



Martin

COME BARK WITH ME

Volume 3, Issue 3

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LEND A PAW TO RAISE THE ROOF

AN INDOOR TRAINING AND RESOURCE CENTER TO FACILITATE THE IDENTIFICATION, TRAINING AND PLACEMENT OF CERTIFIED CANINE THERAPY TEAMS IN THE COMMUNITY

Studies have shown that being around dogs, playing with them, and just handling them decreases stress, increases physical, activity relieves depression and anxiety, calms and motivates patients in hospitals and rehab centers, and helps normalize difficult situations.

Those who have benefited from canine assisted therapy include nursing home patients, hospice patients and their families, special education students and children, autistic children, children with behavioral problems, prison inmates, teenagers and adults with substance abuse problems, senior citizens, hospital patients, and rehabilitation patients.

The Bark Park's mission is to provide a variety of pet-related programs to the local and surrounding communities with an emphasis on facilitating the identification, training and certification of therapy dogs in cooperation with Paws Hand Delivered. Forty percent of the therapy dogs come from rescue situations, such as the Humane Society. Volunteer canine therapy teams spread miles of smiles when they visit our other community partners. This is typically done on a monthly basis. Oftentimes, however, requests for additional visits from existing partners and new visits from potential partners exceed our ability to provide these vital visits. The current number of certified canine therapy teams simply cannot meet the current demand for services. In order to meet this growing need, an indoor facility to allow for year-round training is needed.

Architectural plans have already been drawn and approved by the necessary local municipalities. The proposed building is 90'x 60' to be built on the existing Bark Park property. The building includes a 40' x 60' training area, a small retail store, office space, kitchen area, all-purpose room, and a handicap-accessible restroom

We have the need. We have the property. We have the infrastructure. We have the programs. We have the talent. All we need now is the funding to make this happen. We need partners

who have a history of supporting the needs of their community. We sincerely hope you will consider becoming a part of our team and help us make a difference in our community. If you are interested in making a donation, complete the form on the back of the newsletter, or contact Sue at (814) 382-2478.



PAWS HAND DELIVERED - Community Partnerships

- Yolanda G. Barco Oncology Center
- Crawford County Care, Assisted Living
- Meadville Health & Rehabilitation Center
- Hillside Home
- Juniper Village
- Crawford County Central School District – Autism Program
- Cambridge Springs Health & Rehabilitation Center
- Meadville Library – Tales That Wag Reading Program
- Meadville Medical Center, Transitional Care Unit
- Wesbury Grace and Cribbs Residential
- United Community Independent Programs
- ARC of Crawford County
- Allegheny College

Geert's Canine Cancer Walk

September 10, 2011



This is Geert.

He was a 155 lb. Landseer Newfoundland.

He died April 8, 2011, of osteosarcoma, a fast growing bone cancer.

He was loved very much.

Makepeace Legend of Geert was born on February 24, 2006. He belonged to Jim and Debbie Myers of Cochran, PA and was their first Newfoundland. When they brought him home at 10 weeks of age, he weighed 28 lbs. He was the biggest, fluffiest cuddle puppy you ever saw.

When Geert was a year old, he passed the AKC Canine Good Citizen test and became a therapy dog. This is what he loved to do the most. He worked regularly visiting nursing homes, hospitals, cancer centers, colleges and schools. For several years, he was a Hospice dog. We say he "worked" as a therapy dog because he took this role very seriously. He wouldn't accept treats

while visiting because, in his mind, he was doing his job. That job was comforting, loving and enjoying people of all ages and abilities.

When he was 2 years old, he passed the Newfoundland Club of America Water Dog test. This test is designed to measure the life saving abilities of the Newfoundland dog. Geert was awesome in his test and, in one exercise, pulling a boat to shore and beaching the boat to "rescue" the 2 people in it.

In the summer of 2010, when Geert was 4, he began his training for the Water Rescue Dog test. This test is at a higher level than the Water Dog test. Since he had trouble with a couple of the exercises, Debbie decided to wait until "next year" to enter him in the test. That would give him another summer to practice.

There was no "next year". On November 8, 2010, Geert was diagnosed with osteosarcoma and given 3 months to live. He stayed with Debbie, his adoring owner, for 5 months and died on April 8, 2011. He had just turned 5 years old.

Canine cancer takes too many of our loving companions away from us too early in their lives. Dogs get cancer at roughly the same rate as humans.

Some forms of the cancer are more invasive and more deadly than others.

Approximately 1 in 4 dogs will develop a tumor of some kind during its lifetime!

Over half the dogs currently over 10 years old will die of cancer.

Let's join together to fight this disease. Please join us for Geert's Canine Cancer Walk on September 10, 2011, from noon to 3:00 PM or, if you can't be there, please support a walker or send a donation to the Conneaut Lake Bark Park. Make the check out to Conneaut Lake Bark Park and put "Canine Cancer Walk" on the memo line of your check.

All proceeds will be going to the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine, to a special fund for canine cancer research.

T-shirts will be given free to walkers who have at least \$20 in donations and may be ordered at www.conneautlakebarkpark.com. Proceeds from the walk and profits from the shirt sales will go to canine cancer research.

And THANK YOU from all the dogs whose lives will be saved!!

To participate, download the necessary information on line at www.conneautlakebarkpark.com or pick up the information at the Bark Park.

Bark Park Social Time for Humans and Their Hounds

Dogs need continued socialization throughout their lives. Many dog owners, by attending training classes, have taken the first step in socializing their dogs. With the Conneaut Lake Bark Park, owners have an opportunity to continue to provide opportunities for their dogs to socialize and play with other dogs of similar temperament and size, while providing a place where their canine companion can participate and play safely with other dogs.

At the present time we have several groups of owners and dogs that meet regularly to enjoy social time together. Once the dog has passed a temperament screening at the bark park, their name is added to the list of "play dogs" and owners regularly contact each other and make arrangements for "play time at the bark park". Dogs of all sizes and breeds can definitely benefit from regular play time with dogs of similar size and temperament. The Bark Park will work with all dog owners from puppies to older dogs to establish group play times at the park. You will be amazed at the fun the dogs have playing together. Some of our regular users report when they turn their car onto Foust Road, there is an immediate barking or whining coming from their canine companion as they anticipate arriving at the Bark Park.

Remember, the bark park offers several off leash areas for dogs that don't choose to play with others and owners can always take advantage of any off-leash area, walking trails, the walking area in the woods or any place on the bark park property. Multi-dog homes can also choose to use one of the areas for their own dogs to have an opportunity to run and play leash free.

Come and join the fun with other canine owners and their special companion. For more information contact the bark park.

Dogs Of The Bark Park



Hi, my name is Sunny! And my name is Shadow!

We are Irish Water Spaniels! We have a smooth tail and face. We are liver color, whatever that means. We are **NOT** Poodles or Doodles!

Sunny: Actually I am more handsome than my brother Shadow. He is small and has a shorter nose and the only thing he likes to do is chase a stupid ball around the yard; that is when he can get one of our humans to throw it! Although he's pretty good at getting them to throw it! We come from the same family and have 4 brothers and 2 sisters and are about 8 months old.

Shadow: Sunny's right, I get the ball and if my humans don't throw it when I want, I bug them until they do! Sunny is not interested unless he can steal it from me. But throw that ball in the water and no one can beat Sunny; I know I try! He flies like a bullet off a dock into water.

Sunny: Shadow loves water too; he just doesn't like to jump off the dock! I can't figure it; it is the most fun thing to do. We love the Bark Park because of the cool pond and dock and there are these little birds that fly almost low enough to chomp on. They don't fly far and we can almost catch them! One of these days!

Shadow: Don't forget our friends, Sunny. We have lots of buddies we can hang out with! There is a cool Dobe, named Caesar that we like to play with. That is almost as much fun as swimming! We recently got in trouble with our humans for taking off after some buddies and we were told we have to mind! We will take that under advisement!

Therapy Dog Program Keeps Growing

Paws Hand Delivered the local pet therapy dog group based at Conneaut Lake Bark Park has been very busy the past year expanding its programs to the community. In addition to regular visits at the Yolanda G. Barco Oncology Center, Allegheny College, and the many local nursing home facilities, several new programs have been added this summer to the existing Paws Hand Delivered therapy dog program. Every Monday and Tuesday morning, a group of therapy dogs and their owners arrive at the Meadville Library to participate in the “Tails that Wag” program. “Tails that Wag” is a program started to help elementary school children work on their reading skills during the summer. The child chooses a book they would like to read and proceeds to sit with the dog and read the story. Dogs of all sizes and ages have become regular visitors to the library and the program has now expanded to include a reading program on Thursday evenings.

A second program has been started with the direction and guidance from Mitch Price the Director of Special Education in the Crawford Central School District. In this program, the therapy dogs will visit the classrooms of the special needs students in the district. This program might be the only opportunity some of the children have to interact with a dog. The program will be regularly evaluated so we can continue to meet the needs of the students in the various programs.

Dock Diving at the Bark Park

Forty feet in length, eight feet wide, and covered with astro-turf describes the only regulation dock diving platform in Crawford County and it is part of the facility at Conneaut Lake Bark Park. This summer pet owners have been given a chance to see how far and how high their canine partner can jump from a diving dock. For some dogs, dock diving is like heaven, for others the fear or diving into the water is just a little too much to handle. But with proper coaching and coaxing, many dogs will eventually dock dive into the water. The most important piece of equipment for dock diving is to find the toy, ball, or anything your dog is absolutely crazy about and will retrieve over and over again. Marty Schlossnagel from Grove City, owner of a competing dock diving dog, helps pet owners understand the mechanics in creating a good dock diving dog. Dock diving mini events are scheduled at the bark park this summer.



Walt Prest & Wyeth practice their Dock Diving at the Bark Park.

Groovy Pooch Dog Obedience

Give your puppy a good start.

Classes Available:

Puppy, Basic, Advanced, Beginner Agility

\$75.00 for 6 classes

Sessions begin on the following dates:

August 9 & 10, 2011

September 27 & 28, 2011

November 8 & 9, 2011*



Classes will be held outside at the Bark Park

***Indoor at Station 2 Fire Hall, Conneaut Lake**

For more information or to register call:

Katara Peters

814-763-5968

groovypooch@windstream.net

“The Haunting” Returns To Conneaut Lake Bark Park

Pawcasso paintings, bobbing for hotdogs, and a doggie Halloween costume contest are just a few of the favorite activities at the Halloween Haunting.

This year the "Haunting at the Bark Park" is scheduled for Saturday, October 22nd. This event will benefit Canine Partners for Life and Paws Hand Delivered. More information on the Haunting can be found on the web site in September.



For more information on any of the activities at the Bark Park, and to be on the mailing list, send your email information or questions to petcem23@windstream.net or keep checking the web site www.conneautlakebarkpark.com for updates on the various activities at the Bark Park.

The Bark Park Newsletter is done by Carolyn Nowack, a big fan of Sue and all of the Bark Park Dogs.

LEND A PAW TO



RAISE THE ROOF

YES, I want to lend a paw to help “Raise the Roof” so the Conneaut Lake Bark Park can build an indoor training and resource center that will facilitate the identification, training, certification and placement of qualified canine therapy teams that are so very important to our community.

I would like to donate _____ \$200 _____ \$150 _____ \$100 _____ \$75 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ OTHER

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

Your gift to the Conneaut Lake Bark Park, Inc. is tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law according to 501(C)3 regulations. The official registration of the CLBPI may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania 800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. All gifts will be acknowledged, by gift level, in CLBP publications and in other appropriate places unless otherwise specified by the donors. I understand my gift may be used to inspire other gifts from additional individuals, businesses, and corporations/foundation.