



# USA THERAPY DOGS, INC.

Serving with Compassion and Pride

## WISH LIST

The following items are needed for USA TD. If you can donate any of these much needed items please call Jarod Boyles 810-569-2506 to arrange for pick up.

### Light weight banquette tables

2 - 8 foot

1 - card table— only light weight  
4 - light weight canvas tailgating type fold up chairs

**Overhead projector** to attach to lap top computer.

**Table clothes** Red, White or Blue to fit 6 ft. rectangular banquette tables

**Generator** - quiet running —low to medium output

**Shelving** made from wire—for storage unit

**Lap Top Computer** or external hard drive

**Gift Certificate** to Staples or office store for office supplies.

**Donations for Raffles/Auctions** for Fundraisers ongoing need.



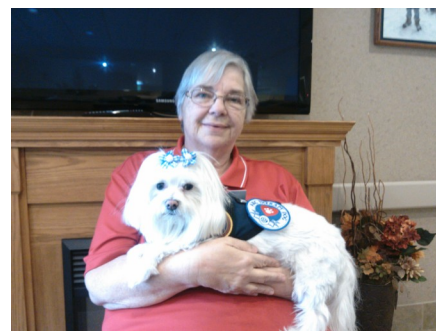
**Congratulations are in order for Julie Allen and Maci**

Julie Allen and Maci earned their AKC Therapy Dog Patch by completing 50 visits that is required for the patch.

Thank you Julie and Maci for all your hard work and dedication to therapy dog work.



**Nancy Hall and Q-Tip** earned their AKC Therapy Dog badge last month. Thank you Nancy and Q-Tip!!



Just a reminder: The USA TD Veterinary Authorization form is the only form that will be acceptable for annual renewal. As you update your 2014 veterinary records and county dog license make sure that you keep your originals and make copies to send in with your annual USA Therapy Dog Renewal. The USA TD vet authorization form is downloadable from our website. Go to the forms tab at [usatherapydogs.org](http://usatherapydogs.org). Please take a copy to your veterinarian's office to be filled out, signed, stamped and dated. USA TD annual renewal is June 2014. You will receive a reminder prior to the renewal date.



**NEEDED—FUNDRAISER COORDINATOR FOR USA THERAPY DOGS**  
**Please call Diane Noblett to fulfill this position. 810-245-2459**

**STARS FOR VESTS for 2013**



If you are going to the All Members Meeting on March 16th you can pick up your dog's vest star and Recognition Certificate for 2013. A star represents that a therapy dog has done the minimum 15 visiting hours in which the year the star is given.



**USA THERAPY DOGS, INC. AND McLAREN HOSPICE**

USA Therapy Dogs is now partnering with McLaren Hospice. If Handler/Therapy dog teams would like to get involved with this wonderful program please contact Matthew Meeuwse from McLaren Hospice for the details.

[Matthew.Meeuwse@mclaren.org](mailto:Matthew.Meeuwse@mclaren.org)

(810) 496-8757

**ALL MEMBERS MEETING**

Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm – will start promptly at 6:30 pm

Location: Little Caesars Pizza, 1081 S State Rd, Davison, MI 48423 (just North of I69 on M15 which is State Rd.)

Members can add a topic to the Agenda that would benefit the growth and development of the organization. Please send Agenda Items to Kathy Fridline by March 13<sup>th</sup>

[fridline@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fridline@sbcglobal.net)

***Menu available for those who would like to purchase something to eat***

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- ♦ Updated Policies and Procedures Manual will be available for pick up
- ♦ Shirts, totes, and hats with USA Therapy Dog logo will be available for purchase. Shirts will be discounted 20% off web store price. Cash or check only.
- ♦ **2013 Stars and Certificates will be available for pick up for those who did not make it to the Christmas Party and Awards Banquette**
- ♦ If you have anything that you would like to put on the Agenda, please send Agenda Items to Kathy Fridline by March 13<sup>th</sup> [fridline@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fridline@sbcglobal.net)

## AWE..... PAW PAGE

**#1 FEATURING Posch**  
**Handler: Mindy Winter**



Posch is currently working at Genysis. She is 4 years old and has been a USA Therapy Dog for 2 years. When Mindy's father was ill and before his death he requested dogs would come and visit him. Mindy realized at that time how instrumental a dog could be for someone in her father's situation and decided she would like to get into therapy dog work. Posch loves visiting and when Mindy pulls out her vest to go to work Posch runs out to the car with enthusiasm ready to go put a smile on the face of a child.

## AWE..... PAW PAGE

**#2 FEATURING Duece**  
**Handler: Karen O'Nail**

Deuce is an American Cocker Spaniel, was born May 23 2012, his kennel name is Ectot Flash of Lightening Prince William.

He as a puppy was a show dog, had won several shows as best in class, best breed, then started developing a dislike for the show ring. His breeders decided that it would be better for him to be in a home where he could be just a spoiled dog instead of living in the non show dog quarters until he was 8 or 9 where he then would be moved up stairs to the living quarters. Deuce came to live with me on May 10, 2013.

We began taking obedience and agility classes at Common Scents Canine Center, where we still train with the hopes of competing in the near future.

After Graduating with USATD in the fall of last year, we have been visiting weekly at Hands of Hope Children's Center, which is a day care for emergency housing of homeless men, women and children, and also where parents can take their kids while they work through the substance abuse program with Grace Centers of Hope.





**USA TD HANDLERS** ~ ~ IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR DOG FEATURED IN THE USA THERAPY DOGS, INC. NEWSLETTER ON "AWE..... PAW PAGE" PLEASE SEND PICTURES OF YOUR THERAPY DOG AT WORK. NAMES OF RECEIPTS ARE NOT NECESSARY OR USED. PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A PHOTO RELEASE FORM AND HAVE THE RECEIPT OR RESPONSIBLE FAMILY MEMBER SIGN—ONE or TWO THERAPY DOG PER NEWSLETTER WILL BE FEATURED....Email to [dmnoble@charter.net](mailto:dmnoble@charter.net)

### **A Note from USA Therapy Dogs, Inc.**

#### **Vice President, Diane Noble**

Needless to say it has been a long, cold winter. I am sure many of our handlers can relate to this: On my way to Stonegate the last three visits, the temperatures were - 8, - 11 and - 3, (yes that is negative eight, negative eleven and negative three) As I was on my way over there I was asking myself WHY, WHY am I doing this, I must be crazy, I could fall on the ice, get into an accident, something horrible could happen to me in this frigid cold, surely I must be insane and then I would look over at Roxie see her big black beautiful eyes looking up at me, her face encased in her fluffy white fur, asking me the same thing...WHY are you doing this mom, really I want to go home and snuggle in my comfy bed. Shivering the whole way (and believe me I do much better in the cold than the heat, but even this year was too cold for me) I pull into the parking lot, I would gather up the backpack, Roxie, my cane or walker and wobble into the building, feeling exhausted and exasperated by the time I got to the door. Roxie would see the residents coming into the lounge area and she would wiggle and wag with enthusiasm, she couldn't wait to get on the couch and get a ton of love and attention. One resident always sings to Roxie and the others just want to hug and pet her, then the laughter begins all the exhaustion and anxiety fades away from my spirit and transforms into a loving, calm state of mind bringing a sense of gratification, thus reminding me of WHY I do this therapy dog work. It isn't about a title, badge or star (although that is nice recognition) it is about bringing JOY and COMFORT into these people's lives, it is about giving back, doing what I can to brighten the day of someone less fortunate than me.



Maci received stickers for Valentine's Day from the Children at Head Start in Lapeer....



# 10 Steps to Protect Your Pets During an Emergency

An emergency plan for your pets means a safer outcome in the event of a disaster.

By Doug Jimerson—Article came from Better Homes and Gardens Magazine

Disasters such as tornadoes, floods, and fires can occur without warning. That's why it's important for you to have an emergency plan in place for your furry family members before tragedy occurs. Here are 10 important tips you should follow to keep your pet safe during an unexpected emergency.

**1. Microchip your pet.** Make sure all your pets have microchips to help identify them in case they get separated from you. During a storm, for example, an open door or a broken gate is all that's needed for a frightened pet to run away. Your pet should also wear a secure collar with identification tags firmly attached.

**2. Find alternative housing.** Animals are often not allowed in public shelters. So, it's important for you to find an alternative that works for the entire family. Check with local hotels to find out which ones allow pets and put their phone numbers into your cell phone. That way, you can book at a moment's notice when trouble brews.

**3. Own a crate for every pet.** Make sure every animal in your family has its own crate for transportation and temporary shelter. You don't want to stuff Kitty into a pillowcase at the last minute to get your cat to safety. And, never try to squeeze all your animals into a single crate.

**4. Document health records.** Keep a file of all your animals' medical records in an easily accessible place so that you can grab them on your way out the door. Having your pets' medical records is important to prove that they are up to date on all their inoculations, particularly rabies and distemper.

**5. Make a housing list.** Contact friends and family who could temporarily house your pets in an emergency, especially if you can't find a pet-friendly shelter or hotel nearby. Talk to them about a plan to transport your pets to their care during difficult times.

**6. Indicate pet ownership.** Put an emergency pet alert sticker on a window of your home so that emergency workers will know there are animals inside. This is especially important in case disaster strikes when you aren't home and you are prohibited from reentering your neighborhood during the emergency.

**7. Take photos.** Make sure you have an up-to-date, clear photo of each of your pets. This will help identify your cat or dog if it becomes lost or gets picked up by animal control. It's also smart to have a photo of yourself taken with your pets to help prove ownership.

**8. Create an emergency kit for your pets.** The kit should contain at least three days worth of food and water, as well as litter pans, litter, leashes, and any medicine your pet requires.

**9. Don't depend on animal shelters.** Don't assume your local animal shelter will be able to house your pets during an emergency. Animal shelters are not boarding facilities and are generally overwhelmed during times of crisis with their own animals.

**10. Don't leave a pet behind.** Never leave your pet behind during an emergency. During Hurricane Katrina, for example, many owners left their pets to fend for themselves, assuming they'd be back to take care of them quickly. Yet, the disaster lasted much longer than anticipated and abandoned pets began to run out of food and water. Your pets are your responsibility, so keep your entire family together throughout the disaster. With early planning, you and your pets can stay safe and together.



### REQUEST FOR THERAPY DOGS

**Hands of Hope Childcare Center** in Pontiac has requested USA Therapy Dogs to come and visit children at the Center. The children have had therapy dogs in the past that have greatly benefitted from the visits. The children open up to the dogs tell their stories, read, feel safe and find comfort with therapy dogs. Many of the children come from negative environments, needing to rebuild trust and confidence.

USA Therapy Dog teams, if you feel like you can help these children please contact director, Jodie Slongo at 248-334-2187 ext. 1301

**Stonegate Health Care Facility in Lapeer** to visit seniors. This is a small, beautiful facility, very comfortable visits. Seniors gather in the lounge area to welcome and visit the dogs, also there are two other areas in the building, one is physical therapy and the other is the Alzheimer's wing that welcome the handler/dog teams. Currently there is a small group visiting, but with the start of the school year some of our handler's schedules have changed. Visits are one hour. If you are interested in visiting Contact Diane Noblett at 810-245-2459.

### VOLUNTEER HOURS

Please submit your hours at the end of each month. Please tally up the hours by month. Visitation logs are mailed out at the end of each month. They are all same if you would like to just make copies or print off several at a time. You could email Diane for a visitation log if needed: [dmnobllett@charter.net](mailto:dmnobllett@charter.net). Remember to have your visitation log signed by the contact person at the location. **15 visiting hours a year is required to remain in "active" status with USA Therapy Dogs, Please refer to the Policies and Procedures Manual for details.** If you would like to receive another PPM send Diane Noblett an email for the request. For home visits, with pre-approval please use my name for the CONTACT person's name.

### Volunteer Awards Program—Change in 2014

There will not longer be a Volunteer Awards Program starting in 2014. Hours will still need to be submitted at the end of every month. There will be awards given at the end of the year, not necessarily for hours.

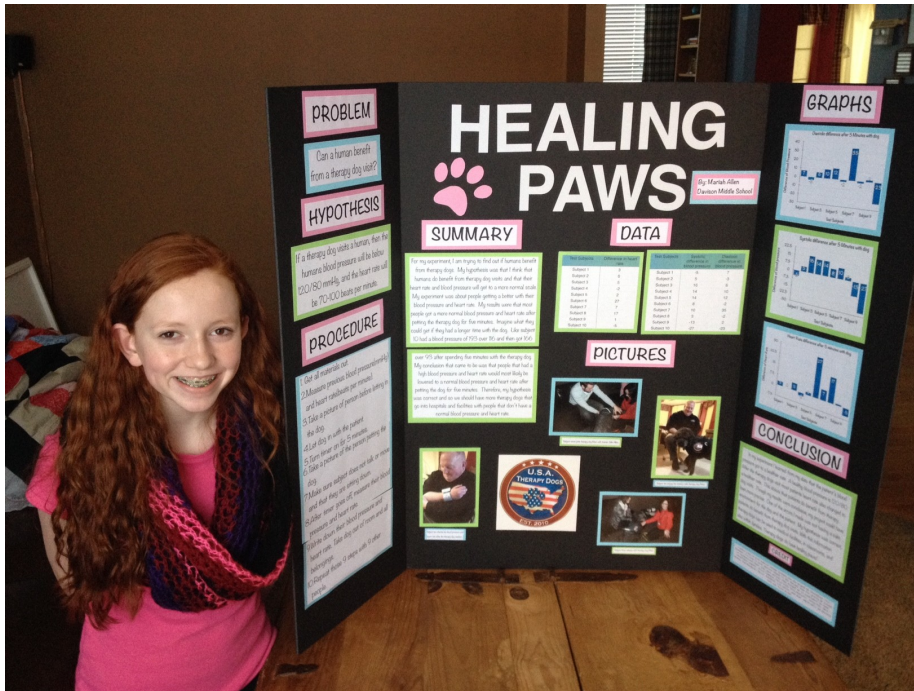
**Final Total Hours for 2013: 3,085**

**Total Hours for 2012: 1,662**

**Great job visiting - Congratulations to all active members!!!**







## SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT

Mariah Allen's Science Fair Project was all about how a therapy dog (Maci) can lower high blood pressure. Attached are the pictures of her Project Board. It is a fact therapy dogs have healing benefits!!

Read on.....thank you Mariah for giving people an education on therapy dog work.

### SUMMARY

For my experiment, I am trying to find out if humans benefit from therapy dogs. My hypothesis was that I think that humans do benefit from therapy dog visits and that their heart rate and blood pressure will get to a more normal scale. My experiment was about people getting a better with their blood pressure and heart rate. My results were that most people got a more normal blood pressure and heart rate after petting the therapy dog for five minutes. Imagine what they could get if they had a longer time with the dog. Like subject 10 had a blood pressure of 193 over 116 and then got 166

over 93 after spending five minutes with the therapy dog. My conclusion that came to be was that people that had a high blood pressure and heart rate would most likely be lowered to a normal blood pressure and heart rate after petting the dog for five minutes. Therefore, my hypothesis was correct and so we should have more therapy dogs that go into hospitals and facilities with people that don't have a normal blood pressure and heart rate.

### CONCLUSION

In my experiment I learned from my data that the patient's blood pressure got to a healthier rate. A healthy blood pressure is 120/80. After the therapy dogs visit most patients heart rate also changed to a healthier rate. This shows that patients do benefit from therapy dog visits. Though my results were conclusive, my project could have been more precise. One of the errors I made was not having a calm environment for the dog and the patient. My hypothesis was correct, patients do benefit from therapy dog visits. With this information therapy dogs can be used in medical facilities, in classrooms, and also within families. Therapy dogs do have healing paws!

#### CREDIT

I would like to give special thanks to every one who helped me throughout this process. I'd like to give special thanks to USA Therapy dogs for giving me access to trainers and dogs. Also each patient that allowed me to experiment on them: Estefanny Lambert, Ellie Timmons, Darcy Coon, Nick McElrath, Donna Fox, Mari Gordon, Sam Woodbeck, Darrin Woodbeck, Liz Carter, and most importantly my parents John and Julie Allen.



Science Project con't.....



## PROBLEM

Can a human benefit from a therapy dog visit?

## HYPOTHESIS

If a therapy dog visits a human, then the humans blood pressure will be below 120/80 mmHg, and the heart rate will be 70-100 beats per minute.

## PROCEDURE



**USA THERAPY DOGS, INC.****STAFF MEMBERS****President:** Jarod Boyles**Vice President:** Diane Noblett**Secretary:** Kathy Fridline**Treasurer:** Brenda Begley**Lead Trainer:** Daphne Stover**Lead Medical Officer:** Ann Bruno**Events Coordinating Team:** Brenda Begley, Kristine

Oswald &amp; Jennifer Jones

**Communications Coordinator:** Diane Noblett**Fundraiser Coordinator:** VACANT**Marketing Coordinator:** Delena Austin**AKC Program—Canine Partners**

Randall Trudell

USA Therapy Dog member, Randall Trudell signed up for a new program through the AKC called Canine Partners. It will allow our members that have mixed breed dogs, rescue dogs and rare breeds to participate in AKC Rally, Agility, obedience trails and Coursing Ability Tests. For every USA TD member that signs up Randall will receive \$10 that he will donate to USA TD. This is a very easy and fun way to earn money for USA TD. Please check out the website for more information how you can enroll in this program.

<http://classic.akc.org/mixed-breeds/index.cfm>

**The Assistant Trainers Workshop in February was very successful!! We had 11 members attend the AT Workshop and 7 those members are training in the current class. Thank you !!!**

**There are 10 dogs and 12 handlers/co-handlers in the current class. Graduation is May 19, 2014**



**AKC/THERAPY DOG  
RECOGNITION  
THERAPY DOG PATCH**



USA Therapy Dogs, Inc. is now a recognized Therapy Dog organization. The forms and guidelines have been emailed to all members for those who would like to earn an AKC Therapy Dog patch.

The visit log the AKC has a different format than the visit log for USA Therapy Dogs. AKC counts visits, USA TD counts hours. The same sheet can be used for both AKC visits and USA TD hours, just make sure the hours are stated on the form when sending to Diane Noblett at [diane.noblett@yahoo.com](mailto:diane.noblett@yahoo.com). It is the Handlers responsibility to send in all the pertinent information to the AKC for their visits. All information is on the forms/guidelines.

**You can see USA Therapy Dogs, Inc. listed on the AKC website at:**

<http://www.akc.org/akctherapydog/organizations.cfm>