

## **IALEP Minutes - Southwest Chapter Meeting – Aug 11, 2009**

### **Joint Quarterly Meeting**

#### **AZ Association of Crime Analysts and IALEP SW Chapter**

**Host: Yavapai County Sheriff's Office, Yavapai Community College**

#### **9:00-9:20am. Registration and Refreshments**

Attendance included 12 IALEP SW Chapter members, 5 Service dogs and their 7 human representatives/trainers/handlers/interpreters, and approximately 25 AACA members.

#### **9:20-9:30 Call to Order, Meeting Opens, Welcome and Opening Announcements**

**Aimee Currey, 08-09 AACA President** and **Ilna Guzman, President, 2009 IALEP SW Chapter**, welcomed the attendees to the Yavapai Community College facility. **Ilna Guzman** requested around the room introductions due to the joint organization meeting. **Aimee Currey** introduced **Yavapai County Sheriff Steve Waugh**.

#### **9:30-9:45 Sheriff Steve Waugh, Yavapai County SO**

**Sheriff Waugh** thanked everyone for coming and spoke briefly on the crime rate in Yavapai county declining. Due, according to the sheriff, in part to the enforcement of immigration laws, (Sheriff Arpaio is not the only sheriff who is enforcing the immigration laws!) and no housing developments in Yavapai County which tend to draw crime. One of the Yavapai county jails was actually closed down. Sheriff Waugh introduced two representatives from his office, Susan and Liz, who were there to assist with whatever we needed.

#### **9:45-10:15 Introduction of and Presentation by Ms. Jamie Mabery, Chief, Victims Services Division, Maricopa County Attorney's Office and "Sam", also Ms. Brittney Shields, Peoria High School Student and Sam's "handler in-training." Ms. Mabery provided an overview of the "comfort" service dog program in Maricopa County Attorney's Office.**

Ms. Mabery had identified a need for these "comfort" service dogs in association with victim's of crimes, who often times have trouble testifying or even describing the events of the crime. As an example, Ms. Mabery told a story of a 4 year old victim of severe sexual abuse being able to testify in court after spending less than an hour with "Sam". Animals were found to decrease the stress levels of victim's within 5 minutes enabling the victim's to relate the events of the crime. The animals are allowed as a comfort "item" for the victim and wear booties and tag mufflers in the court room so as not to disrupt the proceedings. The "comfort" dogs are also used in hospitals and at horrific crime scenes and accidents involving officers, firefighters, child and adult victims.

These animals are rescued/chosen from shelters, provided a sensitivity/temperament test, thoroughly checked by a veterinarian, (who donates their services for the life of the animal) and assigned to a trainer (usually a police officer). The program also assigns a care giver/handler for the animal and uses at risk high school students to provide these services for the animals for an 18 month period. The at-risk students earn school credit and receive training certification at the end of the 18 month period. The students must adhere to all requirements of the program in addition to caring for the animal by brushing the teeth twice per week, weekly baths, daily brushings, exercise, etc. Donation accounts

are set up at the agency to accept donations for the care and feeding of the animals. Only 12 dogs per year are trained at an average cost of \$2,500 each and almost all have sponsors!

Over 35 states have contacted the Maricopa County Attorney's Office for copies of their program and information on starting their own program. Copies of the 1 ½ year curriculum are available by contacting Ms Mabery.

Q&A Period & One-on-One with "Sam"

### **10:15-10:30 Break**

### **10:30-11:05 Introduction of and Presentation by Mr. Anthony Pagliuca and Mr. Eric Shinn, Scottsdale Police Crisis Intervention Specialists, Canine Response Team and "Fozzie".**

As an opener, the attendees were provided with an introduction to the "trunk monkey" videos provided via [www.suburbanautogroup.com](http://www.suburbanautogroup.com).

**Mr. Pagliuca** began by describing their unit, the Police Crisis Intervention Services (PCIS) which is considered a Department of Justice (DOJ) model program and has been in existence since 1975. The unit and their animals respond to many different types of calls, including critical incidents involving employees or co-workers, by visiting hospital rooms and visiting with the families/friends and others in the waiting rooms. The dogs assist humans through comfort and not words and seem to more accepted than humans at times.

Mr. Pagliuca also spoke of the types of service dogs, such as assistance animals-trained to provide help with activities; therapy dogs-trained to sense emotions, crisis responder dogs (like "Fozzie"), and educational support animals among others. As early as 1962, a Dr. Levinson brought his own dog into a therapy session with a non-respondent patient, in 1996 the Phoenix Children's Hospital began using trained animals for children, the children would forget their aches/pains to get out of bed and pet the animal. Dogs are also used at "R&R" locations for soldiers involved in battle.

Mr. Eric Shinn continued the presentation.

In 1998, Ms. Cindy Elhers, PhD, founded Hope Crisis Response [after a 1998 shooting at Thurston High School, not 911 as said in the presentation.] The dogs are used when therapy is offered and shunned.

[[www.pawsitivepasw.com](http://www.pawsitivepasw.com), [www.animalassistedcrisisresponse.org](http://www.animalassistedcrisisresponse.org), [www.peopleandanimalswhoobserve.org](http://www.peopleandanimalswhoobserve.org), and [www.deltasociety.org](http://www.deltasociety.org) are additional sources for training and therapy programs for dogs.] Fozzie is certified through the Delta Society located in Washington County, Oregon. The animals used in the Scottsdale PCIS are called "release dogs"; these animals have been handled and raised for service dogs however for whatever reason have been released from the program. These animals have already had a great deal of training and socialization and are donated to programs such as PCIS through the Paws with Claws organization. Last year there were 109 release dogs, they were sent to US Customs, Department of Homeland Security and Police

Departments. Currently Glendale Fire Department has “Topaz”, a Labrador; the AZ Department of Corrections has “Hannah” a Labradoodle.

The PCIS was asked to determine what types of calls the dogs would be responding to and responded with all types of calls except when the victim/subject is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or has phobias or allergies.

Q&A Period and One-on-One with “Fozzie”

National Animal Assisted Crisis Response – [www.animalassistedcrisisresponse.org](http://www.animalassistedcrisisresponse.org)  
Cindy Ehlers, Ph.D.; and [www.pawsitivepaws.com](http://www.pawsitivepaws.com)

*“...Whether natural or human-made, the extreme and over-whelming forces of disaster have far-reaching effects on individual, local community and national stability. Mental health is an essential component in this response to disaster. Therapy dogs have been used for years in hospitals and nursing homes to comfort the ill or distressed, they have never before been put to use on such a large scale as in the World Trade Tower disaster of Sept 11, 2001”. —Hudson Valley Animal Assisted Crisis Response Coalition*

### **11:05-11:20 Break**

### **11:20-1:10 Presentation and Working Lunch**

Introduction and presentation by **Ms. Mary Kirkwood, Scottsdale Police Crisis Intervention and Chair of the AACA/IACA;** and **“Rhett and “Belle”**.

Ms. Kirkwood volunteers her time and that of her two Red-Boned Coon hounds to Search & Rescue programs. Her first volunteer episode was with the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office posse where she and “Rhett” (her first S&R dog) spent 2 ½ years. Later she got “Belle”, trained her (carefully avoiding the training errors she had with “Rhett”) and now the three of them volunteer for Search & Rescue in Pinal County. Both her animals are certified (or will be certified) by the National Association for Search & Rescue.

Ms. Kirkwood spoke of the different types of certifications for the S&R animals such as HRD (human remains detection) cadaver training, where the animals are trained using human bone, blood, and dirt which has human decomposition. Apparently there is a store for these training items called “The Bone Store” [probably don’t have blue light specials and aren’t located in any malls I go to!!]

“Belle” is a tracking dog, and she like all other dogs have a sense of smell 44 times greater than that of a human. Unlike humans, dogs can scent discriminate and do not “get used to” smells. Humans loose 40,000 skin cells at a time, leaving a trail wherever they go. These trails are impacted by the temperature, humidity, sun and wind. The hotter and drier the day, the shorter life of the skin raft trail. This is why dogs must be called in immediately for S&R missions however, the trail must be at least four hours old.

There is a difference between tracking dogs and trailing dogs although both are scent specific. A tracking dog, like “Belle” is trained to follow the exact path a subject took, the scent is provided to the animal from an article from the subject (clothing, keys, knife),

and works on a 15-50 foot lead. The trailing dog may be 2-3 feet off of the path the subject took and is not worked on a lead.

Air scent dogs are not scent specific – they are used in specific areas/grids where the subject was last scene. The animal crosses the area and if it hits on a human, either barks or returns to the handler to bring them to the human.

Most breeds can be taught Search & Rescue, they must have a high drive, and consider the work to be a game to obtain a treat or toy.

Q&A Period, One-on-One with “Rhett” and “Belle”, S&R Demo - the animals in action.

**1:15-2:20** Introduction and presentation **Sgt. Frank Barbaro, and Officer Shane Webber,** (handler), **Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office** and “Neo” “Neo” is a trained drug dog, he is trained to respond by scratching to the scent of marijuana, cocaine, heroin and meth. This “work” is considered a game to the dogs, they want to find something to get their favorite toy or reward. The dogs used to be trained to remain in the vehicle and were let loose to chase whoever was running, this caused problems as sometimes the officer was also running!!! Now the dogs are trained to stay with the officer, the officers are also DRE certified and work highway interdictions.

During a demonstration, a toothpick which had been placed next to marijuana, was hidden in a wall for the dog to find. Fall is marijuana season and the officer and “Neo” will be working I-17, looking for suspicious vehicles/drivers. Once pulled over, the drivers may be asked for consent to search the vehicle, if provided the vehicle is searched. If not provided, the officer and dog will just take a stroll around the vehicle, should the dog “hit” on something, it is considered probable cause to search the vehicle.

Bad guys have used pine air fresheners to cover the smell of the drugs – too many are called a “felony forest”; cayenne pepper and tar soaked paper towels to discourage the dogs, and have hidden drugs in gas tanks, hockey bags, door panels, fender wells, among other places.

They officers are also finding a stronger (more THD concentrated) marijuana which is called hydroponic marijuana. It contains all buds, is never compressed, and is stronger and much more expensive than the other marijuana drug.

Q&A, One-on-One with “Neo” and demonstrations of “Neo’s” training.

**2:20-2:45** Wrap-Up with **Mary Kirkwood** regarding the 2009 AACA/NACA Conference. Speakers will include: Jack Ballentine author of “Murder for Hire”; Mike Watkiss from Channel 3 Current Affair, Allison Dubois whose talents are the subject of the TV shows “Medium” and “Sole Evidence” (Fall 09); Sgt. Doug Neimeier, lead investigator in Kansas City, Mo case involving serial killer Terry Blair.

Treasurer’s report provided to IALEP SW Chapter secretary by Ilona Guzman, IALEP SW Chapter president in treasurer’s absence.

2:45 Meeting adjourned

Next IALEP SW Chapter meeting will be held at the Fort McDowell Police Department on November 10, 2009. This will be our annual meeting and the Chapter Board Members for 2010 will be announced. Be thinking about nominating yourself or someone you feel would be just the right person!!!

**Election Info:**

Nominating ballots will be emailed to members by the end of August.

Nominating ballots need to be returned by September 22, to ensure the nominee's name is included on the election ballot.

Election ballots will be mailed to members by October 6<sup>th</sup> and should be either:

- 1) brought to the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, or
- 2) sent (email: [rcheetham@azdps.gov](mailto:rcheetham@azdps.gov) or fax 602-223-2945) to the IALEP SW Secretary by November 6<sup>th</sup>.