



Miss Judi and The BOW WOW Dog Show

If any of you know Shobi, you know how much I love dogs. Well I had a chance to meet Judy in Calgary. Of course, I had a doggie in my lap as much as I could (mine was back in California) But what a show they put on. Judy was taking her dog show to nursing homes long before she became *Miss Judi* the clown, but now she says that clowning has added a new dimension to her work and has in demand where ever she travels. This is her story.

From Judy "Miss Judi" Hagen of Invermere BC Canada

I have been doing pet therapy in hospitals and nursing homes for over seven years. A year and a half ago I started my own show, the "BOW WOW Dog Show". The show performs in hospitals, nursing homes, special needs facilities and we also do school and community events.

Last August I was introduced to the art of "clowning" and found that including clowns has added a wonderful element to an already successful program. As a new clown I have searched for other clowns doing what I do and have not found anyone in Canada or

the USA doing exactly what we are doing. The hospital clown and the pet therapy programs are amazingly the same except instead of using your regular clown props we use wonderful live dogs. To do what we do, therefore, you have follow the extra rules of your facility for pet therapy plus you need to follow all the procedures of a caring clown. We use many modified agility props and a lot of costuming for dogs and clowns. We also incorporated "doggy sing-a-longs" where we sing and the dogs have actions and costumes for each song.



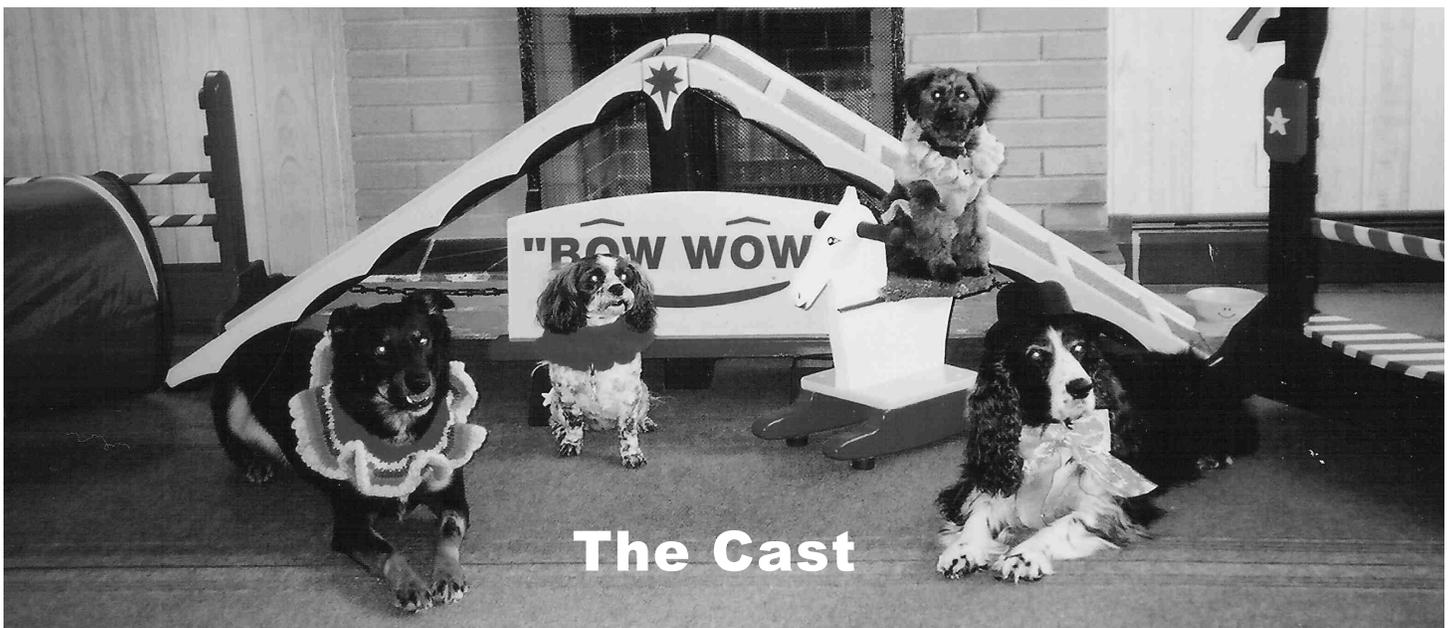
Cool Duke at the keyboard.

Hi, my name is Maggie!

My friends & I love to perform for in-patients and seniors in hospitals and homes. We also perform at community events and fairs whenever and wherever we are invited. I think my Mom says it best: "Have dogs and clown suits - let's travel!" We love to meet people from all over western Canada and have now put on numerous shows in three different provinces.



Maggie - The Bow Wow Dog Show Spokes Puppy



The Cast

To tell you some of the things necessary to clown with dogs I find it easiest to do it with "LAUGHTER"



The Cast Takes 5 (a break)

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First off you need the love and heart of a caring clown plus you need a love for your dog. To clown with dogs you need a dog that loves

people and is the right temperament. You have to understand that dogs have special needs and you need special permission to take them into a facility. If your dog does tricks, you need to have carpet runners, so they won't slip on uncarpeted floors. A clown with a dog also carries water and poop bags at all times. Do you see yourself as a clown with a dog doing

room visits, doing a show in a nursing home, working with special needs people? Every dog is required to have a medical clear-

ance from the veterinarian and all vaccinations must be current. If your pet is ill - leave it at home and just be a clown! Now for the big one - to train your dog. An

obedience course should be your initial start. You need to socialize your dog. I do this by asking for permission to train in stores and on the streets and in the parks of my community. I have attended trick training seminars, agility training and even have some tracking. I find the extra effort comes in getting insurance

and the licensing needed. You need insurance for a clown and dogs! The rewards are "Millions of Smiles". To ex-

plain some of the rewards - please come on one of our tours. We tour throughout British Columbia and Alberta, going to mainly smaller communities that may not have pet therapy and most never get to see a clown.

Kimberley, BC - An Alzheimer patient holds a long conversation with Heidi. The staff can't believe it as he has quit communicating verbally a long time ago.

Cool Heidi



Creston, BC - A very senior resident in a nursing home volunteers to play the piano for "How Much Is the Doggy in the Window?" As she is negotiating through the equipment and back to her chair I explain this was the first time we used a live pianist. She quipped right back - "Were all the others dead?" Needless to say we asked her to join the show!

Kamloops, BC - We are scheduled for one show. After the staff sees what we do they request we go to other floors - six shows later we finally leave.

Vancouver, BC - Canuck Place, a children's hospital. The staff asked if the children in wheel chairs could try to run the dogs on the agility course. The dogs did wonderfully well and didn't seem to mind running beside a wheel chair. They will run for anyone that has the "treat."

A highlight for me is a weekly visit with Andrew, an eighteen year old with severe autism. His care giver is another clown. Andrew can now say the commands and run the dogs over four pieces of equipment and his juggling is coming much better than this clown's.

I count it an honor to be a caring clown with the most wonderful props in the world - dogs that give a very special unconditional love!

BOW WOW for now

www.bow-wow.bc.ca

Miss Judi and Maggi, Heidi & Spatzli

