and make a trip to New Hampshire.



## Troop 219—CT (cont.)

Teagan, Danica Joy and Zora attended a CPE agility trial with their agility club in June. This was Teagan and Danica's first trial. Zora Q'd in Wildcard. This gives her a CL1-H title for qualifying legs in both Colors and Wildcard. Teagan Q'd in Standard in her very first Agility trial and run ever!!! Danica had a blast at the trial.



We had an epic adventure at Nehantic state park in early July. We met by the pond, so we could go for a swim after our hike. Little did we know that the trails were unmarked and looped in crazy circles. Our plan was for two miles, 4.75 miles later we made it back to the pond. Fortunately, we had a map and compasses, so we confidently navigated our way back to the pond. The pups had a great time and were rewarded with a swim at the end. Cody earned his Puppy Paddler too!

# Troop 236—MI ~ Capitol Area K9s

**Serves: Clinton, Eaton, & Ingham County, MI - Greater Lansing Area**

*Cady Ness-Smith—Troop Leader*

Our troop officially formed in February 2016; however, we spent several months promoting Dog Scouts and trying to find a place to hold meetings. Our first big meeting was in September 2016. We had 16 dogs in attendance. Brenda Katz from troop # 130 came and reviewed the dog scout test. All dogs started some of the elements of the test at that time.

Toes was the first to complete and pass the dog scout test, followed by Bandit. Since then, Vaughn, Farkle, Gino, Lassie, Dot, Lady, Bella, and Scooter have passed the dog scout test and two more dogs will be taking the test in the next few weeks. We also have two pup scouts. Our youngest dog is 4 months old and oldest is 13 years old.

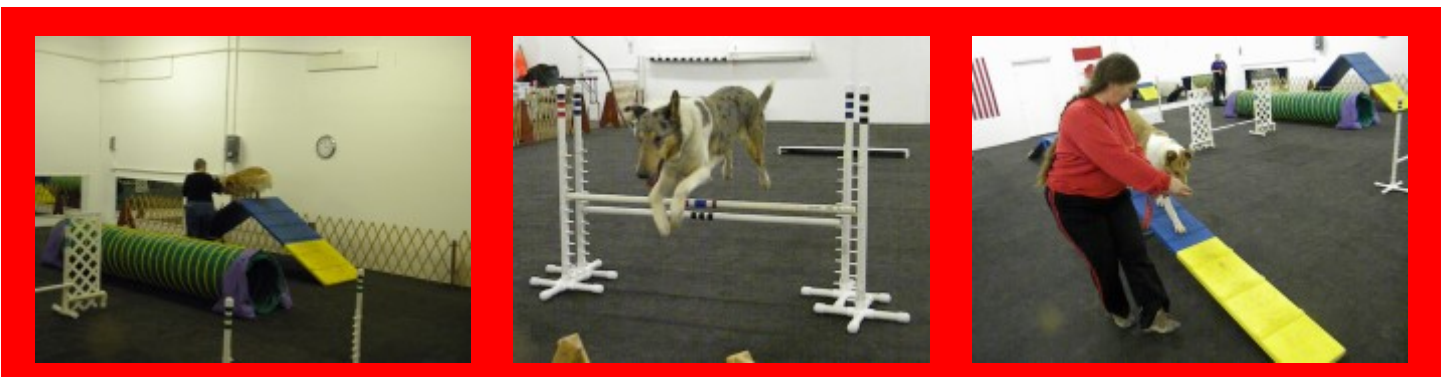
We meet the third Sunday of each month at the Obedience Training Club of Greater Lansing (OTCGL) unless working on outdoor skills. Several of our members are also members of OTCGL and two even sit on their board. This has been a blessing, as OTCGL allows us to use their building and equipment for skills practice and meetings free of charge. In exchange, we assist in cleaning and provide some cleaning supplies.

We have presented a different badge each month: geocaching, letterboxing, tricks, agility, art of shaping, backpacking, dog scout test, boating safety, beach buddies, puppy paddler. Thanks to Jeff Parker and Hemi for presenting the art of shaping, Brenda Katz for doing the dog scout test and Sally Hoyle (troop #217) for her ongoing support. Generally, we have 8 -16 dogs in attendance for meetings and skills training.

In addition to the above skills, our troop hosted a Christmas party for our members. We had hot dogs and chili for the humans and homemade doggie cupcakes for the dogs. We also had games, drawings, and gifts for the dogs. Toes slept with his Paddington bear gift for months after the party.

Toes, Farkle, Lassie, and Cam have completed geocaching 1, 2, and 3 badges. Toes has also completed letterboxing 1, 2 and 3: as well as therapy dog, and backpacking. Farkle and Lassie are almost done with letterboxing 1, 2, and 3. Cam is completing Letterboxing 1, 2, and 3 soon. Mikey and Farkle are getting close to completion of backpacking badge. We have several dogs that should complete beach buddies, puppy paddler, and boating safety in the next month. Troop badge count so far is 20, with more, soon.

Troop leader, Cady, has also completed the scoutmaster test and is now able to administer the dog scout test. Cady is also currently under consideration by Therapy Dogs International to hopefully become an evaluator. Roxann is an AKC evaluator for Star Puppy, CGC, CGC-A, CGC-U, and tricks, so her experience is invaluable. Betsy is also an agility and parkour instructor, so she brings even more experience to our troop.



## Troop 236—MI (cont.)

On June 25, our troop worked on water badge skills and water safety at Crego Park in Lansing. Channel 6 news - WLNS came out and filmed us and did interviews. We were highlighted on both 6pm and 11pm news as part of their water safety series. Since then, we have received much more interest in our troop and local pet stores have had difficulty keeping doggy life vests in stock.

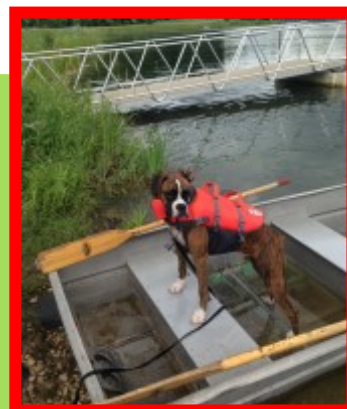
The video is available on our troop 236 Facebook page and the WLNS Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/capitolareak9s/>



Several months ago, TV 6 did a segment on therapy dogs at Michigan State University (MSU). Toes was highlighted in that as well. Lassie, Cam and Dot also are involved in therapy dog activities at MSU and other locations.



We have obtained the use of a row boat, kayak, canoe, and SUP for helping to earn badges. In addition, several people have donated the use of doggie life vests, human life vests, bicycle with dog attachment, and other items.



July 28 – 30 we have been invited

to participate in the Michigan Horse Drawn Vehicle Association (MHDVA) driving weekend. Several members have offered to help dogs get comfortable around carriage horses and start working on carriage dog skills. Our troop leader has 40+ years of experience carriage driving and is Vice President of MHDVA.

As a community education project, we are also completing a presentation for law enforcement regarding geocaching and letterboxing. While out earning these badges, we encountered law enforcement several times and were surprised to learn just how few officers knew nothing about geocaching or letterboxing. Several officers reported they have removed or destroyed boxes, as they did not know what they were or well-meaning citizens reported suspicious persons / activities. This presentation will be used by our members to help educate officers in their local communities.

We have been having a great time with our dogs and are so proud of how much we have accomplished in such a short time. Thanks to troop #130, #217 and DSA members that have helped get our troop going. We look forward to growing our troop and being good role models for the canine community.



# Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

Website: [Dogscouts.org](http://Dogscouts.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/DogScouts](https://facebook.com/DogScouts)  
Yahoo Discussion List:  
[pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSA\\_TalkList](https://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSA_TalkList)

Dog Scouts of America (DSA) was established in 1995. It is a non-profit organization with people dedicated to enriching their dog's lives and the lives of others with dogs. Founder Lonnie Olson has made it her life's ambition to experience as many dog sports and skills as possible with her dogs.

If you believe that dogs really enjoy learning new things and spending time with their owners, you're our kind of dog person. Dogs were not meant to be "furniture." Working dogs want to work. Without having an acceptable activity in which to use up all of the energy that comes "built-in" with a dog, our canine companions often get into trouble.

By better understanding how your dog thinks, how he learns, and what drives his behavior, and by participating in a variety of dog sports and activities, you will become a more responsible dog owner.

We hope to prevent misunderstandings, communication failures, and behavioral problems which often lead to dogs being given up as a "lost cause."

**President: Lonnie Olson** — [DogScoutCamp@gmail.com](mailto:DogScoutCamp@gmail.com)  
(Also for Dog Scout Calendar, Sparky's Camp Store, Dog Scout Camp (MI), Camp Scholarships)

**Mini-Camp Mentor: Sally Hoyle** — [sally.hoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:sally.hoyle@yahoo.com)

**Dog Scout Obituaries: Chris Kloski** — [ChrisBill1966@gmail.com](mailto:ChrisBill1966@gmail.com)  
(Memorial recognition and engraving)

**Membership: Peggy Mooney** — [mmmooney65@gmail.com](mailto:mmmooney65@gmail.com)

**Troop Administration: Brenda Katz** — [dogs2katz@yahoo.com](mailto:dogs2katz@yahoo.com)  
(Starting a troop/Troop Leader Tests)

**Treasurer/Donations: Barb Whiting** — [bwhitingdsa@comcast.net](mailto:bwhitingdsa@comcast.net)

## MERIT BADGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

**Program Coordinator: Heddie Leger** [pawzone@yahoo.com](mailto:pawzone@yahoo.com)  
**Recording Secretary: Julie Benson** — [bensonjulie@earthlink.net](mailto:bensonjulie@earthlink.net)  
**Evaluator Certification: Chris Kloski** — [ChrisBill1966@gmail.com](mailto:ChrisBill1966@gmail.com)

## TITLES/COMPETITIONS

**Hosting/Competing: Ann Withun** — [Ann@Withun.com](mailto:Ann@Withun.com)  
**Trail Dog Titles: Kelly Ford** — [DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com](mailto:DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com)  
(Also for competition registration numbers)

**Newsletter: Shirley Conley** (Editor) — [thescoop@dogscouts.org](mailto:thescoop@dogscouts.org)

**Website/Communications: Sonja Klattenberg** — [webadmin1@dogscouts.org](mailto:webadmin1@dogscouts.org)

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