



International Association of Animal Massage & Bodywork / Association of Canine Water Therapy



Hello Members,

Our organization is continuing its growth as you can see from the two full pages of new member listings in this newsletter, including members from Canada, Ireland, Singapore, UK, and the UAE. And to you new members: a warm welcome. We invite you to take full use of the opportunities of being a member of the IAAMB/ACWT. One of the first things you, and all the newer member practitioners can do, is participate in the annual educational conference, this June 24-25, (Friday and Saturday) in Toledo, OH. This will be your best opportunity to meet and learn from some of the most knowledgeable experts in the fields of animal massage and bodywork.

Of course, to our more, ahem, "mature" members, we invite you to become more participatory, too. You have so much to offer your newer comrades, especially our

student members. Your experience, your talents, your unique paths of growth and development are valuable resources for us all. Let us know if you would like to act in the capacity of mentor. You will surely enjoy and benefit from interacting and networking with fellow members at the conference.

In a recent article in *Massage Magazine* (December 2010), I read about how internet conferences were taking the place of hands-on seminars. The author, whose expertise in hot stone work, noted that people who had never had personal hands-on training were claiming to be qualified in hot stone applications, simply because they had completed an online course. As an instructor, I too am sensitive to this. I cannot comfortably support the people who had only taken distance learning courses. It is with personal, one-on-one instruction that one learns the nuanced subtleties of pressures, alignment, breathing and presence.

I'm pleased to announce that this conference will be primarily hands-on. Hands-on is the best way to learn bodywork techniques. This June 24-25, you'll see live demonstrations of (and these are only a few of them) equine massage, canine trigger point massage, canine massage in water, and the use of pendulums. Our

presentations will all be informal. You'll have plenty of time and opportunities to ask questions, express your opinions, and begin to develop working relationships not only with the presentation experts, but with everyone who is attending the conference.

Once you participate in an IAAMB/ACWT conference you'll see first hand, how it can dramatically shift your vision of your career directions and potentials.

Since the last newsletter the IAAMB/ACWT has enjoyed some great press coverage. We've had interviews in (and these are just a few of them) *Animal Wellness*, *Dog Fancy*, *Massage Magazine*, and *The New York Times*. It is obvious that people everywhere are becoming more aware of the benefits, the power, the availability, and the developing professionalism of animal massage and bodywork.

So, until I see you at the conference, once again, I express my gratitude for the opportunity to support you as you grow your skill set and career.

Your president,
Jonathan Rudinger

Welcome New Members

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Currently Training for Small Animal Massage/wWater Massage

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Holistic Healing Services offered for people and animals. Reiki and Shamanic healing sessions, Holistic massage, rhythmic bodywork and acupressure, Hospice and Transition Support Home and Environmental Clearing Healing with Stones and Crystals

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3 Things that Work and Don't Work to Get New Clients

by Becky Hebert
Certified Canine Massage Provider

Thinking about what to write for this article has had me look back over my first year in business to evaluate what has worked for Mutt Massage and what has not. I identified 3 things that have worked and 3 things that have not worked to get new clients, 3 things that worked to keep clients, and 3 things I plan to try in the future.

3 Things that have worked to get new clients

Every city is different in their love for animals and their knowledge of canine massage. It is important to know your own community and what its needs are. Networking is the absolute best way to find this out and to find new clients.

People always talk about networking, but what methods actually work?

1. The most successful networking device for me is Meetup.com. If you haven't heard of it, Meetup.com is an online group organizer for people with common interests. The meetups are held locally and organized by local people, so every city is different. Mutt Massage is a sponsor for a few of the dog meetup groups in San Antonio, TX. Different organizers have different requirements for sponsors. All I have to do is offer members a discount on massages. The largest group in town (with a little under 1000 dog lovers) has been my best source for clients. My logo is on every page of their meetup site, and I can post my specials and ads on the list. I also attend events and stay active on the lists so that I know about the current dog issues in town.

2. Second, I make sure my website comes up first on all major search engines. There are many ways of doing this, and you should research the search engine requirements, but for me these ways have worked. You want to make sure the title of your website includes key words people might search under, so include the words canine *and* dog. Get as many other sites as you can to link to your website. The more outside sites link to yours, the better your chances of being at the top of the list. One good way to get linked to and found is by registering your business with any and all of the dozens of online directories you can find such as Yelp and the Yellow Pages. One warning about this, you will get telemarketing calls from these companies wanting you to do more than just list like paying for ads, but it's worth it.

Booths at dog events work, but are not as quick and easy as the other two methods. However, booths are good for exposure, and I usually get at least one good client who then refers other people which ends up paying for the booth cost.

3 Things that have not worked to get clients

While those three have worked the best for me at getting new clients, there are some other ways that have not worked so well.

1. Free massages do not work. I have held contests and drawings to give them away. I don't know how many I have given out, but so far I have only actually done one of the free massages. For some reason, I can't give them away, but discounting them works. I suppose people that want the massages are going to get them regardless of if they are free or not but would like to pay less. There is some insight there that I will be exploring in the future.

2. My car magnets with my logo, business name, and phone number are not working for me. Maybe they are too small; maybe people are seeing them but cannot call while driving. I have gotten two calls from them. One person did not want to pay much for a massage, and the other was an obscene phone call.



3 Things that Work and Don't Work to Get New Clients (Cont'd)

3. I tried Groupon.com, which offers group coupons. I checked with a couple of Groupon reps in different areas of the country. They have been told that pet related groupons do not do well so they are not allowed to highlight those businesses.

3 Things that work to keep clients

Once I get clients, I definitely want to keep them and have them tell their friends about Mutt Massage. There are three major things my clients like that keep them around.

1. I am a professional. Often people know very little about what I do. They are surprised that I am so professional. I have a massage mat, which gets some smiles. I am knowledgeable about canine massage, behavior, and common conditions that massage may help which leads to the next point.

2. I keep in touch with the vet. This is partially the law and partially my own preference and way of covering myself. Most of the dogs I work with have health problems. I get the vet's approval before beginning massage, do an intake form, and send a report in to the vet after each massage, even if it's just a pampered pooch massage. My clients love this so they don't have to know and remember what to tell their vets, it make me look professional, and I have gotten veterinarian referrals because of it.

3. The main thing that I think keeps my clients coming back is that I *listen*. Especially when clients have dogs with serious health issues, they want someone to hear them, to acknowledge and validate that their dogs are in pain and are loved by them. The more I know about the dog's situation the better job I can do.

3 Things to try in the future

Those are some of the things I have tried. Plans are in the works for many more approaches. I have identified my biggest hurdle as educating the public about what canine massage is. Some of my future endeavors will target that issue.

1. I will be offering a two-hour class at my local school district's adult education program on canine massage for pet guardians. I only make \$20 per hour, but my business name, email and a description of the class will go out in their catalog to 180,000 homes in my area and will be on the web.

2. Referral and incentive plans are on my to do list. I am developing a post massage survey to help find out what would work best for my clients for getting repeat business and referrals.

3. Soon I will be working on press releases to get the word out on my business and on what canine massage is. The more people have heard about it, the more they will be likely to seriously consider massage as an option for caring for their dogs.

After only having been in business for under a year in San Antonio, I have been hard at work to get clients. I will be honest in saying that it can be slow at times, but that's when it is time to explore new ways of reaching potential clients. After sharing a few of my ideas, I look forward to finding out what has worked for other, more experienced canine massage providers.

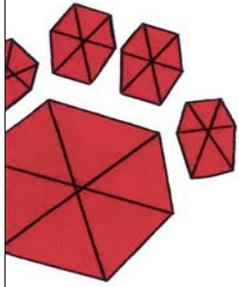
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Becky has been a member of the IAAMB since August 2010.

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The 2011 IAAMB/ACWT 8th Annual Conference at a Glance

This year *being sensitive to the needs of the attendees who leave early on Sundays to catch flights home, and the desires of the speakers to have audiences, we redesigned the program* to be only two days, a Friday and a Saturday. The location will be Toledo, OH, at the IAAMB/ACWT facility. We've reduced the fee to **attend the conference**. This year's fee is **only \$99 for members for both days, \$75 for members for one day**. Decide now to attend the 2011 conference!

<http://www.iaamb.org/upcoming-conference.php>

Time	Speaker and bio	Topic/Title	Email and contact info
Friday 8:30-9	Jonathan Rudinger , President IAAMB/ACWT	Introduction and Opening	www.iaamb.org info@iaamb.org www.petmassage.com info@petmasssge.com 800-779-1001
9-10	Ann Noyce	SARA: Bringing Reiki to Shelter Animals	www.twopawsupbakery.com www.shelteranimalreikiassociation.org/blog/ann-noyce-sara-teacher/ www.youngliving.org/twopawsup www.annoyce.scentsy.us 920-954-1420
10:15-11:15	Denise Bean-Raymond ,	Equine Massage, Holistic Care	Exclusive Equestrian Services www.exclusiveequestrianservices.com/home.htm contact@ExclusiveEquestrianServices.com 978-828-1974
11:30-12:30	Rev. Alicja Aratyn, M. Eng.	Discover Sacred Geometry of the Human Body	Alicja Centre of Well-Being alicja@intuitivedowsing.com 905.848.1233 (Canada) 1.877.288.1455 http://www.intuitivedowsing.com http://vibrationaljewellery.com
12:30-1:30		Lunch/Networking	
1:30-2:30	Letha Cupp	Mentors and Mixers: Turning Connections into Success for Your Business!	Creative Pet Projects, LLC letha@creativepetprojects.com www.creativepetprojects.com
2:45-3:45	Denise Theobald, LMT , founder of Canine Massage Chicago	Clinical Sports Massage" for the Canine Athlete.	Canine Massage Chicago denise@caninemassagechicago.com www.caninemassagechicago.com
4-5	Jonathan Rudinger , Founder and President of PetMassage™ Training and Research Institute	PetMassage™ WaterWork with Dogs Demonstration	jonathan@petmassage.com
Saturday 9-10	Carol Schultz	Animal Communication	Animal Spirit Healing & Education Network® info@animalspiritnetwork.com www.animalspiritnetwork.com 815.531.2850
10:15-11:15	Ken Bain, LMT ,	Canine Trigger Point Therapy	Stress Reduction Body Works ken@texasanimalmassage.com
11:30-12:30	Jeff Varga	Artichoke (Equine Massage, Getting to the Heart of the Matter)	oponyrun@wowway.com
12.:30-1:30	Lunch/Networking		
1.:30-2.:30	Becky Brandenburg , B.A. Ed., ESMT, CMT	Client Communication Developing the therapist-owner relationship.	Brandenburg Massage Therapy, LLC becky@horseanddogtherapy.com www.horseanddogtherapy.com 740.633.6639
2:45-3:45	Susan Beal, DVM	Cranial Sacral Therapy	alchemy@penn.com
4-5	Jonathan Rudinger , President IAAMB/ACWT	Open Forum & Closing	

New from the PetMassage Training and Research Institute:

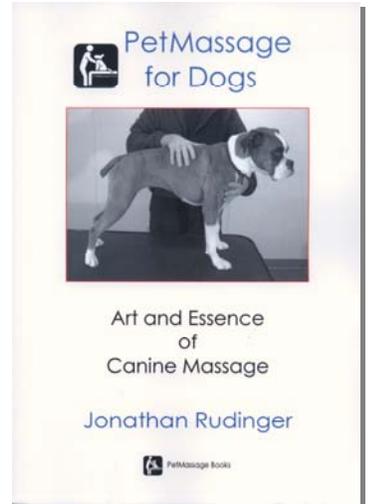
PetMassage for Dogs: Art and Essence of Canine Massage

Pet Massage for Dogs offers the tools to begin or expand your canine massage practice. You will learn animal massage theory, vocabulary, hand and body skills, body and breath mechanics, canine behavior, how to observe the canine reflexive responses to your movements, and much more. Each lesson validates the intuitively personal way you already have of interacting with dogs while reshaping and expanding your set of skills and techniques. **Pet Massage for Dogs Art and Essence of Canine Massage** is your preparation for PetMassage hands-on workshops, PetMassage distance learning and courses. 304 pages, photos, index. \$34.95 USD

Also watch for the new PetMassage for Dogs DVDs. These new lessons are the new texts that students use to prepare for the Foundation Level PetMassage Workshop.

Beginning with the July Foundation workshop, the hands-on portion will be an intensive 4-day, extended weekend, from Friday through Monday. The Anatomy and Marketing modules will be provided as distance learning courses. All on-site workshops offer 100 NCBTMB CE hours for MT's, and 100 contact hours units for animal massage and bodywork practitioner liability insurance.

Visit: www.petmassage.com Call 800-779-1001 in the US, Countries outside the US, please call 1-1419-475-3539.



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ACWT SPLASH PAGE



Did you know there's a canine swim center in the Portland area? Neither did we.

But lots of people do know about it, apparently -- the place is so busy, the owner is looking at extending business hours. Swimming is great exercise for dogs of all sizes, ages and fitness levels. Most important, it speeds recovery from injury and alleviates some painful orthopedic ailments.

While underwater treadmills have appeared at a few veterinary rehab facilities around the state and several doggie day cares advertise outdoor pools to cool down pooches on warm days, there's only one place around locally that offers assisted, therapeutic swim sessions in a sizable indoor pool: Paws Aquatics, in Milwaukie.

The first of last Tuesday's four-legged patients showed just how much exercising while buoyant can change the life of even a seemingly hopeless case.



Duke, a 1-year-old golden retriever, was born with a stump for a right front leg. He also has bad knees, bad hips, and bad shoulders and bowed hind legs.

"In other words, he's a wreck," says Jeanine Norden, lovingly scratching the gentle dog's ears. Norden is a volunteer coordinator for Golden Bond Rescue; she's taken Duke in as a permanent foster pet.

Duke has a prosthetic leg, a springy contraction strapped to his stump that allows him to bump along. He tires quickly on land, Norden says.

In the pool, the golden pup is almost indistinguishable from any other young dog: He propels himself toward the toys bobbing on the waves, greedily snapping up a tennis ball while still holding the rubber chicken in his mouth.

Kunkle sends him paddling the length of the pool several times, then walks him up and down the ramp that slopes into the water. She wraps her arms around Duke's chest from behind, holds up his front, and makes him walk on his hind legs while half-submerged.

After about 15 minutes of water play, Duke calls his first timeout: He goes up the ramp, hops across the pool's edge and lays down on a towel for a bit. Kunkle gives him the much-deserved break, and a few minutes later he's interested in chasing toys in the water again.

When Norden first brought him in, in mid-May, Duke couldn't get out of the pool on his own. It's just one of many signs of progress.

"He's gotten so much stronger," Norden says. "He gets up easier and he can get into the van by himself after he comes here."

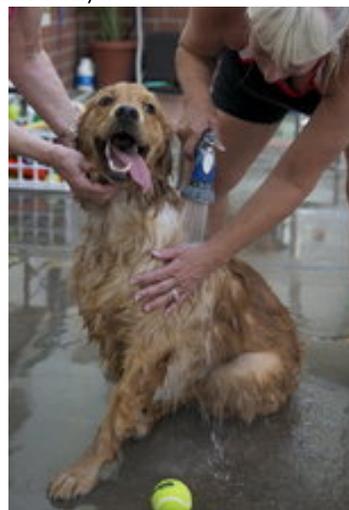
"He's come a long way since May," Kunkle says.

Back then, he barely lasted 30 minutes in the pool, and now he comes in for one-hour sessions twice a week.

For the first few sessions, two therapists were in the pool with Duke because one had to hold him up by the handle on the float vest the entire time. Catching rubber chickens was not a concern then. Kunkle moved to Portland two years ago, when her husband started a new job here. She worked as a veterinary technician in California for 22 years (she's still certified there and in Oregon).

Her last job was at a large emergency and critical-care veterinary clinic in the Bay Area. "We did tons of orthopedic surgeries," she says, and staff members took dogs rehabbing from such surgeries to a nearby pond to go swimming.

"It cut the healing time in half," Kunkle says.



Kunkle also saw the benefits of water exercise closer to home. Her Labrador, Porterhouse, has an odd problem: Perfectly healthy otherwise, the dog overheats quickly when running around on dry land. But in water, Porterhouse exercises for as long as anyone will let him. This meant Kunkle wanted a house with a pool in Portland. But the inclement weather would render an outdoor pool fairly unusable for much of the year.

Did you know there's a canine swim center in the Portland area? Neither did we. (cont'd)

When they found a place in Milwaukie with a sizable indoor pool, Kunkle remembered the dogs in the pond at her old job and decided to start a therapeutic-swim business for canines.

She underwent training at the Canine Rehabilitation Institute in Maryland, and Paws Aquatics opened its doors in November 2009. Business is booming: About 100 dogs come to Kunkle's house for a swim each week.

She offers assisted swims with her in the water, or self-swims. Each dog must go through one assisted swim before it gets to go in the pool by itself or with just the owner. Kunkle puts a stethoscope to the dog's heart and lungs before the first session; she recently had to send home a puppy with a previously undetected heart murmur.

If things ever go wrong in the water, she has an emergency plan with a vet who is seven minutes away and has oxygen on hand if needed.

Her clients include agility dogs needing exercise while recovering from a sprain, show dogs looking to beef up their muscles, and owners just wanting to bond with their perfectly healthy pooches in the water.

Dogs that can't move well on land, either after surgery or due to age, and dogs with degenerative joint diseases, such as arthritis, also are good candidates for water therapy.

"It's great non-weight-bearing exercise," Kunkle says. "They can move freely without pain in the water."

Swimming strengthens limbs and can even heal partial muscle tears. It's more tiring than running, but with less impact on joints.

And last Tuesday, it allowed an old dog to enjoy itself: Riley, a 17-year-old mix of several large breeds, has suffered from arthritis for a few years. A few months ago he also developed a neurological illness: His brain's not telling his feet where they are. He can walk, but if a foot is placed wrongly, he doesn't correct it and stumbles.

For the past few months, Riley's owner, Kim Conley, has spent time in the pool with him. On Tuesday, the two paddled in the water together with even strokes. Riley appeared stiff and slow on land, but he eagerly swam alongside his owner in the pool.

The exercise has improved Riley's condition, Conley says. He more easily navigates steps and thresholds in their home. "He has fewer accidents now," she says.

The swim appeared to benefit both dog and owner. Judging by the smile on Conley's face, she was happy to see her old friend this active.

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Diane has been an IAAMB/ACWT since January 2010.

The article was printed on August 2010 in the Portland Oregonian by Jacques Von Lunen

Remember-ship

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My journey with Lada

You probably think of your dog as your One and Only... One who is different from all the others, who understands you, knows exactly what you're thinking and what you're feeling, who shares your love and home... and One you love with your whole heart and soul!



My Special One is a Yellow Lab girl named Lada, and I fell in love with her from the moment I set eyes upon her in the lobby of Leader Guide Dogs of Rochester, Michigan in January 2007. At this moment, I was preparing to become a Foster Parent and raise this little 7-week old girl for someone who would need a Leader Dog.

She was an intelligent, very energetic, playful and nippy puppy.

As the months passed, she began to settle down and I was horrified just thinking about the moment when we would have to take her back to Leader Guide Dogs.



After almost a year, the dreaded day arrived when we had to say goodbye to our baby Lada....it was heartbreaking



Two weeks later, we received a phone call from Leader Guide Dogs telling us that Lada had been withdrawn from the program due to Hip Dysplasia, and since we had raised her, we had the first right to adopt Lada... and she became our wonderful 2008 Christmas present!

We knew that her condition would progress with the passing of time, so in the Spring I took Lada for X-rays, which showed her condition to be worse than we thought—DJD (Degenerative Joint Disease) and beginning arthritis in her right knee. She was occasionally limping, and we began giving her Glucosamine Chondroitin with MSM. And at this time, Lada was still a puppy—just one and a half years old.

I began to study about natural remedies and the value of Canine Massage in relaxing a dog and easing pain. Wanting to do everything I could for Lada, I completed a course of study and became a certified Canine Massage Therapist.

In the Spring of 2010 she began limping again. More X-rays confirmed inflammation of the left knee and the right hip. Although I was looking for a veterinarian devoted to alternative techniques, finding a good one proved to be a difficult task.

I was so desperate to help my Baby! It was heartbreaking to watch her suffer. At this time I began to research pain management through laser therapy, magnetic therapy and canine hydrotherapy. We had been taking Lada for long walks twice a day, which only made her condition worse. As we cut back on her walks, she put on extra weight (up to 78 pounds), and again wishing to help Lada, I took a Dog Nutrition course. The first step was to change her diet, and I began Lada on a premium quality weight management formula.

Through continued research, I found an animal hospital in Canada which had both hydrotherapy and alternative methods for treating animals, and excitedly scheduled a consultation. The owner of the facility, Dr. Janice Huntingford, met with us, examined Lada, and laid out a plan of treatment.

She began with sessions of laser acupuncture and magnetic therapy, and I was massaging Lada daily at home.

My Journey with Lada (Cont'd)



We were traveling to Canada twice a week (about three hours travel time each trip), but we were totally devoted to helping Lada back to good health. In addition to the laser therapy, Dr. Huntingford began her on a hydrotherapy regime, first swimming with a staff member, and later adding the underwater treadmill.



Besides the increased mobility and significant pain reduction, this also had the effect of dropping Lada to the nearly perfect weight of 70 pounds.

Dr. Huntingford prescribed two Chinese herbal supplements and we continued to give Lada two Synovial-Flex Soft Chews daily.

She also recommended a series of physical exercises which we began practicing with our dog twice a day. After a month of treatment, Lada began making really good progress. She stopped limping, became playful again, and now looks like a very young dog.

At the beginning of November I went to the United Kingdom to take a Canine Hydrotherapy course from a highly respected facility, and as a result, today I am certified in all aspects of Canine Hydrotherapy.



While it is becoming more common to find dedicated Canine Hydrotherapy facilities in some parts of the United States, such as New York, this is definitely not the case here in Michigan. Therefore, I am partnering with a local pool owner to offer Canine Hydrotherapy through her business in order to help other dogs as my Lada has been helped!

<http://meandmyshadowllc.com>

Irina Mackay
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Novi, MI

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Here are the links:

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MEMBERS CHAT ROOM

Please go to the following link:
<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/IAAMB/>
 Join the group and bark, purr and whinny!

Congratulation Mary Kennedy, (IAAMB Member since 2006) for her article in the TimeCall.com
<http://www.timescall.com/Health-Story.asp?id=24956>

Congratulation Jonathan Rudinger, Founder of PetMassage™ and the President of the IAAMB/ACWT for his article in Massage Magazine
<http://www.massagemag.com/News/massage-news.php?id=10486>

Leonardo and Feline Pancreatitis

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Enso Animal Massage and Bodywork
Alberta, Canada
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Karen's been a member of the IAAMB since May 2006.

What is Pancreatitis? It is an inflammation of the pancreas that is either an acute attack or can become a chronic disease with damage to the pancreatic cells. It is a common exocrine pancreatic disease in cats.

What are the signs of Pancreatitis? The problem is, signs of the disease are the same as many other digestive disorders. Blood tests, Ultrasound or exploratory surgery are the means toward diagnosing Pancreatitis. A cat that is suffering from Pancreatitis may be lethargic, un-interested in eating, in pain, be dehydrated and may vomit.

What does the Pancreas do? The pancreas has two main functions that are quite distinct. One is the endocrine function to produce the hormones, insulin and glucagon to regulate blood sugar levels. The other exocrine pancreas function produces digestive enzymes needed for digestion of proteins, triglycerides and complex carbohydrates. It also secretes bicarbonate, a buffer for stomach acids.

Depending upon the severity of the case, a cat may need only a change in diet to reduce fats, on the other end of the scale about half of the cats diagnosed with severe pancreatitis may die from it. There are possibly further complications with the disease such as chronic pancreatitis leading to diabetes if the insulin producing cells are destroyed. If you have a cat with pancreatitis, you also have a good relationship with your veterinarian.

Leonardo is a Black and white Tuxedo Manx. He is anywhere between 14-19 years old.



I was looking for animal related volunteer work and met Leonardo on my first shift of volunteering as a socializer at the MEOW adoption center in November 2005. I had been using various bodywork and energy work techniques on dogs and it seemed to me that shelter cats might benefit from massage, T-touch, energy work (Qi Gong) and acupuncture.

When I was shown the room of shy cats that I was to work in, I was given fair warning about a handful of cats that were likely to strike, bite or otherwise behave aggressively. The shelter supervisor introduced me to each one eventually coming around to a white cupboard with two doors and a cute cut-out entrance near the floor. As she slowly opened one of the doors saying "and this is Leonardo..." a burst of cat spit expletives and flashing claws introduced me to 22 pounds of feral Manx. His face was crosshatched like cut velvet from years of past battle scars...his third eyelids were torn and they covered half his deep gold eyes, I felt anger, fear and profound sadness enveloped in this large tuxedo cat and he gave me the great idea that this was the cat I would work with first.

Leonardo had been at the center for close to a year. He had been extremely difficult to catch and it took about 7 weeks to finally get him into a large dog crate. His MO was to sneak in through the rescuers milk chute which served as a cat door for their two felines. The dear folks were starting to wonder why their cats were eating

sooooo much food and then one evening they saw a cat butt that did not look like one of their cats scoot through the chute. No matter what they tried to trick Leo, he knew what was up and evaded being caught. Winter was coming, the house was slated to be demolished and the rescuers were leaving the country....they built a heated shelf for Leo to perch on just outside the kitchen window and when he showed up to press his battered face against the window they fed him. They were becoming increasingly concerned since Leo was obviously not well. Finally, MEOW and these lovely folks were able to gently herd him into the dog carrier by each holding a large quilt and slowly moving him into it. Phew. He had upper respiratory virus, his eyes were torn and possibly needed surgery and he was however still strong enough to fight off any perceived threats. He spent five days in the hospital before being moved to the center where he hid as best as he could. When I met Leonardo he was anti-social and aggressive with people, withdrawn from other cats that he shared the room with and impossible to handle. Basically he hid in the cupboard with only his head visible sometimes in the "cute" cut-out near the floor. Rarely will a cat not be listed on the MEOW Catalogue for adoption, Leonardo was one of those cat...he was deemed un-adoptable.

"Witnessing" came to mind from my animal bodywork training and the power of working with loving intention on the energetic body. There was no chance of using hands-on-bodywork with this guy and I was inspired. I sat with him for several minutes, speaking softly and sending him warm loving thoughts and visualization of non-threatening contact. Petting sticks were supplied to use with the feral cats, a dowel wrapped on one end with soft felt made a safe tool for initiating contact.

Leonardo and Feline Pancreatitis (Cont'd)

HOWEVER Leonardo was not terribly impressed with the stick and the force of his strike sent the stick flying across the room.

"Hmm", said another volunteer, "it's usually his food that comes flying." I returned to silent communication, keeping open to feeling his energy and was appalled at the violent images and pounding fear that came off of him. Over the course of one three hour shift once a week, Leonardo began to calm down and was open to receive the body energy work. Soon I was able to rest the petting-stick on the side of his neck and after five minutes of breathing into him I took the plunge and lay my other hand gently onto his back where it would stay motionless for another five minutes or so. I blended T-Touch with light massage and positional release along his spine. Manx cats are prone to developing spinal problems and although I had not seen him move I suspected he had mobility problems by virtue of the prolonged periods of inactivity and muscle tension from fear. He was also quite overweight. One pivotal day, Leo came to life! He sat up in his cupboard and stretched his back, looked straight at me as he then stood up and sauntered past me out the cupboard door! He sat up on his haunches and surveyed the room, myself and the other volunteers who came in to see this previously unseen cat. We slid a dish of food over to him and he ate in front of us. From that day on Leonardo came out during the day to snuggle in a pile with the other shy feral cats in the room.

I decide to adopt Leonardo four months after I first lay eyes on him, there was a growing bond between us and I wanted to give him a home of his own. .

At that time we had our dear old Doberman X Lisa but no other cats

Leo spent all the daylight hours in my studio hiding either in the closet, under a chair or under my drafting table, at night. Lisa never told on him. After one year in our home Leo is fully pettable he loves to be brushed and have bodywork. He especially loves having his huge paws massaged and I could then trim those tiger claws. Our daily sessions concluded with him purring deeply. He allowed me to move his body around but could not yet pick him up. He would survey the kitchen activity from a great vantage point under our bed enjoying the smells of food cooking.

It took two years of slow careful socialization before Leonardo was able to go to a vet. Two weeks before his scheduled appointment Leonardo became severely debilitated and required emergency care. Not a pretty subject but the Manx mega-colon was now blocking his ability to defecate; he was vomiting and could not eat. Ultrasound and radiology revealed his spine was fused (spina bifida) and that he had developed pancreatitis. His gait was very odd and once he got to his primary vet she diagnosed him with ataxia, or "wobbly" gait. This was possibly from his mom being infected with Panleukopenia which would cause his brain to be under developed in the cerebellum, the part of the brain that governs coordination. Severe chronic pancreatitis can also cause ataxia. The pancreas prefers peace and harmony with its neighbors like the spleen, liver and colon; Leonardo's constipation issues were really aggravating it. Hydration was key; fluids given subQ (under the skin not into a muscle or a vein) can mean the difference between life and death. Leonardo needed intravenous fluids when he was admitted to the hospital, I now give him 100 ml per day.

He feels better when he's been plumped up! Digestive acid buffers are given twice daily; digestive enzymes are added to his food. Administering digestive medicines is best done apart from food, but my challenge with Leo is that he is a feral and handling him was difficult in the beginning. He got a bit more relaxed as time went by and so now when I can I dose him with the liquid medicine in a syringe into his mouth. He currently weighs between 16-18 pounds. Lisa passed a couple years ago from old age. This prompted us to adopt a lovely shy named Simcha from MEOW and most recently Coconut now called Diddy. Simcha brought Leo farther out of his shell, they rub cheeks and he chirrups and speaks to her, he also is sleeping near her through the night in the living room. Diddy, our silly-fun -looks like a Persian treats Leo with reserved respect. I sense her experience as a breeding female in a bad situation makes her a bit standoffish with the boy.

What I have learned about pancreatitis is that the onset is somewhat silent, easy to miss and not diagnosed until it is entrenched in the pancreatic tissue as full blown chronic disease. It is assumed that these cats have abdominal pain. So that is another facet of keeping Leonardo as healthy as he can be: any being that is in pain cannot rest, cannot heal and cannot easily relate socially. So along with pain meds he receives massage on his back and his abdomen. Lucky Leonardo! Managing pancreatitis is not difficult but this cat needs to keep in touch with the veterinarian as further developments can be detected with blood work, and a fresh eye on a chronic case is always valuable. I love my pancreatic cat, I work hard for him but how can I not? Lucky me!

IAAMB Newsletter, Vol. 9, Issue 2, April 2011

SCHOOL CALENDAR April 2011 – November 2011

APRIL 2011

Date	School	Course	Location	Link
7	Animal Spirit	Lifeforce Yoga® for Emotional Balance & Harmony to Support Practitioners	International Teleclass Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
7	Animal Spirit	Café Mastery Hour: Intro to PR & Marketing on a Dime	International Teleclass	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
11-16	PetMassage™ Training and Research Institute	Advanced Canine Massage Workshop	Toledo, OH	www.petmassage.com
14	Animal Spirit	Intuitive Scanning for Animals	International Teleclass Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
16	Animal Spirit	Level 1 Animal Communication	Barrington, IL	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
18	Animal Spirit	Introduction to Animal Communication	International Free Teleclass	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
18-22	PetMassage™ Training and Research Institute	WaterWork Canine Massage Workshop	Toledo, OH	www.petmassage.com
19	Animal Spirit	Level 2 Animal Reiki	International Teleclass Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
19	Animal Spirit	Extraction and Power Retrieval for Animals (Shamanic)	International Webinar/VOIP Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
20-29	La Paw Spa	The Heart of Canine Hydrotherapy – Level One and Two Combined	Sequim, CA	www.lapawspa.com
22, 23, & 24	Tallgrass Animals Acupressure Institute	Introduction to Equine or Small Animal	Larkspur, CO	www.animalacupressure.com
25-28	Tallgrass Animals Acupressure Institute	Meridians & Specific Conditions I & II Equine & Small Animal	Larkspur, CO	www.animalacupressure.com
28	Animal Spirit	Small Animal Behavior	International Teleclass	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
29	Animal Spirit	Family Constellations	Algonquin, IL	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
30	Animal Spirit	Energetic Relationship to Money for Healers & Teachers (Shamanic)	Algonquin, IL	www.animalspiritnetwork.com

MAY 2011

Date	School	Course	Location	Link
1-7	PetMassage™ Training and Research Institute	Foundation Canine Massage Workshop	Toledo, OH	www.petmassage.com
2	Animal Spirit	Level 2 Animal Communication	International Teleclass Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
4	Animal Spirit	Level 1 Animal Communication en Español (Comunicación con Animales Nivel 1)	International Webinar/VOIP Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
5	Animal Spirit	PR & Marketing on a Dime	International Teleclass Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
10	Animal Spirit	Introduction to Animal Communication	International Free Teleclass	www.animalspiritnetwork.com

IAAMB Newsletter, Vol. 9, Issue 2, April 2011

13-14-15	Tallgrass Animals Acupressure Institute	Introduction to Small Animal Acupressure	Elkhart, IN	www.animalacupressure.com
14	Animal Spirit	Level 1 Animal Reiki	Algonquin, IL	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
17	Animal Spirit	Level 1 Animal Communication	International Teleclass Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
21	Animal Spirit	Level 1 Animal Reiki	Beecher, IL	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
22	Animal Spirit	Level 1 Animal Communication	Beecher, IL	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
31	Animal Spirit	Level 3 Animal Reiki	International Teleclass Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com

JUNE 2011

Date	School	Course	Location	Link
1	Animal Spirit	Energetic Scanning	International Teleclass Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
2	Animal Spirit	Flower Essence Applications	International Teleclass Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
11	Animal Spirit	Level 2 Animal Reiki	Algonquin, IL	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
12	Animal Spirit	Level 1 Animal Communication	Algonquin, IL	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
12-18	PetMassage™ Training and Research Institute	Foundation Canine Massage Workshop	Toledo, OH	www.petmassage.com
15-27	Ojai School of Massage	Small Animal Massage	Ojai, CA	www.ojaischoolofmassage.com
18	Animal Spirit	Foundation of Shamanic Studies Basic Workshop: The Way of the Shaman®	Barrington, IL	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
18-22	La Paw Spa	The Heart of Canine Hydrotherapy – Level One Condensed	Sequim, CA	www.lapawspa.com

JULY 2011

Date	School	Course	Location	Link
1	Animal Spirit	Level 2 Animal Communication	Algonquin, IL	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
15-18	PetMassage™ Training and Research Institute	Foundation Canine Massage Workshop includes distance learning modules	Toledo, OH	www.petmassage.com
9-20	Ojai School of Massage	Small Animal Massage	Ojai, CA	www.ojaischoolofmassage.com

AUGUST 2011

Date	School	Course	Location	Link
1-6	PetMassage™ Training and Research Institute	Advanced Canine Massage Workshop	Toledo, OH	www.petmassage.com
6-11	La Paw Spa	The Heart of Canine Hydrotherapy – Level Two	Sequim, CA	www.lapawspa.com
4	Animal Spirit	Writing and Publishing for Self Growth and Profit	Algonquin, IL	www.animalspiritnetwork.com

IAAMB Newsletter, Vol. 9, Issue 2, April 2011

8-12	PetMassage™ Training and Research Institute	WaterWork Canine Massage Workshop	Toledo, OH	www.petmassage.com
15	Animal Spirit	Introduction to Animal Reiki	International Free Teleclass	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
20	Animal Spirit	Celtic Shamanism / Embracing Sovereignty	Mundelein, IL	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
30	Animal Spirit	Adapting Reiki and Other Energetic Techniques for Animals	International Teleclass Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com

SEPTEMBER 2011

Date	School	Course	Location	Link
8	Animal Spirit	Lost Pets	International Teleclass Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
18-30	Ojai School of Massage	Small Animal Massage	Ojai, CA	www.ojaischoolofmassage.com
21-30	La Paw Spa	The Heart of Canine Hydrotherapy – Level One and Two Combined	Sequim, CA	www.lapawspa.com
23-26	PetMassage™ Training and Research Institute	Foundation Canine Massage Workshop includes distance learning modules	Toledo, OH	www.petmassage.com
26	Animal Spirit	Level 2 Animal Communication	International Teleclass Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
27	Animal Spirit	Level 1 Animal Reiki	International Teleclass Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
27	Animal Spirit	Level 1 Animal Communication	International Teleclass Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com

OCTOBER 2011

Date	School	Course	Location	Link
13	Animal Spirit	Dowsing	International Teleclass Series	www.animalspiritnetwork.com
21-24	PetMassage™ Training and Research Institute	Foundation Canine Massage Workshop includes distance learning modules	Toledo, OH	www.petmassage.com

NOVEMBER 2011

Date	School	Course	Location	Link
2-9	La Paw Spa	The Heart of Canine Hydrotherapy – Level One Expanded	Sequim, CA	www.lapawspa.com
4-7	PetMassage™ Training and Research Institute	Foundation Canine Massage Workshop includes distance learning modules	Toledo, OH	www.petmassage.com

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Opportunities to GET INVOLVED!

If your state does not have an animal owners’ rights group there are experienced and available people around to help you start one. Contact any of the following animal owner’s rights organizations:

Colorado www.caaor.org

Florida www.faaor.org

Illinois www.iaaor.org

Minnesota contact: Kelly Murphy kemurphy00@yahoo.com

New Jersey www.saddlebrookridge.com/LEGAL.htm

Wisconsin contact Polly Remick wiaaor@earthlink.net

North Carolina: Sue King www.companionchi.com/ncacat.html

In This Newsletter

President’s Message

New Members

2011 IAAMB/ACWT

Conference at a Glance

Articles by:

Becky Hebert

Karen Christensen

Jacques Von Lunen an article about member

Diane Kunkle

Irina Mackay

School Calendar for April 2011–November

2011