The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Volume 25 Issue 4 ~ Winter 2022

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



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Deadline: for the next newsletter is

March 1st

Please e-mail your news, articles, and pictures to thescoop@dogscouts.org

Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

By Kristie Iwamoto (Maurice's Mom)



Congratulations to Our New Title Holders!

It's getting colder outside, but why not bundle up, get outside and enjoy the winter wonderland? Here are our Trail Titles for September through November:

TRAIL DOGS

Calamity Jane Tarnation Donaldson (UT)
Patch Walker (UT8K)

LETTERBOX DOGS

Goldy Reid

Here's an interesting note . . . Patch Walker is our very first UTK8 title holder. This means that he could have actually walked from his home in the UK to my house in California to pick his certificate up personally and still had over 2,000 miles to spare!



If you're interested in learning more about Trail Titles, please visit our website's <u>Trail Dog Titles</u> page, and if you have an questions at all, feel free to email me at <u>titles@dogscouts.org</u>

Dog Scout Class of 2022

By Sally Hoyle, DSA President

We have new Dog Scouts to add to the class of 2022, all recently certified in the past few months. This brings the total of new Scouts in 2022 to 26 – a really nice sized class for the year. Please join me in congratulating these dogs and their handlers for this accomplishment.



Gibson Ames Troop 119 Arlington, TX



Gizmo Ackerman Troop 119 Arlington, TX



Remington Parker Francis Troop 119 Savoy, TX



Mika Kenneally Hawera South, New Zealand



Raven Luttrell Troop 119 Kennedale, TX



Kate Schmitt Troop 119 Flint, TX



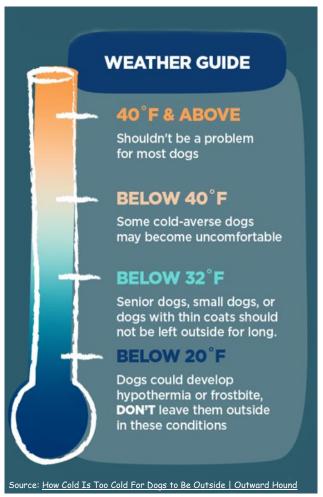
Tippi Tomaszewski Troop 188 Middletown, CT

These dogs join Finn Angel, Dayton Armstrong, Memphis Armstrong, Pico Bailey, Bobby Love-Bucy, Kiltie Love-Bucy, Gabby Burdette, Willow Derisse, Luna Gumbin, Basil Gamage, Willa Gamage, Pennybelle Kraus, Zoey Rose Kraus, Ace Lampert, Trevor Lane, Dakota Nordman, Lexi Phillips, Quinllin Blue Turnbow and Sprocket Zemke all pictured in previous issues of *The Scoop* as a part of the Dog Scout Class of 2022.

How Cold is too Cold for our Pups?

Kaylene Long - Troop 101

I did not know the answer to this question...my dogs are indoors and are never left outside, but with our troop participating in a winter parade, and the temperatures forecasted between 39 degrees and sunny and 29 and snowy showers, I thought it would be good to do some research . . . Here's what I found:



Just like with people, some dogs can tolerate winter weather better than others. Listen to your dog, know your dog, what type of coat does he/she have, height and size, weight, age, health and activity level. Dogs with thicker coats are most tolerant to the cold, while dogs with thin coats will have a harder time maintaining warmth. Small dogs lose body heat faster than large dogs. Thin dogs get colder faster than heavier dogs (but don't overfeed your dog to make sure they are warmer!) Older dogs, puppies and sick dogs struggle to retain warmth and may need aids such as coats and booties.

Winter Tips

- Defore you leave so you know how long you can safely be out with your dog.
- ☼ Watch your dog look for any cues from your dog that he has had enough of the cold, picking up or licking his paws excessively, whining, begging at the door, or shivering.
- Short & Sweet keep your walks short on very cold days. Pay attention to your dog!
- ☼ Clip the Toe Hair Keeping the hair between your dog's toes clipped short keep ice and snow from accumulating, causing temporary lameness or

just making it difficult or painful for your dog to walk.

- Boots Protecting your dog's paws with boots protects against a variety of winter hazards. Snow & ice can dry out paws and make your dog chill faster. Boots also protect the pads from salt and chemicals that are put on the street to remove ice.
- First Aid If your dog's paws split and there is an open sore, clean the wound first with water.

 Use an antibacterial first aid spray or lotion to prevent infection. Wrap the area with clean gauze or pet bandage. Keep walks to a minimum during the healing process.
- Moisturize Use a pet-safe dog skin conditioner or paw wax to prevent them from drying out. Coconut oil is an excellent choice. Not only is it an effective moisturizer, but it is a healthy source of fats and vitamins when ingested.
- Wipe paws Always wipe your dog's paws after winter walks with a warm washcloth and a towel to dry, or a pre-moistened pet wipe. Washing removes salt or ice melt chemicals.
- Pet-safe Traction Most chemical ice melts are not safe for pets. Choose a non-toxic, pet-friendly traction product and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same. Road salt

How Cold is too Cold for our Pups? (cont.)

includes contaminants as well as high amounts of minerals and heavy metals that could prove toxic to your pets.

- Coats and Sweaters Some think jackets and sweaters look silly on dogs, but they can be very useful. While some dogs have fur coats that can withstand cold temperatures and wick away moisture, many dogs do not. A dog winter coat can be a windbreaker, protecting your dog from windchill, can keep your dog from getting wet and chilled and can add a layer of insulation to keep him warmer for longer. Keep a few sweaters on hand: If one gets wet you can alternate them. While one dries you have another.
- Stick to the sidewalk Keep your pup out of deep snow if you are on a longer walk. Many dogs do not have fur on their bellies so wading in deep snow could make your dog much colder on extended walks. Stick to cleared sidewalks and trails and leave snow jumping for short periods of backyard play.
- Daytime Walks Daily walks in the daylight hours will most likely be warmer for you and your dog and you will be more visible to vehicles in the sunlight.
- Shovel Snow As a common courtesy, shovel snow on your sidewalks as soon as you can. This makes your sidewalk more friendly to everyone out walking their pups.
- On Grazing Stop your pet from ingesting anything he finds on his winter walk. Chemical ice and snow melting products, road salt and antifreeze are very common finds on your winter walks.
- Frostbite Can be a threat to your pets who, like kids, might be having too much fun in the snow to notice frostbite while it is happening. Watch ears, nose, footpads and tail as these are the most common places for frostbite. Frostbite skin is cold, pale and hard and it often turns red & puffy after it warms up a bit. Apply a warm, not hot, rag to the affected area once inside and also cover with a blanket. Don't let your dog lick, scratch or chew at the affected area.

How can you know if your dog is becoming hypothermic?

According to the Colorado Veterinary Referral & Critical Care hospital (VRCC), the symptoms of hypothermia are:

Pale skin and gums

Shivering

Lethargy

Whining

Stumbling, lack of coordination

Dilated pupils

Low heart and breathing rates

Curling up

What can you do if your dog shows signs of hypothermia?

If your dog shows signs of hypothermia, get them to a warm environment and wrap them in a blanket. Place warm water bottles around your dog to keep him warm (don't use a heating pad as this may burn your dog's skin). Take your dog to the veterinarian or emergency vet hospital as soon as possible.

What to do if you see a dog left outside?

If you come across a dog left outside in low temperatures, especially for long periods of time, the HSUS recommends that you "politely let the owner know you're concerned. Some people genuinely don't know the risk that cold weather poses to their pets, and will be quick to correct any problems you address."

How Cold is too Cold for our Pups? (cont.)

If you are still concerned about the outdoor dog's wellbeing, follow the HSUS steps to get the dog help: reporting wintertime neglect to help keep this pet safe. That dog needs to be inside a warm place to survive.

Many states have laws that protect dogs from being left outside in the doghouse in the cold and snow. For instance: Michigan law states that outdoor dogs must be provided with the shelter, food & water they need to survive during the brutal Michigan winter. The Michigan Humane Society has a straw drop program for pet owners that are unable to provide these life-saving necessities for their pets. Read up on your local area's reporting procedures should you find an animal or outside dog in distress.

I know in the warmer states you don't have these issues, but up here in Michigan the snow fun is just beginning! We decided to do the parade, but we bundled ourselves and our pups up complete with coats and booties. Along the parade route many people commented on the booties, "Why are they wearing those?" I commented back that it protects their paws from the cold and the salt chemicals on the road, more than one person replied "I never thought of that." So, I feel that our pups educated people, showed them that dogs will wear boots (even while pulling a cart) and be perfectly happy about it and we were able to educate them on why it is important! I call that a success!! Stay warm and safe this winter!



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2023 Freaky Fall Festival at Michigan Dog Scout Camp

By Sally Hoyle, DSA President

On the weekend of October 7th through 10th the annual fall outing was held in St. Helen, Michigan. Our theme was the Freaky Fall Festival, and we celebrated all of the holidays that take place in the last quarter of the year. Ten members attended the weekend festivities.



The fall colors were just beautiful this year! The peak color came a little later this year, which meant that we got to really enjoy the beauty when hiking. The color made a gorgeous background for photos and we took LOTS of them thanks to our photographers Fay Reid and Martha Thierry. We even took advantage of the plentiful leaves by collecting some and using them to create leaf print art on canvas.

We had a Dog Scout Camp first when we had a HUGE holiday meal on Saturday night. DSA supplied the turkey and all of the guests provided the side dishes. We set the table with holiday plates and decorations and then served the meal family style. We dressed ourselves and our dogs to celebrate a holiday of our choosing. We all had so much fun preparing and eating our holiday meal and we hope we can make this an annual tradition.



We were able to pay for the turkeys in full by having a "guess the number of bones in the jar" contest. I supplied the dog treats and had fun putting them in the jar —824 in all! It took me a couple of days to prepare the jar and I was the only one who knew the total so that everyone else could play. My dogs really enjoyed helping me with that task! We sold guesses for \$1 each and the winner was Laurie Keel with a guess of 823!

We played a number of fun games. There were scent games – Check the Mail, where the dogs had to find the scent hidden in

one of a number of boxes before time ran out (there was even a ticking time bomb in the box with the scent complete with sound effects that made it explode if time ran out!)



and Witch Noodle where the dogs had to find scent hidden inside one of many identical pieces of a cut up pool noodle. Some dogs really made those noodles go flying!











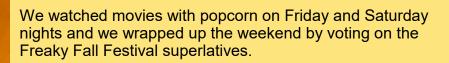




We also played Touch and Toss, where the dog did the touching and we did the tossing. Catch the Ghost had us tossing rings onto a peg. The dogs were allowed to retrieve the rings that missed the peg to give us a second chance. We took the dogs out into the crisp fall air to have them jump over, go under and around different objects. We played Test Your DSA Knowledge which was all about our badges. The Musical Pumpkin game was a big hit and we had a really fun Motown Christmas Review Dance Contest.



On Friday night we had a scavenger hunt outside in the dark where everyone had to find glow-in-the-dark bats, pumpkins and ghosts. There were hints on each of these that helped people with the answers to our quite compressive list of trivia questions that we attempted to answer throughout the weekend, all of the questions were about the fall harvest time and the holidays we were celebrating.





For those that stayed over on Monday, we spent the time hiking, taking more photos and putting together a really cool dog breed jigsaw puzzle.

Special thanks to Troop 101 members Barb Foy and Jean Thompson, who did most of the planning, provided decorations,

goodie bags, festive plates and napkins, some games

and plans or the weekend. They were unable to attend due to covid concerns, but brought the props, prizes, etc.to camp in advance for us to use for the outing.

Attendees for the weekend: Diane Baughman & Jaxson, Diane Cranston & Angel, Martha Thierry with Maia & Riley, Jill Beaton with

Bliss, Charm, Finn, Hally and Cooper, Lonnie Olson with Kozi (RIP), Caper, Kismet & Scallywag, Fay Reid & Goldy, Kaylene Long with Molly & Jax, Barrie Lynn Wood with Moose & Bam Bam, Sally Hoyle with Sam (RIP), Katie & Mackenzie. In hindsight I feel very blessed that Kozi and Sam both

got to participate in some of the games as sadly, they both passed away in November.











Freaky Fall Festival Superlatives:

Best Holiday Attire: Sally Hoyle & Mackenzie in matching Christmas pjs

Best Holiday Dish: Sweet Potatoes, Butternut Squash, and Turkey (3-way tie)

Trivia Master: Martha Thierry (She crushed it!)

Trivia Jester: Fay Reid (Boy did she have some funny answers!)

Funniest Dog: Mackenzie (must have been her bouncing and pouncing!)

Best Canine/Human Dance Team: Jill Beaton & Bliss (Really creative moves!)

Super Sniffer: Kozi Olson, age 15 ½



Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Troop 101—MI

Goldy Reid (with help from Fay)

Troop 101 hosted a Craft Weekend held at the Michigan camp at the end of September. The outing raised \$490 from purchasing table space and auction items. The money has been earmarked for much needed new outdoor chairs at the camp. One of our members fell out of a chair while eating her dinner one night and it wasn't the first time one broke. Attendees (troops 101 & 217) brought their own projects that ranged from sewing, quilting, painting, sewing on DSA badges, etc. It was such a beautiful fall weekend that most of the dog activities included walks among the fall colors. It was way too nice out to stay inside.



Caper, Kozi, Kismet, and Scallywag with Lonnie, Sally with MacKenzie, Kaylene with Jax and Molly Laurie with Booker, Fay's Goldy, Martha with Maia



One evening we built a fire and cooked hobo pizza's for dinner. We also helped put away some of the summer items to begin winterizing the camp.

Many of our troop members attended the Freaky Fall Festival. It was another beautiful weekend and we took advantage of the Fall colors to get some nice pictures of our kids.

Members participated in the Turkey Trot & Gobbler. The snowbirds from our troop Kismet, Scallywag and Caper are gobbling up their turkey trot miles in South Carolina.



Troop 101—MI (cont.)

Troop 101 had a booth at the Paws Palooza held in Bay City, MI in October to help raise funds for Leader Dogs for the Blind and the Bay County Humane Society. We are happy to have met our new newest member there, Valerie.











Booker & Laurie dropping off their letters to Santa



Kyra hoping to get a glimpse of Santa picking up the letters



Valerie, Kyra, Laurie, Booker, and Goldy

Some of us got together to celebrate National Hiking Day for a hike. Due to the cold and wind chill we decided to take our hike to the mall. This allowed us to get some festive photos.



Getting Ready to practice our spins

We walked the Midland Holiday Santa parade for the 2nd year in a row along with members of Troop 217. The weather was quite chilly, below 30 degrees. Our dogs wore their booties to protect them from the cold and potential salt on the roads. We also traveled to Garden City to join our sister troop 217 in their parade. This turned out to be much warmer than our own.



Both parades were great fun in sharing our mission and vision with our communities.

Troop 101—MI (cont.)

Many of our dogs, like Booker, loved the daily activities from the Super Sniffer Challenges in the Right on the Nose Scent Challenge that ran through the whole of September.













Our October meeting brought our newest member Valerie & Kyra. Finding clove scent in noodles with the wind blowing them everywhere was a challenge that the dogs all took in stride. We also practiced finding scent in people's hands for the advanced scent badge. We practiced some DOGa moves by getting our dogs used to putting their paws on stones and discs. Some of us stayed and hiked around the park afterwards.







Meet our newest Member Valerie and Kyra.

Kyra is a quick study and learned to do two paws up on the disc. We are happy to have Valerie and Kyra join DSA and look forward to helping them complete the DSA badge requirements

Troop 101—MI (cont.)

In November we continued to work on DOGa items, leave its, obedience cues, backup, spins, touch cues.







Some of the badges earned by Troop 101 were:

Molly: Dock Diving, Hiking, Beach Buddies, and Urban Hiking





Jax: Urban Hiking and Beach Buddies



Booker: Letterboxing 3, Geo 1, Geo scenting, Biking, and Urban hiking



Razzle earned her AKC MACH. Congratulations to her and her mom, Pauline.

Troop 119—N TX—Lone Star Paws Squad

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

Troop 119 has been enjoying a busy fall – our busiest time of the year!

In September, we welcomed long-time troop member and certified animal behavior consultant, Karen Deeds, to lead a troop meeting in canine communication titled, "Listening to Your Dog's Whispers So They Don't

Need to Yell." Karen is a great and knowledgeable presenter who does seminars all over the country so we're super excited when she makes time to present great topics to the troop! We had a good turnout and gained information to help us understand what our dogs are trying to tell us.





In early October, we were invited back to a pack meeting of Cub Scouts 378.

We did a presentation on loyalty and talked about examples of how our dogs are loyal and what we can learn from them. The kids were then able to rotate around the room to meet each dog and ask questions. The kids and the dogs all had a great time and we appreciated them wanting us to participate with them again.









Troop 119—N TX (cont.)

Later in October we enjoyed a Howl-O-Ween event for the troop. The dogs were able to trick or treat to several game stations. They got treats at each station but could play a game to earn extra treats. They then took a break while their humans played Howl-O-Ween Bingo for prizes. We wrapped up with a costume contest and we really had participants go all out! Prizes were awarded for first, second and third place. It was a great day to be out enjoying the season with our pups.

















The following weekend we participated in Howl-O-Ween On The Avenue at Bark Avenue. We had a booth at the event and even though the event got a little soggy, we had a great time talking to people about Dog Scouts of America! (And Alex was super excited about winning two raffle baskets!)



Troop 119—N TX (cont.)































In November, we had our 18th almost-annual (except 2020 for public health reasons) Texas Mini-Camp! We had a challenging year this year with several campers that had to cancel for reasons beyond their control, rain for only about the second time in 19 years, and some dog and human sicknesses/injuries. But in spite of the issues (and maybe to a certain extent. because of them) we had an amazing year of campers & staff really looking out for each other, encouraging one another and helping one another in so many ways! And we all were able to spend 4 days of bonding and learning with our dogs in the process. We broke our previous record for the auction and we welcomed four new Dog Scouts: Gizmo Ackerman, Gibson Ames, Remington Parker Francis and Raven Luttrell. We had a great staff, as always, and a great group of campers! We welcome anyone who hasn't checked out Texas Mini-Camp yet, to consider it for next fall. We love seeing our long-time friends every year but always look forward to meeting new ones!

Troop 149—MO ~ River City Rovers

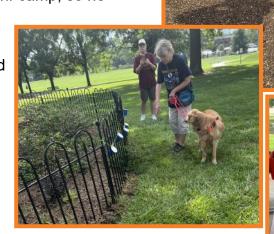
Submitted by Fran Beezley and Dog Scout Barney

September

We had a beautiful day to meet in Des Peres Park to work on some of the skills in the Right On The Nose challenge. Barney, Bess, Lou, Mason, River, Roxie and Zoey showed everyone how to use that nose! What fun we all had.

Then, during the last part of the meeting, Barney showed off his skit for his Tricks badge. Troop member Sandi was working on becoming an evaluator and Barney agreed to help her. He was going to Dog Scout Mini-camp, so he

showed us on a calendar what the date was. He was so excited he jumped through a hoop and turned in circles. Then he got his official Dog Scout scarf and went to his mat so he could get dressed. Finally, once he was dressed, he couldn't wait anymore and he jumped into the suitcase, ready to go. Sandi said he passed and he was so excited!





October

What better way to celebrate fall than a nice hike at Route 66 State Park. Barney, Bess, Lou, Mason, River, Roxie, Tempest, and Zoey agreed.



Troop 149—MO (cont.)

November

It was unusually cold for November but that didn't stop Abby, Barney, Charlie, Lou and Zoey from participating in the Turkey Trot. One loop around Tiemeyer Park was perfect to meet the requirements.







Texas Mini-Camp

Three Scouts once again attended the great mini-camp hosted by Troop 119 in Texas.

Barney, Lou and Roxie had a ball. The ride there was long but it was worth it. They all earned at least one badge.









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Troop 150-AR

Sharon Branyan

Troop 150 0f Arkansas met virtually for our first few meetings of 2022, since some of our members travel from Oklahoma and weather conditions were not good even for local travel. We used our first couple of meetings to plan activities and areas of interest to pursue for the year. We discussed our National leadership's suggestion of asking different members to lead meeting activities during the

year and everyone signed up for a presentation or training session as we mapped out a tentative 2022 calendar.

During the second quarter we used the "Dog Ate My Mad Libs" book to create some silly Mad Libs stories using both known and new behaviors for the nouns and verbs. Each of us then used treats and rewards to lead our dogs through the surprise story as the completed Mad Lib was read. We then discussed how this could easily become the basis for a "Tricks" badge routine, since coming up with a story or skit is often the most challenging part of the badge requirements (for the human at least!)



We also had the O&S presentation for the DOGa Exercise badge, in preparation for working through the badge requirements over the next few meetings.













Third quarter we were busy every month, starting with a member led presentation in July on the new Urban Hiking badge and a different type of dog art involving the canvas, paint, zip loc bags and peanut butter! The dogs licked their enclosed canvases to create modern masterpieces!

Troop 150—AR (cont.)







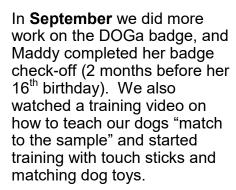


In **August** we learned our dog's body types and how to set up an exercise plan and journal for the DOGa badge.

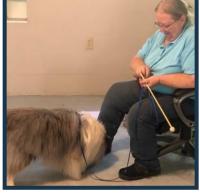
The dogs tried a few stretches to see what equipment they were comfortable with.

Then we had a member-led presentation on beginning nose work training, including personal scent-hide buckets and scent kits with three starter scents for every member.

Our dogs loved finding the scents paired with treats, and then enjoyed a doggy ice cream social.













October was perfect weather for an Urban Hike! We headed for downtown Pea Ridge which is a small town but had more than enough crosswalks, stop lights, manholes, construction traffic, and horns to provide some very urban surroundings. We ended up at the city park where a birthday party of joyous 10 year old boys with brand new whistles completed our urban distractions outing!

In **November** we had several members attending the Texas Dog Scout Minicamp and we look forward to hearing all about their fun at our December Christmas party.

Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

October



Shari and her dog Penny attended the Dog Obedience Club of Hollywood Canine Round-up. Dogs competed in Rally, Dock Diving, Frisbee, Barn-hunt and Fast-cat. Penny earned her DCAT title in the Fast-cat event and will be running toward her FCAT next. Congratulations Shari and Penny.

Dog Scout, River Hanna, took a road trip with her mom, Dawn, to Atlanta and Asheville. On the itinerary were River and Dawn's favorite badge activities, hiking and letterboxing. They were in Atlanta on Halloween and made a special spooky letterboxing trip to the beautiful Oakland Cemetery.

In Asheville, River and Dawn hiked Lover's Leap on the Appalachian Trail by the French Broad River, and Cove Creek Falls in the Pisgah National Forest. What an adventure!





Roxanna and her cool buddy Lucy hung out doing fun things like daily walks, Fast-cat lure coursing and Barn-hunt. Roxanna feels very lucky to have Lucy in her life. Additionally, Roxanna rescued her baby boy Henry from a neighbor who was neglecting and mistreating him. The first day she brought Henry home she gave him love and let him know he was now safe. Roxanna has spent a lot of time with Henry training him to give him the skills he needed to be successful, by socializing him at local events and lots of walks in local parks, teaching him to swim in the lake and has started training him on dock diving. She loves him so much and is grateful Henry is in her life. Roxanna has done a great job leveraging the training she learned through Dog Scouts to train both Lucy and Henry. It is amazing how Henry as evolved into a well behaved dog from when she rescued him.

Troop 157—FL (cont.)

November - Sparky's Turkey Trot

This year we kept with tradition meeting at a local park to participate in our 8th Annual DSA Sparky's Turkey Trot. We scheduled the walk on the day after Thanksgiving to burn off some of those extra calories. The weather was unusually warm this year so we took a lot of breaks under the shade trees we could find. For those who were not able to make this date they completed their walk virtually at other locations, such as Costa Rica. It was such a beautiful day for everyone who participated no matter where they were.









Additionally, Roxanna and Shari checked on a Letterbox that Shari planted in honor of her Dog Scout "Oreo" – it was in perfect condition. Thank you Ripley (Teresa), Penny (Shari), and Lucy (Roxanna), plus Jolie (Maria) who was able to participate this year from Costa Rica.

We are planning a Troop meeting during the first part of the year to plan upcoming events.

Sending Happy Holidays to from our Troop to yours! Stay Safe.

Troop 177—IN

Robyn Porter

Troop #177 met on 10/9/22 and tackled a "Wild and Wooly Obstacle Fun Course"! The course had jumps, cones, retrieves, table and platforms.





Hallie Porter turned 14 years old on the day before Thanksgiving. We celebrated her birthday with a kayak trip in Florida! Happy Birthday Hallie!



Troop members are working on Scent Discrimination skills at home.







Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

Troop 183 continued with our scent and agility activities this quarter

In September we had fun participating in the Right on the Nose Scent Challenge



In October we went for a pontoon boat ride, docking for lunch at a restaurant located on the lake . . .





And the following week we got together for a morning of agility.



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Troop 183—FL (cont.)

In November troop member, Dave started work on a new A-frame so we have the equipment to meet the 5 ft



minimum apex requirement for troop members to earn their Obstacles 1 and Agility badges—rubber granules have arrived for a future troop DIY project once the frame is assembled, sealed and delivered to our agility location; I worked on creating a "tire" jump and weave poles.











Marvin and Sandy Beer, and Tachi Conley had a swim-date at Carly Sims. All the dogs enjoyed being water-puppies, and we were able to take video of Marvin's swimming and "Leave It" for his Puppy Paddler badge—

CONGRATULATIONS MARVEE!



Marvin Beer, Nim Conley and Jurnee Mimms met to walk over a mile for the Turkey Trot. We found a new location to try which was shaded for much of the walk, the only down side was that there was still a lot of water on either side of the path that remains from the two hurricanes that hit Florida in October-November, so the mosquitoes were a bit much at the half-way point where we stopped to try and get photos. But we managed to take a few photos at the end of the trail.

During the last quarter both Tachi and Nim Conley finished their AKC Scent Work Master titles (meaning they have earned titles in all 4 elements [Interior. Exterior, Buried and Container] at the Masters level)

Way to go, Conley Collies!





Troop 188—Ledyard CT

Sheri Throop, Troop Leader

Brags & Wags

Dog Scout Finn earned many new badges – Puppy Paddler, Lure coursing, Agility 1, 2 3, rally 1 & 2, Parkour and Weight Pull. Here he is modeling his new harness.

Scout in training Winslow made it to NADD (North American Diving Dogs) Nationals. He also spent 5 days of 12 hour shifts as a therapy dog in the hospital.





His brother Neelix jumped off the dock for the first time and hopes to join the dock diving team next season.







Firefly DSA placed 3rd at NADD Regionals earning an invite to Nationals.

Congratulations to Tippi who passed his Dog Scout Test!



Congratulations to new Trick Dog Champion, Flynn DSA



Troop 188—CT (cont.)

Activities

Troop members spent two days at the 8th Annual Chester Dog Fair promoting Dog Scouts and participating in the Doggie Olympics events.
For the "Doggie

Doug and Flynn enjoying a treat





Olympics" the dogs had to do things like figure out a food puzzle, eat peanut butter off a spoon, wag their tails, speak, "paint" a picture by licking, etc.



Members welcomed the 2022 Connecticut Kid Governor, Makhi Ettienne-Modeste, to the Groton Public Library. His platform is Protecting Our Pets.















Troop 188—CT (cont.)





Some of the troop had a fall photo outing to a local Pumpkin Patch















The troop continued the tradition of Trick or Treating at a local senior housing development. Three members managed 11 dogs for the event! Great job everyone!











Troop 188—CT (cont.)

A troop member hosted a Howl-o-ween party.











We played games and had a costume contest.













Fun for everyone!

Troop 198—CA

Janet Gee

This fall, our Turkey Trot/Lure Course and Howl-o-Ween party were our highlight events, while we also enjoyed two pack walks.

Turkey Trot/Lure Course

In addition to participating in Scouts' Sparky's 8th Annual Turkey Trot, this year Troop Leaders Carlotta and Leah set up a Lure Course so members could meet the badge requirement.

We also exercised the good Dog Scout requirement to stop for poop clean-ups.

Here Bailey oversees what he has trained Christina to perform for him, while Rylee's finds a spot so Mom Lennie can practice her skills next.





Our Trot included our usual stand/sit/stay by both uprights and four-legged.

Lure Course participants included Bob with both Memphis and Seager, and Lennie with Rylee





Pack Walks at Martial Cottle Park

We had both training walks in this wide open park, perfect to practice leash skills around other dogs, skaters, bikes, learning how to drink from the doggie water fountains, and enjoying the countryside smells.



Carlotta & Crystal, Rita & Izzy, Janet & Cider, Leah & Trevor, Rod & Jelly, Jadelynne & Daphne gather before the walk to calm our excitement.

All pack members practice sit/stay at our traditional spot, this was Samoyed Angela's $1^{\rm st}$ time with our troop.



Trevor led much of the way, working on his backpacking badge by carrying some of his own gear.



At our 2nd outing, Benjamin and his young Labs, Churro and Pretzel, joined for their 1st troop walk.



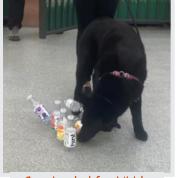
Troop 198—CA Cont.)

Howl-o-ween Party

Pet Food Express in Campbell graciously hosted our annual party, where our organizer extraordinaire, Leah, had a variety of training games for us.

Bob and Debbee's Goldens. Maxwell, Memphis and Seeger get mentally prepared for the hurdles.





Cora bowled for kibble



The Gumbin Goldens, Bailey, Crystal and Luna in their PJs wait for their treats, as tricks from them would be BIG Trouble.



Sadie and Scout pose in their ladybug and rock star costumes, as Superdog, Trevor, photobombs.







Troop 198—CA Cont.)

Accomplishments

Trevor earned his Love on a Leash therapy dog certification and has started gathering badges for his new Dog Scout vest, Mom Leah is so proud of her little man.





Crystal officially became a Love on a Leash pet therapy dog by completing her 10th supervised visit and celebrated with Mom Carlotta with cake and balloons. She also earned her Clean Up America Merit Badge by finding/carrying 500 cans/bottles to recycle, then had 9 adorable puppies to care and clean up after – such a busy lady!.

Asia earned her 2nd and 3rd AKC Rally Masters legs, so just has 7 more to go. She also passed the Bernese Mountain Dog Novice Drafting/ Carting test at a very challenging location in a busy community park where she was a star -- here posing with mom Jackie (middle).



Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

There are so many fun fall activities to do in Michigan and Troop 217 takes advantage of as many of those as we can. We've been hiking, letterboxing and geocaching. We've done hayrides and corn mazes and went to baseball









games. It's been a fun fall season!

We took advantage of a beautiful fall Saturday afternoon to hike and explore in the historic Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit. The cemetery provides a lot of information for self guided tours and is a beautiful place to hike. There are many famous Michigan political and historical figures buried there, including Hiram Walker of whis-

key fame.

There is a Hiram Walker letterbox nearby and we grabbed that while we were there.







After our cemetery tour we went to the nearby Belle Isle for a short walk and some cool photos of the Detroit waterfront. While on Belle Isle, we met a lady who really needed some therapy dog attention so Maia, Sam and Katie were happy to provide that for her.





We also recently did a lantern hike on a rather cold evening. This hike is set up by park volunteers and allow people to take a night hike with the path lit by lanterns hung from trees. The hike is open to the public and they really turned out the night we were there! In January, we will do some community service by setting out the lanterns for others to hike later in the evening. This will be a guiet and peaceful hike as we will have the trail to ourselves at sundown.









Troop 217 (cont.)

Troop 217 certainly loves a parade and this year participated in two of our favorites.

















We joined our sister Troop 101 in Midland, MI the week before Thanksgiving for their parade. It was very cold and the dogs appreciated wearing booties to protect their paws from the cold pavement.

The following weekend, Troop 101 joined us in Garden City, MI for the parade that has become a tradition for us. What a difference a week can make in weather! We had the warmest day for this parade than we have ever had in the many years we have participated.

We were joined this year by Tippy the Clown and he brought a lot of attention to our group. The dogs enjoyed all the attention they got from the crowd and performed tricks along the parade route.

As we walked to return to our cars, we started making BIG plans for next year that include a float and new ways to promote Dog Scouts as we highlight some of the fun activities we do with our dogs. We have a year to plan, figure out our outfits and build our float. Now that will be a lot of fun!

Sadly, Sam didn't get to participate in many of our fall activities as Julie and I lost him quite unexpectedly from a very sudden illness. Sam loved parades, and though he wasn't walking with us this year we did take his photo along. Our family and our troop feel like a piece is missing without Sam.



Everything's Happening at the Zoo . . .

Martha Thierry



Troop 217 made tracks to the Detroit Zoo on a chilly November Saturday. Why visit a place we can't bring our dogs? We wanted to learn what the different species have in common with or have connections to our dogs, and it's surprisingly a lot! Our leader, Sally, gave us a handout with thought-provoking questions that we'll revisit on a future troop Zoom meeting and zoo Bingo — pictures of things to look for on our trek. We kept track as we wandered but there were unanticipated surprises around every corner. We made a plan to prioritize and visit fan favorites and set out to take in as much as possible.

The newly remodeled Polk Penguin Conservation Center was on everyone's list and didn't disappoint.

Penguins, it turns out, are super fun to watch gracefully swimming, resting and just hanging out together. We even spied one nibbling on the pant leg of a habitat caretaker who was spreading snow for king penguins — kind of like a dog who is trying to get our attention.

We enjoyed the 75-degree temperature of the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery that houses hundreds of free-flying butterflies Some of them are quite large and colorful, some have transparent wings, like delicate panes of glass. It's like walking through a beautiful garden. Tropical birds live in the connecting wing of the building. We could imagine our dogs enjoying a romp through the plants or basking in this warmth on a summer day, communing with nature, like Shinrin Yoku (forest bathing) that we practiced during our virtual camps.



Another warm place to visit, The Holden Reptile Conservation Center, has many exotic species of lizards, alligators and tortoises plus the only native venomous Michigan snake, the Massasauga rattlesnake. It's great to know what they look like, just in case we ever see one while hiking!

Since it was chilly (it actually snowed while we were there!) some animals were content to find a cozy place to snuggle away in their enclosures — sound familiar? Of course, our dogs are quite happy to snuggle in a favorite spot on a cold day. So the river otters weren't active, but there were other animals more than happy for the winter chill.

Onward we ventured across a rope bridge at the red panda exhibit, towards the amazing tigers and lions sprawling in their rocky enclosures and eventually to a building where rhinos live when it's winter. It's great to know the Detroit Zoo has programs the helps save, rescue, rehabilitate, conserve and protect species from extinction as well as educate. As Dog Scouts of America members, we embrace community service and the natural world is no exception to our purpose.

Who would argue that Old English Sheepdogs don't have the lumbering gait of a grizzly bear? We saw it first hand. Watch them next time you get a chance ...

On to a big winter treat: The Arctic Ring of Life. Polar bears swam all around the tunnel we walked through, sometimes playing with water toys like our dogs enjoy. We also

watched sea otters lithely swim past their window. They don't swim like our dogs, but we know some dogs who love water!

We met some high school volunteers who gave us some insights about polar bears and how to do better for the environment. It's great to see students involved with science and animals. That's one of the best things about zoos, people seeing animals up

close. When we experience the wonders of nature, we want to be involved. Our dogs are the most significant link that most have to the natural world. They lead us to interspecies communication and sharing the planet. Thanks, dogs!

So what animals do you think your dog resembles?



Troop 237—East Bay, CA

Ruth Robinson—Troop Leader

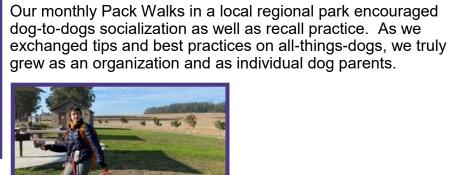
What a year this has been!

We have all been touched deeply by the events in the Ukraine. Early on our Troop encouraged contributions to the AKC that used funds to support rescue efforts to transport pets from the Ukraine into Poland.

Pack Walks Extraordinaire



Opportunities to spread the good news about DSA with people on the walk.



Ripley and Haroldo are back with us after Ripley spent a number of months in Brazil.



Maurice (in purple coat) is totally in awe with Haraldo's very cool goggles.



Pat and Katherine are visiting at the half-way stop on the Pack Walk, and the big furry doggo under the table is Pat's new rescue, Nala.



Kristie captured the group just as we were getting started on the $2022\ \text{Turkey}\ \text{Trot}.$



EOWWC - End Of Walk With Cookies - we did a pre-burn-off calories!



Teresa and Lulu exchange tips with Liz

Troop 237 (Cont.)

Did Someone Mention Cookies?

Who Doesn't Love a Cookie? We all know our dogs are huge fans of doggie cookies. Here is a great recipe for them that are easy to make:

Peanut Butter-Pumpkin Dog Biscuits (originally published in "Eating Well" magazine, 2019)

2 large eggs

1 cup unsalted natural peanut butter

½ cup <u>unseasoned</u> pumpkin puree

½ cup water

2 cups whole-wheat flour

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

½ teaspoon ground ginger pinch of salt



- 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment.
- 2. Whisk eggs, peanut butter, pumpkin and water in a large bowl. Add dry ingredients; stir to combine. Transfer to a lightly floured surface and knead until dough comes together, about 1 minute.
- 3. Divide dough into 4 equal portions. Roll one piece of dough into an 8-inch circle, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick, dusting with flour as necessary to keep it from sticking. Cut out biscuits with a 4-inch dog bone cookie cutter. Transfer to prepared baking sheet, spacing about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart. Shape scraps back into a disk and reroll. Continue to cut biscuits until no dough remains.
- 4. Bake the biscuits until the edges are golden brown, about 15 minutes. Let cool on pan for another 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Repeat with remaining dough.

Makes about 35 biscuits.

NOTE: Refrigerate and/or freeze.

(These will develop mold if left at room temperature for longer than a few days.)



Help Our Local Animal Shelter & Rescue

For our December 2022 social troop gathering, we are checking a wish list from Jelly's Place, a local rescue organization.

We called together all Santa Paws and combined efforts with our donations.

Members Gracie and Scout are helpers!

Happy New Year to all!

Rainbow Bridge

Duncan Lane





On September 19th Troop 198 said a broken-hearted farewell to Duncan Lane as he crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Duncan was a happy boy who with gentle determination never gave up until he had wagged and wiggled his way into your arms, your treat pouch, and your heart. A sweet gentle soul who was at his happiest when he was in the middle of everything with his friends and loved ones. He had several AKC titles and Dog Scout badges, but his mom Leah is most proud of him being a Love On A Leash Therapy Pet, his Dog Scout Title and his Dog Scout Community Service Badge, these represented who he truly was and underscored a life well lived and shared with those who loved him. We are so blessed and grateful to have had you in our lives; we miss you so very much Duncan, see you on the other side sweet boy.



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

Rembering Kozi

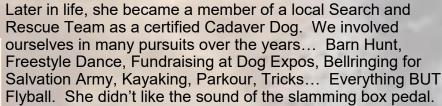


Kozette (Kozi) Olson has gone to the rainbow bridge. The hurt is still too fresh for me to do any kind of writing that would do her justice. The words just aren't coming into my head.

I met Kozi when she entered my house with my ex. He had purchased her for his son and their family as a "surprise" gift. She was 9 weeks of age. I told him to keep her away from me. I didn't want to touch her or look at her, as I knew I would fall in love with her, 'til death do we part.

Obviously, his secret surprise didn't work, Kozi never went to live with the son's family and I formed an inseparable bond with her that lasted for over 15 years.

She attended her first Dog Scout (mini) Camp in Texas, at age 14 weeks. She learned to paint, was introduced to agility, and developed an immediate interest in scent work. She was (at that time) the youngest dog ever to pass her DSA certification.



We had so many adventures! We went on an ocean cruise, travelled all over the US and Canada. She was always willing to try most anything I wanted her to do. She excelled at performing tricks. And she'd always put up with me dressing her in costumes for fundraisers and things.

As time went on, we both slowed down a little. She lost her hearing, became too weak and arthritic to do parkour or rigorous sports any more. She had dementia, and sometimes I wasn't sure she remembered who I was... The only thing that sill worked was her sense of smell. Her "last hurrah" was to earn the new GeoScenting badge last summer. I was so proud of her.



She lived longer than any dog I've ever shared my life with. I feel like she will always be right beside me, and I hope she's running free in doggie heaven, unincumbered by the ravages of age.

Kozi,, I'll Love You Hways, Lonnie (Mom)

Rainbow Bridge (cont.)

Dear Sam.

I first saw your face in a photo when you were quite tiny. I knew from that moment that you were our boy. There was just no question. It didn't matter where you were, how far we had to drive or how much it would cost to wedge you under my seat on an airplane. You wouldn't have liked an airplane at all. You were a big boy!

From the start we loved having you and your sister running around the house. You both brought so much laughter and joy to our home. But we also knew that it was important for you and Katie to discover what you liked in this world and what you didn't. We took you out to explore the world both together and separately so that you could be individuals, and you sure grew up to be very different dogs!

You were never my athlete. You enjoyed agility quite a bit until you discovered that you had to do it while other people watched. You really liked Barn Hunt until the hay scratched your back. Then you never touched a hay bale again. You liked using your nose as long as we were playing games at home.

You were still pretty young when we discovered your purpose in life. You were a Therapy Dog! That is what you lived for. When you started visiting at the VA Hospital, the volunteer coordinator thought you were too young to visit patient rooms, despite your certification, so you were only allowed to visit in the Community Living Center at first. That same person sent us a beautiful note after you died. She wanted to make sure that we knew how important you were to the patients, doctors, nurses and staff at the hospital. You'd visited there for more than 10 years, though COVID forced you to take a break.





You became really depressed when you couldn't go to the hospital. We had to find other ways to make you feel needed. You branched out and became a big help to students at the University of Michigan, at several fraternities and the Jewish Student Union. We also found a memory care facility for you to go to and you went there each week for over two years. You were so good with the residents. You even learned to do the Hokey Pokey because it made them laugh.

It was hard to do the parades without you this year. You just loved parades. It was as if you thought all of the people were there just to see you! You always knew who needed you and you once completely left the parade route to go and see a disabled veteran who needed you. We never knew how you found people and that man couldn't even be seen from where we were on the route. You were on a mission and you made that man happy that day, just as you made so many others happy on so many other days.

The house is quiet without you. I miss your bark. Somehow the house seems much bigger without you. I wish you were here to take up that space. My heart hurts without you. You took a piece of it when you left, but you left a part of your heart with me. If I love enough dogs before my life ends I would hope that my heart could be as pure as a dog's heart and that I could love as unconditionally as a dog does.

There is so much I could say about you, Sam. But I don't need to. You know what you meant to me and how much I loved your big, loud, goofy, sweet, sometimes needy self. You were a great Dog Scout and I'll always treasure the memories we made while earning badges and my pride in you when you accomplished something new. You were an awesome Therapy Dog and you touched so many lives.



Katie and Mackenzie miss you. Julie and I miss you. I'm glad that you remained much like a puppy your entire life and I'm sorry that you had to leave us so suddenly. We love you little buddy.

Much love, Sally

Sam I Am, DSA, THDD, TDIEVA

November 25, 2010 – November 16, 2022 "You gave us so much to remember."

Stevie Ray Ratliff

4/11/2009 - 11/16/2022

In April 2011, a white Shepherd was found running along a highway in Houston. It was presumed he was dumped there as he was very nervous about traffic and would avoid it when he could. His rescuer contacted Echo Dogs White Shepherd Rescue, and we were contacted by them.

We knew Echo Dogs adopted dogs east of the Mississippi so we expected this boy would be adopted out of state. We wanted him to leave Texas with a great Texas name, so we selected the name of Texas blues guitarist, Stevie Ray Vaughn, and our foster dog loved his name!

Estimated to be about 2 years old, we selected Stevie Ray's birthday as April 11 - the day we picked him up from his rescuer. He was scrawny and scratched up, afraid to walk on tile floors, scared of flyswatters and terrified of having an accident in the house. We worked to get him cleaned up and healthy and put about 12 lbs on him. When we got the email from Echo Dogs telling us Stevie Ray was healthy enough to put up for adoption, I panicked a little inside. While Stevie Ray was bigger than our 10-month-old Golden Retriever, Alex, he respected that she was here first; they played well together, shared toys, and Alex had even convinced him to share his food or treats if we didn't catch her and make her stop! Mart & I discussed whether we should keep him or do our foster job and let him go—after all, we had been talking about getting Alex a friend, and she and Stevie Ray got along perfectly. . . needless to say, we failed at our first foster attempt—but it was the best failure we ever had.

Stevie Ray became a Dog Scout at his first Texas Mini-Camp in 2011. He was the perfect complement to Alex. While she was driven to learn all she could and always up for any adventure, Stevie Ray was laid back and more of a home body. He only earned 13 merit badges compared to Alex's 33—he would rather hike with the family, play with Alex and hang out, he was a great foster brother to the 14 foster pups we would go on to successfully foster, as well as numerous other canine guests. He was incredibly sweet with puppies, and they all fell in love with him.

Stevie Ray lost the use of his back legs in August 2020 – but he was a trooper through spinal surgery and rehab and loved his morning and evening walks; we were able to earn the Urban Hiking badge at the beginning of this year. He turned 13 in April, and we observed some canine cognitive dysfunction that came with increased anxiety. Two days after we returned home from November mini-camp, Stevie Ray began showing signs of bloat, likely due to stress. X-rays showed a large splenic mass in addition to bloat. After some final cuddles, paw holding, ear rubs and telling him how much he has meant to our family, we let Stevie Ray go, rather than risk torsion or rupture of the mass.

We will forever be thankful that that Stevie Ray joined our family. It was an incredible blessing that he lived 13.5 years. Our house and our lives have revolved around him for the last two years - rugs all over the house for his stability, futon mattress on the floor in the office, alarms on our phones for his meds, sleeping in the living room with him, a special harness & ramp to get him in and out of the vehicle, nanny cams any time we weren't at home to monitor him to ensure his anxiety wasn't getting the better of him. Our lives may have gotten a little simpler now but we would do it all over again if it was possible for him to stay longer with us.

He wasn't even supposed to be our dog, but we will forever be thankful that he was. He was the "bestest" boy.









Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

Website: dogscouts.org

Facebook: <u>facebook.com/DogScouts</u>

Instagram: <u>instagram.com/dogscoutsofamerica/</u> Youtube: <u>Dog Scouts of America - YouTube</u>

#dogscoutsofamerica

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: Sally Hoyle — president@dogscouts.org (Also Mini-Camp Mentor, Merit Badge Submission Process)

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

Dog Scout Obituaries: Chris Kloski — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com

(Memorial recognition and engraving)

Membership: Shirley Conley — membership@dogscouts.org

Troop Administration: troops@dogscouts.org

(Starting a troop/Troop Leader Tests)

Treasurer/Donations: Barb Whiting — bwhitingdsa@comcast.net

MERIT BADGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM Video Evaluation: DSAVideoEval@gmail.com

Evaluator Certification: Chris Kloski — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com

TITLES/COMPETITIONS

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(Also for newsletter distribution)