



PROJECT POOCH NEWS

POSITIVE OPPORTUNITIES, OBVIOUS CHANGE WITH HOUNDS

Volume 10, Number 4

www.pooch.org

Fall 2007

Non-profit 501(c)(3)

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Goodbye to Rocco (1996-2007)



SEVERAL YEARS AGO, Project POOCH received an email about a 7-year-old chocolate lab that had been abandoned by his owner at a boarding kennel. The homesick lab was not doing well, despondent and grieving for the person who had left him. The kennel employee wanted to know if Project POOCH would consider taking the lonely dog.

JOAN DALTON, POOCH director, went to the kennel where she was introduced to Rocco, a skinny older dog with infected eyes, a dull coat, and stiff arthritic legs. It was a cold, rainy day, but the dog was still willing to run on his stiff legs to retrieve and return a ball. Joan could see the dog had spirit; he was no quitter, so she loaded him into a crate and took him back to Project POOCH.

From here, things got better for Rocco. He was paired with a trainer with a special



Photo by KENNETH ULAPPA

feeling for labs - and especially hard-luck labs like Rocco. Then the Ulappas came along.

Usually people want young dogs, and pass older animals by, but KENNETH and LAURIE ULAPPA were looking for a mature dog - gentle, reliable, trustworthy but still playful to be a friend for their young son, THEO.

The Ulappas adopted Rocco, and stayed in touch with

Project POOCH with frequent updates and photos (both Laurie and Ken are professional photographers). They gave him a wonderful life

On August 6, Rocco said his goodbyes to his loving family and friend, Joan Dalton. His veterinarian put an end to his suffering from pneumonia and

laryngeal paralysis. Kenneth Ulappa wrote: "Rocco was a wonderful dog, a chocolate lab/golden retriever mix, with a big smile and big heart, who had an amazing impact on many people, including our family, Joan and his trainer from Project POOCH. We are grateful for what he brought to our home, and we'll always cherish our memories of the two years we had with him."



POOCH Ambassador: George Knop

AS A NEWSLETTER feature, our Project POOCH volunteer coordinator, SUSIE WAKI, will choose a volunteer, aka POOCH Ambassador, to introduce in each issue. To start off, she has chosen GEORGE KNOP.

Now that he is retired from a 35-year career in the transportation industry, George Knop volunteers to drive the POOCH Mobile. He found out about Project POOCH when he saw a notice Susie Waki



posted on Craig's List to recruit volunteers. According to George, "I HAD to become involved. Not only is Project POOCH a win win for both youths and dogs, it is a major win for me personally."

He started last spring, and calls in every morning to see what dogs need to be driven for visits to the vet or for an outing to a nearby park or to a home visit with a potential adopter. George also goes to (Continued Page 2)

GEORGE shows CROMWELL at POOCH 101.

Thank You to

HELEN BALL and **REVEREND THOMAS LANG** of the **Prison Ministries Commission** of The Episcopal Diocese of Oregon for providing the funds to buy raincoats for the youths to wear when they walk the dogs.

CATHY COX and **The Dog Club of West Linn** for inviting us to have a booth at their Open House on Saturday, September 15, and for donating raffle items to help raise money for POOCH.

JESSICA KAPLAN, SAM SHELHORSE, DAWN BEAUDREAU and **RICHELLE ELSNER** for helping at our booth at the Dog Club of West Linn.

BARBARA SHUMANNFANG for donating part of the profits from her book *"Happy Kids, Happy Dogs."*

PETCO for monthly donations of kennel supplies and dog treats to support Project POOCH.

HEALTHY PET WEST LINN and **CASTOR & POLLUX PETWORKS** for supplying free dog food and healthy treats to the kennels.

The **OREGON DOG FANCIERS ASSOCIATION** for a generous donation.

COFFEE NEWS NW and **WILLAMETTE WEEK** for running pro bono adoption ads for our POOCH dogs.

ROBBIE RICE who volunteers to help in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The **PROJECT ENTERPRISE VOLUNTEERS** for managing the mailing for both our summer and fall newsletters.

Volunteer **TOM STEINHOFF** who helps in so many ways - he's our go-to guy for all sorts of errands.

GEORGE KNOP (*continued*) the shelters frequently to choose new dogs to bring into the program. He has made himself available at just about any time of the day or day of the week to transport POOCH dogs — in addition to taking his own beloved cattle dog, Archie, to the veterinarian for weekly chemotherapy treatment.

When he isn't helping POOCH, George is involved in wildlife rehabilitation and bird rescue. He was only 8-years-old when he rescued his first bird, a baby Blue Jay, with the assistance and encouragement of his parents.

Crows have become his special interest; he has a web site with "everything you ever wanted to know about crows and corvids" at www.zeebyrd.com/corvi29/. He rescues and rehabilitates both babies and injured adult birds, and once even rehabilitated a Great Horned owl.

When George participated in the weeklong POOCH 101 workshop held in June, he delighted other attendees by bringing along CROMWELL, a young crow he rescued, raised and released.

Before George joined the POOCH team, a significant portion of Joan Dalton's time was consumed by transporting dogs. Now that George has relieved her of that task, she has more time to devote to the executive director's duties of program planning and development.

George likes to quote Mahatma Gandhi, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." He says, "To me, that means becoming a Project POOCH volunteer."



YOUTHS & KENNEL NEWS

Pet Care Technicians

Three youths recently passed their Pet Care Technician I tests sponsored by the American Boarding Kennel Association. The test consists of 100 multiple choice questions ranging from customer service to proper care of pets in a boarding kennel. To date, 23 youths have passed either Pet Care Technician I or Pet Care Technician II exams. Some youths have passed both!

Thanks to donors who make it possible for Project POOCH to purchase the tests and study books at a cost of \$99 each.

Problem Solving Practice

POOCH youths practice problem solving by meeting with kennel supervisor, **ADAM BERGIN** and Director **JOAN DALTON** to discuss areas of concern in working at the kennel. Issues are brought up and then discussed with input from the youths. This practice helps the youths in problem solving and critical thinking skills, as well as improving kennel operations.

Dog Breeders Visit

When **JOAN DALTON** recently spoke to a group of Oregon Dog Fanciers, she invited the dog breeders to visit the POOCH kennels and talk to the youths about the temperament and characteristics of various dog breeds. The first speaker to visit POOCH will be a breeder of Great Danes. She will bring a puppy along with a full grown dog to show the youths the importance of thinking ahead about the size of the adult dog when considering a cute puppy.



Community Outreach

SUSIE WAKI, volunteer coordinator, recently attended an event of The Dog Club of West Linn. She showcased Project POOCH and brought POOCH dog, Jazzy with her so people could see firsthand the kind of work our youths do in training dogs to be good citizens while out in public.



Therapists teach canine massage

LAURIE AUSTIN of Head to Tail Canine Massage and **RUBI SULLIVAN** of Heal Animal Massage Therapy generously donated all the proceeds from their booths at our POOCH In the Park playday to Project POOCH in July. This fall they extended their support by also donating their time and skills. On September 23, they visited the kennels on the MacLaren campus to discuss the benefits of canine massage and to teach youths how to massage their dogs to lessen kennel stress.



POOCH MISSION

Project POOCH provides opportunities for youth in corrections to develop the personal and vocational skills they need to become responsible, productive members of the community.

The program successfully accomplishes this by teaching youth to care for and train shelter dogs for adoption.

POOCH will present at HSUS Conference

ON DECEMBER 6-7, POOCH Director JOAN DALTON will travel to Baltimore to participate in the *National Technology Assessment Conference on Animal Assisted Programs for Youth-At-Risk* sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States and the Center for Prevention of Youth Violence of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together researchers, program leaders, and animal shelters from across the nation to enhance the field of animal assisted interventions for emotionally-troubled, at-risk, and adjudicated youth through evaluation research and development and dissemination of best practices. The project is supported by the Laura J. Niles Foundation.

Dalton has been invited to chair a discussion titled, *"New Data on Animal Assisted Programs"* on December 7th. Other participants include KATE DAVIS, MSW, PSU, who will present research findings from Project POOCH, and ARNOLD ARLUKE, Ph.D., Northeastern University, who gathered data at Project POOCH in 2005.



CHET's big smile shows that he's a happy alum. He loves his new job as a pet therapy dog at a retirement home.

Director's Letter

NEXT YEAR, Project POOCH will celebrate 15 years of saving unwanted shelter dogs and pairing them with incarcerated male juveniles so that both dogs and youths will become outstanding members of their communities upon leaving corrections.

We started with one youth and one dog and have grown to helping 26 youths and their dogs during 2006. When youths leave Project POOCH they have learned, among other skills, the importance of positive reinforcement in teaching dogs and children.

Many pass the Pet Care Technician test 1 and 2 for certification in properly handling dogs and cats in a kennel environment. In addition, the course teaches customer service skills and working with others.

We have been fortunate to have a partnership with the Oregon Youth Authority that allows building trades professionals to teach the youths skills for working in the construction industry. As a result, the youths built the original kennel with five dog runs, an education center with a small library and classroom, and most recently, a kennel addition with four runs and heated floors. The next project will be to repair the original existing kennels and replace fencing material with solid panels. This project is funded by grants from the Juan Young Trust and the Karen M. Schroth Charitable Foundation for Animals. It will be another opportunity for youths to learn skills that will help them find jobs when released.

Working in and nurturing our meditation garden may lead some youths to discover they want to learn more about landscaping and plants. One youth in particular watered plants during the summer months and is now raking leaves dropped by a huge tree planted as a seedling by a POOCH youth 13 years ago!

All youths must take a daylong Pet First Aid class and some choose to refresh their skills by taking the class more than once. The American Red Cross provides a speaker and demo dogs while the youths learn how to handle different pet emergencies.



Youths at work in the Meditation Garden.

Thanks to kennel supervisor, ADAM BERGIN, youths are learning new computer skills by developing fliers to advertise their dogs for adoption, and writing POOCH resumes should they wish to find a job working with dogs when they are released from corrections.

CHARLIE ALLIS (board member) and DAVE WAKI (volunteer) are providing job coach assistance to youths who are close to their release date. They help them practice their interview skills, and also critique their resumes. Sometimes a dog sits quietly nearby during the interview. (Some research indicates a dog can calm anxiety in stressful situations!)

Our board of directors continues to be actively involved, meeting between board meetings to help shape the future for Project POOCH. Our organization is very fortunate to have such skilled business people leading and providing guidance as we look at ways to serve more youths and provide the youths with more opportunities.

SUSIE WAKI has been doing an incredible job as our volunteer recruiter and coordinator. She is now planning a luncheon to honor our volunteers for their hard work, creativity, and commitment to the POOCH mission: Learning responsibility, patience, and compassion.

In gratitude,
Joan Dalton
Executive Director





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Project POOCH Dogs Ready for Adoption

THERE ARE currently nine dogs awaiting adoption in the Project POOCH kennels. Here are four of them. All POOCH dogs are Neutered or Spayed, Vaccinated, Micro-chipped, and Obedience Trained. The adoption fee is \$175.



GABBY is a 5-year-old, female Queensland Heeler, aka Australian Cattle Dog. She loves doggy massages and riding in the car. Gabby will do best where she can be an only dog in a home without little children. She will be loyal to her adopter and will sit quietly waiting for attention.



STITCH is a 2-year-old, male Shepherd Mix. Full of fun, he loves to play both with people and other dogs. For him, life is a lark and he loves to go riding in the car. He has earned his Canine Good Citizen Certificate, and is ready to make someone a super companion.



KING is a year-old male, 50 lb, Retriever Mix. He loves to play fetch and to run (typical lab). He gets along with people and likes to be with other dogs. He is working with a trainer to learn basic obedience and qualify for his Canine Good Citizen Certificate. He will make a good addition for an active family.



JACK is a 35 lb, male, Border Collie/Springer Mix. He is 1-year-old and full of energy and playfulness. He's no couch potato and needs exercise and daily activity. He gets along well with kids and other dogs. His trainer says he is a very fast learner and will earn his Canine Good Citizen Certificate easily.

To make an appointment to visit the kennel and meet the dogs, please call 503-982-4492.

See all our dogs and learn more about adopting at our web site: www.pooch.org