

Pet Wellness Festival / November 10, 2007

About the Contributors

Maureen Ross, M.A., NBCC, CPDT, RYT Maureen grew up in a 4-room apartment (boarding house) in Lowell, MA. She is a self-described "late-blooming-work-in-progress". She has known the therapeutic benefit of pets from childhood, as constant, safe and trusting companions. The voice of a young child threatening her mother, with hands on not so little hips, "when I grow up I'm getting as many dogs as I want and they going to be BIG" has happened. The rest is a journey. Paths chosen and learned from have more often than not been with dogs by her side or because of them.

Maureen is the author of "Train Your Dog, Change Your Life", Howell Book House, Canine Training and Survival Guide and many published (and non-published) articles on behavior and the benefit of human-animal relationships. She is a board certified behavioral / wellness counselor, business manager, dog training-family systems coach, mediator and Registered Yoga Teacher / Therapist (all parts of a whole career).

Founder and President of Dog Talk & TheraPet, LLC, New England Pet Partners, Inc. (www.newenglandpetpartners.org) and Yoga Flow, her mindful approach is focused on well-being for pets and people. Classes or private coaching allows freedom to explore one's own potential (with their dogs). Classes are sequenced to provide adequate warm-up, challenge in intensity and effective training, and relaxation to ease back into life and reality, dogs by our sides, together and usually grounded.

Her passion: Enhancing the quality of human-animal relationships through awareness and education; staying healthy and living well; making even a small difference, giving back to the community and remaining forever curious, all with dogs by her side.

Well-being is a lifelong, lifestyle choice. Choose Wisely! Meet Maureen to talk about Pet Partners and READ, enter to win a raffle that includes her book, and Basic-I training gift certificate.

Gary Ross, CPDT, LTE, LTI: Co-Founder of Dog Talk, Licensed Team Evaluator and Instructor for the Delta Society's Pet Partner Program, Dog Sport and Behavioral Coach. Gary did not discover the joys of dog ownership until adulthood as he always had cats growing up. Once a canine owned him, well... the rest is history. He is an engineer by training and in addition to his other activities; he is the house "techie" for DogTalk and NEPP.

Cindy Fischer, M.Ed.: Pet care consultant and intuitive, TTouch[®] certified, 978-251-3412 / petswellbeing@verizon.net, Faithful Friend Pet Care, "For the well-being of our faithful friends". Cindy has always had a special rapport with animals, so it came as no surprise to her family and friends when she began working with animals after careers in education and the corporate world. She established Faithful Friend Pet Care in Chelmsford, MA, in 1992, initially as a pet-sitting service, and has since incorporated her TTouch work and phone consultations into this service.

Cindy was led to the Tellington TTouch by her late shelter cat Gypsy in 1991. Gypsy would bite anyone who went to pet her. Then, the magic of gentle TTouch circular movements of the skin helped Gypsy release her tension and pain, so that petting was no longer a fearful experience for her.

Cindy began her formal TTouch training in 1995, when the certification program was first introduced on the East coast. Fully certified in the TTouch method for companion animals, she offers workshops and private sessions, focusing on TTouch bodywork.

At the Pet Wellness Festival, Cindy will be doing TTouch bodywork to help pets with such issues as timidity, hyperactivity, and arthritis. She will also be available for mini-readings. Her book, *Our Pets Have a Story to Tell*, and some TTouch books by Linda Tellington-Jones will be included as an item in the raffle.

Donna Clark: President of Animal Rescue Network of New England (www.arnne.org): Animal Rescue Network of New England, Inc was formed in 2001 with the purpose of creating a network of shelters working cooperatively to place as many homeless animals as possible. ARNNE volunteers accomplish this locally, both physically and emotionally, caring for the medical needs and placing local strays in competent, loving homes.

The re-homing of homeless animals is accomplished regionally and nationally by facilitating the transport of shelter or abandoned animals from high volume/high kill shelters, to shelters where there is room for the animal to stay, as long as it takes, to find the perfect home for it's specific needs.

ARNNE sponsors a monthly Pet Adoption Day where regional shelters come together at the local church hall, usually with either adoptable animals or pictures and biographies of animals in their care. This gathering of rescues is meant to save the public the frustration of traveling from shelter to shelter, often separated by hours and many miles, with the hope that they adopt a shelter pet rather than take the "easy" route and buy a puppy mill dog, thus perpetuating the lack of enough homes for all the shelter animals.

Furthermore, we strive to educate the public about the travesty of puppy mills and their effects on pet over-population. We promote spay/neuter programs as well, as quality of life issues, such as animal fighting and the cruelty of chaining dogs outside without appropriate housing, food, water and, as importantly, human companionship.

Melissa Dudley: Founder of Libby's Haven for Senior Canines (www.lhsk9.org), (603) 783-9419, P.O. Box 65 in Canterbury, NH 03224: OFFERING SENIORS A SECOND CHANCE. The mission of Libby's is to provide senior dogs who are either shelter rescues or owner-surrendered the opportunity to live out their golden years being cozy, safe and loved.

Kathleen DeLong, RN, PP, LTE: Kathy has been a registered nurse at Saints Memorial Hospital for 30 years. She is a registered pet partner, training coach and licensed evaluator for the New England Pet Partners. Kathy, Jake and Sabrina have shared visits at various assisted-living and nursing facilities for over 6 years. Jake is a registered R.E.A.D. dog. Currently, they visit D'Youville Manor Nursing Home and Lowell General Hospital.

Kathy is one of the strongest supporters, students and teachers at Dog Talk, LLC. She is on the Board of Directors (heart and soul) of New England Pet Partners, Inc. She loves dogs, line dancing and hates capris.

Mary Budge, PP: Mary has worked for the government over 30 years. She is a registered pet partner with Sunnie, her 2 1/2 year old Golden Retriever and will be a licensed evaluator for New England Pet Partners, Inc. following her practicum at NEPP on 10/22. Mary is on the Board of Directors for New England Pet Partners, Inc. Mary and Sunnie are presently visiting Long Meadow Place an Assisted Living Community in Burlington, MA and Fairview Nursing Home in Hudson, NH.

Mary and her late Golden Retriever, Lady, a nominated Pet-Therapy Dog by the Delta Society, and now Sunnie, have been attending classes at Dog Talk many years. Lady was a nominated Pet-Therapy Dog of the year by the Delta Society and her spirit continues to be an integral part of our programs with her photo watching us at all times. Mary is a mentor of potential Pet Partner Teams. She is part of the "heart and soul" that keeps the quality programs moving forward.

Linda Browne, PP, LTE, LRI: Linda is a Resolution Analyst for United Health care and has been with the company for the past 10 years. Her introduction to dogs came at a later age than most. Her first pet was a "Heinz 57" dog given to her when she was a VISTA volunteer in Florida. "Bert" truly enriched her life and she has had pets ever since. Lucy, a Corgi, is her present companion and like all of her other pets is the Best Ever! Lucy and Linda have been Pet Partners for 4 years and are in their third year as R.E.A.D. volunteers at the Memorial School in Bedford, NH. Linda is a licensed evaluator for NE Pet Partners and a R.E.A.D. trainer. Along with family, reading, education, and travel are her passions. She is a strong supporter of NE Pet Partners, Inc. and is on the Board of Directors.

Mark Bettencourt, RN, PP: Proud owner of multiple dogs, cats, parrots and more. Mark has been a primary part of Dog Talk & TheraPet, LLC for a long time. He is now on the Board of Directors, New England Pet Partners, Inc. He is trained as a Veterinary Technician, and is a RN Supervisor at Tewksbury State Hospital. He trains at Dog Talk & TheraPet, LLC and helps out whenever he has 5-spares minutes, in between taking care of his own zoo.

Deb Silke, owner of *On the Bone & Off the Vine*, consulting for maximum health of your pets through the feeding of raw whole foods diet

Once upon a time, a happy and gregarious little ridgeback pup named Penzi became timid and fearful and began to refuse her high quality dog food. Week after week, she got thinner and thinner. All the tests the vets did said Penzi was in perfect health. Still she would not eat. Then, one day her owner had an idea. She lined up six little dishes in Penzi's crate. In one was a raw egg. In another was plain yogurt. Another was olive oil ... another raw vegetable puree, another raw liver, and so on. Penzi began to eat! She eventually even got a little fat! You guessed right, I am Penzi's Mom.

Eleven years later people often take Penzi for a three year old because she looks (and acts!) like an exuberant adolescent. I haven't a shred of doubt that if I had not been desperate enough to start feeding her out of my own refrigerator, the impish and enthusiastic Penz wouldn't be here today.

For that reason, that is how it all started. In our case a raw, whole foods diet derailed the onset of a serious illness. In the case of Penzi's siblings, it simply supported and maintained wonderful health.

No fancy degrees here, just a deep abiding love of my own animals *and* yours and a lifelong, insatiable curiosity about the critical role that food ... real, live, and *un* 'improved' food... plays in the health, happiness and

longevity of every living thing. Come with your questions and concerns for a free consult and bring a picture of *your* Penzi ... better yet, bring her/him with you!

Ellen Schofield: Ellen was born in the wagon of a traveling show ... oh; you mean a bio that isn't a song! Okay then, here goes: Ellen is the owner / operator of *Pet Styles*, Pelham's newest grooming facility. A fifteen-year resident of Pelham, NH, Ellen has always been a caring and compassionate animal enthusiast with a background that includes breeding and showing miniature horses as well as munchkin cats. She raised and hand-fed exotic birds to make well socialized pets. She has worked with feline rescue services in the area and was often found fostering homeless animals who somehow found themselves getting the full beauty treatment before going to their new homes. She took this passion to a new level after completing formal training in pet grooming. Ellen now enjoys a full-time career managing *Pet Styles*.

Come visit Ellen at the Pet Wellness Festival where you can see a demo on cat grooming and register to WIN A COMPLETE GROOMING for your pet.

Mary McIntosh: Mary McIntosh, Reiki Master, *Reiki Pathways*, 617-567-3545, mary.mcintosh@bingham.com. Mary McIntosh is a Reiki Master in the Usui Shiki Ryoho system of natural healing. Mary has been involved with Reiki since 1993, becoming a Reiki Master in 2001. She is a member of the Reiki Alliance. Along with her Reiki partner, Linda Heilig, Mary has taught classes at Gentle Currents in Greenland, NH, and a Reiki I class at Tufts Veterinary School for the students in their Holistic club. Mary and Linda are also available for lectures and will travel.

Mary has two sons and three grandchildren. She lives in Boston with her Pembroke Welsh Corgi "Tassi" and her Maine Coon Cat "Hanna." Mary did extensive pet therapy work with her previous Corgi "Cassie", in nursing homes, hospitals, schools, and with hospice patients. She and Tassi have just become a Pet Partner team and look forward to their experiences in pet therapy. Mary has also been involved with the education of children helping to select the best family pet. She has always had a passion for animals, especially dogs. It is a joy for her to combine Reiki with pets!

Karen Lachapelle, LMT: *Rub My Belly Small Animal Massage & Reiki*, (978) 452-4919, rbmybilly@yahoo.com Karen is a 2006 graduate of Bancroft School of Small Animal Massage Therapy. She has completed Reiki I, II and Advanced from Reiki Master Teachers Pam and Roger Mailloux. Her love of animals and interest in all types of healing modalities has led her to take acupressure classes from Tallgrass, cranio-sacral therapy from the Upledger Institute and the Art of Aromatherapy and Flower Essences. Karen is a member of IAAMB (International Association of Animal Massage and Body Work).

Tracey Zysk, M.A. Tracey also has a B.A from Johnson & Wales University, Bancroft School of Massage - Animal Massage, Reiki Practitioner - Advanced level. Tracey is the owner of **Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care** located in North Andover MA. She specializes in animal massage and Reiki energy healing. Her business also provides pet sitting and dog walking services in the Merrimack Valley.

Danielle MacKinnon: Rev. Danielle MacKinnon specializes in human and animal spiritual counseling. She is certified in many healing modalities including Reiki, Soul Clearing, Angel and Fairy Readings, Medical Intuition and Animal Communication. Danielle's mission is to help humans and animals experience their true Light. Visit Danielle at www.healingconnections.us, Email: danielle@healingconnection.us.

Julianne Gacioch: Reiki Master, Member of the International Association of Reiki Professionals and Founder of **My Healthy Paws** of North Andover. Phone Number: (978) 764-1078 "House Calls Available" By Appointment. Email: myhealthypaws@comcast.net Julianne draws inspiration from Native American and old way traditions in her practice. she calls upon the healing spirits of passed and present to each Reiki Session. Listening to the wisdom of the ancient healers she is able to create a safe "healing Temple". For both pets and the people who love them. She offers "Hands-on" and Distant Reiki Sessions.

Joan Whitebook, JD: Hi, my name is Joan. I am a person who will have at least 9 lives. At this point, I think I am on my 6th life. I have been involved with classical ballet, a high school Spanish major, a psychology major, an attorney/mediator, an exclusive buyer's agent, wife and a pet owner (my shepherd mix FOXY and most recently a calico cat named CARLEY). I have many allergies and although I longed to have a pet for many years, I went without a furry companion.

One day, I wandered into the pet store and saw a beautiful calico cat that had been abandoned with her kittens at Exit 4 in Nashua. Everyone was adopting the darling kittens, but no one wanted the calico. Soooo, I loaded up on allergy pills and took CARLEY home "for a few days."

It has now been 5 years and CARLEY has been a great companion. It turned out that my husband had to be away in Europe on business during the past 2 years. I truly don't know how I would have survived without CARLEY. She has a great sense of humor, likes to show off, hunts for mice, chipmunks and frogs. Carley makes sure that I am up and running at 7:00am every day of the week. As far as the allergies go ---- it is worth every aaaachew! The power of a pet in one's life is awesome!

Yvonne Gobis: Yvonne has been a freelance musician in the Merrimack Valley area for the past 15 years. She teaches piano, accompanies various singing groups and is the organist at St. Robert's Church in Andover. Yvonne and her husband Joe live in Lowell with their very energetic dog, Tucker. Yvonne and Tucker just became Pet Partners about a year ago and go on visits to The Fidelity House. Yvonne is on the Board of Directors of New England Pet Partners, Inc.