Alliance of THERAPY DOGS

NEWSMAGAZINE

Alliance of Therapy Dogs

sharing smiles and joy™

Spring/Summer 2022

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 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.
- 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 or money order payable to Alliance of Therapy Dogs. 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.

Magazine Editors:
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 February 15 for the Spring/Summer issue and August 31 for the Fall/Winter issue.

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

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ALLI ANCE OF THERAPY DOGS

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Kasson, MN

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Mount Pleasant, SC

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See Directors

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in Alphabetical Order

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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 and support our network of caring individuals and 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
Website: www.therapydogs.com

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President's Message

Kim and Rowan

The warmth we feel when volunteering can be in juxtaposition to the rules and regulations that govern a non-profit. It isn't just the big infractions that jeopardize a business. Many small rule breaks can add up to a huge headache. In our business we know: 1) Dogs nor the people we visit are robots. 2) Visits occur with unknown influences all around. Rules reduce the risks that might otherwise occur. Seems simple, but is it?

It might surprise you to know rules and regulations set out in the ATD Member and T/O Handbook are driven by our insurance company. Why? Because all those smiles and joy we provide comes down to one thing: risk management. Liability insurance protects the members and the organization from unforeseen accidents. By mandating rules and regulations set forth through insurance, ATD can minimize the likelihood that something will go wrong during a visit. Insurers also require proof that the organization is minimizing risks, thus our handbooks. If the insurance risk is deemed too high (i.e. six-foot leash, photos published without photo authorization, wrong collars, lapsing on renewal, Eek – a bite!) the insurance company can refuse payment or even drop ATD as an organization.

Take, for example, **Member Handbook Rule and Regulations #4. Volunteer Handler/Dog Teams and Dogs at Work**. A registered therapy dog is comforting and loving regardless as to whether the handler is a paid employee or a volunteer. But, if someone receives a scratch from the dog while the handler is "on the clock," insurance will not cover the accident. Another great example: timely payment of membership fees. ATD membership fees pay for the liability insurance that covers each individual team. Lapsed payment of ATD membership is the same as not paying car or house insurance on time. If you are not up to date and an accident occurs, you will not be covered by insurance. A lack of grace period isn't ATD's office idea of being mean. Up-to-date membership is a mandate of maintaining ATD insurance. Look at **When and How do I Renew?** found in the 2022 Member Handbook Page 17 so that you are never caught unprotected.

No doubt keeping insurance in the back of your mind while reading through the Member and T/O Handbook is the least fun part of volunteering. However, it is absolutely an important factor to keep in mind when bringing smiles and joy to those you visit. Insurance requires risk management but also protects you as the handler and enables us to live out

ATD's mission statement: . . . to form and support our network of caring individuals and special dogs who share smiles and joy with people, young and old alike.

Speaking of rules, April 1, 2022, ATD will resume members to complete one in-person visit every three months pursuant to Rule 15. You can find the full update on Page 6 in the Newsmagazine and in the member portal.

Having strong rules and regulations can seem a negative while volunteering, but those very rules open the doors for adventure. ATD has taken steps to create positive outcomes, create better experiences for the people we visit, give facilities the assurance that we are mitigating risks, strengthen our mission, and create a strong and respected organization.

Getting back to the warm side of volunteering, read about the 2021 Outstanding Member Award winner Robert DeSalvo on Page 18. ATD is making a push to encourage more youths to participate in pet therapy. Find out more about our Junior Handler program in this issue on Page 20. Do you know of an organization with teens that would like more information about the program? The office can provide flyers as well as other material for talks and booths. Sit back and enjoy the stories of your fellow ATD teams. If you have a story you would like to share in the newsmagazine, follow the steps outlined on Page 8.

Go forth and bring the fuzzy feelings. The rules and regulations are there so that you and your dog can do what you do best.

Finnegan, Belle and Rowan

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!

2021/2022 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 deny all issues that fall outside the Alliance of Therapy Dogs Rules.

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 announce 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 platforms, be in control of the social networking content, and make recommendations to the board as needed.

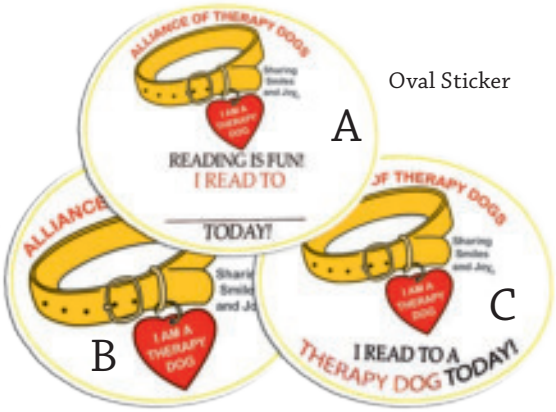
Tester/ Observer (T/O): Review and approve prospective Tester/ Observer applications. Serve as the first line to resolve T/O issues, including disciplinary actions. Develop T/O annual review and monitor the T/O E-group.

Newsmagazine 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/
If you have not set up your Shopify account please email office@therapydogs.com to request an invite.

Logo Patch



Oval Sticker

Brochure Holder and Brochures

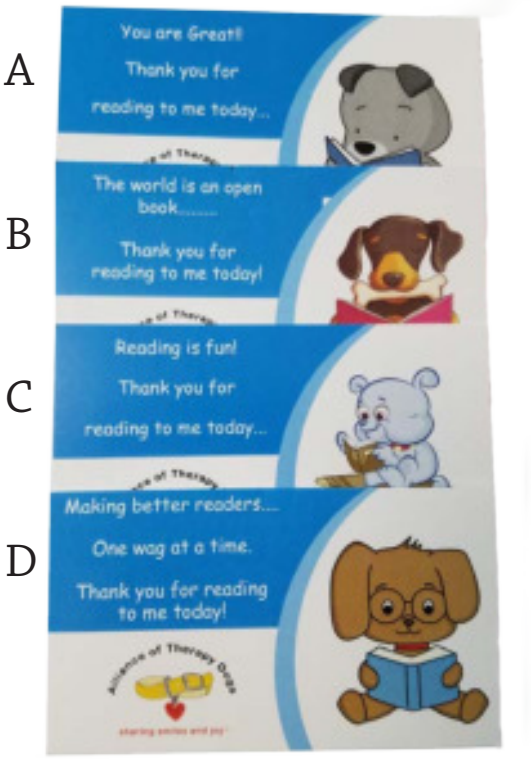
Collar

4' Leash

Bumper Sticker or Magnet

Leash/Collar Sleeve

Replacement I.D. Tag



Bookmarks

Nylon Banner

Canvas Bag
w/Silkscreen Logo

Bandana

Dog Vest
w/Logo Patch

Lanyard

Cloisonné
Lapel Pin

Note Card and Envelope

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

Land's End

www.therapydogs.com
through the member portal

COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATE

EFFECTIVE February 1, 2022, through July 31, 2022

The ATD Board of Directors reviewed the rules and regulations related to COVID-19. The board will post this and all future updates in your member portal under Member Resources, on Facebook and Instagram and will send email blasts. Please check those locations frequently for any new announcements.

Barring exigent circumstances, these rules and regulations will remain in place until **July 31, 2022.**

FOR ATD MEMBERS

ATD continues to require members to follow the rules established by the facility they visit. If facility rules conflict with ATD rules, contact the ATD office at office@therapydogs.com or (307) 432-0272 for guidance. Please follow the state and local rules and guidelines set forth by the CDC.

ATD is resuming the requirement to complete one in-person visit every three months, outlined below. Teams across the country are resuming in-person visits and dogs need to get back into the of regular visiting; however, if a member cannot resume in-person visits due to local restrictions or health concerns, the member can maintain their membership by following the process outlined in Rule 21 in the Member Handbook.

Rule 21 states: If a team fails to make one visit every three months, they must be re-observed at least one time by an ATD T/O. If a team fails to make a visit within six months of a previous visit, a full retest is required to reinstate membership. The team becomes inactive and is not covered by insurance until re-tested and paperwork is approved by the office.

Beginning April 1, 2022, ATD will require members to complete one in-person visit every three months pursuant to Rule 15. While virtual or no-contact (e.g. window) visits may still be logged as a visit in the member portal, they do not count as a visit under Rule 15. An official ATD therapy dog visit means an in-person visit where the primary reason is to provide pet therapy with a mutual understanding between the handler and the facility or person receiving the visit that the handler/dog team will provide volunteer animal-assisted therapy while following ATD's rules and regulations and that such interaction will be covered by ATD's liability insurance so long as all rules are followed. Full visit and facility guidelines can be found in the member handbook under Section II.

Logging visits, both in person and virtual, on the member portal is strongly encouraged. Thank you for all you are doing with your special dogs!

TESTING UPDATES FOR T/Os

- Beginning April 1, 2022, T/Os will no longer be able to remain temporarily suspended because of COVID. If a T/O is uncomfortable testing, the T/O can take a leave of absence per the ATD policy in the Tester Observer Handbook under General Guidelines 6.
- Neither COVID vaccines nor masks are required for a team to be tested; however, if a T/O only uses a facility that requires a COVID vaccine and the prospective handler is not vaccinated, the T/O may refer the prospective team to another T/O in the area or to the office for guidance on testing options.
- The requirement for two of the three observations to be in a medical facility continues to be waived, but is strongly encouraged. All three observations can be done at a dog friendly public space like a hardware store, pet supply store, public park, or outdoor shopping space. T/O's must follow all other testing and observation rules and guidelines.

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 preforming tricks) will not be published. To be certain, please refer to your member handbook or look up the guidelines online.
   d. Besides being a member in good standing, the story should have taken place within the past year (except for certain instances, such as a pandemic) and not focus on a dog's retirement or death. Background information and stating that a dog has retired or has died is acceptable. Please see "Retires" and "Rainbow Bridge" for more details.
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 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. Dogs 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 to 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.
Hard copies mail to ATD, PO Box 20227, 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.
- For a portion of scholarship funding, qualified junior handlers shall be given priority for award consideration.
- Must be applying to an accredited program, but no field or discipline is required or preferred.

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).

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 | www.therapydogs.com

Alliance of Therapy Dogs

sharing smiles and joy™

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 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.

☐ 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:

Years: ☐ 1 ☐ 5 ☐ 10 ☐ 15 ☐ 20 ☐ 25 ☐ 30

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Alliance of Therapy Dogs Member Number: _____

WAYS TO DONATE TO

Alliance of Therapy Dogs

The easiest way to donate is to go to our website www.therapydogs.com and click on the gold "DONATE" button in the upper right-hand corner.

The Donate button will give you the option to:

- Donate one-time
- Donate monthly
- Donate once a month by rounding up on purchases you make to a debit/credit card you link to the donation page
- Donate "in memory" or "in honor" of someone

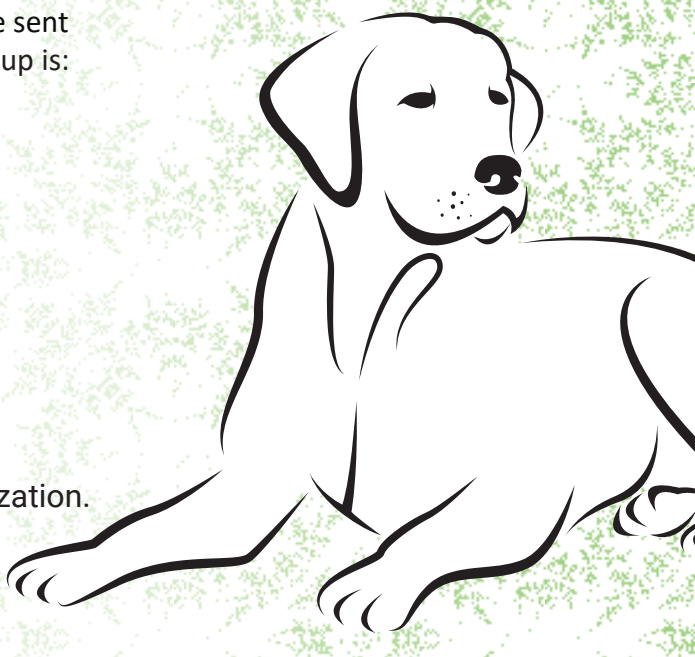
You can also support Alliance of Therapy Dogs by making us your charity of choice on AmazonSmile. When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from over one million eligible organizations. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to ATD. Donations are sent to the organization once a quarter. The direct link to set this up is: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/83-0294479

You are also welcomed to donate by mailing a check or money order to:

Alliance of Therapy Dogs
P.O. Box 20227
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Thank you for the ongoing support of our organization.

* ATD will place all donations received into the general fund unless otherwise specified by the donor.



Spotlight on . . .
Jared Wadley, Newsmagazine editor

When did you join ATD?

I joined in 2010 when the organization was called Therapy Dogs Inc.

What prompted you to volunteer for therapy dog work? What challenges, if any, happened as you embarked on this effort?

During a walk to a meeting at the University of Michigan, I came upon a group of therapy dogs and service dogs interacting with students. I spoke to several participants and realized that becoming a therapy dog handler was an ideal endeavor. At the time, I had two Shetland Sheepdogs that loved to bark. I decided the next dog I adopted would be trained to do therapy work. Less than two years later, two-year-old Bella (collie) became part of the family.

The challenge involved training a rescue dog that hadn't been socialized with other dogs. I knew that it would require many hours of training, but I was willing to devote the time. The process took more than eight months – mainly exposing Bella to dogs of all sizes – before she was comfortable without leash pulling or barking when seeing other dogs.

What was your most memorable therapy visit?

In 2012, during a visit to the University of Michigan's Cardiovascular Center, Bella and I entered a dimly lit room with an elderly patient recovering from surgery. His 10-year-old grandson had been playing with action figures, but his attention shifted to the dog. The visit was pleasant. As we proceeded to leave, the boy petted Bella one final time and said, "When I grow up, I want to be a handler just like you and have a dog like Bella." For him to verbally express that sentiment was emotional. Ten years later, the moment still resonates with me.

What motivates you to do what you do?

Seeing the impact of a five- or 10-minute visit motivates me to continue pet therapy. Also, it allows me to teach others about pet responsibility so that there are fewer misbehaving dogs that end up in shelters or abandoned on the streets.

Your family has had more than one ATD member; both of your sons were junior handlers. Describe their experiences in the organization.

My sons, who are now in college, joined the organization at ages 12 and 14. When Jordan became a junior at 12, he was the youngest to ever join our local chapter. Decades ago, most kids who joined the organization were around 15 or 16 years old. Because of Jordan's maturity level and commitment, it allowed our board of directors, including two who were testers, to feel comfortable about changing our policies to allow kids younger than age 14 to become members. Being in the organization gave him confidence to speak to strangers. He is a senior at the University of Michigan.

Devin, who attends La Salle University in Philadelphia, excelled immediately in the program. His experiences of meeting new people, especially at colleges, served him well to share his love of dogs.

They both have enjoyed being handlers. It's given them a greater appreciation for dogs and allowed them to see the importance of volunteering. I've been extremely proud of them as young ATD ambassadors. Accompanying them on visits has created great father-son bonding moments.

How has therapy dog visits changed your life?

As a child whose family had a German Shepherd, one career aspiration was to become a veterinarian. I loved being around dogs but decided to pursue a career in journalism then later in public relations. Being a therapy dog handler combines the best of both worlds: interacting with a dog and volunteering. This experience has given me joy and fulfillment. My life has been tremendously enriched by those I've met through this organization.

What do you wish the public knew about ATD?

At its core, being a therapy dog handler is taking your obedient dog for a walk and talking to people. ATD enables members to make a difference in people's lives — and I don't think as many people focus on that. Some people are unwilling to invest time into training their dogs, which sadly has ended in many dogs relinquished to rescues and shelters.

What might someone (non-family member or close friends) be surprised to know about you?

That my volunteering is based on three mottos:

As told to me as a child by my mother, who has been a long-time volunteer in her community: "Tomorrow is never promised to you."

From my childhood, as a collector of Spider-Man comic books: "With great power, comes great responsibility." Many of us are fortunate to have what we have, and it's important (or a responsibility) to give back to others.

From church: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in." The volunteer work that we do provides mental comfort to those we meet, and I cherish those moments.

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

Savor every moment. You will have special times with your dog, but time waits for no one as retirement approaches. Legend, my current therapy dog of eight years, will retire this summer. We've had many experiences and I'm sad that it will end soon. That sadness is brief. It turns into joy and anticipation as I train a new dog (Bree, who is also a collie) to become a therapy dog for ATD testing in February 2023.

For this next chapter in therapy work, there will be new efforts. I've signed up with the American Red Cross to do therapy visits at military bases in Michigan. After two years with ATD, the new dog will hopefully pass tests to become an animal-assisted crisis response member.

If you weren't volunteering for ATD, what would you be doing instead?

When I lived in California (1996-2002), I volunteered for Big Brothers/Big Sisters, at a homeless shelter and Sheepfold, which helps families in domestic violent situations. I would probably find a Michigan organization that helped one of the latter two efforts.

Editor's Note:
In general, only board members serve on board committees. However, on rare occasions, the board might seek feedback from a professional if someone on the board doesn't have the needed skills or knowledge. Jared Wadley joined the Newsmagazine staff in July 2012 after asking the board if he could be of assistance given his extensive journalism and public relations background. The board welcomed him to the editorial staff, and now he celebrates his 10th anniversary volunteering on the committee. A 1989 journalism graduate from Bowling Green State University (Ohio), where he was inducted into the 2019 Kappa Tau Alpha Hall of Fame for his career, Jared is currently a lead public relations representative at the University of Michigan and a board member of Therapaws of Michigan, Inc.

WRITTEN ON 10/20/21:

AS OF TODAY,
THE FIRES ARE FINALLY OUT!

On July 13, 2021, the Dixie fire started north of the Reno, Nevada, area, burning almost 1 million acres. It is still burning though with over 90% contained. To make matters worse, one month later, on August 14, the Caldor fire started south of the Reno area, burning almost 250,000 acres. It is also still burning though over 90% contained. The massive response by firefighters and support crew was ongoing, day after day, night after night, week after week. Some firefighters lost their homes while battling to save other homes. The emotional and financial toll in both fire areas is immeasurable.

To alleviate the fatigue and bring a bright spot to the firefighters, the dedicated Paws 4 Love ATD Therapy Dog Teams visited multiple times to both camp sites. They spent time listening and simply having the dogs do what they do best. The crews were relieved and happy to see our four-legged friends, bringing a sense of normalcy to this difficult situation. There truly is nothing better than seeing the warm eyes, soft nose, and wagging tail of a therapy dog.

We are proud of our teams that show up to support our First Responders. They know how important therapy dog visits are and how much it helps the crews that are often away from their homes, families, and pets for long periods of time. Thank you to all the teams.

—Jan Chamberlin.
Washoe Valley, NV

Top photo:
Donna Waugh & Chivas, Victoria Taylor & Kodi, Darlene Frano & Ziggie and Lori Zamyslicky & Ivy

Bottom photo:
Kathy Quinden & Barkley, Kate Carter & Melanie, Pattie DiFraia & Stella and Sharon Facque & Grace.

Annabel received achievement award

Annabel was honored with the 2021 Rikki Mitchell Memorial Animal Achievement Award for her service to seven organizations over the past years. The Animal Law Section of the Florida Bar Association gives this award annually. Annabel is currently a therapy dog with AdventHealth Women's and Children's Hospital in Orlando, Florida.

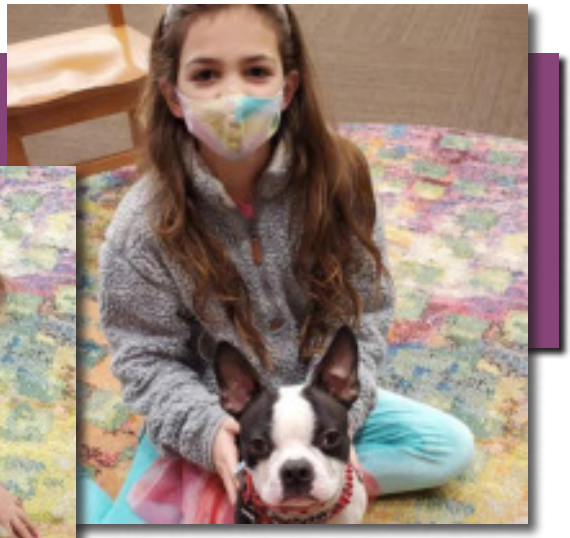
In the past she was also associated with Orlando Health where she visited with victims of the Pulse Tragedy in 2016. She has attended onePulse Foundation family events since the tragedy. She founded the Reading with Pets Program at Windermere Preparatory Lower School, continuing reading to children throughout the pandemic. She was instrumental in founding a similar program at Forest Lake Education Center. Orlando International Airport utilized her in interviews for both the start-up and expansion of their Paw Pilots Program. Annabel is a member of the Give Kids the World Entertainment Group where she visits with critically ill children on Sunday mornings. Above all, Annabel is a loyal and loving family member residing in Orlando, Florida.

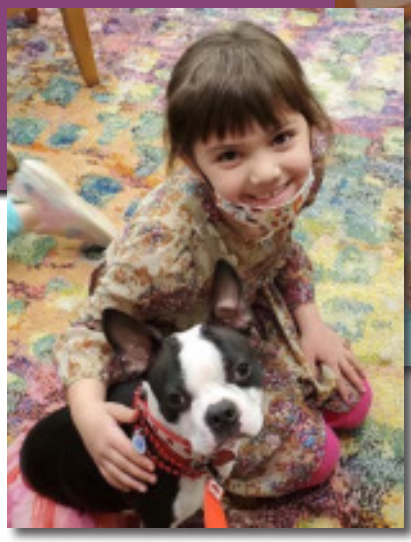
—Terence J. Hickey, Orlando, FL

Sabrina made some friends

at Calhoun Library's Read with Therapy Dog Program – Corrina, 6, and her sister, Shelby, 9.

—JoAnne Davis, Cohutta, GA

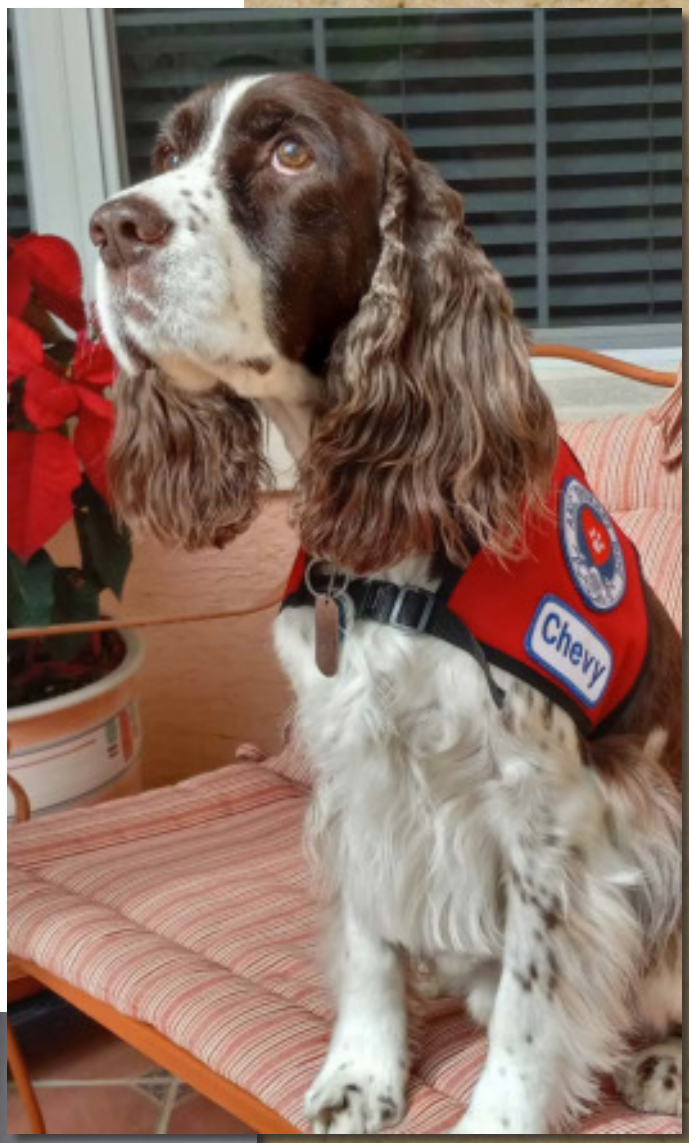




MAGICAL MIRACLE MOMENTS

An Unforgettable Christmas

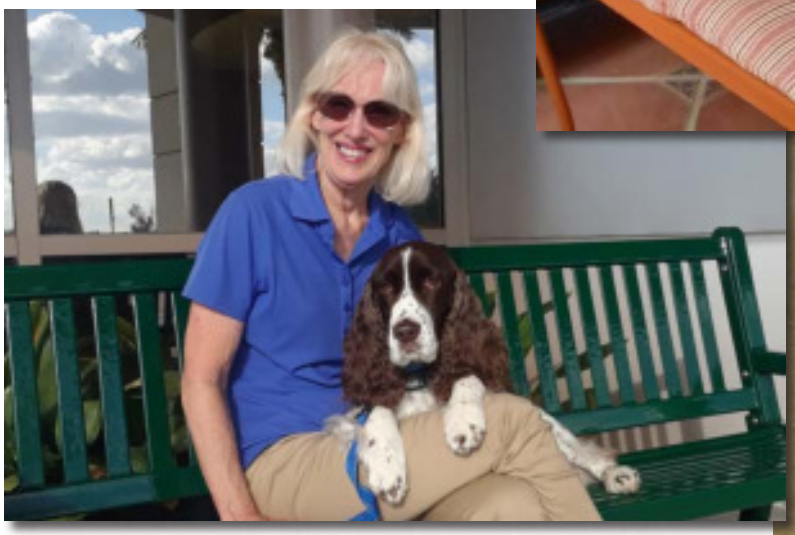
It was our usual day of the week for volunteering at Hospice House. No one was expecting volunteers on Christmas. In the afternoon, I felt a compelling urge to visit there with my English Springer Spaniel, Chevy. On arrival, we approached a woman who was sitting on a bench out front crying. As she petted Chevy, she told me about her friend, "Mary," who had been dealing with a degenerative neuromuscular disease for several years. Much admired for her zest for life, Mary had planned her dream road trip. More than 1,000 miles from home, her disease had taken a rapid, devastating turn, leaving her no chance for survival.



Mary was now confined to a hospice bed with much of her body, including arms, legs, and even her voice, no longer functioning. When Chevy and I entered the room, Mary's eyes lit up. It was obvious to me that although unable to move or speak, she was still aware of her surroundings. I gently coaxed Chevy to put his front paws on her bed so Mary could see him up close. Simultaneously, Chevy and I spotted a stuffed toy which someone had placed on her abdomen. Chevy became fixated on the toy, determined to not take his eyes off of it! I saw amusement on Mary's face as I commanded Chevy to "Leave it!" and laughingly exclaimed, "He thinks it's his!"

Chevy and I visited with Mary and her friend for a while that day. At the end of our visit, I turned towards Mary, knowing it would be the last time I would see her. I'll never forget that moment – seeing Mary's eyes sparkling as she mouthed to me the words, "Merry Christmas."

—Suzanne Zimmerman, Ormond Beach, FL



ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS
2021 OUTSTANDING MEMBER

Alliance of Therapy Dogs members have cast their votes and chose Robert DeSalvo as the winner of the 2021 Outstanding Member Award.
Robert and his dog, Dakota, are a decorated and honored team. They received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Army Volunteers, U.S. Military Academy, West Point Community and the Black and Gold Volunteer Award from the U.S. Army Garrison West Point for their work with children with special needs, West Point READ program, cadet blood drives, de-stress programs, and the Red Cross emergency preparedness fairs.

We are grateful for Robert's dedication to sharing smiles and joy as a steadfast member of Alliance of Therapy Dogs and recognize all the nominees for their outstanding volunteer work as part of the ATD family.

"Thank you so much for this honor!"

—Robert DeSalvo, Waretown, NJ

Each year members nominate other members for The Alliance of Therapy Dogs **Outstanding Member Award**. Here are the top three remaining nominees as determined by the Documents and Award Committee (in alphabetical order):

Nominee 1:
Anna Bell has been visiting with her two dogs for more than seven years and became a tester/observer this year. In addition to her usual visits, Anne began regular visits at an Amazon distribution facility after a post-shooting crisis visit. She also created the policies and procedures for the Jacksonville airport's therapy dog program and helps to evaluate and schedule dogs for the program.

Nominee 2:
John Bomboy began his therapy dog career in 2000 and founded Dogs Routinely Providing Emotional Therapy (DR. PET) in Indiana County, Pennsylvania. John and Bam-Bam joined ATD in 2016 and have completed around 460 visits in hospitals, K-12 schools, colleges, nursing homes, and a children's grief group.

Nominee 3:
Tom Crowley, an ATD member since 2008, warmly welcomes local teams into the therapy dog scene in Tucson, Arizona, using a website he created for sharing visiting opportunities and for ATD teams to connect to one another. Tom is a tester/observer who helps coordinate Heart of Texas Therapy Dog teams visits as well. He's had four therapy dogs with ATD and regularly visits at least four facilities.

ATD Board Meeting

On Sunday, January 30, the Alliance of Therapy Dogs Board of Directors met via Zoom for a mid-year board meeting to discuss COVID-19, as well as other upcoming projects. Please see Page 6 for the COVID-19 update.

Alliance of Therapy Dogs

sharing smiles and joy™

Alliance of Therapy Dogs
Junior Handlers
Sharing Smiles & Joy

Have you ever considered volunteering with your dog?

Volunteering with a therapy dog is a fun and meaningful way to give back to your community. It is a different type of volunteering that reaches out to people of all ages who are unable to have their dog with them or can no longer have a dog due to life changes.

Do you have goals to meet? Volunteering with your dog can help you meet them.

- 4-H Dog Project or Leadership
- FFA (Future Farmers of America)
- Scout Badge Work
- Church Youth Volunteering
- Community Volunteer Hours

Ashlyn & Piper
Pendergast, GA

I first became interested in becoming a therapy dog team because I believed my dog had the most wonderful personality for therapy visits, and I wanted to serve my community. She needed a job, and bringing joy to people's lives with her was a great way to accomplish both.

Chris & Baby
Cheyenne, WY

I started as a junior handler as a volunteer opportunity for Boy Scouts, but quickly therapy dogs eclipsed Boy Scouts. It was clear to me that our weekly visits heartened the patients in a way that was so meaningful to both them and me. On top of that, the therapy dog teams were an interesting and dedicated group of people and dogs to get to know!

Kai & Callie
Paso Robles, CA

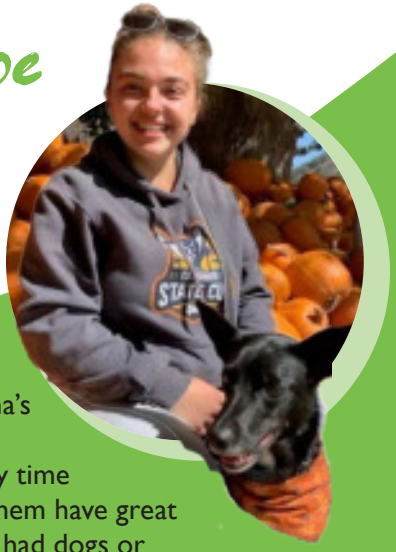
Everything I've done with Callie through ATD has been such a great experience. But one of my favorites is when we were testing. We were at the park and visited some young kids that were playing. It was so life-giving to see the looks on the kids' faces when they saw the dogs give them a high five or twirl in a circle. I loved watching my dog's reaction to it and how fun it was for her to do something new for someone. It was so special to see how much of an impact we made on these young lives.

Caytlin & Ruby
Santa Maria, CA

I wanted to become a handler because I love working with dogs and people. The patients' or students' faces light up when you enter the room. I have always loved dogs so much and loved the therapy dog visits at my school. I wanted to be a part of something using my dog to bring joy to these people as my dog brings joy to me.

Lexi & Tahoe

Paso Robles, CA



I became a handler because I have seen how happy people are when they get to interact with dogs or just even see the dog. I have organized routine visits at my greatgrandma's assisted living home and the people light up every time we come. Many of the them have great memories of when they had dogs or animals back when they were kids.

Jordan, Devin & Legend

Ypsilanti, MI

We have more than eight years combined as junior handlers of two collies.

What's amazing about being an ATD junior handler is the reaction of those in the community seeing young people volunteering. Individuals cherish the time with our therapy dog, Legend, but they always comment about how appreciative they are seeing teens giving back to the community. In addition, the confidence that you'll gain from speaking to people is invaluable. Plus, you're an advocate for pet responsibility, as your presence with a well-behaved dog motivates people young and old to spend quality time and to properly train their own dogs.

How to Become a Junior Handler

Want to be a therapy dog handler? You and your dog will work as a team to bring a little joy and smiles to many people who may just need a little lift. So how do you get started?

- A junior handler must be 12 to 17 years old. (Parent involvement is required, so please talk with your parents first.)
- Your dog must be at least 1 year old and can be any breed or mixed breed. (Wolf or coyote mixes are not allowed.)
- You must either own or have a close relationship with your dog for at least 6 months before testing.
- Your dog must be healthy. A wellness exam, negative fecal test, and current rabies vaccine/titer are required.
- Your dog must have a good and calm temperament.

There is no cost for you and your dog to go through the evaluation process with an ATD Tester/Observer. Please check our website for a Tester/Observer near you.

What Makes a Good Therapy Dog?

We look for well-mannered, well-behaved dogs that enjoy meeting people. ATD doesn't require formal training, certifications, or tests other than our own. ATD is open to register any breed of dog except wolf or coyote mixes because the rabies vaccination is not proven to be effective with those breeds.

- A dog at least 1 year old;
- A dog with a calm and gentle disposition; and
- A dog that is attentive to its handler

Alliance of Therapy Dogs

sharing smiles and joy™

Halle

Providing Much Needed Therapy During A Trying Year

Halle, a nine-and-a-half-year-old golden retriever, became certified as a therapy dog by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs in January 2019. From 2019 until 2020, she provided comfort, promoted smiles, decreased anxiety, and increased general happiness to nursing home patients, health care providers, special needs students and adults, as well as Ohio University students. Halle visited the local hospital (O'Bleness Memorial Hospital), outpatient clinic, oncology treatment center, special needs school, adult workshop, The Laurels of Athens, and Ohio University. However, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Halle's visits were placed on hold.

After vaccines became available in January 2021, it was a requested by the hospital's head of volunteer services for Halle to return to visit the different hospital departments and staff. At that time, patients were not allowed therapy visits due to the still ongoing status of the virus.

The hospital staff reported that Halle's visits brought happiness during these challenging time for hospital workers.

In July 2021, she was allowed to see hospital patients again, which was enthusiastically welcomed. A month later in August, she was honored by the hospital's volunteer department as 'service in excellence volunteer.' She had a tree and plaque placed on the hospital grounds and was featured in the local newspaper (Athens Messenger) under the headline, "Halle Helps Healthcare Heroes." Added to this, in December, she was featured in the book "Love and Loss: The Storied Nature of Nursing Home Care," by Carolyn Lewis.

To say that Halle meant so much to many people this past year is an understatement. During this past year, she has provided much needed support to her local community and hopefully will continue for years to come.

—Steve Trotta, Athens, OH

What's Wrong

This photo has been staged by ATD members. Can you find what's wrong with this photo? See Page 26 for the answers.

Helping Out Our Healthcare Heroes

Many organizations have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as airlines, hotels, restaurants, schools and almost all customer service activities. Perhaps no enterprise has been more greatly impacted than hospitals and other health services facilities. Although typically focused upon helping to enhance the well-being of patients, the role of the therapy dog has expanded to also include maintaining staff morale and reducing the stress experienced by hospital employees during these unprecedented times.

According to Karla Reese, volunteer services manager, Pardee UNC Healthcare, "Therapy dogs have always been very well received by our patients and staff. Since the advent of Covid, pet therapy has become an even more important role in our hospital. Our skilled pet handlers, and their dedicated companions have provided much needed stress relief to a variety of staff members including radiology, emergency department, physicians, nursing assistants, and administration. One nurse said, "She can feel her stress melting away," when she pets one of our dogs. You can see staff members automatically smile when they see their furry friends walking in the hall. The pet therapy teams have developed a close relationship with our staff members. Our staff have taken pictures of our pets and have them posted in their departments."

This expanded role of therapy dogs serving in health care facilities has not only demonstrated their well-developed sense of empathy but has also showcased their unique contribution to improved employee morale and workplace satisfaction.

Enter Pardee UNC Healthcare volunteer therapy dog, Rocky, a nine-year-old, red fawn-colored greyhound with almost three years of service with ATD. He is a gentle canine who has demonstrated consistent qualities of patience and congeniality while also fostering much humor and positive interaction amongst Pardee employees.

A typical visit for Rocky starts with stopping at the front desk of the Pardee Hospital, a 220-bed regional medical center, and logging in our time of arrival and describing our planned visits for the day. At this time, both our ATD identification cards and hospital volunteer identification badges may be checked and, if required, a protective face mask is issued. We then visit the hospital's admissions office and some of the outpatient clinic

areas, as well as the phlebotomists who serve in the clinical laboratory. Additional visits take place in the orthopedic unit, materials management, pharmacy locations, environmental services, the hospital chaplain's office among others. During a typical visit, Rocky and I will cover some 15 units and departments while visiting with approximately 50-60 hospital staff members. Through all of this, we must be alert to the sheer intensity of the experience with constant foot traffic, carts, gurneys, patient transporters and even 'clinical rounding' that takes place with the education of hospital staff. Imagine the intensity that Rocky experiences with all the sights, sounds and scents that he encounters, all heightened by his acute sense of smell and hearing! For this reason, I limit our visits to about 60-70 minutes, and I am very watchful of his demeanor.

The administration of Pardee UNC Healthcare and its Volunteer Services Department have been very gracious to Rocky and more than seven ATD teams. The hospital has been especially supportive in expanding our dogs' emerging role in helping to maintain high levels of employee morale during these unique and trying times. In fact, hospital leadership have treated all the therapy dogs and their volunteer handlers to special recognition dinners, offer cafeteria discounts and provided public photo displays that illustrate the importance of all handlers and their dogs to the therapy dog program. Additionally, constant updates, training and recognition are provided to all therapy dog teams. In fact, last year, therapy dogs and their handlers were featured by a local TV station which showcased their contribution to the hospital and its staff.

Our expanded role as pet therapy teams will ensure that the highest levels of patient care are maintained.

—Thomas P. Keating, Hendersonville, NC

ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARD

This honor is awarded annually. Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Must be an Alliance of Therapy Dogs member or Tester/Observer in good standing;
- Must be actively conducting pet therapy visits;
- Must never have had a grievance, complaint, or bite incident filed against him/her or his/her dog; and
- Must have made a minimum of 25 visits during the calendar year of the nomination.

Nominations must be submitted by November 1 of the year for consideration and must be 300-700 words in length.

Nominations should include:

- Details about the number or frequency of therapy dog visits the nominee makes.
- Details about the nominee's impact on the community.
- Details on whether the nominee recruits other therapy dog teams or facilities.
- How many years the nominee has been volunteering with pet therapy and/or with Alliance of Therapy Dogs.
- Any particular attributes that make the nominee outstanding.

The nomination must be postmarked by November 1.

The nominating committee will evaluate all nominations and submit the top several candidates for the members, T/Os, and supporting members to vote upon to determine the winner.

The Outstanding Member Award winner will be announced on December 19.

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

2022 Alliance of Therapy Dogs® OMA

Dogs in the News

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

Rebecca Bass and her Doberman, Ocho, participated in the Therapy Dog Parade at Medical University of South Carolina Hospital (MUSC) in December 2021. The parade was included in a TV report on ABC News 4.

—Rebecca Bass, Beaufort, SC

What's Wrong
(from Page 23)

Member Handbook
Rules and Regulations

- Handler using phone and not paying attention. – Page 6, II. Visits, 19. Mobile/Smart Devices and Page 10, VII. Safety Precautions, 37. Stay alert
- Leash more than 4 feet – Page 9, VI. Attire and Equipment, 30. Dog Equipment
- Handler not controlling the head – Page 11, VII. Safety Precautions, 42. Dogs on laps/furniture
- Dog over 50 lbs. on occupied furniture – Page 11, VII. Safety Precautions, 42. Dogs on laps/furniture (Occupied Furniture)
- Photo authorization form – Page 12 IX. Legal Issues, 45. Photos

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

Retired

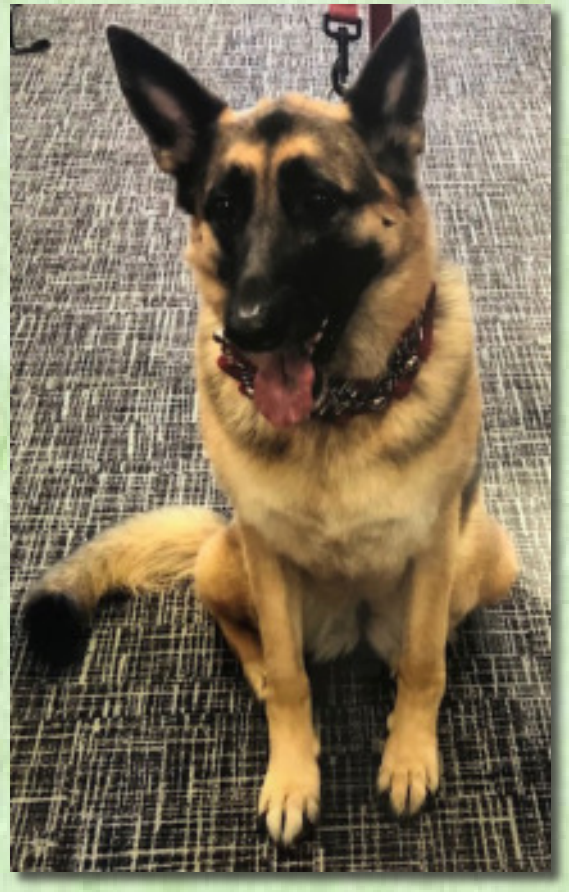
Sunny
Jeannine Hofmann, Nampa, ID
Years of Service: 7
She treated each visit as if we were visiting her best friend, whether child or adult.

Booz of Friar
Isabel Calderon-Julia, San Juan, PR
Years of Service: 13
Booz has a docile, calm, receptive, noble and jovial character. As a pup, he was weak and very delicate in health. Thanks to the Lord, his health improved. I told him that he would stay if it was God's purpose. Then, he became a therapy dog.

Maggie
Katie McCormick, Phoenix, AZ
Years of Service: 6
Rescued from a life of producing puppies at 5, Maggie's tender spirit made her a successful therapy dog no matter where she worked. She visited hospitals, nursing homes, and first and second graders in a reading program. Maggie is loved by many. Now it's time for her to enjoy retirement.

Letty
Bobbie Perry, Meadville, PA
Years of Service: 8
Letty, rescued from a shelter, enjoyed eight years with a local therapy dog group visiting all ages – from children to those in hospice. Kudos to all for making this program available.

Cody
Connie Parlog, North Huntingdon, PA
Years of Service: 10
Cody is hanging up his red heart tag after serving as a loyal, dedicated therapy dog for more than 10 years. He enjoyed going out to visit his friends in retirement homes. He brought so much happiness, and he continues to make people smile.



Skylar
Kristina Riley,
Hephzibah, GA
Years of Service: 8
My girl is the best friend I've ever had. An amazing therapy dog who loves you more if you baby talk to her. Her first real connection was her first year at the VA. It was so sweet. She loved her fella. She and I will miss her visits.

Lexi
Joanne Norris,
Manahawkin, NJ
Years of Service: 7
We enjoyed going to nursing homes for many years until we were contacted by Stockton University in southern New Jersey. They wanted therapy dogs to join them on numerous "wellness" events at the college. We were one of the first teams to sign up and it was so rewarding!

Gypsy
Anne Wadleigh, Portland, ME
Years of Service: 8
Making over 100 visits to Maine Medical Center, we also visited 75 State Street, an assisted living facility. We have so many stories! Gypsy was found on a dirt road in Florida with her two puppies and brought to Maine. She has always been a gentle, loving, and sweet-natured dog.

Hunter
Kay Kane and Larry Kay, Chambersburg, PA
Years of Service: 7
Hunter visited the local cancer center, libraries, schools, courthouse, and special events. Now he visits the public when he's out and about. He particularly likes to visit The Kettle Shops in Lancaster County on camping trips, where he spreads his special brand of joy to employees and visitors alike.

Breslyn
Char Nash, Grand Haven, MI
Years of Service: 8
Breslyn visited area schools and has been a big part of Holland Hospital's Pet Therapy program. Breslyn also followed her big sister by reading at the library once a month. The children loved reading to her and celebrating her birthday with her. You will be missed by many!

Piper
The Wonder Dog
Ira Smith,
Henderson, NV
Years of Service: 7
Piper The Wonder Dog was rescued at 4, trained as a mobility service dog, and then certified as a therapy dog. She visited hospices, hospitals, nursing and assistance living units, schools, and greeted thousands of convention visitors. She has given much love to those in need.

Stella Grace
Stephan Pozzi, Winnebago, IL
Years of Service: 11
Her gentle smile and beautiful wagging tail made everyone forget their troubles. Her ladylike nature touched many hearts at her visits, and she loved her reading visits with the kids. Stella is now enjoying retirement with her gold cart rides with her sister, Jenna, and the "lake life."

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.

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

_____ _____
Printed Name Date

_____
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

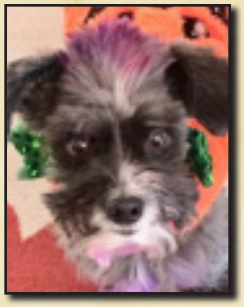
Memorial Submissions

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."

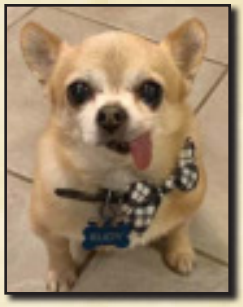
Moose
Tim & Jean Brown, Carson City, NV
2010-7/21 | Years of Service: 6
Moose was rescued from Guatemala. He came to us with three legs, but it never deterred him. Moose had a sweet and gentle personality. He loved everybody and everybody loved him. I know he is missing his nursing home visits. We miss our big goofy guy.

Dawn Dani
Julie Brewer, Phoenix, AZ
4/11/13-4/29/21 | Years of Service: 2
Dawn Dani lived a fabulous life as a dual certified service and therapy dog. She was in service to her grandpa who has Alzheimer's. She did therapy work with kids at schools in reading programs. Dawn Dani will be forever loved and missed by everyone who knew her.

Beasley
Meg Mauro, Mount Pleasant, SC
2/7/2015-9/20/21 | Years of Service: 2
His paws pitter pattered through the halls of MUSC and Roper Hospital in Charleston, South Carolina. Awarded the 2020 PET THERAPY AWARD by Roper Hospital, he touched many lives and will be missed by many. We feel blessed to have had this journey with our sweet Beasley.



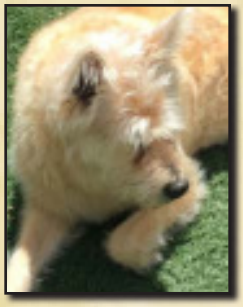
Toby
Seamus Thompson, Manteca, CA
9/29/11-2/1/21 | Years of Service: 6
Toby's gift as a therapy dog was knowing who needed him the most and providing the TLC needed. He spent much of his time in special education classes and behavioral health facilities. Toby became a celebrity within the school district. He was very loved and will be remembered by many.



Rudy
Boni Galarneau, Rio Rancho, NM
1/04-9/13/21 | Years of Service: 4
I have a huge hole in my heart and find myself looking at photos, remembering how much happiness he brought to everyone he met. Rudy was born to be a therapy dog. He was awesome at this task. ATD offered opportunities for us to bring happiness and smiles to others.

Bailey
Ken Allaby, The Villages, FL
Years of Service: 7
Bailey was a dedicated therapy dog visiting veteran homes, Florida Cancer Center and many nursing homes and memory care facilities. He loved people and will be missed by many, especially his mommy and daddy. I'll never forget my loyal companion and his unconditional love.

Sport
Linda Hunter, Plant City, FL
2/3/08-11/7/21 | Years of Service: 6
Sport entered my life at a time when I needed him. He never let me down. Sport taught me one of life's greatest lessons: Don't let a minute pass by without finding something that makes you smile. Sport was my lifeline and I loved sharing him with those in need.



Ginger
Dan Peregoy, Aurora, CO
2006-2021
Ginger was a delight for everyone whom she met. During a three-year period, we visited a memory care facility in Denver. The residents were always happy to see Ginger and have a "chat" with her. Ginger loved to talk to anyone who would listen.

Grommit
Kitty Haspel, Sutter Creek, CA
1/1/05-6/30/21 | Years of Service: 7
He worked for more than six years in our county libraries as a therapy/library dog, giving generations of Amador County children the confidence and support needed to learn to read. He became a beloved figure in the community, and he was designated a "Hometown Hero" at his death.

Ambrosia
Alexa Carey, South Windsor, CT
12/22/11-7/3/2021 | Years of Service: 3
Ambrosia was a gentle, loving soul – racing greyhound turned therapy dog. When she saw someone in a wheelchair, she put her head in their lap. She just wanted to give and receive love. I'm blessed to have had her in my life and to have shared her with others.

Candi
Jean Shoup, Wooster, OH
6/08-11/21 | Years of Service: 9
Candi gave much happiness to residents in nursing homes. Her favorite was walking at OARDC with me. She went everywhere with us and gave us so much joy. Thank you, Candi! We miss her very much. Our love for her will never end.

Mousse
Rebecca Bass, Beaufort, SC
1/12/06-11/23/21 | Years of Service: 7
The day we adopted Mousse was one of the happiest days of our lives. She was an outstanding ambassador for the Doberman breed. She did it all: competition obedience, agility, and hundreds of therapy dog visits. Her beauty was complemented by her affectionate and gentle nature.

Aki2
Calvin & Corlis Koga, Honolulu, HI
1/16/13-11/29/21 | Years of Service: 4
Aki2 was such a sweet kind boy. He loved his therapy visits at the library's Children Reading Program. We will miss his happy smile. He will always be in our heart forever. Until we meet again!

Annie
Biz Mann, Aiken, SC
9/5/07-12/7/20 | Years of Service: 9
Annie was spirited and loving. When the red heart appeared, she was ready to go! We visited a military hospital, the children's hospital, a VA hospital, a mental facility, and several elementary schools. She loved people and could make them smile and laugh. I will miss her so.

Shiloh
Date of death: 12/30/21
Years of Service: 4
Shiloh was a wonderful therapy dog and once brought a woman back to life. They thought she had had brain damage, and she was actually in shock after a fall. He was a true hero and a wonderful beloved dog. We are heartbroken.

Peach
Rebecca Russo, Demossville, KY
6/22/08-9/17/21 | Years of Service: 4
Peach enjoyed therapy dog work, along with her show dog career and scent tracking. She visited the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, a nursing home, a drug treatment program, and two children's library reading programs. She brought smiles to many faces.

Stella
Rebecca Pearson, Meridian, MS
9/18/15-5/9/21 | Years of service: 3
Stella brought joy and smiles to everyone she met. She was a retired racing greyhound who transitioned beautifully to therapy work. She served at Anderson Regional Medical Center visiting cancer patients and children, as well as Bedford Care Center visiting her beloved seniors.

Star
Janet & Eric Medrow, King of Prussia, PA
4/28/10-12/24/21 | Years of Service: 7
Goodbye, Star. You were an amazing pet and therapy dog. You brought joy and love everywhere you went: nursing homes, schools, sitting with autistic and emotionally challenged students, stress relievers at local colleges during exam weeks, and Read-to-a-Dog at the Upper Merion Library.

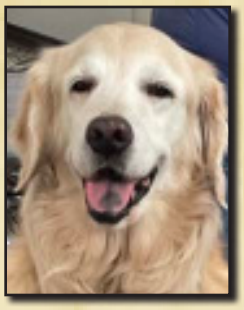
Pebbles
Barbara M. Bonalski and David Philippi,
Little Egg Harbor, NJ
12/21/05-1/8/22 | Years of Service: 10
Her most important job was being a certified therapy dog with more than 187 visits, earning her AKC Therapy Dog Advanced title. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. I know we will all meet again at the Rainbow Bridge.

Chloe
Janet Harris, Port Orange, FL
9/29/12-1/11/22 | Years of Service: 8
Chloe was an inspiration of love, enthusiasm, and loyalty. She was a READing Paws therapy dog and service dog. She put joy in everyone's heart that she met. Our lives are incomplete without her sweet,loving nature. She is truly missed by all who knew her.

Gunner
Cathy Bray, Allen Park, MI
8/30/08-7/12/21 | Years of Service: 9
Gunner was born to be a therapy dog. He visited nursing homes, senior living homes and was involved in an elementary school reading program. Children's Hospital (Detroit) is where he had more than 500 hours of visits over six years. He was loved by everyone and is deeply missed.

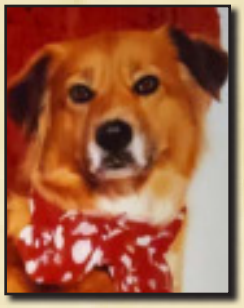
Scruffy
Roger & Jeanne Jusseaume,
Jensen Beach, FL
2/9/11-7/22/21
Years of Service: 4 months
Scruffy had many issues prior to our adopting him that caught up with him. We had him 10 months in which he performed his ATD visits admirably. He served proudly for four months.

Buck
Tina Fox, Rupert, ID
10/07-2/11/21 | Years of Service: 7
Buck came to us from our local shelter when he was about 10 months old. He was a large dog with a very gentle, affectionate personality, making him an excellent therapy dog who earned the nickname "Gentle Giant" by the adults and students he visited.



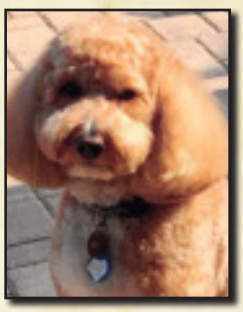
Abbey
Shelly & Arnie Henden, Sun Lakes, AZ
1/10/09-1/25/22 | Years of Service: 11
Abbey was everybody's favorite. From walking on Frisco, Colorado, Main Street at six months, from traversing the Square in Prescott, Arizona, to spreading her love and good cheer to patients at Chandler Regional Medical Center, to comforting travelers at Sky Harbor Airport.

Darla
Gina & Larry Hickle, Mooresville IN
12/31/07-11/3/21 | Years of Service: 6
Darla will be missed by many staff and patients at the St. Francis Hospice House, also at Miller's Assisted Living Home and the Mooresville PAWS for Reading Program. She loved to perform in AKC trials and to meet people and children. Darla will be greatly missed by everyone she knew.



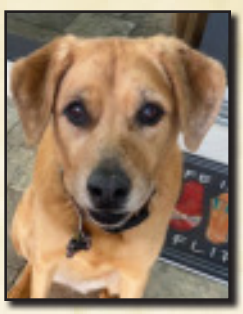
Alia
Bonnie Cook, Corrales, NM
2/6/08-4/16/21 | Years of service: 6
Alia was a rez dog that adapted very well to the therapy dog concept. She visited the VA Hospital, rest homes, libraries, and schools from kindergarten through college. A calm, reserved gal, she brought comfort, joy, smiles, and love to all she encountered. She was a "good girl."

Teddy
Teresa Yates-Zumbrook, The Villages, FL
6/11/17-8/20/21 | Years of Service: 2
Teddy was born to be a therapy dog. He loved greeting everyone from the elderly to disabled children. Teddy performed many tricks, including the ability to "whisper." We were sad to lose him at such a young age, but he lived life to the fullest. He will be in our hearts forever.



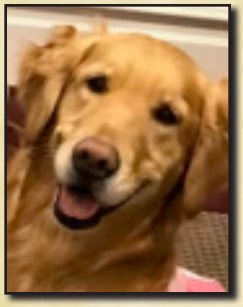
Abby
John Ferguson, Richmond, KY
8/18/11-1/05/22 | Years of Service: 8
Abby was the most engaging and loving dog I've had the pleasure of working with. Her eyes seemed to convey her love for all people. She visited assisted living facilities, public schools, hospice, was a R.E.A.D. dog. She worked at three different hospitals; brain injury and oncology were her favorites.

Coda
Dawn Champanois, Tecumseh, MI
2/26/07-12/7/21 | Years of Service: 13
Coda was an awesome therapy dog. He had a knack for knowing who needed him. While he enjoyed all places we visited, his favorite was the University of Michigan library at exam time. He touched the hearts of many and is forever in mine.



Kira
Melisa Rodriguez, Cape Coral, FL
5/1/08-5/26/21 | Years of Service: 11
Kira was a beautiful, kind, and gentle soul. She served for many years at Pasco County Library in Land O' Lakes, Florida. She loved everyone but she especially toddlers and special needs children. She will be truly missed by many, but most of all by her loving family.

Colbear
Susie Atcheson, Villa Rica, GA
5/7/09-6/15/20 | Years of Service: 9
Colbear was an incredible therapy dog. He had a very calm demeanor and sweet face, soulful eyes, and a giving heart. He visited nursing homes, hospitals, schools, colleges, and he was a READ dog. He loved his tennis ball, his girls, and me. I miss you, buddy.



Lily
Nancy Webster, Canton, GA
5/31/11-1/17/22 | Years of Service: 6
Lily was the sweetest, most caring therapy dog. She was so full of life. She could light up a room with her presence. She knew just who needed to be loved on. Lily visited nursing homes, assisted living facilities, schools, colleges and church. Lily was also a READ dog.

Ziva
Kimberly Charron, Carrollton, GA
3/27/11-2/24/21 | Years of Service 4.5
Ziva spent her retirement from breeding as a therapy dog. She served in memory care, assisted living, nursing homes, hospice, funeral homes, and children's read program. Whether lending a paw for a peaceful passing, doing tricks, or comforting families, she always brought a bright light in times of need.

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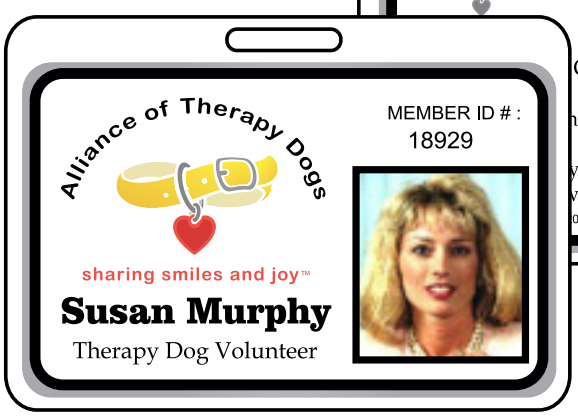

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