



Talk to the Paw

Support Dogs, Inc. Volunteer Newsletter
Winter 2017



Linda Rau and Lucy

Who would have known that within six months of owning Lucy, Linda Rau was ready to place her dog in a new home? Now, some eight years later, and after much training and practice, Lucy is quite the joy for Linda and has “TOUCHed” the lives of many.

Linda always had dogs in her life. She showed her collie and taught some obedience classes in years past. She had been without a dog for about a year when she adopted two-year old Lucy, who spent most of her life in a backyard and a garage. After about six months, Linda had tried everything but wasn't getting through to Lucy, so she started looking for a new home for her. One day Linda fell while walking Lucy and dropped the leash. Linda thought for sure that Lucy would run away. Instead, Lucy ran back over to Linda to comfort her. And, with that, their bond was sealed.



In 2011, Linda initially graduated from the TOUCH certification program with an Adult ranking and visited St. Luke's Rehabilitation Hospital and Dolan Properties. Then, she increased her ranking to Child and began visiting at McCallum Place. Linda recently initiated visits at DePaul Hospital. In December 2016, Linda and Lucy achieved an Acute ranking and have now started visiting at Ranken Jordan, a long-time goal of Linda's.

Linda tells several stories of visits that will remain forever in her heart. One such story was when they were visiting at a high school de-stress day. Linda brought Lucy's bookmarks for the students. One special needs student wanted a bookmark, so Linda fanned them out for the girl to choose one. Lucy immediately intervened without prompting, selected one and presented it to the student. Linda was surprised that Lucy did not destroy the paper and even was willing to give it to the girl. The girl gave a big smile as she admired the bookmark and Lucy's special act.

Linda says it is an indescribable feeling to watch Lucy interact with the patients and how she mysteriously knows how to comfort them. In Linda's words, “It fills me up!”

Thank you to Linda and Lucy for your service and dedication

**TOUCH Car Decals
Now Available for \$10**

**Call Cindi or Stephanie at
314-997-2325**

TOUCH Dog Handler – Loss
Larry Bierman (12/21/2016)

TOUCH Dogs – Rainbow Bridge
Hannah (Spring Thomas)
Broch (Eileen Thomson)
Lucy (Vicki McAmis)

Speaker's Series – February 22nd
Dr. Denny Van Hook
Aging in Dogs – Health Aging or Disease



Dr. Van Hook spoke to a full house about what is normal aging in dogs and what may require a trip to your vet for further investigation. The talk was very informative and Dr. Van Hook answered a wide range of questions.



*** Something New ***

Peanut butter and pumpkin cookies

- 3/4 cup of canned pumpkin
- 3 Tbsp peanut butter
- 2 eggs
- 3 cups flour (can use 1 cup whole wheat and 2 cups white)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Mix all ingredients together with a fork until a thick batter is formed

Finish mixing with your hands

Roll out onto a floured surface

Cut into any desired shape

Place on an ungreased cookie sheet

Bake for 20 minutes

Enjoy!



Check out: www.thelittlefoxfactory.com
for breed-specific cookie cutters

Volunteer Advisory Council Members

- Val Anania
- Jo Ann Bane
- Jan Boyle
- Sharon Dozier
- Jim Ellis
- Barbara Harris
- Jim Hart
- Candace Metcalf
- Shelley Newman (Secretary)
- Cindy Perez
- Bob Snyder
- Sue Weick (Chair)
- Patty Zubal (Vice Chair)

Contact the Volunteer Advisory Council at the following email if you are interested in joining the team. VAC@supportdogs.org

The goal of the Volunteer Advisory Council is to grow the volunteer team, improve the volunteer experience, and support the staff to be able to provide more services to more people in a professional and safe manner.

TOUCH Teams



If you have not already done so, please log your hours and the number of contacts for each of your visits (numbers of people visited equates to funding dollars).

SDI will be audited by Assistance Dogs International. The following link will take you to the volunteer reporting form. Just fill it out, hit submit and it will be sent directly to Cindi.

<https://www.supportdogs.org/volunteer-reporting-forms/touchpaws-for-readinghosprice-monthly-visit-log/>

Thank you!



Future PAWS for Reading Class

If you are interested in helping children that are learning or struggling to gain literacy skills, contact Cindi Blanke about future classes and she will add you to the list.

Volunteer Advisory Council Corner

- Is there someone you think we should highlight in this newsletter? Let us know!
- Do you have a photo of your TOUCH team or of you doing VPR work? Send us the picture!

We'd love to include these in future newsletters. Send an email to us at

VAC@supportdogs.org.

Facilities Needing TOUCH Teams

- Current facility (63146) really needs adult teams. If you cannot commit to all, can you agree to be a sub for them? Often they have to cancel visits because they do not have a minimum of two teams. Medium to large tolerant dogs **please** as they need to allow being hugged. Looking for TOUCH visits on the 1st & 3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm. Contact Mary Britch if you can help them out: 618-920-3822
- Adult Memory Care Facility in Collinsville, IL looking for TOUCH visits on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Contact Cindi Blanke.
- Children's Home in St. Charles would like to begin TOUCH visits asap on 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 6 - 7 pm.. Need 2 teams with Child or Acute ranking. Contact Cindi Blanke.
- Child facility (63130) needs teams (Mental/Behavioral Health Care) on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:30 pm. Contact Cindi Blanke.



Support Dogs Breeding and Whelping Program started 2017 with 2 new litters in January

Support Dogs whelping program continues at the new site with another 2 new litters born in January. One was born on January 12th (Lanie) and the other on January 31st (Honey). As always, you can check out live action on the puppy cam at: <https://www.supportdogs.org/puppy-cam/>

For more adorable pictures of Lanie's puppies click here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskMMsLg1>

For more adorable pictures of Honey's puppies click here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskUqCCYX>



Two of Lanie's 6 puppies who were born on January 12th



Honey had 9 puppies on January 31st



Honey & her puppies

VPRs hard at work in class



Bob & Susan Snyder with Carol



Ella Delbrugge with Amber



Marty Seiffert with Levi



Gai Kranz with King



Holly Nylander with Shandy



Jim Ellis with Dasher



Molly Root with Liberty



Patty Scott with Boch



Sandy Dunajcik with Avery



Sandy Fruch with Stella



Susan Weick with Otis





TOUCH Teams around town



TOUCH teams from L to R: Shelley Newman with Petie; Bill and Kathy Carrier with Jenny



Stacey Alexander (Thunder), Shelley Newman (Petie), Jessica Platt (Murphy), Beth Wehling (Gus), Sharon Wagner (Bacca), Mary Ann Virant (Moxie), Beth Freeman (Sasha), and Carolyn Korb (Jazz) – present but not pictured.

TOUCH Teams at the MoBap Heart Fair Feb 4, 2017



Dogs from L to R: Finnley (Gwen Lane), Lincoln (Michele Kappesser) and Beck (Karen Bellville)

SPOTLIGHT ON



Sherri Fransen, Whelpers Helper, VPR and Front Desk Helper



Why I volunteer at SDI: I LOVE dogs, especially Labs! I found SDI online and decided to drop in and check it out.

My favorite volunteer position: Spending time with the puppies as a Whelpers Helper or in the kennel is so much fun that I try to do both at least once a week. Fostering a "prison dog" really made me feel like one of the family.

My experience fostering Toby (prison dog): Toby was awesome! He knew so much from his training but so little about the real world. Television, mirrors, strollers, bicycles, wildlife - everything was new to him. We loved introducing him to new people and new experiences and couldn't have wished for more unconditional love in return.

Cutest story I have: Toby was scared by toddlers, another thing he had never seen before. So, we asked a friend if we could have a meet and greet with her two-year old daughter who had no fear of dogs. At first sight, Toby jumped backwards a full three feet! Kate went to her toy box, pulled out a toy for Toby, then covered him with her blanket. It was an instant friendship!

My thoughts for future volunteers: This is an incredibly rewarding experience! After attending my first graduation, I really "got" the impact these dogs have on people's lives. It is immeasurable and they couldn't do it without the dedicated staff and volunteers who work with them every day.

Volunteers at A Fetching Affair Gala – February 18th Chase Park Plaza



Back Row – Beth Biondo, Sue Guzek, Mandy Burtelow, Stephanie Goeckner, Georgann Voss, Jim Voss, Kathy Dierkes, Tom Seiffert, Barbara Harris/Dara, Marty Seiffert, Jesus Becerra, Becky Prag/Dakota, Michelle Schaeffer, Patty Zupal, Kathy Tober, Nichole Ahlers, Christina Green, Carolyn DeVaney, Linda Tippett, Sue Suddarth, Chris Groff, Sara Chincock, Jan Lynch

Middle Row - Cindy Perez/Pepper, Ann Ferguson/Pumba, Linda Clay/Mac, Linda Rau/Lucy, Pat Dirsra, Belle Barnard/Trudy, Karen Bellville/Beck, Rob Verbarb/Raina, Priya Patel, Madison Long

Front Row – Maureen Buck, Val Anania/Willow, Margaret Weiss/Molly, Carla Dawson/Pearl, Stacey Alexander/Thunder, Jamie Motley, Yamily Tito, Courtney Abegg

Not pictured – Ted Abegg, Candace Metcalf, Shelley Newman, Jeannine Seitz