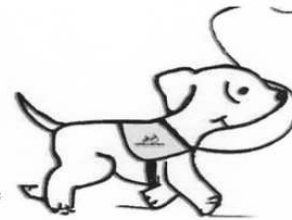




Cascade Chapter For CCI

Jan/Feb 2006

CASCADE CHAPTER



To see the photos in color and to read the newsletter on-line go to:
www.ccicascade.com

BIG NEWS!!!!

By Lorna O'Connor

Hello Everyone,

I have some very exciting news to share with all of you!
Starting in January of 2006, CCI will now have SIX graduations and turn-ins per year. The dates for 2006 are as follows:

January 28th
March 24th **FRIDAY**
May 20th
July 22nd
September 30th
November 18th

This means that there will be some changes in turn-in dates for some of you. Those of you who will be turning in this coming January will be receiving a letter confirming this within the next couple of weeks. For those turning in at any other time in 2006, you will receive a letter confirming your turn-in date

approximately 6 weeks beforehand, as we have always done in the past. We are very excited that CCI will be better able to fulfill our mission of providing these exceptional dogs with these 6 graduations. Thank you for all that you do to love and support the puppies that you raise for this program!

IN MEMORIAM

By Amy Hausrath

I am very sad to report that Jaffie passed away very suddenly on Tuesday evening (12/5). She died doing the things she loved. We had just played ball in the yard where she was running and jumping like she was a pup. We came in for dinner and I gave her her thyroid pill, and put her food bowl down for dinner as routine. She looked at her food, and walked over to her bed and just kind of slumped onto it.

I thought she was having one of her vestibular disorder episodes and just held her and told her I loved her.

When she didn't snap out of it after a few minutes, I called the vet and told them to wait for me because I was bringing her in. I held her and loved her and en route to the vet she moaned several times and died in my arms.

I want to honor Jaffie, as she has touched the lives of many, many children and people in the Vancouver School district. I posted a letter to the list several years ago, and have adapted it a little bit to make it a little more current. I know it's long, but I hope you enjoy:

Amy & Jaffie

For those new to the list, or in need of a reminder, I teach a self-contained special education class for students with moderate to severe disabilities in Vancouver, Washington. It is my greatest hope that people will recognize each of my students for their unique and endearing personalities, and not their disabilities. Middle school can be rough and the reality remains that peer pressure and other influences often limit the acceptance of my students into the general culture of the school. Sadly, some of my students feel that. Many people tend to dismiss the fact that my students experience the same emotions and life experiences as their non-disabled peers. What they don't see is the struggle my students face to cope, process and heal from unbelievable pain and discrimination the likes of which I have never experienced. Even so, my students always remain true to character. They are loyal, forgiving,

compassionate, open and honorable. It is they who teach me about integrity, honesty and citizenship.

Jaffie provided support to my students in a very unique way. Two of my former students were literally dumped on the streets by their families who were no longer able to cope with the stress of having a disabled child. Another was raped by the foster parent that should have been protecting him from further abuse and neglect. Just this past year, one of my former students died from an overdose of Tylenol. This year I have a young woman who has been in so many foster homes she can't count them all. There have been many days where I have crawled into bed feeling defeated for not being able to reach my troubled teens.

There have been times when my students closed themselves off to human contact because they have been so wounded by the people they loved the most. However, when I am unable to reach them, Jaffie could still touch their souls. She was able to provide unconditional love without hidden agendas. She listened without judgment. One of my students told me a heartbreaking story about how she was not included in a family reunion because her parents "didn't have time to drag her around". Jaffie never complained if a trip to the cafeteria took a minute or an hour. She patiently matched every stride, every roll, and every step with a walker. She accepted every student, under every circumstance, all the time. She

brought peace to the room that I simply could not provide. She was the emotional support my students needed. She was their comforter, friend and loyal partner. Jaffie was the great equalizer. When one of my students was with her, people saw a kid and a dog, never a disability. She provided an avenue of independence for my students. She picked up things that were dropped; she opened doors, carried items to the library. Jaffie carried one student's blood sugar kit to the nurse everyday so he could get his blood sugar checked. Without Jaffie, he refused to go because going to the nurse involved a needle poke and it hurt and there was nothing in it for him. Once Jaffie got involved, he never complained again. Another student had to stand in a prone stander for an hour a day. He HATED it. Jaffie again came to the rescue. She would sit in his wheelchair which would put their heads at almost the same level. Adam could love on her and slip her dog biscuits (which she loved). Both would beg for prone stander time.

She provided an avenue to teach hygiene and vocational skills. The students maintained all her health, hygiene and exercise needs. There were daily responsibilities that came with her. She needed her teeth brushed, paws checked, ears cleaned, fur brushed. She got baths at school and ran with the tennis ball at recess. The kids learned skills that they could carry over to any job. They maintained a routine, learned specific language for a specific job (they all learned her commands). By maintaining her health and hygiene, that carried over into their lives. I had

so many parents thank me because bath time and grooming became second nature. I didn't do it - Jaffie did.

Jaffie generated a lot of media attention for my students and for my school district. She'd been in the Oregonian, The Columbian, on Animal Planet, AM Northwest, Evening Magazine, Channels 2, 6, 8, 12... I occasionally hear that a program she was on was replayed on TV and people call me and tell me her story really touched them. This media attention really increased my student's self esteem. They were recognized for something that was not about their disability. They spoke publicly about her. Other classrooms used her in their curriculum. She even helped develop a healthy sense of competition by bowling with the kids. Yes, she bowled, and averaged about a 90.

Jaffie was the first, but now not the only dog in a school in Vancouver. Jaffie was the inspiration for several teachers to get certified in pet therapy so they could bring a dog into their room. She was the inspiration for several families to apply to CCI to get their own CCI dog. She was the inspiration for some to become puppy raisers not only for CCI, but also with Guide Dog programs. She has touched the lives of many, many people. I think the Facility Dog program is the neatest program, because so many people can be touched and impacted in a profound way.

Jaffie did her best work at Columbia River High School. News has

traveled of her passing and I have received dozens of emails from teachers, custodians, secretaries, people on the paint crew, kitchen staff, physical therapists, my dentist....it's amazing. As I reflect back to when my students said goodbye to her and the end of the school year, hugging her and shedding tears like only people do when they know they won't see a loved one for an extended period of time, it makes me really happy. I know she was loved and had a great life. She inspired me, and a whole lot of kids! I am so honored that I was given a chance to take care of Jaffie, and watch her take care of so many people in turn. Jaffie was my best friend and I am going to miss her.

Please keep me and my classroom in your thoughts and prayers.

EARLY

By Sara Hamill



Early screamed his way into my life, arriving from Santa Rosa LATE. His flight was almost an hour behind schedule. But boy could we hear him coming once he got to the Alaska cargo station. Poor darling! He screamed all the way home in the car and continued through the day and night. I was seriously wondering what have Donna Fuller and I gotten ourselves into.

Early is a doll and quite a handsome fellow, fathered by Bauman. He is growing like a weed. He went from 14 lbs. at arrival to 27 lbs. by his second shot. His third shot is this week and I can't wait to see how much bigger he has gotten.

Donna and I are sharing custody. He stays with each of us for about a week to two weeks and then we trade him off. We both make an effort to attend CJ's Friday class with him. He's a happy and high energy little fellow. Quite a change from Tilden!

COURTNEY II

*By The Askers
Sharon, Dave, and Kelly Ann*



On November 18, the Asker Family from Brush Prairie Washington welcomed Courtney II. Dave, Sharon, their daughter Kelly Ann, and the family's 15 year-old Border Collie Pepper are adjusting to the addition of a new puppy to a normally calm and quiet household. Kelly Ann, who turns three this month is quickly learning to pick up her toys so they don't get confused with the myriad of Kongs, Nylabones, and chew toys on the floor. She loves Courtney's soft fur and puppy kisses. However, the jury is still out for Pepper. Being a senior, she has a limited desire to play; but Courtney is persistent and the two can often be seen romping in the backyard.

Courtney is responding well to training, and is quickly mastering many of the basic commands. She accepts the gentle leader quite well, and walks nicely on leash most of the time. Her houstraining is coming along, albeit slowly. Just recently, Sharon celebrated her first seven hour stretch of sleep without getting up to "hurry" since Courtney arrived!

All in all the Askers are excited about their journey with Courtney II and the CCI family and hope to meet all of the Cascade Chapter members very soon.



Peacock Lane Outing By Heather Ohmart

The humans turned into icicles but the canines seemed to weather our trek out into the cold, windy night to see the lights on Peacock Lane. The dogs all acted liked pros, walking past the lights and lawn ornaments as if they had seen them every day of their lives. And the crowds, traffic and horse drawn carriages didn't so much as make them bat an eye. But the humans....oh, we were so happy to get inside a warm restaurant afterwards. Brrrr....



Post Holiday Party – January the 14th

It's coming; it's coming! This year's Post Holiday Party will be held at Heather Ohmart's home in NE Portland. The potluck party is a Must and is truly for

everyone who receives our newsletter – Grads, Puppy-Raisers, Trainers, Volunteers - hungry people. Bring a potluck dish to share. We'll provide tableware and non-alcoholic beverages.

Along with your potluck dish, bring a wrapped gift for the gift swap. In fact, you will need to bring a gift for each person in your family who is planning to participate in the gift swap. (4 participating people, 4 gifts). Generally gifts are in the \$10 range. Items do not have to be dog related because not everyone in attendance has a dog. Remember – don't get too attached to the first gift you open because it may be long gone by the end of the evening. Each gift can be snatched up to two times.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Send photos for consideration for the 2007 CCI calendar to:

Bill Blake
bblake@cci.org

Send articles and/or photos for inclusion in this newsletter to:

Mike Templeman
mantamike@att.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Chapter Holiday Party * 14th

Location:
 2628 NE Fremont St. Portland, OR

Puppy Play Time: 3:00
 Potluck* 4:30
 Gift Exchange (optional)* 6:00

Graduation 28th
 Friedman Center, Santa Rosa

MARCH

FRIDAY Graduation 24th
 Friedman Center, Santa Rosa

* - For more information, call Heather at (503) 281-8878, or email her at: heather@gooddogsit.com

GAME TIME!

Here is the answer key to last issue's Hidden Commands Puzzle: How many did you find?

COMMANDS

