

## Annual General Meeting

Canine Helpers for the Disabled Inc held its 2007 Annual General Meeting on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Two members of the Management Committee stood down from the Committee. Warm thanks go to Secretary Lynn Sly and Member Cynthia Fisher for their commitment to the Committee for the past several years. Both Lynn and Cythia will remain involved in Canine Helpers.

### Change of office hours

The Canine Helpers office is now open 9am – 5pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Kate Jenian nominated for the position of Secretary, and was elected to the position. The Management Committee for 2008 is as follows:

President	Chris Hargreaves
Treasurer	Megan Hargreaves
Secretary	Kate Jenian
Member	Nicole Hargreaves



There are two more positions available for ordinary members on the Committee, and Canine Helpers would like to invite applications from people in a wide range of industries, such as dog training and behaviour, disability services, pet care or products or vets/vet nurses. The Management Committee meets in Brisbane four times a year and discusses the current and future operations of Canine Helpers. If you are interested please contact the office on 07 3264 8608 (Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) or email [kate@therapydogs.org.au](mailto:kate@therapydogs.org.au).

## Private Certification Program



Jo Morgan and Caddie, Private Certification graduates.

Canine Helpers has been successful in securing funding for the 2008 Private Certification Program. This was made possible by Andrew Holmes (Canine Helpers volunteer dog trainer and President of Pine Rivers Dog Obedience Club) applying to his employer's community program. Brambles Community Reach is a program that supports the volunteer interests of its employees, and Andrew nominated Canine Helpers. Thanks, Andrew!

The Private Certification Program enables people who have trained their own dog to help them to have their dog accredited as an assistance dog, and to also be certified for public access, if required. Each course is run over six months, with individual and group training sessions, designed to ensure all assistance dogs reach the standards set by Assistance Dogs International and meet all the public access requirements.

The funding we have received for the program enables us to run these courses at a much reduced cost to participants, which will hopefully allow more people to take advantage of this unique service. We are now open for applications to the Program; please email [kate@therapydogs.org.au](mailto:kate@therapydogs.org.au) or call the office for an application pack to be sent out to you.

## Promotion Events

We have a number of promotional events coming up in March and April, and we are looking for volunteers to help us out – with or without a Canine Helpers assistance dog!

We particularly need people for the Spectacular Petacular on the weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March, as it's a big event, and for the Caboolture Family Pet Show, as that event is on the same weekend as our promotion weekend at Westfield Chermside.

Thank you to those volunteers who have already made themselves available, and more details will be forwarded before each event. If you are able to spare a few hours to help us promote Canine Helpers, by giving out brochures and talking to members of the public about our services, please contact me at [kate@therapydogs.org.au](mailto:kate@therapydogs.org.au) or by phoning the office. Some transport may be available.

Date	Time	Location	Type of event
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	9am – 4pm	Spectacular Petacular, RNA Showgrounds, Bowen Hills	Stall and possible demonstration; donation tins
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30 – 10.30am	Annerley Friendship Group, Annerley	Presentation and demonstration
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	10am – 12pm	Older Women's Network, Annerley	Presentation and demonstration
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Thurs 12noon – 7pm; Fri – Sat 9am – 12pm	Westfield Chermside	Table, demonstrations, donation tins
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	9am – 4pm	Caboolture Family Pet Show, Centenary Lakes	Stall and possible demonstration; donation tins

## Membership of Canine Helpers

Show your support of Canine Helpers and become a member! Any member that joins or renews now will have their membership period extended to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009. Membership is not compulsory, and you do not have to be a member in order to access services from Canine Helpers.

New clients are entitled to free membership for their first year.

Annual Membership Rates are:

- Ordinary \$22
- Junior \$11
- Family \$38.50
- Life \$550 (after having been financial for one year).

Please contact the office for a membership form to be sent to you.

## Donated Items

We have received a donation of material offcuts from community group Knitting for Brisbane's Needy. These are being made into door tugs, toys and snoods (for keeping long ears out of food, dirt etc). If you would like any of these items, please contact the office and they can be sent out to you. Door tugs can be made to order, to suit individual requirements.

## Health Warning for Dogs

### Raisin Toxicity

Written by: Laurinda Morris, DVM, Danville Veterinary Clinic, Danville, Ohio USA



My patient was a 56-pound, 5 yr old male neutered lab mix that ate half a canister of raisins sometime between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM on Tuesday. He started with vomiting, diarrhea and shaking about 1AM on Wednesday but the owner didn't call my emergency service until 7AM.

I had heard somewhere about raisins AND grapes causing acute Renal failure but hadn't seen any formal paper on this. We had her bring the dog in immediately. In the meantime, I called the ER service at MedVet, and the doctor there was like me - had heard something about it, but... Anyway, we contacted the ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center and they said to give IV fluids at 1½ times maintenance and watch the kidney values for the next 48-72 hours.

The dog's BUN (blood urea nitrogen level) was already at 32 (normal less than 27) and creatinine over 5 (1.9 is the high end of normal). Both are monitors of kidney function in the bloodstream. We placed an IV catheter and started the fluids. Rechecked the renal values at 5PM and the BUN was over 40 and creatinine

over 7 with no urine production after a liter of fluids. At the point I felt the dog was in acute renal failure and sent him on to MedVet for a urinary catheter to monitor urine output overnight as well as overnight care.

He started vomiting again overnight at MedVet and his renal values have continued to increase daily. He produced urine when given lasix as a diuretic. He was on 3 different anti-vomiting medications and they still couldn't control his vomiting. Today his urine output decreased again, his BUN was over 120, his creatinine was at 10, his phosphorus was very elevated and his blood pressure, which had been staying around 150, skyrocketed to 220. He continued to vomit and the owners elected to euthanize.

This is a very sad case - great dog, great owners who had no idea raisins could be a toxin. Please alert everyone you know who has a dog of this very serious risk. Poison control said as few as 7 raisins or grapes could be toxic. Many people I know give their dogs grapes or raisins as treats including our ex-handlers. Any exposure should give rise to immediate concern.

For more information go to <http://www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/raisins.asp>

Thank you to Jo Morgan for sending us this information.

## New Safety Product

The RSPCA is now selling stickers for you to put up in your home, to indicate to members of the Emergency Services how many pets are on the property. They are \$3.95 each and you can find them on the RSPCA website in the Dog Tags category under Dog Pet Products:

[http://www.worldforpets.com.au/product\\_info.php?cPath=24\\_36\\_46&products\\_id=1146](http://www.worldforpets.com.au/product_info.php?cPath=24_36_46&products_id=1146)

It is also a good idea to have a sign up near your front door to explain that your dog is an assistance dog, and who to contact on its behalf in case you are having to leave your property quickly, such as being taken to hospital.



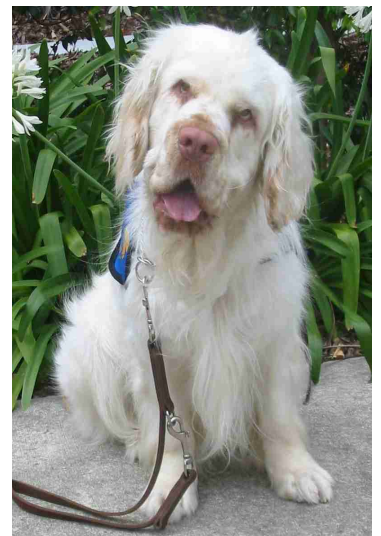
## Facility Dog at the Prince Charles Hospital

The idea of having a Facility Dog at the Prince Charles Hospital was a culmination of comments from patients and observations physiotherapist Chris Colavitti had made over the years of the personal difficulties that people endured through the lengthy path of recovery from a major health crisis. One outstanding feature was the expression of loss of closeness to family which is to be expected, hence visiting times, but there were no allowances made for the loss of contact with family pets or simply that touch of living creatures.

Physiotherapy treatment can be demanding and it can be hard for someone with the need to exercise daily to maintain enthusiasm month after month - even if it is for their own well-being. The concept behind having a facility dog is that the dog's introduction to physiotherapy treatment sessions will add that innovative element and provide that motivation as well as another way to achieve strength, balance and co-ordination.

Enter Bundy! Bundy is a fully trained Assistance Dog from Canine Helpers, with his skills focused on being actively involved in the delivery of Physiotherapy treatment techniques to the patients. Chris Colavitti is Bundy's handler, and continues to train with Bundy on a regular basis, to maintain his high levels of obedience and his tasks. Bundy is allowed access to the hospital due to his accredited status. The Physiotherapy Department's obstacle garden has an area that has been fenced off for Bundy to have some down time, courtesy of The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) Executive. Just like the other staff at the hospital, Bundy needs some breaks throughout the day.

It is believed by international and national experts that TPCH is the first hospital to introduce a programme of this nature into the Acute Adult Rehabilitation Physiotherapy field. It is hoped in the future he will also work with the Occupational Therapists and Speech Pathologists. Chris have already had requests to take him down to ECU and Mental Health wards. The feedback and results that he has achieved already have been extraordinary. His success may pave the way for another facility dog! It is a great innovative addition to patient care and the future will no doubt be very interesting.



## Greencross Vet Plan Update

While Greencross Vet is no longer accepting new applications to its Vet Plan scheme, existing clients are able to keep renewing their subscription for the life of their pet. Canine Helpers clients who already have a Vetplan for their assistance dog can continue to have free subscriptions for their dog. When completing the renewal form, write "Canine Helpers Assistance Dog" in the payment section.

## For Sale: Wheelchair Wheels

Pair of unused 27" wheels, with 25mm tyres. Quick release. Purchase price \$550; selling for \$250 ono. Please contact the office for details.

## Contact Details

*Our new office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9am – 5pm.*

## Canine Helpers for the Disabled Inc

PO Box 440, Albany Creek Qld 4035  
Ph: 07 3264 8608, Fax: 07 3264 8607  
Email: [info@therapydogs.org.au](mailto:info@therapydogs.org.au)  
Web: [www.therapydogs.org.au](http://www.therapydogs.org.au)

**Kate Jenian**  
Fundraising Co-ordinator  
Editor, *Dogs at Work*  
[kate@therapydogs.org.au](mailto:kate@therapydogs.org.au)