



Vol. 7 • Fall • 2006

# The Barker

A Therapy Dog Publication of St. John Ambulance NS/PEI Council

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## *Emergency Preparedness & Your Pet*

One year after Hurricane Katrina, emergency preparedness is still a hot topic, and for good reason. We all saw the devastation that a natural disaster can cause, and hope that it is something that we never have to experience ourselves. Do you know what to do to keep your pet safe in an emergency?

One thing is certain: in an emergency, time is of the essence. It is natural for people, and pets, to panic, and this is where problems can arise. It may be impossible to find shelter for your pet in the midst of a disaster, so plan ahead to ensure your pet's safety.

Contact hotels and motels outside of your immediate area to see what their policies are concerning pets. Do they limit the number of pets? What about size? Do they allow all types of pets, or just dogs and cats?



Also, make sure to ask non pet friendly places if they would allow pets in the event of a disaster. Keep a list of pet friendly places, along with their phone number, along with other disaster supplies. If you have notice of an impending disaster, call ahead for reservations. Ask friends or relatives outside of your immediate area if they could shelter your pets, and if you have more than one pet, ask your friend or family member if they are able to shelter all of them. Keep a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians on hand that may be able to shelter animals during a emergency. Again, if you have notice ahead of time, contact the boarding facility or vet right away. Ask local animal shelters if they provide shelter or foster care for animals in the midst of a disaster. However, keep in mind that the shelters may be overwhelmed caring for animals they already have as well as additional animals displaced by a disaster, so they should be your last resort.

*...Continued on Page 5*

Therapy  
Dog



St. John Ambulance

'The dog was created specifically for children. He is the god of frolic.'  
- Henry Ward Beecher

## From the Editor

Walking out of my front door this morning I realized that (gulp) fall has arrived. Don't get me wrong, I do enjoy fall, it is one of my favorite seasons. The air is crisp and fresh, there are lots of piles of leaves to jump in, and there are so many fun doggie things to do this time of year. However, when fall begins it means that summer is over and winter is just around the corner, and that is not something I am too happy about.

One thing that I am very happy about is the progress of the Therapy Dog program. This has been our year, that is for sure, and it is all due to the hard work of you, the volunteers. This summer, as I do every year, I spent most of my time traveling throughout the province talking about this wonderful program and raising public awareness about it. For the past two years I have found that I just can't get to every event, every gathering, to talk to people about this program. There are too many events and only one of me. However, this year so many of you helped out and attended conferences, luncheons, community events, dog shows, the list goes on and on. There can't possibly be a person left out there who doesn't know what the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program is and what it is all about! I am continuously amazed by the giving spirit of the volunteers involved in this program. Thank you for all of your hard work.

I would also like to thank the volunteers that have been sending in stuff for the Barker, it is greatly appreciated. If anyone else would like to send stuff in, pictures, ideas for articles, jokes, recipes, etc. everything is welcome.

-Tiffany

## Dog Jokes...that make you wanna HOWL!



## Volunteer Spotlight: Gloria, Brogan & Gracie

I'm a grade 4 teacher and a teacher of grade 7, 8 and 9 art classes in Berwick School in the Annapolis Valley. I enjoy volunteer work.

After completing basic obedience with Brogan and Gracie, my two Newfoundland Dogs, I thought, "Where do we go from here?" I then completed CGN (Canine Good Neighbour) testing with both dogs and they passed easily. On "Pet Day" April 2005 at Scotia Gold in the Annapolis Valley I stopped by the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog information booth. The spokes person there talked to me and suggested my two Newfs would make great therapy dogs. So, early in January of 2006, Brogan, Gracie and I all took part in the evaluation and passed. We visit the Rehab Centre in Waterville, and also Grand View Manor in Berwick.



Grooming both dogs of 120+ pounds of fur, is a huge task each week but one I look forward to as the dogs seem to know they will be soon headed to "work"! When I pull on my St. John Ambulance shirt, they prance about knowing it's time to go.

We usually go to the Manor as I find the weekend visit times there better for my schedule. Grand View Manor is also closer for travelling. The residents look forward to seeing the "girls" and they all have treats for the dogs. Brogan and Gracie even know which rooms to turn into before I get them to turn left or right and they will make me go back if I miss a door!. The residents enjoy the pictures I left with them of the dogs and they tell me how their families are pleased the dogs are visiting with them. I hear so many stories of pets the residents used to own and dearly miss. I've even found a lady we visit who used to breed show dogs! She's delighted with visits each week.

Newfoundland Dogs are known as "Gentle Giants" and they love to serve and protect people from danger, so Therapy Dog work is very rewarding for my dogs. They are after all, working dogs who love to be useful. They also love the pets, hugs and treats that "go with the job".

-Gloria Armstrong

"No matter how little money and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you rich."  
-Louis Sabin, *All About Dogs as Pets*

# Welcome New Volunteers!



Amanda Samson &  
Broghan (Truro)



Dawn D'Arcy & Leo (Truro)



Peter Nelson & Ireland (Truro)



Sarah D'Arcy &  
Sadie (Truro)



Rhonda Dahlman &  
Clara (Arichat)



Ulysse David & Ruby  
(Arichat)



## *Emergency Preparedness & Your Pet Continued...*

You should also have a portable pet disaster supplies kit assembled beforehand. Store items in a sturdy container such as a duffel bag or a tote. Keep your kit in an easily accessible place.

**The following is a list of items that the ASPCA recommends you put in your pet disaster kit:**

- Pet first aid kit & book
- 3-7 days worth of canned or dry food (remember to change the food every two months so that it doesn't spoil)
- disposable litter trays and litter (if you have a cat)
- liquid dish soap and disinfectant
- disposable garbage bags
- pet feeding dishes
- extra harness and leash (harnesses are recommended for safety and security)
- photocopies of medical records and a two week supply of any medications kept in a waterproof container
- bottled water, at least 7 days worth for each pet
- a crate or sturdy carrying bag, ideally one for each pet
- lawn stake and tether (for dogs)
- blanket
- flashlight
- recent photos of your pet (incase you are separated)
- List with feeding/medication schedule and instructions
- Can opener (if you use canned food)



The ASPCA also recommends that you fasten an ID tag to your pet's collar with their name and address on it. If you know where you will be staying during the disaster, affix that information to your pet's collar, as well as information regarding medication or health problems, in the event you are separated.

If you have any questions about emergency preparedness and your pet, contact your veterinarian or your local animal shelter.



Keep your pets safe with  
the St. John Ambulance  
**PET FIRST AID KIT**  
**\$17.00**

# The Gourmet Dog

.... Recipes For Your Best Friend.

## BONE BONANZAS

### Ingredients:

1/2 lb ground beef  
1/4 cup chicken broth  
1/3 cup mashed black beans  
1/3 cup cottage cheese  
1 tsp soy sauce

### Directions:

Combine ground meat and chicken broth in a bowl. Add the black beans and cottage cheese. Add soy sauce. Mix all of the ingredients together thoroughly. Mold the mixture into bone shapes and place on a cookie sheet. Bake for 45 minutes in a 375 degree oven. Let cool.



## Poetry Corner

### Room For One More

I see by his coat he must be a stray  
The untidy look gives him away  
He's lost his will and is so thin  
He hasn't eaten since God knows when  
I know as I coax him through the door  
There's always room for one more

The other night in the freezing rain  
That little female came up again  
Matted and soaked, crying in need  
Lost and alone with babies to feed  
Her pleading eyes I couldn't ignore  
There's always room for one more

There's a new face on the block today  
Hungry and unclean to our dismay  
I stroked her head and her body rippled  
When she got up I saw she was crippled  
She started to go but fell to the floor  
There's always room for one more

There's the poor dog standing in the rain  
I've tried to entice him time and again  
One ear's lopsided, the other's been torn  
Blind in one eye, lost and forlorn  
He's coming now, so I'll open the door  
There's always room for one more.

Author Unknown

"There is no faith which has never yet been broken, except that of a truly faithful dog."  
-Konrad Lorenz

## *In Memoriam*

I would like to take a moment to remember some of our Therapy Dogs who have gone to the Rainbow Bridge recently. They are greatly missed by all, and will forever be in our hearts.



*White Fang Reid*



*Irin Kincaid*



*Siri Potter*



*Fundy Gardam*



*Angel Weaver*



*Freya Potter*

"Say something idiotic and nobody but a dog politely wags his tail."  
- Virginia Graham

# WANTED: *Someone to Love*



*Missy*

Missy needs a new home where she can feel comfortable. Missy has new neighbors who have been causing her grief. Rather than put her in danger, her owners feel that she could give someone else the happiness of a companion.

Missy is a 6-7 year old spayed border collie lab mix in good health. She tends to be a little nervous until settled into a new situation as she can be weary. She adores small dogs and gets quite excited when she meets them. She also does fine with other dogs and ignores cats.

Missy is great with children and is quite the lifeguard. She is quiet and does well in situations where she can take care of herself. She's not a roamer and is just happy to be with her people. She loves to go for drives in the car and boat rides. She is accustomed to spending her days at a doggie daycare.

Missy needs a placement rather soon. She'd like to be settled in her new home by the winter, as she LOVES to play in the snow. Please complete an application if you are interested in Missy. You may contact Lee Anne at 902-577-7297 for more information about her.

## Picture Perfect

Send in photos of your dog to be featured in "Picture Perfect". See contact information below.



**Lucy Roch plays peek-a-boo (left)**

**PLEASE CONTACT**  
**TIFFANY MULLEN, PROGRAM ASSISTANT BY:**  
**PHONE: 902. 463-5646 ext 2302 \*\* new phone number\*\***  
**TOLL-FREE: 1.800.565.5056**  
**FAX: 902. 469.9609**  
**OR BY EMAIL: [tmullen@stjohnambulance.ns.ca](mailto:tmullen@stjohnambulance.ns.ca)**  
**MAIL: 88 Slayter Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2A6**  
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