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Frank Spears—Editor

NLMAAD
 NEW LIFE MOBILITY ASSISTANCE DOGS

Specializing in the rescue and training of shelter dogs, to assist the disabled, providing both person and canine with a new lease on life

Winter 2010

**Festival Season Begins
 Come out & Support NLMAAD**



Spring Festivals
 Super Flea- Greensboro Coliseum, Feb. 27 & 28
 Super Flea-Greensboro Coliseum, March 27 & 28
 Shine to Wine-N. Wilkesboro, April 24
 Outside the gates of Merlefest, April 29-May 2
 Spring Folly, Kernersville, May 7 & 8
 Arts on Sunday, Winston-Salem, May 9
 Newton Mayfest, May 15
 Arts on Sunday, Winston-Salem, May 16
 Arts on Sunday, Winston-Salem, May 23

My name is Leanne Pruett. My service dog Cody has changed my life in many ways. He has made me popular at school. He has made people see me normally. When I'm at school people from across the hall that I don't even know will yell hey Leanne hey Cody and it is so cool. I have so many friends now. Even guys are talking to me. It hurts my back to bend over so whenever I drop something he can pick it up for me. Other people at school 'accidentally' drop stuff for him to pick up too and he loves it. The people there think its cool when he picks stuff up. I dress Cody up for all the games so he's the school mascot. Cody has alot of nicknames therel like Scruffy, Sparky, Doodlebug, Grumpy, and Mr. Bighead. Some people that used to be scared of dogs now come running up to Cody putting there face in his asking him for kisses. Me and Cody are inseperable we'll be in class and people will start saying his name to try and get his attention and he won't flinch but when I say his name he jumps up and looks at me with a wagging tail waiting for something to do. Every now and then in class he'll randomly wake up and jump on me and lick me and just lay back down like nothing happened. I use a manual wheelchair and when I get tired cody pulls me. Cody has only been with me for five months but I can't imagine my life without him.

Cody was not my first dog, Karen brought me a dog named Layla, when Layla did not work out Karen came right back to Virginia with cody. She went to school and met with the principal and helped everyone in our community get used to having a service dog. Karen is a role model for me because she changes people's lives even with her disability. Cody and Karen give me hope that I can make a difference in the world in spite of my disability. New Life Mobility Assistance Dogs is an organization that changes lives for people with disabilities. I am so grateful that my mom found them on the internet!

**Leanne Pruett & Cody
Team # 57**



**Lana Ellingburg & Angel
Team # 58**



The picture above says it all! Lana & Angel leave the register at their local Wal-Mart with a broad smile and arms raised in victory. That day in mid-December 2009 completed their training together. NLMAD spent a week in Asheville working with this team.

Angel is a 2 year old yellow lab that was brought to NLMAD by a board member whose son was going to Iraq to do a tour of duty. Angel quickly learned to retrieve, get the phone, walk slowly and brace to aid with balance and carry bags. These were all needed to assist Lana who struggles with multiple sclerosis on a daily basis. NLMAD wants to applaud this team.

Happy Trails & Wagging Tails!



Two Divas!
Cookie sits on an artist painted bench
at Oktoberfest this past year

**Who says dogs & cats don't
get along? Winter (the cat)
and Bella share creature comforts!**



**2010
Board of Directors**

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Ruth Sturgill, Vice-President
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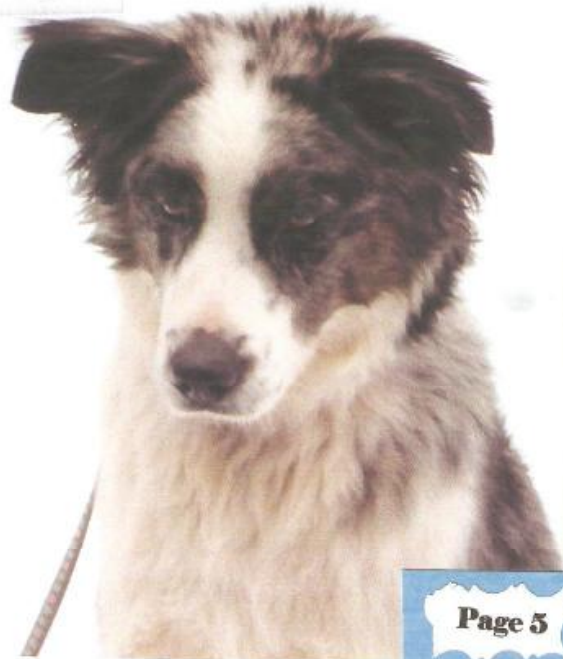


Mark Hoke has been appointed to be the Head Trainer at NLMAD. He has shown a strong work ethic and a great love for animals during the past year he has worked at New Life. While working with both the dogs and recipients, he has been very adept at coming up with innovative ideas about training and equipment. Mark is met at the dog gate each morning by happy wagging tails just waiting for their turn to train in the dog room.



This is the face of Zoloft, our newest dog in training at NLMAD. He is a 1 year old, blue merle Australian Shepard that has been rescued from the Wilkes Co. Animal Shelter.

Mark Hoke was given the assignment to name this guy. After seeing this dogs' energy level and exuberant personality, Mark decided that whoever became the proud recipient of this handsome dog would feel like they have been given a "happy pill".





Amanda Levesque is a 26 year old young lady with cerebral palsy that wishes to have an assistance dog. She lives in downtown Asheville and while NLMAD was placing Angel with Lana on Page 3 we were able to interview her. A potential dog was brought to see if they would be a good match. Amanda's eyes lit up when she saw the dog we brought but after a practice session of retrieves, NLMAD determined that Amanda would need a dog with more patience. A trip is planned toward the end of February to try two other dogs with Amanda to get the best possible match. One of Amanda's neighbors mentioned that one morning he found Amanda lying in the hall after she had fallen out of her power wheelchair. Amanda said she had dropped something and was trying to reach for it and had fallen instead. She admitted that this happened frequently. NLMAD knows that this is one scenario that can become a distant memory once she has an assistance dog to help her. Amanda really needs Your Help to make her dream come true. Please send a donation to NLMAD and earmark it for Amanda. Thank You!



Hi Karen,

Thank you for sending Layla's command list and rabies tag. She's great at opening and closing doors, getting on and off countertops, and giving & taking objects, but not so good at the "speak" and "heel" commands. We're working on heel now twice everyday when we walk her.

We joined a training class in the area and since she's already a pro at the basic commands, we're going to start doing therapy dog training with her! We are very excited to be able to do this, and I think Layla's love of people will make her a terrific therapy dog.

Layla has lost some weight, seems to be very happy, and overall is doing great. The only thing Sam and I have to do is make sure we don't let her push us around too much :) In fact, what do you recommend if she's testing limits? It doesn't happen much but there are times when she'll go pick up a sock or a t-shirt from our bedroom and then be very proud to show it off but she never wants to give it back. Any tips?

Sam and I wanted to thank you again for trusting us with Layla. She is a real joy in our lives. Hope you enjoy these pictures; they're from a trip to Wilmington a few days ago. We hope all is well with you; NLMAD is a wonderful organization and I can see now exactly why all the folks on your website are so happy with their canine companions.

Thanks,
Katie & Sam



Layla was originally placed with Leanne Pruett in Va. Due to unforeseen issues of being stressed in large crowds, Layla did not work out for Leanne. Instead Leanne was placed with Cody and they are a perfect match. A loving couple inquired about any washout or retired dogs NLMAD might have. They learned about Layla and fell instantly in love with her at first sight. NLMAD is happy that Layla has found her forever home!



Letter From the President

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe from the winter we are having in NC, that there is global warming. We have enough photos of NLMAD dogs in the snow for this year. Pictured left, is Bella, a 4 month old border collie that is in training to become my next service dog upon Cookie's retirement in a few years. Cookie is now 11 1/2 years old. She is still very healthy and spry for her age fortunately, but time is not on her side. Bella will have a tough act to follow but I will love her for her own individuality and will not compare her to my devoted, "One Smart Cookie".

If you would like to donate to NLMAD to help with Bella's training or to help one of the recipients in this newsletter, We cannot thank you enough! Think Spring!

Karen C. Brown



New Life Mobility Assistance Dogs Inc. Annual Appeal

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____



In support of the operation of NLMAD Inc. I/We hereby make this gift/pledge

Total Gift
\$

One Time Gift: _____

Quarterly Gift: _____

Semi-annual Gift: _____

NLMAD is a 501(C)(3) Nonprofit Organization; contributions are tax deductible.
PO Box 659 Moravian Falls, NC 28654