

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

Volume 21 Issue 4 July/August 2018

**Notes from National
Fall Jamboree P2
Crafting Weekend P3**

**Badge
Bulletin
&
Title
Tales
P7**



Whether you want a [Beach Buddy](#) or a [Beach Body](#), there's a badge for that!

**Rainbow Bridge
P11**

**Scout Scoop
& Troop Talk
P12**

Deadline: for the next newsletter is
September 15th

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

Announcing DSA's 2018 Fall Jamboree!!

October 19-21 at the Michigan Camp

Everyone is invited to attend the Jamboree in October at the Michigan Dog Scout Camp in St. Helen.

For years, we have used a "Halloween" theme for this event, but this year, we decided to go with something completely different!

The theme this year is "**Oktoberfest**," and will feature fun, food and games centered around the Oktoberfest theme.

We'll be eating bratwurst and sauerkraut, and drinking our favorite German beverage at the Biergarten. The dogs will have some German-themed games to play, and we may even see a few dressed in their finest Bavarian costumes! We're going to try to get a start on our costume making at the annual fall Crafting Weekend, which is scheduled for September 28-30. (Contact Fay & Goldy Reid for more details on that outing—starpup59@yahoo.com.)

There is no charge for this weekend, other than your lodging. Donations are welcome, however, to help defray the costs of incidental expenses. Everyone brings a dish to pass and we eat potluck style. If you need to rent a room, campsite, or cabin, be sure to **call Lonnie at 989-389-2000** to reserve.

You don't have to come with a troop; individuals are welcome. You must be a member of DSA to attend. When we get a list of attendees, we'll communicate with you via e-mail to discuss the menu and other details.

Hope to see many of you here!
Lonnie Olson and Amy Schupska,
Hostesses



ATTENTION CRAFTERS!

Our annual Craft'n Scrap'n Weekend is September 21 - 23rd at DSA camp in St. Helen, MI.

It is a weekend for catching up on your projects – whether crafting, scrapbooking, quilting or whatever floats your creative boat.

Cost is \$20 (6' table) or \$25 (8' table) plus lodging, food to share, auction items and purchasing items from the auction.

Space is limited,
RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!

Contact Fay Reid for more information

(starpup59@yahoo.com),

or Lonnie Olson

(dogscoutcamp@gmail.com)

to reserve lodging.

Pictured (right) are memories from last year:

- 1) Fay handing out treats to a flock of dogs.
- 2) Lonnie's witch's hat and matching fascinator collar for Caper to wear in freestyle dance.
- 3) matching fascinator collar for Caper to wear in freestyle dance.
- 4) Melissa showed us how to make exploding scrapbooks. Then,
- 5) we all headed out to the next town to experience a Saloon Escape Room.



Take a Stand!

Shirley Conley

How are you doing in achieving your goals this year? Are you having trouble with a certain behavior? Have you considered that perhaps the reason your dog is not holding the sit stay required for your obedience title or Pho-DOG-raphy badge is due to weak glutes or adductors? If you're not getting multiple paw lifts for your Art of Shaping badge, perhaps your dog's shoulder muscles need to be stronger.

If your dog is a little slow for the next couple of days following a day on the lake, think about all the stabilizing that was required while on the boat or canoe or paddle board. If you're only taking one agility class a week, what are you doing to maintain and improve your dog's physical fitness in between classes? Young dogs with loose joints will benefit from some joint stabilization exercises, and senior dogs that are less active will benefit from conditioning exercises to inhibit stiffness and maintain functional movement. Do you know where your dog's physical strengths and weaknesses lie?

Did you know there's an assessment you can do at home to help you see where your dog needs additional conditioning? It's getting your dog to stand still - a **static stand!** Yep, that's it, plain, but **not so simple!**

Grab your phone, and your dog (and dog treats, if you'd like). Set up the camera on your phone to record and bring your dog into camera focus. Ask your dog to stand, then place his feet so that he's standing squarely (*adjust front legs by taking hold of the leg in front of the elbow, and back legs by holding at the hock to lift the leg up and guide the placement*). Now see if he can hold that position for **10 seconds**. Allow your dog to shift his feet as needed, just keep recording for that full 10 seconds before releasing your dog and stopping the recording. (*If your dog has no trouble with 10 seconds, try 30 seconds*).

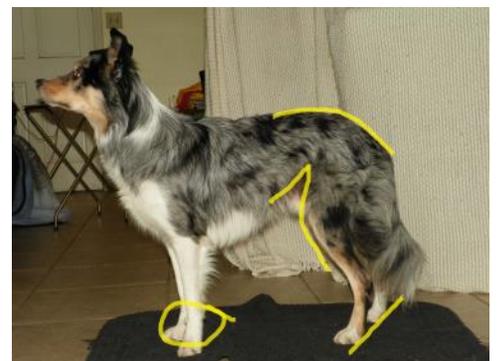
Review the video, play it on slow speed if you're able (either on a movie editing program on your computer or upload to YouTube [private or unlisted setting] and you can watch your video at 0.25x normal speed). Pause the video as needed to jot down any notes about what you see. As your dog holds the stand, look at the following, particularly compare the before and after if your dog shifted his weight and/or moved his feet, and watch for how his stance changed before he sat or lay down.

1. Is your dog's spine fairly straight or are there slight or exaggerated dips or bumps as you follow the line of the spine from the head down the neck, over the shoulders across the back to the tail?
2. Does your dog seem to slope down dramatically from the high point of the hips to the base of the tail (the croup) or perhaps sooner? (Of course keep in mind what's normal for the predominant breed of your dog, racing hounds will have an arched back, German Shepherd Dogs will have a slope, but most breeds should have a level or near level topline).
3. Are the hips bones on either side of the spine higher than the withers (top of the shoulder blades)?

PAIN SYMPTOMS

Veterinarian advice should be sought if your pet displays any of the following that are outside their normal behaviors:

- decreased social interaction;
- anxious expression;
- submissive behavior;
- refusal to move, go up/down stairs, or get on/off the couch or bed;
- whimpering, howling
- growling, guarding behavior, aggression; biting;
- decreased appetite;
- self-mutilation (chewing), over grooming or licking a particular area;
- abnormal posture.



Tachi's out-turned front feet—likely breed-related, but also potential for future injury if lots of jumping is in his future. Lack of core strength, potential iliopsoas tightness, and rear muscle weakness may be causing the uneven placement of his hind legs.

Take a Stand! (cont.)

4. Are the left and right feet in line with each other, or is one further forward or further back than the other? Compare the two front feet and then the two back feet
5. Is the visible elbow pointing straight back towards the hind limbs or does it turn out? Does it angle out more as the time progresses?
6. Is the stifle (knee) pointing towards the front limbs does it stay that way or start to angle out?
7. Are the toes pointing forward or are the feet turned out or in? What about after your dog shifts a little?
8. Do you see your dog shift his weight forward (taking pressure off the lumbar region of the spine and hips), or backwards, (moving the weight off his front limbs and thoracic region of the spine)?
9. Did your dog lift his front or rear feet slightly to adjust his stance? Did the foot move forward, backwards, towards his center line or further out?
10. Did your dog sit or lie down before the time was up?

What does any of this tell you? Think about the following as it may apply to what you see in your video:

- Dogs compensate—if there is a decrease in movement in one joint, they will increase movement in a different location to allow them to complete the desired movement—for example, if a dog cannot flex his neck down to reach a treat on the floor he will flex his shoulders, and elbows or even go as far as to lie down in order to get the treat (*or in Tachi's case, the bumper in the pool*). Likewise, if there is too much movement in one location, perhaps at a joint, then the dog's muscles will work harder to stabilize it. This compensation will fatigue those muscles and cause additional wear on the compensating joint which would not otherwise be working as hard. Fatigue appears to be a common precursor to injury!
- Weight shifting is your dog's way of taking pressure off a limb that is causing discomfort or resting muscles that are fatiguing.
- Elbows and stifles turning out can be a sign of fatigue (if you're exercising your dog, this is your cue to rest him). This turn out is often due to your dog trying to stabilize the limb to compensate for muscle weakness elsewhere.
- Legs shifting towards the dog's center line usually do so to become more weight bearing.
- Dips along the spine often point to lack of core strength and will cause more pressure on the vertebrae in that location. Lack of core strength puts more pressure on the limbs and increases the dog's chance of getting injured in activity.
- Sloping off from the hips to the tail may indicate a lack of muscle tone, the dog will fatigue more quickly in activities requiring running and jumping, and more likely lack stability for stopping and direction changes. Consider how that applies to keeping functional movement in dogs with hip dysplasia—stronger hind limb muscles are necessary to support the instability of the hip.



How does this help? Weak muscles fatigue quicker and lead to discomfort through muscle strain and ultimately a greater potential for injury, so you'll want to keep an eye on those areas when stretching and checking for muscle tightness, and add conditioning exercises to strengthen them.

If your dog doesn't appear to have any issues with this exercise, keep the video as a baseline and record your dog every so often, particularly the day following a strenuous activity session. Those subtle weight shifts may guide you to follow up with a massage session; a gentle walk and longer stretching session instead of another strenuous activity day; they may give you a heads up on a joint problem; the onset of arthritis or digestive issues; or they may cause you to check your dog's feet

Take a Stand! (cont.)

for sandspurs, pad abrasions, a broken nail, etc. Taking photos and video of your dog in a stand over time will help you see areas of improvement and weakness as he ages.

This basic assessment will help you to evaluate what activities your dog can currently perform and what preparation needs to be included prior to tackling new activities. Almost every dog will need some form of strengthening in their core muscles. According to Debbie Torraca, DPT, MSPT, Diplomat ABPTS, CCRP, owner of Wizard of Paws Physical Rehabilitation for Animals, author and one of the founders and core instructor of the University of Tennessee's Certificate Program in Canine Physical Rehabilitation:

Five to ten minutes of core exercises a day can make all the difference in the world for your dog. It will increase confidence and teach the dog how to safely control its movement. Improved core strength may also make the difference in living a life without pain for your dog. In addition, you will be taking a positive step to help your dog live the best quality of life possible. ([Why Core Fitness is Important to EVERY Dog](#), accessed 7/18/2018)

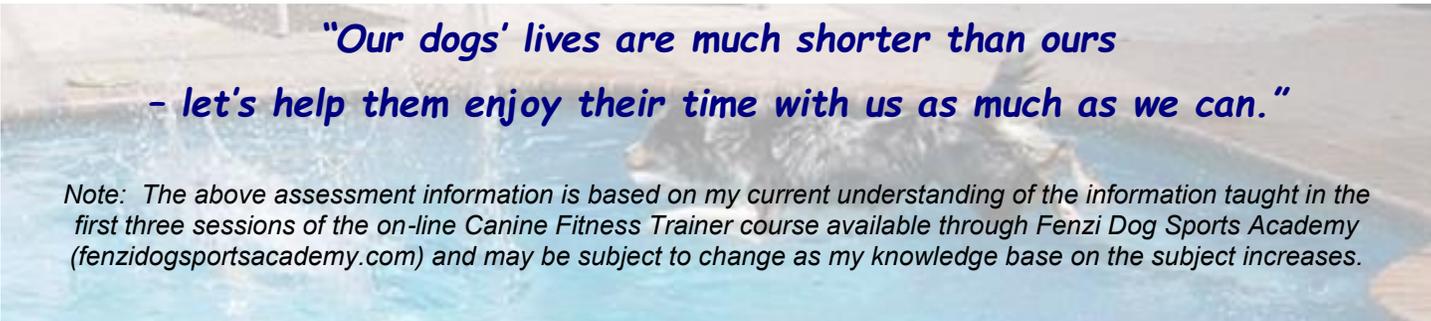
What can you do in those five to ten minutes to strengthen your dog's core?

Check out the TotoFit.com blog, [Five Basic Exercises Essential to Build Core Strength](#).

The exercises to work your dog through are

1. **Static Stand**—10 seconds, slowly increase to 1 minute.
2. **Stand with Head Lifts and Lowers**—you can treat at the head lift and the lower, 2 sets of 5 reps. The head movement shifts the dog's weight to the hind limbs when the head is raised and front limbs when the head is lowered.
3. **Sit to Stand**—try starting with 2 sets of 5 tuck sits moving into a kick-back stand, and 2 sets of 5 rock-back sits walking forward into the stand—both methods work the core but the weight shifts differently onto the front and rear depending upon which method is being used. *I work this from the front and side and use hand targeting for the walk forward stand rather than giving a stand cue that could affect my dog's obedience performance in the future.*
4. **Walking Backwards**—start with a couple of steps and increase to 6-8 ft
5. **Side Stepping**—you're looking for coordinated lateral movement of the front and rear feet both to the left and the right—*you might try targeting your dog to move laterally (or diagonally at first) onto a different surface to give a more tactile picture of what you're wanting.*

Your sets don't have to be done in the same session, and yes, there are progressions for these exercises as your dog's fitness improves, but this should get you started on the right track. Be sure to add them into your routine wherever you have the opportunity throughout the day. Your dog's physical condition will improve, which will lead to an increased quality of life and pave the way for you both to continue to enjoy learning new things in order to be more helpful.



***"Our dogs' lives are much shorter than ours
- let's help them enjoy their time with us as much as we can."***

Note: The above assessment information is based on my current understanding of the information taught in the first three sessions of the on-line Canine Fitness Trainer course available through Fenzi Dog Sports Academy (fenzidogsportsacademy.com) and may be subject to change as my knowledge base on the subject increases.

Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

—Trails Bulletin

Kelly Ford—Troop Leader, CRN Secretary and Trails Titling Program Coordinator

I've been doing a lot of letterboxing with my two puggles in the last few months. They are very close to completing their next letterbox titles. We enjoy letterboxing together because it takes us to new places and new trails. In our area we have an abundance of letterboxes to find and events to attend. In May we attended an Annual Easer Egg Hunt and in June the annual Wakeda camp-out. The puggles love meeting new people. Attending events allows us to show people what great ambassadors of Dog Scouts we can be.

There are four levels of letterbox (and geocache) titles. The titles are set up in three parts; a required part and two sections where you choose your own path. The *TrailDog Guidebook* includes all of the details and instructions.

Your dog is required to carry their backpack with all of the required gear. They should also have their own signature stamp and logbook.

The required part (highlighted orange in the Reference Guide below) includes



Quick Reference Guide		Letterbox Badge 3	Letterbox Dog (LBD)	Letterbox Advanced (LBA)	Letterbox Excellent (LBX)	Letterbox Thousand (LB1000)
Required	Found Letterboxes (cumulative)	50	100	250	500	1000
Required	Planted Letterboxes (cumulative)	10	15	25	35	-
Required	Planted Letterboxes with Positive Training Theme (cumulative)	0	5	10	15	-
Required	Carry a Personal Traveler	0	0	1	1	-
Section 1: Choose 1 (non-cumulative)	Attend Letterbox Events	1	2	2	2	-
	Plan Letterbox Events		1	1	1	-
	Plant Letterboxes		5	5	5	-
Section 2: Choose 2 (non-cumulative)	Find Hitchhikers	0	3	3	3	-
	Release Hitchhikers		1	1	1	-
	Attend Virtual Event		1	1	1	-

the number of boxes you need to find and boxes you need to plant. If you completed the Letterbox badges, you're halfway there!

The green and blue sections of the Reference Guide are where you get to make choices. These choices are based what you want to do with your dog and what is available in your area.

Section 1 (shown orange) covers events. For this section, choose ONE option. Attending or hosting events is part of spreading the message of dog scouts. You have the option of attending two different events or hosting one event. You can find events on Atlasquest. If there are no events in your area or simply no way you can host an event, you have a third option of planting 5 extra boxes.

Boxes that you find at an event can count towards your finds! We have found many special boxes hidden just for an event, usually never to be planted again.



Section 2 (shown green on the chart on the previous page) covers hitchhikers. These are a special variety of letterbox that you may have found in the wild. For this section, choose TWO options. Releasing a hitchhiker is easy; you need a small stamp and a small logbook. If you can't find any hitchhikers, try doing a search for Hitchhiker Hostels on Atlasquest. Those are letterboxes that like to host hitchhikers and you can usually find several hitchhikers. I happen to have a traveling hostel that is full and would love to ship them across the country. Email me! Dsatroop219@yahoo.com

Alternatively, you can participate in a Virtual Event by planting a box with that Event's Theme. You can find virtual events on Atlasquest.

Happy Trails!

I would like to congratulate everyone who has earned a recent Trails Title.

Pack Dog Excellent (PDX)

Alex Ratliff

Utility Pack Dog (UP)

Cowgirl Stillman

Utility PackDog 1000 (UP1000)

Noel Miller

TrailDog (TD)

Jasper Callahan

TrailDog Excellent (TDX)

Cowgirl Stillman

Rouan Baker

Jasper Callahan

Utility TrailDog (UT)

Cowgirl Stillman

Utility TrailDog 1000 (UT1000)

Rio Olawski-Stiener

Utility TrailDog 3000 (UT3000)

Monroe Kelly

Letterbox Dog Advanced (LBA)

Wyatt White (pictured)



Handy Hiking Tool

Troop 149

Another local dog group (a meetup group that does hikes and kayaking) - had one of their dogs hurt its paw on a hike last month. In the middle of the woods and several miles from their cars, - two of the guys in that group created a 'dog stretcher' from two long, sturdy branches and one of their t-shirts. And, using this home-made stretcher, - they carried the dog back to their car. It worked! But, if these guys had not been with the hiking group, how would they get the dog back to their car??? Someone in that group just posted info about this RESCUE HARNESS FOR DOGS - they found online. My dog is 24 pounds and I can carry my dog if necessary, (Maryellen & Tiger), - but it was not easy for them to carry a large golden retriever. This harness might be a good thing to have on your hike with a large dog.

See the harness at: www.mountaindogware.com/dog-carrying-harness-usa.html



Emergency Dog Carrier for Hikers from the mountaindogware.com website:

As a hiker and trail runner, I knew I'd need a harness that would be both lightweight and strong. One that would fit easily in the bottom of my pack with my other emergency gear, or even in my pocket. It would have to weigh only a few ounces, but also be strong enough to carry a large dog down the mountain or trail to safety if she became injured. A harness I could always have with me when I went adventuring with my dog.

The Pack-a-Paw rescue harness was designed in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Made from exceptionally strong but lightweight material, the Pack-a-Paw harness easily wraps around a dog and cradles it, becoming a backpack that securely holds your dog onto your back. The shoulder straps connect to the body of the harness, so your hands remain free. The straps can also be handheld for quickly lifting your dog in and out of a vehicle, or even for walking up and down stairs or along a trail.

The harness is reversible, so you can carry your dog on the front or the back, keeping your hands free and the weight on your shoulders. Pack-a-Paw was designed to withstand intense use in emergency situations.

There are few things I love more than hiking and being with my dog. The peace of mind I have knowing that I'm prepared for any situation while adventuring with my dog is a great feeling. Get in touch with us, and add the Pack-a-Paw rescue harness to your hiking kit today.

Small enough to fit in your pocket, strong enough to carry a mountain dog!

Rainbow Bridge

Buddy Cannici



On July 4th, only 2 months after the departure of his sister Lola, Terri Cannici sent her beloved Beagle, Buddy, over the Rainbow Bridge. Buddy was a Dog Scout, and a talented therapy dog.

Buddy worked hard as a therapy dog in the Wags & Tales Reading Program for the Humane Society of Broward County, as well as participating in many special events teaching children about pet safety. He spent many happy years in Rally competitions and obedience classes, Dog Scouts, Animal Actor classes, therapy events, Halloween and Christmas parties, swim days at the lake with our troop and so much more—Buddy was up for just about anything.

A favorite memory of Buddy was at one of our Doggie Olympic events when he held his stay longer than any dog I have ever seen. Such an obedient, loving soul; he never took his eyes off Terri when they were together.

Buddy earned his Dog Scout badge as well as his Therapy Dog badge and the Art of Shaping badge. Buddy was greatly loved by all of the members of troop 157. We will miss him dearly.



Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Troop 119—TX

Cindy Ratliff

Even though the temperatures have been hot in Texas this spring, our troop meetings have been cool get-togethers for our members and the pooches!

In May, we gathered for a first aid presentation and work on the first aid merit badge. Our usual meeting venues were unavailable but a local church allowed us to use their very nice covered pavilion. They were so excited to have the Dog Scouts there, they took photos of us and featured us in their church bulletin.

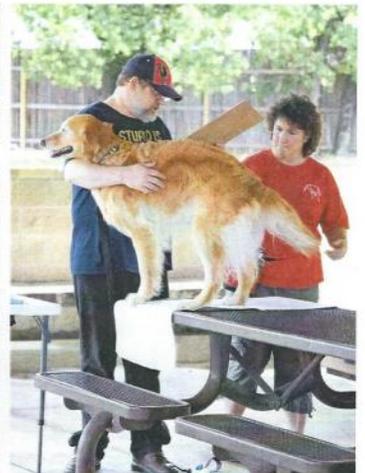


Every Tuesday in July - 9am to Noon - FREE

We are excited to bring back Terrific Tuesday—July 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. This event was very successful last year and we plan to build on that success. A volunteer signup sheet is at the Welcome Center in the foyer. Door hangers promoting Summer Series and Terrific Tuesday are in production at the print shop. Keep these dates open to come give us a hand and make sure to invite the elementary age kids in your life to come join the fun and learning.

DOG SCOUTS

It was our pleasure to let the Dog Scouts use our pavilion this past Sunday afternoon. Several representatives from Bridgewood mingled with the dogs and their owners before the event started. They were a great group of attentive dog owners. The organizers of the group are related to our very own Jerry and Jeane Coffey. Dog Scouts usually meets at Woodland West Church of Christ. We are happy to have community groups utilize our pavilion and to have the opportunity to meet new people.



Troop 119—TX (cont.)

Everyone in attendance was able to learn some helpful information and 4 of the dogs qualified for their First Aid merit badges: Malu Barnum, Harper Parrigin-Clark, Biscuit Nava & Sasha Blais!



Alex demos for first aid



Biscuit demos transport



Malu practices restraint for first aid



Nita & Sage



Nita's display & Sage



Pam, Malu & class



Malu & kids

Also in May, we were asked to provide two troop members and their Dog Scouts to participate in a career day at a local elementary school. Pam Barnum & Malu, DSA and Nita Lanter & Sage, DSA stepped up for the job. They talked to kids about dog safety, responsible dog ownership and careers involving working with dogs. The kids all loved them (of course) and we appreciate the four of them answering the call for community service on short notice!

Troop 119—TX (cont.)

In June, we offered the Dog Scout class and worked on troop dogs preparing to become Dog Scouts.

Sebastian Phillips passed all the requirements and is our troop's newest Dog Scout! (proud parents are Dennis & Karen Phillips). We had several other dogs get really close and we expect to have more new Scouts in the near future.



Sebastian, DSA

We look forward to summer with some exciting meetings coming up and participation in a program with an area animal shelter. And right around the corner will be our 15th annual Texas Mini-Camp, which we are starting preparations for!

Troop 157—FL Broward Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

Therapy Dog Thursdays – Parkland, FL

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Alumni created a free “SummerSpot” Program for the entire community, which was designed to be a place where parents, teachers, students and anyone else in the Parkland community would come for support that they had during the year that may be lacking. One of the free activities offered is “Therapy Dog Thursday”, where multiple therapy dogs organization join together bringing their therapy dogs to the community center for weekly visits. Here is Shelby, Jessie, Grace, Jolie and Ripley sharing their love and supporting the Parkland community.

Fort Lauderdale Airport Ambassadog Therapy

While Ripley was volunteering at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport calming passengers and bringing smiles as an Ambassadog. She came upon a Boy Scout Troop, traveling through the airport, they thought it was very cool that she is a Dog Scout and had to pose for a photo. We thought it was pretty cool too.



Troop 157—FL (cont.)

CGC, Trick Dog & Therapy Dog Certifications

Over the past several weeks our dog scouts, Amo, Jessie and Jolie passed their therapy dog certification tests, earned their AKC trick dog performer titles and their advanced Canine Good Citizen titles.

All the practice at our troop meetings has really paid off! Along with these fine pups Brina Blu passed her test to receive her Canine Good Citizen title. Paws off to our Dog Scouts! We are super proud of all of them.



Brina Blu



Jessie, Jolie & Amo



Brina Blu



Amo & Jolie



Jessie & Jolie



Amo, Jolie & Jessie

Troop 157—FL (cont.)



Aston Gardens – July 4th Pet Parade

The residents of Aston Gardens assisted living facility were in for a special treat when our troop showed up ready for a July 4th parade. Our dogs were dressed in red, white and blue and looked very patriotic. We had Uncle Sam make an appearance as our surprise guest. Everyone was singing along to Yankee Doodle and You're a Grand ol Flag as we paraded past them. Afterwards the dogs got lots of pets and tickles from the residents. Fun day for all.



Troop 157—FL (cont.)

Puppy Paddlers – July 4th

In anticipation of the struggle Ripley has with fireworks, after she participated in the Aston Gardens Pet Parade, Ripley had fun swimming, fetching and getting a good workout at Performance Pups Dog Beach located in Dania Beach, FL. This did tire her out and helped us a little in dealing with the noisy night.



DSA Badge Check-Off and Class

Monthly our troop leader Christine Geschwill holds classes for our troop members in order to work on DSA badge check-off items and also for individuals who would like to freshen up on obedience skills.

Chaos our 9-month-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier enjoys going to classes because it helps him feel more comfortable around other dogs and he learns new things.



The classes and our troop dogs are great for working on his comfort level as well as some socialization skills.



Troop 177—IN

Robin Porter

May Letterboxing

Troop #177 explored the 3rd largest cemetery in the nation, Crown Hill Cemetery, searching for letterboxes on Saturday, June 9. Candy McKing brought her “granddog”, along with her adult daughter and grandchildren. Sharon Massey brought Zena and Robyn Porter brought Hallie. It was a warm day and everyone helped uncover clues to find our way to various letterboxes!



Candy McKing with granddog and grandchildren, Hallie, Sharon Massey and Zena

June Michigan DSA Camp

Troop #177 is proud to announce the newest certified DSA Zena! Sharon Massey & Zena earned their DSA Certification at June Camp. Sharon & Zena participated in hikes & games in addition to DSA Class. During Games at camp, Zena was in a 3-way tie for first place during timed one minute game in which dogs had to touch various items with their nose (beginning skill needed for treibball). Re-match the following day between those 3 dogs, and Zena received a 2nd Place Ribbon. Zena received a 1st Place Ribbon for stepping on various platforms, boxes, and crates (beginning skill needed for parkour).



Sharon and Zena



Sharon Massey and Zena, DSA

After earning the following badges, they are working on Boating Safety and the Packdog Title:

- Dog Scout Merit Badge
- Letterboxing 1
- Art of Shaping
- Backpacking
- Puppy Paddler

Sharon says “I believe that camp offered me the exceptional opportunity to strengthen the bond between myself and Zena in a unique environment. We were together for 22 1/2 hours each day for the week (separable only for showers, lunch, and dinner). And I have never enjoyed our time together as much as I did at camp - building our team bond through love, trust and fun activities! Along with the bond building between dog and handler, I believe the community that is developed between like-minded people is incomparable. The "average" friend or family often just don't get it - this relationship between dog and handler that Dog Scouts promotes. So I feel blessed to be given the chance to interact and make friends with other dog lovers. I am so excited to



Sharon and Zena with Splash Pond in background

Troop 177—IN (cont.)

begin this wonderful journey with Zena and look forward to all that we will learn and accomplish together (and yes, I have already placed a down payment for camp next year)!"



Troop #177 is proud to announce the troop's first Honor Scout! Robyn Porter & Hallie earned the Honor Scout badge at June DSA Camp. They participated in agility, crafts and the talent show. Robyn echoes Sharon's feelings about camp, saying "Hallie loves camp. She knows where we are when we turn down the road and her tail begins wagging. We get to spend most of each day together and we love the quality time away from our jam packed schedule at home."

After earning the following badges, they are working on Rally FrEe Intermediate:

- Dog Scout Honor Scout
- Agility Partners
- Steeplechase
- K9 Nutrition
- Carting



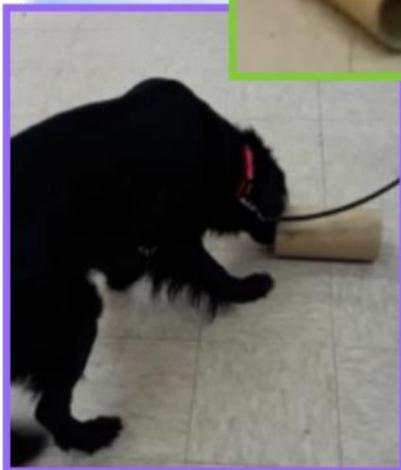
July hike

Sharon Massey & Zena, along with Robyn Porter & Hallie went on a 2.74 mile hike at Skiles Test park in Indianapolis on July 14. It was a warm day and trails in the woods were welcomed! An adult deer ran across the trail right in front of them! The dogs seemed more intent on sniffing where the deer emerged from the woods than the deer itself. The deer determined she wasn't being followed so waited off the trail for the group to pass.

A little brown snake was assisted across the trail in hopes of helping him avoid the next bicycle!

Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader



For our July we re-visited Treibball and practiced

- A) pushing a variety of objects—a rolled mat with treats in it, remote-controlled cars, a large cardboard tube, and an exercise peanut;
- B) sending our dogs to a target (mat) without and later with an object in the direct path to the target;
- C) circling an object clockwise and counter-clockwise—we used folding chairs and later put an exercise ball on the chair; and
- D) re-orienting to the handler from the opposite side of an exercise ball or chair

We reviewed what to do to help our dog revert back to calm behavior, and ways to encourage a low, closed-mouth, push.

Troop 188—CT/RI

Amanda Wacasey

Summer brings heat and humidity, but also DSA Troop 188 Day!

This year we found a new place to have our annual picnic on the 188th day of the year; a great area on the water with covered picnic tables and room for games. Each member was given a game board as they signed in and could complete as many tasks as they wanted.



Learning to go through hoops



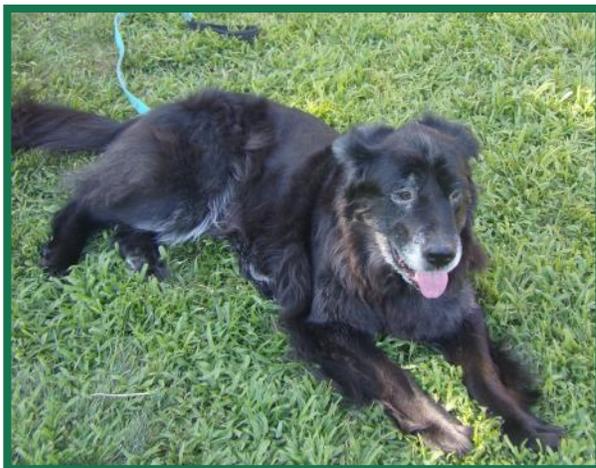
Bowling!



Fun with costumes



Relaxing



Troop 188—CT/RI (cont.)

A day for food, friends, and games!

Let's eat!



Always room for ice cream!



Summer is also time for enjoying water sports. **Scouts Firefly and Flynn are getting better and better at Dock Diving. Fire Fly even achieved a personal best of 11'9" ! Yea!**

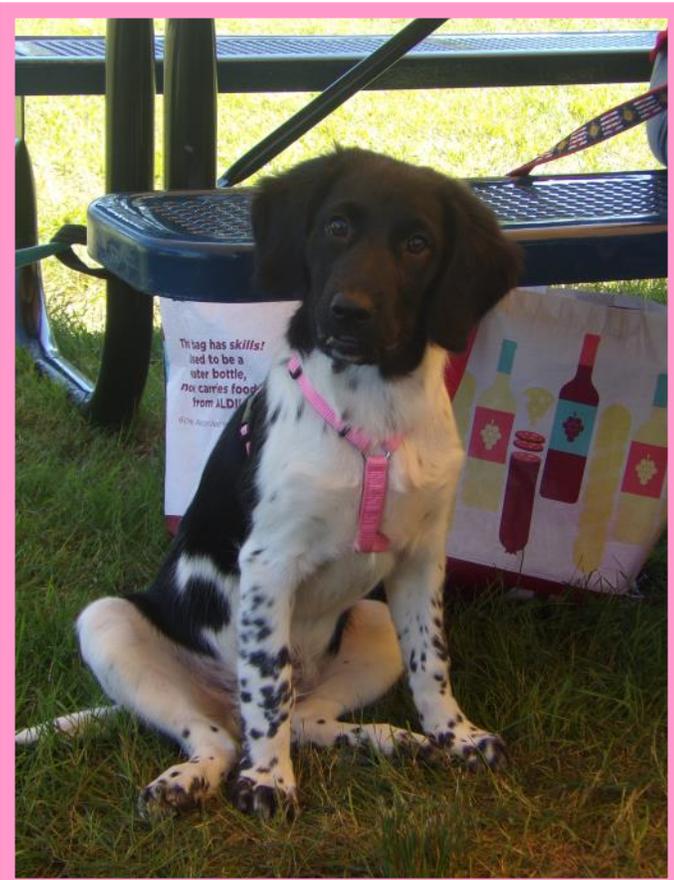


Flynn is pretty proud of himself too. And so are we.



Troop 188—CT/RI (cont.)

We had a 14 day heat wave, but early morning and late evening hikes kept our hiking group logging miles.



Introducing our newest Cadet Scout. This is **Breeze**, a 4 month old Stabyhoun (a pointing breed that originated in the Netherlands).

Stabyhoun translates to “Stand-by-me-dog” in Dutch.

We’re so excited to have Breeze as a part of our Troop.

Have a safe and exciting summer everyone!

Troops 198, 233 & 237—CA

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

San Francisco Bay Area Dog Scout Troops 198, 233 & 237 have been crazy busy this spring and the first part of summer, and loving every minute of it!

On April 7th the East Bay Troop 237 had a 3-ring circus of activities.

In ring one they had Dog Painting.



Here DSA Cadet Star is demonstrating the clicker/paw lift.



And Poppy creates a beautiful painting



And Stevie and Nancy proudly show off Stevie's painting

In ring two they had instruments for dogs to learn to play for the DSA Band badge

Ellie is working on her "keyboard" skills.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

First timer new doggie, Mona, demonstrates her percussion skills, and she is GOOD!



Stevie and Sadie are in the band



And a one, and a two, and three -- Play!

And in ring three they had nose work to practice



Troop 198—CA (cont.)



On April 15th, there was a Stop and Sniff Around Hike at Anderson Reservoir



Here is Denise with Kokoro, Susan with Cowgirl and Julie with Sadie stopping to listen to Ranger Vanessa talk about the different wildlife in the park.



On April 21st, the East Bay Troop 237 grabbed their wagons and met at the El Cerrito Plaza Bart station for an Earth Day Community Service Clean Up Project

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On May 5th the East Bay Troop 237 had a booth at the El Cerrito Hillside Festival, here is Ruth and June setting up the booth

They made lots of new friends and set up a nose work game for dogs passing by to play



On May 22nd, at the Troop 198 Meeting, Cadet Crystal took her test Pup Scout Test and passed with flying colors. Here is Proud mom Carlotta with Crystal showing off her Pup Scout Certificate



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

We also used the meeting to take patriotic pictures of our pups for Memorial Day and Fourth of July.



We have Cadet Spike



Cadet Sadie



Pup Scout Crystal



Cadet Kokoro

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Cadet Cora



And Dog Scouts Wyatt & Duncan

On June 3rd Morgan Hill Troop 233 had their first Mall Walk About training lead by Carlotta with their new Cadet Crystal and her husband Scott with Bailey. They started off at the Morgan Hill Train Station

Here we have sitting Scott with Bailey, Carlotta with Crystal, Sharon with Sadie, Denise with Kokoro, Wyatt and Duncan laying in front and Lennie standing behind with Sadie



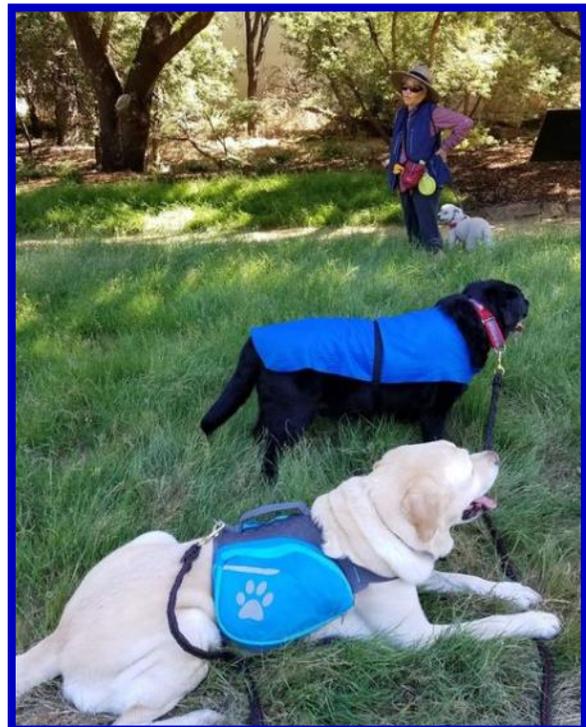
Troop 198—CA (cont.)

We walked through town and then headed over to a city park trail where we stopped to take some pictures.

Left to right we have Scott with Bailey, Sharon with Sadie, Carlotta with Crystal, Lennie with Sadie, Denise with Kokoro, Donna with Spike and Wyatt and Duncan in front.



Bailey and Crystal couldn't help but enjoy a tumble in the cool grass



Wyatt & Duncan enjoy the cool shade with Denise & Kokoro taking a break in the back as well.



Lennie lets Sadie enjoy a rest in the shade and Sharon bends to give Sadie a loving pat and sweet words of praise.

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Donna and Spike take a moment to sit and enjoy the beautiful surroundings



Denise and Kokoro sit and rest on a bench in the shade.



Sadie sits "Pretty" on top of a boulder for Lennie at the end of the walk.

Troop 198—CA (cont.)



Our Troops have also been attending outdoor movies almost every weekend at the different Santa Clara County parks. This is at Vasona County Park, Wyatt & Duncan posing with the Ranger



Anderson Reservoir County Park, Carlotta with Crystal and Scott with Bailey



And Santa Teresa County Park, Christina with Crystal and Scott with Bailey

And concerts every Saturday that are fund raisers for Second Harvest Food bank at Vasona County Park



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

While enjoying the concerts, our Dog Scouts are helping to fight local hunger by raising donations of both food and money for Second Harvest Food Bank



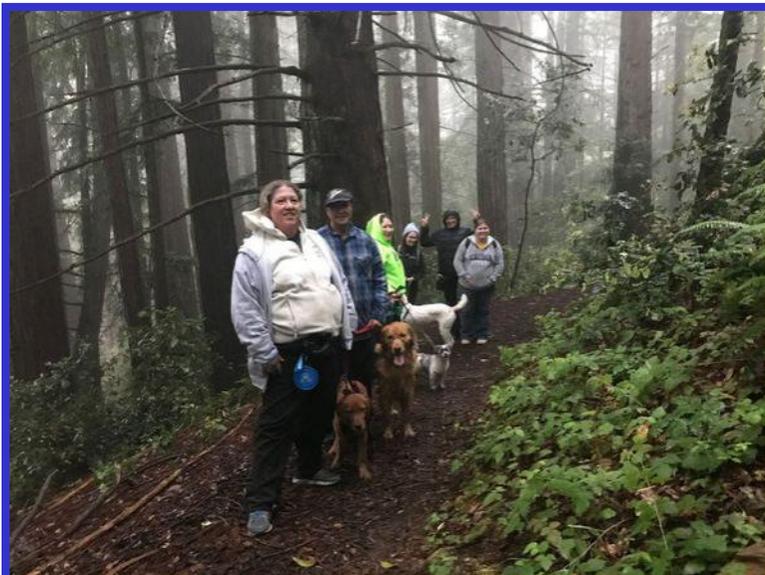
And of course, we are always working on our monthly training sessions. Here is Patty working with Crystal and Frodo on sitting on command

Here is Donna and Spike explaining to Denise and Kokoro what is required for a good heel for the Dog Scout test



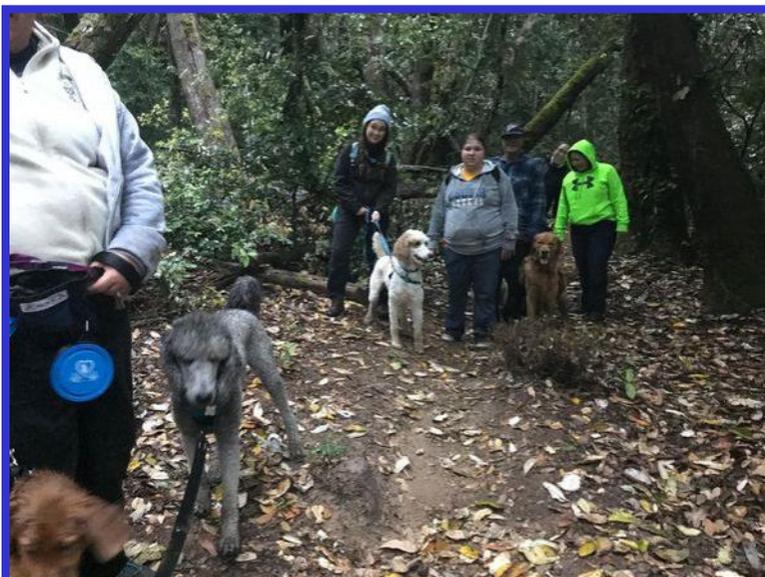
And here is Lennie and Sadie also working hard at our monthly training session, sort of.....

Troop 198—CA (cont.)



We also have at least four hikes on the calendar for every month.

Here are pictures from the Waggin' Trails Dog Hike led by Ranger Blake up on Mt. Madonna



It was an evening hike and it got quite foggy and damp before the end



But the group as always, had a great time with Ranger Blake and her Cadet Yeti

Troop 198—CA (cont.)



On the Fourth of July, Troop 237 had a Dog Scout Booth at the El Cerrito World One July 4th Festival featuring Therapy Dogs. Ruth set up the booth with lots of information about Dog Scouts. Star, their newest therapy dog, was on duty for the first shift. They advertised having therapy dogs to encourage people to stop by and visit the booth.

Cadet Star and her big brother, Dog Scout Kobi, sometimes worked as a team.



Tykie came with Nancy Peterson and was a big hit. He is a wonderful therapy dog.

Gracie is always a magnet for kids. Patty brings her every year. She has completed nearly 200 therapy pet visits, often to a nearby hospital, and has earned many blue ribbons for AKC Rally and Obedience competitions.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Many of our frequent library readers stopped by the booth to say hello to their reading buddies.



Jackie Phillips brought June—one of the cutest therapy dogs in the world—up from the South Bay Troop 198 and helped us during the whole afternoon. Well-done, June.

But one of our most favorite events of the year is the Annual Dog Scout Camp Weekend.

At one point during the weekend we had 24 dogs participating this year.

What makes this so special is how everyone pulls together to help everyone attend and participate. This year we had one member, Susan on the right with her dog Cowgirl attending just weeks after major back surgery. Lennie on the left with her girl Sadie, hauled up an airbed and special rocking chair and other equipment in her truck so Susan would be as comfortable as possible. Also, all on hand offered help and equipment, whatever was needed, so everyone could attend and participate.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)



One of the funnier moments was when we set up Susan's tent and realized it was way too small for the airbed. Here is Lennie trying to make it work. Fortunately, Patty & Dave brought up an extra four man tent, and we got Susan and Cowgirl set up with a luxury camping arrangement



There is nothing better than sitting around a campfire



After breakfast the next morning and as the day started to warm up, we gathered to go over the Dog Scout written test. Here is Bailey and Scott discussing one of the questions

What is really interesting, is to read the test questions and listen to the different answers people have. Here is Carlotta, with pup scout Crystal dozing, Dave with Crystal the Corgie dozing, and Frodo with Patty listening to the discussion



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Here we have Dave with Crystal, Patty with Frodo on the left who have worked for years in cat rescue and both cat and dog pet therapy; Susan with Cowgirl in the background who is new to Dog scouts but already had earned the Pack Dog, Pack Dog Excellent and Trail Dog Titles; Donna with Spike on the right who is a professional dog trainer and 198 Troop Leader; and Debee with her Guide Dog Max front and center who is very active in Golden Retriever Rescue, Flyball and has done pet therapy for years. They all bring great depth of knowledge to the Dog Scout written test questions.

Wyatt and Duncan are very impressed with the knowledge of this group.



After the written test discussion, we take a break, from left to right we have Dave, Patty, Judy (heading for the snack table), Scott with Bailey sporting a camping hat, and Carlotta with pup scout Crystal.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

After the break, Patty and Crystal do a scent work presentation, here is Crystal alerting Patty that she has found the scent.



After the scent work presentation and before the pot luck dinner, Scott and Crystal grab a short nap.



Here we have Crystal, Frodo, Duncan, Wyatt and Lily resting after dinner and before the evening hike.

Here is Judy helping to clean up after dinner so we can go hike, to the right is Anna with Roxy and Donna with Spike eager and ready to go.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)



Donna and Spike chat with Sharon, her newly rescued dog, Scout, and her sweet little Sadie. Behind them are the Swag bags that all members who attend the Dog Scout Camp weekend receive.



We were tickled that Troop Leader Jan, (standing), drove all the way from Burlingame to join us, here she is talking with Carlotta and Scott with Sharon with Sadie to the right and Susan resting her back in her rocker.



Dog Scout Dino says I am ready to hike, let's get going!



Jackie has Rebel, Palo, Rusty and Tacoma and they are ready to hike!

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Ranger Blake and Yeti are leading our hike and he is ready to get started!



At the Redwood Grove location of the hike, Ranger Blake, led the “Join The Pack Hike” that was not only for Dog Scout Campers, but was open to all at Mt. Madonna who wanted to attend. She organized a musical sit game and a name game for all who showed up at the hike so they could get to know each other. Much to our pleasant surprise, the hike was attended by reporters from the Gilroy Dispatch newspaper, who enjoyed meeting everyone and said they would do an article about the hike. Here is Tacoma enjoying pets while laying on the picnic table listening to the talk Ranger Blake gave before the hike



Here is the first attempt for a group shot before the hike



This is the second attempt at a group photo of the hikers.

Everyone had a great time at the Dog Scout Camp weekend, declaring it a great success and we all can't wait to see what the rest of the summer will hold in store for us!

Troop 219—CT ~ The New England Explorers

Kelly Ford—Troop Leader

We would like to congratulate Simon DSA on earning his first two badges: Puppy Paddler and Beach Buddies!!!

At the end of May, we returned to the Sheep Farm in Mystic. There are so many series of letterboxes there that we will need many trips to complete them all. This trip we searched for the “Enemies of the Sheep”. The stamps were beautifully carved wolves and coyotes.

The pups found a nice place to play in the water. They enjoyed the trails and the chance to run and play.



On a hot morning in early June, we met at Mansfield Hollow for some swim practice. Lauren showed us a spot with a nice sandy beach where the pups could play. The water was chilly but good for swimming if we stayed in the sun. Even Zora DSA got her feet wet.

Simon DSA had a great time playing fetch and earning his first badges. Danica DSA loves playing with her buddies.



Troop 219—ct (cont.)

Geocaching.com is having a Mythical Creatures hunt for June 27 to July 25. It's simple to earn the souvenirs; you get points for every geocache you find. We started our hunt by searching for geocaches at Dark Hollow in Groton.

This was quite the adventure! The first 30 feet of the trail were overgrown, but the rest of the trails were easy to follow. There was a ton of trash on the trails, big tires and parts that were too big for us to carry out. We only found one geocache, but the pups had fun and that's what really matters.



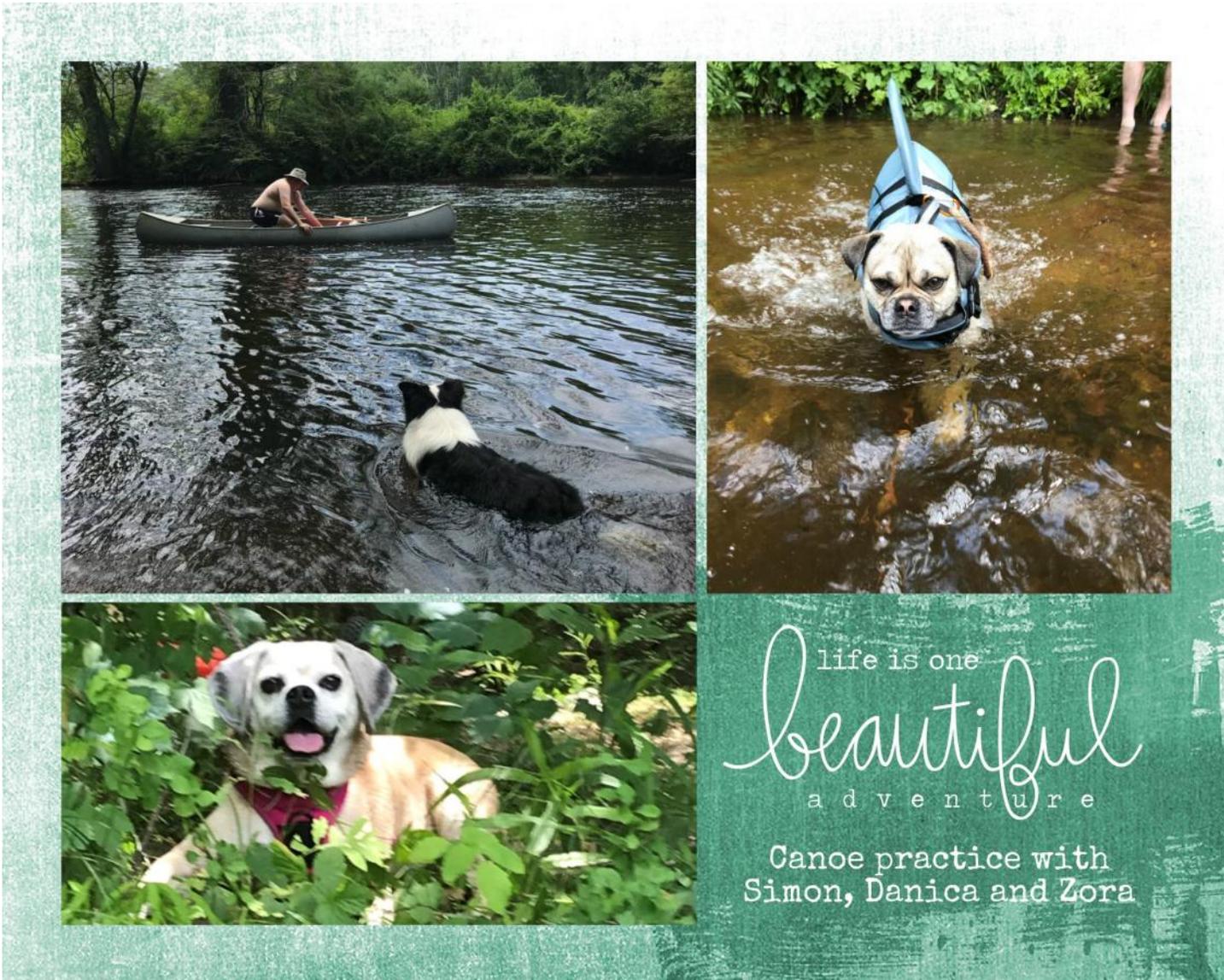
Wyatt DSA and Danica Joy DSA completed their first meal delivery for their special Meals on Wheels service in June. Lori has been working very hard to organize community service projects for our Troop. She contacted the deacons of her church and worked with them to allow us to bring meals to home bound members of her church.

As part of the meal delivery, the Scouts get to bring a little joy with them.



Troop 219—ct (cont.)

Our Scouts are very excited for summer to be here and ready for water activities. We are going to try for their canoe and kayaking badges this summer. We started with some canoe and a little water retrieve practice. Danica Joy was fascinated by her ride in the canoe. She was having a blast.



life is one
beautiful
adventure

Canoe practice with
Simon, Danica and Zora

Simon is working on his Water Retrieve. He has learned how to retrieve the oar, life jacket, water bottle, water camera and all sorts of things that Lauren tosses for him. Now he is trying to retrieve items placed or tossed from the canoe. We took turns being the person in the canoe and changing the distance. Simon is hesitant around the canoe and doesn't want to swim towards it. Eventually we found that if Lauren tosses me Simon's FAVORITE toy, then I drop it in the water, he will retrieve it by the canoe. Brilliant! We found a way to make him comfortable.

Mason, Marla & Rouen (119)



Sunny (217)

July 4th



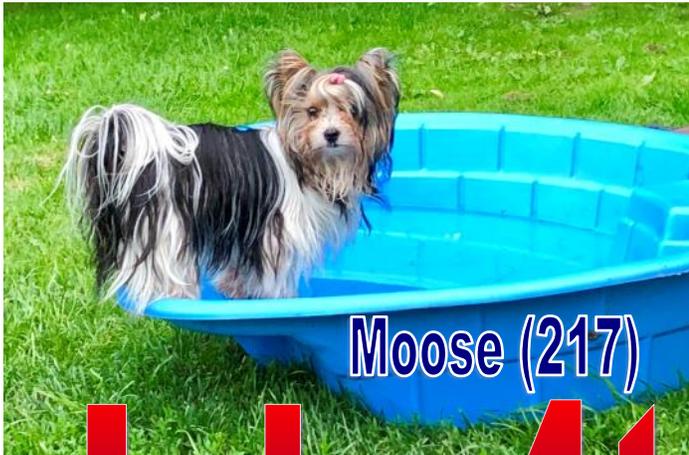
Peanut,
Jolie,
Jessie,
Ripley,
Shelby
& Rock
(157)



Ripley (157)



Happy 4th of July!
Be Safe!



Moose (217)

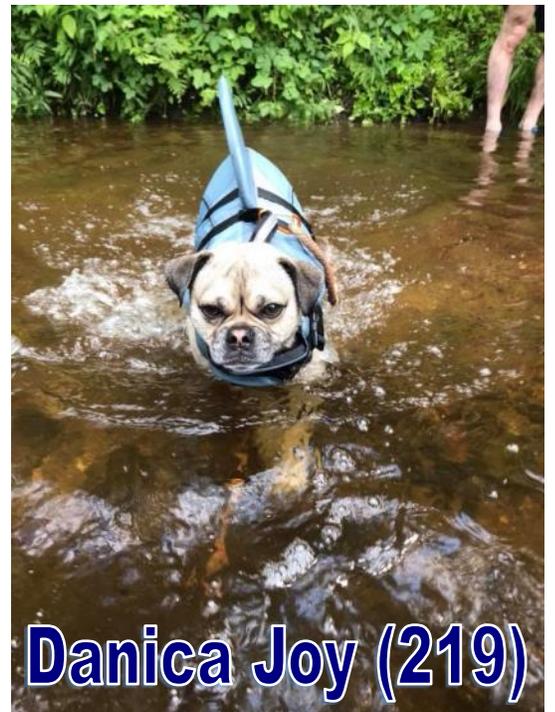


Bolt (149)

July 4th



Sunny (217)



Danica Joy (219)



Teagan (219)



Goldy (101)

July 4th



Kip, Lilura, iZAR, Mic, Maisy, Missy & Squiggly (229)

Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

Website: Dogscouts.org
Facebook: facebook.com/DogScouts
Yahoo Discussion List:
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
(Also for Dog Scout Calendar, Sparky's Camp Store, Dog Scout Camp (MI), Camp Scholarships)

Mini-Camp Mentor: Sally Hoyle — sally.hoyle@yahoo.com

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

Membership: Peggy Mooney — mmmooney65@gmail.com

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

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

MERIT BADGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Video Evaluation: DSAVideoEval@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Julie Benson — bensonjulie@earthlink.net

Evaluator Certification: Chris Kloski — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com

TITLES/COMPETITIONS

Hosting/Competing: Sally Hoyle — sally.hoyle@yahoo.com

Trail Dog Titles: Kelly Ford — DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com
(Also for competition registration numbers)

Newsletter: Shirley Conley (Editor) — thescoop@dogscouts.org

Website/Communications: Sonja Klattenberg — webadmin1@dogscouts.org
(Also for newsletter distribution)