



October 2010

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[www.ottawatherapydogs.ca](http://www.ottawatherapydogs.ca)  
 (613) 261-6834

# Newsletter



## Message from the Chair

*Carole Eldridge*

Thanks to our Web Master, Guy Mercier who has been donating his graphic design and web services to OTD for the last few years, we now have two brochures.

These can be downloaded and printed from the [OTD Members Section](#) of the OTD web site. One of the brochures is an [8.5" x 11" Acrobat PDF file](#). The second is a [4" X 9" official OTD brochure](#) that will be distributed at OTD Events or used for direct mail campaigns.

On both brochures, the third panel can be cut away without losing any OTD information. On the "Official OTD Brochure" there is room for an address label. This will make it easier to use the OTD Contribution Form featured on the back of the panel or the brochure can be used for direct mail campaigns. Also, it is designed to fit a Standard 4" X 9" clear window envelope.

Our members are encouraged to use the 8.5" x 11" Acrobat PDF file if they have access to a colour printer. They can also direct a print supplier to access the brochure at:

- <http://www.ottawatherapydogs.ca/corporateDocs/OTDapprovedSupplier.php>

We also have an 11" x 17" poster that we are going to post in key dog-people

spots (vets, groomers and pet stores) and large facilities we visit..

Guy has also developed the button, below, that you can cut-and-paste into e-mails. It is coded to load the OTD donation page.



*Thank you to Guy from everyone at OTD!*

## News from the Office

*Kate Miller*

Summer wasn't nearly as quiet as I had anticipated. OTD was flooded with phone calls and e-mails from people seeking information on pet therapy or hoping to join OTD with their dog(s). I attribute our growing presence in the community to the high quality of our teams, our increased visibility at public venues and in the media, plus our attractive and user-friendly web site.

The September 20<sup>th</sup> Orientation was standing room only, with a record 25 potential candidates. From that group, we evaluated 14 teams and have a list of several candidates for the Jan./Feb. in-take session. There is definitely no shortage of interest in - or applicants for - OTD!

### New Programs and Facilities

This year, we had several requests for visits from summer schools and special needs programs, specifically: the

November 2010

Emergency Vet Camp and Spirit Program run by the City of Ottawa and weekly camps for children with varying degrees of autism run by the OCSSB. Many thanks to our volunteers who brought joy to the children at these special venues.

This Fall, we are launching programs at several new facilities: Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre, OH Short-Term Rehab, Ottawa-Carleton Life Skills, Ottawa Rotary Home (child respite program and adult day program).

A growing number of facilities we have previously serviced no longer have OTD teams and are waiting patiently for new ones.

Facility Feedback Form online

Last Spring we asked our contacts at the facilities we visit to provide online feedback on our services and teams.

In previous years, we have done this through the mail. However, the mailed FFF return rate was very low (30%). To our delight, the online version proved to be very effective, with a 74% return rate.

Here are a few quotes from the many facilities who value our dogs and handlers (there was not one negative comment):

"There are so many of our residents who benefit from our pet visits with T (therapy dog) and C (handler). Some people come out of their rooms that normally wouldn't, just so that they can see her. There are people who are responsive with T who normally sit there doing nothing. The rest of her fans are just elated to have a furry friend around. I didn't realize we had so many dog lovers! T has a way of tugging at your heartstrings though."

- Long-term care residence -

"I would say that all students who interacted with the therapy dog benefited from the experience. Most students were having difficulty learning to read or experiencing some difficulties emotionally. One student in particular stands out. Her mother just recently told us that her daughter didn't want to read at all until she saw the therapy dog. Now she reads all the time!"

- READ program school -

"C. (therapy dog) gives the young people affection and is always so happy to greet them upon their entry to the gym. They have a smile from ear to ear during this time (priceless). One particular youth will talk for days about her visit and how C will come to her and sit with her. This program engaged some of the youth to come out of their room when feeling down and provided them with a more positive outlook for the remainder of the day. There is much to be said also about the OTD volunteer K. ..."

- Secure facility for youth -

Events

We will be asking for your participation and support at the following upcoming event:

- Volunteer Marketplace, Volunteer Ottawa- Feb. 2011, location not confirmed

OTD teams attended Pugstock on Oct. 31. As it was Halloween, Brutus was there as an angel, Caleb as a pirate along with Lexi (Golden Retriever) and Kelly (our first Pug therapy dog). A great time was had by all as many potential new members were met. Remember to check our [web site under "News and Events"](#) and [Facebook page](#) often for updates and photos of current, recent and past events.



Kelly, our first Pug therapy dog

Extra thanks to:

- OTD volunteers who helped out at the Wiggle Waggle Walk in Sept. and to Christina who organized the event for the COC
- OTD board members and volunteers who represented OTD at the orientation
- Faithful helpers and excellent evaluators who make our evaluations happen
- Committee chairs and members who work so hard behind the scenes

The last word ...

... is about open communication.

If you are not able to fulfill your commitment to visit your facility for 3 or more weeks, please let me know as well as your facility contact person.

Often, I have no way of knowing if members are not visiting. This leaves OTD in an awkward spot, not to mention the many disappointed people.

If you are unhappy in your placement or need to take a leave of absence (short or extended) for personal

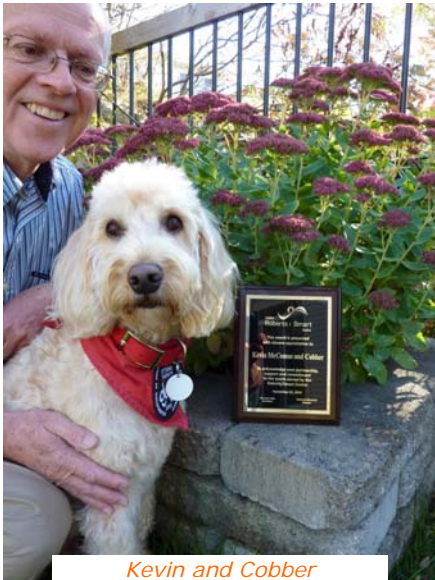
reasons, please call to talk about it. This gives me the opportunity to help in the short-term or to find another team.

Turn-over rates seem high at the long-term care facilities and retirement residences we serve for the positions related to Activity, Life Enhancement, or Recreation. When there is a change of personnel at a facility, please let me know as I rely heavily on these people to co-ordinate the OTD visits from their end.

## Roberts / Smart Centre Recognition Award

*Kevin McComas*

On September 22, 2010 at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Roberts / Smart Centre, Cobber McComas and his handler, Kevin, were presented with a plaque to recognize their partnership, support and commitment to the youth served by the Centre.



*Kevin and Cobber*

Cobber has been visiting the Centre weekly for the past year and has won a place in the hearts of both the young

people and the staff. Says Cobber, "I really enjoy these visits and even get so excited as we walk up to the Centre that I sometimes woof in anticipation and pull at my leash."

Cobber's time with the young people who are at the Centre for up to 6 months to learn life skills, is spent in a one-on-one situations. They can play with or pet him or even run around in the gym.

It is an ideal way to encourage them to learn how to take control of a situation and, by extension, themselves - one of the goals of the Centre.

Kevin and Cobber would also like to thank OTD for their support and training and especially Kate Miller who set up the visits and did much work to ensure that the needs and goals of all would be met.

## KC the Wonder Dog!

*Joan Colbourn*

[I've been a volunteer with OTD for 10 years and currently visit the Ottawa Hospital, Civic Campus in the Awaiting Placement Unit (APU) with my therapy dog KC.]

KC the Wonder Dog, a.k.a. Champion Caranna's KC of Fallowfield FDJ, a.k.a. OTD Therapy dog, a.k.a. field dog, a.k.a. companion, has now reached the advanced age of 7 - a senior citizen!

At the end of August, I entered her as a "veteran" in the Ottawa Valley All-Setter Association Specialty Show, part of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry All-Breed Show. KC won "Best Opposite Sex" to a beautiful male. Not bad for a "veteran," eh?



*KC winning Best Opposite Sex*

## Congratulations and welcome to new OTD Members and Associate Members!

- Judy and Tigger
- Kim and Bailey
- Brandy and Caliloka
- Richard and Indie
- Susan and Liam
- Linda and Maggie
- Suzanne and Kelly
- Sylvie and Bella
- Carol and Harris
- Jennifer and Lance

And a new OTD dog:

- Christina and (BIG) Champ

# OTD Retirees

## Marcus

*Written by Claire Laroche*

On March 11, 2000, I visited a Sheltie breeder and brought home an 8-week-old sable and white Sheltie and called him Marcus Orillius.

Watching Marcus in action has been pure entertainment. His walks are always interesting, especially when he circles the softball diamond, darting from base to base until he plops down on the grass and then, lies there with a look of contentment.

Everyone loves Marcus, dogs and people alike. Friends and family ask me when I am going away so they can dog watch, but Marcus' home away from home has been with a special family: Monica, Chantale, John Sr. and Jr. and, of course, their dog, Ruffy.

Marcus has many other talents. He learned to swim from his cousin Rufus, a Golden Retriever. I have many pictures of him swimming at our cottage or sitting next to me in a paddle boat as we cruise the lake. His cousin Pepper, a black and white Sheltie, taught him to talk through his barking. The day Marcus learned to roll over, my Dad just smiled and said "I knew he was smart enough to learn that trick."



*Marcus at an OTD Event*

Marcus and I were discovered by

Marilyn Benoit, one of the co-founders of OTD, as she watched us play at Grasshopper Park. She was parked in front of my home and I asked if she needed directions. Marilyn talked to me about her volunteer work with a therapy dog program and then, out of the blue, said "Let's not waste any time. Hop in and I'll take you to my home so we can see whether I can get you in for next week's dog and owner team evaluation session."

Marilyn came into my life for a reason – it was to start me on a new journey, doing volunteer work with my buddy, Marcus.

A few months later, Marcus and I were accepted into the OTD program and started visiting at Alta Vista Manor (AVM). Marcus knew where he was going on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He would start to pull on his lead, as if to say "Let's go: they're waiting for us!" As we entered the main foyer, Marcus would perk up and trot over to greet his friends. I could hear the chatter about the room. Some would say "There's Lassie coming for a visit" or ask "Is Marcus here?"

During our time at AVM, I saw the happiness that Marcus brought to people and the smiling faces of so many remain etched in my mind.

Not long ago, Marcus, aged 10, was diagnosed with Cushing's Disease and I have decided to focus on meeting his health needs.

Eight months ago, I got a new tri-colour Collie pup. I have named her Nellie, after a close friend who passed away this year. Nellie is keeping Marcus young and alert and, in a few years' time, I am hoping that she and I will rejoin OTD.

To Marilyn, the lovely lady who made it all happen, my OTD co-dog handler

volunteers and board members, I say thank you for welcoming Marcus and me into the program. Thank you for the lives Marcus and I have touched, which has given us a sense of pride and personal fulfillment and special memories that will remain.

*"When you seek to enrich the lives of others, you find the most satisfying form of success."*



*Marcus enjoying the fresh air*

### FAREWELL TO OTD FRIENDS

**SHELLEY MACWHIRTER AND KASCO- RETIRED FROM 2 YEARS SERVICE AT RICHMOND LODGE**

**PATTY SOLES AND SNAP- RETIRED FROM 1 YEAR SERVICE AT GRACE MANOR-SALVATION ARMY**

**ANDREA WHITE AND MICKEY FRY- RETIRED FROM 4 YEARS SERVICE AT COLONEL BY RETIREMENT RESIDENCE**

**THANKS FOR BRINGING SO MUCH JOY TO OUR COMMUNITY AND GOOD LUCK IN YOUR NEW VENTURES!**

## SPECIAL SECTION: Blessing of the Animals

### Ceremony at Pinhey's Point, Ottawa

*Joan Colbourn*

Parish Of March - St. Mary's Anglican Church was the site of a Blessing of the animals in early October. About 50 people came with their dogs and cats – even a turtle and a pony. A special altar had been created out of rocks with appropriated candles burning on it. The community assisted in creating the service with several members contributing their voices to the assembly. One by one the animals were blessed by Reverend Karen Coxon.

### Ceremony in Low, Quebec

*Chantal Batt*

On Sunday, October 3, 2010 about a dozen dogs of varying breeds and sizes attended the outdoor Blessing of the Animals at the United Church in Low, Quebec. The oldest dog was about 10 years old and the youngest, 11 weeks old. It was hard to keep the animals settled, as the weather was sunny and beautiful, with a breeze teasing them with country smells.

The Blessing service was brief (probably so as not to keep the canines waiting too long), led by the Reverend Read Sherman. There were prayers for our past, present and future furry friends, which the human members of the

audience were encouraged to read aloud.

Next, came the individual blessings for the animals by Reverend Read Sherman. It is hard to bless a subject who won't sit still and only wants to make it to the treat table! However, the dogs obliged and many, if not all, had their photos taken at the outdoor altar. They were rewarded for their patience with a Certificate of Blessing and a small bag of treats. There were post-event treats for the humans as well, just inside the entrance of the small church.

Later that evening, Trixi (Chantal's dog), was watching the news of the day along with her humans. When the news coverage of the Annual Blessing of the Animals appeared on the screen (albeit from another city), she started barking enthusiastically when she usually shows no interest in what's on TV (smart dog). It seemed the Blessing made quite the impression on her!

### Address to the congregation

*Karen Luker*

*The following is an excerpt from the speech presented by OTD member Karen Luker during the memorial service in the Low United Church that preceded the Blessing of the Animals Event.*

Good afternoon. I've been asked to speak about my work at the Palliative Care Unit of the Elizabeth Bruyere Health Centre in Ottawa.

I would first like to start by telling you a little bit about our guest of honour – Gogo - who came to us at a time when my husband and I were experiencing some personal challenges of our own. Our first

pet, Sushi, was tragically taken from us in a car accident at the age of 11 months. At around the same time, a very close friend was battling cancer. Although we were challenged by these unfortunate circumstances, we decided to try our hand at "parenthood" and adopted Gogo.

Gogo was an instant source of comfort to both of us. She required the usual care and attention that most puppies do, which assisted us in keeping our mind and body occupied. Her gentle nature and puppy antics helped to diminish the pain associated with our losses, and I believe helped us to heal more effectively.

While visiting our friend during the last months of his life, we frequently brought Gogo along to the hospital. We had to plan additional time for our visits in order to include the approximately 30 minutes spent on what I will refer to as our "parade route". This consisted of hospital staff, and other patients and visitors in the hallway requesting to have a few moments with our new bundle of joy. I immediately discovered the power of pet visitation.

In 2006, at the age of 3, Gogo began her career as a pet therapist. Upon successful completion of our Ottawa Therapy Dogs evaluation and



orientation, we were assigned to the Palliative Care Unit. Despite the fact that I work in health care, the thought of spending time with individuals who are at the end of their lives initially caused some anxiety.

One of the first lessons I learned during my assignment was about loss. An individual who is in palliative care has had to deal with a tremendous amount of loss prior to his/her admission. The main goal of palliative care is to make this individual as comfortable as possible, and to ensure the best quality of life during the final stages of life. How "comfort" and "quality of life" are defined is of course subjective. Essentials might consist of family, friends, gainful employment, leisure activities, fine dining, or a small glass of sherry! For many people, the presence of their pet contributes greatly (some might even say it's a "must").

Think about times or situations in your life when you have turned to your pet for comfort, and how much your pet adds to your own quality of life.

In the absence of their own pet, many people will warm to someone else's.

From the moment we arrive at the hospital for our weekly visits, faces light up at the simple sight of Gogo. Whether she is assisting with an arts &

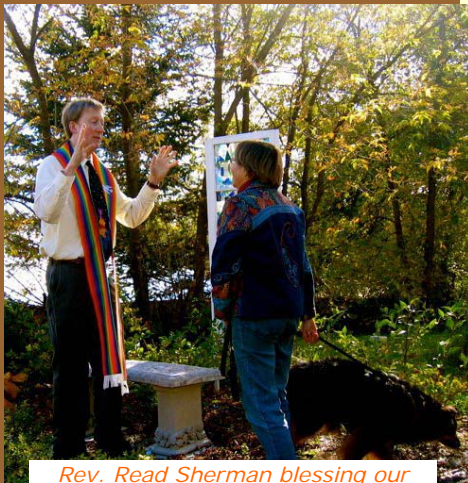
## THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

### DONORS

- Minto: Lois Drummond - Senior Graphic Designer (donated logo, 2005)
- Leimerk Developments (donated \$5000, 2005)
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 593
- Your Credit Union
- Ottawa Veterinary Hospital
- Bells Corners Animal Hospital
- Best Friends School of Dog Training
- West Quebec School Board
- Alta Vista Animal Hospital
- Bayview Animal Hospital
- Open Hand Group
- Bark and Fitz
- The Co-operators
- Tivoli Florists
- Canadian Foundation for Animal Assisted Support Services (CFAASS)

### FACILITIES

- Best Friends School of Dog Training (Kim Cooper)
- Bruyère Continuing Care
- Ottawa Paramedic Service HQ (John Rathier)
- The Training Hall (Frances Holmes)
- Carolark The Canine Learning Centre
- Low United Church
- Fisher Glen Animal Hospital



*Rev. Read Sherman blessing our animals*

crafts activity, dressed up for Halloween, or snoozing in her bed, Gogo is a magnet for patients, their families and visitors, as well as hospital staff.

Patients will sometimes explore issues surrounding the loss of their own pets, or reminisce about companions they once had. They may proceed to discuss their own losses, whether it be of physical function, their ability to participate in everyday activities, or

any of the number of losses that we discussed earlier. Frequently, the visit is simply a time to enjoy some companionship, light conversation, and some unconditional attention.

Despite the fact that I initially saw our mandate as dealing with loss, I have come to realize that we are also dealing with feelings of optimism, anticipation and happiness, as well as some degree of healing.

## MEMBER DISCOUNTS 2010

The following merchants provide discounts with proof of current OTD membership (ID badge):

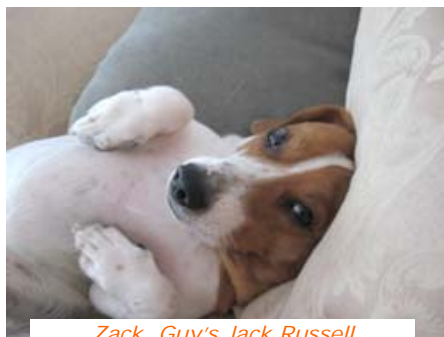
- **Berry's Food Store - (Glebe)** - 15% discount on general merchandise
- **Critter Jungle - Hampton Park Plaza** - 10% discount on general dog-related merchandise.
- **TLC Grooming - Canotek Rd.** - 5% discount on grooming service.
- **Bark & Fitz - Westboro and Centrum** - 10% discount on non-food related merchandise, grooming (not nail clipping or u-bath). OTD members must register with the store's HYDRANT program
- **Natural Pet Foods - Westboro and Carleton Place** - 10% discount on dog-related merchandise
- **Kaleidoscope Kids- Glebe** - 15% discount on books for OTD READ members
- **Blair Animal Hospital**
- **A guy, a girl, two dogs and a cat-** 10% discount on store items, except food
- **Wag Pet Shop Inc. - 1071 Bank Street** - 10% discount on merchandise and food except drinks and sale/discounted items. [www.wagpetshop.ca](http://www.wagpetshop.ca).

## A Word from that Web Guy

Guy Mercier

I have used some pictures of my dog, Zack, on a few of the web pages. One is on the [OTD Automated Thank You Reply](#) page; another appears on the [OTD Member Discount](#) page and yet another was used in an e-mail sent out to encourage donations to OTD.

I invite all OTD members to send favourite or recent photos of their dogs or OTD Teams at events or on duty. Photo release forms are available under the [OTD Resource Centre Main Menu](#) tab.



Zack, Guy's Jack Russell

Here's something to think about: a new online promotional area is going to be launched on the web site in 2011. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome. One idea is to add more dog-related products on the OTD Donation page offering items such as OTD dog cards, postcards, calendar(s), OTD t-shirts and other "goodies" that might present themselves.

I am certain that if we had more dog-related products on the OTD Donation page, we could raise more funds for the association.

Another idea might be getting pet suppliers to let us add a tag on OTD-approved products that would read something like "I Support OTD! A portion of proceeds of this sale will be donated to OTD."

Because we are a charity, we have to be careful of how this might work and how we would allow tags to be used.

Please send your photo(s) and/or your promotional ideas or leads to [webmaster@ottawatherapydogs.ca](mailto:webmaster@ottawatherapydogs.ca).

## OTD OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

**KATE MILLER**  
OTD Administrator

**Tel:** 613-261-6834  
**Fax:** 613-256-9133

**Email:**  
[admin@ottawatherapydogs.ca](mailto:admin@ottawatherapydogs.ca)

**Hours:** Flexible. Please leave a message and I'll get back to you ASAP.



# In Memoriam

## Bro

*Julianne Labreche*

One of OTD's best canine goodwill ambassadors, Bro, a 7-1/2-year-old Golden Retriever, passed away suddenly this summer.

Affectionate, gentle and social, he was, in many ways, a model therapy dog.

Bro was the beloved family pet of Kate Miller, our OTD Administrator. Many OTD members will remember the large, red-haired dog from their first OTD orientation

session. Wherever Kate went, Bro usually went too. He was an ideal dog for orientations, welcoming new members with a laid-back, relaxed attitude and a friendly, wagging tail.

Bro contributed in many ways to this volunteer organization.

First and foremost, he was a therapy dog that liked his job. For 4 years, staff and clients enjoyed his weekly visits at the "Centre de transition communautaire," a francophone day program for adults with developmental delays operated by OCAPDD.

At first, some clients were a little afraid of the big dog but, "He always won them over," Kate recalls.

Staff loved him too. "He had them literally eating out of their hands." There are framed photographs of Bro at the facility and even collages made of him by clients.

Sometimes, clients could be challenging. Once, an autistic man grabbed Bro's tail and wouldn't let go. "We had a few hairy moments," Kate remembers. Later, that same man learned to pat and walk the dog throughout the centre, although Kate always held a second leash for safety.

Bro also worked for 2 years as a READ dog at an elementary public school in Carleton Place. Visits typically started in the classroom, Bro's favourite place. He and the children, in Grades 2 and 3, got along well.

Each week, 4 or 5 students with reading difficulties were selected to read aloud individually to the dog. Usually, Bro's big head would act as their pillow. Sometimes, Bro was lulled to sleep. Kate told the children that he liked their stories so much that it made him sleepy; the same way they felt at night when their parents read aloud to them.

Bro was the unofficial, personal therapy dog of Kate and her family. Kate's father, who has dementia, always enjoyed his visits with Bro. Kate herself remembers those pleasant morning runs along the river with Bro, accompanied by her husband and their second dog, a little Boston Terrier named Clark.

In his last years, Bro also visited new facilities with Kate, ensuring these



*Kate and Bro*

### Bloat in Dogs

Even though it's not well known, bloat is a leading killer in dogs.

It can happen quickly, killing a dog in less than an hour.

Technically called Gastric Dilation-Volvulus or GDV, bloat occurs when a dog's stomach swells and twists, causing shock and damage to the internal organs. Often, it's related to swallowing air too quickly. Some breeds, such as retrievers, shepherds and hounds, are more prone than others.

Here are the signs and symptoms of bloat:

- unusual behaviour in your dog,
- heavy or rapid panting,
- attempts to vomit,
- anxiety and restlessness,
- coughing,
- unproductive gagging,
- hunched up appearance,
- unproductive gagging,
- heavy drooling,
- unable to stand,
- weak pulse or accelerated heart beat.

If your dog displays any of these signs, rush your dog to the nearest emergency 24-hour veterinarian right away! Call ahead and let your vet know that you have a suspected bloat case.

For further information, check out:

<http://www.globalspan.net/bloat.htm>

places would pose minimal risk for visiting therapy dogs.

Bro's all-too-short life ended tragically in a sudden attack of bloat after a fun-filled, family day at the cottage. They were celebrating Kate's birthday. His last day was filled with playing, swimming, running and being with his family.

Bro died doing what he loved best, having fun and providing lots of love to everyone around him.

OTD extends their deepest sympathy to Kate Miller and her family. We will all miss him.

## ATCh Brackenridge's I'm Bracken Too CDX, WCI, JH AGX, JWX, Ottawa Therapy Dog

Ann Lambert

March 13, 1996 - July 1, 2010

It is with great sadness that I had to let Bracken go over the Rainbow Bridge on July 1, 2010. She was 14 years and 4 months old. She was very active - running in the fields, swimming and retrieving bumpers right up to the end.

Bracken was one of 13 born to Aspen. She is survived by her sister, Sprockette, who is doing well.

Bracken had a great life full of many activities. She earned a HIT and Dog World award in obedience. She loved field and retrieving as well as agility.

Her favourite activity was her therapy dog work. She started when she was 4 years old, visiting seniors and then took over CHEO from her mother, Aspen, 6 years ago. Bracken loved the children and would do her tricks and "sing" to them if they petted the right spot. She would get up onto beds, chairs or whatever so the children could cuddle her.

Bracken was also a R.E.A.D. dog and filled in for Lia when she couldn't go.

I know she will be greatly missed by all the children but especially me. She is with her mother and siblings having a good time.

## Gogo: A Little Dog Making a World of Difference

— by Anick Sabourin



Gogo is a seven-year-old miniature dachshund with a huge heart. Every week, she prances proudly from her owner's car to the hallways of Élisabeth Bruyère Hospital, ready and eager to take on her weekly shift on the Palliative Care unit as she has been selflessly doing for the past four years.

Karen Luker, Gogo's owner, takes her to the volunteer office where they both put on their volunteer vests and Gogo is placed in her basket to begin their visits. The moment she enters a patient's room, everything changes. The ultimate joy that illuminates the face of those visited is beyond words. Many cry, feeling overjoyed with an instant connection, or a simple break from solitude and anxiety – a moment of peace. Gogo gives them everything she has – unconditional love and affection, without requesting anything in return.

Karen and Gogo live by our founding values of respect and compassion and their contribution truly makes a difference in the quality of life of our patients. Patients and families have told them on more than one occasion that their mere presence is better than any medicine that is administered.

"The feedback we receive is always very uplifting and positive," Karen says. "I was once told that Gogo's ears were not in fact what they appeared to be – they were little angel wings." ■



Article from the Elizabeth Bruyère Newsletter Perspectives

OTD Members | OTD Suppliers

# Ottawa Therapy Dogs

Good dogs doing great work!

Home | About Us | News & Events | Programs | Members | Supporters & Donors | Resource Centre | Contact Us

**Our Mission**

Ottawa Therapy Dogs promotes an understanding of the values and benefits (enhanced physical, emotional and communication abilities) of the animal-human bond by offering a mutually beneficial and safe interaction with companion animals.

[Join Now](#) [Donate](#)

**Welcome!**

Ottawa Therapy Dogs Inc. is a volunteer-based organization providing animal-assisted activities and therapy with our members' registered therapy dogs. We are a registered charity serving the National Capital Region. To find out more about our organization, see [About OTD](#).

Our Web site is for everyone, but we've organized it to serve the needs of our clients, members and supporters — both current and prospective. Information for and about these groups of people (and dogs!) is found under the headings [Programs](#), [Members](#) and [Supporters](#). Our [Resource Centre](#) includes stories about OTD, our [OTD Newsletter](#) and newsletter archive, downloadable forms, and a links page connecting to other groups interested in therapy animals and the human-animal bond.

**Next OTD Orientation Session**

Monday January 17th 2011

at 7 PM

Contact Kate Miller at [admin@ottawatherapydogs.ca](mailto:admin@ottawatherapydogs.ca) or call 613.261.6834 for details.

**News & Events**

**Here's Looking at You!**

The Communications Committee wants to hear your thoughts!

- How do you like the OTD Newsletter?
- Do you have an OTD success story that you would like to share?

Send us your thoughts or ideas at:

[newsletter@ottawatherapydogs.ca](mailto:newsletter@ottawatherapydogs.ca)