



# THE SPOTLIGHT



The Newsletter of the Musical Dog Sport Association, Inc.  
*Created By Freestylers For Freestylers*

Volume 3, Issue 1

Fall 2008

## In Memory of Rookie

It was a very sad day on Monday, July 14, 2008 when a special boy, Rookie, crossed over the Rainbow Bridge. Rookie was 15 years old. Rookie will live forever in our hearts and as he has inspired so many, so will he continue to be an everlasting inspiration for all.



# A Poem for Rookie

“ To my dearest family,  
some things I'd like to say.  
But first of all, to let you know,  
that I arrived okay.

I'm writing this from the Bridge.  
Here I dwell with God above.  
Here there's no more tears of sadness.  
Here is just eternal love.

Please do not be unhappy  
just because I'm out of sight.  
Remember that I am with you  
every morning, noon and night.

That day I had to leave you  
when my life on earth was through,  
God picked me up and hugged me,  
and He said, 'I welcome you.  
It's good to have you back again;  
you were missed while you were gone.  
As for your dearest family,  
They'll be here later on.'

**God gave me a list of things,  
that he wished for me to do.  
And foremost on the list,  
was to watch and care for you.**

And when you lie in bed at night,  
the day's chores put to flight,  
God and I are closest to you . . .  
in the middle of the night.

When you think of my life on earth,  
and all those loving years,  
because you are only human,  
they are bound to bring you tears.

But do not be afraid to cry:  
it does relieve the pain.  
Remember there would be no flowers,  
unless there was some rain.

I wish that I could tell you  
all that God has planned.  
If I were to tell you,  
you wouldn't understand.  
But one thing is for certain,  
though my life on earth is o'er.  
I'm closer to you now,  
than I ever was before.

*There are rocky roads ahead of you  
and many hills to climb;  
But together we can do it  
by taking one day at a time.*

It was always my philosophy  
and I'd like it for you too;  
**That as you give unto the world,  
The world will give to you.**

If you can help somebody  
who's in sorrow and pain;  
Then you can say to God at night . . .  
'My day was not in vain.'

*And now I am contented . . .  
that my life was worthwhile.  
Knowing as I passed along  
I made somebody smile.*

God says: 'If you meet somebody  
who is sad and feeling low;  
Just lend a hand to pick him up,  
as on your way you go.

When you're walking down the street  
with me on your mind;  
**I'm DANCING in your footsteps  
only half a step behind.'**

*And when it's time for you to go  
from that body to be free.  
Remember you're not going  
you're coming here to me.*

”

**Author unknown**



# Announcements from the MDSA Board



The MDSA started titling events in 2008! The first event was the June Video event. Mark your calendar for these titling events, too. Questions about these events are always welcome. Just ask them on our discussion lists or e-mail one of the Executive Board members.

## Video Event: November 1, 2008

This MDSA video event ends November 1, 2008. We invite you to participate in the video event for a leg, an MDSA Novice title or just for fun. Either way, you will help shape the future of our wonderful sport.

### Details for the event.

All who enter titling events will begin in the Novice Class (single dog). You must have 2 qualifying events (legs) to earn a Novice Freestyle Dog (NFD) title. Titles are awarded to a dog and handler team. Performances for each qualifying leg must be earned with a *new* routine, *new* choreography and *new* music. Only *one* entry per dog in a titling class is allowed per event. You may earn legs for MDSA titles at video or live events. MDSA will offer titles for Standard and Premier as well as Novice classes at future events.

Many of you may want to join us in the fun of the non-titling, non competitive event such as a Fun Match. The MDSA still has that for you! We offer the non-regular classes of Rookie (single dog or team) and Veterans (single dog). The Rookie class is open to MDSA members only. You may also enter a routine in the Novice class and choose to not be scored; you will be able to mark your form as such.

The *November Video Event Entry Form*, *MDSA Performance Guidelines (August 2008)* and the *MDSA Novice Score Sheet* are available in the **Files** section of the **MDSA Discussion List** and the **MDSA Online Workshop** online groups. The entry form and performance guidelines are also in the **Publications** section of the MDSA Web site at [www.musicaldogsport.org](http://www.musicaldogsport.org).

A DVD of the teams entering will be sent to all exhibitors. Each performance will be evaluated or scored with the *MDSA Performance Guidelines (March 2008)* providing the basis for the evaluation. The DVD - a thank you to those who entered and a wonderful learning tool - will not be sold.

## Live Event: November 2, 2008

*This event will be dedicated to the team who brought a smile to each of us – Carolyn Scott and Rookie.*

The time has arrived for the Musical Dog Sport Association's First live event! It will take place Sunday, November 2, 2008 and is hosted by the Capering Canines of Cape Cod. For more information check the MDSA Discussion List, MDSA Online Workshop or the MDSA Web at [www.musicaldogsport.org](http://www.musicaldogsport.org).

Any MDSA member interested in hosting a Live MDSA event should contact the MDSA.

### New Judges!

The MDSA Executive Board is pleased to announce the judges and apprentice judges that will be judging the November Video and Live events:

#### Judges

Carolyn Scott  
Pam Martin  
Emily Pyle

#### Apprentice Judges

Karen Johnson  
Jo Monfort  
Katie Tracanna



## Notes Worth Repeating



### Do You Believe In Magic?

*Karen Johnson – MDSA Member*

Well, do you believe? For a minute, let's go back to the roots of the MDSA.

Carolyn Scott is the founder of the MDSA. Carolyn and Rookie are the inspiration for the MDSA. How many of you were introduced to freestyle when you saw the "Grease" routine (You're The One That I Want) on the internet? (This is only my third favorite of Carolyn's routines, by the way...) What caught the eyes and hearts of the millions of people around the world who viewed this routine, and continue to view it today?

**Was it the technical difficulty?** I think all of our dogs can weave through our legs, spin and twist... so it must have been more than that.

**Was it the flowing choreography?** We can mostly all put moves to music, so there must have been more to it still. Something harder to define.

**I believe it was the MAGIC:** the total joy in each other's company, the complete teamwork, each partner appearing to be half of an amazing team, the physical and emotional unity. It touched all who love dogs, and many who just like them, in a very special way. It's magic. And I believe.

But the magic didn't just happen. When you watch David Copperfield do an incredible magic trick, you're lost in the trick, and it seems effortless, spontaneous. But like freestyle, much work went into it.

In freestyle, the *work* is *dog training*. When MDSA was formed, it was intended to include and highlight the training of the dog. The main intent was to showcase that joy of teamwork that Carolyn and Rookie expressed not only in the Grease routine but in every routine they performed together.

Yes, this is a uniquely gifted dog teamed with a uniquely gifted handler. Your dog has gifts too, as do you. But they aren't going to just appear. The work that goes on behind the scenes is *fun* and it's where the bond is born, nurtured, grown, and developed.

Just like David Copperfield has to take a magic trick apart to develop it, so a freestyle routine has to be built from scratch. And I think that when we do this, we risk *losing some of the magic*.

Once you know how a magic trick is done, do you find it less amazing? Once you know how a freestyle routine is developed, do you find it less magical?

I can't speak for you; this is something each of you must wrestle with on your own. For me, though, the knowing makes the routine *more* special because I understand and appreciate all that has gone into this wonderful display of oneness between dog and human.

As part of the original group of MDSA board members, I know how we discussed the direction we wished MDSA to take. It was intended to highlight the dog; the *training* of the dog. Yet it was intended to capture the spectator in a moment of magic. As we move ahead, please always keep before you the vision of Rookie and Carolyn, the joy they express, the total communication between them. **This is the goal of MDSA, to see freestyle reach this vision of teamwork.** Not two beings struggling against one another, but two beings loving the co-operation and clearly enjoying their very unique and special bond.



# MDSA Spirit of Sharing (SOS)



Katie Tracanna, SOS Program Coordinator

To learn more about the SOS Program, please visit the MDSA Web at [www.musicaldogsport.org](http://www.musicaldogsport.org).

## SOS Major Milestone

Please join me as we congratulate Kay Lowe, Magic and Lucky for their Level 125 achievement in the MDSA Spirit of Sharing Program. As a team, they have brought smiles to many folks through their dedication to the sport of freestyle. Congratulations Kay, Magic and Lucky! You are true ambassadors for the Spirit of Sharing Program.

...And thank you to *all* our Spirit of Sharing Teams.

*Kay and Lucky..*



*..and Magic*



## A Spirit of Sharing Story

*Kay Lowe* – MDSA Member

Hi everyone, I would like to share with you just how much fun you and your dog can have bringing joy into the lives of others with dancing and therapy. The residents and patients really look forward to our visits.

I do chair dancing with Magic, my Pomeranian. Sometimes he dances and sometimes he leaves to go visit and work the crowd. The senior citizens and children just love that. They laugh, clap and call him. They enjoy him so much when he does that. I mention this so if you are worried about things going wrong during an SOS event, there is no need to be. You will find that everyone has more fun when our dogs make mistakes or are naughty then they do if everything goes well.

A word of caution when you take your small dogs on an SOS visit, I recommend that you take their collars off. Both elderly people and children want to keep Magic and not let go of him. Several years ago, a resident grabbed his collar when I tried to pick him up. He was pulling one way and I was trying to get Magic away from him. It was not a good situation. After that, I leave Magic's collar in the van and carry him, so now when people try to keep him, they do not have a collar to pull him with.

Something funny happened at a practice. I had gone outside the building for a moment and left Lucky my Border Collie inside. When I got back, I couldn't find Lucky. I looked everywhere- he just wasn't there. When I went into panic mode, Penny started laughing, really cracking up. It turned out she was dancing with Lucky, and I didn't even notice him. I thought she was dancing with her own Border Collie. They don't even look alike!

Happy training and have a great day!

### WOW! Look at these SOS Achievements

#### Level 50

Katie Tracanna and Sammy  
Jan Weiner and Chip

#### Level 100

Kay Lowe and Lucky

#### Level 125

Kay Lowe and Magic

# Celebrating Kay Lowe and the MDSA Spirit of Sharing Program

*Karen Johnson – MDSA Member*

Many people think of "Iowa" and its flat wide stretches of corn, growing food (and fuel) for the nation. But there's more to Iowa! When I think of Iowa, what comes to mind is the Performing Paws Freestylers, and Kay Lowe.

Kay is a champion of the SOS Program. When this program was conceived and announced, Kay was the first person to jump aboard. She had been doing many nursing home visits and felt that it was great that the MDSA wanted to appreciate and encourage those visits.

I finally got to meet Kay in person, when Carolyn came to do a seminar for us in Wisconsin and Kay decided to attend. There are many who know Kay much better than I do, but no one who has enjoyed her more, except maybe those whose lives she brightens with her regular visits to nursing homes, where her beautifully trained dogs perform freestyle as part of her therapy visits.

What I learned about Kay is that she is hilarious, and never misses a chance to make you laugh, and laugh hard! Kay has the quickest wit; it's hard to keep up with her. She is a wonderful dog trainer with terrific successes in the obedience ring as well as other venues. Kay works with multiple dogs of very different breeds and types, and finds the best in each dog. She is one of those people who knows how to bring out the personality of each dog she works with. Her enthusiasm runs high and the dogs share it with her; all who watch "Team Kay" perform feel the excitement and sense of total fun.

**“ I'm very proud to have had the opportunity to meet and visit with Kay, and hope more such chances are ahead. MDSA should be very proud of what Kay gives to all those around her. She is the embodiment of what the Spirit of Sharing Program is all about. Three cheers, Kay, and don't stop now! ”**

## **What is the Spirit of Sharing Program?**

The Spirit of Sharing Program (SOS) is designed to recognize with appreciation teams using canine freestyle as part of community service related demonstrations. Included are visits to hospitals and nursing homes, educational demonstrations at schools, libraries, or preschools, performances at humane society fund-raisers, and other such demonstrations. Since freestyle brings a smile to everyone who sees the bond between a dog and handler team, and feels the joy the team is sharing, it's a wonderful way to brighten the day for others.

To participate in the SOS program, you must be a member of the Musical Dog Sport Association. This is an honor system program; all you need to do is download the log sheet, fill in your visits, and mail the completed sheet to the Program. Certificates and awards will be issued for reaching the milestones of 25, 50, 75, 100 visits, etc. We invite you to join the SOS program and share the joy of freestyle! If you have questions or would like more information, e-mail Katie Tracanna at [CharlieSamClaus@aol.com](mailto:CharlieSamClaus@aol.com).



## Rescue Dogs Have Talent!



### My Guy, Tobey

*Jan Weiner – MDSA Member*

Tobey came to me when he was 1 ½ years old. I am his fourth owner. Tobey got kicked around not because he was a bad dog but because his situations just didn't work out. As with all dogs, he came with "issues" some of which included severe separation anxiety and crate phobia from being over crated and having it used as a punishment.

But Tobey is a good-hearted and generous dog and he did not hold past owner's misdeeds against me. We worked hard and formed a bond and I got him certified as a therapy dog. I felt a sense of accomplishment. I had found him "a job". We continued to work on the crate issues.

Then along came Carolyn Scott to conduct a freestyle seminar on Cape Cod. We were all so very excited and I was one of the lucky ones to pick her up at the airport. As we rode home, we talked freestyle and dogs. I told her about my dog, Chip, that I was bringing to the seminar. I also told her about my Golden Retriever, Tobey. Well, Carolyn said he should come too and would not take no for an answer! I figured I could always take Tobey home at the lunch break. After all, he hated staying in a crate and he didn't heel well at all.

Imagine my surprise when Tobey turned out to be a dancing fool! Carolyn put on some music and he heeled better than he ever had before. He was also much more patient in his crate since he knew he would get out to have all that fun!

And he hasn't stopped since! He is now a dancing member of the Capering Canines of Cape Cod and dances regularly at freestyle demos. He has attained his 25 activity level in the MDSA's Spirit of Sharing Program. He brings joy and smiles wherever he goes. He does not feel a demo is over until he greets his audience and gives them lots of love! He is a very special dog who has come far and accomplished much. He can wait nicely in a crate at demos and his heeling is a lot better. Most of all, Tobey and I are having so much fun! And all because of freestyle!



*Thanks to photographer Teri Stanley of the The Falmouth Enterprise.*



# Training Notes



## Teaching a Send Out

*Nancy Tanner* – MDSA Member

I start this with targeting. I will put a mat about 5' from my dog, and throw a treat on it, when they step on the mat I Click/Treat. I will do this a bunch and incorporate a word, 'Away Mat' as my dog is moving towards the baited mat. Many repetitions! Then I will say 'away mat' and as my dog moves towards the mat I will Click/Treat and toss a treat on the mat. I don't start moving the mat too far away until I see fluency. And when I see fluency I start to make the target area smaller over time. I like carpet squares I can cut and make smaller and smaller. Distance, I work on as I see my dog really engaged in the game.

## Treat Recipe: Liver-Lover Cookies

Submitted by *Dru Nelson*

Here's a recipe that will surely make your dog come a-running fast, just to lick the bowl clean! These homemade training treats will add a spark to your training sessions. Go ahead and have fun, you've earned it.

**1 lb. liver**  
**1 cup cornmeal**  
**½ cup flour**  
**2 eggs**  
**1 tsp. garlic**  
**2 tbsp. oil**

- 
- 1 Preheat oven to 400°F
  - 2 Blend all ingredients in food processor.
  - 3 Spread on greased cookie sheet.
  - 4 Bake for 15-20 minutes.
  - 5 Cut into squares. Store in refrigerator or freezer.

### MDSA Future Online Workshop Topics

Do you have a topic that you'd like to see discussed in the MDSA Online Workshop? Perhaps you'd like to lead a monthly discussion? We'd love to hear your ideas! If you have a topic and/or presenter suggestion, please e-mail Katie and **Charliesamclaus@aol.com**. We look forward to hearing from you!



# MDSA 2008 Membership Update



MDSA continues to experience steady growth in 2008. Here is the list of new members that have joined since the update in the last issue of The Spotlight. *Let's give a warm MDSA welcome to all our new members!*

Each member plays an instrumental role in the development of MDSA. 2009 membership renewal letters have been mailed. If you know of someone who would like to join MDSA, now is the time! MDSA has a strong education and outreach effort with our online discussion group, workshop and instructor's list. Please visit the MDSA Web site at [www.musicaldogsport.org](http://www.musicaldogsport.org) to view publications and find more information about the services offered by MDSA. Memberships are due October 1 of each year *but it's never too late to join or renew*. Go to the MDSA Web site at [www.musicaldogsport.org](http://www.musicaldogsport.org) to download a membership application or renewal form. For help or additional information, please contact Katie at [Charliesamclaus@aol.com](mailto:Charliesamclaus@aol.com) or call 508.385.9039.

*Katie Tracanna* - MDSA Executive Board

Name		Address			
Cheryl	Best	12024 Hilltop Terrace	Grass Valley	CA	95949
Barbara	Shaw	17622 S Summit Canyon Dr	Houston	TX	77095
*Barbara	Kamp	42 Washington Street	Peru	NY	12972
Jane	Turbenson	207 S Equestrian Ct	Gilbert	AZ	85296
Barbara	Hatherill	58 Causeway Street	Hudson	MA	01749
Tracy	Parthun	42896 County 3	Becida	MN	56678-4433
Rachal	Savage	4 Aime Street	Gatineau	Quebec	J8T 2K6
Barbara	Walls	36843 Lighthouse Road	Selbyville	DE	19975
Kim	McMunn	P.O. Box 53	Dayton	IN	47941
Carolyn	Homonko	General Delivery	Kashabowie	ON	P0T 1Y0
Kathleen	Liccardo	13253 Simon Lane	Los Altos Hills	CA	94022
Sharon	Castle	306 Lost Rock Drive	Webster	TX	77598
Joan	McKenna	316 East Mary Street	Thunder Bay	ON	P7E 4J9
Liz	Smith	709 Limestone Road	Bozeman	MT	59715
Janet	Trutenko	RR#15, 12 Kari Crt	Thunder Bay	ONT	P7B 5N1
Carolyn	Pfrank	2046 W. Ash Maple Lane	Elkhart	IN	46514
Cathy	Hivner	144 N. Lombard St.	Dallastown	PA	17313
Lise	Gijsen	W8917 Spring Road	Hortonville	WI	54944
Jody	Barth	5621 Washington Blvd	Indianapolis	IN	46220
Clare	Brun	35 Rue de la madeleine a l'etang	16000 Angouleme	France	
Patti	Schaefer	PMB 355: 3430 Pacific Ave A6	Olympia	WA	98501
Mary Anne	Bailey	1043 Tevarkana Drive	Indianapolis	IN	46231
Susan	Tucker	441 South Lincoln Road	Lincoln	VT	05443

Christina	Bond	11182 Brittany Lane	Dublin	CA	94568
*Margot	Lasher	711 Eaton Cemetery Road	Marshfield	VT	05658
Dana	Sambogna	38 Suffolk Avenue	West Yarmouth	MA	02673
Candice	McKing	130 North Co Road, 400 West	North Vernon	IN	47265
Ursula	Caterbone	294 Newtown Ave	Norwalk	CT	06851
Nancy	Bates	2 Mountain Road	N.Easton	MA	02356
Ruth Anne	Cionca	7320 Bryan Street, 1st Floor	Philadelphia	PA	19119
Peg	Cobb	2463 Route 74	Cornwall	VT	05753

\*Address Change



## **MDSA Executive Board**

### **President**

Carolyn Scott (*ranlyn@swbell.net*)

### **Vice President**

Susanna Pathak (*susanna.pathak@gmail.com*)

### **Recording Secretary**

Jo Monfort (*jmoncamz@wcoil.com*)

### **Treasurer**

Sharlene Rothen (*srothen@comcast.net*)

### **Board Member**

COF Program Coordinator

Pam Martin (*TopDogPam@aol.com*)

### **Board Member**

**Membership**

**SOS Program Coordinator**

Katie Tracanna (*CharlieSamClaus@aol.com*)

