



Summer 2015

*Touching Hearts, Bringing Joy, Offering Comfort, and
Enriching Lives with Certified Therapy Dog Teams*

Welcome New TDV Teams

Melissa McConnell with Happy
Christine Packard with Archie
Blakeley Murrell-Liland with Austin
Norm Stinehour with Casey
Diane Vanecek with Hank
Dallas Anderson with John Harkins with Joe

Erik Beal with Duncan
Evan Stainman with Hank
Joan Wheeler with Star
Beth Wilkins with Nella
Rebecca Lallier with Bear

Laura K. Biron with Minnow
Douglas Varney with Casanova
Michelle Machesky with Nyla
Ruth Santos with Yoda

Adam with Christian Tarr with Sadie

Greetings From Big Dog

by Steve Reiman, Founder & President

More than twenty-five years ago, I made my first therapy dog visit and it changed my life. Two years later, the number of teams who joined me making visits became so significant that I started Therapy Dogs of Vermont. I did this so I could help members team up with others and I could find new facilities wanting visits from therapy dogs. They have been twenty-five intensive, very exciting years.

Over all of this time, we have adhered to various Basic Principles. TDV brings on new teams which are carefully tested to give assurance that there will be no incidents while on duty. TDV supports our members by keeping them informed about facilities looking for therapy dog visits.

TDV teams serve in many venues such as in hospitals, nursing & retirement homes, rehabilitation facilities, correctional facilities, as well as in schools, libraries, and youth centers. Our third decade initiative is under way to support our Veterans. We currently have 305 TDV teams unleashing smiles.

Many times I have seen how the loving care of a therapy dog can heal where words have no effect. Because of this, TDV Members continue to make me proud. I am truly grateful for the sacrifices that allow our members to bring immense joy and comfort to the many people we serve.



TDV is Seeking New Members to the Board of Directors

We need your help! Please apply by July 15th

If you have talent and time to spare, TDV would dearly appreciate your help.

If you have questions, please email us at Admin@Therapydogs.org

For an application, see our Home Page: www.therapydogs.org

TDV invited to Speak at NCAL Annual Meeting

by Steve Reiman, Founder & President

Patti Rubin, Governance Chair of the North Country Animal League, invited TDV to make a presentation at their Annual Meeting on June 10th at the Green Mountain Inn's Conference Room in Stowe.

The North Country Animal League's mission is to promote compassionate and responsible relationships between humans and animals. They do this through adoptions, education and outreach, spay/neuter programs, support of cruelty prevention, and the sheltering of homeless animals.

Steve and Lessie Reiman brought their certified therapy dog, Kristee, and gave the updated Power Point presentation to the 75 members and BOD dog loving individuals who were in attendance. The picture is of Steve, Lessie, Kristee and Jess Russell, the newly elected president of NCAL.



Certification & Training Team Interview

by Jason Reed

Name: Brenda Carpenter

Dog's Name and Breed: Burton-Yellow Labrador

Town where you live: Williston

Location/s where TDV volunteering is done: Williston/Essex

What can you tell us about yourself? What is your personal/professional background?



I have worked for FedEx Express for 29 years, I am the International coordinator at our Vermont station. I grew up in South Burlington, Vt and in my spare time. I enjoy the spending it with my family (labs included), friends and I love playing golf during the summer months.

Who is your TDV partner? What breed is s/he? How did you come to be her/his owner?

Burton is my 5 year old Yellow Labrador , we are great friends with his breeder. We also have a black Lab named Hunter, who is 11 years old and he is from the same family as Burton.

How long have you been with TDV? What is your role on the Certification Team?

I have been with the certification team for 5 years. My role is to assist in all aspects of the test and clinics.

What is your favorite part about being a Certification Team member?

The people I volunteer with are like family. I look forward to spending time with them all but most of all, I love seeing all the possible new teams coming in to test. It's fun to see what breeds have arrived. It's a great feeling when a team passes the test knowing they will now be able to "Unleash smiles".

What is the most challenging thing about being a member of the Certification Team?

The hardest part for me personally, is trying to be at all of the test and clinics. It is sometimes difficult as we all have family outside of TDV. I love volunteering and thankfully I can be there through all of the winter months.

If you had one wish for Therapy Dogs of Vermont as an organization, what would it be?

To have this same wonderful group of volunteers continue together to make TDV what it is today, a very respected non-profit organization ~ I am very proud to be a part of this wonderful certification team ~



Fitness/TDV Doubles Tennis Tournament Championship Fundraiser

by Julia Page

The first annual doubles tennis championship fundraiser held by First in Fitness, Berlin, VT from March 13th-15th generated \$985 in proceeds to Therapy Dogs of Vermont. First in Fitness donated 100% of tournament proceeds to Therapy Dogs of Vermont as well as 100% of club guest fees for the weekend.

Thirty-two tennis players participated in the event. "People really responded to the cause and everyone loved having the dogs at the tournament," said tennis pro and event organizer, Scott Barker. "I can't thank Scott enough for his hard work as well as First in Fitness for hosting this fundraiser," commented Julia Page from Therapy Dogs of Vermont. Adding to the excitement was a visit from Local 22 WVNY & Local 44 WFFF and TV coverage highlighting the tournament and the therapy dog teams in attendance.



Watch for the second annual FIF/TDV tennis championship in the Spring of 2016!



Scott Barker, tennis pro, presents a check to TDV Board Member, Julia Page



Scott Barker, tennis pro (left), Larry (therapy dog, green bandana) and Pepper (therapy dog, red bandana) with some of the tournament participants.



Dartmouth College gets a Visit

by Jennifer Monteleone

Baxter and I visited Dartmouth College on 02/25/15 for a 3rd Mental Health Awareness Day for the students. A great success. These students are so receptive to a therapy dog visit. "IHFY" in the picture is the "I am here for you" campaign to promote students looking out for one another. Can't wait for the next one. This is a special place that not many people think of as needing a therapy dog...but they do!

Thank you for all the support! Jen and Baxter



In Memory of Marjorie Miller

My mom passed away on Thurs April 2nd and was a resident of Birchwood Terrace in Burlington. She just loved Uther Pendragon, handled by Brenda Tymecki, who would come in to visit her every Sunday. Previous to that she would be visited by a therapy dog at Pillsbury Manor South. She had dementia but every time Uther would visit she would brighten up and become very animated.

We have indicated in her obituary that in lieu of flowers donations be made to Therapy Dogs of Vermont. I just wanted to let you know that you may see donations coming in in her memory. Her name is Marjorie Miller.

Thank you and your organization for such dedication and volunteerism.

- - Jan Sawtell



TDV Reduces Stress at Middlebury College

Thank you, Middlebury College, for the very generous donation in appreciation for our members coming to help relieve the stress felt by students during Exam Week.



TDV at the Medieval Fair

TDV Member, Letty Annis, brought April to this event at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Jericho on May 16th. She reported that there was a good crowd and April was quite a hit. She said that some people from the community brought their dogs and all went very well. Letty said that there were several inquiries about therapy dogs which were fielded and brochures handed out. Thank you, Letty and April for representing TDV at this event.



TDV at St. Johnsbury Pet Parade

Let's hear it for Emily (Lester) McLean for getting TDV a top spot in the St. Johnsbury Pet Parade last weekend! Emily has been making great efforts to promote member growth in the NEK. What a cool event for TDV to take part.





Pal Helps Students Read at Brookfield School

by Elaine Keeler

Pal and I go to the 1st & 2nd grade of the Brookfield School and have been doing this for 4 years and 1 year at Randolph Elementary School in his first year. He is so loved at school and is also on call for children who are having a bad day. He just loves the children and curls up with his head on their laps when they read to him. At the end of school year I give each child their picture with Pal (all available if you want them) and a book mark with his photo urging them to keep reading. They give him a party with dog cookies and each child writes a thank you note that is priceless. He is an 8 year old pure bred German Shepherd with a gentle and loving temperament. We all benefit from this program. Also, we did a summer reading program at the Randolph Library on Sat. mornings in summer, but not many children showed up. I occasionally take him into nursing homes, but he is happiest with children.



Pepper and Jasmine at Hartness Library

by Susan Currier (VTC)

Dear Susan Wilkie and Emily Reed,

Thank you so much for coming to the Hartness Library at the Randolph Campus of Vermont Tech. The week before exams is particularly stressful for our students as they are all required to complete their senior projects and give a formal presentation. It makes for a much more relaxed atmosphere at the library when volunteers like you take the time to bring in your therapy dogs. The students are always so happy to see the dogs and many of them come from class just to make a quick visit.

While not everyone stops to give a pat or take a break, I still see their smiles as they pass and often hear them start a conversation about their own pets. It clearly helps all the students realize that there is more to that moment than the presentation they are stressing about. A nice reminder at a hectic time!

I especially love to listen to the stories the students start to tell about their own pets. I am sure you heard a lot of that from the students that stopped by to pat the ever popular, Pepper & Jasmine. One student mentioned that therapy dogs seem to “give food for the soul,” and I think we witnessed that on Monday.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful dogs again.



Bennington College Final Exam Stress Reducers

Two teams visited Bennington College on May 19th for an evening stress reducer event during Finals. Kristin Comeau brought Tess and Andrea Berumen came with Molly. The response was tremendous! Approximately 50 students came and went in the span of little over an hour. It was very moving to see some of the students' emotional responses to contact with a dog, the reminders of home or a pet that had passed on and general comfort of unconditional love. Oceana Wilson, Director of Library and Information Services, sent these pictures and a big thank you to these TDV teams who brought such joy at this stressful time for students.



THERAPY DOGS OF VERMONT

offering a new schedule of training and testing events statewide

Could your dog become a therapy dog?



2015 Training and Testing Schedule Now Available on www.therapydogs.org

TDV CERTIFICATION & TRAINING TEAM

Deb Helfrich, *Director of Certification and Training*
Jason Reed, *Asst. Director of Hub Growth*
Craig Deslauriers, *Asst. Director of Hub Growth*
Karen Odato, *Asst. Director of Education & Training*
Meredith Denko Manchester Hub
Beth Wadleigh Northeast Kingdom Hub
Karen Odato Randolph Hub
Emily Reed Williston Hub
- On Hold - Woodstock Hub

TDV TESTERS, EVALUATORS and CERTIFICATION TEAM MEMBERS

Raymond Belanger	Deborah Schapiro
Brenda Carpenter	Emily Reed
Jenn Vaughan	Callie Field
Jason Reed	Beth Wadleigh
Deb Helfrich	Steve Reiman
Emily McLean	Helyn Herr
Karen Odato	Kristin Comeau
Will Mahlmann	Meredith Dendo
Craig Deslaurier	Nancy Kahn
John O'Connor	

TDV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Brian Carten, '17

TDV SUPPORT TEAM

Katie McDonald, *Social Media*
Steve Reiman, *TDV Webmaster*
Steve Reiman, *TDV Newsletter Editor*
Wendy Huntley, *Liaison to Camp Ta-Kum-Ta*

STAFF

Allison Ross, *Operations Coordinator*
Muffy Deslaurier, *Administrative Assistant*

