



*A newsletter published for the members of BCA Division Six from the great states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri!*

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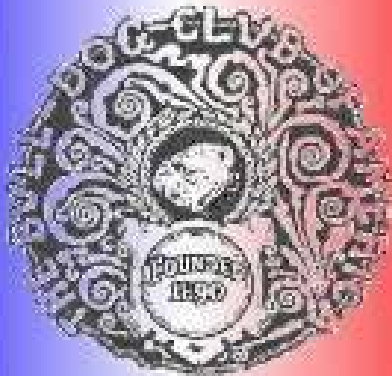
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# To The Rescue

The Truth of the Matter -

I've heard various stories though the years from people as to why some people aren't more supportive of local rescue groups. I'd like to address a few of these comments today to set the record straight. I cannot speak on behalf of other rescue organizations, but all Bulldog rescue groups that are affiliated with the Bulldog Club of America Rescue Network (BCARN) have to follow the same guidelines. Other groups may have other rules.



Here are some of the comments I've heard:

*Rescue groups spend too much money trying to fix dogs that have too many things wrong with them.*

How much is "too much money"? This is, of course, subjective. Many people who don't own Bulldogs would say that we all have spent too much money on our dogs. I'm sure we all agree that our Bulldogs are worth every penny we've spent on them. So how much is "too much money to fix" a rescue dog? Back when members of our local group met to discuss whether there was a need for rescue in Minnesota, we agreed that we did not want to euthanize a dog simply because we couldn't afford to pay for veterinary services that would result in giving that dog a good quality of life. However, we also realized that we would not have endless resources so we had to devise some "rules" to follow in regards to deciding how much to spend and under what conditions.

When it came to surgical fixes, we knew that we could not afford to spend considerable amounts of money to address chronic health issues for senior dogs that might be considered unadoptable even after surgical intervention. We didn't want to have to turn away adoptable dogs because we spent all of our resources on a dog that did not have the odds in its favor. So in those cases, we depend on our "rescue vet" to advise us as to whether we should invest in a dog with a poor prognosis. Unfortunately, we have had to euthanize a few dogs that had multiple, chronic health issues.

No one wants to be the one to decide to end a dog's life. It doesn't matter if you have only known that dog for years or a few hours, a person still feels terrible about it. However, the reality is that for some of these dogs, the kindest thing you can do for it is to end its suffering and yes, sometimes that occurs because the dog's former owner was either unable or unwilling to handle it themselves.



*Rescue groups try too hard to save every dog and don't want to admit that a lot of the dogs that come into rescue have unsound temperaments. Dogs are placed that should have been put to sleep.*

We try very hard to make sure only temperamentally sound dogs are placed. Some dogs do come into rescue with behavioral issues because of poor or inadequate training; often because their owners were new to the breed and did not have any mentoring from the breeder of their dog. Owners often wait too long to get advice and assistance and believe their dogs are "broken" rather than admit they created their "problem dogs". If it is a training issue, we will work with these dogs until they are trustworthy. We have had some dogs in foster care for many months for evaluation and re-training to make sure that they are safe to rehome.

Some dogs in rescue are there because of circumstances not of their making, not because they are

# To The Rescue

(continued from previous page)

"bad dogs". Many rescue Bulldogs have great temperaments. Some just have never had much in the way of training and respond well to training while in foster care and do great in new homes with more experienced owners.



*Rescue groups won't euthanize unsafe dogs because there is too much "red tape" involved to put them down.*

Local BCARN "chapters" have the authority to euthanize dogs without requiring permission from the parent organization. There are no forms (red tape) to fill out to euthanize a dog. It is up to local rescue groups to decide if a particular dog should be euthanized. It is up to the rescue volunteer and the attending veterinarian to decide if this is an appropriate action. However, BCARN volunteers do have criteria we must follow when it comes to euthanasia. The BCARN Code of Ethics requires that volunteers euthanize any dog that bites or shows signs of unstable temperament. The following are quotes from the BCARN Guidelines.

Every BCA Rescue Network Member is expected to observe the following:

- EVALUATE THE TEMPERAMENTS OF ALL RESCUED BULLDOGS AND EXERCISE GOOD JUDGMENT IN PLACING RESCUED BULLDOGS IN SUITABLE HOMES. NEVER KNOWINGLY PLACE A VICIOUS OR TEMPERAMENTALLY UNSOUND BULLDOG IN AN ADOPTIVE HOME OR PLACE A BULLDOG IN AN UNSUITABLE ENVIRONMENT THAT COULD LEAD TO THE HARM OF THE DOG OR A MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD OR COMMUNITY.
- RECOGNIZE THAT NOT ALL BULLDOGS CAN BE SAVED AND ARRANGE FOR HUMANE EUTHANASIA AND PROPER DISPOSAL OF RESCUED BULLDOGS DEEMED NOT TO BE ADOPTABLE DUE TO UNSOUND TEMPERAMENTS OR SEVERE MEDICAL CONDITIONS.

A RESCUER WHO KNOWINGLY PLACES A BULLDOG WHO MAY HARM A PERSON PUTS THE RESCUE NETWORK AT EXTREME RISK OF LOSING LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE. RESCUERS SHOULD BE WELL-VERSED IN CANINE BEHAVIOR TO EASILY RECOGNIZE ANY "WARNING SIGNS" OF AGGRESSION THAT THE DOG MAY BE SENDING.

As unpleasant as it is, we have had to euthanize some Bulldogs that come into our rescue for unsound temperaments. Some of these dogs were good dogs 90% of the time, but if they can't be trusted 100% of the time, we simply can't place them. As sad as it is, that is the reality. Not every rescue story has the classic happy ending, but we try our best to make sure that every dog that is placed goes to a home that is appropriate for it and that the home it goes to will be it "forever home".

If you have any questions about things "rescue-related" it is a good idea to contact a local BCARN volunteer for verification. That way you should get accurate information. As we all know, but sometimes forget...just because someone says something does not make it true. I will address some more commonly-held misconceptions about rescue in the next edition of the Division newsletter.

# To The Rescue

(continued from *previous*)

Thanks to all of you who support Bulldog rescue. If you would like information about volunteering with Bulldog Rescue please contact any BCARN volunteer. Volunteers are listing on the BCARN website: [www.rescuebulldogs.org](http://www.rescuebulldogs.org) Some local Bulldog rescue groups have their own websites and may not be listed on the BCARN website, so contact them directly for more info.

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# FALL



# SPECIALTY

## Heart of America Bulldog Club Annual Specialty Show

(Licensed by the American Kennel Club)



March 23, 2012

Wendell Tinsley (sweeps)

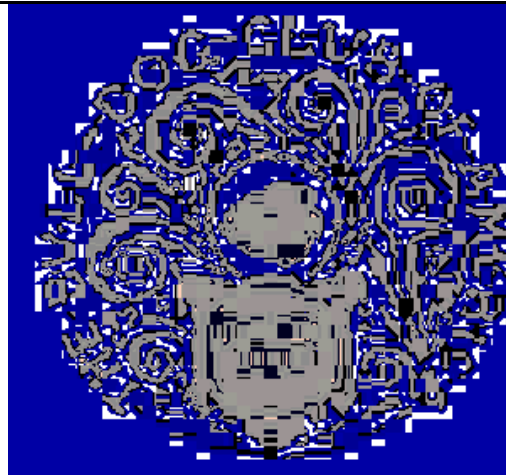
Ruth Williams

March 24, 2012

Pat Tinsley (sweeps)

Sandra McBride

Specialty Show and Sweepstakes



March 25, 2012

Rick Franz

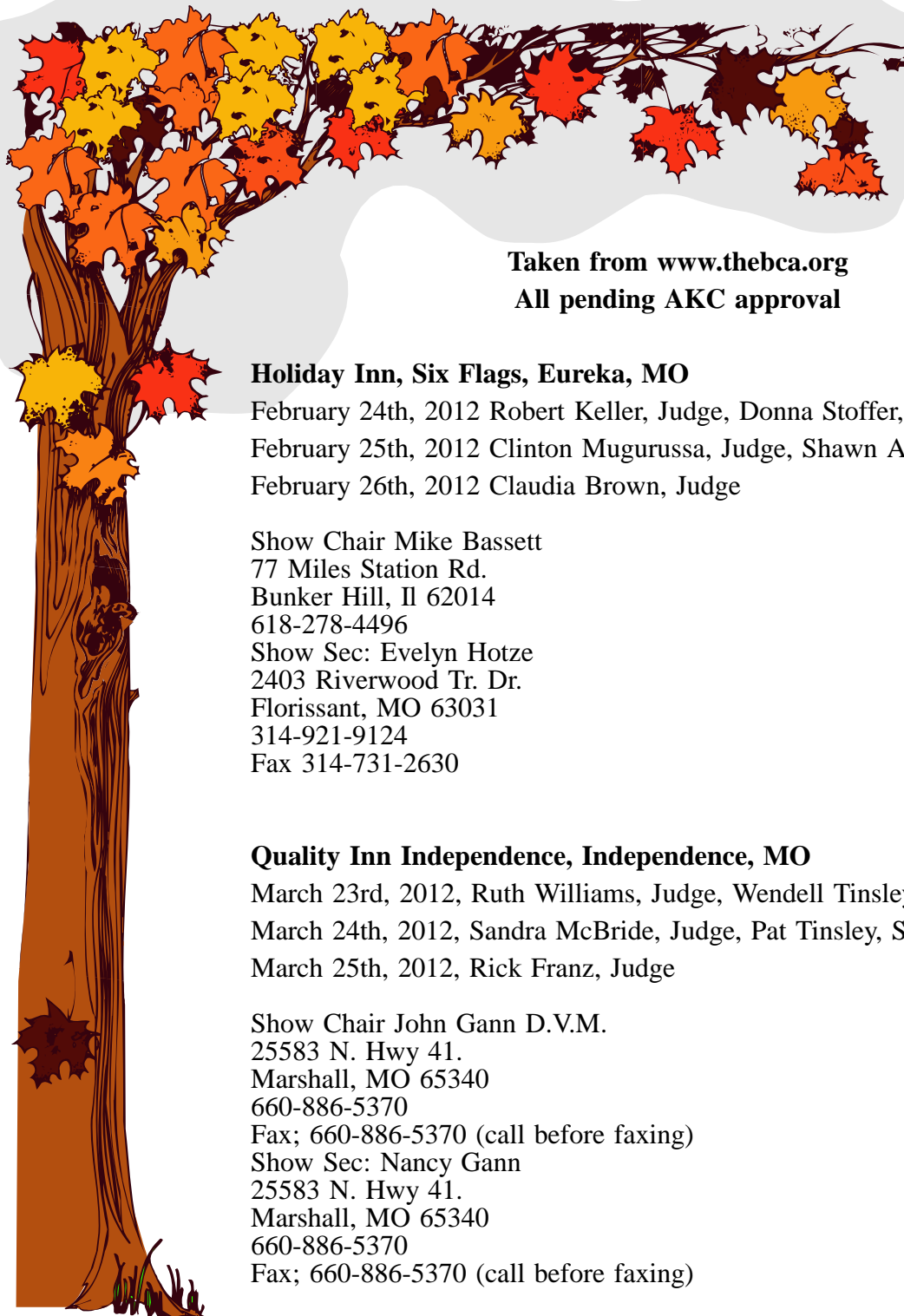
Specialty Show

For further information, visit our web site, <http://heartofamericabulldogclub.org/>

Or contact John Gann DVM, Show Chairman

660-886-5370

# SPECIALTY



Taken from [www.thebca.org](http://www.thebca.org)  
All pending AKC approval

## **Holiday Inn, Six Flags, Eureka, MO**

February 24th, 2012 Robert Keller, Judge, Donna Stoffer, Sweeps

February 25th, 2012 Clinton Mugurussa, Judge, Shawn Ashbaugh, Sweeps

February 26th, 2012 Claudia Brown, Judge

Show Chair Mike Bassett

77 Miles Station Rd.

Bunker Hill, Il 62014

618-278-4496

Show Sec: Evelyn Hotze

2403 Riverwood Tr. Dr.

Florissant, MO 63031

314-921-9124

Fax 314-731-2630

## **Quality Inn Independence, Independence, MO**

March 23rd, 2012, Ruth Williams, Judge, Wendell Tinsley, Sweeps

March 24th, 2012, Sandra McBride, Judge, Pat Tinsley, Sweeps

March 25th, 2012, Rick Franz, Judge

Show Chair John Gann D.V.M.

25583 N. Hwy 41.

Marshall, MO 65340

660-886-5370

Fax; 660-886-5370 (call before faxing)

Show Sec: Nancy Gann

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The Bulldog Club of America



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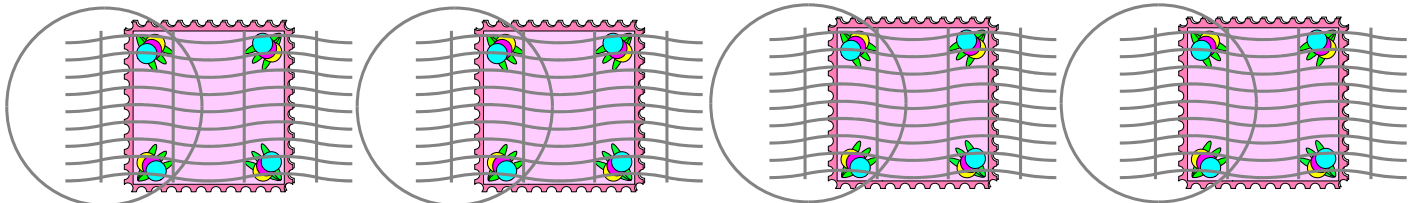
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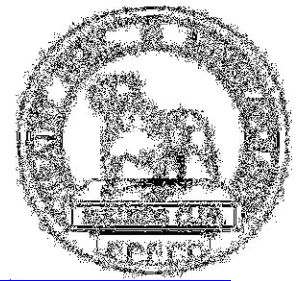
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# Club Reports

The St Paul-Minneapolis Bulldog would like to thank everyone that attended our Combined Specialty Show with the Bulldog Club of Central Iowa and BCA Division VI. We had a very good entry and everyone had a wonderful time. Plans are underway to do it again next year so plan to join us for all of the fun. In September, we held our 3rd Annual Bark in the Park Doggie Carnival. (see next page for photos) We had a wonderful turnout of bulldogs and many other breeds. October brings our annual Halloween Costume Party. This year it will be held on Sunday, October 23 at All Breed Obedience. Get your fabulous costumes ready to come and join us for all the fun. Good Luck to everyone that will be attending Nationals this year and have a wonderful Holiday season.

submitted by: Jackie Bergeron, Secretary



The Bulldog Club of Central Iowa hosted a combined specialty show in September. River City's and Uptown's Harmony, owned by BCCI members Scott and Susan Hanson, was awarded Best of Winners/Winners Bitch and Best in Sweeps. Cazette's Just Living the Dream, owned by BCCI members Michelle and Chris Cazette, was awarded Winners Dog. Ch Norway Beauty Dorthea, also owned by Michelle and Chris Cazette, was awarded Select Bitch. Williamson's Dakota Dreams Good Time Charlie, owned by BCCI member Roxanne Williamson, was awarded Best of Opposite Sweeps.

BCCI also held an event called SLOBBERFEST on Sunday, Oct. 2. There were approximately 15 bulldogs there with their owners. It was a fun event with contests for the dogs, including a costume contest.

Best of Opposite Sweeps: Wmson's Dakota Dreams  
Good Time Charlie-Owner: Roxanne Williamson  
-Erin Bell



**Bulldog Club of Central Iowa**

# Club Reports

The HABC will have a booth at Dogtoberfest on Oct. 16 with information about the breed as well as club info. They are expecting over 200 vendors, breed clubs and over 2000 spectators in Jackson County's Lake Jacomo/Fleming Park at the Kemper Outdoor Education Center. Our club will have AKC pamphlets, Responsible Dog Ownership information, Pet Emergency/Disaster Preparedness info, adoption and fostering information, games and giveaways. Several bullies will participate in our Bulldog Kissing Booth (Kiss a Bully) to help raise money for rescue. There will be something for everyone! Other events include a Tails for Trails Dog Walk, Dock Diving, Frisbee competition, Weave Pole races, Agility Fun Runs, Obedience and Rally Show and Go, CGC Test and lots of workshops. Well-mannered dogs are welcome and may participate in the Best Dog Trick contest, Biscuit Toss, Roll-over and Sack Races, Best Halloween Costumes, Owner-Dog Look-A-Like, Bobbing for Biscuits, and many others. Dog food donations for admittance will go to local shelters. Please contact Kathy Hood for more details.

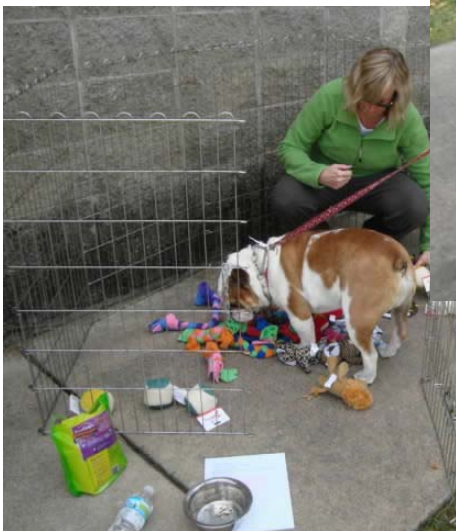


**BROTHERLY  
LOVE**



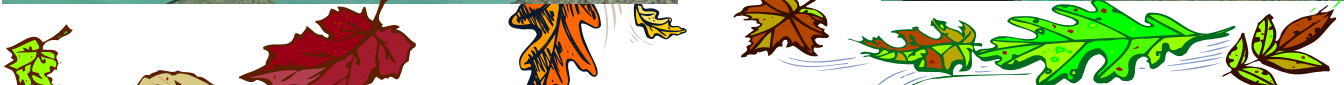
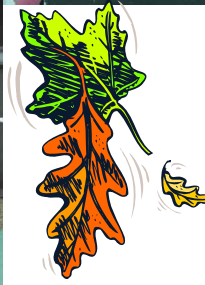
# Pictures

## SPMBC's September Bark in the Park Doggie Carnival.



# Pictures

Here's a few pictures from the HABC Fun Match. It was held this year at Ward Parkway Mall. On 9-24-11, HABC held a B match at the Ward Parkway Shopping Center. We had an entry of 17 bulldogs that were judged by Dean Altic. Annette Hoskins male Levi won Best in Match.



# Minutes

President Linda called the meeting to order: 7/16/11 Northwood, IA

Roll Call: Randy Banta, Marilyn Burdick, Stacey Gann, Jo Hanson, Patsy Hart, Rick Hart, Rod Mason, Randy Miller, Linda Shelburg; Darlene Stuedeman, Kym Thew  
Absent: Eva Dickey, Bev Larrick

Treasurers Report: Motion by Jo, second by Kym, carried

Secretaries Report: Motion by Randy, second by Rick carried.

Correspondence: Darlene again asked to please get her some history information.

Old Business: Breeder Referral:, Motion to Tabled carried.

Honoree for 2012 - Linda Shelburg is the 2012 Honoree. This will take place on July 18 2012 at the Division VI specialty show in Northwood Iowa Diamond Jo's Casino.

After some discussion, a motion by Randy B., seconded by Rick, to accept the renewal from the Hungarian BCA member carried.

New Business: Grand Champion Medallions & Breeder certificates - there was a discussion on the Grand Champion Certificates & Medallions. Randy Miller volunteered to make up new Certificates that will cover all.

New Members: Motion to approve Ivan Torres, Buhler KS, carried.

Motion to Adjourn By Kym second by Rod

Next Meeting Mason City October 15th 2011



# Therapy Experience

I became interested in therapy dog work when my best friend started taking her first therapy dog to the hospital. The experiences that she related led me to believe that a bulldog would be good at it. Bulldogs love people and people love to see bulldogs. I knew that I would need a dog that was something more than a couch potato and I had the perfect dog! My current conformation bitch, Olivia, had nearly finished her championship but would definitely not be finished wanting to go places with me. Olivia also loves people. I knew she had the personality to be a therapy dog. I started to check the requirements that the local hospitals had for bringing a therapy dog to visit their patients. Olivia would have to pass a test and be certified with one of the nationally recognized therapy dog organizations. The test would not be challenging for her. Olivia knew how to walk on a lead, knew how to sit and she understood the meaning of "down." She had easily passed AKC's Canine Good Citizen test and the therapy dog test only included a few new things for her to do. She would have to show that she liked to play with children and that she wasn't afraid of wheel chairs or walkers. Aside from the social aspects, she would be required to have a yearly physical and to be up-to-date with all of her vaccinations. She passed all requirements and is now is a licensed therapy dog.

Anyone who finds the prospect of this work interesting can participate. If your dog hasn't learned basic obedience, there are training classes available. As soon as you and your dog are ready to pass the test, the instructors will let you know.

Next I had to find an appropriate place for Olivia and me to go. There is a hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota that welcomes therapy dogs, but it is a very big hospital and just walking from the parking area to the main hospital would be a long trek for a bulldog. I started asking the other dog owners at our training center about their experiences at other hospitals and I discovered that Lakeview Hospital in Stillwater, Minnesota had a therapy dog program and was looking for more dogs. I contacted the volunteer coordinator and asked about their program. I learned that this hospital is small and Olivia would be able to walk the entire hospital and have the energy she needed to be happy about her job. Each place that accepts therapy dogs has their own forms that need to be completed. After those were submitted, I had to go to an orientation presentation and register as a volunteer. Olivia is also considered a volunteer and wears her own badge complete with her picture on it. There are places other than hospitals that appreciate therapy dog visits. Some schools have programs that allow the children to meet the dogs or even to read to the dogs. This is helpful for the children and gives them more confidence. Nursing homes also look for therapy dogs. One of them near us is waiting for Olivia to visit.

# Therapy Experience

The people love to see the dogs. Many have never seen a bulldog up close. We get all kinds of comments about bulldogs. People that don't know dogs think they are fat and some say they have a face only a mother could love. Some mistake them for a breed that has a vicious reputation. After people meet Olivia, they have a completely different opinion about bulldogs. Our visits help to educate people about our breed. There are also people who are dog lovers and think it is a privilege to meet her. Olivia and I always visit on the same day of the week and the workers at the hospital are just waiting for Olivia to come. She brings them a little time to relax and they appreciate this as many of their jobs at the hospital are stressful.

Olivia arrives at the hospital dressed for her day's work. She has bandanas for every holiday and every season. The workers can't wait to see what she will be wearing next. One time in the winter, it was really cold and there was so much salt in the parking lot that I put red boots on her and a jacket to match. Everyone just laughed when she came through the door. The news about Olivia's cold weather gear made it to the far side of the hospital before we even got there. The look on Olivia's face didn't help any. She was completely embarrassed by the boots and jacket but I do think she was glad to be walking in non-slip boots!

Sometimes there is a Teddy Bear Clinic. That is when preschoolers come to visit the hospital. Olivia loves children and will walk into their midst waiting for them all to pet her. We do have to be careful as each child brings their favorite stuffed Teddy. Olivia does try to check them out in case one might be a toy for her. I tell her to "leave it" as they aren't hers and she grudgingly obeys. One time a volunteer's granddaughter came to the hospital. The girl was two years old and her name was also Olivia. This little girl talked as well as any five year old. She spoke to bulldog Olivia like she was just another little person. The granddaughter Olivia told the bulldog Olivia that they both had the same name and that she was 2 years old. Then came the real test. The girl had a little bag of pretzels. I told therapy dog Olivia to "leave it" and the bulldog just sat next to the pretzel munching child and never even tried to take one. I was so proud of her.

Olivia has her favorite places to visit. She most looks forward to the Physical Therapy Department. Several years ago, Olivia had knee surgery and since then, everyone in that department fusses over her. They even bring her gifts for Christmas and write her thank-you cards for her service. Her second favorite area is the Oncology Department. The patients there are having chemo therapy treatments and have to stay for three to four hours. Some are nervous and worried and it seems to help ease their minds when they talk to Olivia and me. Many have their own dog stories to tell. Some have had to place their pets with other people because their illness makes it too difficult to care for

# Therapy Experience

their dogs. Seeing Olivia makes them especially happy. These people are sitting in recliners and unable to get close to the dog. While I am talking to a patient, Olivia lies next to them and waits for us to finish talking. Just last week, a man said that we had perfect timing. It was his first chemo treatment and Olivia was just what he needed. He was very thankful that we were visiting. After these first two departments, we usually go to the surgical waiting room. Every week is different. Sometimes the people are too preoccupied to notice Olivia but other times there are people who just love to talk while they are waiting. The employees who work in the back checking people in and out always get called to come out front to see Olivia. Any new workers are ushered out to meet the star volunteer.

We always go to the emergency area as well. You can read the worry on the faces of these people. However, they look down at the bulldog and their expression changes to accommodate a smile. A worker in this department once gave Olivia a tiny piece of apple. They are not supposed to treat the therapy dogs. Now every time Olivia arrives she goes behind the desk and checks to see if there is another apple piece waiting to be eaten. When we first started volunteering at the hospital, everyone had treats hiding in their desks. That quickly got out of hand. Olivia wasn't paying attention to me or to the patients. She was just going from desk to desk looking for those treats. The therapy dog rules state that only the owner can feed the dog and then only if the dog is doing something meriting a reward. The hospital finally had to post a note stating that the workers could not feed the dogs. At first, everyone was sad that they couldn't give treats, but now they understand and accept the rule.

Olivia does tricks for anyone willing to watch because she knows she will be rewarded with a treat. The people just love to see her do them. She will sit and put her paw in the air to say, "Hi!" to them. Next she will sit back with both paws up really high and I tell them that she is so big today. One time when Olivia was at the hospital, a nurse had just taken a patient's blood pressure. After the lady talked to Olivia for a bit, the nurse said, "Let's take your blood pressure now." The patient's blood pressure had gone down. The lady was so surprised and as we went home, I felt that Olivia had done a good job that day.

Yet another time, there was a woman who was very old and very sick. She wanted to pet Olivia. Olivia got as close as she possibly could and stretched her neck to get even closer and then just stood so the elderly woman could pet her. Sometimes someone really wants to see her but they can't sit up so I pull a chair over and cover it with a towel. Olivia will get up in the chair so that they can see her. When she goes into a room where a lot of people happen to be, Olivia knows which

# Therapy Experience

person is sick and goes right to them. It is amazing to watch her use her instincts.

Don't think that a therapy dog is always perfect! Early in Olivia's career, we visited the hospital and she decided to be naughty. I had a thin lead on her. She wanted to go down a hallway that I had planned to avoid. She pulled so hard that she broke the lead! She ran into an unfamiliar place and I had no idea where she was going. I kept hoping that I could catch her before someone from the hospital turned down that hall. I was sure that Olivia would be fired before we even got started. Fortunately, she turned into a dead end and I was able to find her. To this day she will decide that she wants to go to a certain place and there is no stopping her. There have been times when I have been talking to someone and all of sudden she will pull me into a nearby room. She gives me no choice. Every time she has done this there has been a dog lover in that room. She has never gone into a room occupied by a person who doesn't want a visit from the therapy dog. Many times, when going from room to room, we encounter people who don't like dogs or who are just too sick to enjoy them. Once in a while, we will find someone who doesn't want to meet Olivia just because she is bulldogthey really don't know what they are missing!

We have also been invited to visit the hospital's administrative area. One of the workers has decorated her office with a lot of little stuffed animals. This is a very difficult place to visit. Olivia has a hard time leaving all of these toys alone. She doesn't touch them but I really have to hold her lead tightly as I am not convinced that she is paying any attention to the "leave it" command. The topper came when this person bought a toy for the dogs to play with when they visited her office. This particular toy squeaks and even a little dog could easily destroy it quickly. There is no other way to say thisOlivia is toy crazy. One of the therapy dog rules is, "No Barking." This toy obsessed therapy dog didn't care one bit about the rule and began barking and barking at that squeaky toy. We now stay away from that office as it is just too hard for Olivia to remain in control.

Olivia is definitely a bulldog with the kind of personality that has earned her the reputation of "losing her brain" once in awhile. She runs and jumps and plays as though she were a much more agile breed. Somehow, when Olivia is working, she is so calm and quiet that people can't believe that she could ever be a wild woman. I would like to think that her role as therapy dog has been a calming influence but her current need for a surgical repair on her other knee confirms the opposite. Perhaps she is just determined to remain the favorite of the physical therapists!

*We thank Sheryll Maxx for submitting her experience. If anyone else has an experience they'd love to write about please send it!*

# "In Bred" Cat



*The pain of an in-bred cat! Thanks to Karan for the submission.*

