



AIREDALE TERRIER CLUB
OF METROPOLITAN
WASHINGTON, DC, Inc.
Newsletter

www.airedales-dc.org

March 2011



ATCMW Members Participate in the Scottish Walk

Great Grooming Session!



Deb Carroll and Yogi



Jeanne Esmond, Sandi and Katie

The February 13th Grooming session was well attended. Nancy Flowers and Corally Burmaster gave hand stripping and clipping advice and demonstrated both. We had two puppies, Dixie Darlin' with Owners Mal and Joyce Graham and Yogi owned by Debra and Patrick Carroll; just seeing those cuties was worth the trip to Maryland!

Ann Riley was there with Digby for a touch up. Pam McKusick brought rescue Charlie and learned, with Nancy's help, to strip his coat. Jeanne Esmond brought two wooly sheep to the session. After much clipping and combing, two Airedales immersed!

We also had several guests looking to purchase puppies and one family looking for an older Airedale, possibly a rescue.

The next grooming session will be on March 27th in Gaithersburg. Please call Nancy Flowers @ 410-935-8548 or email flowers@umbc.edu.

Joyce and Mal Gramh with Dixie Darlin' and Molly



Nancy Flowers works on Pam McKusick's Charlie.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The ATCMW held its first grooming session this year on February 13 . Nancy Flowers did her usual superb job of organizing all of us and making sure that everyone was helped, regardless of their level of skill. And she does incredible grooming demonstrations.

Frank Bohle has agreed to spearhead the Specialty catalog ads again this year. The deadline is March 8. If you are a breeder, your full page ad will allow a complimentary listing of your name under “Breeders” on the ATCMW website. For non-breeders, please use this opportunity to celebrate your rescue Airedale, your performance, therapy, or service Airedale, or just your couch potato Airedale. Everyone who submits an ad will be entered in a drawing. The winner will be selected at the Specialty Show by the Sweepstakes judge and the prize will be a free lunch at our next meeting.

Our luncheon meeting is on March 12 at the wonderful Cedar Knoll restaurant. Our speaker is going to be Deb Carroll, one of our new members whose special interest is therapy work. There are many opportunities for our members to participate in this particularly satisfying activity, and Deb will tell you what is available and how to get started.

The membership will be asked to vote on changes to our By-Laws at this meeting. Our club needs to become compliant with the AKC guidelines for doing business by email, and the wording of those By Laws changes will be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. Because a quorum is needed to make these changes, I urge those of you who may be on the fence about attending, to get off the fence and join us!

Our Club’s fiscal year is from January 1 to December 31. Your membership renewal is actually due by January 1st, but an extension is available until March 31st, during which you can renew without resubmitting your membership application. If you have not already done so, please renew as soon as possible so we can get our membership roster finished and emailed to everyone.

All of us who go out into public with our Airedales are potential ambassadors, not only for our breed, but also for our Club. With that in mind, the ATCMW now has a new “business card,” available to all members for handout to people who inquire about the Airedale or our Club. If you would like to have this resource available to you, you can email me at clickertrain@erols.com for the template, which works with any business card stock, or I’ll be happy to send you several pages of business cards, already printed.

***Airedale Terrier Club
of Metropolitan Washington***

Celebrating all things Airedale!

*Visit our website for more information on
Activities - Events - Membership*

www.airedales-dc.org



Corally Burmaster

Proposed By-Laws Change

The By-Laws of the ATCMW allow that its Constitution and By-Laws

“may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the individual and household members present and voting at any Regular or Special Meeting called for the purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.”

The following changes will be presented to the Board of Directors for their approval at a called meeting prior to the membership meeting on March 12, 2011. If the Board approves the changes, they will be presented to the membership for a vote.

These changes will bring the ATCMW into compliance with the AKC guidelines for parent and licensed clubs doing business by email.

We will need a quorum to effect changes, so please plan on attending our next membership meeting!

Article II, Section 2 [...]During the month of November, the Corresponding Secretary shall send to each member a statement of his dues for the ensuing year, **which will include a request for authorization to communicate by email.**

Article III, Section 1 **NOTIFICATION. Meetings of the Club. The Club will send members notification of Club meetings (also included would be dues notices, minutes and newsletters) and Board members notification of Board meetings via email, provided that the member or Board member has signed an authorization agreeing to this method of communication. Such authorization, which is revocable, will also release the Club from any liability should the notification be received late or not received by the member or Board member due to circumstances beyond the Club's control.**

Club Events 2012

Sunday, February 13	Grooming Workshop, Gaithersburg, MD
Saturday, March 12	Club Luncheon, meeting and program. Alexandria, VA (Cedar Knoll)
Sunday, March 27	Grooming Workshop, Gaithersburg, MD
Friday, April 22	ATCMW Specialty Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD
Sunday, May 15	ATCMW Match and Picnic, Acredale Park, MD
Saturday, July 16	Club Luncheon, meeting and program. Baltimore, MD (Roses)
Saturday, September 17	Club Luncheon, meeting, board and program, Baltimore, MD (Roses)
Saturday, October 15	Airedale Square, Howard County Fairgrounds, MD
Saturday, November 12	Club Luncheon, meeting and program, Alexandria, VA (Cedar Knolls)
Saturday, December 3	Scottish Walk Parade, Alexandria, VA.

Supporting the 2011 ATCMW Specialty

Suffering from cabin fever? Looking for a way just to pass the time between snow storms? This is a great time to create and submit your ad for this year's ATCMW Specialty Show held in conjunction with the Columbia Terrier Association Show on Friday, April 22, 2011.

This is a great way to celebrate your love for the breed, support Airedale Rescue, advertise a litter, remember a dear Airedale and support our club.

Heres how to order:

Full Page	4 1/8 " x 7 1/2 "	\$45.00
Half Page	4 1/8 " x 3 1/4"	\$30.00
Quarter Page	4 1/8 " x 1 7/8 "	\$20.00
Photos (extra)		\$10.00
Booster Ad	"One Liner"	\$5.00

Please place your ads by March 8, 2011

Send your check payable to:
Frank Bohle
1200 Village Lake Dr.
Davidsonville, MD 21035

Theme Baskets at the November Luncheon Meeting!



Watering Can with an Airedale painted on it FULL of tennis balls.



Obedience Basket of training tools, toys and treats.



Wine basket with treats and wine glasses etched with Airedales.

**AIREDALE TERRIER CLUB of METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, DC, INC.
SPECIALTY SHOW**

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2011

TO BE HELD WITH THE COLUMBIA TERRIER ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND

Exhibition Hall, Maryland State Fairgrounds
2200 York Road, Rt. 45, Timonium, Maryland

*Baltimore Beltway (I-695) take exit 24 (I-83) North to Padonia Rd (exit 17)
turn right on Padonia Rd East. Turn right (south) on York Rd (rt 45). Proceed
to Fairgrounds on the right.*

JUDGES: Regular Classes	Ms. Dorothy Taylor
Sweepstakes	Ms. Patricia Reed
Group & Best Puppy	Ms. Virginia Latham Smith
Obedience for All Breeds	Mr. Edward Whitney

**Sweepstakes
Regular Classes
Obedience**

**Exhibition Hall, Ring & Time TBD
Exhibition Hall, Ring & Time TBD
Cow Palace, Ring & Time TBD**

SUPERINTENDENT: Tom Crowe, MB-F
P.O. Box 22107
Greensboro, NC 27420

ENTRY FEE: Adult Classes and Obedience - \$27.00
Puppy Classes - \$19.00
Additional Entries of the Same Dog - \$22.00
Sweepstakes - \$10.00

CLOSING DATE: Noon on Wednesday, April 6, 2011

See you there!

Airedale Club Luncheon - 11/13/10 Minutes

The Airedale Terrier Club of Metropolitan Washington (ATCMW) met on November 13th, 2010 at the Cedar Knoll Inn, Alexandria, VA. The meeting was opened by Russ Hammond at 1:10 PM with the introduction of Dr. Jerry Hinn, DVM. Dr. Hinn discussed his animal treatment processes and provided a brochure on the health of dogs. The outline included symptoms of cancer, healthful diets, treatment of tumors, dental issues and many health topics faced by dog owners. (Copies of his outline are available on request to the editor)

Club President Corally Burmaster presented a gift to Dr. Hinn in appreciation for his most informative talk. The Business Meeting was called to order. Margie Goodyear thanked the Club for the cards and kindness extended to her while she was recovering from a fall.

Corally created business cards for our members with the ATCMW logo and a link to the club website for those interested in membership. Cards were given to the members present for distribution to spectators at the Scottish Walk in December. The template is available from Corally for those who would like to print their own.

The Scottish Walk, scheduled for December 4th will once more offer an opportunity for Club Members and their Airedales to participate in this annual event.

The Secretary's Minutes and the Treasurer's Report were posted at the meeting.

Committee Reports followed: Pam McKusick reported on the status of Rescue and Jeanne Esmond reported the results of the sale of items and raffle tickets at Montgomery.

New Business: New Members were voted upon: Patrick and Debra Carroll, who were not able to be present, and Ginger Robinson. The new members were voted upon and, by unanimous vote, approved for membership.

Membership renewals are due by 31 March 2011. Forms are available for renewal. Scottish Walk information is available on the website.

Raffle tickets were sold to club members throughout the luncheon. Items raffled were three theme baskets put together by Corally from items in the Rescue boutique. The first basket was won by Margie Goodyear; the second basket was won by Corally, who redonated it and Russ and Marie Hammond's daughter, Stephanie Hammond, was the fortunate recipient. Jim Hession won the third basket.

The meeting was adjourned; the motion made by Franklin Goodyear and seconded by Jeanne Esmond. Adjournment was at 2:10.

Attendees: Ann Barge, Bonnie Belk, Corally Burmaster, Nancy Delea, Nora Dudman, Jeanne Esmond, Tarry Fairies, Margie and Franklin Goodyear, Joyce and Malcolm Grahm, Russ and Marie Hammond, Stephanie Hammond, Jim Hession, Waltraud Hielscher, Pam McKusick, Ginger Robinson, Jim & Joan Schessler, Debo West, and Dr. Jerry Hinn, Guest Speaker.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margie Goodyear,
Recording Secretary

Every Tail Deserves a Happy Ending

Notes from Airedale Rescue

with Pam McKusick

The following are Thank You notes, and little stories about our Airedale Rescue activities.

We are very grateful to:

The following individuals (in alphabetical order) for providing loving foster or forever homes to the Airedales who have come into our care.

- John Abbatiello for providing a loving foster home for Parker and Dolly.
- Greg Bailey and Daveid Taylor for providing a loving forever home for Josh.
- Claude DiGiovine for providing a loving forever home for Athena.
- Jeanne Esmond who continues to provide a loving foster home for Katie, Lou Swafford's Airedale.
- Sarra and Chester Everett for providing a loving forever home for Roscoe.
- Marie and Russ Hammond for providing a loving forever home for Brie.
- Vickie Herman for providing a loving forever home for Alfie.
- Jim Hession and Rupert for providing a loving forever home, after being her foster family for many months.
- James Joyce for providing a loving forever home for Buster (featured in our last "Every Tail...")
- Stella Osberger for providing a loving forever home for Annie.
- Marge and Jack Phillips and Gracie for providing a loving forever home for Ludo (featured in our last "Every Tail...").
- Kathy Pickard for providing a loving forever home for Cora (a.k.a. Mia) after being her foster mom for many months. (Cora was featured in our last "Every Tail...")
- Heather Prichard and James Byles for providing a loving forever home for Ruby.
- Cindy and Russell Sosnowski for providing a loving forever home for Buster.
- April and Sean Sandi for providing a loving forever home for Maximus.
- Melissa Spillenkothen for providing a loving forever home for Sophie.
- Marilyn and Larry Tupis for providing a loving forever home for Otis.
- Bree and Charlie Weyer for providing a loving forever home for Riley.

The placement process is involved and requires a considerable commitment of time and energy. This includes multiple phone calls and e-mails, a formal application, a home visit, vet visits, some require boarding and visits while the dog is being boarded, and then actual delivery of the dog to the new home, and sometimes, follow-up visits-in addition to follow-up phone calls and emails.

We are also very grateful to:

The following individuals (in alphabetical order) for their generous donations to Airedale Rescue.

All of the club members who included donations to Airedale Rescue in their dues renewal: Hugh Andrew, Anne Barge, Arlene and MacKnight Black, Doug and Dion Climenson, Nancy Flowers, Joyce and Malcolm Graham, Marie and Russ Hammond, Doris and Charles McLaughlin III, Ann Riley, Ginger and Jim Robinson, Sarah Slater, Eleanor Taylor, Naomi Totten, Klaus Trepczyk, Lynn Anne Welsh, Debo West and Ron Paci, and Mary Ann and Edward Zaledonis.

Anne Benenson for participating in Home Visits with her Airedales to educate potential adopters about the breed.

Cathy Biersack, Virginia Airedale Rescue volunteer, for her continuing support of ATCMW Airedale Rescue activities including providing temporary foster care and transportation and consultation.

Ann Broden in memory of her beloved cat Wilson who is deeply missed every day.

Corally Burmaster for donating the fees she receives for ear gluing; and for organizing and conducting ATCMW's raffle for the Ric Chashoudian Airedale figurine donated to ATCMW by Walter Troutman's daughter. The raffle raised \$1500 for Airedale Rescue! Additional thanks are also due Corally for putting together the theme baskets that were raffled at the November 2010 meeting—and re-donating the basket she won so that another could win it!

Ed Burns for his untiring assistance at Airedale Square.

Emma and Greg Darling's donation to Airedale Rescue.

Paul Dowell and Katherine Allston's donation in honor of Tom Dowell's birthday.

Julie and Matthew Eastburn's donation to Airedale Rescue.

Jeanne Esmond for her continued support of Airedale Rescue activities - working with Corally to gather items for the theme basket raffle and donating many of the items contained in them, making lovely and unique items whose sale benefits Airedale Rescue, and countless other activities in support of Rescue.

Tarry Faries' donation to Airedale Rescue.

Marie and Russ Hammond for their unwavering support and donations.

Jim Hession for conducting Home Visits with his Airedale to evaluate potential adoptive homes and to educate potential adopters about the breed.

Helyn Kerr's donation of some of her father's (Walter Troutman) Airedale memorabilia to be sold for the benefit of Airedale Rescue.

Lee Marsh for conducting a Home Visit with her Airedale to evaluate a potential adoptive home.

Kathy Pickard's donations and continued support of Airedale Rescue.

Sarah Slater's donation to Airedale Rescue in honor of Roxy who crossed The Rainbow Bridge in December. Roxy was the beloved Airedale of Mona Heath and her family.

Constance Southard's donation to Airedale Rescue for an item made for her by Jeanne Esmond.

Melissa Spillenkothen's donation to Airedale Rescue.

Chuck VanMeter and Tim Shafer's donation to Airedale Rescue.

Congratulations to Linda Buonauro who won the Ric Chashoudian figurine!! Many thanks to all who bought tickets and helped us achieve our raffle goal of \$1,500! Linda picked up the statue at Montgomery, thus saving the cost and anxiety of mailing it to her.

Congratulations to those who won the theme raffle baskets at the November meeting: Margie Goodyear, Stephanie Hammond, and Jim Hession! (The basket won by Stephanie was originally won and then re-donated by Corally Burmaster. Thanks, Corally!)

We truly appreciate and sincerely thank all of you whose generous support makes it possible for us to continue to provide for the Airedales who come into our care while they are in transition to their new and permanent homes.

Foster homes are always needed, so if anyone can provide a foster home for a dog waiting for his/her new home, please contact Pam McKusick.

AIREDALES WAITING FOR NEW HOMES

Dolly:

9+ is still waiting while being fostered by John Abbatiello. She was given up by her family because they have had a baby and don't have time for her! She's a perfectly lovely girl—quiet and no trouble. John reports that she is very affectionate and easy to live with.

Parker:

6, is being fostered by John Abbatiello. Parker came to Airedale Rescue from a county animal shelter, and was the most emaciated Airedale I have ever seen. He appeared like a walking skeleton wearing a raggedy fur coat. He was been picked up at a park in Montgomery County (so I named him "Parker") and either had been severely mistreated, or had been on his own for a long time. The county held him for a while before asking me to take him as they wanted to see if anyone claimed him — and they had prepared animal abuse charges if someone came looking for him. No one did. When I picked him up, his coat had been shaved as he was so full of mats it was impossible to find his skin. I immediately took him to a vet for evaluation and found that he had some periodontal problems in addition to the malnutrition and needing to be neutered. Following a week of rest and good nutrition, he was neutered and had his teeth cleaned. Fortunately, the periodontal issues resolved once his teeth were cleaned, and he was on his way to regaining his fine appearance and healing his spirit. He has been fostered by John Abbatiello since his surgery and is like a new dog! He's confident and healthy, and handsome, and has completed basic obedience.

11 year old male Airedale:

This fellow's "dad" died, and it would be more convenient for his "mom" if there is another place he can live for the remainder of his life – she would then be able to more conveniently pursue travel and other activities that were severely restricted during her husband's illness. He is very easy-going and pleasant, but not a good match for a home with cats. His "mom" will keep him in their home unless and until a new family can be found. She does not want him to go to a kennel. Financial considerations will be made regarding medical needs that may develop, but he is healthy at this time.

**If you have room in your home and heart for any of these fine Airedales,
please call Pam McKusick (410-730-3144).**

North Carolina Airedale Rescue:

I and a number of Rescue Coordinators from other regions are still working closely with Debbie Butler, Regional Airedale Rescue Coordinator in North Carolina. She's doing an outstanding job in a large region (North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia) that has tremendous need, many Airedales, and has had little support. Several Airedales from her region have found new homes in Virginia, Maryland and Massachusetts, as we have more qualified applicants than Airedales. Athena, Ruby and Sophie who are listed in the above group of those who have found loving forever homes in our region are from NC Airedale Rescue.

Two Maryland Airedale Rescue dogs, **Chico** and **Roscoe**, went to their new homes in the NC region. Cathy Biersack and I drove Chico and Roscoe to meet the NC Coordinator and another volunteer at the rest stop on route 85 in Dinwiddie, VA on Thursday, January 20. It was a nice day for a drive and we had a good trip. Chico went to his new family on Friday, but soon acted aggressively with the men of the house (husband and 22 year old son). He came back to Debbie on Sunday after the adoptive family decided it was too risky to keep him. He's now living with the NC Coordinator and her husband and is doing OK, but still has some aggressive episodes. He's a big boy of 85 pounds so can be intimidating. In mid-December, Chico was turned in to the Essex, MD police station (animal control drop boxes are at all Baltimore County Police Stations). He had a collar and tags, but the phone numbers (two different ones) associated with the tags were not working. Baltimore Animal Control sent an officer to the residence addresses and posted notices about the dog. (It wasn't clear whether someone had taken him to the Police Station as a stray, or whether the owner had taken him there.) A man called and said he is the son of the owner and he would come for the dog by the following Saturday. Animal Control had already called me to ask me to take the dog if the owner didn't want him. On Monday, Animal Control called to say that the son never came for the dog and they had subsequently talked to the owner who has had a stroke and can't care for the dog. He told them he would like the dog to go to Airedale Rescue, so I picked him up on Tuesday. I took him to the animal hospital and boarding facility where he stayed for a month, during which time he was neutered. The whole time he was there he couldn't have been a better boy. He loved his stuffed toy that he found in my van and took into the boarding facility with him. They told me he took it with him when he went out, carried it while out, and brought it back when he came in. The staff and his vet are women, and everyone loved him. He was always a good boy with lots of energy. I had him groomed right before we went south – and what a very handsome fellow was under all that hair! – and the grooming staff also commented on what a nice boy he was. He stayed two nights with us and was very well-behaved. Thus, it was very surprising to me when the adopting family called to report his aggressiveness toward the father and son. We can only guess what might have triggered this behavior – was it prior bad experiences with men, or perhaps too unsettling to move from home to shelter to kennel to adoptive family, or maybe a food allergy — but he clearly couldn't stay with the adoptive family. If only he could tell us. He has been checked by a vet and now is eating a duck and sweet potato formula. He has had a couple of negative interactions with the husband of the Rescue Coordinator, mostly to do with him not being allowed on the furniture and his reluctance to move – the husband doesn't let Chico win. (There are many large comfortable dog beds available to him – it's not that there is no special place for him to rest.) So, they're working with him and hope that his disposition will improve.

The other dog who went south with us is **Roscoe**. He's almost 5 and standard size. He has lived with his "mom" since a puppy and is happiest when it's just the two of them. She married a few years ago, and about a year and a half ago, they bought a Black Russian Terrier. With the addition of the second dog, Roscoe began marking in the house, and he ran out of the unfenced yard as often as possible and "mom" had to look for him. The management of both dogs became too much combined with other family needs, so the "mom" decided it would be best for Roscoe to

go to a new home. Almost at the same time, a young couple with no children and no other dogs, contacted Debbie about wanting to adopt an Airedale. The wife is a graduate student and the husband is a teacher and they have a very active life style. And, the wife runs almost daily and wanted a running companion. Home visit was done and it seemed like a perfect match. Roscoe went to his new home on Saturday, January 22, and he and his new “mom” and “dad” couldn’t be happier! A very happy new beginning for Roscoe!!

Nora Dudman has been very busy for several months now with the 24 hour care of her aunt, Molly Pitcher (also a club member). So, if you have a chance, please send a “thinking of you” card to Molly Pitcher, 3127 Dudley Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21213.

Thank you all for all of your generous contributions that allow us to do the best we can for these wonderful Airedales!

Pam McKusick

The Versatile Airedale

ATCMW will be featuring the Versatile Airedale this year in the newsletter and at meetings. This month one of our newest members, Deb Carroll, will talk about her experience with Airedales in therapy work. Elsewhere in the newsletter, we have several articles about Airedales in therapy work.

We have many talented Club members who participate in various activities with their Airedales and we will be calling on them to talk to the group about their experiences and present possible venues for participation.

We have members who participate and train their dogs in Hunting and Working. Another member, Joan Schessler has recently begun Nose Work with her dog and will be demonstrating at the May Picnic. Several of us are getting Obedience and Rally training and a few of us will be competing this year. Digby, Ann Riley’s talented Airedale, has appeared in opera and other theater productions. The list goes on and on.

If you would like to participate as a speaker about your experience with your Airedale, please contact Corally Burmaster. If you would like to write about what you’ve been doing, contact Jeanne Esmond to submit an article for the Newsletter.

Deb Carroll found the following list of activities suitable for Airedales on www.dogplay.com. See if you find an activity that interests you or one you already enjoy with your Airedale.

Agility		Bikejoring
Animal Assisted Therapy/Activities		Disc Dog/Flying Disc
Canicross	Coursing and Racing	Earthdog Trials
Dog Parks/dog Walks	Dog Scootering	Hunt and Field Trials
Flyball	Herding	Obedience
Mushing	Musical Freestyle	Pulling
Performance Art(Tricks)	Precision Drill (Team)	Search and Rescue
Racing	Rally Obedience	Sniffer Dog
Skijoring	Sledding	Water Work
Tracking	Visiting Pets	

“There Is No Greater Therapy than the Love of a Dog” by Joyce Miller

A dog that likes meeting people is gentle, adaptable to new environments, totally non-aggressive. Does this description sound like your Airedale? Maybe, but it also describes the temperament of a therapy dog, a dog that visits hospitals, nursing homes, detention facilities, and rehabilitation facilities with its owner.

Like many other activities that people can do with their dogs, therapy dog work is gaining in popularity, and thanks to published research about the benefits of dogs as therapy, more and more facilities are opening their doors to dogs. Twenty years ago, most nursing homes forbade visits by animals. Today, more than half have their own pet therapy programs. Published research has shown that pets are beneficial in therapy, that people who have pets have lower risks of heart disease, and that pets can build rapport with hard to reach patients and help patients improve self-esteem and reduce depression and anxiety. The dogs give patients something to think and talk about other than themselves and their physical problems. They provide emotional support, giving patients physical contact with other living creatures. And the dogs' unconditional love and acceptance provide a deep sense of comfort. According to Kathy Davis, author of *Therapy Dogs: Training Your Dog to Reach Others*, the dogs help other people without their owners knowing exactly how and why. They can also trigger people to do physical activities that they otherwise wouldn't do. For example, people who will not raise their hand to brush their own hair will reach out to pet a dog.

Many Airedales Work as Therapy Dogs. Airedales around the world are taking part in this work with their owners. And their owners — breeders like Liz Mattison (Bristol Aires), Joan Clarke (Penaire), Anita Pisarcik (Stryking), and Nancy Foster (Willo-Aires) as well as ATCA members David Hofeling, Tom Smith, and Airedalers in other countries like Pip Smith (Canada) and Monica Dixon (UK) — are finding the work rewarding and the benefits far reaching. Shelley DeMerchant (Appyairs) of Ontario Canada has been working with Airedales as therapy dogs for 15 years. Today, she has three therapy dogs and visits five facilities a month. She is affiliated with the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program, a nationwide program in Canada. Shelley fondly recalls how her dogs have helped patients emotionally: the man who recounted his experiences with the Airedale he had as a child. Petting and caressing Shelley's Airedale, he smiled and said, “That Airedale was my best friend.” On another occasion, they visited a lady who they had visited several times. She always petted the Airedale, but she never said a word. On this visit, she petted the dog and said, “Nice dog.” Those were the first words the woman had uttered in six months. The dog broke through her barrier of loneliness and despair. Denise Masterson of Houston Texas is affiliated with Paws for Caring (PAWS), a local therapy dog program. She recalls visiting a man who could not talk because of a ventilator and tracheotomy. Her dog, Kirby, put his head up against the rails of the man's bed to be petted. When she left, the man smiled and mouthed ‘thank you.’ As an obedience teacher, Mary Lukaszewski worked with a group that often held winter classes at a nursing home in Stamford Connecticut. Patients loved to crowd into the room to watch the dogs train. Mary's Airedale, Big Jack, used to circulate around the room so patients could pet him or brush his coat while the others were

being trained. One night while they were in class, the fire alarm went off: Jack entertained the patients on the back lawn until they could return to the facility. And Anna Marie Fornelli's Airedale, McGwin, became so important to an elderly friend that the man's family asked the Airedale to serve as an honorary pallbearer at his funeral.

Protect your dog. When working with your dog in a therapy visit, it is absolutely critical to pay attention to your dogs and never betray their trust. Donna Noland of Remlap, Alabama, has worked with her Airedale, Dosi, through The Delta Society, a national therapy dog organization. Donna emphasizes the importance of knowing your dog and, if necessary, changing assignments to ensure a comfortable experience for your dog. When she first started doing therapy work, Donna and Dosi visited a domestic violence shelter. Not only were many of the small children afraid of the dog because of her size, but the dog was not happy in the confined space of the shelter. On one occasion, a child started petting Dosi and started hugging Dosi, soon squeezing her and refusing to let go. Donna moved in to loosen the child's grip. Dosi stood absolutely still, but Donna could tell that she wanted help. As Donna says, "She knew I was going to rescue her, and I did. That's one rule you have to remember when you are visiting: Protect your dog." Donna realized that her Airedale needed to be able to walk around and visit people without "plunking herself down to sit a spell." Dosi then started visiting a Cancer Center and later a geriatric psychiatric clinic. In both of these places, Dosi could move from patient to patient, get a few pets and be on her way. Shelley DeMerchant also stresses the importance of knowing your dog. You must be familiar with his or her signs of stress: tail tucked, ears back, leaving sweaty paw prints on the floor, excessive panting, clinginess or that look of anxiety in their eye. The dog is telling you that he or she is not happy in the situation. Also, she cautions, you must be careful of things in the environment. Be aware, if your dog likes to check out wastebaskets, that people may dispose of their medication in these receptacles. Also be careful of people offering your dog food: they may offer them a cookie, but they may also offer them a pill thinking it is candy, or a bone, or a chocolate bar. Take along something like a bland vanilla wafer so you can give the patients something to feed your dog. Shelley recommends human food because the patients may eat it themselves!

Train and condition your dog. In addition to working her own dogs, Shelley tests and certifies dogs for the St. John program across Canada. Although therapy dogs need training and conditioning, they do not need to be trained for competitive obedience work. They do need to know the basics, such as reliable sits, stays, leave it, settle and other commands. Most organizations suggest that owners start out by having their dog tested for the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizenship (CGC) title, a 10-part test, that includes accepting a friendly stranger, sitting politely for petting, welcoming grooming and examination, walking on a loose lead, walking through a crowd without over-exuberance or excessive shyness, sitting and staying in place, coming when called, behaving politely around other dogs, behaving confidently in distracting situations, and maintaining good manners when left with another person. Rubyanna Skrede, who works at the Quansa Training Center in Illinois, uses five Airedales as therapy dogs. She says that when she and the other trainers at Quansa decided to do canine therapy work, they wanted to do it very well. They formed a group called Pet Ambassadors to the Community (PAC) that is known for calm and trustworthy dogs. Although their dogs are tested and certified by

Therapy Dogs International (TDI), they are trained to pass a much more rigorous test than the TDI test. They also train each dog to do one simple trick because people love to see the dogs do tricks. And they train the dogs to wear costumes for holidays! Rubyanna Skrede also recommends conditioning the dog, especially Airedales, to some situations that they may encounter during their visits. For Airedales, people may grab their face hair and not let go. So she says, condition the dog for this, for grabbing his ears, for grabbing the collar, for thumping on their heads enthusiastically. Also condition them for odd smells, such as things that smell like tiger balm. For machines that make funny noises and move erratically. For being backed into a corner by someone walking with a cane and reaching down for their face.

Hard work. Therapy work can be hard for both the owners and the dogs. Many people volunteer with the best of intentions, but in their early exuberance, they over commit themselves and their dogs, setting themselves up for burn out. Rubyanna Skrede recommends that you pace yourself and your dog. She says that any dog, but Airedales in particular, can get tired of all the petting. If you do too many visits, or the visits are too long, the dogs are apt to regard the work as boring and turn off. The same goes for the handler who must stay up and excited and happy for the people who are so happy to see the dog. Rubyanna says that you don't have to stay for a long visit, and Shelley DeMerchant stresses the importance of the commitment that you must make: "Many people that you visit eagerly anticipate the arrival of the dog. Can you imagine their disappointment if the dog does not show up?"

Your Dog Can Earn Therapy Titles. Susan Morawski, of Russell, Massachusetts, and her dog, Pepper (Wyndridge Starship Shaandra) work with Therapy Dogs International. Pepper, who will soon be nine, has been a therapy dog for four years and still enjoys her visits. According to Susan, "She always knows when it is Tuesday, and as soon as we turn the corner to the Nursing Home, she's up and wagging, ready to go." At the nursing home, Pepper performs tricks for treats and gets lots of hugs and kisses. Pepper earned Therapy Dogs International's, Inc. working certificate/title "Therapy Dogs International Active Volunteer (TDIA)." This working certificate/title was developed by TDI, Inc. in 1999 to recognize "active volunteers who share their dogs for the benefit of others, and the dogs' tireless determination to work in the field of therapy." In order to qualify for TDIA, Associate Members and their dog(s) are required to provide documentation of 50 therapy visits since the start of the program—May 15, 1999. Now, Pepper and Susan are working on the next level of TDI titles: TDI Outstanding Volunteer, but, says Susan, "we need another 100 visits for that!"

Enjoy the Therapy Your Dog Provides. Joan Clarke of Fort Worth, Texas, began working with Paws Across Texas (PAT), a state-wide therapy dog program, in 1986. Her dogs — first Sadie and then Sadie's daughter, Annie — both passed PAT's rigid screening tests with flying colors. Sadie visited patients in nursing homes, and Annie specialized in visiting psychiatric rehabilitation facilities where she formed lasting relationships with patients who had low self esteem. Joan saw first hand how much the patients improved their self-esteem, as they cleaned Annie's teeth, brushed her coat, and commanded her to sit and down stay. Both Annie and Sadie took part in numerous Special Events. Joan said, "Our favorite was the Fort Worth Christmas Parade of Lights. Both Sadie and Annie wore their

Reindeer Antlers and illuminated collar and lead, and both of them enjoyed the cheers and the smiles on all the children who came out to see Santa.”

Is your Airedale a therapy dog? If you have a friendly, well mannered Airedale, if you're willing to commit to regular visits, and if you would like to share the love that your Airedale gives you with others, you might want to consider therapy dog work. If you do, you should look to one of the major organizations of therapy dogs to certify you and your dog as a team. In the United States, there are three national organizations and countless local groups. The national organizations are Therapy Dogs, Inc., Therapy Dogs International, and The Delta Society. Certification will make it easier for you to visit various facilities with your dog, and it will provide you with liability insurance. For more information on certification and how to prepare and evaluate yourself and your Airedale, see the following:

Organizations and sites on the Web

Delta Society Pet Partners Programs (206-226-7357): <http://petsforum.com/deltasociety>
Therapy Dogs Inc. <http://www.therapydogs.com>
<http://www.therapyanimals.org/links.php?linkSectionID=3>
<http://www.dog-play.com/join.html> This site has a list of local organizations listed by state
<http://www.dogsaver.org/dreamworkers>

Organizations

Therapy Dogs International

Tails of Joy/NW CT Dog Club (a division of Therapy Dogs International) Phone: 860-379-8879

Pet Assisted Therapy Facilitation Certificate Program, State University of New York Phone: 401-463-5809

Pet Assisted Therapy Services, San Jose, CA. Phone: 408-280-6171

St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program, 1199 Deyell 3rd Line, Milbrook, Ontario L0A 1G0

Pets As Therapy, a therapy dog organization in the United Kingdom that currently has approximately 4,500 dogs (and a few cats) doing therapy work with their owners.

Books:

Kathy Davis, *Therapy Dogs: Training Your Dog to Reach Others*, Howell Book House

Liz Palika, *Love on a Leash: Giving Joy to Others through Pet Therapy*, Alpine Blue Ribbon Books, 1-800-777-7257

J. Root, *K-9 Therapy Groups: Organization and Management*, Alpine Books, 1-800-777-7257

Articles

R. Voelker, *Puppy Love Can Be Therapeutic, Too* in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* (1995) 274 (24), 1897-1900.

(Joyce Miller is a long time Airedale fancier who lives with 3 of the breed in Dallas, TX. Her website (<http://www.dearjubilee.com/articles/articles.htm>) is a wealth of information. We thank her for permission to reprint this article.)

More on Therapy Dogs.....by Melissa Whybrew *(in memory of Miss Doe)*

Airedale owners know how exuberant our beloved breed is. That's precisely the reason we love them so. They are loving, loyal, and eager to please. They can be comics, making us laugh even during the toughest of times.



Melissa and Bentley

From puppyhood, our Airedale Bentley was a ham. As we passed other people on our walks, he would prance by as if in the middle of a Crufts ring. If they so much as dared to pass by without an acknowledgment of what a cute puppy he was, he would turn his head with a look of shock and disappointment.

Airedales are also known to be working dogs. Athletic and smart, they have mastered employment in almost every activity including hunting, search and rescue, agility, show rings, and therapy work. And sometimes, Airedale antics are just what the doctor ordered.

On September 5, 2009, Bentley mastered his Animal Assisted Activity training certification. We teamed up with Paws & Think, an all-volunteer, community-based organization that works in partnership with schools, youth agencies, and health care facilities.

Some of the work that we do includes:

- Assistance to children who are grieving the loss of someone special
- Children who need a non-judgmental listener as they read so they can improve their reading skills (literacy)
- Children in schools who need to know how to prevent dog bites or care for pets responsibly
- Children in hospitals who feel afraid and displaced
- Seniors who enjoy the physical affection and social interaction of pets; adults and children in physical or speech rehabilitation; and
- Soldiers with physical and emotional traumas who have served their country.

Excited and eager to make a difference, Bentley and I got to work right away. We didn't realize that our first experience would be such a powerful one.

After checking in to our assigned facility, we entered our first room. The patient's family was visiting that day, and was absolutely thrilled to see us. They told me that dogs had been a very big part of the patient's ("Miss Doe") prior life. It was quickly apparent that Miss Doe had suffered a loss of speech and motor skills. We approached Miss Doe's wheelchair with caution and a hint of beginner's jitters. Bentley took his place right next to the wheelchair. Miss Doe slowly recognized the new visitor. She placed her hand on Bentley and stroked his head. Finally at ease, I sat down on the floor right in front of Bentley and Miss Doe. Bentley decided to follow suit and laid down next to Miss Doe's feet. A moment later, with some effort, Miss Doe spoke the word "pet". With no additional command, Bentley obliged by getting back up into a standing position right beside her.

Bentley and I have visited with Miss Doe three times since. Each time, Bentley prances in, head held high, tail wagging back and forth, and assumes his standing position right next to Miss Doe's

wheelchair. Although she has not spoken since our first visit, Miss Doe does demonstrate improved dexterity while interacting with Bentley.

Bentley spends the rest of his time clowning around with high fives, army crawls and hula hoop jumps for children grieving the loss of a family member. It is absolutely amazing to watch him switch gears between facilities. I suppose that is all part of the Airedale intelligence shining through.

When the working gear comes out, Bentley's eyes light up. The irony of it all is that through his work, Bentley's heart is now as full and happy as those hearts he has touched.



Scottish Walk pictures courtesy of Franklin and Margie Goodyear

AIREDALE TERRIER CLUB OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, DC

YEAR 2006 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

MEMBER #1 _____ MEMBER #2 _____

Please provide your email address and any changes to other contact information.

STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ KENNEL _____

Please check any of the following activities in which you are interested:

Pet training _____ Obedience competition _____ Airedale rescue _____

Hospitality for Club events _____ Sales/auctions of Airedale memorabilia _____

Show grooming _____ Pet grooming _____ Match show _____ Obedience match _____

ATCMW specialty/puppy sweepstakes show _____

Organize show/obedience trophies _____ ATCMW Newsletter _____

Sell advertising for specialty show catalogue _____ Scottish Christmas Parade _____

Plan/arrange meeting programs _____ Coordinate meeting attendance _____

MEMBERSHIP: The Club now has three (3) kinds of memberships: ASSOCIATE, INDIVIDUAL and HOUSEHOLD. The ATCMW established the ASSOCIATE membership so that it could more readily meet its quorum of 20% of its voting members required to be in attendance when the Club conducts business at its general membership meetings. Listed below are definitions of the three Club memberships. So that we can be more certain of meeting the 20% quorum requirement for our general meetings, please select the ASSOCIATE membership if you do not plan to attend regularly the six bimonthly general membership meetings.

ASSOCIATE and ASSOCIATES (no more than two people at one address) MEMBER(S) are entitled to participate in all ATCMW functions/activities including attendance at general membership meetings except that he/she cannot hold elected office, vote when the Club conducts business at its general meetings and be included in the Club's quorum requirement,.

INDIVIDUAL and HOUSEHOLD (no more than two people at one address) MEMBERS are included in the Club's quorum requirement for general meetings, can vote at those meetings and hold elective office, and are entitled to all of the other privileges of Club membership.

I(We) would like to renew my(our) membership(s) with the ATCMW as an

ASSOCIATE _____ ASSOCIATES _____ INDIVIDUAL _____ HOUSEHOLD _____ member(s).

DUES: ASSOCIATE \$12; ASSOCIATES \$24; INDIVIDUAL \$15; HOUSEHOLD \$25.

CONTRIBUTIONS: At the end of each year we ask our members to contribute to the ATCMW's Airedale Rescue Fund and Trophy Fund. Your generous support over the years has made the Club's rescue work a model operation. The trophies that the Club donates to winners at our Specialty Show and Sweepstakes, as well as at our supported entry and B/OB puppy match are tremendously important to the continued success of those well attended and well run events.

TOTAL REMITTANCE: MEMBERSHIP DUES (\$12, \$15, \$24 or \$25): \$ _____

ATCMW TROPHY CONTRIBUTION: \$ _____

AIREDALE RESCUE FUND CONTRIBUTION: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Please make check payable to ATCMW and send with this renewal form

NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2007 to:

Jeanne Esmond, 647 Spring Street, Herndon, VA 20170

If you have any questions about this form, please contact ATCMW Secretary Jeanne Esmond, (703) 471 0383 or E-mail: jeannequilts2002@yahoo.com

Form March 2007



Pete and Gretchen enjoying the snow!