








ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS NEWSMAGAZINE

Volume 11, Issue 1






Spring 2016 Issue









When and How Do I Renew?

-  One renewal date per household – either January 1st or July 1st.
-  Electronic renewals will be sent out 60 days prior to renewal and will be on the member portal.
-  Hard copy renewal notices should be received 30 days prior to your renewal date.
-  Electronic second notices will be generated the first of January and the first of July. Hard copies will be mailed out by the 15th of January and 15th of July.
-  All renewals received after your renewal date will be assessed a \$10 late fee.
-  If your renewal is late, there is no insurance coverage between your renewal date and the date your renewal is finalized.
-  Any member, who does not renew, including the \$10 late fee, by February 15th or August 15th, will be required to retest and reapply for ATD membership.

Prepare to renew:

-  Make sure your dog has had a physical examination by a veterinarian within 12 months.
-  Be sure the rabies vaccination is current.
-  If using a titer instead of rabies vaccine, rabies titer levels must be 0.5 IU or greater and must be measured every two years.
-  Your dog's annual fecal exam must be done within 12 months. Make sure the fecal exam is done early enough to get results and, if positive, get treatment and retest.
-  Your veterinarian will sign off on the Renewal Health Verification form attesting that all three items are up to date.

Time to renew:

-  You can go to www.therapydogs.com to renew online. Sign into the member portal. Your username is your email address and your initial password (if you have not changed it) is your member number with a "p" in front of it.
-  Complete your review. T/Os take the T/O Review. Non-T/Os take the Member Review.
-  You will print your renewal, have your veterinarian complete it, scan and upload it and save.
-  Return the renewal health verification form signed by your veterinarian.
-  Include the appropriate fees. Make your check payable to Alliance of Therapy Dogs or put your credit card information in the space provided. All credit card information is deleted once your renewal is processed. You can also pay online by going to the Member Portal. Electronic Funds Transfers (EFTs) are not accepted.
-  Payment without the signed renewal health verification form will not be accepted. **All required materials must be submitted together. Your renewal will not be processed until the office has received all required materials.**

We appreciate all that you do to prepare for your renewal. Please remember that postage fees are a large expense for our organization. We strive to keep our membership fees as low as possible. Please help us by returning your complete membership renewal package with all required materials and signatures to arrive by your appropriate renewal date. This way, your membership and insurance will not lapse and you will avoid incurring late fees.

If you have any questions concerning the member renewal process, please contact the corporate office on the toll free number (877) 843-7364 or email us at office@therapydogs.com.

About the cover

Please help us create covers for our Newsmagazines by sending us photos of your dog. If someone other than you is in the photo, we will need a completed Photo Authorization Form.

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DISCLAIMER

We edit your stories the best we can, but do trust our members to provide correct or verified information. We are not professional journalists or copy editors. We are volunteers. We try our best to catch errors, misspellings and incorrect information. But sometimes we err!

ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS

Single issue, full page \$70, half page \$50, and quarter page \$30. Alternative method – requested size ad is run, and advertiser agrees to donate 10% of their profits from the ad to ATD, but in no case will it be less than the cost of the ad. Ad must be camera ready and submitted to ATD office no later than Jan 15 for the Spring/Summer issue and July 15 for the Fall/winter issue.

Alliance of Therapy Dogs Newsmagazine is published two times a year. Any articles published in Alliance of Therapy Dogs newsmagazines may be reprinted with credit given to the author of the article and the statement: Reprinted with permission from Alliance of Therapy Dogs Newsmagazine (ex.: Vol. 1, Issue 2, p. 60) or whatever issue it is taken from.

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ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the purpose of Alliance of Therapy Dogs to provide registration, support and insurance for members who volunteer with their dogs in animal assisted activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, visits to hospitals, special needs centers, schools, and nursing homes. Our objective is to form a network of caring individuals who are willing to share their special dogs in order to bring happiness and cheer to people, young and old alike.

All communications regarding applications for membership, renewals, concerns, issues, general questions and requests for merchandise are processed by the corporate office and should be sent to:

Alliance of Therapy Dogs

Mailing address:

P. O. Box 20227

Cheyenne, WY 82003

Physical Address:

1919 Morrie Ave.

Cheyenne, WY 82001

877-843-7364 (Toll Free)

307-432-0272

307-638-2079 (Fax)

Email: office@therapydogs.com

Website: www.therapydogs.com

GET ON BOARD!!!

Would you like to help ATD continue to grow and develop? Do you have ideas for the future? Do you have time to help with organization and committee operations?

If your answer is YES, we need you! If you're interested in applying for a director position, please contact the office. We have occasional openings and will call on you when the time comes. File your credentials now!

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ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS PHOTOGRAPH AUTHORIZATION RELEASE FORM

Instructions for Alliance of Therapy Dogs member: Please type or print legibly. Follow all facility rules regarding photographs, including filling out a facility photo release form if requested. Always get permission and use the photo release form even if the photo is for personal use and not for publication.

I, the undersigned, do hereby consent of my own free will, without coercion or inducement of any kind, to grant Alliance of Therapy Dogs, a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) Corporation headquartered in Wyoming, its successors and assigns, including those acting under its permission, to reproduce, copyright, publish, circulate or otherwise use photographic reproductions or likenesses or videotape segments of me and or my name.

This authorization and release covers the use of said material in any published form and any medium of advertising, publicity or trade in any part of the world, including the Alliance of Therapy Dogs Newsmagazine, website, presentations and social media.

This agreement fully represents all terms and considerations and no other inducements, statements or promises have been made to me. I fully understand that no monetary payment will be made to me for such uses as described above.

Please return this signed and dated form with any photos you submit for Alliance of Therapy Dogs publication use.

Alliance of Therapy Dogs
PO Box 20227
Cheyenne, WY 82003
877-843-7364 office
307-638-2079 fax
office@therapydogs.com

Printed Name

Date

Signature

Printed Guardian Name (if necessary)

Guardian Signature

Spring 2016 President's Message

What a beautiful time of year for all of our members throughout the land – late winter storms are ebbing; snow is melting; new growth is springing up; instead of white or brown, the dominant color is green. . . .

ATD is growing by leaps and bounds. I'm happy to report that our Alternative Review Committee (ARC) is quite busy reviewing applications from prospective members who do not have a T/O nearby. The T/O Committee also has a number of applicants wishing to join our testing ranks. Onward and upward!



Each time I write a President's Message I am overcome with emotions – pride in being part of such a wonderful organization, affection for my very special fellow board members and gratitude to the office personnel who handle all the work details the board makes for them! Appreciation also goes to the behind-the-scenes crucial helpers: Stacy, our graphics designer; Jared, one of our newsmagazine editors; and Mark, our IT guru who has saved us on many occasions!

At this time, I have an added emotion of sadness. I am retiring as president at the end of my term on June 30. It has been four years since Teri entrusted me with the helm of Therapy Dogs Inc., now ATD.

The heartache of loss is tearing me apart, but the demands of caring for aging family and managing all personal affairs is overwhelming. The best way that I

can honor ATD is to step aside and let someone else lead.

Fortunately, there is someone who fits the bill to continue our organization on its journey of growth and improvement: Pat Coglianese. Pat has been on the board for three years and has impressed me with her commitment to board issues and ATD affairs. She is dedicated to keeping our organization moving in the direction that Teri intended. She has been the chair of some of our busiest and most difficult committees and always conducts the discussions with thoughtfulness and fairness. She is non-judgmental and considers all sides of issues before making decisions. As much as I hate to leave, I have confidence that Pat will do a good job.

My wonderful friend and vice president, Carroll Colasardo, will continue to help Pat in any way she needs. I know the rest of the board will support her and continue to work hard on their various committees. Teri and I will be lurking in the background should we be needed for anything.

So, to all our wonderful and loyal members, it has been a pleasure to serve as your president. Please continue to do your good work – sharing your special dogs to make people smile. You are the best; we are the best!

Jane Hirsch, outgoing president

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

We are proud of the many Alliance of Therapy Dog visits you have made since becoming a member. Whether you go to hospitals, nursing homes or other medical facilities, participate in education or reading programs, help de-stress passengers at airports or students during final exams, you are providing a valuable service to the people in your area.

We believe that faithful volunteers like you deserve to be recognized for all of the beneficial work you do. In honor of your dedication to Alliance of Therapy Dogs, we are pleased to acknowledge the contributions you make to your community with these tokens of our admiration and gratitude.

Alliance of Therapy Dogs Visit Pins

Do you ever think about how many times you and your dog(s) visit facilities on behalf of Alliance of Therapy Dogs? We invite you to keep track of your facility visits. Alliance of Therapy Dogs offers a lapel pin which displays the Alliance of Therapy Dogs logo. There are two rings on the bottom to attach the gold bars that display the number of facility visits.

Achievement levels begin with 50 visits to any given facility, then go on to 100, 250, 500 and 1000+. When you reach the next level, you may order the appropriate bar to signify the new amount.

Alliance of Therapy Dogs Visit Certificates

Alliance of Therapy Dogs offers certificates for your visits. Provide your visit tracking information and Alliance of Therapy Dogs will send you a certificate showing your name and your dog's name along with the appropriate number of visits. Achievement levels begin with a minimum of 50 visits. These certificates can also be copied and sent to the AKC to apply for the Therapy Dog (ThD) Title.

Years of Service Patches

In recognition of the amount of time you have participated in pet therapy with Alliance of Therapy Dogs, we are pleased to offer you a service patch which displays the Alliance of Therapy Dogs logo and the number of years you have been a member. The patch may be sewn onto a shirt, hat, fanny pack, vest or wherever you would like to display it. They come in two round sizes: 3 inches or 2 inches.

The patches are offered following one year of service and in five year increments thereafter. If you would like a service patch, fill in your information below and send it to: Alliance of Therapy Dogs, P. O. Box 20227, Cheyenne, WY 82003 or via email to office@therapydogs.com.

Yes, I would like to receive the Years of Service Patch! I have been an Alliance of Therapy Dogs member for: (please circle one)

1 year 5 years 10 years 15 years 20 years 25 years

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Alliance of Therapy Dogs Member Number: _____



2015/2016 ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS Committees

Alternative Review (ARC): Review and approve membership outside of the standard Alliance of Therapy Dogs registration process when there is no available T/O in the area of the prospective member. Approve or disapprove all issues that fall outside the Alliance of Therapy Dogs Rules and Regulations.

Grievance/Ethics (G&E): Review and respond to grievances, complaints, ethics issues and general concerns.

Membership Development & Scholarship (MDS): Develop educational materials for present/prospective membership; set scholarship criteria and choose recipients; review and select the recipient of the annual Outstanding Member Award; develop/update policies as needed; and publish all handbooks.

Nominating: Conduct election of officers and board members with the assistance of the corporate office.

Public Relations (PR): Develop and increase public awareness of Alliance of Therapy Dogs' mission and activities. Review and approve requests for the Invite a Board Member program. Design and coordinate educational seminars for members and T/Os.

Research and Investigation (R&I): Research and investigate matters including, but not limited to: Alliance of Therapy Dogs' name and logo misuse, website misuse and legal issues including felony applicants.

Member Review: Develop ideas for re-evaluating teams. Create the annual Member Review. Create the Annual Rules Review.

Social Media: Interface with social networking members, be in control of the social networking content, and make recommendations to the board as needed.

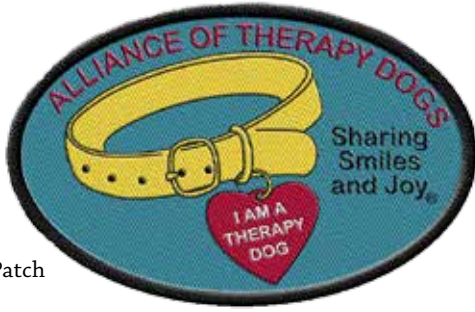
Tester/Observer (T/O): Review and approve prospective Tester/Observer applications. Serve as the first line to resolve T/O issues including disciplinary actions. Develop T/O annual review and monitor the T/O egroup.

News Magazine Staff: Choose and edit submissions and design the semi-annual newsmagazine.

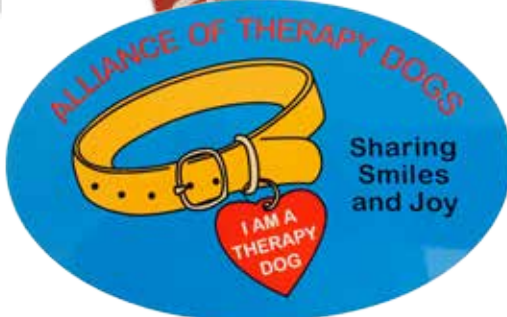


Merchandise

The following items are available for purchase from Alliance of Therapy Dogs
See the ATD website for merchandise updates.



Logo Patch



Bumper Sticker or Magnet



Collar



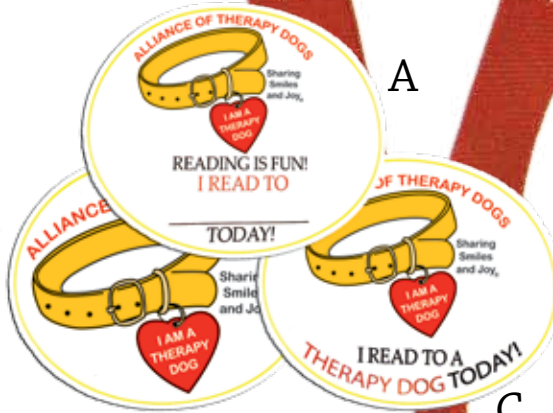
4' Leash

Lanyard

Cloisonné Lapel Pin



Note Card



Oval Sticker



Brochure Holder and Brochures



Bandana



Dog Vest w/Logo Patch

Clothing with the Alliance of Therapy Dogs Logo can be ordered from:

Charleston Cotton Exchange

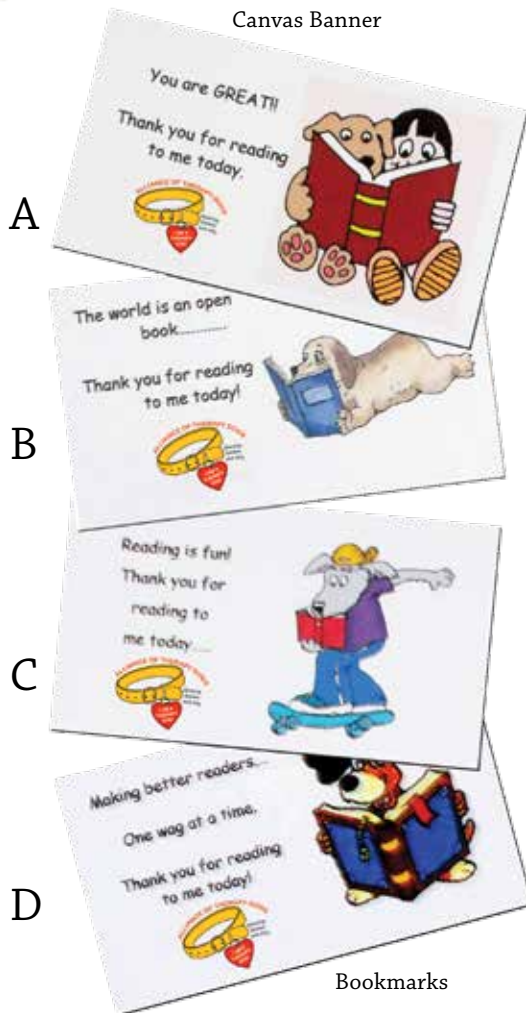
www.therapydogs.com
click on "Shop on Line"



Canvas Banner



Canvas Bag
w/Embroidered
or Silkscreen
Logo



Bookmarks



Replacement
I.D. Tag

Merchandise Order Form

We now accept major credit cards

ITEM	SIZE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Logo Patch		\$5.00	X	\$
Bandanna	S M L	\$5.00	X	\$
Replacement Tag	T S M L XL	\$2.00	X	\$
Magnet		\$6.00	X	\$
Bookmarks (10/page)	A B C D	\$1.00	X	\$
Oval Stickers	A B C	20¢ ea. or \$15.00/100	X	\$
Lanyard		\$5.00	X	\$
Collar	T S M L	\$10.00	X	\$
4" Leash	1/4" or 1" wide	\$10.00	X	\$
Dog Vest w/Embroidered Logo	T XS S M L XL	\$24.00	X	\$
Canvas Bag w/Embroidered Logo		\$25.00	X	\$
Canvas Bag w/Screenprint Logo		\$15.00	X	\$
Canvas Banner	2' x 3'	\$50.00	X	\$
Note Card	5.5" x 4.25"	10¢ ea.	X	\$
Bumper Sticker		FREE	X	\$ 0.00
Years of Service Patch	YRS: 1 5 10 15	FREE	X	\$ 0.00
Cloisonné Logo Pin		FREE	X	\$ 0.00
Visit Pin	50 / 100 / 250 / 500 / 1000	FREE	X	\$ 0.00
Cardboard Brochure Holder w/25 Brochures		FREE	X	\$ 0.00
Brochures		FREE	X	\$ 0.00

DONATION \$

Shipping \$ 3.00

TOTAL \$

Name _____ ATD Member # _____

Address _____

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date _____ Security Code (last 3 or 4 digits by signature) _____

When Your Dog Doesn't Want to Visit: Caring for Your Dog's Emotions

Pet therapy is a much needed and fulfilling activity that brings joy to the person visited, the handler and the dog. Pet therapy provides many benefits including: healing the sick, comforting the lonely, improving socialization and self-worth, and providing companionship. Although there are many benefits to pet therapy, it is important to make sure that all parties benefit. Dogs may experience stress, even though they are well-trained and have visited others for a long time.

As a registered nurse, I see therapy dogs greeting hospitalized patients every day. The dog visits are invaluable for people. Patients and health care workers experience joy with the interactions. The levels of engagement vary from a simple smile when the patient sees the dog, to a feeling of connection and companionship sitting next to the dog, to a cathartic experience of talking to or crying with the dog they are petting. Pet therapy is a wonderful alternative adjunct to treatment that provides many healing moments.

As an applied animal behaviorist, I also see some therapy dogs experiencing stress during the interaction. The mere presence of a dog attracts groups of people. When people close in around dogs, some dogs present that wide-open "bug-eyed" look. Just as a dog would protect us if needed, I believe it's important for handlers to care for the emotional state of their therapy dogs.

Research reveals that dogs possess very similar anatomical brain structures and undergo similar neurochemical changes that humans do during emotional states. Handlers should know when their dogs are happy. Dogs will spread their lips and show a grand smile with sparkling eyes. Dogs may also wag their tails, from the waist down, in a friendly gesture. Therapy dogs who are comfortable in their work walk eagerly toward the patient in the bed and then onto the next room. It's easy to see how much the dogs enjoy their work.

It is just as important for handlers to notice when their dogs experience stress or anxiety. When a dog avoids the visit, shows a stiff musculature prior to or during the visit, pants, presents dilated pupils, turns his head, cowers with petting or just overall appears uncomfortable, this is a dog who is NOT enjoying their work at that moment. The dog needs a break. A dog may pull away from a hospitalized patient's room or stand stiffly on a leash and pant while facing away from the patient. A listless, half-closed eyelid, looking somewhat like the dog will fall asleep, can be a sign the dog may be shutting down. Notice frequent tongue-flicking, yawning, or drooling. These also present as signs of stress.

When you witness your dog's body language presenting one or more signs of stress, remove the dog from the room and give him a break. It just takes a few moments to access a different part of your dog's brain and change his emotional state. Bring a special toy, take him outside for a few moments of fresh air or a potty-break, have him complete a couple of routine obedience commands to allow him to perform something familiar, or simply end the visit. Getting the dog to move or do something simple like having the dog walk to the other end of the room can calm his worry. After a short break return to the same room. Then if the dog seems to enjoy the visit, continue with the interaction. If the dog continues to show signs of stress, then it may be time to go home. Monitor your dog. Read his body language and care for his emotional state. Anticipate the unexpected. Sometimes dogs have "off-days" just like people and need a day off.

Some patients may have droves of visitors and there may be increased noise coming from the room. Lots of activity or movement in a small confined area may change your dog's emotions. Be aware of multiple people at one time, hovering over and attempting to pet your dog. The

Members who take their dogs to work with them and/or use them in their jobs, including but not limited to teachers, therapists, doctors or psychologists, are not covered by ATD insurance when functioning as employees. Our insurance only provides coverage when the member is acting in a volunteer capacity.

interaction can be too much for a dog who is generally tolerant under normal circumstances and a one-person visit. Your dog's body language will be the first sign to step in and take care of the dog emotionally. If they have a smiling face and want to join the party, then go in and visit. Usually, just the presence of a dog can steal the show. If your dog appears hesitant to enter the room, then take a few steps away from the room to bring your dog back to a happy mindset, and then attempt to visit again. Watch for trends. You may need to visit another person for a time and then return, sit with the dog in a waiting area, or even leave.

Although it feels wonderful for to bring the dog you love to help a person in need of companionship, remember that therapy visits are often "work" for your dog. We can maintain a positive relationship with our dogs by being respectful of their emotional state. If they need a break, give them one. If they need a day off, give them one. If they don't find the work fun and exciting anymore, allow them the privilege of retirement. Find another dog who loves the work; there are so many of them available. We want humans and canines to benefit equally from pet therapy, so always attempt to improve quality of life for the dogs as well as the humans.

—Camille King, EdD, MS, RN, ACAAB, CPDT-KA, T/O, Longmont, CO

Looking for a Few Good Volunteers

Do you ever wonder how you can help others experience the satisfaction you feel when you take your dog on a pet therapy visit? If you do, you have an opportunity to take the concept of "Sharing Smiles and Joy" to new heights by becoming a Tester/Observer.

If you have practical experience working with dogs and are good at reading their body language, please consider becoming a T/O. Here are some of the dog-related attributes we look for in a T/O candidate:

- Experience in teaching or assisting in teaching dog training classes
- Training dogs for performance venues such as obedience, agility or herding
- Fostering and rehoming dogs
- Interaction on various levels with a wide variety of breeds—including both large and small dogs
- Assisting T/Os and learning to determine under what circumstances teams successfully complete the testing process
- Reading a variety of books by animal trainers and behaviorists and/or attending seminars on training and behaviors

T/Os are role models for Alliance of Therapy Dogs and as such must know and follow all rules and regulations and be able to convey them to new and prospective members. Good "people skills" are essential to communicating effectively and tactfully with people.

There are additional abilities which may qualify you as well, so please contact the office for your application packet. Join us in our mission to provide registration and support for prospective members in volunteer assisted activities.



We need your help!

Requirements for Alliance of Therapy Dogs Newsmagazine Submissions

We love your stories! Reading each and every one is a true pleasure, and we are happy to share them with the rest of our Alliance of Therapy Dogs family. Here are the things you need to know in order to get your stories printed.

1. Articles and Stories
 - a. 1,000 words or less
 - b. Submit to corporate office in an electronic format such as a Word document, Rich Text File, or other editable electronic/digital form; NOT a pdf. or adobe file.
 - c. The story/article you submit MUST follow all Alliance of Therapy Dogs rules and guidelines. For instance, any stories or articles where your dog is off leash (unless performing tricks) or you have taken your dog to work will not be published. To be certain, please refer to your member handbook or look up the guidelines on-line.
 - d. All stories and articles must relate directly to your therapy work as members of Alliance of Therapy Dogs. We do not accept stories from members of other therapy dog registries.
2. Photos
 - a. You may submit more than one photo, but only one will be selected for printing.
 - b. We prefer that all photos submitted be high-resolution digital photos. Hard copy photographs are also acceptable.
 - c. Please, no newspaper clippings or copies of such.
 - d. MUST be accompanied by a signed photo release for any and all non-Alliance of Therapy Dogs members in the photo. This can be found in each magazine issue, your member handbook and on the website.
3. In The News!
 - a. Summarize any news articles in your own words in 125 words or less.
 - b. Must include your name, city and state of residence.
 - c. You may include one photo that was not taken by the media outlet.
 - d. Please do not send articles or links for us to summarize as the Newsmagazine committee will no longer summarize third-party articles.
4. Rainbow Bridge
 - a. Photos must follow the above guidelines.
 - b. Include the following: owner's/handler's name, dog's name, breed, date of birth, date of death and years of service.
 - c. You may include a few lines about the dog's service or special qualities, but we may need to edit it accordingly.
 - d. Due to limited space, human obituaries are not published.

Submission deadline dates are always August 31 and February 28

Please understand that not all articles that are submitted are published. News articles cannot be reproduced due to copyright issues. The Newsmagazine committee reserves the right to edit contributions for language and length and to make the final decision regarding which articles will be included in each issue. Links to stories will no longer be published, and the Newsmagazine staff will no longer summarize third-party stories. If we have any follow-up questions about your submission, we'll send them to you as soon as possible.



Alliance of Therapy Dogs Scholarship

Dear Alliance of Therapy Dogs,

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Alliance of Therapy Dogs Scholarship. Thank you for your generosity, which will allow me to further my education and pursue a career in wildlife conservation and zoological biology. I am excited to continue to help bring happiness and cheer to people, young and old alike.

Thank you again for your thoughtful and generous gift.

*Sincerely,
Paige Szathmary and Raven*



Our first visit during observation.

ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is awarded annually. Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must be an Alliance of Therapy Dogs member in good standing, or the spouse, child or stepchild of a member in good standing.
- If the applicant is a family member and not the Alliance of Therapy Dogs member, s/he must have been involved in some area of volunteer work in the past two years.
- Must be applying to an accredited program in a field of health, medicine or science related to animals.

The following documents must accompany your application:

1. Letter of introduction telling us about yourself
2. Institution's verification of acceptance
3. Copy of your most current transcript, if within the past ten years
4. Two letters of recommendation from non-family members. One letter should be from a facility visited by you and your therapy dog or, if you are not an Alliance of Therapy Dogs member, from a facility where you volunteer or volunteered.
5. The completed Alliance of Therapy Dogs scholarship questionnaire (please request it from the office).

The deadline to apply is February 15. All documents listed above must be received or postmarked by this date.

Scholarship winners will be notified by April 15.

If you have questions, please contact the Alliance of Therapy Dogs office.

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Spotlight on . . . Stacy Shultz-Bisset, graphic designer

How did you become involved in therapy work?

I wanted to get involved in therapy dog work for a long time, but I did not know about any local organizations. Then, in 1999, my husband was in the hospital for a week and two teams stopped by his room to visit. Billie Smith and Eleanore were one of those teams. It still took a couple years as my dog was young and crazy, but eventually she calmed down. We took the therapy test and passed.

Tell us about your dogs.

I have had five therapy dogs. The first one was Gretchen, a Lab/Newfoundland. She was a diabetic who had a lot to talk about with the diabetic patients we visited. Second was Hanna, a Great Pyrenees. She was also Santa's dog at Breakfast with Santa at the local hospital. There were more pictures taken of Hanna with the kids than there were with Santa and the kids. Then Bebe and Carma, Newfoundlands, who were approved to visit on a brace, although only one of them could go at a time to the normal visits. We also did outside events such as parades and fundraisers. Currently, I am visiting with Hank. We don't know what breed Hank is – maybe an Australian Shepherd/Pyrenees mix. He is probably the smallest therapy dog I've had at only about 60 pounds. He is very attentive to the patients and, while he is good with women, he loves to visit with the men. He has only been visiting since this past fall and he is a natural. He seems to know exactly what is expected of him.

Where do you visit and how often do you go?

We usually have one visit a week: the Cheyenne VA, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, Davis Hospice Center, Life Care Center, and Kindred Transitional Care and Rehabilitation. A couple times a year we visit the dorms at Laramie County Community

College and the University of Wyoming. And we also walk in the Christmas parade and greet children at the hospital's yearly Breakfast with Santa fundraiser.

What motivates you to do continue doing therapy visits?

I find visiting people who are shut-ins rewarding. Many of the people we visit have no regular visitors and they are always happy to see the dogs. It also gives me some one-on-one time with my dog.



Stacy and Hank, 2016

How long have you designed the magazine and what prompted you to get started?

I started designing the Newsmagazine and the Handbooks in 2004. At that time, the magazine was a small booklet format. I thought it could use more of a magazine look, so I offered to redesign it. The organization's board of directors took me up on it.

What do you like about this volunteer component? What do you find challenging?

I love to see the finished product. Every issue has its own challenges. Sometimes, it's cropping an obit photo to get the best picture of the dog and other times it's finding the best placement for each story.

When you redesigned the magazine, what changes did you make?

The magazine was originally 5.5x8.5 in size. I redesigned it to be a full size magazine at 8.5x11. We also changed to a better grade of paper. I think the readers like seeing upbeat stories about visits and the good therapy dogs do for people.

Do you have any suggestions for those who submit their articles/photos?

Photos. They should be high resolution. I also prefer if photos are not cropped. It's best if I can crop them to fit the page layout, that way I can be more creative.

Whether it involves the magazine or your therapy visits, what's a moment that still resonates with you?

It was early spring and my husband and I were walking Hanna, our Pyr. A little boy came racing out of his house and up to us. He demanded to know what we were doing with Santa's dog. We told him we were babysitting for Santa.

Another one happened during a visit to the VA with Gretchen. We were in the room of a diabetic patient who always asked her how her diabetes was. I had not noticed the leftover supper tray sitting on a chair by the door. On our way out of the room, Gretchen snatched something from the tray and I scolded her. The patient told me it was okay since he was diabetic and the tray was for a diabetic diet. It would not hurt her.

Then, there is always that moment when you think a patient does not even know you are there, but sees the dog and smiles.



Stacy and Bebe, 2008

Blessings by Blaze

I have been a dog lover all of my life and a dental hygienist for 30 years. I once worked in an office where the dentist brought his boxers to work with him. They would sometimes wander in the hygiene room and greet my patients. I was struck by how much the patients loved those dogs and were comforted by them. Other influences on my decision to pursue therapy

work were my cousin, Doug, in California who has a golden retriever named Grace who is a therapy dog, my sister, Barbara, who was visited by a therapy dog while in the hospital, and media coverage of therapy dogs at traumatic events, helping children learn to read, and helping victims testify in court. Becoming part of a therapy team seemed like the perfect thing to do.

That is where my beautiful Blaze came into the picture via an old friend and devoted breeder, Nic Brown of Stone Ridge, NY, who gave me my first collie years ago. Harmony Blaze of Tokalon is a 4-year-old “rough” collie, although his luxurious coat speaks otherwise. He is eager to learn, exhibits patience, and loves to give kisses. As a herding dog he thrives on having a job to perform and loves being the center of



attention. This cannot be helped as anywhere we go there are cries of “Look, it’s Lassie.” He is a white factored sable with a white blaze down his nose, which is how I came to pick him from the litter and give him his name.

One day at work, a patient of mine told me about Cerebral Palsy of Ulster County, a day treatment facility in Kingston, NY that serves children and adults. She mentioned that her son attended school there and how they would love to have a therapy dog come visit. I contacted Lisa Wilson, the day treatment program coordinator, and Blaze and I started visiting weekly. We became a registered ATD team on April 12, 2013 and haven’t looked back. Everyone admires and enjoys petting his soft-as-clouds coat as well as watching his numerous tricks. These include pressing a button on a switch-adapted toy dog to make it move and bark, “flat tire” (laying still on his side), waving, shaking, crossing paws, fetching, ringing a bell, keeping a biscuit on his nose, and putting his toys away in his toy box.

As you can see by his smile, Blaze is quite proud of the beautiful birthday cards and gifts that were made for him by the consumers and staff for his 4th birthday, including homemade dog biscuits. I believe that Blaze truly enjoys sharing his smiles and spreading joy to all he meets.

What a blessing he is!

—Deborah Covi, Glenford, NY

Alliance of Therapy Dogs

Miss Maggie Mae

Miss Maggie Mae is my current partner in therapy dog work. She is a gold sable sheltie who is well known for her good manners and gentle ways. I was given her at a rather crucial time. My previous sheltie partner, an older retired dark sable dog named Penny, passed away, leaving me alone while caring for my elderly father.

Not long after my father was admitted to a hospice facility, Miss Maggie and I qualified as a therapy dog team with Alliance of Therapy Dogs, which meant that she came with me every day when I visited Dad. We didn't visit residents there every day, but we frequently visited with other visitors. One lady would ask to come into Dad's room every day to visit with Maggie. It turned out her husband had very little time left. By visiting with Maggie she was able to take a break from watching her husband's approaching death.

Another day, a large family was visiting in a nearby room. They had made a three-hour drive to visit their relative, arriving midmorning well before Maggie and I arrived. By the time I was about to take Maggie back home, it was around 5 pm. That was when I heard a little girl beginning to wail the way a little child cries when over-tired.

I was (and still am) required to have a formal signed request slip to enter a resident's room, but I could go to the door and see if perhaps there was a little one who might want a visit from Maggie the therapy dog if a family member would come with her. Oh Yes!! There was!! Her father accompanied the now delighted little girl into the hallway. She had a dog at home and knew not to be rough. She sat down with Maggie and began patting and talking to my furry partner. Maggie sniffed the child's hands, and accepted the pats gladly. The adults watched the two with relief. They still had a long drive home and, now, their last memory of visiting their terminally ill family member wouldn't be of an exhausted child sobbing; it would be of that delighted child visiting with a friendly, gentle therapy dog.

We still go to the hospice and visit with visitors as well as residents.

I'm including a photo of Miss Maggie with my father in his room. Maggie's nearly daily visits brightened Dad's days.

—Jan Wertz, Memphis, TN



STILL MAKING SMILES

My first dog, an adorable 3-month old Yorkshire Terrier, became the light of my life nearly 15 years ago. I named her Bailey's Irish Cream because she was so delicious! I only wish that I had learned about therapy dogs earlier. It wasn't until Bailey was around 6 years old, that I got her registered and she started volunteering with me at Miami Children's Hospital. Not only



did the children love her, but the staff adored her, as did some of the doctors. When I would volunteer without Bailey (in another area of the hospital), quite often people would ask about her. She made so many smiles on the faces of the kids and their families. I remember encouraging one young girl to get out of bed and take Bailey for a walk around the unit (with the nurse's permission, and my holding the leash with her.) I could see this girl was in a lot of pain but she really wanted to take Bailey for a walk – and so she did. Her mother exclaimed that this was the first time her daughter was able to walk out of her room. When the young girl approached the nurse's station, the nurses came running towards her to congratulate and hug her for taking so many steps! More recently, Bailey visited my father who is in a nursing home. While there, we were asked to visit a hospice patient. While petting Bailey, the elderly patient was grinning from ear to ear as her son and daughter frantically pulled out their cameras to start snapping pictures before the moment passed. The patient died shortly thereafter, but her son and daughter were so grateful to Bailey for having made their mother smile one more time. I am sure we all have countless stories like this, which is why we do what we do with our loving dogs.



As all good things must come to an end, Bailey recently died. Because I had no children, she was my baby and it was particularly difficult for me to let her go. I decided to have a "Celebration of Life" to honor her, and I invited all of her friends and mine. I encouraged everyone to bring a small unwrapped toy for a child in the hospital, and we would donate everything in Bailey's memory. Friends, neighbors and nurses all came out to honor her, and we ended up donating 5 large bags of toys and over \$300 in cash donations! The party planning, which included doggie favors (treats) and a beautiful photo collage of Bailey's wonderful life, turned out to be great therapy for me. And the best part was knowing that Bailey was still making smiles at Miami Children's Hospital.

I wanted to share this story with the hope that when you suffer this same loss, perhaps you too can turn a painful situation into something positive and beautiful for the community that you and your fur baby serve.

Sharing Smiles and Joy doesn't ever have to end.

—Colleen M. Cummings, Miami, FL

You cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening your own.

From the first time I ever saw Scout in the shelter off Forest Avenue in Jacksonville, Florida, I knew he was different and uniquely special. Scout was the name I gave him after adopting him, which he seemed to like better than his prior name. I invested a lot of time in his training and took him along on many adventures. I soon found out that because he loved to swim so much, kayaking with him was not as good of an idea as sailing with him because kayaks are much closer to the water and easier to jump out of! I wish I had pictures of the first time he ever jumped out of the kayak into the Saint Johns River. He'd rather swim beside the kayak than ride in it!

I immediately signed up to be a member of Dogwood Park here in Jacksonville so he'd have acres of land to run and play on! He dock jumps there and loves the agility course as well! There is even a wooded area, he can run through like a wild dog hunting through the palms for the squirrels. His reserved and compassionate behaviors seemed different compared with other dogs at the park and, after some research, I knew I would train him to become a registered therapy dog! Now I can share his love with others, which has been more rewarding than I could have ever guessed it would be. Anyone who has a therapy dog understands the light your dog-person team sheds on those we comfort through our visits.

I volunteer with Scout most often at an assisted living facility called Regent's Park in Jacksonville. He recently received his first letter of recommendation for his visits there and, like any good dog mom, I plastered the letter all over social media! I was so proud! They're kind of like counselors with fur!

It's common knowledge that simply petting a dog can decrease levels of stress hormones, regulate breathing, and lower blood pressure. When humans show us affection, it's quite a complicated thing that involves expectations and judgments, but with a dog, it's an uncomplicated, non-challenging interaction. And if you've been through a hard time, it's lovely to have that kind of love, especially when you like to be the captain of your own boat and you don't need a first mate arguing with you! Scout hasn't learned all his knots on the boat yet, but he is the best dog I could ever ask for. Scout has a community Facebook page so his fans can keep up with him.

—Sarah Rose Stewart, Jacksonville, FL



Bailey & Mya

When most of us started doing pet assisted therapy we were happy to just take our dogs to visit senior facilities and hospitals. When my daughter left for college a light bulb went on, and the members of Midlands Pet Therapy



Bailey & Mya (laying down) in between attention from the students one evening.

realized that we needed to go to a local college campus to visit the students. We learned that students can talk to their families on the phone any time, but they miss the opportunity to touch their pets. This is the 8th school year that Midlands Pet Therapy has been taking dogs to visit the students because we've experienced the amount of joy it brings to them each time. We've gone right after school starts to relieve some homesickness, been part of their health fairs to show how pet therapy improves life, and visited during finals week for a little stress relief.

This year was no different until late in October when this college experienced the loss of four female students in a car accident. The four girls were headed down a highway just after dusk and the driver swerved to miss hitting a deer. This put their car in the path of an oncoming vehicle and were hit broadside, killing all four girls almost instantly. As soon as we heard this on the news, we reached out to the staff and offered to bring our dogs down to help give the students and staff some relief from the grief they were experiencing. We took our dogs eight times in the four weeks after their passing.

The sorority the girls belonged to shared this: "We remember them for the joy, laughter and charisma these girls brought with them." Let's not cry because the lives of these young ladies ended. Their dreams were to do something special to help the world, so let's start our own "Pay it Forward" and go celebrate their lives by helping someone in their memory.

—Deb Doane, Omaha, NE

Song & Brick



*Brick with Howard (Top)
Song (Right)*



I would like to share a few special words about my two Pomeranians, Song and Brick, and the work they are involved with here in Grand Island, Nebraska. My older dog, Song, is now retired, and Brick has stepped up into her position, doing very well in sharing the same love with Song's friends. During the transition of dogs, they both shared their lives with a man who passed away this year named Howard. He found peace in stroking their warm, thick coats, holding them close in silence.

—Erika Wilson, Grand Island, NE

OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARD WINNER

Howard Horwitz

Congratulations to Howard Horwitz of the Villages, Florida! He is the recipient of the 2015 Teri Meadows Outstanding Member Award for his exceptional commitment and dedication to the mission of the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. Below is the submission nominating Howard for this award, which is given each year in honor of our past-president, Teri Meadows.

Howard has been a member of Therapy Dogs Inc., now ATD, since 2009. He became a T/O in 2010. In the past five and a half years, he and his canine partner, Dice, have tested and registered well over 75 teams.

In 2009 Howard and Dice became the first READ team in the Villages, FL area. They developed the program in the tri-county area of central Florida. In 2011, Howard became certified as a licensed instructor, the only one in the region. From 2009-2011, Howard and Dice built the program to include several counties with seven schools and three libraries.

In 2011, Howard and Dice left the READ Program to spend additional time and energy with the Therapy Program and founded the Canine Therapy Teams of the Villages, FL. He now coordinates and schedules over 71 registered teams who visit 25 facilities. In their spare time, Howard and Dice manage to test and train the many prospective teams that contact them. Dice is the barometer for the testing procedure. Howard and Dice and the teams of the Canine Therapy Teams of the Villages are always ready to serve when invited to special functions and speaking engagements.

In July 2014, Howard and Dice became one of the first therapy teams in the country to receive the AKC THDD designation. In November 2015, Howard and Dice were awarded an Alliance of Therapy Dog 1100 visit certificate.

In November 2014, Howard and Dice received an Outstanding Therapy Team Award from the Florida Paws for Autism Association.

Howard and Dice have been featured numerous times in local and regional media. Howard is the coordinator of the local Petfinder's Website, which works to reunite lost and found pets in the Villages area. He also administers the "Tails of the Villages" website, which is dedicated to pet related information in and around the Villages and central Florida. He is also the Pet Therapy Facilitator for the Florida Cancer Center.



Honorable Mention Honorees:

Eileen Shevlin
Mary Lindsey
Frank Grant
Linda Eastlake
Julie Mueller
Cindy Hutchinson
Sharon Ussery
Susan Hinkle
Tom Ghezzi
Dave Gable
Darlene Colmar
Alana Hotchkiss

Steve the Wonder Dog

There are not enough words to express how much we love our therapy instructor, Laura Blank, and give full gratitude to all of you for the blessing of "Steve the Wonder Dog." He is a wonder indeed.

Steve seems to fit in every aspect of our lives in so many ways. He melts the hearts of everyone he meets. As good pet parents, we took Steve to obedience classes and he graduated all 3 levels. He holds his Canine Good Citizen and is nationally certified with the National Registry of Service Animals due to Bob's medical issues.



We make our one mile walks every morning and evening. Bob and I are very quiet neighbors and we fly under the radar, so to speak. However, Steve has many neighborhood friends and leaves cookies in mailboxes for them as we go by. He also remembers the holidays and makes sure we tie a ribbon on mailboxes for special times. He even has a black and white cat friend named Bootsie who watches for him every day and vice versa. Before he knew what it meant to be a registered therapy dog, Steve was a therapy dog to our neighborhood.

Instinctively, Steve knows when things are not quite right at home. Bob is very medically ill, and Steve sticks to him like glue unless Bob is asleep, in the shower or not home; then he is right by me until Bob re-appears. I know for certain he is a dog of rarity. He truly saved my husband's life on July 30. Steve was going berserk at home, running around like crazy and doing his best to get my attention. I followed him, asking what was wrong. He went by Bob's side; it was at that very moment I knew I had to call the John C Lincoln D.V. hospital. Bob was in full cardiac illness and renal level 4 failure.

While we were going to John C Lincoln D.V. hospital twice a day every day to see Bob, Steve became a hero to many. A gentleman near Bob was extremely despondent and crying uncontrollably. Bob's nurse came in and asked if she could "borrow" us for a few minutes. Instantly, the man stopped crying. He confessed he was lonely and scared being in the hospital. As long as we visited him twice a day, he was just fine with his medical treatment and with the nurses. Four days passed, he got well and went home.

Across the hall from Bob was a very sick woman who had just arrived from Bombay, India. Her son, daughter-in-law and grandson were there with her every day. At the time we met her and her family, she had been in the same hospital room for over 3 months. This very small, frail woman refused to speak and would not move her hands, legs or feet. The small grandson of about 4 years old wanted to visit Steve. With permission, we went to visit, of course with cookies in hand.

As the days went by, the woman slowly began to nod and respond. About a week later, she was sitting up, moving about to pet Steve and smiled to see us each day. The day before we went home, the small frail lady was transferred to Deer Valley Rehabilitation Facility for the next steps of getting well. Today I still think of them.

With the positive experiences we had with Steve in the hospital, we knew that there was another purpose for his wonderful charm and character. He is now registered with Alliance of Therapy Dogs. We go to the

Veterans Administration Rehabilitation and Ambulatory Care Center once a month to visit the veterans and spread some love to them. They cry when they get to see him. They love the visits more than you could imagine. It is so hard to leave their happy and smiling faces that light up to see us.

Out of the blue, we got a call on December 15 from the Paradise Valley School District asking about Steve. It just so happens that his obedience teacher was in the district office with the director of Paradise Valley Schools. Steve has been chosen to be the Ambassador of Cholla Elementary School for the disabled children. Starting in the 2016 school year, Steve will be in full action with the children for the Visitation Program at Cholla Elementary School.

We never in a million years imagined how it would be to have a celebrity in our home. Clearly, “Steve the Wonder Dog” has become the light of our world, and we will do everything it takes to make everyone’s life just a little bit better. We are truly, and without a doubt, two of the happiest parents that could ever be.

—Bob & Kay Dettling, Phoenix, AZ

Putter

I wanted to share the wonderful experience that I and my registered therapy dog, Putter, are having as members of Alliance of Therapy Dogs. We have been volunteering with the organization since April of 2014, and first started our volunteer work at a behavioral health hospital in Colorado Springs. We visited groups of patients ages 12 through adult and volunteered there for about a year. We enjoyed it and were part of the very first therapy dog program that the hospital had ever created and implemented called Peak Paws.

Last year, I began looking for a new volunteer place within our community, wanting a new adventure for us both. I contacted the vice president of patient affairs at the Shandy Clinic in Colorado Springs, and she was so excited to have us come on board as a therapy team! Shandy Clinic Thrive is an outpatient speech and occupational therapy clinic focused on serving pediatric patients with more intense mental health and behavioral needs. Putter and I currently volunteer about once a week with children of all ages, encouraging them to carry out their occupational, physical and speech therapy treatments. We just love interacting with the kiddos, and recently one little boy who had initially been afraid to work with Putter decided he wanted Putter in his therapy session—the staff at the clinic and I were so excited to see the little boy overcoming his fear of dogs!

We truly enjoy our volunteering and I firmly believe that animal assisted therapy is making a difference in helping these children reach important milestones.

—Sarah Pellizzari, Colorado Springs, CO



Superheroes in Beaufort

South Carolina

By Rebecca W. Bass

I believe that all members of Alliance of Therapy Dogs are heroes. We all share smiles and joy in our community by bringing our cherished dogs to brighten other people's days.



So what makes one a superhero? When Adrienne Bell's chocolate Lab, Savannah, passed away last fall, she was devastated. She not only missed her beloved companion, but she also missed making therapy dog visits. As soon as Sarah Elliott, a 15-year-old junior handler, heard about this, she immediately asked if Adrienne would like to be tested with Sarah's terrier, Twixie. Adrienne was overjoyed at this generous offer and took time to practice with Twixie so they would pass their ATD evaluation. Now, Adrienne and Twixie can be seen visiting U.S. Marines at the Naval Hospital or Parris Island or children at local schools for our ARF (Animals make Reading Fun) program.

Sarah says, "I feel like I am doing a great thing for both Twixie and Adrienne. Since I am a full-time student, Twixie is now able to spread smiles and joy more often with Adrienne. I feel fantastic knowing that I am helping make other people happy. This is truly a win-win situation."

Ginni Reynolds confided to us that her senior dog, Shea, was not up to making as many visits as she did in her youth. She wished she could also work with a younger dog who could partner with her to accomplish her personal mission of service to the military in our community. John Trask, III has an amazing Australian Labradoodle named Hank. John offered Ginni the opportunity to be evaluated with Hank so she could continue actively making therapy dog visits. Ginni and Hank are now a great team. Since John works full-time, he believes "that this is excellent for Hank since he will be getting out and making a positive impact in our community with an experienced handler like Ginni."



Our Beaufort ATD family exudes positive energy, not only with the people we visit, but with our fellow handlers. These superheroes have demonstrated a giving spirit that inspires us all.

Two Therapy Dogs Get Married!

Isn't it fitting that two therapy dogs get married in the school where they worked together? George and Rosy met in 2010, spent the last five years volunteering together as therapy dogs in schools and hospitals, and when they decided to "tie the knot," the celebration location was almost predestined. George, Rosy and Buddy (the "best man") volunteered as "Ruff Readers" in 2nd grade classrooms and a 5th grade class at Hardy Elementary School in San Diego. Wouldn't it be wonderful for the children to participate as a year-end celebration of having therapy dogs in their classrooms? Invitations were sent, the officiant was selected (a teacher from George's 2nd grade class), favors were ordered, and the videographer was scheduled. On July 17, 2015, George, Rosy and Buddy's classrooms and staff attended the wedding ceremony which included bridesmaids, a best man, a dog-friendly cake, decorations, music, favors and a farewell send-off by the 100 guests. Certainly, there were plenty of smiles and joy shared during this amazing ceremony.



Sadly, George crossed the rainbow bridge a month after the wedding on August 17th (you can see his picture in the last newsletter), but George and Rosy shared a time together helping these children learn to read.

Thank you to the Alliance of Therapy Dogs for introducing this couple and, in essence, being a part of this beautiful relationship between dogs and children.

—Susan Okuno, San Diego, CA

Fansee

One of the most recognizable faces at Fawcett Memorial Hospital is not human, it's Fansee's, a golden retriever who has become a favorite among hospital staff, patients and visitors. Fansee and her owner, Kim Corby, worked for over a year to help Fansee get over some significant fear issues she was having interacting with new people, unfamiliar settings and loud noises to become a registered therapy dog.

Fansee has become a Monday morning staple at the hospital. "She has the innate ability to walk into a room and know exactly who needs her," states Kim. A family member recognized Fansee in the lobby and asked if they could take a picture to put in their father's ICU room. Fansee made a significant impact on their dad while he was in a regular room, and he spoke about her often. While she is not allowed in the ICU, the family stated he looked at her picture every morning and told her he would see her soon. The reunion between the two brought tears to all who witnessed it.

Fansee has risen above her fears and shares smiles and joy with everyone she meets.



—Kim Corby, Port Charlotte, FL

JOEY

as at Pam's school where she taught the last 15 of her 37 years before retiring. It was perfect; a familiar environment for us and Josephine (Joey), our kid-loving mini-Goldendoodle. Through the year, we saw how much the kids loved reading to Joey and benefitted from the READ program. We enjoyed it so much ourselves that near the end of the school year we contacted our local library about starting a summer READ program there. We were welcomed with open arms and became part of their scheduled 2015 summer program of activities; we have been scheduled for 2016.



We had a great response – several kids came every week so they could read to Joey. When we learned that some of the kids were homeschooled that set us thinking: ‘Why not a READ program for homeschoolers? But how to go about it?’ That question solved itself when one of the moms from our summer program

contacted us on our Therapy Dogs Rock Facebook page asking if we would meet with her homeschool group. We were delighted with their enthusiasm in wanting a READ program for their group, the Brighton Area Homeschool Kids Club. We immediately agreed.

Now we meet with the Kids Club at the local library about every four weeks. Kids from toddler to about 10 years old socialize and do art projects, many of which are for us to take when we visit the veterans at the VA Hospital Ann Arbor. The kids take turns coming to our little corner of the room to read to our attentive canine. Often there are younger kids petting our very “pet-able” pooch while the older kids read to her. The kids love her; one declared her “the very best dog in the whole wide world!”

Our READ program at the traditional school is more structured where we have a reader with another kid petting Joey while waiting their turn; they then swap roles. We enjoy the more informal format with the homeschool readers and younger kids which is much like our summer library program but noisier with the socialization going on. Joey is able to deal with the distractions and remain attentive to the reader; of course, the petting is a big help. Josephine loves kids and loves her job as a fuzzy audience of one for any of our READ programs. Check out homeschool groups in your area to see if they would want a READ program.

—Richard and Pamela Hoose, Pinckney, MI

Snapshots

One-On-One

Xar, my 3-year-old Scottish Deerhound, and I are a therapy dog team. I hold the leash and he works his magic.

As members of a local therapy dog group, we participate in programs at elementary schools and libraries that accelerate reading skills and aid in behavioral health sessions with children. Much of our focus is the promotion of safe interaction with dogs while encouraging a greater comfort level and respect for pets.

A therapy dog is NOT a service animal, meaning they don't provide a functional service for someone who is physically challenged, i.e. a guide dog for a visually impaired person. Therapy dogs provide emotional support, stress reduction and a feeling of well-being in those with whom they interact. Xar is a quiet boy who radiates a calm demeanor while exhibiting a friendly attitude. Never pushy but always open to interact with both 2- and 4-legged individuals, he is an excellent ambassador for the therapy dog program.

Every so often, we have a request for one-on-one sessions with people who want to overcome a fear of dogs. Xar and I recently participated in the third such session with a little girl who had been bitten in the face by the family dog. She made significant progress dealing with her resulting fears during the first and second sessions. Gradually increasing the size of the dog with each session, Xar was the largest presented to her so far. He silently greeted mother and daughter at the door, making no effort to touch either one. After the initial introduction of dog to girl with a brief personal and breed history, the WASP (wait, ask, smell and pet) approach was once again reviewed with a discussion of how to interact with an unfamiliar dog. Her comfort level increased to the point that she and Xar went for a supervised walk around the halls, asked him to do a trick and praised him for his performance, and most telling of all, she was able to pet him while sitting next to him on the floor.

Regardless of whether the sessions continue, the girl has made significant progress thus far in conquering her discomfort. By gaining confidence in how to deal safely with dogs in general along with the positive interaction with therapy dogs, she is well on her way to recovery. Should she require additional sessions, a therapy dog will be there to help her.

—Lin Jacobson, East Dundee, IL



Pierre:

The Little Survivor Who Became a Therapy Dog

Little did his newly-adoptive parents know of the joyous adventure that a two-pound, 13-week-old Papillion was about to bring into their lives and the lives of so many others on that September day, 2009. Legend Prince Pierre L'Enfant, or "Pierre" as he is so well known locally, became a survivor June 15, 2009, the day of his birth. L'Enfant means "small one." He was the runt of a litter of four puppies, and only he and his sister survived an early and very difficult delivery. Having recently lost a Papillion, we were quick to caution each other not to let our emotions rule when and if we decided on another fur baby, especially while we were still in the grieving process.

Pierre kept his parents laughing during his growing up stages as a puppy, loving to pull on Daddy's shoe strings and Mommy's hair while she was laying on the floor. His favorite past time has always been playing with a small rubber chicken that he runs away and keeps from Daddy. Pierre was such a loving and "happy little pappy" and enjoyed making new friends wherever he went.

Pierre overcame medical challenges and it seemed that nothing could stand in his way! He began accompanying us almost everywhere we went, and folks would comment how friendly and loving the little dog was, especially to small children. We began hearing the words over and over from folks that we should consider pursuing a therapy dog future for him because he was so gentle, loving and so happy. We decided to have him evaluated by Kim Frazer, a local therapy dog evaluator and organizer of Blue Gray Therapy Dogs in Fredericksburg, VA. Pierre passed his therapy dog testing with flying colors! We were so overjoyed that our little five-pound Papillion had just become a registered therapy dog!

Pierre seemed to sense that therapy work was to be his calling and the job he was meant to do. He was quick to learn the commands of how he should conduct himself to become the proper and perfect therapy dog. When we are preparing to go on a therapy dog visit, he sees his ATD vest, knows he's "going to make people happy" and jumps up and down with excitement.

He has become quite a busy little guy working in local hospitals, nursing homes, assisted-care facilities, special events such as National Autism Awareness Day, Marine Corps Marathon Healthy Lifestyle events, Fun Fest activities at libraries, anti-bullying campaigns and "Stress-Free Days" at The University of Mary Washington when college students are studying for final exams and need the calmness and soothing nature of a therapy dog. He also accepts special requests, sometimes from a family member in another state who is concerned for a parent in a local assisted-living care facility whose spirits need lifting.

Pierre seems happiest when he's working with the children at a "PAWS for Reading" session at local libraries, a program developed to encourage children to enjoy reading and to improve their reading skills. Each child chooses a book, sits on a blanket with Pierre and reads to him or just shows him pictures in the book. Sometimes the child will scratch his tummy while reading to him which puts him to sleep. It's hard to believe a now seven-pound doggie could possibly sit or lie still for an hour and a half! The

librarian and other therapy dog PAWS volunteers have commented how well-behaved he is while there. Pierre loves comforting small children in hospital emergency rooms who may be scared or crying. They begin to smile when the little dog comes into the room and gives them kisses which brings a smile of joy to the parents' face! He also enjoys visiting the hospital's pediatric floor where children delight in having him come for a visit.

Only God could have sent this little bundle of joyfulness straight from Heaven to the world and to us to fulfill the very rewarding job of blessing others. Pierre, our little survivor, became a therapy dog to inspire hope when there is seemingly no hope and to bring smiles of happiness where there was once sadness!

—Madge Healy, Stafford, VA

MOZART

It's a snowy day – a good day to update you on Mozart's "doings." We have regularly scheduled visits at three nursing home facilities and permission to visit at two rehab hospitals. Often, we gather in a living room so that everyone who wants to hold him gets a chance. At 10 pounds, he's a perfect size for laps, which I cover with his baby pillow. We always visit various rooms. I have a staff member

with me because they know who's anxious, depressed or, best of all, who doesn't get many visitors. He loves his stroller because it's the right height for wheelchairs and beds. When he's on the floor he can only see feet! Mozart doesn't spend much time in his stroller because the staff enjoy holding him. Sometimes, it's the staff who need perking up and we get many smiles in the hallways.

We're occasionally asked to visit groups to explain what therapy dogs are, what they aren't and what they do. When I'm asked "Why does he wear dark glasses?" I explain the aviator goggles make him look "different" and Mozart wants them to know that "different" isn't bad, it's just different. Of course, it also makes people smile.

Mozart doesn't like the cold and I couldn't resist taking this photo. I told him we were going for a walk and went to get his leash. I found him in my bed where he'd made a nest. He had a pleading look that said, "Don't take me out in the cold!" Dogs have a way of letting you know what they want, don't they?

I feel well rewarded by the smiles, hugs and words of thanks I get from staff and residents.

—Mavis Stapleford, College, PA



PETE'S PET POSSE

Rounding Up Therapy Dog Teams



Wellness is a big thing at Oklahoma State University. In fact, the university is officially trademarked as “America’s Healthiest Campus®.” While a healthy lifestyle with proper diet and exercise is promoted all across the campus for faculty, staff and students, there was one component missing in their program – emotional health. That is where Pete’s Pet Posse comes in.

Pete’s Pet Posse was established in 2013 through a cooperative effort of the President’s Office, OSU College of Veterinary Medicine, OSU Veterinary Medical Hospital, University Counseling, Human Resources and the Employee Assistance Program. The idea was to provide the services of therapy dogs across the campus. The visionary behind the program was Ann Hargis, first lady (they call her “First Cowgirl”) at OSU. Mrs. Hargis is now a member of Pete’s Pet Posse with her rescue dog, Scruff. Why the name Pete’s Pet Posse? The athletic teams at OSU are known as the Cowboys, and the mascot is called “Pistol Pete” who is based on a real law enforcement officer in

Oklahoma history. Thus the name “Pete’s Pet Posse.”

It is not easy to become a part of the Pete’s Pet Posse (also known as P3). Prospective pet therapy teams must apply to be part of the program



and applications are submitted to the Pet Therapy Advisory Board. Once the owner/handler completes an interview, the dog then meets with the independent trainer for a disposition evaluation and also completes a wellness exam by the program veterinarian. The Pet Therapy Advisory Board oversees the program and makes the final determination for acceptance into the program. Once accepted into the program, teams complete extensive training, including a Canine Good Citizen certificate and registration with Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

The dogs serve during the day in the departments where their handler works. They also make regular visits to public areas of the campus, such as the Student Union and the library. In fall of 2015, there was a tragedy near the campus when an impaired driver drove into a crowd gathered to watch the University’s homecoming parade. Four were killed and a number injured. Pete’s Pet Posse was very active working with counselors in the aftermath of the incident and the work continued for some time.

This program came to my attention while serving as chair of the Alternative Review Committee (ARC) for Alliance of Therapy Dogs. ARC kept getting therapy team applications from Stillwater, OK, home of Oklahoma State. There was no T/O within 40 miles, so they had to go through ARC. They were all very good applications, but when we asked the question about using their dogs at work, it was answered that they would. So I had to call each applicant and make sure they understood about our insurance policy concerning dogs at work. As a volunteer organization, ATD does not insure a therapy team while the handler is "on the clock." Each handler understood this perfectly; the team is insured by the University while they are at work and by ATD when volunteering "off the clock."

In August 2015, my wife, two therapy dogs and I were traveling and would pass very near Stillwater. I wrote and asked if we could stop by for a visit to see their program. The program was just as amazing in person as it was on paper. My wife, an ATD registered handler, our two dogs and I joined P3 members on a visit to the student union as new students arrived for the school year. The Pete's Pet Posse teams were all excellent. They knew how to do their job and did it very well. The P3 board even had a little reception for us, and we got to meet many of those involved in the program, including the First Cowgirl herself. Their hospitality was exceedingly warm; they are all such very nice and sincere people that strongly believe in the benefits of dog therapy.

Currently Pete's Pet Posse is the only program of its kind in the country, although other universities have contacted OSU about starting one. Pete's Pet Posse has launched a P3 program in Tulsa to serve the OSU-Tulsa and OSU Center for Health Sciences campuses, and more satellite campuses will be added in the future. Let us hope this catches on!

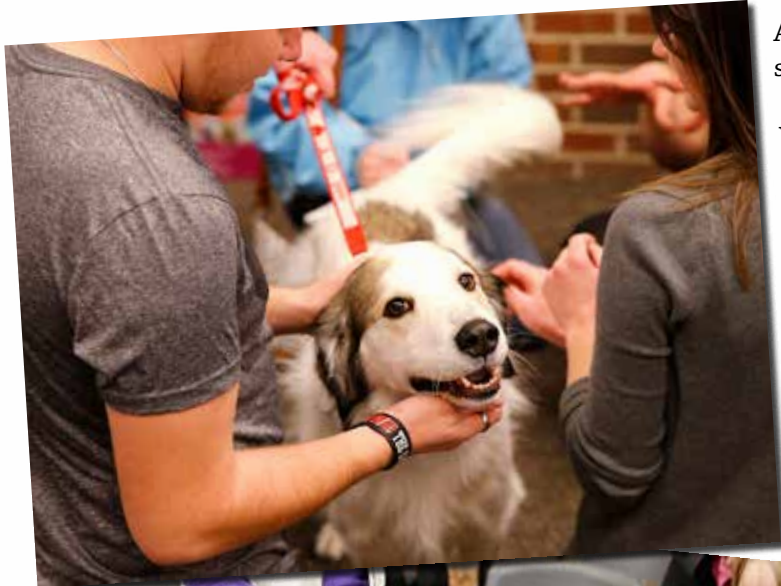
Pete's Pet Posse is proud to have its teams registered with Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

—Keith Pettway,
Cleveland, MS



Stress Relief

Therapy Dogs help LCCC students relax before taking their final exams



As soon as the student saw Hank sitting there, she walked over, sat down and hugged him.

“Hi there,” she said. “How are you, sweetie? You’re so cute.”

As she spoke softly to Hank while caressing his head, time seemed to stand still for the Laramie County Community College student and the Pyrenees-mix dog.

Hank and his owner, Stacy Shultz-Bisset, along with four other dogs and their owners were at LCCC recently during finals week as part of a therapy dog visit to help students relax and de-stress.

The visit helped students take a break from their hectic studying schedules to relax with man’s best friend.

“With finals week, people are going through a lot of stress,” said Meghan O’Brien, resident adviser, who organized the relaxation event at the residence hall. “I organized this event as a way to help students de-stress. The dogs are amazing. A lot of people are saying ‘wow I haven’t seen a dog in forever.’ Some of our students are so far away from home and having dogs here for this event is amazing.”

It didn’t take long for Hank, Haven, a Doberman Pinscher owned by Billie Smith, Izzie, a Brussels Griffon owned by Jean Rawles, Annie, a black Lab/Australian Shepherd/Poodle mix owned by John Lavery, and Milo, an Australian mix owned by Jody McMullan, to become the life of the party.

Each dog sat patiently waiting for attention from the students. Some played with toys, making the students smile, while others listened as the students spoke to them softly, taking in each word they said.

“We typically come out during finals week to help the students de-stress,” said Smith, who is executive director of Alliance of Therapy Dogs. “There are a lot of statistics that show dogs are good stress relievers, and they lower anxiety and blood pressure.”



Smith's dog, Haven, who is deaf, had the chance to greet everyone who visited. Whenever someone approached, the dog would put her head on their outstretched hand to provide comfort.

The members of Alliance of Therapy Dogs in Cheyenne not only visit LCCC during the year, but they also stop by the local schools for the children to read to the dogs and nursing homes to see residents who may not have very many visitors.

"It's so rewarding to do this," Shultz-Bisset said, who has been with Alliance of Therapy Dogs for 14 years. "Sometimes in the nursing homes we're the only people they see. When we do visits, the people we meet often tell us how they miss their own dogs."

Hank is relatively new to the program, having been registered as a therapy dog just a few months ago, but Shultz-Bisset has had several therapy dogs including Gretchen, a Newfoundland-Lab mix, Hannabell, a Great Pyrenees, and, most recently, Carma and Bebe, two Newfoundlands.

Rawles, Lavery and McMullan said they were happy their dogs could attend and bring some comfort to the students. Each of their dogs drew a crowd of students, who waited patiently for their chance to get some comfort.

"I think we all like doing this because it brings [the students] comfort when they're away from their families," McMullan said. "Having our dogs visit them helps create a sense of normalcy."

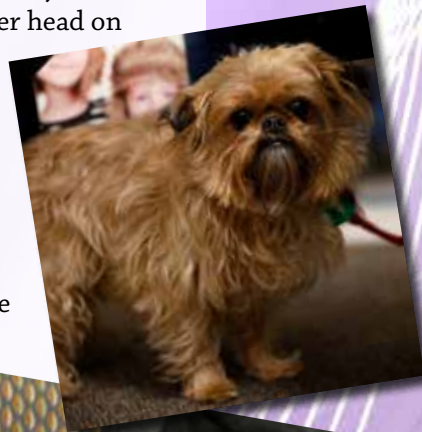
During the visit, the students were all smiles and showed signs of relaxation. They sat on the couches in the room, talking to each other and laughing while enjoying the company of their new four-legged furry friends.

"I have four dogs at home and they're very important to me," said Camilo Suarez, who came from Connecticut to study at LCCC. "This is a really nice event because you get to spend some time with the dogs and take a break from studying."

Student Nathan Reynolds, who is studying human services and interdisciplinary liberal arts, agreed. "Events like this bring people together and help create connections," he said. "I don't think anything connects people like a dog. When you have dogs like this, who can be stressed out? It helps take my mind off things and gives me a moment of peace."

—Aimee Inama, Cheyenne, WY

—Photography by Michael Smith, Cheyenne, WY



A Therapy Star!

Come meet Hairy Pawter, a four-pound Yorkshire Terrier from Northwest suburban Chicago, and aptly referred to as Chicago's Canine Costume King! In the last two years he has participated in just over 50 contests and has won 46 of them. He has frequently appeared in Chicago's newspapers, been on local television numerous times, and even been featured on Fox News nationally.

And it all started in a resale store. "We stopped at a thrift store one day and I found a large kid's fire truck that looked like Hairy could fit in so I bought it on a whim for \$1.50," said Hairy's daddy, Adrian Brigham. It fit so perfectly that he started modifying it with working lights, siren, and two water cannons that squirt 10 feet out each side. It also tows a trailer with a fire hydrant that reads "Port-A-Pawty." Hairy started winning contests and getting lots of attention. The fire truck was soon followed by a limousine with a bubble machine and then a Chicago Cubsmobile. Today his fleet has grown to include Santa's sleigh, a Star Wars fighter and, the most complicated of all, a working radio-controlled WWII M5 tank that can shoot water over 20 feet. Needless to say this dog commands attention!

What does this have to do with therapy dogs? Well Hairy is a member of ATD and makes lots of therapy visits to nursing homes, libraries and park districts. He frequently arrives at a visit in one of his vehicles before he gets out of costume and officially starts his therapy duties. "Everyone loves seeing him come riding in and the laughter, happiness and applause is always overwhelming," said Denise Brigham, his mommy. "He puts so much joy in people's lives I'm always amazed. He can't catch a Frisbee or do dock-diving, but he just makes everyone so happy. He's such a little ham!"

Maybe that is all part of being in a show business family. Denise is a chart topping Traditional Pop recording artist and Adrian is a producer and agent.

Hairy gets in the act too when he rides on stage during Denise's concerts in his tank and always steals the show. "You just can't compete with a Yorkie in uniform and driving a tank," she laughed. Being involved in the therapy program is very important to Denise and Adrian though. "It is a way for us to give back to the community," says Denise, "and also a way to combine our love of dogs and appreciation for our veterans. The therapy dogs can do for people in ways none of us can!"

After one visit to a library they received the nicest letter from the staff saying how a mother had brought her teenage daughter in for the event. Her daughter didn't want to go as she didn't think libraries were "cool," but afterwards she



enjoyed it so much now she wants to get a dog and have it trained for therapy work. "It really touched our hearts," said Denise.

On average they do about five visits a month despite their busy performing and work schedules. Even when not doing an actual therapy program Hairy still makes people happy. "He sits up high in his car seat and when we pull up to a stop light people in the next lane will see him and point and smile," Denise laughs again. "Now we're going to teach him to wave to them!" Even walks in the park often turn into impromptu visits when groups of children gather to say hi to the "little doggie."

For such a small dog Hairy provides love and happiness in huge proportions. "I credit so much to the wonderful trainers and evaluators we had," says Denise. "Yorkies can be high strung and feisty, but he's the calmest and sweetest dog you would ever want to see. If he has a fault it's that he'll lick you to death! You couldn't ask for a better therapy dog!" But many are asking for Hairy. "We have quite a list of places that want us to bring him in for visits," said Adrian, "but we just don't have the time to cover all of them so we refer them to other local ATD teams." The little guy sure gets around though!

Hairy has much more in store for him too. He is slated to star in a new movie about the world's first official therapy dog of record, the famous "Smoky." Keep your eyes on the red carpet for this mighty little 4-pound Yorkie. He's on a mission!

—Adrian Brigham, Streamwood, IL

Maddie Loves Cookies

Maddie's ID tag says, "Maddie loves cookies." Although Maddie does love cookies, there's something she likes even better – a great story. When she became a therapy dog, Maddie's purpose in life became immediately clear. Kids make her happy. Her eyes light up, her tail wags, and she wiggles uncontrollably when she sees a child, especially when they have a good story to share.

Maddie has been working at two elementary schools in our area with children from kindergarten to third grade. She currently visits four classrooms per week, including a school library.

Students like her to sit or lie quietly and look at the pages of the story. A student became dismayed one day when he was patiently holding the book so Maddie could see the pictures as he read. He looked down at Maddie. She was laying quietly on the floor, but she had fallen asleep! He said, "But Maddie isn't looking at the pictures!" He decided Maddie was closing her eyes to imagine the story in her head.

Maddie can make the students feel so special! One day Maddie did something new. While lying on her blanket listening to a story, Maddie became so interested that she put her head on the student's thigh. We knew that Maddie loved that story! The girl commented that Maddie probably did that "because her pants were so soft!" When returning to her classroom, the child announced to everyone that "Maddie had done something today she had never done before - put her head on her leg!"

Maddie is "living the dog life." She jumps and wiggles for joy whenever she puts on her leash to go see the kids. She thinks nothing can beat listening to her students read stories – not even cookies.

—Becky Sliter, Louisville, OH

The PUP Program

The PUP Program (Pets Un-stressing Passengers) launched on April 15, 2013 at Los Angeles World Airports (LAX). It was created to help reduce travel anxiety for guests waiting at the boarding gate areas. The program has since grown to 50 PUP volunteers. PUPs have been written up in more than 250 newspapers and magazine articles, and have been featured on NBC's "The Today Show," Brian Williams Rock Center, Jay Leno, NBC Nightly News, CNN several times, and many other news outlets nationwide. They have starred in TV shows for Brazil, Germany, France, Australia and the Slovak Republic. They were even mentioned in Oprah's magazine.

The PUPs have been a model for other airports nationwide, and now internationally. To date, there are 39 airports that have a therapy dog program. This is so exciting for everyone! We continue to get calls from new airports wanting to start a program, so it will be fun to see how many more come onboard at the end of 2016.

The PUPs are special in so many ways. Bringing smiles to thousands of guests and employees at LAX is the the best feeling in the world. Many of the PUPS also volunteer at hospitals, nursing homes, schools and senior centers bringing love and joy to those in need of it. We enjoy doing events in the community to spread the word about the program and to recruit new volunteers.

We got a phone call in November from Councilmember Bob Blumenfield saying that he and Councilman Mike Bonin would like to recognize the PUPs at a City Council meeting for providing LAX guests with a calm and exceptional travel experience. As you can imagine, we were all excited and thrilled. The presentation was beautiful. Councilman Blumenfield, Chair of the City's Trade, Commerce, and Technology Committee, said, "When traveling grows stressful, when passengers feel weary or restless, our four-legged, tail-wagging volunteers dutifully answer the call—helping to relieve anxiety and creating an exceptional travel experience at Los Angeles International Airport. I want to thank and recognize the PUP program's director, Heidi Huebner, and our PUP volunteers, for bringing much needed smiles to Angelenos and visitors from across the country and around the world."



In addition, Heidi Huebner has been instrumental in paving the way for other airports and has helped 31 airports nationwide and four in Canada to start a therapy dog program.

PUP volunteers must have at least one year's experience working with a recognized therapy dog organization. The dogs must be privately owned and be at least two years old. All PUP volunteers and dogs must be registered with Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

The 50 PUP volunteers are part of LAX's team of volunteers that include 300 Volunteer Information Professional (VIP) who staff the information booths located at the baggage claim area from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends. Together, these programs are geared to enhance and educate the guests and leave them with an "LAXceptional Xperience."

—Heidi Huebner, Valley Village, CA

Hudson Valley Paws for a Cause

It was an amazing time in West Point, NY recently. Our group, Hudson Valley Paws for a Cause, was awarded the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Public Service! This award is the fourth highest medal that the U.S. Army bestows upon a civilian. Our Paws teams became the recipient of this prestigious award. I was asked by the Garrison Commander at the United States Military Academy at West Point to represent the group and accept the award on their behalf. I felt privileged and honored. My heart and head were pounding when the award was presented to me. I could feel my hands shaking nervously. However, I looked at the audience, and there were my beloved teams. Their sea of red vests and four-legged friends who were representing Paws gave me a feeling of calm, pride and joy.

I started thinking about our beginnings at West Point. At first we were not allowed inside any of the buildings. We had to bring our dogs outside on a porch in front of the barracks to meet with the soldiers who had PTSD. We met with them every week during the summer and as the weather got cooler, we were eventually allowed to go inside. It was a different building this time, but we had to stay in one small area. New carpeting had just put down and the powers that be didn't want the dogs walking on the fresh carpet! Well, to make a very long story short, we have come full circle. We are now allowed inside buildings and are part of several venues at West Point. We do Cadet DeStress days. We are present at the American Red Cross Blood Drives. We attend Community Fairs and work with special needs children. We also teach programs to young scouts about animal behavior. To be awarded this medal has been humbling and awe-inspiring. Thank you to the United States Army for recognizing how important therapy dogs are and how they can make a difference in the lives they touch.

—Judy Audevvard, West Point, NY
President, Hudson Valley Paws for a Cause



Natasha



Natasha is a 5-year-old golden doodle. She is a registered therapy dog, Canine Good Citizen and READ dog. Currently, we visit three schools for their READ Program, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and the local library. Recently, we were part of a summer reading program at the library as well as Heroes of the Community. Heroes of the Community features a time to meet the local firefighters, police officers and other heroes of the community. It sure made me a proud mommy when we were asked to be part of it. The librarian said she would like for Natasha to participate because she is a “real hero.”

In March of 2014, we were asked to be part of a program at a local hospital called “A New Leash On Life,” showing how stress can be easily lifted through a simple pet interaction. I was delighted to be part of the program. Natasha was thrilled to be around so many people and getting so much attention. She was at her best. After the show people were permitted to come on stage and pet her. Nobody could believe how well-behaved she was for such a long time. The chaplain was so impressed that she went the very next week and got a dog and called me for suggestions on training.

—Doris Robinette, Burseson, TX

ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARD

The annual **Alliance of Therapy Dogs Outstanding Member Award** will be selected by December 19, 2016, (Teri Meadow’s birthday), in honor of Alliance of Therapy Dogs’ –now retired– 20 year president. If you know a member or T/O who you feel has done an outstanding job of exemplifying Alliance of Therapy Dogs’ mission of sharing smiles and joy, please nominate them with a letter of 300 to 500 words explaining why this member is outstanding and should receive this award. Please submit the letter, typed, to the Alliance of Therapy Dogs office, by November 15, 2016 for consideration.

The details for this service award are:

- The award is given annually
- Nominations made are for the immediate previous year
- The nominee must be a member in good standing
- The member must be actively doing visits
- The member must never have had a grievance / complaint filed against them or bite incident reported against the member’s dog
- The member must have made a minimum of 25 visits during calendar year of the nomination. The visits must be verifiable with facility contact information and signatures. This information may be tracked using the Personal Visitation Log available on the ATD website www.therapydogs.com.

The winner will be announced in the following spring/summer issue.

Andy's Paw Prints



Purchase a portrait of your pet from Andy's Paw Prints and we will receive a donation!

They have 6 different styles to choose from



www.AndysPawPrints.com

We Donate 25% of our profit to help homeless animals

DOGS IN THE NEWS

ATD Therapy Dog Teams Honored



Laurie Kerr and Thunder and Pat Wheeler and her dogs, Albert and Lawrence, were honored by the City of Livermore as part of a public arts program. Utility boxes are painted and then covered with a protective anti-graffiti coating. One box in front of a school has paintings of these three dogs in memory of their

service to veterans, over 3000 hours between them.

Though he has never done it for a utility box before, Mayor John Marchand, husband of the artist who has painted several boxes, did an official ribbon cutting. The Huey Veterans did a Huey helicopter flyover as part of this ceremony to honor these three dogs.

—Pat Wheeler, Livermore, CA



KTXS 12 (ABC) in Abilene,

Texas included an April story on its website about a new therapy dog program at the George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston as a pet-friendly way to help stressed-out travelers relax. Volunteer dog teams, led by handlers in bright orange shirts, go to various terminals and gates to visit with travelers.

Times Record News in Wichita

Falls, Texas featured the Therapy Dog Preparation Class at Obedience Training Club of Wichita Falls in its April 16 issue. Most of the dogs in the program are registered with Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

Three members of Alliance of Therapy Dogs were recently featured in **The Exponent Telegram in Clarksburg**, West Virginia: Becky Conrad of Bridgeport (8-year-old Italian greyhound, Strawberry); Barbara Higgins (8-year-old miniature poodle, Brenda Lee); and Bruce Felton, a tester and observer. Conrad and Higgins discussed their visits, while Felton, of Morgantown, provided information about how individuals can sign up for the therapy dog program.

WHIO-TV (Dayton, Ohio)

reported in February that travelers at Dayton International Airport might see Kida, a chocolate goldendoodle, and her handler, Molly Arneson. At that time, Kida had been the airport's first and only therapy dog. They became a registered pet therapy team last October.

Therapaws of Michigan's Bella, a nine-year-old collie, and handler Jared Wadley appeared on the CW50 (Detroit) show "Street Beat" for a February episode involving "Hero Dogs." He talked about the history and benefits of therapy dogs, as well as the difference between these dogs and service dogs.



The program also featured Therapaws team Lady Darla and handler Sue Zieske.

Wadley and his son, Jordan, an ATD junior handler, were profiled with their second therapy dog, Legend, a six-year-old collie, in *Better Homes and Gardens* (June 2015). The article focused on their father-son bond from doing volunteer therapy work at the VA Hospital. "Volunteering gives us an opportunity to cut through everyday distractions and build a true connection," Jared said in the article.

—Jared Wadley, Ypsilanti Township, Michigan

Headlines & Global News in

New York featured Dianne DaLee and her boxer, Kayla, who visited the Delmar Gardens assisted living facility in Smyrna, Georgia in January. The registered three-legged therapy dog also goes to hospitals, libraries and schools. She is a superstar to those she visits, according to the story. DaLee said people appreciate the weekly visits because they miss their own dogs.

In April, the **Plattsmouth Public Library** noted two reading opportunities with Capone, a Shar Pei-Rottweiler mix, through the Plattsmouth Journal. The announcement emphasized that the registered therapy dog had been trained and tested for health, safety and temperament.

Give Credit Where Credit Is Due.

In our last issue the heartfelt article entitled "Miss Jada" was written by Miss Jada's owner, Debbie Seavey. Debbie Ketcherside is the photographer.



Tellie and Ross, therapy dogs handled by Donna Anderson and Helene Rogers respectively, are working as therapy dogs in a research project called "Animal Therapy to Relieve Stress Among College Students" at Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, NH. They loved every minute of it!!

—Donna Anderson and Tellie,
Athol, MA

—Helene Rogers and Ross,
Rindge, NH



Effectiveness of animal therapy in alleviating stress and anxiety.

As a pet owner and lover, it is clear to me how valuable animals can be for one's well-being. Curious as to how valuable they actually are, three of my fellow students and I decided to conduct some research on animal assisted therapy. After doing a considerable amount of reviewing the primary literature, we found a number of studies that have shown the effectiveness of animal therapy in alleviating stress and anxiety. One notable study, measured levels of anxiety and loneliness in undergraduate students, using animal interventions twice a month for the academic quarter. The study showed lower levels of anxiety and loneliness after the animal therapy was done (Stewart, 2014). Wanting to further investigate just how effective animal assisted therapy is on stress, we decided to conduct our own study on pet therapy for our Research Methods class. The objective of our research was to determine how effective animal therapy intervention is on alleviating anxiety levels among college students. We felt the implementation of pet therapy on college students during an exam will reduce the levels of high perceived stress and anxiety, and will result in lower heart rates

associated with stress among the intervention group. To do this, we examined 40 students in Dr. Hatchett's Kinesiology class at Franklin Pierce University. Students in the class were assigned to the control or treatment room for their exam. The control room was a regular class room that contained no dogs, and the treatment room had Tellie, a golden retriever, and Ross, an all American with their owners Donna Anderson and Helene Rodgers respectively. Student's heart rate, self-perceived anxiety levels and exam scores were gathered and measured. We acquired self-perceived stress levels from a 6-question survey that was emailed to all of the students after the examination period and all heart rates were taken 20 minutes into the exam. After all of our data was collected and a statistical analysis was conducted, our results showed students in the treatment room had significantly lower heart rates than students in the control room. Although our results are based off of preliminary data, they provide evidence that animal assisted therapy can be an affordable, effective way of alleviating stress and anxiety.

—Brian Tranfaglia and Cindy Chatterpaul

Retired



Sophie

Janet Miller, Hutchinson, KS

Registered: 3/16/02

Retired: 1/29/16

Sophie is 13, has health issues and no longer able to visit. She was a good therapy dog and loved her job. ATD is a great organization and I have been proud to be a part of it.

Linda

Laura Suner, Miami, FL

Registered: 4/3/06

Retired: 6/22/15

Linda has visited nursing homes, schools, colleges, and 4-H events. She has brought smiles and joy to many, and we are grateful to have done this important work. Linda has been a wonderful therapy dog and family member. We will spend her retirement enjoying her company. We love her dearly!



Mystery

Elizabeth Gayle, South New Berlin, NY

Registered: 1/16/07

Mystery has been a dedicated elementary school reading dog through Broome County Paws to Read. She will always love children. Thank you for her 9 wonderful years as a therapy dog.

Dexter

Jackie Kindred, Raleigh, NC

Registered: 11/21/11

Retired: 1/7/16

It is with great sadness to let you know that due to the heart condition of Dexter, my Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, we will have to retire him from pet therapy. Both of us enjoyed our visits to the nursing homes and participating in the See Spot Read at local libraries. They truly enjoyed our visits.





Katie

Sandy Murdock, Tavares, FL
Registered: 2/6/12
Retired: 2/3/16

She enjoyed going on the visits with children very much.



Kizzy

Judy Audevard, Stamford, CT
Registered: 2006
Retired: 2015

What a career! R.E.A.D., star of his own book, One Incredible Dog! Kizzy; helped vets with PTSD and helped to create Hudson Valley Paws for a Cause. Kizzy would still enjoy visiting, but failing eyesight and hearing make it impossible. Fortunately, he still gets hugs and snuggles from my grandchildren!



Ashley

Jenny Abercromby, Rosamond, CA
Registered: 4/1/14
Retired: 2/15/16

Ashley's love of children made her many special friends while volunteering at the local libraries and schools. She is now a dog of leisure.



Katie

Pete Lyon, Houston, TX
Registered: 12/28/07

Katie loved visiting with autistic children, hospital patients and folks with Alzheimer's disease in Houston. She is a big Golden, but a very gentle soul. Katie brought many smiles and much joy to people during her therapy dog years. She now takes extra naps and frequently suns on the porch.



Chance

Susan Godlove, Lawton, OK
Registered: 11/11

Chance, a rescued Irish Setter, became a therapy dog at age 8. He visited severely physically and mentally challenged children at a local school. Watching Chance interact with children with kindness and gentleness was beautiful. Chance visited a local nursing home and an assisted living facility. Chance is now retired, but provided 4 wonderful years of happiness to many individuals during his therapy dog tenure.

Somewhere Over the Rainbow

As puppies we must grow and learn
To walk and sit and stay.
We learn to listen to our mom
We get to play and play.

When we are grown at least a year
We get to take the test.
We have to mind our P's and Q's
We have to do our best.

So, now we all are therapy dogs
Is it work or play?
We visit friends both old and new
All takers; come what may.

We visit on throughout the years
We do our job so well.
But age is catching up to us
Look close and you can tell.

It's time for us to take a break
We'll shed a canine tear.
Time to rest our weary paws,
Retirement time is near.

A time will come when we will pass
Many hours we did log.
Time to cross the Rainbow Bridge
A retired Therapy Dog.

—Sandy Peterson, Boise, ID

Memorial Submissions

It's never easy to close the "therapy dog" chapter in your dog's life. The memorable connections and smiles created by your loving pet's visits can stir many emotions as you decide to retire your loved one from Alliance of Therapy Dogs. The Newsmagazine wants to highlight these dedicated pets with a new section about retired dogs. Starting this issue, we will publish profiles recognizing their service to Alliance of Therapy Dogs. In addition to the photo, send the dog's name, owner's name, city and state, years of service and a brief summary (less than 50 words) about the pet's special qualities. Keep in mind that only one submission to the Newsmagazine per issue will be accepted for your dog as it relates to tributes — either "Retired dogs" or "Over the Rainbow."



Miss Molly

Margaret Moody, New Smyrna Beach, FL
Date of Death: 4/14/15
Years of Service: 2
Rescued at an old age, Molly started therapy work late in her life. She gave great joy as a hospital and hospice volunteer. Even though we had her for too short a time, she was greatly loved and will be forever missed.



Lyric

Linda Willison, Dade City, FL
8/22/05-9/7/15
Years of Service: 1



Nina

Jody Hereford, Boulder, CO
2/3/04-2/3/15
Years of Service: 6
She taught me so much during the too few years we shared together. She taught me to 1) love bigger, 2) be peaceful, and 3) don't rush life, time, or time with friends. Linger longer, and savor the simple.



Jasper

Barbara Hoffman, Cherry Hill, NJ
4/24/03-9/9/15
Years of Service: 8
If there were a perfect dog, Jasper was it. Jasper was an angel in a Collie's body. He was sweet, gentle, well-mannered, calm and loved by all. His memory will forever be a blessing.



Delta Dawn

Linda Clark, Alameda, NM
4/22/08-5/1/15
Years of Service: 3
Delta was a flyball racer and ranked 9th in Dobermans in the North American Flyball Association when a mystery illness took her life. She led our pack and trained the new puppy to hopefully follow in her pawprints to be a therapy dog.



Lilly

Chris Schmitt, Casa Grande, AZ
11/1/05-10/1/15
Years of Service: 8

Savannah

Adrienne Bell, Beaufort, SC
5/4/04-10/12/15

Years of Service: 1.5

Savannah was gentle and sweet and brought smiles to everyone she visited – from children in our reading program to Marines at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island. We will never forget her lovely disposition and beautiful eyes.

**Buddah**

Cheryl Pesta, Clancy, MT
2001-1/8/15

Years of service: 7

He was a gentle giant who learned to “whisper” because his bark was large.

**Ozzie**

Marley’s Osweald Winterdance
Randy & Lottie Johnson, Mokena, IL

8/4/04-5/23/15

Years of Service: 5

Intelligent, Loyal, Courageous, Affectionate

**Wally**

Kristine Robinson, Simi Valley, CA
12/23/05-8/16/15

Years of Service: 5.5

Wally loved going to the hospitals. He brought so many smiles to the patients and visitors. He was the most lovable doggy ever. Wally will be remembered and missed by all that knew him.

**Flower**

Hum’nbird Flower Moon
Aleta Shelton, Powhatan, VA

4/5/02-9/11/15

Years of Service: 11

A kind, gentle spirit who loved everyone. She has left a huge hole in our hearts and lives but we will see her again.

**Bodie**

Catherine Watkins Root,
Penn Valley, CA

7/1/01-11/15

Years of Service: 5

Great little therapy dog that will be missed by many.

**Harry Potter**

Jennifer Ifversen, Tijeras, NM
6/16/02-9/16/15

Years of Service: 5

Our beautiful HarBear brought joy to many children and adults in Albuquerque. He was a therapy dog from 2006 to 2011. He led a dog brigade at a local elementary school running club. His beautiful smile and joyous barks will be forever missed.

**Honey**

Pete & Janet Chenoweth,
Hephzibah, GA

5/5/05-11/6/15

Years of Service: 1

Honey made a difference in so many lives through her work at Eisenhower Army Medical Center. A rescue dog she was only with us for 5 years when she was suddenly taken from us by cancer.

**Trista**

Barbara Bonalski & David Philippi,
Little Egg Harbor, NJ
5/28/00-9/19/15

Years of Service: 8.4

Trista was a beautiful dog, both inside and out. She was an AKC Champion of Record, a UKC Best Veteran in Show Winner, a Canine Good Citizen and an amazing Therapy Dog.

**Pudlin**

Kris & Terry Shoemaker,
Fond du Lac, WI
6/18/02-3/27/16

Years of Service: 12

We lost our treasured friend today, The little dog who used to lay Her gentle head upon our knee And share her silent thoughts with us.

**Timber**

Susan Krancki, New Berlin, WI
12/25/06-8/17/15

Years of Service: 5

Timber visited patients at a local hospital and nursing homes. He loved children and enjoyed participating in the “Read to Rover” programs at the library and reading programs in the local elementary school. He brought joy to many and is deeply missed.

**Bailey’s Irish Cream** (Bailey)

Colleen Cummings, Miami, FL
11/16/00-11/5/15

Years of Service: 8+

Full of spunk and love, she made a huge difference in the lives of all the kids she visited at Miami Children’s Hospital. She filled their hearts with such joy!



Oskar

Mary Hauge, Minnetonka, MN
3/17/91-11/2/15

Years of Service: 10

Oskar came us when he was 4 months old. He was half Golden Retriever and half Australian Shepherd but 100% Amazing! Though it was Oskar who brought joy and comfort to so many over the years, I truly believe I was the most richly blessed!

**Zipper**

Laura DuVall, Veneta, OR
6/16/08-12/11/15

Years of Service: 6

Zipper was amazing— at one year of age, he passed his therapy dog test as well as his CGC title. My daughter, Britney, became a Junior Therapy Dog Member and received an exception to allow her to team with Zipper at our local library.

**Breeze**

Margaret Williams, Powell, OH
2005-11/10/15

Years of Service: 1

While his absence is profound, I smile with a warm heart as I look at Breeze's pics and vids. Going from such a shy and terrified senior dog to a calming therapy dog was a marvelous journey for Breeze.

**Aiden**

Enka Wilson, Grand Island, NE
9/03-9/15

Years of Service: 11

A very special Sheltie who blessed a great many, and was my loving companion in the ups and downs of life. I will always love him.

**Clansy**

Lois Flynn, Eloy, AZ
1/24/09-1/2/16

Years of Service: 5

Clansy was known as the gentle giant. He brought joy to all especially children and staff. He will always be known as the unselfish friend who loved unconditionally.

**Hooligan**

Lani Nolan, Troy, MI
4/20/10-9/23/15

Years of Service: 5

**Demi**

Kathy Nilan, Palm Bay, FL
10/18/01-9/16/15

Years of Service: 12½

She was the sweetest girl ever and my heart and soul. She loved children around her; the more the better. Dem you are in my heart forever.

**Magik**

Robert & Linnea Saputo, Ocala, FL
9/00-1/14

Years of Service: 13

My faithful sidekick, you will always be in our hearts. Your ability to bring joy to everyone in the nursing homes, hospitals and the orphanage is sorely missed.

**Star**

Bee Klatt, Waukesha, WI
12/2/00-10/28/15

Years of Service: 12

Her heart was in everything she did, loving people – people loved her. Lovingly missed by many.

**Boomer**

Tiffany Revine, Palm Harbor, FL
10/28/05-9/17/15

Years of Service: 3

Boomer was featured in a book that talks about the impact therapy dogs have on their patients and became the face of the Child Life Department at All Children's Hospital in Saint Petersburg, Florida. Boomer will truly be missed.

**Lady Jasmine Cluff**

Carmolette Cluff, Mesa, AZ
12/4/01-9/25/14

Years of Service: 12

3rd Animal Assisted Therapy Dog in Arizona. She did 44 tricks, Agility and Canine Free Style Dancing. People returning even now ask for their Jasmine to help them. Had Letter from Arizona governor and many awards.

**Ayla**

Madeline Levy, Sacramento, CA
2/13/05-8/26/15

Years of Service: 5

Our beautiful Ayla taught us so much about love and companionship. Ayla was a true source of unconditional love. We love and miss her so very much!



Angus

Dianne Marie Wichman,
West Dundee, IL
2/16/00-12/5/14
Years of Service: 5

Angus touched the lives of children and adults during his many visits over 5 years to hospitals, schools, libraries and nursing homes. He will forever be in our hearts.

**Brandi**

Pat Speas, Cumberland, VA
11/00-1/11/16
Years of Service: 7

Brandi was one of the best companions I ever owned. She was a great therapy dog and will be missed by many. She touched a lot of people's hearts and will never be forgotten.

**Roger**

Candace Sanchez, Rio Rancho, NM
6/07-7/14/15
Years of Service: 1

Roger was a beloved therapy dog providing comfort to soldiers at the VA Hospital, nursing homes and in the R.E.A.D. program. His life was cut short by liver cancer, and many of the patients still ask about him.

**Princess**

Mike Antol, Jonesboro, GA
Date of Death: 6/17/15
Years of Service: 8

Princess was a special Husky who loved everyone and loved to share smiles wherever she went. What a life she had and shared: nursing homes, parades, schools, conventions, meetings, police night out and more. You are loved and missed.

**Bowie**

Al, Gloria & Jarrod Kellogg;
Palmdale, CA
12/13/03-1/20/16
Years of Service: 6

Bowie's Corgi/Retriever mix gave him a unique look loved by everyone. Bowie visited hospitals, reading programs, special events and hospice patients. He is missed!

**Harry**

Christina Minsky, Newtown, PA
11/13/02-9/15/14
Years of Service: 9

Everyone loved Harry, and he brought joy to many children in schools, the elderly in nursing homes and children in court. He visited students who are visually impaired. He made an impact wherever he went and is greatly missed.

**Milo**

Cindy Hane, Limerick, PA
4/28/04-7/8/15
Years of Service: 10

Milo loved to work at nursing homes, hospitals, including ICU, the Cancer Center, and the local elementary school. Milo was such a special little guy and was a definite favorite with the kids and staff at the school.

**Oliver**

Kathleen Hurst, Woodbridge, VA
9/25/02-9/17/14
Years of Service: 7.5

Oliver touched the hearts of so many with his perpetual smile and happy disposition, spreading his special sunshine to lonely seniors and helping children to learn to read. He also was the mascot of my husband's riding students.

**Audrey**

Diane & Chuck Hutchings,
Springfield, OH
2/14/03-10/15/15
Years of Service: 2

Audrey was a unique and beautiful girl who lived in a puppy mill until we rescued her in 2011. She became a therapy dog in 2013 and was so tickled to do our visits.

**Candy**

Pat Chambers, Claremore, OK
9/5/07-11/2/15
Years of Service: 6

Candy was my second therapy dog, and she lived up to our previous Lab's abilities to make people smile and talk about their own pets. Thank you for giving her the opportunity to do what she loved. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

**Clover**

Speas's Clover of Tally Ho
Pat Speas Cumberland, VA
1/18/05-2/1/15
Years of Service: 7.5

My soul mate, my best friend and a great therapy dog. Until we meet again.

**Mojo**

Cherry Woodbury, Boise, ID
5/20/06-1/10/16
Years of Service: 8

Mojo was nothing but love and gave nothing but love. She was a natural therapy dog. She knew 27 tricks and was selected by local TV as a "Sevens Hero" for her work at the care centers. She brought such joy to our lives.



Bowser

Jack & Stuart Kier, Fayetteville, PA
12/1/00-12/12/15
Years of Service: 6

She was a faithful friend with a caring heart. She especially enjoyed visiting our local nursing homes and brought happy smiles to countless faces. We will never forget the precious years we had together and the unconditional love she showed.

**Linnea's Winsome Dove**

Linnea (Lee) & Robert (Bob) Saputo,
Ocala, FL
9/5/00-12/23/15

Years of Service: 14.5
The day Dove was born I held her and gave her lots of kisses. All those days from then to the day she died she gave lots of kisses to all she met. Dove enjoyed her many years of pet therapy.

**Abby**

Carolyn Sheraden, Sebring, FL
10/24/04-4/26/15
Years of Service: 5

Our little smile maker touched thousands during her years of service. She never met anyone she didn't love. She was a cuddle buddy.

**Sadi**

Donna Sullivan, Cibolo, TX
9/29/05-11/4/15
Years of Service: 1

Sadi was a friend to everyone she met. Sadi worked right up to the end. We had so much fun, and wish we could have done more. Sadi will forever be in our hearts and in the hearts of everyone who knew her.

**Dizzy**

Nancy, Crystal & Kara Gheldof;
Royal Oak, MI
3/31/00-1/3/15
Years of Service: 13.5

Dizzy's name and loving personality were well known as a therapy dog and will never be forgotten as a loving family member in our household.

**Cassie**

Randi Robinson, Fort Collins, CO
2/13/05-12/15
Years of Service: 1

Cassie was a very special dog, and we will miss her very much. One of the last activities she was involved in was a bereavement camp for children who had lost a loved one. She loved children and they loved her.

**Parker**

Rachel Juranek, Greeley, CO
12/10/05-12/16/15
Parker absolutely loved visiting people and was a charter member of the DEN CATS program.

**Absolut Spicy McJiggs**

Sandy Pace, Gilbert, AZ
9/26/12-8/24/15
Years of Service: 2

Jiggs was a purebred Irish Wolfhound and has been registered with ATD since October of 2013. He spent the rest of his time here on earth visiting special needs students, but mostly his visiting was spent with Hospice of the Valley.

**Bruin**

Nichole Gawron, Muskegon, MI
12/15/04-4/6/15
Years of Service: 5

Bruin was a wonderful therapy dog! So gentle and kind, he had a knack for knowing just what someone needed—a happy tail wag or a gentle cuddle of comfort. He will be missed by so many. Forever loved and forever in my heart.

**Zena**

Catherine Lueder, Fort Atkinson, WI
9/18/07-9/29/15
Years of Service: 3

**Lady Jessica James** (Jessie)

Tessa Dalton, Sheridan, WY
1/7/00-12/19/15
Years of Service: 3

It is with great sadness that I've had to say goodbye to my darling Golden Retriever, Lady Jessica James (Jessie); she was three weeks short of celebrating her 16th birthday. Rosie and I miss her dreadfully.

**Bright Star**

Bee Klatt, Waukesha, WI
12/2/00-10/28/15
Years of Service: 12

Star was very much a people dog and loved being petted. She went out of her way to please and will be deeply missed by many; especially me.



Misty

Steven, Jean, & Frank Profaizer,
Cheyenne, WY

3/14/05-9/26/15

Years of Service: 2

Misty started being a therapy dog later in life but loved bringing joy to the handicapped, seniors and children. She is missed by everyone.

**Thunder**

Laurie Kerr, Livermore, CA

2001-6/29/15

Years of Service: 7.5

Everyone at the VA hospital knew and loved Thunder. He had a gentle spirit and loved people. He will always live in my heart, and I know we will be together again in Heaven.

**Summer Mae Riley**

René Kaiser-Riley, Boise, ID

2000-2/5/16

Years of Service: 10

Summer did so much and had so many groundbreaking moments for pet therapy. But above it all, she was my best friend ever. Summer's favorite visit was a week-long camp for kids battling cancer. She was the first dog to attend the camp.

**Rosie**

Kathleen Galvin, Sebastian, FL

1/17/06-1/9/16

Years of Service: 8

Rosie was a wonderful girl and excellent therapy dog. Rosie loved car rides, boat rides swimming, long walks and tennis balls. Most of all she loved her visits to the patients and staff at the Sebastian River Medical Center.

**Snickers**

Paul & Tracey Braun, Florence, KY

6/25/07-6/22/15

Years of Service: 6

Snickers was a big English Mastiff and loved to go to work at the local high school. She brought so much joy and comfort to both students and staff. She will forever be in our heart.

**Emma**

Ann DeLara, Angels Camp, CA

3/7/04-2/24/16

Years of Service: 6

Emma was one in a million. She had over 200 visits and was active in the Dancing Dogs of the Motherlode. She will truly be missed.

**Mr. Darcy**

Denise Fitzgerald, Templeton, CA

10/5/07-1/29/16

Years of Service: 4

He was the most wonderful friend and therapy dog. My life would not be what it is today without him. While I still have Bennett as a partner to continue with therapy dog visits, it will not be the same without Darcy.

**Flash**

Machelle Mickle, Piedmont, SC

1/21/01-1/26/16

Years of Service: 3

My dear sweet Flash was my heart and loved her visits. To have some one scratch her long velvet ears made her day. And boy did she have ears!

**Jetson**

Ronald Bohmuller, Clayton, NC

3/10/04-12/15

Years of Service: 8

Our beloved Jetson was a cherished family member who has made many friends over his 12 years. He became a therapy dog and loved working with adults and especially children. He wanted to work and be with us right to the end of his life.

**Benny**

Priscilla Dupelle, Orange Park, FL

11/1/05-1/30/16

Years of Service: 6 months

Benny came to me through Sunshine Airedale Rescue over 4 years ago. He started doing hospice visits with me, which eventually brought us getting him registered as a therapy dog. Benny came to school with me once a week.

**Jerome**

Mary Boyle, Scottsdale, AZ

4/18/07-11/30/15

Years of Service: 5

To know Jerome was to love Jerome

**Macgruff (Mac)**

Darcel & Ken Pecyna, Meridian, ID

11/19/03-3/6/15

Years of Service: 2.33

Mac's kindness and love touched the lives of many people during his 212 visits. He visited people in hospice, libraries, senior living, hospitals, schools and more. He loved people of all ages and wanted to help them feel comforted and loved.



Miss Lotus Blossom

Gwen Madison, Omaha, NE
1/1/01-2/15/16

Years of Service: 5

The beloved Miss Blossom was 15 and had been a therapy dog for almost 10 years. She especially liked cuddling with cancer patients in their beds! What a sweetie! Lots of special friends

**Gaag**

Don and Stephanie Vaughan,
Kasson, MN

Date of Death: 2/24/16

Years of Service: 4

Gaag (pronounced "gawg") means porcupine in Ojibwe and represents Gaag's triumph over adversity after being attacked by a porcupine he probably tried to eat while fighting to survive on an Indian reservation.

**Sulley's Midnight Run**

Jane Mann, Allentown, PA
1/1/03-2/10/16

Years of Service: 10

He was a gentle giant with a heart of gold who asked for little in return. He will be in my heart forever.

**Ernie**

Gail Ostrow, Bridgeport, CT
4/22/04-3/4/16

Years of Service: 11

Ernie was born a therapy dog and he brought so much happiness to so many people in hospitals, in nursing homes, and in schools. He was the doggie love of my life and he is greatly missed. We are so grateful for almost 12 years together.

**Luna**

Melinda Corn, Raleigh, NC
5/21/03-1/21/16

Years of Service: 6

Kids who read to Luna presented me with wonderful card with all the kids signing it after she passed. It is so wonderful to see how Luna touched so many people.

**CC**

Richard Procrass, Sandy Springs, GA
9/7/03-3/17/16

Years of Service: 3

Through my tears, I know that I had a "very special fur child" to be a part of my life for the last twelve years. During the last four years, we were a Therapy Dog team in Los Angeles and Atlanta. Life will be very lonely without her.

**Ebbie**

Kathy LeBreton, Bloomington, IL
6/16/03-12/5/15

Years of Service: 4

Ebbie was a sweet, gentle spirit, winning everyone's hearts with her irresistible smile. Therapy dog visits were at nursing homes, hospitals, colleges and at a library so children could read to her. She will be missed by many.

**Sky**

Chris VonFrieling, Stanardsville, VA
7/4/06-3/10/16

Years of Service: 8

Therapy Dog and Loving Companion. We earned the AKC Distinguished Therapy Dog title. With her wagging tail and sweet smile she would create smiles and joy on all who meet her. Sky's spirit will be missed, but memories of her will live on

**Harley**

Barbara Miller, Broken Arrow, OK
2/02-11/15

Years of Service: 11

Harley brought his quiet and gentle love to children at reading buddies, old friends at the memory unit, stroke victims working at the specialty hospital and even children suffering displacement during the Joplin tornado. Heaven has a new star.

**HERO**

Barbara Hoffman, Cherry Hill, NJ
8/2/05-3/17/16

Years of Service: 8

Hero was truly a gentle giant of a collie. Everyone loved this beautiful sweet boy. Hero will be deeply missed by his family and the staffs at hospitals and nursing homes. He brought smiles and happiness to everyone he met.

**Blue Moon Sarah**

David Silva, The Villages, FL
11/24/06-9/26/15

Years of Service: 1

**Turner**

Susan & John Czyzewicz,
Oconomowoc, WI

2004-11/19/15

Years of Service: 2

If we could learn from such a positive attitude we would do well. An animal like Turner is a marvelous gift from our creator. Many people young and old loved him especially in his therapy work.



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