



Southern California

MARCH 2011
In this issue

Champions "SPEAK"

Want to know more about CCI's Hearing Dog Program?

By Kim Jaurena

Have you always wanted to know more about CCI's Hearing Dog Program? Do you want to know why the dogs are only trained in Santa Rosa or what makes one dog appropriate for the program and not another? If so, then you need to come to the SoCal Champions meeting in Menifee on June 4th and find out the answer to these questions and more. The Inland Empire volunteers are hosting the meeting and they have an exciting day planned.

The day will start off with a fun activity that will give all dogs in attendance a chance to work off some of their wiggles before settling in for our speaker. Once the dogs are nice and tired we will head inside to listen to CCI trainer, Becca Gordon. Becca will show us some videos and tell us all about the Hearing Dog Program.

Following Becca's talk, the Inland Empire group will serve lunch. So, if you plan to join us for this fun and informative day please RSVP to Kim Jaurena at kjjaurena@verizon.net or through the Meet Up site www.meetup.com/CCI-Puppy-Raiser-So-California/ We hope to see you all in Menifee on June 4th!

June 4th - 10:00am
Paloma Valley High School
31375 Bradley Road
Menifee, CA 92564
(Just off the 215 Freeway)

Orange County Meeting Had Important Message

By Kim Jaurena

Living in SoCal teaches us that an emergency such as a wildfire or an earthquake can happen at any time. At the January Champions meeting we were reminded that it is not only important to have a plan for the humans in our family but it is also important to plan ahead for the animals in our lives as well. We need to consider their needs when organizing supplies like food and water. The Champions members who gathered at the Garden Grove Library were very glad the ladies of Surf City Animal Rescue gave up their time to come talk to us. We are also very thankful to Judee Slack for organizing the event.

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Upcoming Events

APRIL

- 9th - "Balboa Barks"
10:00 - 3:00
Balboa Park, San Diego

MAY

- 14th - CCI Graduation
12:00
Mission San Luis Rey
Oceanside, CA

JUNE

- 4th - Champions meeting in Riverside County
- 11th - Grad Appreciation
9:00 - 2:30
CCI Campus Oceanside

AUGUST

- 12th - CCI Graduation
12:00
Mission San Luis Rey,
Oceanside, CA

OCTOBER

- 7th - Golf Tournament
Pelican Bay, Newport Beach



A Day of Peace, Love & Canine Companions

Balboa Barks Needs You!

BALBOA BARKS: A DAY OF PEACE, LOVE & CANINE COMPANIONS *Groovy dog festival benefits Canine Companions for Independence*

Canine Companions for Independence will host its seventh annual dog and people festival with a new name but the same 60's-themed fun on Saturday, April 9, 2011 from 10AM to 3PM in San Diego's Balboa Park. Formerly known as WOOFSTOCK, the newly named BALBOA BARKS: A DAY OF PEACE, LOVE & CANINE COMPANIONS™ will include "outta sight" contests, food and shopping at the corner of Park Boulevard and Presidents Way. All proceeds from BALBOA BARKS™ will benefit Canine Companions for Independence, the Oceanside nonprofit organization that provides assistance dogs to people with disabilities completely free of charge. This fab festival is open to the public and well-behaved, leashed dogs. Admission is only \$7 and discount coupons will be available at local businesses. Children under five receive free admission and parking is free. Sponsorship and vendor opportunities are available online at www.cci.org/balboabarks or by calling (760) 901-4306.

The day will begin with the Peace, Love & Canine Companions dog walk at 9AM. Walk registration fee (\$35 adult, \$15 child, \$75 family) includes a cool official BALBOA BARKS™ tee shirt, free festival admission and a sWAG bag filled with great surprises! The walk is approximately 1.3 miles through beautiful Balboa Park. Online registration is available at www.cci.org/balboabarks. Walkers have the opportunity to raise funds for Canine Companions and exciting prizes will be awarded based on the donations collected.

BALBOA BARKS™ begins at 10AM with plenty of activities for the family and Fido. Visitors will enjoy amazing demonstrations by Canine Companions assistance dogs, Disc Dogs in Southern California and the Ballistic Racers Flyball Team. Guests will have the opportunity to try their pets on the flyball course as well as the K9 Agility Playground. Shop all day at dozens of vendor booths for unique pet products. Get a bargain on one-of-a-kind items in the silent auction from 10AM to NOON. Attendees should bring their appetites to enjoy delicious food options for humans and canines alike. Sign up for fun dog contests (all with free entry) and check out the Kids Zone for games and crafts.

Volunteers are still needed to help make Balboa Barks a success. If you would like to volunteer to help out please contact the volunteer coordinator for the event, Susan Spicer at susanspicer47@aol.com



*** Save the Date ***

Graduate Appreciation Day!

When: June 11, 2011

Time: 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

**Where: CCI Southwest Regional Center
Oceanside, California**

**What: Informational Booths, Food, Raffle Prizes,
Discounted Vet Consultations, Music, Fun, Re-certification**



May 2011 Matriculating Puppies

BRONWEN raised by Gail Gerbie
CLORISE raised by the Snowiss Family
FABLE III raised by Teresa Woods
GINNY III raised by Dori Sexton
GOLIATH raised by Nancy Dickson
HARRISON III raised by Betty & Mike Makowski
PAINTER raised by Beverly Mead
SUE II raised by John & Doreen Mayo
TIFFI II raised by Bonnie Mueller
WILLAMETTE III raised by Rick Williams & Jamie Stewart

Please come to support these dogs as they enter the next phase in their journey to become "exceptional dogs for exceptional people"



If you are raising a dog that will matriculate August 2011 please send the following info to kbjarena@verizon.net by May 15th -

- Pups CCI name
- Puppy raiser name (Please do not include the names of anyone under 18)



The Drill Team Does It Again! A Big Hit at the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

By Pattie Urie Photo by Glenn Urie

The CCI (SW) Parade Drill Team was the highlight of the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast held on January 30th at Rancho Bernardo High School. It was a very cold morning but the team showed up bright and early to meet and greet the public and show their support and appreciation to the Lions Club who are major supporters of CCI.

The purpose of the Drill Team is to provide a positive representation of CCI through a visual demonstration of the skills of our dogs under a high distraction setting. The Drill Team is composed of both puppies in program and graduate dogs.

The Drill Team made a grand entrance as they filed into the quad area in formation. Drill Master Jim Siegfried addressed the attendees and explained the mission of CCI and the volunteer puppy raising program that ultimately provides service dogs for people with disabilities. Jim called out the drill commands and the team sprang into action which pleased the crowd.

The activities caught the eye of a local newspaper who gave the team the front page of their next edition.

A big thanks goes out to the members of the Drill Team who were able to perform at this event including Kathy Bennett, Connie Braddy, Jeannette DeWyze, Janice Flynn, Patty Giddings, Betty Makowski, Dorene Robertson, Jim Siegfried, and Pattie Urie.

The Drill Team has continual openings for new members with the constant rotation of puppies in program. Contact Pattie Urie at pattyurie@yahoo.com for more information or to sign up today!



My Journey for A Successor Dog

Article and photo by Roz Silberschein

I graduated Team Training in 2002 with a 2 year old pure black, English Lab, named Brenda III. She was a bit older than her fellow classmates because she had been returned by a woman who needed a service dog but who couldn't handle this "spunky girl!" A better term would be a "wild woman!" She was full of energy and wanted to work, so CCI re-trained her and added "Hearing" to her repertoire. She can do everything but wash my dishes. She picks things off the floor and pushes open doors and drawers and can turn lights on and off. She alerts me to all sounds in my environment. She's saved my life on many occasions. She's so smart and is truly my hero !!!

All that being said, she is now almost 11 years old and although she can run and catch a tennis ball faster than most of the 2 year olds in the park, it's taking her longer and longer to recover from that play. She's definitely slowing down on our walks and is finding it harder and harder to jump into and out of my SUV. I bought a special ramp just for that reason. She's been on all the food additives to supplement her joints (which is why she plays so well on the grass) but she is 11 years old and like us, she's tired. I respect that.

I work a full time job and she's by my side every single day. She meets me at the front door ready to go, when I leave in the morning. She's been on 14 cruises, has taken the train all up and down the west coast, has been to Alaska, Canada, Europe, and is almost a frequent flyer on Delta. She's spent more time in Las Vegas than I care to mention. She's a wonderful traveler and I can't imagine taking a trip without her.

However, I must be fair to her. And, I want her to retire being well and happy. My husband is retired, (Brenda and I call him PaPa) and, staying home with him would be like Disneyland to her. He spoils her at every turn and expects "nothing" from her . . . he'd pick her up and walk for her, if he could!

I went to a CCI event and saw one of the trainers from Oceanside who said that it was time for Brenda to think about retiring. I fell apart . . . I cried all the way home, in the car. The thought of this was overwhelming for me. "I can't be without my Brenny!"

After much thought and discussion with PaPa and taking a truly hard look at my amazing Hearing Dog, I realized it was the very best thing for her and me. I called CCI Santa Rosa, spoke with the Graduate Department and started the successor ball rolling.

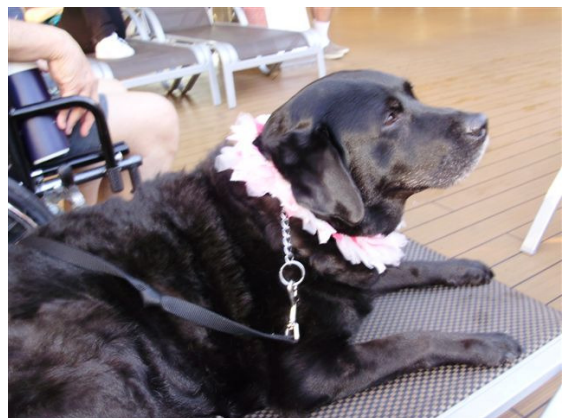
In about 3 weeks all the necessary paperwork for me to fill out arrived. There were questions just like I had been asked when I initially applied to CCI. They even wanted a picture. I sent them one from one of our most recent cruises - Brenda with her gold bow, me in my formal wear and PaPa in his tux. They wanted to know where and what I was going to do with Brenda. It also mentioned that there could be as much as a 2 year waiting list. Successful Hearing Dog Teams who are looking for a successor dog aren't "bumped" to the top of the list? I asked this question but was never given a direct answer. Again, each case has to be treated individually and on a "case-by-case" basis is what I was told. I get it, I just don't like it.

I was sent an email requesting a "phone interview" (just like before), my stomach is in knots. I look at Brenda as I anticipate the phone call and I ask the questions; "When did you get all that gray hair around your eyes and mouth?" "How did this happen so quickly?" "Why is your life so short?" Here come the tears and tomorrow comes the phone call. I'll write more later when I'm more composed and I'll let you know how that process goes.

Pawlightly,

Roz Silberschein

(Part Two of Roz's Journey will be in the June newsletter)



February 2011 Graduate Dogs

The February 2011 graduation ceremony was another emotion filled event. Four of the graduating dogs were raised locally in Southern California. This was the first Friday graduation ceremony but these local dogs had a faithful following to congratulate them and the puppy raisers who nurtured them.

Congratulations to the following dogs and their raisers -

Fay (Skilled Companion placement) - raised by Peter & Brenda Rothermel, Murrieta

Garden (Facility placement) - raised by Willie Crawford, San Diego

Joycie (Skilled Companion placement) - raised by Maureen Farris, Corona Del Mar
& Barbara Schlegel, Huntington Beach

Navy (Service Placement) - raised by Kathy & Rachel, Carlsbad

CCI Dorm Room Facelift Project

Article & photos by Pattie Urie

Over a year ago, puppy raiser Becky Rios noticed the lumpy comforters in the team training dorms. Becky teamed up with puppy raiser Cyndy Carlton and a new idea was born to offer handmade items for sale at a CCI graduation with all proceeds going toward replacing the dorm comforters. It didn't take long for others including Lyn Communale, Willie Crawford, Ann Deakers, Marilyn Fullen, and Pattie Urie to put their talents to good use making wonderful items for the sale.

That idea came to fruition last November for the SoCal Champions First Annual Boutique offering everything including crate quilts, aprons, paperweights, greeting cards, hats, infant wear, afghans, and hand towels. We have several very talented volunteers who gave their time and donated the materials to make these quality items that brought in just under \$1200.

With the purchase of new bedspreads for every dorm room, Part I of the Dorm Room Upgrade has now been completed and the rooms look warm and inviting.

It is now time for Part II of the Dorm Room Upgrade which involves the replacement of worn out sheets,

blankets, towels, and other items that have seen better days.

To facilitate this effort a **new gift registry** has been set up through JC Penney so anyone can go into the store or go on-line and purchase these next items.

To access the gift registry on-line, log onto JCPenney.com and click "gifts + registry"

Under *gift registries* click "special occasion"

Under *find a registry* put in the first name of "canine" and last name of "companions"

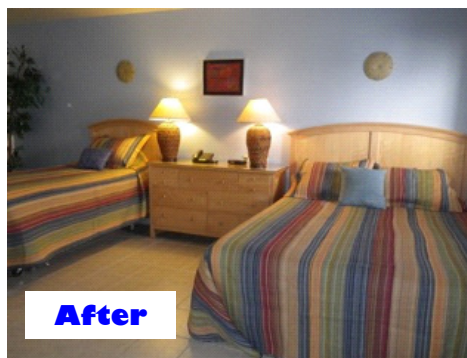
Then just click "go" and you are in.

Success: you will see a list of the items and quantities that are needed for the dorm rooms.

Adopt-a-Room is another way you can help complete the second phase of the Dorm Room Upgrade. This is the perfect solution for one person or a group of friends or co-workers that want to help this worthy project but aren't sure how to do it. Select one of each item on the list and help complete the dorm rooms one room at a time.



Before



After

Common Acute Allergic Reactions

By Justin Altman, DVM

With yearly vaccines an important part of your pet's general health maintenance, allergic reactions to vaccines are important to be aware of. Facial swelling, hives (small raised nodules on the skin), nausea, or extreme lethargy are signs of an allergic reaction to a vaccine. More severe reactions can include shock or sudden death. Anytime your veterinarian gives a vaccine to your pet, ask them about the potential side effects. Vaccine titers can be a good way of reducing the amount of immune response to a previously given vaccine. Most reactions happen the same day the vaccine is given, but can happen up to 48 hours later. I always prefer to give vaccines in the earlier appointments of the day, so if there is a reaction, I can manage it. Vaccine reactions from afternoon appointments often end up in the emergency room, as the reaction is often not noticed by the owner until our office is closed. A vaccine reaction should never be monitored at home unless recommended by a veterinarian after a physical exam and administered medications.

Insect or spider envenomation is a common occurrence for dogs. While most people tend to stay away from these terrifying annoyances, dogs tend to paw at them, or even eat them. Mild reactions to envenomations include swelling, redness, and itching.

More serious signs can be seen if an animal has an allergic reaction to the offending insect venom. Allergic reactions from bee stings, spider bites, etc. include hives, facial swelling, difficulty breathing, or collapse. If your dog is suffering from any of the allergic signs, you should take them to the veterinarian or local emergency room. If you are more than 30 minutes from a veterinarian, call them and find out if there is an appropriate oral medication you can give while on the way. If your pet is only suffering the mild, local effects, you can apply a cool compress, or a paste of baking soda and water to the area. If there is a stinger present, scrape it out of the skin with a credit card. Grasping the stinger with tweezers will likely inject more venom into your pet. Insect envenomation can occur with dead insects where the toxin is delivered via a stinger (bee stings, etc.) Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) is a commonly used antihistamine to help with allergic reactions. Please contact your veterinarian for a proper dosing schedule for your dog. It is very important to give your dog Benadryl with Diphenhydramine ONLY. Do not use Benadryl products that have other drugs in them. Some of these products contain acetaminophen or other drugs toxic to dogs.



October 2011 Golf Invitational Planners at Work

Canine Companions Invitational Golf Classic
& Celebration Dinner
Pelican Hill Golf Club ~ The Resort at Pelican Hill

PELICAN HILL
NEWPORT BEACH

Friday, October 7
1:00 pm Tee Off
6:30 pm
Celebration Dinner

register online
www.ccigolf.org

Exceptional Dogs for
Exceptional People
Since 1975

www.cci.org 1800-572-BARK

CANINE COMPANIONS
FOR EXCEPTIONALS

As soon as the 2010 Golf Tournament ended, the committee members started planning for 2011. When you have a fundraiser as big as this one it takes a lot of people and a lot of time. The 2011 Canine Companions Invitational Golf Classic will be held on Friday, October 7th at the Pelican Hill Golf Club in Newport Beach. If you are interested in helping out with this event please contact the Golf Tournament Chair, Pat Lawson, at makntrax@cox.net

You can also go to www.ccigolf.org and www.pelicanhill.com for more info on CCI Golf Tournaments or for info on the Pelican Hill course.

Volunteer Luncheon “Best in the West”

By Pattie Urie

The rain stopped just long enough for the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon to be a success. The CCI staff decorated the facility in a true western fashion and served up a variety of types of chili with all the fixin's, killer guacamole and chips, corn bread and cake.

Regional Director Linda Valliant praised the work of the volunteers, not just for working the booths or raising puppies, but for the mindset they have of embracing the organization and believing in the mission of CCI. Linda noted that in 2010 there were 46 new graduate teams, 275 graduate follow-up visits, 270 active puppy raisers, and \$2.3 million raised which enabled CCI to meet all program and development goals for the year.

Cheryl Crawford reminded everyone about the upcoming Balboa Barks event to be held on Saturday, April 9th. The event last year was a complete success and raised \$40,000. This year it looks like there will be good radio coverage and possibly even a live radio broadcast. Volunteers are still needed for the event and a list of dog friendly hotels is available for those coming in from out of town.

SoCal Champions President Jay Scrivener talked about the efforts to rebuild the Champions organization. He invited everyone to get on board, volunteer, and bring new ideas to the group. He mentioned several fundraising efforts including the dog washes and the dorm room project. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Jay at blackservicedog@gmail.com to “opt in” and get information and newsletters.

What Color is Your Puppy?

By Celeste Kennedy

“Big Deal”, you may say? My CCI puppy is Black or Yellow or Golden.

Kerry II is a brown puppy, Gail III is a black puppy. Asta is a purple puppy! What??? How can this be?

Long before a CCI puppy had a name, or a number in their ear, he or she had a color. Before the assignment of a litter letter, each litter of CCI puppies are individually assigned a color as they are born. A colored yarn collar is placed around their necks not long after birth. Each pup is then identified by this color as they grow. A red puppy is a red puppy. He's #1, in birth order, that is.

Four CCI volunteers were recognized for their individual contributions to CCI: Cheryl Crawford was a standout volunteer working year-round to organize and produce the Balboa Barks event; Kimi Yokota was recognized for her flexibility and positive personality in addition to the various booths and presentations that she did as a puppy raiser; Patty Giddings & Aberdeen were recognized for their work in promoting special events and in numerous booths, active participation in the Champions organization, work with local schools, and general support of CCI in multiple activities; and Nanci Shelton was recognized for her work with the puppy program entering data, doing anything and everything, working booths, helping at graduation, and for her “go with the flow” attitude. Congratulations to these wonderful volunteers.

After the food and formality it was time for the games to begin. Everyone enjoyed a few fun games with dog and handler teams such as tic-tac-toe. There were lots of prizes, lots of fun, and lots of laughs.

All in all this was a great party. The event was well organized with lots of planning and attention to details. Everyone on the CCI staff took part in the event to show their gratitude and appreciation for the effort of all the wonderful volunteers. It was nice to mingle with the staff and each other, meet new people, make new friends, and see the new puppies. If you didn't make it this year be sure to put it on your calendar next year! It is the party not to miss!

Here's the secret birth order color code:

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------|
| 1.Red | 6. Brown | 11. Black |
| 2.Blue | 7. Light Pink | 12. Yellow |
| 3. Purple | 8. Turquoise | 13. Gray |
| 4. Neon Green | 9. Orange | 14. Maroon |
| 5. Neon Pink | 10. Dark Green | |



Photo by Pam Flanagan

So puppy raisers, take a peek at the paperwork that came with the puppy you are raising if you are not already aware that he or she has a particular color identity. Celebrate their color with a new collar or bandana today!