

*These Dogs continue from page 36*

You could feel the joy radiating from this dog as he performed. And I bet if you asked this owner what her favorite moment was with this dog, she'd bring up something entirely unrelated to the performance ring. It's just that way with heart dogs.

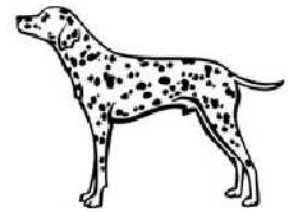
Several years ago at a National Specialty show, we saw another example of an owner and his heart dog. This owner-handler team competed in the conformation ring. They traveled all around the Midwest and occasionally to each of the coasts, amassing top honors at Dalmatian Specialties and All Breed shows. Tragically the dog became very ill, and in order to save the dog's life a limb had to be removed.

One year later this dog and his owner brought the house down at the Top Twenty event when they circled the ring together. I remember his owner telling me that he'd give all the awards back in a minute if he could just have his dog.

Not all heart dogs perform on a public stage. Many heart dogs have never seen the inside of a show or performance ring. These are the dogs that carry us through the low points in our lives. Be it a family illness, problems with a relationship or difficulties with a job, that special dog was there to comfort and distract us during our time of need. We don't take out ads for these dogs, congratulating them on yet another heroic act of kindness. No, we do something that means far more to them. We love them. And they love us back.

They are our best friends, our constant companions. They love us when it feels like no one else does, and often when we least deserve it. Their favorite thing to do with us is whatever it is we are doing right now. That might be going for a long walk, a ride in the car, or simply curling up on the sofa to watch a movie or read a book. It doesn't matter to these dogs of ours. We are so lucky to have them!

*Michele Wrath*



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*Christi and Diva at the grocery store*

### **SEIZURE ASSISTANCE DOG**

Daniele suffers from epilepsy. JINX ~ JLS Dori Hartleys Crying Sky CGC TDI (L) serves as her Seizure Assistance Dog. Daniele attends college at Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, KS. Jinx also attends classes and helps guide her up and down stairs, down hallways and helps with curbs. If she has a

grand mal seizure Jinx will lay down by her head and keep her from banging it around. Daniele says that her seizures can last for a minute but the unconscious feeling can last up to 20 minutes.



*Jinx and Daniele climbing steps*

It can be very scary once she realizes who she is, where she is and how vulnerable she was. Jinx is very caring and sensitive and helps her feel safe and not so vulnerable. Daniele can still attend college now. Good boy Jinx.

*Julia Soukup*



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## **X. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **1. Communication**

Mr. Smith stated that club communications from the board to members and the reverse is very important. The board should make greater use of the DCA e-list. Mrs. Hennessey will research with Ms. Soukup on the feasibility of e-blasts to members (for club news and reminders). Mrs. Hennessey would like to remind members that they need to subscribe to, and check, the DCA e-mail list. Mrs. Hennessey is planning on writing an article for the Spotter regarding what happens at a board meeting.

### **2. ROM/ROM-X**

Mrs. Skibinski needs a report from the statistician so that the ROM/ROM-X list can be updated. Club members were to provide their own statements on their Dals' get. Mrs. Skibinski will create a reminder for the Spotter.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Cramer motioned, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, to adjourn the meeting; motion approved unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 2:42 PM CDT.

*Paula Olcott*

*Recording Secretary*

