

PET TALK



BROUGHT TO YOU BY DOMESTI-PUPS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION PROVIDING DOMESTI-PUPS NEWS ON THE HUMAN ANIMAL BOND

I Love My Dog Expo Grows from Modest Beginnings



Dog Enthusiasts Attend Inaugural I Love My Dog Expo at Lancaster Event Center in 2008

What started as the idea of a group of students eight years ago has grown into the premier gathering of dog-lovers in southeast Nebraska. "In 2008, Domesti-PUPS was looking for exposure, and the students of the Lincoln Public School Entrepreneurship program were looking for a project," said Domesti-PUPS Executive Director Michelle Ashley. It was a perfect match.

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Coming Soon: Dogs for Hearing Impaired

Domesti-PUPS is growing and has found another way for Man's Best Friend to Serve Mankind. A new partnership with Midland Empire Resources for Independent Living, or MERIL, in St. Joseph, Missouri started out by providing space for pet therapy training. The Domesti-PUPS service dog team was intrigued by MERIL serving the deaf and hard of hearing community and wanted to help by providing specially trained dogs to assist this community.

"While we've considered this option in the past, the ever-increasing skill of our inmate handlers who continually amaze us with their talents and abilities, made this the right time" - Michelle Ashley

The training program for the new service dog line is currently under development, with the goal to begin this fall. The dogs will be trained to alert their handler to household sounds that are necessary for everyday safety and independence. The dogs will also provide increased awareness of his or her environment when in public places.

I Love My Dog Expo

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The students were responsible for the entire one-day event. The inaugural Expo in 2008, held in a 16,000 square foot room at the Lancaster Event Center, drew around 1,000 attendees, double the students' expectations. "The event was a bigger success than the students, educators, and Domesti-PUPS imagined it would be," said Ashley.



2008 Lincoln Public School Entrepreneurship Students

The following year the Expo moved to Pavilion I at the Event Center, and in 2012 it expanded to its current two day format.

This year's Expo is expected to draw 3,000 people 1,000 dogs and 75 vendors from six states. The featured entertainer is motivational speaker Eric Melvin and his amazing deaf cattle dog Angelyne. The event also features questions and answers from an animal behaviorist, Rally® and Agility demonstrations, dog tricks, and a special demonstration by the Lincoln Police Canine Unit. The Rescue Roundup, where local rescue organizations showcase their dogs that are available for adoption, will return Saturday over the noon hour.

2015 I LOVE MY DOG EXPO

LANCASTER EVENT CENTER

84TH AND HAVELOCK, LINCOLN, NE

SAT, FEB 28TH: 9AM—4PM

SUN, MAR 1ST: 11AM—4PM

\$7 Admission; children under 10 FREE

For more information, please visit the website: www.ilovemydogexpo.com

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

KERMIT MOORE, NEW PET THERAPY TRAINER



New Trainer Brings Extensive

Background in Training Dogs and Caring for Others

Kermit Moore's love for training dogs goes back a long way. "My experience with dog training began with my grandfather who raised and trained hunting dogs," Moore said. "Some of my favorite memories of him were helping him train his dogs and hunting with him in the hills of Mississippi."

Moore continued to refine his dog training skills while in the military. During his last tour in Europe, he had the opportunity to meet and be mentored by Erich Zimmerman, a 73-year-old German Master Dog Trainer. "It was a once in a lifetime experience to learn from such a knowledgeable gentleman," Moore said. "I cherish this time with him and honor his memory by giving back and helping the next generation of dog training enthusiasts."

Moore became a nurse in 1995 and that was the first time he considered getting a pet therapy dog. However, he didn't act upon his interest until 2013, when he and his wife adopted Ellie. He began taking Ellie to the Nemaha County hospital, where he is the Chief Operating Officer, to let the staff get acquainted with Ellie. "She was a big hit from the beginning and as she got older, we let her make visits with the patients upon request," Moore said. "The hospital CEO and Board have been exceptional in providing me the time and support to develop this service for our hospital."

Moore decided to further Ellie's development by attending a Domesti-PUPS training class in July 2014 in Lincoln. "I can truthfully say I enjoyed this class and learned a lot from the trainers and volunteers," Moore said. "It affirmed for me that this was the time and place to fulfill this dream of having a pet therapy dog."

Moore's experience as an ICU nurse inspired him to pursue pet therapy. "I am convinced that pet therapy could have a huge impact on the patient and their family in the ICU setting," Moore said. Given his background in dog-training and care-giving, becoming a trainer for Domesti-PUPS makes perfect sense for Moore. "I love training dogs and would like to share that passion with others." Kermit will be assisting founder Michelle Ashley in providing pet therapy classes in the



Kermit Moore and Ellie

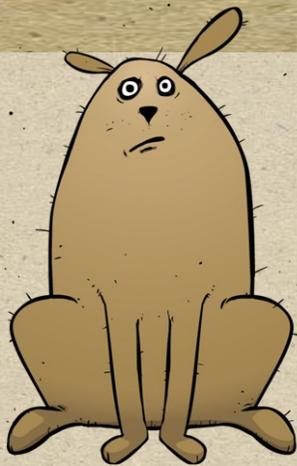


Omaha area this Spring and will be leading the Summer session.

In The Next ISSUE

- Next Class of Service Dogs to Graduate June 8th
- How Do You Know When It's Time to Retire Your Therapy Dog?
- I Love My Dog Expo Recap

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR
VOLUNTEERS!



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Domesti-PUPS Turning 80!

(in dog years)

What do chronic depression, the Animal Plant and a West Highland Terrier named Gertie have in common? They all played a part in the formation of Domesti-PUPS, which will celebrate 15 years of Man's Best Friend Serving Mankind later this year in November.

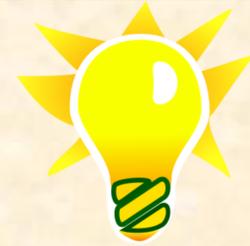
Domesti-PUPS Executive Director (and founder) Michelle Ashley had battled chronic depression since she was a small child. When she was in her late 20s, a white West Highland Terrier named Gertie changed everything for Michelle. "She demanded my attention, walks, food, and love, and through that process, I got better," said Ashley.

Gertie liked to watch television and they watched a program about prisoners training service dogs on Animal Planet®. "I knew this was something I wanted to do in my retirement, but since I was only 27 at the time, I found other ways to start that process earlier," said Ashley.

"I went through pet therapy classes with Gertie and found that while she easily passed the test, she was not a great candidate to do therapy work," said Ashley. "And because there was no training for owners to learn how their dogs communicate, I felt there was a need for a better way."

Ashley is grateful for the organization's many volunteers. "The volunteers are the ones that make this organization strong and continue to grow and serve our communities in such positive ways."

As for the future, Ashley sees more growth. "I see an expansion of our current offerings in the form of education, seminars, workshops and additional training classes," said Ashley. "This journey is an exploration of the human-animal bond. We continue to learn and evolve, and I'm sure our pets are happy we're catching up!"



How Many
Dogs Does
it Take to
Change a
Lightbulb?

Golden Retriever: The sun is shining, the day is young, we've got our whole lives ahead of us, and you're inside worrying about a stupid burned out bulb?

Lab: Oh, me, me!!!! Pleeeeeze let me change the light bulb! Can I? Can I? Huh? Huh? Huh? Can I?

Poodle: I'll just smile at the Black Lab and he'll do it for me. By the time he finishes rewiring the house, my nails will be dry!

Odds and Ends

- Domesti-PUPS is partnering with the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility in Omaha to provide a shelter/rescue adoption program that will begin mid-March. Canines will be selected from various area shelters or rescue groups and trained for 12 weeks by inmate handlers at NCYF. Behavior management with shelter and rescue dogs is growing in popularity as obedience trained dogs have a greater potential of staying in their lifelong homes rather than being displaced due to behavior issues. Each dog is hand selected and temperament tested. They receive 12 weeks of basic obedience training including the AKC Canine Good Citizen designation. The adoption fee is \$300.
- If you live in or near the York area and would like to help our training program at the Nebraska Women's Correctional Center, please contact info@domesti-pups.org for more information.