

# Alliance of **THERAPY DOGS**

NEWSMAGAZINE

Spring 2020



# When and How Do I Renew?

-  One renewal date per household – October through March registrations will renew on January 1 of each year. April through September registrations will renew on July 1 of each year.
-  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 January 1 and July 1. Hard copies will be mailed out by January 15 and July 15.
-  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 15 or August 15, will be required to retest and reapply for ATD membership.

## Prepare to renew:

-  Make sure your dog has had an annual wellness 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](http://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. All other members take the Member Review.
-  You will print your Renewal Health Verification Form, have your veterinarian complete it, scan and upload it, and save.
-  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 307-432-0272 or email us at [office@therapydogs.com](mailto:office@therapydogs.com).

**Magazine Editors:**  
**Monica Callahan**  
**Don Vaughan**  
**Jared Wadley**

**Graphic Designer:**  
**Stacy Shultz-Bisset**

## 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 \$80, half page \$60, and quarter page \$40. 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 January 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.*

# ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS

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Kasson, MN

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in Alphabetical Order

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**Jeanette Sinohui**  
Phoenix, AZ



ALLIANCE OF  
THERAPY DOGS

## MISSION STATEMENT

Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) is an international registry of certified therapy dog teams. We provide testing, certification, registration, support, and insurance for members who volunteer with their dogs in animal assisted activities. Our objective is to form a network of caring individuals and their special dogs who share smiles and joy with people, young and old alike.

## MAGICAL MIRACLE MOMENTS

We would like to hear about your story of a very special or “magical” moment you and your wonderful dog experienced in your volunteer work. Examples may be a patient who has been totally unresponsive until a dog visits and, the next thing you know, they are smiling, petting the dog, a tear running down their face. Or a child who simply cannot read, and one day reads an entire book to a therapy dog.

These articles should focus only on the special, unique moment, not the everyday miracles we experience with our dogs on regular visits.

Requirements:

- 1,000 words or less
- Author’s name, city and state
- Photos with photo releases attached
- In a format able to be edited, such as a word document

If your story is not published in this section it may be published in another section and/or on Facebook.

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

307-432-0272  
877-843-7364 (Toll Free)  
307-638-2079 (Fax)

Email: [office@therapydogs.com](mailto:office@therapydogs.com)  
Website: [www.therapydogs.com](http://www.therapydogs.com)

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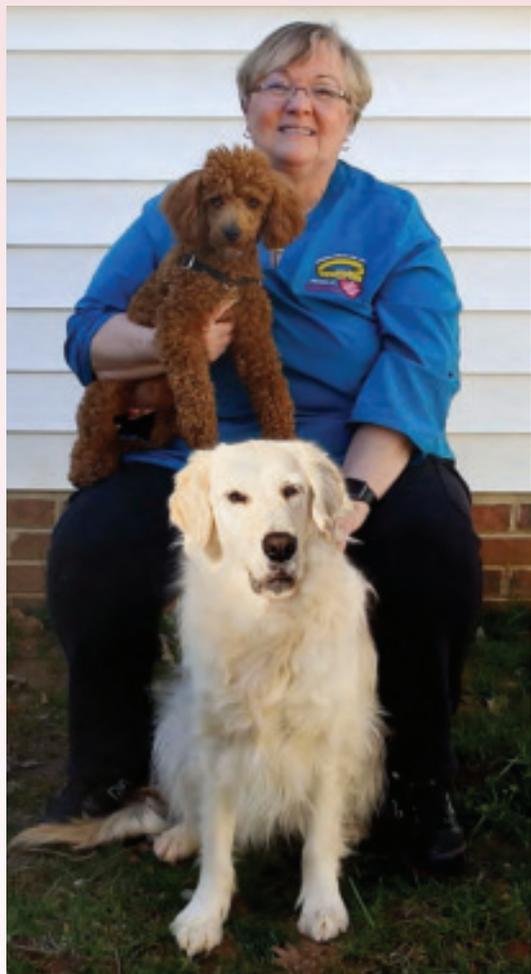
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## T/Os GET ON BOARD!

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!

# Spring 2020 President's Message



*Above: Pat with Samson and Tia  
Below: Samson (poodle) and Tia (golden)*

We have a very special anniversary this year. This July is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Alliance of Therapy Dogs. It was founded in 1999 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, which is still the home base. ATD was initially named Therapy Dogs, Inc. The name was changed in 2015 after years of confusion with another organization with a similar name. The board felt that the new name more clearly represents who we are, an alliance with our wonderful members and the facilities/people they visit.

Since then, our membership has grown to over 17,000 members, handling over 19,000 dogs. We are active in every state of the union, as well as in Puerto Rico and Canada.

In preparation for the anniversary, we have recently offered some new services for our members, such as the ability to order custom trading cards at an affordable rate. To see what is available and order, you can click on the link on the recent email blast or go to your member portal. The cards are located on the same page with your personalized business cards and ATD ID card.

You will be seeing more about our anniversary celebrations over the next few months, with a formal launch in July. We have created the anniversary logo (above) and you will see it being used for our celebratory activities.

We will also be offering some new merchandise to all members that will have the 30-year logo. There will be a Custom Ink campaign for 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary tee shirts.

We are still in the early stages of planning so watch for more offerings to come.

We do realize that our success and growth over the past 30 years can be attributed directly to all of our members and tester/observers who so strongly impact those we visit. Thank you all for your commitment to ATD and for working so hard with your special dogs to bring smiles and joy to those in need.

Pat



# A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

We are proud of the many Alliance of Therapy Dogs 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, or 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 and 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 number.

## 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](mailto:office@therapydogs.com).

Yes, I would like to receive the Years of Service Patch!

The patch is available in 2 or 3 inch, I would like the:  2 inch  3 inch

I have been an Alliance of Therapy Dogs member for:

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Alliance of Therapy Dogs Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_



# 2019/2020 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 and Ethics (G&E):** Review and respond to grievances, complaints, ethics issues, and general concerns.

**Documents and Awards (D&A):** 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. Manage grant-writing efforts.

**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. Manage the relationship with Sterling Volunteers for background checks.

**Member Review and Education (MRE):** Develop ideas for re-evaluating teams, create the annual member review, create the rules review, develop educational materials for present/prospective membership.

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

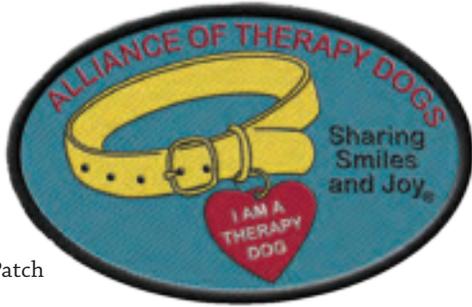
**Tester/ Observer (T/O):** Review and approve prospective Tester/ Observer applications. Serve as the first line to resolve T/O issues, including disciplinary actions. Develop T/O annual review and monitor the T/O E-group.

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

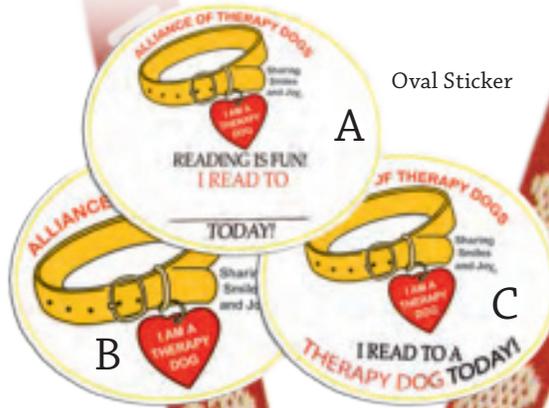


# Merchandise

The following items are available for purchase from Alliance of Therapy Dogs  
 If you would like to place your order online go to: [www.atdmerch.myshopify.com/](http://www.atdmerch.myshopify.com/)  
 If you have not set up your Shopify account please email [office@therpaydogs.com](mailto:office@therpaydogs.com) to request an invite.



Logo Patch

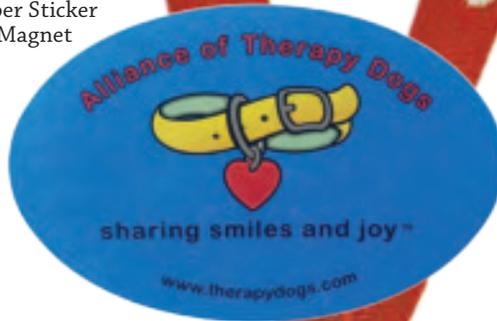


Oval Sticker



Leash/Collar Sleeve

Bumper Sticker or Magnet



Alliance of Therapy Dogs  
Sharing Smiles & Joy

Brochure Holder and Brochures



Lanyard

Note Card and Envelope



Bandana



Collar



Dog Vest w/Logo Patch

4' Leash



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

## Land's End

[www.therapydogs.com](http://www.therapydogs.com)  
 through the member portal






Nylon Banner



Canvas Bag  
w/Silkscreen  
Logo

A



Bookmarks

Cloisonné  
Lapel Pin



Replacement  
I.D. Tag



### Merchandise Order Form

We now accept major credit cards

ITEM	SIZE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
4' Leash	1/4" or 1" wide	\$10.00	X	\$
Bandana	S M L	\$5.00	X	\$
Bookmarks (10/\$1)	A B C D	\$1.00	X	\$
Canvas Bag w/Screenprint Logo		\$15.00	X	\$
Collar	T S M L	\$10.00	X	\$
Dog Vest w/Embroidered Logo	T XS S M L XL	\$24.00	X	\$
Lanyard		\$5.00	X	\$
Leash/Collar Sleeve	One Size Fits Most	\$2.00	X	\$
Logo Patch		\$5.00	X	\$
Magnet		\$6.00	X	\$
Note Card	5.5" x 4.25"	10¢ ea.	X	\$
Nylon Banner	3' x 4'	\$50.00	X	\$
Oval Stickers	A B C	20¢ ea. or \$15.00/100	X	\$
Replacement Tag	S M L XL	\$2.00	X	\$
Brochures		FREE		\$ 0.00
Bumper Sticker		FREE		\$ 0.00
Cardboard Brochure Holder w/25 Brochures		FREE		\$ 0.00
Cloisonné Logo Pin		FREE		\$ 0.00
Visit Pin	50 / 100 / 250 / 500 / 1000	FREE		\$ 0.00
Years of Service Patch (2 inches or 3 inches)	YRS: 1 5 10 15 20 25	FREE		\$ 0.00
DONATION				\$
Shipping				\$ 3.00
TOTAL				\$
Name _____ ATD Member # _____				
Address _____ _____				
Credit Card # _____				
Expiration Date _____ Security Code (last 3 or 4 digits by signature) _____				

## Get To Know Your ATD Board

The board of ATD are the people who set the course and make the decisions for all 17,000 plus members. They determine what ATD is and stands for. The makeup of the group is diverse, and we thought the membership may like to know a bit about who the board is and how they work together.

Many times, boards like ours are made up mostly of older people. Your board currently consists of members ranging from just-turned-thirty to near 80 and a nice even mix in between. All members have had at least two years of experience on the board and some have been with the board for many years. The approximate average time on the board is six years. Billie, though not currently a board member but a member of the staff, has been with ATD since the beginning. Next year, we celebrate 30 years as a dog therapy organization. (You will be hearing a lot more about our anniversary in the near future.)

The background and experience of the board members is also diverse, from lawyers to dog trainers, entrepreneurs to professors to business professionals. Every board member has a unique background to bring to the boardroom table. The dogs owned by the board are also very diverse, from toy breeds to mastiffs.

It might seem with these 13 people who are so unique that a board meeting could become chaotic and even contentious. It speaks highly of the current board that this is not the case at all. There are disagreements of course, but deliberations are all very civil. If you read the minutes of past meetings, you will see that after discussion, many of the decisions are unanimous.

There is so much more to being a board member than just the yearly board meeting. Each member serves on several committees throughout the year. This takes a time commitment of between 10 and 15 hours per week (minimum). To be on the board, the ATD member must also be a T/O, which means they are also testing new teams during the year. Like all members of ATD, the board is made up of volunteers. And just like all members, he or she pays their membership fees every year.

Each board member is excited to be able to work for the good of ATD. They look to keep ATD as a top certifying organization and are ready to help grow the future of dog therapy.

If you would like to know a little more about each director, you can find each one's bio on our website ([www.therapydogs.com/alliance-therapy-dogs/](http://www.therapydogs.com/alliance-therapy-dogs/)) and in your Member Handbook.



# 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 online.
  - 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. Photos of non-members MUST be accompanied by a signed photo release or we cannot publish them. ([www.therapydogs.com/MemberDocuments.html](http://www.therapydogs.com/MemberDocuments.html) or in your handbook)
  - b. You may submit more than one photo, but usually only one will be selected for printing.
  - c. We prefer that all photos submitted be high-resolution digital photos. Hard copy photographs are also acceptable.
  - d. Please, no newspaper clippings or copies of such.
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. Retirees
  - a. All dog retirement announcements should be limited to a photo, date of birth, years of service, and no more than 50 words describing the dog's special qualities. Editors may shorten descriptions that exceed the word count.
5. 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 (no more than 50 words) 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 February 15 and August 31**

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.

Send electronic submissions to [office@therapydogs.com](mailto:office@therapydogs.com).  
Hard copies mail to ATD, PO Box 20027, Cheyenne, WY 82003

# 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 10 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 (available on the website or by request from the office at [office@therapydogs.com](mailto:office@therapydogs.com)).

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.

P.O. Box 20227 | Cheyenne, WY 82003 | Fax: 1-307-638-2079  
Email: [office@therapydogs.com](mailto:office@therapydogs.com) | [www.therapydogs.com](http://www.therapydogs.com)



# Spotlight on . . . Don Vaughan, treasurer

## ***What year did you become an ATD member? What year did you become a board member?***

My wife, Stephanie, and I both became members in December of 2002. It was Therapy Dogs, Inc. at the time. In August of 2011, I became a tester/observer. I was elected to the board in June of 2016 and became treasurer in July of 2018.



## ***Who was your first therapy dog?***

My first therapy dog was Majo. She was a Tosa Ken, also known as a Japanese mastiff. She was registered for about 10 years.

## ***What draws you to the giant breeds?***

Their look, size, and most of all – their personalities. Even though I’ve owned a variety of giant breeds from a Saint Bernard, Irish Wolfhound, and Great Dane mix, my heart is truly with the rarer mastiffs. I enjoy working with breeds that not everyone has seen. In the

case of my Tosa, Majo, I routinely ran into “dog” people who had never seen or even heard of the breed. It provides an opportunity to educate.

## ***What type of therapy visit is your favorite (I.e. hospital, reading program, hospice, etc)?***

Over my 17 plus years, I’ve had the opportunity to make a variety of different visits from hospitals, nursing homes, hospice, Girl Scouts, churches, and public events. However, and much to my surprise, for approximately the past decade, my favorite type of visits has been at correctional facilities which have included county jails, juvenile detention and a federal prison.

## ***Why did you choose ATD over other registering therapy organizations?***

Shortly after Stephanie and I adopted Majo, we took her to a basic obedience class. The trainers of the class were TDInc. tester/observers at the time. The rest is history.

### **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

On the road with Stephanie and our current dog, Theia, a Neapolitan mastiff, searching the backroads looking for photo opportunities and our next fun find. I also enjoy cooking.

### **What is one special therapy visit that stands out?**

It was an unscheduled visit Stephanie and I had with Majo. We were on a walk with her and an individual stopped us as we were walking past his house. After answering a few questions that he had about Majo, he asked if his grandson could say hello. He did let us know that his grandson was deaf. We informed him that wasn't a problem whatsoever. Needless to say, the young boy was very excited to meet Majo. During the visit, the boy would sign to his family. As we were saying goodbye, the boy signed again. At this time, the family smiled and said that the boy had just created a special sign for Majo. It still warms my heart to know that Majo was able to make a difference that day.

### **If you could be any breed of dog, which would you choose and why?**

The first dog that came to mind was a Newfoundland. For me, they are a well-rounded breed. They are cute and furry (kind of like me), great work ethic, good with people and kids and generally just a happy breed. The kind of person you would like in your corner.

### **If you could give one piece of advice to a new therapy team, what would it be?**

Have fun – that is one of the first things I say to someone just getting into therapy work. Sure, there are a number of black and white things that you can and can't do. However, no matter how good a team is, both of them have to enjoy it. If not, why bother? Life is too short not to enjoy it!



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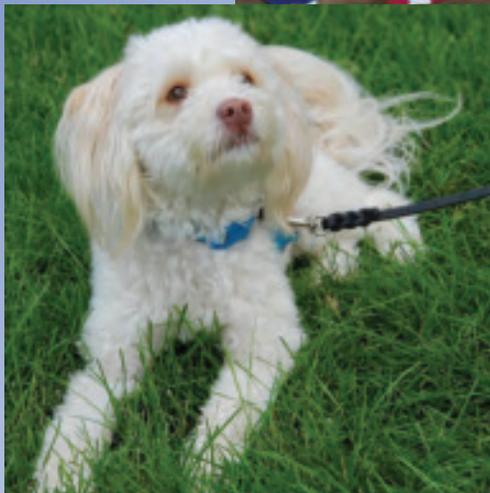
# Fabulous Finley



Top: Finley and his person Ms. Linda Wiesner

Right: Finley celebrating the Fourth of July.

Bottom: Finley enjoying summer.



After a decade teaching basic dog training, I am “retiring” as a volunteer kennel club instructor. One of the dozen students in our last basic obedience class is a little white Bichon Frise/Miniature Poodle/Miniature Pinscher/Lhasa Apso mix twirling and whirling, barking and lunging. Nonaggressive, cautious of big dogs, the little guy is confused, curious, eager, overstimulated. He is clueless as to even minimal social behavioral expectations. I am challenged.

This little white puppy was found roaming Chicago streets with a broken right rear leg. After weeks in an impound facility, in August, 2014, he was released to a Minnesota rescue organization. His broken leg healed. He went to a foster home. He was six to eight months old when available for adoption.

His internet photo melts her heart. After interviews and inspections, he goes to a wonderful home. Named *Finley of South Washington*, we start with puppy basics . . . hand feeding, holding, collar touches, playing, always positive reinforcement, our goal compliance . . . not dominance. With superhuman patience mixed with abundant love, Finley learns to trust. He begins to adore his human as much as his human adores him. Finley is our class dog most improved. A miracle in the making.

It takes a neighborhood to socialize a dog. Finley has moved into a close-knit neighborhood community. Abundant visiting, considerable supervised play with children, and lots of positive socializing are the norm.

In August, 2015, just one year after being rescued, Finley becomes a registered ATD Therapy Dog. He earns his AKC Novice

Therapy Dog Title.

Finley starts Rally. Slowly, with consistent commitment, Finley catches on. And on. And on. Finley currently has two AKC Rally Titles.

Finley forever changed my concept of what can be accomplished with a previously clueless rescue dog. Rescue dogs frequently have issues, their before-adoption history clouded. Simple solutions to complex problems are rare. From a social street puppy to a personable therapy dog requires time, positive training, patience, consistency, repetition, trust, affection and dedication. A good handler/dog relationship is essential.

Finley continues to work toward additional Therapy Dog and Rally Titles. An active therapy dog, he is always eager to share an abundance of smiles and joy. Fabulous Finley.

—Gloria Jeanne Epp, Lake Crystal, MN

# Clarence

It's an honor to share our experience as a member of the CLT Canine Crew at the Charlotte (North Carolina) Douglas International Airport. I've really enjoyed being the guy at the end of the leash while Clarence works his magic with passengers, airline and airport employees. During each visit, Clarence meets between 50 and 100 people and each of those people walk away with a smile or a lightened expression.

We tend to think of people as traveling for happy reasons like vacations, but unfortunately, people also have to travel for things like funerals or visiting sick people. Clarence has comforted those people by sitting quietly at their feet while they pet him. He's helped people forget they're mad at airline delays or missed connections and helped calm people who are nervous about traveling. People tend to look a little grim and distant as they're walking through the terminal but invariably their expressions change to a smile when they see Clarence, even if they don't stop to pet him.

Clarence gets his picture taken countless times during his visits and happily poses for selfies with his new friends. His friends can then keep up with him on his Instagram account @ clarencetheclumber.

I wasn't sure what to expect when we joined the program, but it has been one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had, and I look forward to many more visits with Clarence.

—Pat Cleary, Dallas, NC



**ALLIANCE OF  
THERAPY DOGS**  
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

# Sport Support



Sport and I began our journey together in 2008 when he was just 13 weeks old. I was going through chemo and radiation treatments for breast cancer at that time. I realized something was missing from my life. I had always had a dog growing up and decided I needed another one.

Picking out Sport from a cute litter of Labrador pups was easy. He was the only one brave enough to climb onto my lap and give me a kiss. I knew at that moment he was the one! As a puppy, Sport seemed to know I was ill, and he was content to just stay by my side and keep me company. In the first few months of our lives together, Sport would entertain me with his cute puppy antics. Sometimes he would tumble over himself while looking back at me to see my reaction. I realized then that I hadn't laughed out loud since my diagnosis and it felt good to experience happiness again. Little by little, Sport knew when I started to get stronger. He would bring me a ball and drop it in my lap. Then he would nudge my hand and look at me as if to say . . . can we play with this together? How could I resist such a cute request? He is the reason I got dressed and went outside once again. If it wasn't for Sport, I might still be in my pajamas feeling sorry for myself. No matter how difficult and defeating life's challenges

can feel, there is always something that can put a smile on your face and fill your heart with happiness. With Sport's support I found my smile!

When I retired from my job as an educator, I decided to share my sweet dog with others in need. Sport and I joined the Alliance of Therapy Dogs in August 2015. We started volunteering our time in Hillsborough County,

Florida with patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and rehabilitation centers. We also visit people entering the final chapter of their lives under hospice care. Sport communicates with people in a special way. Sometimes he just sits next to a patient's bed making it easy for the patient to relax to the sound of his rhythmic breathing. Other times he entertains with a paw shake or a special trick. Everyone enjoys petting Sport's soft warm furry body. He even gets requests to pose for selfies with people!

One day Sport and I were visiting patients at the Hospice House. There was a young lady in her twenties sitting up in bed. We asked if she would like a visit and her face seemed to light up as she



*Top: Sport wearing Therapy Dog jacket*

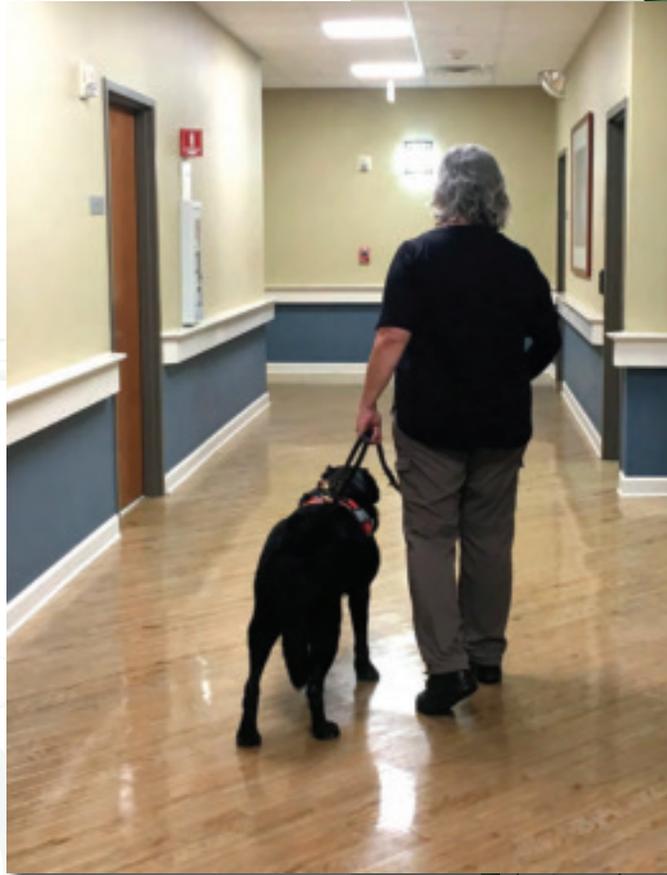
*Left: Sport's AKC gold medal presentation at South Florida Baptist Hospital General Meeting*

looked at Sport. She told us about her own black lab who passed away months before her diagnosis. From the moment Sport entered her room he became her dog. They had a special bond. Sport watched over his young friend and always looked forward to their visits.

I am currently a volunteer puppy raiser for Southeastern Guide Dogs. Bob, a yellow Lab, was my first guide dog in-training. Sport helped mentor the pup. After raising Bob for just over a year, we took him back to Southeastern Guide Dogs. I had hopes he would be paired with a disabled person, but fate had a different plan. Bob was unable to fulfill the dream due to back leg issues and he was returned to me for adoption. Today Bob is an ATD therapy dog. Now we are raising Sherman, a black Goldador pup for Southeastern Guide Dogs. Sherman has both Sport and Bob as mentors.

On February 3, 2019 Sport celebrated his 11th birthday and shows no sign of wanting to retire. He has currently logged in over 450 visits. With warm doggie breath, a cold wet nose, a little tail wagging, and an outstretched paw, Sport continues to make the world a better place.

—Linda Hunter, Plant City, FL



*Sport and I leaving the room of a patient at the Lifepath Hospice House*

## Lu Lu & Darla

Jason and Kathy Fusaro are the owners/handlers of Lu Lu and Darla. When I first met them, I knew they would be perfect therapy dogs. These Australian Shepherd dogs are the herding type that instinctively yearn for a job. They passed their observations very quickly.

Jason and Kathy first began going to nursing homes, assisted living centers, day care for adults and hospitals. Then they were invited to visit a Ronald McDonald House. These houses are usually located near a hospital where a whole family can stay while their child is in the hospital or getting outpatient treatments.

Former Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City found out that his employee, Kathy, was visiting a Ronald McDonald House every Friday evening with Jason and their therapy dogs, Lu Lu and Darla. He is now making matching donations for each hour they spend at Ronald McDonald House.

All the children and their families look forward every week for their visits.

—Mary Ann Christiansen, Long Island, NY



# *Thank You, Ms. Lois*

Bailey, my four-year-old therapy dog and I were looking forward to our first visit with some sweet folks at a nursing home close to our home in Louisville, Kentucky. On arrival, we checked in with the Activities Director and asked if there was an area off-limits or any residents fearful of dogs. “No,” Chelsey answered. “But Ms. Lois, in room 259, just loves dogs and she knows you’re coming today. Be sure to visit her room.”

Bailey and I were shown to the elevators and given carte blanche of the large, three-level facility. Others got on the elevator with us and were immediately taken with Bailey dressed in her stars and stripes, sitting in her dog stroller like she was on a float in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. When the elevator door opened, we were pushed out with the group and soon a crowd of nurses, as well as residents, gathered around to see my Norwich Terrier. The oohs and aahs and clamor to get a photo was reminiscent of a star walking the red carpet. Of course, my Bailey girl was eating up all this attention as I looked on like a proud mother watching her charm her way into these unsuspecting adult’s hearts.

Among the crowd of residents, I noticed a tiny waif of a woman seemingly lost in her big wheelchair. She inched forward trying to get a glimpse of the cause of high-pitched voices of excitement. After a time, the crowd dispersed, making it possible for the little lady to draw closer to Bailey. I watched as she reached out and gently touched Bailey’s fur. She stroked Bailey a few times and looked up at me with moist eyes. Bailey nuzzled her hand and laid her head in the woman’s palm. A faint smile creased the aged, thin lips as she leaned in closer, mesmerized by a small dog in a colorful red, white, and blue dress.

“Do you like her dress?” I asked, but she did not acknowledge my question. Gradually, the woman leaned forward and inhaled deeply through her nose. The smell of a dog, no matter how recent the bath, is something most people find less than appealing, but this woman was deliberately attempting to catch a scent. With closed eyes and shoulders slumped, she appeared to relax into the expanse of the large wheelchair allowing this moment, this smell, to elicit some long-lost memory. I felt I was intruding into something private and precious between this tiny woman and my Bailey girl. After some time, she opened her eyes, stroked Bailey’s head one last time, and sat back in her wheelchair.

“Do you like dogs?” I asked, to initiate a small conversation, but she only smiled at me. A nurse passing by spoke, “I don’t think she has her hearing aids in. She’s quite deaf without them.”

Taking the woman’s small frail hand, I gave it a gentle squeeze and smiled warmly. With a nod of my head, Bailey and I went down the hallway to begin knocking on opened doors, asking if they would like a visit from a therapy dog.

Back out in the hallway, between rooms, I noticed the small lady in the wheelchair watching us from a distance. She made no attempt to approach us and seemed content to observe us in the hallway, between room visitations.

As always, our time was passing much too quickly, and I realized our hour would be up in only minutes. Bailey seems to have a biological clock and after an hour she has been known to get antsy. Suddenly, I remembered

that I had not been to room 259 to see Ms. Lois. The one person I was asked to visit, I had completely forgotten.

“Which way to room 259?” I asked a passing nurse. She pointed down a long hallway and Bailey and I took off in wild pursuit. I knocked on the open door, “Ms. Lois, would you like a visit from a therapy dog?” There was no answer and I ventured further into the room, only to find the room was without its occupant. I felt just terrible knowing I had missed the one person I was asked to visit.

Bailey and I backed out of the room and went straight to the nurse’s station. “Would you happen to know where Ms. Lois, from room 259, might be?”

“She could be anywhere, honey. She doesn’t like sitting in her room alone, so she travels all over the facility. She can’t go too far; she’s in a wheelchair.”

Feeling frustrated and disheartened I turned back to the nurse, “Could you point me toward the elevators?”

“Sure, go to the end of that hallway and take a left. You can’t miss ‘em. And, thanks for bringing your pretty little dog in. It means a lot to the residents.”

“You’re welcome,” I said, feeling disappointed in myself.

As we made our way toward the elevators, Bailey and I visited with a few patients who were walking the halls as part of their physical therapy.

It had been a good day of visits, but my mind was still back in the empty room, number 259. We rounded the corner and to my shock, there sat the little lady in the wheelchair who had been shadowing us. She was right by the elevators, only now, she was wearing her hearing aids.

Suddenly, a light went on in my head, “Are you, Ms. Lois?” I asked hesitantly.

She grinned from ear to ear and nodded her head up and down. Then, her eyes fell on Bailey and she moved closer. I watched, as the two of them silently communed. There was an obvious exchange of thoughts and feelings; an intimate communication without a word being spoken. This memory is seared into my mind and heart.

Thank you, Ms. Lois, for thinking ahead to ensure that this special meeting occur. You were one step ahead of me the entire time.

—DJ Anderson,  
Louisville, KY

*Celebrating with some wonderful residents at Symphony at Oaklawn.*



## MAGICAL MIRACLE MOMENTS

# LiLi of the Laurel Highlands

LiLi is our 5½-year-old Yellow Lab. My husband and I are co-handlers. LiLi has been an ATD certified therapy dog for over three years. She has also achieved the AKC Advanced Trick Dog level and loves showing off for those we visit. One of our many monthly meetings is to a bereavement support group. It is for mothers who have lost babies through miscarriage,

stillbirth or infant death. I am the facilitator for “Lost & Found” which I initiated at the local human milk bank. Some of those attending are also milk donors so other babies can benefit from their Angel Babies’ milk. LiLi has provided encouragement for grieving moms, dads, grandparents and siblings: no matter what age, they all seem less sad when we spend time with them. LiLi has also participated in Perinatal Loss information exhibits, remembrance gatherings and other bereavement related functions.

A particular session that stands out in my mind involves an attendee that had a stillborn baby girl. She had been coming to the milk bank for nursing support meetings, so she was familiar and comfortable with the space. A few months after her loss, she came to “Lost & Found” regularly. LiLi always enjoyed seeing her and visa-versa.

One evening, she came into the building and LiLi would not leave her alone. She kept gently nudging the woman’s belly. The attendee then said, “LiLi knows!” I asked, “Knows what?” And she quickly proclaimed that she was expecting a baby in January. I was so happy for her as were the other attendees when they arrived and heard the good news.

LiLi hung out with her for most of the 1½ hours we were there. The expectant mom came to the support group throughout her pregnancy and had a healthy baby boy close to her due date. In fact, he was born on my son’s birthday . . . which I predicted! LiLi probably knew, too! An interesting note – this attendee now works at that milk bank helping other bereaved mothers who choose to become donors to honor their lost babies.

Another time, a mother who also had lost a daughter at birth called to see if men could attend “Lost & Found.” I assured her they were welcome and that I thought they may be the only ones attending that night. Our group is small, and I had heard from several that they could not make it.



She explained that he'd not gone to any type of support group thus far. When I said they'd be the only ones coming and that I brought my therapy dog LiLi, she decided they'd attend.

Upon arrival, LiLi approached them and the dad immediately knelt down. LiLi started interacting with him and he began to cry. They barely got inside the door and I feel that the father felt emotionally safe because of LiLi's presence. The two of them hung out together all night as the couple told their story, cried, laughed, ate some snacks and shared photos. They too, have had a Rainbow Baby since losing their first daughter and have become quite involved in the bereavement community.

I strongly feel that having LiLi at the support group has helped the parents along their grief journey. Most of them have had another child or are hoping to. Most have gone on to get involved in some way or another with others who have had a perinatal loss. One mother makes beautifully intricate burial gowns for lost babies out of gently worn wedding gowns. Another has been involved in opening a local chapter for a national bereavement group. Another sits on the board of directors for a newly formed non-profit group that also assists bereaved parents. And yet another is helping to establish a bereavement support group in her area since she travels a distance to attend "Lost & Found." Many of the members keep in touch with one another and either go to bereavement events together or even socialize. They have become a support network within a support group . . . a facilitator's dream!

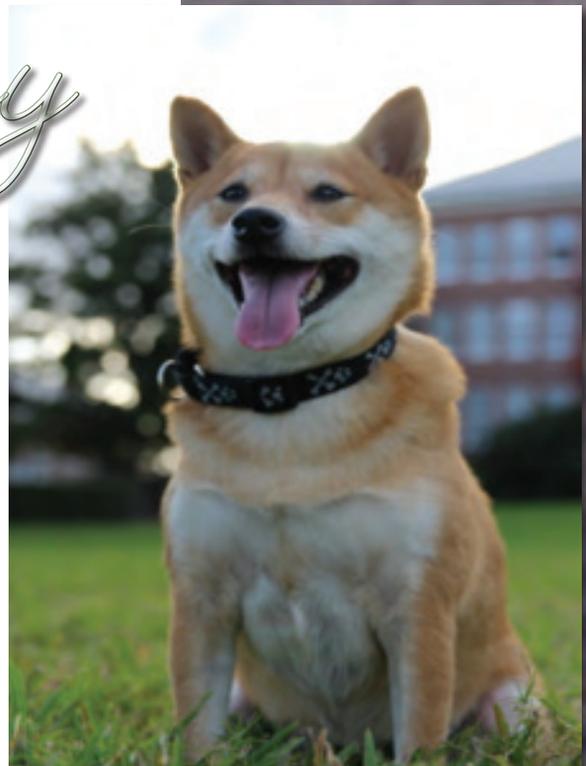
I'm always so proud of LiLi's gentle behavior and fun tricks but more importantly, I am often moved by her uncanny ability to sense what and when people need her. I'm sure other handlers feel the same way. Aren't we blessed to be a "dog's best friend?" Thank you LiLi for bringing many people so much joy!

—Jan Mallak, Pittsburgh, PA

## Daisy

Daisy, a Japanese Shiba Inu, and her Owner/ Handler Melissa Carrasquillo, may be new to Alliance of Therapy Dogs but that does not mean their contribution is any less. Daisy participated in a psychology project at Florida Southern College. The project, headed by Renee Pak and Pippa Burnett, was to determine the effect of reading to dogs on the literacy skills of children with dyslexia. The project involved children in third and fifth grades who were dyslexic and/or ADHD. The research indicated that the greatest improvement would be among the third graders. However, it was the fifth graders who showed the greatest increase in fluency, comprehension and WCPM. Melissa was impressed with how well the students interacted with Daisy and saw their motivation to read increase. In the end, everyone benefited, including Daisy, who made many new friends.

—Cassandra Banning, Lakeland, FL



# ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS OUTSTANDING MEMBER

The Alliance of Therapy Dogs is pleased to announce its Outstanding Member Award for 2019 – Brenda Ziegler. Brenda is in Wayne County, OH and has been a member since 2006. Her total combined visits number over 2700! She has been registered with three dogs: Smeke, Nilla Bean, and,

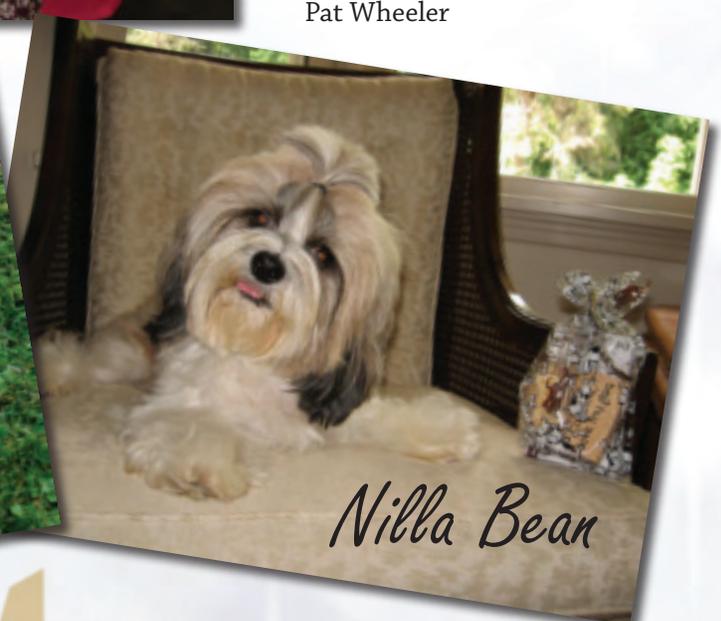
currently, Lil Dude. We received three letters of nomination for Brenda. She was a committee finalist, and, for the first time ever, the ATD membership cast their ballots for Outstanding Member Award winner! Please join us in thanking her for her dedication to sharing smiles and joy and congratulating her on winning the award.

Eleven other ATD members were nominated for the Outstanding Member Award in 2019 for their wonderful contributions in their communities. They are:

Amee Abel  
Janet DeMatteis  
Dianne Dowden  
Stephanie Hass  
Mary Lyons  
Barbara Marshall  
Jodi Miller  
Diane Rima  
Annie Rosenberg  
Molly Secher  
Pat Wheeler



*Smeke*



*Nilla Bean*

Dear Alliance of Therapy Dogs Board and Members,

Imagine my surprise when Linda Warner told me she was submitting my name to Alliance of Therapy Dogs for Outstanding Member of the Year Award. This was followed by letters to ATD from Rita Boyd and Sharon Porter, long time members of our local therapy group Caring Therapy Canines (We all were part of the founding fathers to CTC. We serve Wayne, Holmes, Medina, Ashland, Summit, Stark, and Richland counties in Ohio).

Fast forward a few weeks to a call from ATD President Pat Coglianese advising me I had been selected as the award recipient. WOW! I never thought about the volunteer work that we do as warranting such an honor.

My therapy dogs, (past and present) Smeke'Poo – deceased, Nilla Bean – retired, and Lil' Dude – active, have allowed me to chauffeur them to and from a variety of services. To name a few: Ohio Lifecare Hospice, Wooster Community Hospital, Dog Bite Prevention Programs, Paws to Read, Reading Under the Lights, colleges, nursing homes, retirement communities and community events. I am very blessed to live in a community that embraces our therapy dog teams. They have brought so much warmth, happiness and SMILES – to so many – taking their last breath, learning to read, helping to de-stress, and helping children to be safe around dogs.

I'm constantly asked how much I get paid. I always say that I have many zeros on my paycheck, and I turn each one into a smiley face. There is no better payment than seeing a smile.

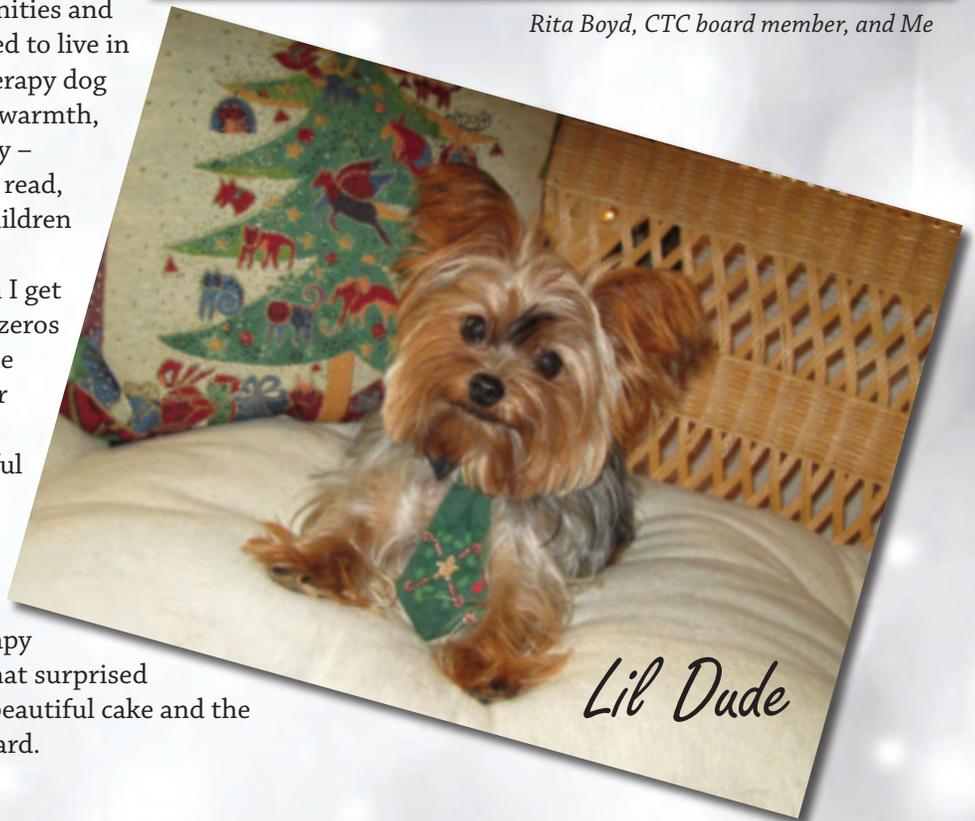
Thank you, ATD, for the beautiful plaque and for supporting therapy teams everywhere so that their warmth and love can be shared and enjoyed.

My appreciation to all the therapy teams of Caring Therapy Canines that surprised me recently at our meeting with a beautiful cake and the official presentation of the ATD award.

Thank you all,  
Brenda Ziegler, Wayne County, OH



Rita Boyd, CTC board member, and Me



# T. C. I.

I have an interesting and somewhat unique story I would like to share with you about a therapy dog named T.C.I. He is certified with Ms. Gail Irwin.

At Tomoka Correctional Institution in Florida, a program was started almost a decade ago. The objective of this program is to take dogs abandoned at the local animal shelter (Halifax Humane Society) and pair them with inmates for an 8-week obedience program. Upon graduation, the dogs are then adopted to a forever home. Over 600 dogs have been placed through the "Prison Pups and Pals Program" and many are placed with military veterans through our "Paws of Freedom Program." These programs are incredible, but as I mentioned earlier, the story I want to tell you is about T.C.I.

Almost five and a half years ago, the Program Coordinator of the "Prison Pups and Pals Program," Officer G. Irwin, was at the humane society picking out our next class of pups when she happened upon a little 4-month-old black lab mix and included him in the upcoming class to be trained and adopted out. He turned out to be a little extra special though. He was so quick and intelligent that an idea started to form. What if we could train him to be a therapy dog and he could work with inmates



that are under the care of a psychologist? Well, that's just what happened. The doctor that works with T.C.I. is trained to work alongside him and they are an Alliance-certified team. T.C.I. lives full-time at the institution and that's where I come in. I am T.C.I.'s caretaker/trainer when he is not actively working. T.C.I. is the only therapy dog working in the Department of Corrections in the State of Florida. It's almost impossible for me to describe what a positive experience it is having T.C.I. in my life and watching all the joy he brings to everybody he comes in contact with here. He is by far the most extraordinary

dog I have ever been around, and that sentiment is shared with everyone he meets. He knows over 20 verbal and hand signal commands; one of his favorites is if you sneeze, he will run and grab you a tissue from a box of Kleenex. Another is he will walk in reverse and then drop into a bow. He is a huge asset helping to socialize new dogs coming into the program. We get a new class every eight weeks and for over five years now T.C.I. has worked every day of his life bringing joy and happiness to the inmates and staff alike in an otherwise challenging place. T.C.I. means so much to me and everyone in his life.

He truly is an amazing soul.

Thank you very much.

—Jeremy Heizler, Daytona Beach, FL

# Therapy Dog Groups

In 1993, I didn't know that therapy dogs (TD) existed. I had my wonderful Shetland sheepdog, Jessie, whom I was training in competition obedience with a wonderful group of trainers who had just heard the term TD. About eight to 10 of us checked it out in a local nursing home. We visited with a bunch of folks in their large lobby, and it was a win on all sides. We didn't know what we were supposed to do, but we put on obedience work then visited the patients gathered in a large circle.

The great response led us to form a group called the K-Nine Bandaiders. The trainers found out about therapy dog registries and quickly became testers. We also created a board of directors. From that one visit, our group expanded to cover most nursing homes and hospitals in Orange County, New York. I eventually became a T/O with ATD as well. This dedicated group exists to this day and provides not only a wonderful respite for the folks visited, but a nurturing space for the certified dog teams that make up its membership.

One of the things I most dearly missed when I moved to Hendersonville, North Carolina was the camaraderie of this wonderful group of like-minded folks who had become dear friends. When I met, over the telephone, a fellow ATD member (Tammy Wood) who also missed her group from Manassas, Virginia, we decided to form Canine Therapy Partners-WNC. Through word of mouth as well as my being able to meet folks, our group has grown since 2017 to more than 20 ATD-certified teams. We offer the friendships and easier ability to reach out to nursing homes, hospitals, schools, the local library system and regional airport. We let each other know of these and other TD visit opportunities, as well as support each other and offer informational gatherings.

I am now on my fifth and sixth therapy dogs and can't express how much providing the joy and smiles has meant to me, as well as the wonderful friendships I made along the way by bringing dog and people-loving folks together to provide the service that ATD-certified teams do.

—Les Maier, Hendersonville, NC



*Eli, Les & Annie*

*Tammy & Zoey*



## Luke

Luke and I have been going to the public library for a couple months. We enjoy working with the kids in the "Read to the Dog" program.

—Brandon Kletke, Omaha, NE

# Hospital Visits

Therapy dogs serve us in many ways. They go to libraries or schools and listen to children read. The children become more confident and better readers because the dogs never correct or criticize them. Therapy dogs also visit people in the nursing home, assisted living or in hospice care. These dogs have to be trained. They are evaluated to see if they are gentle and not overly reactive. Then they become certified by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs.



In her book "Healers: the deeper impact of pet therapy," Lynne Robinson wrote about studies that hospital officials conducted. She writes, "There was a heart study and a doctor would go in and take all the vitals of a patient – heart rate, blood pressure pulse rate, then the pet therapists would visit the patient with a dog. After the pet therapists left, the doctor would return and take the vitals again. The results were always positive." The hospital also found that pet therapy resulted in less stress, less anxiety and less dependence on medication.

In November, my therapy dog Bear and I entered a five-week training program to make pet visits at a local hospital. The training consisted of two-hour lessons each week.

On the first week, the new trainees met in the hospital's volunteer office without our dogs. We followed our trainers as they made rounds in the hospital. Before reaching the other floors, the trainers would log into the computer, read the scheduling book for special requests and to determine which floors to visit.

The trainer then calls the floor and asks the nursing staff to prepare a "census" for the pet therapy teams. This census has the room numbers and names of patients who are interested in a visit.

On every visit, the dog-handler carries a small bottle of hand sanitizer. Upon entering a room, the handler sanitizes his hands. After each visit, the patient is encouraged to have his hands cleaned with the sanitizer, and the handler sanitizes his hands again. This is required for each visit.

No visits are permitted in any isolation room, even if requested. Isolation rooms are indicated by a yellow cart standing by the door.

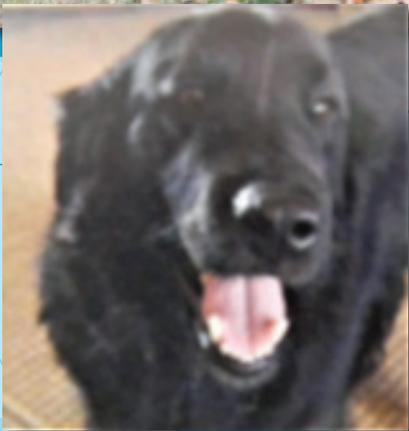
There is a surprising amount of new information to learn, including hallway etiquette, elevator protocol, moving equipment in the patient's room (a chair or the tray over the bed) and protocol for offering a pet visit.

The chairs are moved close to the bed for smaller dogs. They are taught to jump up onto a chair, so that they are close to the patient in bed. Sometimes they will sit on their owner's lap.

When the handler and dog team is walking through the hospital, the teams walk in single file on the left-hand side of the wall. Sometimes employees will stop and ask to pet the therapy dog. Their hands are sanitized after petting the dog as well.

Only the staff elevators are used. If someone in the elevator hesitates, or expressed discomfort upon seeing the dog, we leave and take the next elevator.

Before entering a patient's room, we knock on the door, saying, "We are from the hospital's pet-therapy group. Would you like a short visit from my therapy dog?"



The fifth day of training is the day we actually visit patients on our own, observed by one of the trainers. If approved, we are on the pet-therapy team.

It is beautiful to see the joy and pleasure the patient's experience from a pet therapy visit. One evening when the handlers and dogs walked by a room in the emergency section, a young mother jumped in excitement when she saw us.

—Bev Clark, Boise, ID

# ATD Prancing Paws

## Meet the ATD Prancing Paws of Plainview, Texas

We are a freestyle doggie dancing group, all of which are registered therapy dog teams. Each team does an individual demonstration, one dog at a time. We all not only belong to the Prancing Paws, we also have another group called Ruff Rockers in nearby Lubbock, Texas. There are approximately 10 dancing dogs in these two groups all of which are therapy dogs.

During the holiday season, we brought smiles to lots of onlookers during approximately 25 performances, which included hospitals, schools, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, auxiliary meetings and a hospital Christmas party.

“It was like an America's Got Talent performance each and every time we entertained,” says Cathy Jacobs, founder of the two groups and a T/O for ATD. The dogs performed to familiar songs for the holidays, which allowed for participation from the audience.

Our dogs bring joy to everyone they meet whether it be a patient, resident or employee, and quite often, can be seen showing off their special tricks. The group is working on spring music now and will continue to add members to help us spread our cheer all year.

—Cathy Jacobs, Floydada, TX



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THERAPY DOGS**  
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

**Geisinger Medical Center welcomes  
AAT canines into Palliative  
Care Unit**

**ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY (AAT)  
in Palliative Care**

Therapy dogs have walked the halls of Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pennsylvania, for many years, comforting patients in all stages of illness. But in 2018, when Geisinger opened a new Palliative Care Unit (PCU) – dedicated

to providing care for patients with serious illness – the system lacked an established method to connect those patients to AAT volunteers, at a time when comfort was needed most.

Seeing a need to ensure palliative patients were offered AAT as a complementary therapy included in their care, the Geisinger nurse practitioner Christa Massak took action.

“I was able to use my passion about palliative care and AAT while working toward my Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree at Villanova University,” Dr. Massak says, explaining that palliative care uses a multidisciplinary approach to address patients’ physical, spiritual and psychosocial needs. “I felt it was especially important to offer palliative patients AAT because it has been researched to have several benefits for them.”

Dr. Massak notes that, given palliative care patients’ special circumstances, nurses were educated on the possible benefits of AAT for their patients, and volunteers were trained about what to expect when working with a palliative care population.

Volunteers included Abby and Joan Marquette, Winston and Marlene Gunther, and Drake and Jim Hepner – all active members of Alliance of Therapy Dogs Inc.

Upon arrival to the PCU, nurses asked patients if they were interested in AAT. If the patient expressed interest, nurses would place a pawprint magnet outside their doors to identify them to volunteers. Volunteers and their ATD dogs visited the 14-bed unit on a weekly basis.

Research conducted to evaluate the experience of AAT volunteers, nurses, and patients determined that AAT was highly accepted and favorable among them.

“I was able to identify several themes which patients described about the experience of AAT. Most responses were positive, for example, the ability to uplift their mood which caused them to smile,” Dr. Massak says.

Dr. Massak’s research explored patients’ feelings about the dogs’ impact on calmness and relaxation, prompting one patient to say the program made them forget their problems. Another patient reported that visits were calming and helped them open up to communication with the handler.

AAT visits also prompted patients to reminisce about animals that had been meaningful to them in the past. At times, they would share information about beloved pets or mention pets they missed.

Nurses have also described the program as a positive addition to Geisinger’s PCU, reporting that they enjoyed seeing their patients’ moods brightened and how they also look forward to seeing the dogs on a weekly basis.

In addition, volunteers felt they were providing a positive experience and described memorable moments with patients at the end of life.

“My dog Abby and I were invited to a wedding on the Palliative Care Unit,” Joan Marquette recalls. “The bride, knowing that her father was terminal, arranged an intimate family wedding in his room with beautiful music, flowers and cake. Abby and I were standing outside the patient’s room. The bride asked me to bring Abby in to see her dad, who’d had golden retriever in years past whom he loved so much.”

Marquette says Abby gently rested her head on the patient’s bed, causing him to open his eyes and grin.

“Then Abby put her paw next to the patient’s hand while I gently put his hand on hers,” Marquette says. “I’ll never forget the look in his eyes. I don’t think there was a dry eye in the room. Abby and I feel so honored to be a part of this, and it’s something I will always remember.”

Dr. Massak says therapy dogs have been a positive addition to Geisinger’s PCU and has encouraged the program’s expansion across the system. The AAT program continues on the PCU thanks to the therapy dogs, their handlers, and the nurses.

“All patients who may benefit from visits with therapy dogs should have access to them, especially in palliative and end of life care,” she said.

—Jim Hepner, Sunbury, PA

## Animal Assisted Therapy on the Palliative Care Unit

Here on GP4, we offer Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) as a weekly service for our patients. On arrival to the unit, our nurses will ask if your loved one is interested in a visit during their stay. If they are interested, a paw print magnet will be placed outside their door to make it known that they would like a visit! If our volunteers are present on the unit, they will stop by your loved ones room for a visit.

Please ask your nurse for more details about our program.  
Thank you, Christa Massak MSN, CRNP

**Drake**                      **Winston**                      **Abby**

Geisinger Caring



# Pet Before You Jet

In August 2019, Orlando International Airport launched its Paw Pilots Program. OIA is one of the country's largest airports handling over 50 million passengers a year. Paw Pilots was conceived as a customer service initiative designed to offer emotional comfort to the traveling public. The pilot program offers travelers the chance to decompress and interact with ATD certified therapy dog teams. The teams are featured in the main terminal building.

Jodi Zadow, assistant manager customer relations, initially brought the possibility of the program to airport executives. The first phase features 10 dogs of various breeds and the public response has been overwhelmingly positive. The interaction with children arriving to visit Central Florida's theme parks adds to the charm of the program. The therapy dog teams went through an interview process to be admitted and recognized as a Paw Pilot. All the dogs wear bright blue vests emblazoned with the Paw Pilots Logo, their name and "Pet Me." This is popular with the public as they immediately know that they can interact with the dog. Handlers also provide trading cards with the dog's name and pertinent fun facts. To encourage social media participation, the cards have a hashtag #MCOPAWPILOTS on them.

Brian Engle, director of customer experience for the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, said GOAA wanted to help stressed travelers through this program.

—Terry Hickey, Orlando, FL



# A Tribute to Ginger

Ginger's name was "Sissy" when I adopted her from a local shelter in Daytona Beach, Florida, in 2009. She and her brother were owner-surrendered. As a volunteer at the Halifax Humane Society, I walked the dogs, socialized the cats, and helped in the adoption process every Sunday. Volunteers put leashes on any dogs that visitors wanted to adopt so they could walk the dog on the facility grounds. A requirement was spending 30 minutes with a dog before placing an application for an adoption. Sissy whimpered whenever her brother, Simone, was taken from their joint pen. Volunteers were told to encourage a joint adoption because they were so attached to each other. Sadly, Simone's adopter refused to consider two dogs. At least two hours later, I put an "adoption hold" on Sissy. This was without a plan – just going with my heart. I am a widow, so I was the only one needed to make that decision. Another volunteer and friend sat with me and we discussed a new name if my application was approved. My friend suggested "Ginger" for the apricot toy poodle.

After the adoption, I took her to a veterinarian who reported Ginger was a couple of pounds underweight. She was not eating well as I searched for a food that she liked. It was a tough 30-day adjustment. Ginger was sick from licking "weed killer" that had been applied to my driveway pavers, and we were up at 3 a.m. several times and back at the veterinarian's office. I needed to dog-proof my house and yard and keep my "fur baby" safe. This precious 5-pound dog had lost her brother and her human family at two years old. Her world had collapsed. She slept with me each night, right against my side. This was new to me, but I knew she needed that contact.

Walks in the fresh air would help us both. Slowly, Ginger began eating better. On these walks, I found she liked all the neighbors and their dogs. We attended dog training classes at the Obedience Club of Daytona, Inc., and I learned of the therapy dog program at our local hospital there. There were Alliance of Therapy Dogs observers in the Obedience Club organization. I chose Linda who worked with us and guided us through the ATD application. Ginger and I were certified as a pet therapy team in September 2015. We have made hundreds of therapy dog visits for the past five years, and Ginger is completely at home with strangers. So much so that even after she lost her eyesight due to Progressive Retinal Atrophy, she is happy visiting with staff, patients, anyone who stops and talks to her. Her life is full when she is out and about.

We joined ATD in 2015 and this will be her last year. Ginger rescued a lonely widow, me, and ATD has rescued us both. Thank you.

In 2018, Ginger accepted a companion, Cali, a Bichon poodle mix, who became a therapy dog. She accompanies Ginger on her daily walks. We, three, sleep in a king-size bed each night. Everyone has their own blanket. Everyone feels secure.

—Joan Chase, Daytona Beach, FL



# Therapy Dogs Help Students Cope with Christmas Night Tragedy



Top: Aymen (Dogue de Bordeaux) Mechele Oliveira, Newark, California



Right: Maddie (Black Lab) Pat Wheeler, Livermore, California

December 26 should be a day of joy following all the sharing with family and friends on the day before. But for students at Dublin High School in Dublin, California, it was a day of shock and grief as three classmates were killed in a car crash on Christmas night, shortly before 10:00 PM, on a two-lane road paralleling Interstate 680. Two of the three were 16-year-old twin brothers. Two others were critically injured. The car apparently went out of control and knocked a power pole off at the base and then hit a large tree and flipped over. The two that were injured were ejected from the car

and apparently were not wearing their seat belts. They were transferred to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland where several ATD therapy dogs visit on a regular basis.

Principal Maureen Byrne requested that therapy dogs be on campus the first day back at school Tuesday, January 7. Terri Dyer and Pat Wheeler were able to quickly get eight therapy dog teams to come for an hour at lunch time. Afterwards, Byrne said, "The dogs were so amazing and the comfort they gave was truly amazing." She added that she wants the therapy dogs to come back again to Dublin High.

—Terri Dyer, Dublin, California and Pat Wheeler, Livermore, California



Paws with Love Therapy Dogs, a local therapy dog organization in Lawton, Oklahoma, was recently honored for the work that its therapy dogs are doing in the local hospital. Comanche County Memorial Hospital made a special place for the pictures of 18 therapy dogs that visit the hospital on a weekly basis as well as a plaque honoring the former hospital therapy dogs that have crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Our group has been visiting this hospital for 10

years. They began in one area of the hospital, the rehab area and – over the last decade – they have expanded to every floor in the hospital including the cancer center, ICU units, emergency room and pediatric units. The dogs visit patients and staff to bring comfort and smiles when needed.

—Keri Brammer, Lawton, OK

# Therapy Dogs Are AWESOME

match. We traveled with my two Border Terriers, Ivy and Whinnie. Both dogs are registered with Alliance of Therapy Dogs with myself and my husband.

My daughter-in-law, who I will refer to as Kathy, has suffered recent setbacks in the work force. I thought going to these fun matches would be a nice break for her. I also enjoy her company. We are very similar in many ways.

Kathy started missing her “babies”, two Rat Terriers, and was talking about them all the time. On Friday night, she attempted to bribe the borders to join her on her bed. Neither Ivy nor Whinnie were falling for that. They stayed with their “Mum” all night long.

Saturday saw Kathy working as the desk steward all day (not an easy job). That night, we stayed up late watching a Criminal Minds marathon; perhaps not the best show to watch before going to sleep. I woke up about 4 a.m. and noticed that one of my borders was curled up next to Kathy and she had her arm around the dog. Turned out it was Ivy with her. When the alarm went off, Whinnie was in bed with Kathy, Ivy was back with me.

After getting ready, Kathy explained what happened on Saturday night, or more correctly, Sunday morning. About 1 a.m., Kathy had a dream about a man that was torturing and skinning dogs alive. This was so real to her. She heard the dogs screaming. She couldn't wake up but became aware that a dog was lying next to her. The dog was Ivy. This girl has never left my bed, other than to get a drink of water. After Kathy got up for a bathroom break, Ivy jumped down and Whinnie took her place. This is my shyder dog who prior to this, never went to another's bed to sleep.

Both of my girls proved that therapy dogs are on “work alert” all the time. I am proud that both girls went to Kathy in her time of need and stayed with her until she was comfortable. I am very proud of my Borders and love them all the more for all that they do, whether on an official visit or just taking care of someone.



*Ivy is on the right, her daughter Whinnie is on the left.*

—Arliss Johnson, Amarillo, TX

# The Power of Dog Therapy

At first, I was not going to share these two stories about my wonderful therapy dog, Cookie, but then I got to thinking about the amazing difference a therapy dog can make in the life of a person. These stories need to be told. They touch not only my heart, but hopefully the hearts of those who might read them. And, show the power of dog therapy.

Cookie, my Golden Retriever, was not quite two when I took her and ultimately me for therapy dog training. At the end of the course, our instructor, Jane Hirsh, took Cookie's head in her hands and said to her, "you were born to be a therapy dog." Not long after we started visiting places as a therapy dog team, I would learn how very true Jane's words were.

We were on a therapy visit at a local nursing home. The attendant who was taking us around, led us into a big day room filled with many residents. As we entered the room, she pointed out a lady sitting in a wheelchair in

the corner of the room. The attendant told us not to visit with her because she didn't like dogs. We went about visiting other residents. At one point, Cookie and I were waiting to visit with a resident, and I felt like the lady in the wheelchair was staring at us. Something in me made me turn and ask her if she wanted to visit with my dog. To my great surprise, the lady nodded yes. Not wanting to startle the lady, Cookie and I slowly made our way over to her. She was sitting ever so still with her hands folded on her lap. Without me giving any commands to Cookie, she sat down in front of the lady, who was now staring at my dog. Cookie stuck out her soft pink tongue and licked the lady's hand. The lady's only response was, "Oh." I then told her that Cookie did that because she liked her. What followed still tugs at my heart strings even today.

The lady, who had been so still and looking so sad, now had Cookie in a bear hug and kept saying over and over, "She likes me, she likes me!" The attendant came rushing over and to my great surprise told me that was the most that lady had spoken since she became a resident. I was speechless.

As we left the facility, I marveled at the profound effect my therapy dog, Cookie, had on the lady without any coaxing from me. She just did what she felt needed to be done. Jane's words sprang to life that day, "You were born to be a therapy dog."

## Does Dog Therapy Really Make a Difference?

There are some skeptics out there that really wonder if dog therapy really makes a difference and if it really helps in the healing process of those who receive it. I dare say it does. I have seen the difference my Golden Retriever therapy dog, Cookie, has made in the lives of countless of people. Here is one such account.



We had been at the hospital visiting adults and children alike. After two hours, Cookie and I were tired and ready to go home. As we were about to leave, a lady came up to us and asked if we had been on a certain floor that day. I told her we had not. She almost pleaded with me to come visit her son who was having a horrible day. Despite our weariness, we made the visit.

When we got to the room, there lay a young boy of about 10-years-old. He looked like he had lost his best friend. He was laying on his back with his hand at the side of the bed.

Without any prompting from me, Cookie walked over to the bed and sat down. The boy didn't even seem to care that she was there. Being the intuitive dog that she is, she knew just what to do. She stood and touched his hand with her soft tongue. The boy slowly turned to see what it was. When he saw Cookie standing there looking at him and waving her bushy tail, a smile came to his face. He sat up in bed and began petting her. As he stroked her golden fur and talked and laughed with his mother and me, his whole demeanor changed.

As we left his mother thanked us. Honestly, I thanked her for giving us this opportunity to do what Cookie does best . . . bringing smiles and healing to those she meets.

—Arlene Barton, Charleston, SC



## ATD's 30th Anniversary Kick-off Conference

July 11-12, 2020

Sheraton Gateway Los Angeles Hotel

Los Angeles, CA

# CANCELLED!

**Due to COVID-19, the ATD Board of Directors has postponed the 30th Anniversary Kick-off Conference.**

Please continue to help us celebrate our 30-year anniversary by participating in the CustomInk Campaign for shirts, sweatshirts or a fanny pack. We will have a few other items available on your Shopify ([atdmerch.myshopify.com/](https://atdmerch.myshopify.com/)) accounts as soon as they are received in the office. Everyone will be receiving an anniversary patch with an updated renewal membership card starting with the July 1, 2020, renewals.

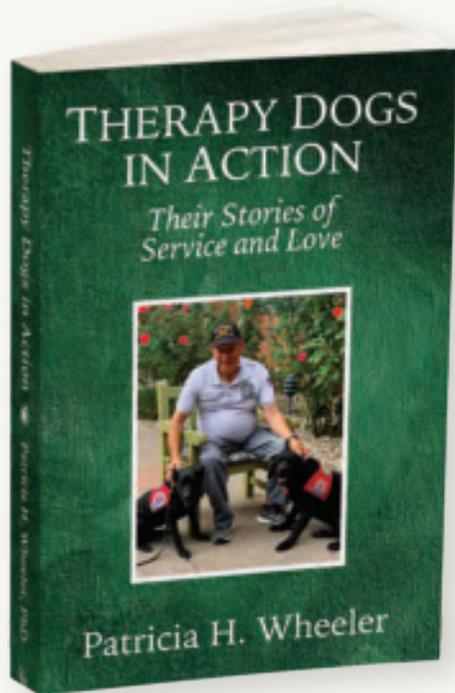
Shirts: [customink.com/fundraising/atd\\_30\\_year](https://customink.com/fundraising/atd_30_year)

Fanny Pack: [Alliance of Therapy Dogs - 30th Anniversary!](#)

# THERAPY DOGS IN ACTION

*--Their Stories of Service and Love--*

by Patricia H. Wheeler, PhD



Find out what Lawrence, Albert, Maddie, and Wylie have to say about their 4,000 plus hours of work as therapy dogs at numerous places serving infants to centenarians. This book is a collection of over 80 stories, as told from their perspectives. The dogs provide lessons for the reader. The book also has 30 testimonials from people that have seen them at work in medical, educational, and community settings.

*Published by Russian Hill Press.*

*Available online at Amazon and at Barnes and Noble.*

*Also at your local bookstores.*

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*“As the mayor, I have attended many events in the community and been at sites where these four dogs work. These comforting canines seem to instinctively know what people need and then provide it with unflinching acceptance and unqualified love. They live to serve and love. In this book, they share their heartwarming stories about their experiences as therapy dogs.”*

*--John Marchand, Mayor, City of Livermore, CA*

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*“What a heartwarming and inspiring book! Pat Wheeler’s passion and dedication for being of service through her amazing dogs radiates through their fascinating stories of comfort and emotional healing that only man’s best friend can provide.”*

*--Darlene Wilson, Director of Volunteer Services, UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital, Oakland, CA*

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*“I have enjoyed reading these heartwarming stories. Readers can learn much about what therapy dogs can do for people. These stories can be a starting point for talking about challenges we face and how to cope with them, based on interactive lessons from the therapy dogs.”*

*--Dr. Kelly Bowers, Superintendent, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, Livermore, CA*

# DOGS IN THE NEWS

**Congratulations on making the news!**  
To submit your news, be sure to follow the guidelines on page 8.



**Beaufort County Alliance of Therapy Dogs teams** were the stars of the Beaufort Christmas Parade. We were featured on the front page of the local newspaper.

—Rebecca W. Bass,  
Beaufort, SC

**“PAWS 4 a CAUSE” team members**, Joanna McElhattan and her therapy dog, Gus, the Basset Hound, participated in the June 2019 Summer Reading Program at the Oil City Library in Oil City, Pennsylvania.

Joanna and Gus, along with other “PAWS 4 a CAUSE” team members, also participated in the March 2020 Reading Program at the Franklin Public Library in Franklin, Pennsylvania.

—June Chekanowsky,  
Franklin, PA



# Retired



## **Gryphon**

Sharon LeCompte, Elgin, IL

Years of Service: 9

*Gryphon brought smiles to children and adults as a Read to Rover volunteer, visits at a behavior center for troubled teens, and care centers for mentally and disabled adults. He also gave support at a replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall. It's time for retirement from a job well done.*



## **Sunny**

Nancy Toney, Melbourne, FL

Years of Service: 9

*A life well spent, as soon as Sunny was badged, he was on his way visiting the infirmed and recovering in hospitals. Sunny brightened the days of many in hospice during the closing chapter of their lives.*

*Retirement plans include sessions of relaxation between walking with Nancy and the neighbors.*



## **Shogun**

Yasuko "Yasko" Tsunekawa, Lafayette, CO

Years of Service: 3

*Thank you for this wonderful opportunity of doing therapy dog volunteer work. Being a therapy dog handler was my long-term dream. I enjoyed every moment of giving joy and smiles to people with Shogun. After his last visit, he enjoyed an all-day nap at home with me. Farewell to Shogun!*



## **Dusty**

Pete Morgan, Wild Rose, WI

Years of Service: 9

*Dusty has shared smiles and joy most of her life, soaking up a lot of love in the process. In addition to a veteran's home and local prison, Dusty has made many visits to schools, hospitals, nursing homes and libraries, as well as assisted living centers and private homes.*



**Scarlett**

Joy Takahashi, Valencia, CA  
Years of Service: 4½  
*Scarlett, a rescue dog, started her career at 12 years of age. She is proof that being a senior is only the beginning of a new journey! Now 16, she's missed by her friends at the assisted living facility. She lives with her owner Laura and family.*

**Tucker**

John Schmersey, Aiken, SC  
Years of Service: 11  
*As a therapy dog, he made (and lost) many friends. His visits included senior residence homes, nursing homes, rehab facilities, hospitals, veterans care centers, schools and several Special Olympic events. Tucker never met a person he didn't want to spend time with. He's 100 pounds of joy and love.*



*homes, nursing homes, rehab facilities, hospitals, veterans care centers, schools and several Special Olympic events. Tucker never met a person he didn't want to spend time with. He's 100 pounds of joy and love.*



**Tater**

Dawn Moss, Greer, SC  
Years of Service: 11  
*He loved his job of putting smiles on faces at hospitals, assisted care facilities, schools and performing his many tricks. He will now be our home therapy dog being a "Couch poTater." It was a fantastic 11 years.*

**Darla**

Larry & Gina Hickle, Mooresville, IN  
Years of Service: 6  
*Darla loved to visit with the hospice patients and snuggle on their beds with them. She brought many smiles to the patients and staff. At the PAWS to Read program, she enjoyed receiving the attention of the children, and they enjoyed receiving her picture. She now enjoys naps and unending love.*



**Sara**

Larry Durkin, Columbia, SC  
Years of Service: 2  
*Sara's calm and friendly demeanor won the hearts and brought many smiles to folks at local senior centers and at the airport USO. She loved people and was the center of attention wherever we went! Unfortunately, Sara was forced to retire due to health/medical issues.*



**Hunter**

JoAnn Simmons, Longwood, FL  
Years of Service: 8  
*Hunter was rescued at 4 months old and became a loving, loyal member of our family. He was a gentleman, sharing his love at Ronald McDonald House and two assisted living facilities. He always got excited when he saw his vest and knew he was going to make everyone happy.*



# Is it time to hang up the red heart? Become a supporting member!



There comes a time when every team faces the difficult decision to hang up our partner's red heart tag. It might be because of illness, age or death. Sometimes the decision is made for us and other times, it is up to the human to make the decision to no longer be an active Alliance of Therapy Dogs team. It's not easy letting go of that special partnership. However, there is still a way for you to be involved in ATD even after the visits stop. You can become an ATD supporting member!

What does becoming a supporting member mean? It means that for \$20 per year you pay to support ATD, you continue to receive the member handbook, the newsmagazine and member communications. When the time is right and you want to become an ATD team again, you will not need to take the volunteer background check because you are still considered a member of ATD. When you notify the office that your dog has retired or has passed away, you can let the office know that you want to be transferred from active member to supporting member.

## 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Alliance of Therapy Dogs  
PO Box 20227  
Cheyenne, WY 82003  
307-432-0272 or 877-843-7364  
307-638-2079 fax  
office@therapydogs.com

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Guardian Name (if necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guardian Signature

# 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 in our section about retired dogs. 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."



### Mimi

Melody Wynn, Wrightsville, GA  
1/9/09-5/20/19 | Years of Service: 4  
*Mimi was my best friend. She was adopted from the Humane Society as a 4-month-old puppy and she was wonderful. Children loved Mimi and she loved them. She loved everyone. The most behaved dog – Mimi was the best. I miss you Mimi and I always love you.*



### Edelweiss' Angel By My Side

Deborah Catalano, Middletown, NY  
1/5/08-8/26/19 | Years of Service: 11  
*Angel loved her therapy visits to nursing/rehab facilities, as well as demonstrations at schools, and took part in many cancer and Alzheimer's walks. Her sense of humor and wagging tail brought smiles to all she met. Always in my heart sweet girl.*



### Magic

Les Cubberley, Bordentown, NJ  
9/9/08-9/14/19 | Years of Service: 3  
*Magic had been a registered therapy dog since January of 2016 and made almost 200 therapy visits. She really enjoyed therapy work, having touched many lives over the years. She had just celebrated her 11th birthday.*



### Mr. Frodo

David & Catherine Stewart, Beaufort, SC  
3/10/07-9/17/2019 | Years of Service: 5  
*Mr. Frodo was a superstar! Especially loved by children and veterans. In addition to being an exceptional therapy dog, he was an accomplished bird dog who loved his outings with David, his son, and grandson. He was loved by everyone he met and will be greatly missed.*



### Buddy

Dave Lawrence, Accomac, VA  
3/30/10-9/18/19 | Years of Service: 2  
*Buddy was unique, a people "magnet!" Our vet once told me, "When people are thinking of getting a dog, this (Buddy) is what they want!" A weekly volunteer at two hospitals and mascot of two sports teams at Bucknell University, he will be missed by many.*



### Lexington

Larry Faith, Scottsdale, AZ  
12/24/06-8/26/19 | Years of Service: 6  
*Lexington enjoyed meeting people and bringing happiness into their lives. He was enjoyed and known by all the residents in our retirement community. When anyone saw him, he would wag his tail and smile.*

### **Byron**

Sue Hume, Fernley, NV  
7/6/05-9/13/19 | Years of Service: 2  
*Byron was adopted in Anchorage. Byron LOVED the snow and playing frisbee. Once our therapy dog adventures began, we visited schools, libraries, senior homes, 911 Dispatch, and colleges in the Reno-Sparks area. He was sweet and happy and is sorely missed by his Mom and fan club!*



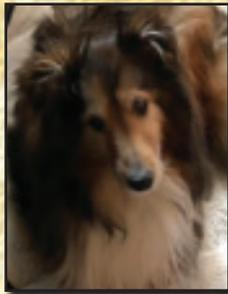
### **Cinderella**

Marge Coffin, York, PA  
7/23/08-10/3/19 | Years of Service: 11  
*I unexpectedly had to let my little "Cinderella" go to the bridge. She was 12 years old and was an awesome visitor to patients, visitors and staff. I miss her every day.*



### **Alicia Ann**

Judith Pontin, Linden, MI  
4/04-11/19 | Years of Service: 12  
*Alicia Ann has had a very special place in our hearts and home. She shared her love with everyone. We knew when we adopted her, she was meant for pet therapy. Ali gave unconditional love, companionship and joy to the many people she visited. She'll always be in our hearts.*



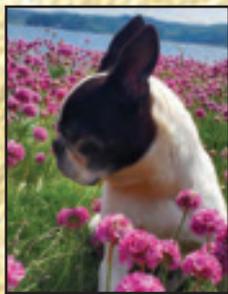
### **Emmie**

Cathy Chapman, Lake Charles, LA  
2/15/07-11/14/19 | Years of Service: 4  
*Emmie's incredible compassion and gentle nature made her the perfect therapy dog! Tail wagging, she delivered joy happily to children, seniors, patients – anyone in need of some puppy love. She never met a stranger and her love knew no bounds.*



### **Spanky**

Ed Capelle, Eugene, OR  
7/31/05-10/25/19 | Years of Service: 8  
*Spanky left this world a better place with all of the love he gave. Our family's heart will forever have a HUGE Spanky shaped hole. He is our miracle, an angel with four legs and a wet nose. Please save lots of licks for us in Heaven. Love, Dad.*



### **Zoom**

Lois Simmons, Deer Isle, ME, and Clemmons, NC  
2/9/09-7/8/18 | Years of Service: 1½  
*Zoom did pet-assisted therapy at the Rehab Center at Wake Forest Baptist Health, encouraging patients to do more to get better. He also did the READ program at Asheboro Library. His happiness rubbed off on everyone. He is missed by many.*



### **Jon Luc'**

Dawn Barr, Gardnerville, NV  
4/1/07-9/19/19 | Years of Service: 10  
*My soul mate Jon Luc' crossed the bridge. He was a favorite with the hospital staff especially.*



### **Blue**

Dawn Barr, Gardnerville, NV  
5/08-2/18 | Years of Service: 6  
*She did six years of therapy love.*



William & Judith Rehkow, Scottsdale  
10/26/10-9/19/19 | Years of Service: 8  
*Yuri was a career-changed yellow lab who was groomed to be a guide dog for the blind. His calm manner and superb training worked well for therapy work, in nursing homes and schools, bringing joy and comfort to everyone he visited. He will be long remembered and missed.*



### **SuzyQ**

Deb Hollard, Longmont, CO  
2/6/04-6/15/19 | Years of Service: 8  
*SuzyQ will be missed, as she was my heart dog and shadow. She loved visiting people at the hospital and nursing home. She was the star in the room and lit up everyone's faces to smiles. She was loved by a lot of people. I sure miss her every day.*



### **Sparky**

Tami Skinner, Littleton, CO  
3/25/03-11/12/19 | Years of Service: 2½  
*My little Spark Plug. :) He provided absolute joy and happiness to all the children with disabilities and senior citizens we visited. He sure looked like a puppy even though he was a senior citizen himself.*



### **Mel**

Marie Hall, Vancouver, WA  
2006-4/2/19 | Years of Service: 8  
*Mel (for "mellow") was an ambassador for shelter dogs. He went from skin-and-bones rescue to outstanding therapy dog. A visit usually started with, "What kind of dog is that!?" He was a long, lean 90 pounds with soulful eyes who left a trail of smiles wherever he went.*



### **Bailey**

Seddie Barber, Oklahoma City, OK  
6/21/12-11/28/19 | Years of Service: 6  
*Bailey was a gentle, silly soul. No dog could love belly rubs more than Bailey, which brought lots of giggles from those he visited. He partnered most of the time with his cousin, Gus, and they were known as the "Bernier Brigade." He touched the lives of so many.*



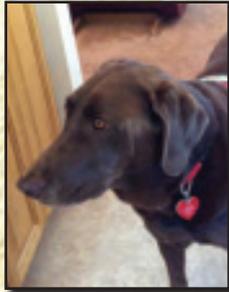
### **Mara**

Barbara Braden, Palatine, IL  
3/10-12/19 | Years of Service: 3  
*Mara's deafness and partial blindness never held her back from offering her calm and gentle presence to patients and staff at Northwest Community Healthcare in Arlington Heights, Illinois. This beautiful girl left a pawprint of love on many hearts, including mine, forever.*



### **Remie**

Marilyn Karbowski, Ripon, CA  
11/15/08-12/17/19 | Years of Service: 7



### **Tess**

David & Kathy Phillips, Katy, TX  
3/30/08-8/10/19 | Years of service: 3  
*Tess was a beautiful yellow Labrador retriever who earned AKC Junior Hunter, AKC Therapy Dog Excellent, and CGC titles. She was also certified by The Alliance of Therapy Dogs and HOPE (Animal-Assisted Crisis Response). Her dark expressive eyes were the window to her soul.*



### **JoJo**

Janice & Ben Johnson, Bella Vista, AR  
8/3/06-12/4/19 | Years of Service: 9  
*JoJo was a beloved girl who loved all people and most dogs. She was kind, intelligent, loving, sympathetic, and generous with her hugs and leans, and was very intuitive with the needs of people she met. For nine years, she visited hospitals, airports, hundreds of libraries, schools, camps, and parades.*



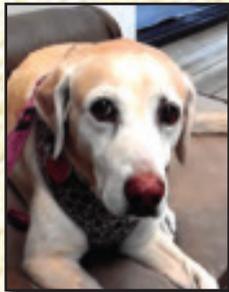
### **Princess Gracie**

Ron & Terri Emory, Martinez, GA  
5/23/11-3/21/19 | Years of Service: 7  
*Gracie was loved by many people all over the world and had over 1,000 followers on Facebook that she met at one of over 1,500 visits. She earned every therapy dog title possible and many other awards. She gave everything she had on her short visit here on earth.*



### **Bella**

Phyllis Shub, Winnetka, CA  
8/07-10/11/19 | Years of Service: 2  
*Though her time of service was brief, and her moniker was most common, Bella was extraordinary in her devotion to patients in hospital, children at camp, and at the library. Her warm, sunny disposition allowed us to relax; hugs were "de rigueur." She accepted and gave a lot of love.*



### **Henry**

Nancy Boggio, Northville, MI  
3/5/06-12/22/19 | Years of Service: 8  
*Henry and I had an inseparable bond. Together, we found new paths and adventures in life and love. He expressed his devotion in so many ways, an affectionate and happy boy with a joyful spirit. He was cherished by staff, patients and visitors at Beaumont Hospital, Farmington Hills.*



### **Satin Doll**

Sheree Reott, Lincolnton, NC  
11/7/06-9/11/18 | Years of Service: 6  
*Satin Doll grew into a very kind, friendly and caring therapy dog who serviced two nursing homes, a hospice house and numerous in-home care patients. Her trick of the "inside voice" (her mouth moved but no sound came out) is still remembered fondly. Satin Doll is missed by all.*



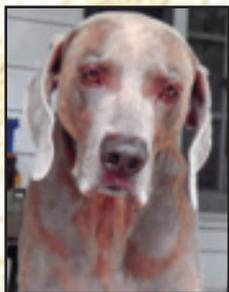
### **Captain Bellhaven Ball**

John & Rachel Bell, Port Saint Lucie, FL  
8/17/08-3/15/19 | Years of Service: 5  
*Captain was rescued six years ago into a permanent forever home. He loved visiting children and seniors – it was his calling in life. Captain is missed everyday by everyone.*



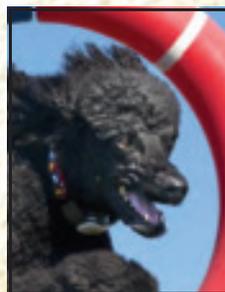
### **Primo**

Gail Ratliffe, Dogue, VA  
2/11/07-11/2/19 | Years of Service: 4  
*Primo was a quiet, gentle giant who loved all the attention he got, especially with young children. His true calling was special needs kids. Primo also visited two physical rehabilitation centers. I'm grateful he chose this as his job. I learned so much because of him. Bless you, Big Pooh!*



### **Annie**

Joyce Stargardt, Richmond, VA  
8/19/06-11/29/19 | Years of Service: 13  
*Annie was that forever dog that comes into our lives. There were visits to the veterans or one-on-one therapy that enriched our lives. You've read the quote by Will Rogers, "If there are no dogs in Heaven, I want to go where they went" – so true for me.*



### **Samson**

Lana Desloges, Advance, NC  
2/19/07-9/27/19 | Years of Service: 7  
*Samson was a gentle giant who loved everyone. He was always eager to meet patients, staff and family members at the hospital, hospice, and nursing homes. He gave so much love and comfort to those in need and was very perceptive of people's feelings. He'll always be in our hearts.*

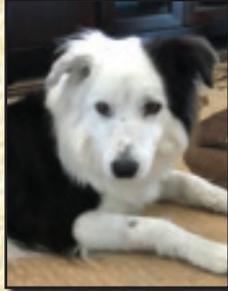


### **Sheamus**

Cathy Radziemski, Tempe, AZ  
11/3/03-2/4/20 | Years of Service: 7  
*Our journey together began when I retired from teaching. He was a natural for pet therapy. People were constantly drawn to his sweet face and the kindness that radiated from his eyes – one blue and one brown. Rest well my precious Sheamus. You are forever buried in my heart.*

### **Jess**

Linda Provenzano, Denton TX  
1/06-6/19 | Years of service: 11  
*Jess helped many hospice patients feel better by lying next to them to get petted. One lady said the only reason she is still alive is because Jess comes to see her. Jess loved to play ball and was a very sweet, affectionate border collie.*



### **Helen of Troy**

Helene Goldberger, Berne, NY  
2005-2020 | Years of Service: 10  
*Helen was an incredible therapy dog. Most of her work was at the VA in Albany where she greeted everyone. The staff in the lab particularly loved seeing her. Helen also was a reading dog at the Rensselaerville, New York, library and was truly a non-judgmental listener, given her deafness.*

### **Memphis**

Teresa Gardner, Jackson, MS  
7/23/13-10/11/19 | Years of Service: 5  
(3 with ATD)  
*When I attached the red heart to his collar, Memphis knew we were going on special visits. He loved everyone but he definitely had his favorites. When he came to one of his favorites, he would walk up to them and lay his head in their lap.*



### **Mia**

Mary Biondo, Lakeport, CA  
4/28/08-8/19/19 | Years of service: 9  
*Mia and I visited two local hospitals and two convalescent homes, at various times, over her nine years of service. She was a great ambassador for her breed and brought smiles to many during her lifetime. As with all of our dogs, she was one of a kind.*

### **Memphis**

Rita Harman, Lake Oconee, GA  
5/1/06-8/21/19 | Years of Service: 5  
*Our Beagle mix rescue impacted countless numbers of students through Reading With Rover and Final Exam De-Stressing. Always ready with a trick, she smiled and wagged as soon as the vest went on. Memphis knew she was "Our Good Dog." We have a hole in our hearts.*



### **Olive**

Gwen Kreager, Asheville, NC  
7/19/08-12/25/19 | Years of Service: 8  
*Olive's early service years were doing therapy for seniors in Massachusetts, but her soothing, sassy light shined most brightly during the past few years, providing therapy at the Asheville airport, plus stylin' downtown with her mom, patiently visiting breweries, salons, and galleries.*

### **Winston**

Kaye Love, Fort Wayne, IN  
1/1/10-1/20/20 | Years of Service: 4  
*Winston was the sweetest dog. He brought so much to young students at the library and on the dementia unit he joyfully served. A precious little fellow who will be greatly missed.*



### **Haley**

John Ferguson, Richmond, KY  
11/3/11-2/13/20 | Years of Service: 6½  
*Haley, a standard poodle, was the most compassionate and caring canine that I was privileged to spend the last eight years with. Her favorite venues were the special needs children at a local elementary school and the brain injury patients at an area hospital. She will be missed by many.*

### **DeeDee**

JoAnn Spivey, Wichita Falls, TX  
9/1/06-10-1/19 | Years of Service: 6  
*CH MACH3 PACH 2 CAJ's Ray's Dealt an Amazing Ace RE CD CGCU THD TKN SCN NF T2BP was a great therapy dog visiting many nursing facilities. Delores was so proud of DeeDee's agility achievements that we took her to two trials. The love DeeDee shared will never be forgotten.*



### **Maggy**

Sally Scott, Gilbert, SC  
2008-2/6/20 | Years of Service: 6  
*Maggy absolutely loved her job! We both gained so many smiles and feel-good moments as we offered our therapy to those in need. Maggy had an angel's soul and the sweetest demeanor to all that met her. She will be missed every day. I truly have lost my best friend.*



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