Dog Ministry: A Call to Explore a Riverlet of Action  
a Structure for Ministry with Dogs Rather than to them

Presented by  
Jerilyn E. Felton, D. Min.  
Four-Footed Ministers Pastoral-Care Program Coordinator  
And  
Sister Josephine Pelster, SSMO, BNS, BCC
Maryville Nursing Home, Beaverton, OR

Copyright © 2013
Dog Ministry: A Call to Explore a Riverlet of Action

- The Title?
- The Concepts
- Models of Care
- Service Dog/Therapy Dog Distinctions
- The Research-2004 and 2011
- The Four-Footed Ministers Pastoral-Care Program
- Objections to a Program Approach
- Role Play – One-on-One Interventions
- Role Play – Dog-Ministry Prayer-Group Gathering
- Conclusion
- Questions?
Dog Ministry: A Call to Explore a Riverlet of Action

Our Title:
- Dog Ministry
- A Call to Explore
- A Riverlet
- Of Action

A resident with Alya and Caterina
photo by Tom Miller, 2011
Dog Ministry: A Call to Explore a Riverlet of Action

Basic Concepts - Animal-Assisted Interventions

**Animal-Assisted Activity:** “Meet and greet” modality.

**Animal-Assisted Therapy:** Interactions with the dog are specifically directed to *measurable, therapeutic* outcomes.

**Canine-Assisted Ministry/Pastoral and Spiritual Care (CAM/PS):** defines a new category as the “goal” is spiritual/pastoral care.

Photo by Kathryn K. Conrow, 2007
Dog Ministry: A Call to Explore a Riverlet of Action

Animal-Assisted Interventions: The AAA/AAT Model

Flow of Relationships in AAA/AAT

Resident

Dog

Owner/Handler
Dog Ministry: A Call to Explore a Riverlet of Action

CAM/PS Model for the Program: A Diagram

The CAM/PS Model
A visual representation for CAM/PS

Elders

GOD

Dog

Pastoral Care Minister

Triangle of Ministry
**Dog Ministry: A Call to Explore a Riverlet of Action**

**A Service Dog = Therapy Dog?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Dog</th>
<th>Therapy Dog</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Has access to public places guaranteed by ADA legislation;</td>
<td>1. Does not have legal right to enter public places;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Prescribed for an individual by physician;</td>
<td>2. Can connect to many people;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Service Dogs are not registered. (See ADA Business Brief for summary of Federal requirements.)</td>
<td>3. Teams are registered with Pet Partners® for a two-year period.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dog Ministry: A Call to Explore a Riverlet of Action
Four-Footed Ministers Pastoral-Care Program


- Population
- Venue
- Methodology
- Results

Photo by Kathryn K. Conrow, 2007
Dog Ministry: A Call to Explore a Riverlet of Action
Four-Footed Ministers Pastoral-Care Program

What We Did in the Maryville Study (2011)

1. Population
2. Visits
3. Goal
4. Visitation Day
5. Individual and Group Interactions

Resident with Barbara Miller, Sister Josephine Pelster, SSMO, and Jerilyn. The two Four-Footed Ministers are Caterina on the left and Alya on the right.
Photo by Tom Miller, 2011
Dog Ministry: A Call to Explore a Riverlet of Action
Four-Footed Ministers Pastoral-Care Program
All-Volunteer Program

The Requirements for A Four-Footed Minister

1. Training--Dog/Owner.

2. Health Check.

3. Registered by a Pet Partner®-as a team.

Alya
Four-Footed Minister
Photo by Kathryn K. Conrow, 2007
## Dog Ministry: A Call to Explore a Riverlet of Action

### Four-Footed Ministers Pastoral-Care at Maryville: The Populations Served

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Residents</th>
<th>FF Ministerial Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Enjoyed interacting with the dogs; many have their own dogs;</td>
<td>1. Unable to have their own pets, enjoy their weekly visits;</td>
<td>1. Have the joy of sharing their animal with another;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Encouraged to alert Program Coordinator to needs of residents;</td>
<td>2. Look forward to weekly visits and stories based on Biblical themes;</td>
<td>2. Enjoy demonstrating God’s love and compassion through interactions;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Encouraged by FFM Teams to share their pet stories.</td>
<td>3. FFM Teams can connect to the “spiritual-but-not-religious” person who loves dogs.</td>
<td>3. Can use appropriate “God language” because that is their role as volunteer chaplains.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dog Ministry: A Call to Explore a Riverlet of Action

The Four-Footed Ministers Pastoral Care Program
- Research Notes
- Resources—Bibliography
- Job Descriptions/Application
- Lesson Plans
- Description of Maryville Program
- Sample Documents for Charting
- Samples of Dog-Ministry Prayer-Group Gatherings
- Protocols for Dog Ministry at Maryville
- Training Module PowerPoint Presentation
### Objections to a Comprehensive Program:

1. Our chaplain visits with his dog so why do we need a program?
2. A resident dog would save us the trouble of setting up a program.
3. We could use virtual or “stuffed” pets that would make real dogs unnecessary.
4. What about other pets to be used in ministry?
5. What about *Zoonoses* (a big concern for the Infection Control Department)?
6. Can dogs truly be ministers? See [http: catalog.georgefox.edu/record=b1590834~S0](http: catalog.georgefox.edu/record=b1590834~S0)
Dog Ministry: A Call to Explore a Riverlet of Action

Four-Footed Ministers Pastoral-Care Program

A One-on-One Pastoral Visit

Visitation by a Four-Footed Ministerial Team

- Accompanied by the program coordinator.
- The volunteer’s job/FFMPC Program Coordinator’s job.
- Ending the Visit.

Resident with Caterina, Alya and Jerilyn
Dog Ministry: A Call to Explore a Riverlet of Action

Four-Footed Ministers Pastoral-Care Program

Dog-Ministry Prayer-Group Gathering:
What It Looks Like

Call to Prayer

Silence

Scriptural Reading/Midrash

Silence/Sharing

Time for Communal Vocal/Silent Prayer

Conclusion: Sending Forth

Jerilyn with resident petting Caterina.
Photo by Tom Miller, 2010.
Thank You for Your Attention!

The Four-Footed Ministerial teams
Wish You
Blessings on your life journey!

Four-Footed Ministers
Pastoral-Care Program