

# Paw Prints



**The Newsletter of the Rand Park Dog Training Club, Inc.**

**Coronavirus Edition**

**May 2020**

## Life During Coronavirus Times

What an incredible time we are living in! It's a time that's forcing us to change how we live our lives, and we're learning every day about more things that we can no longer do, at least not for a while. Sadly our dog activities are seriously affected by virus concerns. For now, there's no training, there are no dog shows, and just buying dog food is a challenge. I won't even talk about getting a dog groomed! Grooming can wait. But veterinarian care is a necessity.

We needed to take Gus to the vet recently. He had a cyst on his back, something he seems to get occasionally. And he chewed it. Guess he's as nervous as we all are about this virus thing! The cyst bled like crazy and the vet visit was definitely a necessity. How they dealt with seeing him at the vet's office was impressive. The vet we go to here in Scottsdale is only seeing emergency patients right now, and if you had seen the blood that was all over our bed one morning, you would have agreed that having the cyst taken care of was definitely an emergency! We were glad to get an appointment.

Only one patient at a time was admitted to the vet's office. A vet employee, wearing a mask, of course, came out of the building to get Gus – we were not allowed to go in with him – and we waited in our car while the cyst was being removed. It was done with a local, so we were able to take him home right after. It was all amazingly well handled, a very positive experience. The only thing we didn't feel so good about was the bill we had to pay. He goes back to have the stitches removed in a few days. I hate to think what that will cost. But whatever it is, we're just glad the little guy is OK.

We're learning that a lot of dogs are being adopted these days by people who are at home now, not working because of the virus and crave companionship, probably comfort, too, something they will definitely get from a dog. Looking at adoption agency information on the web it seems like it can be hard to even find a dog to adopt. I only hope people realize that there's a lot involved in owning a dog. It's a big responsibility. And I hope they don't decide that they don't want them anymore when life returns to normal, which we all hope will happen soon.

The YouTube sensation, Pluto the Dog, has some good coronavirus suggestions for us. To see what Pluto has to say, open your internet browser, in the search box enter "Pluto the dog YouTube video" and select your video of choice. You can also open YouTube and search on "Pluto the dog." The videos are super cute!

In 2012 Rand Park started collecting pet food to be donated to a food pantry. We can't do that now, but we can donate money to organizations that will make pet food available to needy folks. And there are a lot of needy folks now. Consider making a donation. You can find organizations online or ask your vet for a recommendation.

A slightly abbreviated issue of Paw Prints (I left out some of the forms) discussing the pet food drives Rand Park started to hold in 2012 appears at the end of this edition. You might enjoy reading it again. How times have changed! And sadly, some of the people and dogs mentioned in the newsletter have passed away.

Keep socially distant. Stay safe!

Ursula Hoeft

### In this issue:

Self-Quarantine - The Real Reason why - Important Club Information - Good News -  
Note from Member - Rand Park History - AKC news re Virtual Rally Program -  
January 2013 Issue of Paw Prints

## Important club news!

Because coronavirus concerns prevent us from holding a meeting, this time only, Rand Park DTC will approve the following Slate of Officers for 2020-2021. We will hold a meeting to formally vote on the slate when life gets back to normal.

### 2020-2021 Slate of Officers

ADVISOR to the Board: Lois Breslow

PRESIDENT: Jean Eremo

SECRETARY: Linda Forman

TREASURER & INSURANCE: Gloria Blanton

CHAIRMAN of the Board: Marion Meseth

VICE PRESIDENT: Lois Leidahl-Marsh

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Valerie Manning

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Lori Buckely

Board of Directors:

Teena Horne (New 2-year Term)

Birgit Mantilla (New 2-year Term)

Kathy Baureis (New 2-year Term)

Mary Laurie

Sonja Lund

Don Fester



**Good news...**

**And we can sure use some of that now!**

From Sonja Lund:

Scheiss completed the requirements for, and received, the Versatility Award from the American Miniature Schnauzer Club, Inc. I'm very proud of her. She really is a versatile little girl.

And, right before the shutdown, Scheiss and I showed in 2 U.K.C. trials in Rockford where she received her C.D. title with a 3rd place and a 1st place.

Scheiss is in the photo on the left.

Pat Beckstrom says ...

Meet the new champion

Ch. Country Creeks Mountain Ranger

That's Ranger on the right.

*Congratulations*



*We hope that it will soon be possible to again hold dog events and that we will have many awards, etc. to publish in future editions of Paw Prints.*

Send brags, news, etc. to  
ursula@u.northwestern.edu

And if you know of a member who doesn't have email, please consider sharing important information with them. Or pick up the phone and call them just to talk. They will be glad to hear from you!

### A note from Dot Dokey

*I'd like to share that I lost my yellow Lab, Trapper, last month at the wonderful age of 15. We trained at Rand Park from 2010-2017 and earned our CD, BN, RN and two legs toward our PCD before retiring in 2017. It wasn't a spectacular career in the ring by some standards but boy, did we have fun! I had no experience in training or showing before I joined RPDTC and I want to thank everyone there who so patiently worked with us, offering suggestions and encouragement.*

## While we're self-quarantined ...

Going to the store these days feels like traversing a mine field. It's something we don't want to do too often. Here are suggestions for things you can do to minimize the need to make those dangerous journeys.

- Use less toilet paper. Don't squander it. If one square will do the job don't use more.
- Use less shampoo. Who knows when you'll be able to get to the store to buy another bottle. You're stuck in the house. You don't care how dirty your hair is. Family members who are confined with you don't care either. They love you.
- Use less detergent. Do laundry less often. You're not getting out. Nobody is going to see that stain on your shirt.
- Drink less coffee. Make what you have last as long as possible. Who knows when you'll feel up to making another trip to the grocery store? And these days, you don't need that caffeine "jolt" in the morning to wake you up. You're wide awake the minute you remember what's going on.
- Don't let anything go to waste. Use the food that's hiding in your kitchen cabinet. We all have boxes of mac and cheese, don't we? Now's the time to make it. Give it a French name. Call it mac le fromage. Tell your friends about your fabulous dinner when you talk to them, over the phone, of course.
- If you have a dog that needs haircuts, learn to do your own grooming. Fido will still love you no matter how bad you make him look.
- Teach your dog to file its own nails. Rand Park member Sally Bushwaller shows us how. Go to [bushwaller.com/teach-your-dog-to-file-her-own-nails](http://bushwaller.com/teach-your-dog-to-file-her-own-nails). It probably will take a while for your dog to master it, but you have plenty of time now!
- Don't listen to or watch the news. Your electric bill will be lower. It's all scary stuff anyway. It'll just depress you and raise your blood pressure.
- Go through your emails. Coronavirus can't be transmitted electronically. Delete the "million" emails that have accumulated or transfer them to files to look at later, which you will never get around to doing. Does anyone?
- Contact friends you haven't seen in years – by phone or email, of course. It's a good way to fill the time you now have sitting at home. Maybe they'll remember you.
- Catch up on your reading. Finally read all those magazines you've been saving for when you have time to read them. You have time now.
- Read War and Peace – all of it! It'll numb your brain and keep you from thinking about the virus.

Ursula



## The Real Reason ...

*Titles are nice, but here's the REAL REASON*

### *WHY WE HAVE DOGS ...*

*They're good dance partners. And they enjoy being close to us even if we haven't bothered to shower for a few days now that we're stuck in the house, self quarantined.*

*Also, we can dress them up if we get really desperate for something to do. They're good sports!*

*Thank goodness we have our dogs for company!*

## A bit of Rand Park History

In 1948, Mr. C. Howard Yates and a small group of friends began to rent a room from the Des Plaines Park District where they could get together to train their dogs. The room was located in the Rand Park Field House, which is how the club got its name. Training sessions were held on Tuesday evenings, and training took place from September to June. (The facility could not be used for dog training during the summer because of other park district activities.) The club continues to follow the same training schedule.

Rand Park's first sanctioned match was held in the Fall of 1949; the second in the Spring of 1950. The club's first licensed obedience trial was held in December of 1950. Rand Park has held a trial every year since. The first trials were held at the Rand Park Field House. Entry was limited.

Through the years, as the club grew, larger trials were held at various venues. From 1977 through 1981 Rand Park's trials drew record numbers of entries.

## Rand Park philanthropic activities

In 1973 and 1975 the club purchased and donated tranquilizer guns for the Des Plaines and Park Ridge police departments.

In 1980 a big dream came true for the club when we purchased the first hearing dog in the state of Illinois. As a result, since then more hearing dogs have been placed in our state.

The club has also made numerous donations to the following organizations: the Morris Animal Foundation which works toward cures for animal disease; the North Carolina Hurricane Fund which aided animals after the 1999 devastation; Canine Epilepsy; Companion Dogs; dogs to aid the handicapped.

Donations were made to Search and Rescue Dogs and the Chicago Tribune Disaster Relief Fund following the September 11, 2001 tragedies.

**It's time to again think about supporting worthwhile causes that provide aid to people in need. – ed.**

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## AKC Rally® Novice Virtual Pilot Program

During this time of necessary social distancing, we want to give our beginner AKC Rally® exhibitors a reason to continue training their dogs and to stay engaged with the sport of Rally. The AKC Rally Novice Virtual pilot program will provide these exhibitors an opportunity to stay-at-home and enter an AKC Rally® event.

The pilot program is designed to have a Rally Novice competitor set up a pre-designed AKC Rally® course in the safety of their own yard, record the performance and submit it to AKC. In turn, AKC will assign a pre-selected AKC Rally Judge to virtually review and score the team's Rally performance. AKC will have five pre-designed official rally courses published on the AKC website for the exhibitor to choose from. The exhibitor will follow the setup instructions provided, video the performance, upload the video to YouTube, set the required YouTube viewing options, and submit the video link with the entry form and fee to AKC.

Once the required information is received, and the dog's records are verified for class eligibility, the video link will be assigned to a judge for review. The judge will score the team's performance and will provide a report to AKC. All qualifying scores will be recorded on the dog's AKC record and applied toward the Rally Novice title requirements. AKC will notify exhibitors of the results of their submission. This pilot program will end at midnight **December 31, 2020** and all video submissions must be received by that date and time. We are excited to offer this virtual option to our Rally Novice exhibitors!

If you have questions after reviewing the information, please write to [Rally@akc.org](mailto:Rally@akc.org)



# Paw Prints



The Newsletter of the Rand Park Dog Training Club, Inc.

January 2013

*Best Wishes For A  
Happy And Healthy  
New Year!*

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"Snail mail" distribution: Kathy & Joe Hahn

Send us your news, stories, anything of interest to "dog people."

News/articles received by the Editor by the 20th of the month will be included in the next month's issue of Paw Prints if suitable and space permits.

Visit Rand Park's Website:  
<http://randparkdte.org>

## Rand Park Members Show Their Generosity

By Ursula Hoeft

On Saturday, December 22, Rand Park DTC members delivered dog food – lots of it – to a food pantry in Des Plaines where it will be made available to needy pet owners. The food was donated by club members who brought their donations to training the previous Tuesday night.

Asking Rand Park members to donate pet food for the food pantry was Helene and Jerry Wulff's idea. They made the suggestion at the December Board Meeting. It received immediate – and enthusiastic – approval. To get food to the food pantry in time for Christmas, Linda Forman wrote up a quick "blurb" about the program, requesting that food donations be brought to the next training session; Jean Eremo sent it to her "mile long" e-mail distribution list. As you'd expect, our members brought a "ton" of food to training on December 18. I think the Wulff's car was sagging from its weight as they drove off with it!

Collecting pet food to donate to the food pantry will be an on-going club initiative. Please support this important program by bringing pet food donations to the Membership Meeting on January 8 and to future Membership Meetings. (See suggestions for food donations in this issue of Paw Prints.) We know how important our pets are to us, especially during difficult times – we also know that keeping them fed can be expensive. Food we donate will surely be appreciated by folks dealing with financial setbacks.



**Jerry and Helene Wolf with a carload of dog food donated by Rand Park members.**

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# The Real Reason Why We Own Dogs

*Titles are nice, but here's the REAL REASON WHY WE OWN DOGS ...*

**Eleanor Goss says:**

*It is amazing how our dogs know what to do, and also how much a little kiss can mean.*

During a visit to Ballard Nursing Home with Mackenzie, there was a very sick lady who was sleeping. The lady had a tracheotomy tube and her hands were all curled up. Usually, we wouldn't disturb someone who is sleeping but the staff encouraged us to go to her. The staff then sat her up and we came to visit her. I picked up Mackenzie and she rested her front paws on the woman's chair. I wasn't sure what to do but I told the lady that we were from RPDTTC and Mackenzie and I had come to visit her. The lady slowly opened her eyes and when she looked at Mackenzie a smile came across her face. I repeated again that we were from RPDTTC. Before I finished, Mackenzie reached out and gave her a very gentle kiss. I was



surprised because Mackenzie is not a kissy dog. The lady's face really just lit up with the biggest smile. She tried to move her arm to pet Mackenzie. She wasn't able to use her hand but she rubbed her forearm on Mackenzie's fur and said "Mackenzie." Staff was just so thrilled they asked us to stay with her a little longer.

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## CGC Becomes a Title in January, 2013

Information submitted by Sonja Lund

The Canine Good Citizen will become an official AKC title beginning January 2, 2013. Here are the highlights of the process to get the new title.

- Any dog owner who passes the CGC with his/her dog and wishes to have the CGC certificate, may receive the certificate for an \$8.00 processing fee. No change from the present practice.
- Any dog owner who passes the CGC with his/her dog and wishes to have the CGC listed on the dog's record must pay a processing fee of \$20.00.
- Dogs that have earned their CGC (back to January, 2001) may have their CGC grandfathered. To accomplish this the owner must use the form *Application to Add CGC to your Dog's Title Record*. The Grandfathering form will be available at the AKC/CGC website on January 2, 2013.

If you pass the CGC test between now and January 2, 2013, you can choose to do one of the following:

- Submit the Test/Registration Form now for the CGC Title Option with a check for \$20.00. The check will be cashed now, but the CGC Test/Registration form will not be processed until January 2, 2013.
- Submit the CGC Test/Registration Form with \$8.00 to receive the certificate only. You may submit the \$20.00 later to apply for the official title using the Grandfathering form.
- Hold the paperwork until January 2, 2013 and submit it after that date with \$20.00 for the official titling option.

For more information, check out the website: [www.akc.org/events/cgc/title.cfm](http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/title.cfm)

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## Nikki: A Very Special Dog

Not many of you know Nikki. She's a teeny tiny little Min Pin with a heart 100 times her size! She hasn't been to classes for many years because, in my opinion, she only had a certain amount of jumps left in her life and I rationed them.

On December 15, 2012 Nikki ran in her last agility trial. After literally thousands of runs in training and in shows we called it a day. I adore this little dog and have always, 100% of the time, cherished each and every run whether it was a Q or NQ. We attended AKC National events and an AKC Invitational. She was the #1 PACH Min Pin this past year and got a special certificate from the AKC to commemorate this achievement. :o) She's been in the top four Min Pins in AKC in the past, and has some metallic titles in USDAA, too.



Nikki came into my life 13 years ago. That's 13 years of agility, obedience, rally, snuggles, kisses,

and companionship! She is celebrating her 14th birthday on January 1 and, considering she's been doing agility until two weeks before that milestone, she'd done good.

I hope to have her in my life for a long time to come but the reality is, her days are numbered. Hug and kiss your dogs every day and remember that each day you have with them, each start line, each walk in the woods, each rally sign and nosework find, is a gift to be treasured.

I am in awe of this tiny little dog who has taught me more than all my other dogs combined.

Barb Krynski and  
ADCH MACH4 PACH U-GRACH Marla Pooch  
CD, U-CDX, U-RO1 (first Min Pin UKC Rally  
titles), RAE, and a bunch of CPE & NADAC titles,  
too.

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## Congratulations!

**Digger (Hahn)** got his second Novice B leg at Can-Dun-Al and placed second with a score of 197. (First place was a perfect 200!) Kathy says, "The boy amazes me sometimes. He's getting it together after five years."

**Margo Milde reports** that, on November 11, Fly earned his 3rd Rally Novice leg (title) with a 1st place at the Fox Valley Dog Training Club trial at the Kane County Fairgrounds, with a perfect score of 100. Not only did I get a pretty blue ribbon and a pretty green ribbon, we won something else that was a pretty green color – a nice new \$20 bill since they were awarding cash prizes!



**Barb Krynski's Bingo** earned his AKC Agility Champion title, and his USDAA Master Agility title! (That's Barb and Bingo in the photo.)

**Evie (Muzzey)** completed her Rally Advanced title on December 6 at Starved Rock Kennel Club's trial with a first placement. And, just to make sure she got it right, we completed a fourth leg on December 14 at Northwest Obedience with another first place! It was a nice Christmas present to her mom.

## Tracking Help Needed

Even though winter is just getting started and the New Year is still young, we have to think about tracking trials for the calendar year 2013. We are in serious need of Chairmen and Secretaries for our trials. You need not be a tracker to apply! Although we appreciate ALL help at our tracking trials, we find these spots difficult to fill. And we must fill these positions at least six months prior to the event because there is AKC paperwork to fill out.

If you are reluctant to volunteer for one of these positions, don't be – we will assign mentors to work with you every step of the way. We would not want to run the risk of cancelling a trial due to lack of a Chairman or Secretary. If you have any questions about what each position entails, please contact me or Terri Everwine directly.

Following are the trial weekend dates for 2013. Please check your calendar and volunteer **before the end of January**. By volunteering for one of these jobs, you would be fulfilling one of your requirements for Rand Park awards as well as being eligible for workers' draw privileges for any of our tracking trials that you would like to enter.

Spring TD: March 23–24 Filled

Spring VST: May 18–19

Fall TDX: September 21–22

Fall VST: October 5–6

Thank you!

Diane Muzzey

ctbrady97@yahoo.com – 630-924-5728

Contact information for Terri Everwine: [everte@comcast.net](mailto:everte@comcast.net) – 847-304-5757

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## March 24 Tracking Dog Test

The premium list and entry form for the March 24 TD test are on our website ([randparkdte.org](http://randparkdte.org)). More tracklayers and other support persons are needed. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Chairperson and Chief Tracklayer Gina Femali at [gcatbird@comcast.net](mailto:gcatbird@comcast.net) or 847-204-8739.

### Important! Please note.

If training needs to be cancelled because of bad weather or for some other reason, instructors will try to call the students in their classes to notify them.

Notice of training cancellation will also be posted on the Club's website:

<http://www.randparkdte.org>

Current and past issues of Paw Prints and forms for various club events are also available on the website.

### Pet Food Donations:

**Members' generosity is appreciated,  
but ...**

While large bags of dog food are cost effective, food pantries prefer that smaller bags – or cans – be donated. Smaller amounts allow them more flexibility and enable them to provide food to more clients.

**Don't forget that the January 8 Membership Meeting will be another pet food donation event.**



## Legislative Liaison Committee Report December 25, 2012

Rand Park's Legislative Committee consists of Margo Milde, Chair [mrm1206@yahoo.com](mailto:mrm1206@yahoo.com) and Lois Leidahl-Marsh [bernersplus@comcast.net](mailto:bernersplus@comcast.net) Please be sure to contact us with any pet legislation concerns or questions.

"Society in every state is a blessing, but government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state an intolerable one." --Thomas Paine

**Your state federation IFDCO forestalls possible Mandatory Spay-Neuter (MSN) in Decatur IL:** From the AKC's legislative newsletter, *Taking Command*, in the Legislative Successes article:

"Illinois – The Humane Society of Decatur and Macon County sought to collect 1,000 signatures on two petitions that would have asked lawmakers to impose mandatory spay/neuter provisions on both the City of Decatur and Macon County...AKC GR worked with the Illinois Federation of Dog Clubs and Owners (IFDCO) to educate county officials about the numerous problems with these proposals. AKC GR also notified local residents and asked them to contact their lawmakers. Thanks to these grassroots efforts, county officials confirmed that as of December 20, 2012, they have not been presented with the petitions and have not been asked to consider any new dog laws. AKC GR and IFDCO will continue to closely monitor this issue."

You can access this complete edition of December *Taking Command* at this link:  
[http://classic.akc.org/enewsletter/taking\\_command/2012/december.html](http://classic.akc.org/enewsletter/taking_command/2012/december.html)

**Illinois ranked #1 in top animal law protection, by Animal Rights group ALDF:** The Animal Rights group the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) has just issued its annual rankings on animal protection laws by state, and Illinois is again at #1, top of the list in best laws protecting animals, according to an ALDF announcement on December 17, 2012:

<http://aldf.org/custom/rankings/ALDF2012USRankingsReport.pdf>

Curiously, just a week before Christmas, Illinois's credit outlook was further downgraded to a now "Negative A2" outlook (from A2 Stable) by Moody's Investor Service, making Illinois the worst ranked state credit-wise in the nation, even lower than California. It's time for a question: since we in Illinois are already #1 in best laws protecting animals of any state, given that IL is in such dire straits financially, do we need and -- just as important -- can we afford, any additional animal laws?

**US Appellate Court rules that famous Key West Hemingway cats no longer may roam that historic property:** Interesting case playing out down in Key West, Florida, where, as some of you know if you've been there, descendants of Hemingway's 6-toed cats roam freely around the Hemingway house museum property as they did when he was still alive and residing there many decades ago. After several years of court wrangling, the latest decision, from the US Circuit Court of Appeals for the 11th district, is that the cats are covered under the federal Animal Welfare Act and that the Museum will have to be licensed as an "exhibitor" under the AWA to be able to continue to be able to "exhibit" these felines. Of course, all regulations as applies to animals on exhibit under the AWA will now have to be followed for the museum to be licensed. No doubt the cats will wish that this were not so; they have it pretty darn good now. (Maybe it's time that Key West should start thinking about becoming the Conch Republic again?!) Court decision:

<http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/ops/201114217.pdf>

Interesting article explaining this situation here in good detail:

<http://todaytravel.today.com/news/2012/12/11/15842617-cat-fight-pits-government-against-hemingway-museum?lite>

**Two more cases of dogs shot by police in the Chicago area without apparent provocation:** We all know that police work a very difficult and dangerous job. But details in two recent cop-shoots-dog occurrences in the

Chicago area raise serious questions as to whether such shootings were justified. In the first, a miniature bull terrier puppy in the Lincoln Park area was shot by a police officer writing a parking ticket; the dog is recovering after five hours of surgery, and the owners are suing the Chicago Police Department in federal court:

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2012/12/12/lawsuit-over-puppy-shot-by-cop-moving-to-federal-court/>

This isn't the first such incident involving Chicago police; only last year, the US District Court awarded \$333,000 to a Chicago family whose dog, a Lab, was shot and killed by a Chicago cop during a police raid in which absolutely nothing illegal was found, since the cops had the wrong apartment unit:

[http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2011-08-19/news/ct-met-police-shoot-dog-20110819\\_1\\_family-dog-damages-officers](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2011-08-19/news/ct-met-police-shoot-dog-20110819_1_family-dog-damages-officers)

Another case of cops shooting at an apparently purebred and valued and loved pet dog in the Chicago area, this time with fatal results for the dog, occurred just last week when Hazel Crest police shot and killed a Rhodesian Ridgeback when searching for one of the escaped bank robbers:

<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=8932779>

Columnist Steve Dale has just called on Governor Quinn to require that all police officers in Illinois receive proper training so that these canine tragedies won't occur at the rate they have been.

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## Dog Obedience Demonstration Teams

By Gloria Urquhart

Our dogs are always a hit when we visit nursing homes and adult day care centers with them.

Many of our members are unaware of the parameters for participating as a member of RPDT's Demo Team when a demonstration is scheduled so we are again providing information about what is required. It's not a lot. People are always happy just to see our dogs.

All we request of you, as the handler, is that your dog is under control and pleasant when visiting nursing homes and other similar facilities. Most of our dogs have very good manners and we insist that they use them during visits.

At times we put on a formal obedience demonstration and at other times we conduct what is known as a "*Meet and Greet*" session. For the formal demonstration we do a limited amount of heeling, sits and downs, recalls and figure eights. But for the "*Meet and Greet*" all we do is walk around the facility, visit with the residents and let them pet our dogs and ask any questions they may have about them.

At this time we have three scheduled visits that we do every month:

1. Lutheran General Adult Day Care – 1st Monday of every month at 1:30.
2. Ballard Nursing Home – Fluctuates from 2nd to 3rd Wednesday of every month at 2:00.
3. Nazarethville – 2nd Saturday of every month at 10:15 (excluding the summer months of June, July and August).

Please consider sharing your dog(s) with people at these facilities (mostly seniors) and you'll realize what joy our pets bring to them!!

For more information about visits #1 and #2, call Gloria Urquhart - 847-825-3318.

For more information about visit #3, call Barb Pische - 773-637-5491.

Eleanor Goss' account in this issue of Paw Prints of how her dog, Mackenzie, affected one woman is a great example of the positive impact our dogs can make on residents during nursing home visits. Many of them had dogs themselves, and they love to talk about them. Our visits bring back many happy memories. And just petting a furry head and looking into a pair of soulful, seemingly-understanding eyes can be therapeutic.

## ***A Love Letter to My Dogs***

by Kathy Kawalec

To My Dear Dogs,

You may not know this, but without you my life would be diminished. Would I have ever had the courage to push through my pain without you by my side? Would my smile be as bright, my optimism be as strong?

How could I learn to be more patient, if it wasn't for your patience with me? If you had corrected me for every time I made a mistake, would I have eagerly and happily forgiven you as you did me?

If you didn't refuse to do what I unreasonably asked, how would I have learned a better way? If you had hidden your true feelings, how would I have known how wrong I was? How would I have known?

When you grew old and slow to respond, I learned how to be loving and patient. To take my time and be present with you. I would have missed out on so many incredibly beautiful moments if you hadn't allowed me to be part of your aging and your dying. How sad that would be. So much sadder than the pain of losing you.

I am in awe of how blessed my life is...this life with you, my dogs. It is magical.

My heart, no, my entire being, swells with gratitude and with love for the blessing of my life with dogs. And for the blessings that I know will go on, every day of my life.

Thank you. And I promise you this: with your blessings and with your help, I will keep on aspiring to be the kind of person you see in me. And, I will keep on guiding every lover of dogs who connects with me to be the kind of person their dogs see in them.

All my love,  
Kathy

### **About the Author**

Kathy Kawalec offers partnership-driven training and coaching for people and their dogs at Dancing Hearts Holistic Learning Center in Manhattan Illinois, at other locations in the Midwest, and around the globe via webinar/online courses and phone consultation. Visit [www.DancingHearts.org](http://www.DancingHearts.org) to learn more.

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(My thanks go to Barb Krynski for sending me this beautiful letter for Paw Prints, and for obtaining the author's permission for it to be reproduced in our newsletter. – Ed.)



## Rand Park Dog Training Club Awards 2012



Let Eleanor Goss know – right away – if a  
Call her at 847-807-0181, or email

correction needs to be made.  
egoss3000@comcast.net

### **CD: AKC Companion Dog**

Mary Dellorto Bliss  
Kathy Hahn Digger  
Eleanor Goss Mackenzie

### **RA: Rally Advanced/AKC**

Gail Kipp Buckley  
Lois Leidahl-Marsh Lena  
Diane Muzzey Evie

### **CDX: AKC Companion Dog Excellent**

Mary Dellorto Bliss  
Mary Dellorto Rivet

### **RE: Rally Excellent/AKC**

Lois Leidahl-Marsh Lena

### **UDX: AKC Utility Dog Excellent**

Evelyn Gianos Timmy

### **URO1/UKC Rally Obedience 1**

Gail A Kipp Buckley

### **CH AKC Champion**

Anita Wolney Pogo

### **MX: Master Agility Excellent/AKC**

Margo Milde Fly

### **HR: Hunting Retriever/UKC**

Dee Morrison Paddy

### **MXJ: Master Jumpers Excellent/AKC**

Margo Milde Fly

### **NAP: Novice Agility Preferred/AKC**

Patricia Beckstrom Daisy

### **CGC: Canine Good Citizen**

### **RN: Rally Novice/AKC**

Gail Kipp Buckley  
Margo Milde Fly

Mary Dellorto Bliss  
Laurie Ingstrup Buster

If you haven't yet gotten information to Eleanor Goss about an award – or awards – you and your dog(s) earned during 2012, it's not too late. But be sure you get the information to her no later than January 8. The form you need to fill out is on the next page.

## Advice for the New Year from a very wise lady: Ann Landers

Let this coming year be better than all the others. Vow to do some of the things you've always wanted to do but couldn't find the time for. Call up a forgotten friend. Drop an old grudge, and replace it with some pleasant memories. Vow not to make a promise you don't think you can keep. Walk tall, and smile more. You'll look ten years younger. *And your dog will heel better!*

(The last sentence is from me. I don't think Ann Landers knew anything about dog obedience. / Ursula)



*"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog.  
You are his life, his love, his leader.  
He will be yours, faithful and true,  
to the last beat of his heart.  
You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion."  
– Author Unknown*





Rand Park Dog Training Club, Inc.  
**Seen at Orientation Night: Students rarin' to get started!**

(Photos courtesy of Eleanor Goss, photographer extraordinaire)

