

**Willie and Isabelle Go To Washington**

Whether lumbering through the U.S. Capitol building or racing down the halls of the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, Isabelle and Willie had the time of their lives in Washington, DC this June.



Getting ready to leave Texas

It all began when Diana Davis, Clinical Director of Alliance For Children, where Willie and Isabelle volunteer, submitted a presentation on Therapy Dogs to the National Conference for the National Center for Victims of Crime. After review, the conference invited the pair of Newfoundlanders to participate in the presentation at the conference which was held at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill June 22 – 24<sup>th</sup>.

Early on Saturday morning we all piled into Diana’s new motor home and began our cross-country journey—that is once we found the keys that had been temporarily lost while loading the RV. Isabelle and Willie quickly found their favorite places to ride and clearly wondered why this wasn’t the standard form of travel for Newfoundlanders.

Two days and 1400 miles later we arrived in Washington, DC where the two therapy dogs quickly became the talk of the town, well, there was a little talk about health care or something but Willie and Isabelle really didn’t understand what all that fuss was about! We were invited to visit the office of Congressman Michael Burgess in the Canon Building and were taken on a staff-led tour of the U.S. Capitol where the dogs no doubt left a lasting impression on the thousands of tourists visiting the Capitol as well.



Willie and Isabelle with the staff of Congressman Michael Burgess

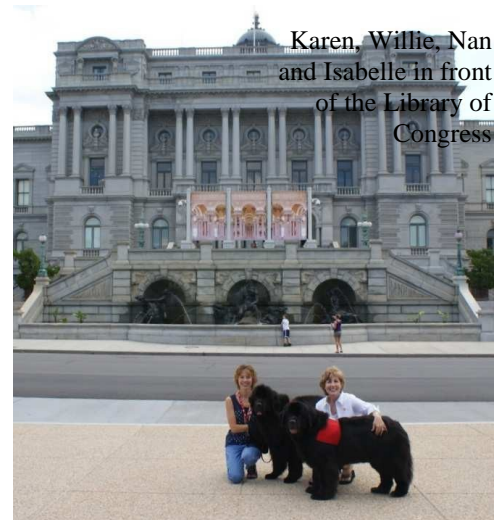
After a long day of being two and four-legged tourists it was time for the big presentation. We were pleased to see that more handouts needed printing and extra chairs had to be brought in because it was standing room only. Many people who had not registered for the therapy dog presentation attended after

meeting the gentle giants in the lobby. Willie and Isabelle were pretty pooped out from their big day of touring Capitol Hill and at one point Willie could be heard snoring through the presentation.

The next morning we loaded back into the RV and readied ourselves for the long journey home knowing there would be more adventures along the way. For everyone involved it was a fun and meaningful excursion filled with great memories and the knowledge that the message about the wonderful work of therapy dogs had been taken to Washington.



Resting inside the Canon Building



Karen, Willie, Nan and Isabelle in front of the Library of Congress