

Alliance of **THERAPY DOGS**







NEWSMAGAZINE



Fall/Winter 2023



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 \$15 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 \$15 late fee, by February 15 or August 15, will be required to retest and reapply for ATD membership.

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 \$100, half page \$75, and quarter page \$50. 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.

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.

ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS

Officers

Kimberly Williams (President)
Kearney, NE

Don Vaughan (Vice President)
Kasson, MN

Laurie Schlossnagle (Secretary)
Layton, UT

Tosha Aldridge (Treasurer)
Rocky Mount, NC

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**Amy Brockel
(Executive Director)**
Cheyenne, WY

**Pat Coglianese
(Immediate Past President)**
Rock Hill, SC

Jane Hirsch (Past President)
Mt. Pleasant, SC

Teri Meadows (Past President)
Golden, CO

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Monica Callahan
Conway, SC

Lynn Ealey
North Augusta, SC

Stefanie Giese-Bogdan
River Falls, WI

Cris Lewis
Neenah WI

Sandy Schiller
Raleigh, NC

Kat Walthers
Bettendorf, IA



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 the very special or “magical” moment you and your wonderful dog experienced during 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.

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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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.

Fall 2023 President's Message

Our New Year

July is a significant month for the board of directors. The annual board meeting takes place where documents are reviewed, strategy for the upcoming year is discussed, and, most importantly, it is the month to welcome new board members and honor those who have retired from the board. Stacy Plummer, Teresa Gardner and Pat Coliganese (past president) resigned from the board this year. Stacy and Pat have devoted many years of their time and expertise to assisting ATD in transitioning from a grassroots to an international nonprofit organization. Pat as president has left an indelible mark on ATD. Although Teresa was on a shorter amount of time her perspective and insights were welcome additions to the board. All three will be remembered for their intelligent statements, quick wit, and dedication to ATD. Although we will greatly miss them, welcoming two new directors to the board is exciting. You can meet Katja Walthers from Iowa on Page 12 of this issue. The 2024 spring/summer newsmagazine will feature Lynn Ealey from South Carolina.

Like New Year's Eve, July is also a time to reflect on the preceding year's best achievements and the greatest challenges. The ATD office is happy to report membership increased in 2022-2023 to more than 17,000 members. ATD created an endowment to secure

the organization's future, providing a stable financial base to support our growing membership. Last year, the board began requiring members to log one or more visits every three months. Happily, over three-quarters of our members have logged visits on the ATD portal. Data from the visit log show donors, our insurance provider, and the office how much time members give to their communities. Closer to home, the office received a much-needed update in air conditioning and heating, creating better working conditions for our staff. With these positive changes, we look toward the challenges that ATD is facing. For 2023-2024, the board is concentrating on issues that often overlap such as the shortage of Tester/Observers, maintaining insurance coverage, and upgrading technology.

Tester/Observers

T/Os are an essential aspect of our organization as coaches, role models, and ambassadors who inspire others to join our membership. ATD has 711 Tester/Observers, but many T/Os have more demand than they can keep up with. Despite the Alternative Review process being a good option for those who do not have access to a T/O in their area, applicants miss out on the mentorship and reinforcement of rules that come from the handling assessment and three requisite observations.



Kim with (L-R) Finnegan, Winnie and Sigmund

According to a survey conducted in early 2023 of nonprofits, volunteerism is down 65% since the pandemic. Although ATD dropped below 15,000 members during the pandemic, we now have more than 17,000 members. However, facilities are still feeling the pinch and are contacting the ATD office to inquire about teams that can satisfy their volunteer needs. This is both exciting and challenging news. It is great that membership has increased, but it is critical to boost membership to further supply teams to facilities, which circles back to increasing the number of Tester/Observers.

Are you interested in becoming a T/O? A few of the requirements include being a member for six months, being kind and professional, and having experience teaching or working with dogs. If you want to become a T/O, you can find more information on the ATD website.

Insurance Coverage

ATD is one of the last, if not the only, therapy dog certification organizations that provide five million dollars in liability insurance. At our July meeting, the board met with Will de Ryk, agent for the Woolington Agency. Will remarked that insurance companies refrain from taking on the liability of insuring dogs, making it difficult to find providers. He stated that Alliance of Therapy Dogs, however, is a favorite of their agency because we have a solid certification process and a set of rules and regulations that create safe visits for both the team and the visitors. The challenge is maintaining the insurance by enforcing rules, educating members, and having T/Os coach prospective and current members.

Unfortunately, an incident that occurs in a single second might result in the loss of 17,000 members' insurance. A. W. Tozer, an American pastor, author, and magazine editor, said, "The driver on the highway is safe not when he reads the signs, but when he obeys them." Insurance may be lost if a claim

was high, such as for a dog bite during a visit that necessitated medical treatment. A dropped leash may not result in the loss of ATD insurance, but a dropped leash, an inattentive handler, and a dog that bites a human or attacks another dog may result in the loss of insurance. The board believes our members have positive intent, but insurance requires the rules to be followed thoroughly.

To support our insurance needs, the board must revise and evaluate rules and regulations that comply with our insurance policy and apply to members in both Canada and the United States. The Education,

Social Media, and PR Committee (ESP) is tasked to develop educational content for webinars, social media posts, and written material. It isn't easy, but the board is committed to our members so they can be committed to their communities.

Technology

The proper use of technology allows a nonprofit to obtain visibility while sustaining and expanding its mission. A digital presence is required for growth and communication with members and facilities. On the backside, cybersecurity is critical for securing our members' data. The modernization of technology is expensive and changes constantly. The challenge comes in the form of budgeting for and the execution of technology.

While we strive for a more modern approach to technology in our organization, the board must recognize that adopting technology affects our members as well as the day-to-day productivity of the office. A small number of ATD members do not use computers or email. The office keeps those individuals in mind. Some members are concerned about their ability to meet ATD requirements through technology. To support those members, the board and office are creating education and an implementation plan to assist our members in being successful online.

Facing the Challenges

These three challenges are tightly intertwined: Directors, office staff, T/Os, and members must work together to support the expansion of our T/O numbers, keep our membership insured, and use technology to raise public knowledge of our organization. The good news is that these difficulties can be overcome. As for the board, directors meet daily through email or calls to discuss problems and provide solutions. The office

bridges the gap between the board and its members, sharing information and offering recommendations. ESP works hard to deliver Facebook postings as well

as instructional webinars. If you are a new T/O, the T/O egroup provides advice, shares ideas, and supports one another. It's a great resource even for longtime T/Os.

Of course, ATD members are the key to the solution. If you have questions or recommendations, we encourage you to contact the office or any of the directors. The Member Handbook contains our email addresses! It may sound cliché, but it is true. We are a collaborative organization, so we will face the issues and be better for it. Personally, I am grateful to previous boards and longtime members who overcame early hurdles to build an amazing organization.

Unfortunately, an incident that occurs in a single second might result in the loss of 17,000 members' insurance.

2022/23 ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS

Board 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. Each director will assist with contacting and reviewing rules with new ARC teams.

Documents (DOC): Update policies as needed. Publish all handbooks. Prepare director biographies.

Education, Social Media, and Public Relations (ESP): Focus on Member Education, Public Relations and Social Media. Develop ideas for re-evaluating teams. Create the annual Member Review. Create the Annual Rules Review. Develop educational materials for present/prospective membership. Develop and increase public awareness of Alliance of Therapy Dogs' mission and activities. Partnership building including facilities, conferences and events. Outreach for the Junior Handler program. Manage Public Relations consistency and interface with social networking members. Create and monitor the social networking content/material and make recommendations to the board as needed.

Executive: The purpose of the Executive Committee is to assist the Board of Directors of Alliance of Therapy Dogs in the orderly and fair governance of ATD by, among other things, acting on behalf of the Board within the scope of the by-laws, conduct research to assist in strategic planning, assist in emergent and sensitive issues, and act as the Appeals Committee.

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

Newsmagazine: Choose and edit submissions and design the semi-annual newsmagazine.

Nominating and Awards (N&A): Conduct election of officers and board members with the assistance of the corporate office. Set scholarship criteria and choose recipients; review and select the recipient of the annual Outstanding Member Award.

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.

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.



ATD MERCHANDISE



Members may purchase items from Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

To place your order scan the QR code below or go to: www.ATDmerch.Myshopify.com/ if you have not set up your shopify account email office@therapydogs.com to request an invite.

We also provide give away items for booths or events.

Email office@therapydogs.com to request free items for your next event.

Bookmarks, Lanyards, Magnets, Stickers, Pins & Patches

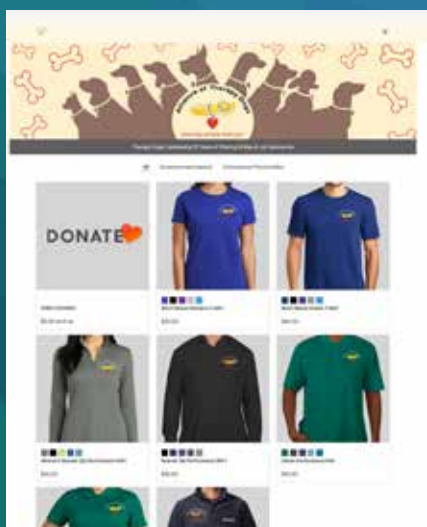


brochures, newsmagazines & notecards



ATD Clothing from Custom Ink

Visit <https://stores.customink.com/atd>



ATD will update the offerings in the Custom Ink store to include new and seasonal items.

- Must use Paypal to purchase items
- There are print minimums on orders so do know that they will print and ship approximately every two weeks. Custom Ink will let you know what to expect as you complete the order.



"Listening"
to your canine partner

Ways your dog may communicate they are tired and ready to end the visit:

- Yawning and lip licking
- Appearing to fall asleep
- Scratching
- Panting
- Trying to leave the area
- Avoiding you, the people you are visiting, or spaces.

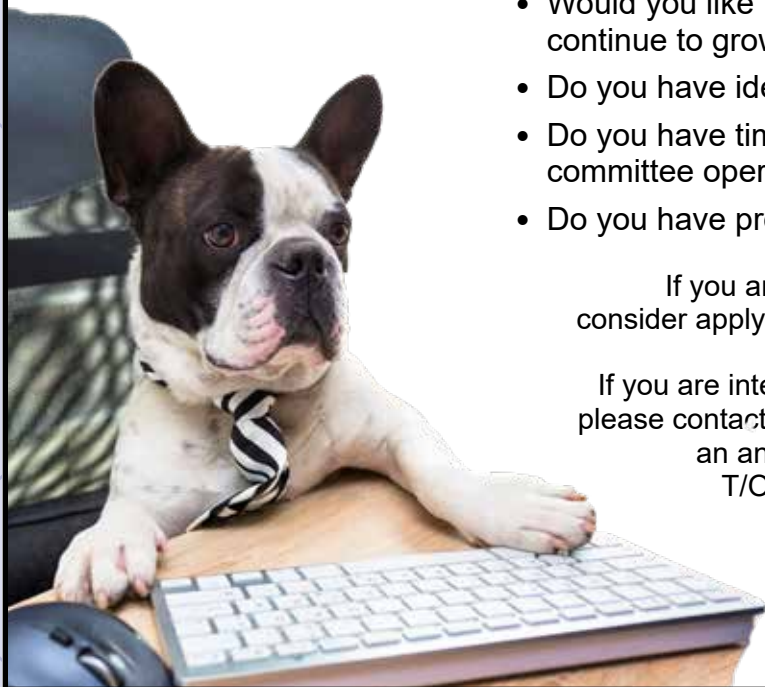


Get to know your dog and how they act when they are tired.

Alliance of Therapy Dogs
sharing smiles and joy

T/Os, GET ON BOARD!!!

Have you ever considered joining the Board of Directors?



- Would you like to help Alliance of Therapy Dogs continue to grow and develop?
- Do you have ideas for the future?
- Do you have time to help with organizational and committee operations?
- Do you have professional skills that could assist ATD?

If you are a T/O, and if your answer is YES, consider applying to be elected to the Board of Directors!

If you are interested in applying for a director position, please contact the ATD office. When there is an opening, an announcement will be made via the T/O chat group and an email blast.

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) 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 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.
Hard copies mail to ATD, PO Box 20227, Cheyenne, WY 82003

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 and postmarked by November 1 of the year for consideration and must be 300 to 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 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.



2023 Alliance of Therapy Dogs® OMA

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.
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

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.

Following one year of service, patches are offered in five-year increments thereafter. If you would like a service patch, please order at <https://atdmerch.myshopify.com/>.



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>

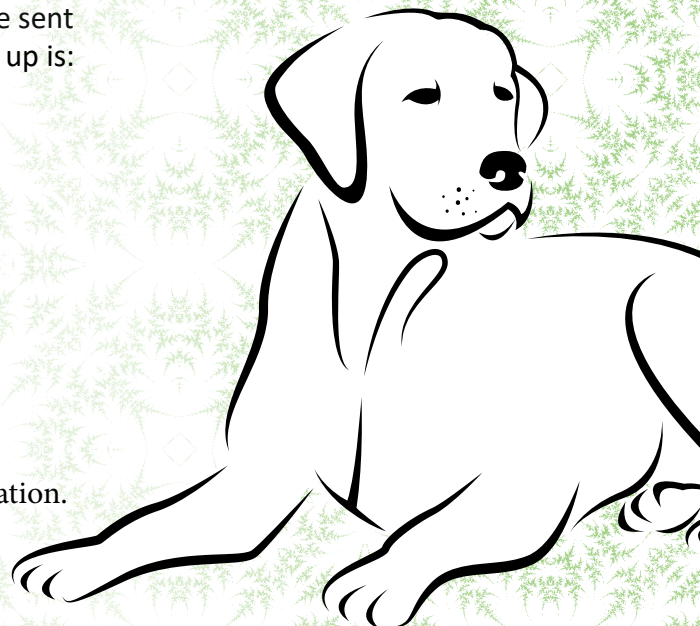
You are also welcomed to donate
by mailing a check or money order to:

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 . . . Kat Walthers, director

Tell us about your therapy dog(s) and where you visit.

I have two therapy dogs: Trudie, 5-year-old Golden Retriever, and Link, 4-year-old Golden Retriever. I got Trudie as a puppy, and Link is a rescue dog. Even though they are both Golden Retrievers, they have totally different personalities.

Trudie is the relaxed and laid-back therapy dog who likes to take it slow and easy. She enjoys most the quieter visits at the hospice and the “Coffee and K9” events at the local Gilda’s club to share smiles and joy with cancer patients and survivors.

Link is more a straightforward and belly up “rub it now” type of dog. He loves to visit the schools, as well as the busy waiting areas in the hospitals.

Both dogs are part of an online “Read to Dogs” program, where the children read to the dogs via Zoom every week.

Trudie and Link share their home and hooman (aka me, Kat) with JoJo (Golden Retriever, 6 years old), Wookie (Golden Doodle, 18 months) and grumpy old Rusty (Puggle, 10 years old).



Why did you volunteer for therapy dog work?

I love dogs, and it would be selfish to just keep them all to myself. I know from firsthand experience that being without a dog, or alone in an unfamiliar place or situation can get to a person harder than expected. Just seeing and touching a dog can make all the difference.

Every time I visit my family in Germany, and I cannot take my dogs with me, I feel that a part of me is missing. And I will not pass any dog without petting it, acknowledging it or watching it, as it does its work for or with a person.

Being able to share my love for dogs with others, who have the same love and passion for them, just fills my heart (I know it sounds cheesy, but that is what it feels like).

Seeing the difference that just one visit, pet and wiggle does to make others feel better is one of the best feelings that I, at the end of the leash, can feel.

What was your most memorable therapy experience?

Trudie and I went to our weekly hospice visit and a grandmother and her 4-year-old grandson were in the chapel. We visited with them were told that the mother was in the hospice. We all walked together into the room and the mother was in bed, staring at the ceiling.

When she was told that there is a dog in the room, she suddenly snapped out of the staring, threw the blanket aside and almost jumped out of the bed. She asked for Trudie's name and if she would be allowed to give treats. The lady sat on the floor with Trudie and spent time with her. The grandmother was in disbelief and the son did not move. The patient asked the grandmother to take a picture of her and Trudie. She went straight back to bed after that, staring at the ceiling. The grandmother thanked me more than once before we left.

A week later, Trudie and I were back at the hospice and the patient was still there. We were invited in, but this time she was all by herself. She recognized Trudie immediately, and I helped her to pet Trudie. She petted her for a long time, tears rolling down her cheeks. She smiled at me and said, "I am so happy that you are back. Trudie's presence relaxed me so much. I am so happy. Thank you for visiting me again."

It was the last time that we visited with her. She will always be on my mind as a reminder of how we can make a difference in someone's life, even if it is just a short moment.

How have therapy dog visits changed your life?

The visits always put everything in perspective for myself. No matter what I do and go through at the moment, seeing the difference my dogs make in other people's lives helps me to understand a lot more about myself. It reminds me to put myself in other people's shoes.

My therapy dog Link was a rescue off Facebook. He was just under 2 years old when he was offered. All I knew is that the family fell on hard times and could not take care of him. It made me angry. Why would someone give up a dog like that? He is loving, has a great personality and turned out to become a great therapy dog.

But it all was about to come around full circle. I stayed in touch with the former family. When they saw on Facebook that Link visits the hospice with me, the lady called me in tears. She shared her story that her son fell sick with cancer and was in hospice. We visited them and it was a very emotional second goodbye for all of them, including Link.

We all have a limited time and should make the best of it. That is how the visits influenced and changed my life.

What advice would you give a new therapy team?

"Teamwork makes the dream work." Know your dog. Make sure to have your dog's back when it sends you signals, but also know when it is time for you as the handler to just be the end of the leash and let the dog work.

If you could do it all over again, what would you do differently?

Not a single thing.





GRATEFUL

2023 ATD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Nominating and Awards Committee is proud to announce the 2023 ATD scholarship recipients. Brief summaries of their applications appear below.

Thank you to all who applied. We had a very strong collection of applicants and encourage those who were not selected this year to apply again.

Kelley Keith, recipient of \$2,500, has been a junior handler for five years and loves visiting with her Chihuahua mix, Nacho. She is a high school senior who graduated in May. Kelley has been accepted to the University of Georgia for fall 2023. Her plan is to study industrial engineering.

Lexi Keller, recipient of \$1,500, has been a junior handler for two years with Tahoe, a Border Collie mix, and is a high school senior. Lexi has been accepted to D'Youville Physician Assistant program. In addition to becoming a physician assistant, Lexi would like to assist with service dog training.

Hannah Kibbey, recipient of \$1,000, recently became a junior handler visiting with Molly, a Chihuahua mix, and is a high school senior. Hannah is also currently enrolled at Pima Community College, completing her general education. She plans to pursue a career in science.

Heather Luby, recipient of \$5,000, has been a member for almost three years, visiting with Rosie, a Rhodesian Ridgeback.

Heather is working on a bachelor's degree in human services with a concentration in child and family services at Southern New Hampshire University. After graduation, Heather will pursue a master's degree in social work.

ATD has been awarding an annual scholarship since 2004. Scholarship application information can be found on the Member's page of the ATD website in the helpful documents section.

Thank you!

You have helped me make my dreams come true!
As a result of your generosity you have made this possible for me to become a Physician Assistant.
Thank you
Lexi Keller

Dear ATD scholarship committee,

I cannot thank you enough for your generous \$5,000 scholarship. I am very happy and extremely appreciative to have been selected as the 2023 recipient.

This scholarship will allow me to finish my bachelor's degree! I will then continue my schooling at the Master's degree level to achieve my dreams of opening an animal based counseling service.

Rosie (my dog) has been and will always be an integral part of my dream. We love being a part of ATD. Thank you so much again.

Sincerely, Heather Luby

Dear ATD

I am beyond blessed to be a recipient of the ATD Scholarship! The Award is greatly appreciated, and I owe you credit to the person I am today and my education to connect the University of Florida. I will continue to represent ATD well and spread Therapy dog awareness!

Sincerely, Kelley Keith

Kelley Keith



Dear Alliance of Therapy Dogs,

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my scholarship application. I am deeply honored that you chose me as a recipient of this scholarship and to represent the therapy dogs community. I can not thank you enough for your generous contribution to my education. Your contribution to further my education to become a Physician Assistant means the world to me. This has been my dream career for so long and you are helping me achieve this goal.

I will work hard to maintain the good academics and standards that my scholarship depends on. I look forward to possibly taking the therapy dogs community to my university and creating a group there. I am also pleased to say that I created a group on my high school campus that has therapy dogs that rotate throughout the week and join kids during lunch.

Thank you again so much for your support and trust in me. You have made such an impact in my life by helping me reach my goals of furthering my education in the field of medicine, assisting me to help those in need to have a better quality of life.

Thank you,

Lexi Keller

Lexi Keller

Dear ATD Staff,

Thank you so much for choosing me for the scholarship this year. It will help me out greatly as I go off to college. I have enjoyed working with my therapy dog, Molly. We have made so many memories together. Thank you for everything you have done for Molly and I, and I hope to continue with therapy work when I get back from college.

Sincerely,

Hannah Hibbey

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

What's Wrong?

This photo has been staged by ATD members. Can you find what's wrong with this photo? See Page 30 for the answers.





2023/2024 Officers: (L-R) Don Vaughan, Vice President; Kimberly Williams, President; Laurie Schlossnagle, Secretary; and Tosha Aldridge, Treasurer.



2023/2024 Board of Directors: Seated: (L-R) Kimberly Williams (President) and Don Vaughan (Vice President). Standing: (L-R) Stefanie Giese-Bogdan, Lynn Ealey, Sandy Schiller, Tosha Aldridge (Treasurer), Laurie Schlossnagle (Secretary), Cris Lewis, Monica Callahan, Katja Walthers and (right) Teresa Gardner with Ruger attended via Zoom.



This year's annual Alliance of Therapy Dogs board meeting was held in Myrtle Beach from July 14-16.





Former ATD President Pat Coglianesse assisted with a special presentation on Friday of the board meeting.

Age Doesn't Matter: Therapy Dogs Go the Distance



When it was time for me to welcome a new dog into my life, I realized that I was welcoming a great deal of joy and unconditional love. But I also knew I was not the only person in the world who needed those emotional blessings. So, I looked for a dog breed that could be trained to have a career. I didn't want my dog to herd sheep or accompany police officers on their dangerous rounds. I wanted to enjoy seeing the beneficial effects of a therapy dog.

Britan has been a therapy dog since he was 2½ years old. He is a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel with a heart of gold. This British breed of toy dog is full of energy and delight. Britan enjoys meeting new people and loves the friends he has made over his years of service as a member of the Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

Children have a special place in his heart. He is agreeable when they touch him. At Charlotte Douglas Airport, when we were part of the Canine Crew, he was approached by all ages and genders. Sometimes he was surrounded by as many as eight people at a time. He did not protest even though this is a lot of unpredictable behavior from strangers. It seemed as if he was especially drawn to children and they to him. He never neglected an older traveler.

At the assisted living facility we regularly visit, the population is different. Some are in wheelchairs. Some are in their rooms, resting in recliners or beds. A few residents even know his name, while others are less aware. None of that matters to Britan. He loves them all and does his best to bring a smile to their faces. He doesn't really understand all the circumstances of the different

residents, but he doesn't have to. He knows what he is there for and does his best to accomplish his mission.

At a school where the children are in special needs classes, he allows them to approach him on their own terms. Sometimes they get excited and need some direction on how to gently pet him. He navigates the classroom environment well and is patient with these children. I think he knows how much his visits mean to them.

During final exams, many students on college campuses feel debilitating stress. Therapy dogs are invited to help calm their nerves so they can finish the tests to the best of their abilities. Britan has joined several other dogs for this special day where he was welcomed by adult students. Many talked about how much they missed their own dogs while they were happily petting the therapy dogs.

As you can see, Britan has visited many types of people in several different environments where his sweet demeanor has been a plus, creating some special moments.



Therapy dogs are unique. They provide comfort, pleasure, reassurance, and new energy. They are patient, loving, and compassionate. Britan's days at work are tiring for him (and me) but so rewarding. Many thank us for coming. Those who don't say this out loud show it by their facial expressions. Even a small moment of time makes a lasting impression. We wouldn't have it any other way. Britan is now seven years old, and we hope to be bringing smiles and joy to others for many more years to come.

—Barbara J Peters, Alpharetta, GA

Maggie

Hello!

My dog, Maggie, and I volunteer at school reading to kids. Maggie Mantz (a rescued, 5-year-old Golden Retriever), who was certified through ATD in January 2023, reads with her 3-, 4- and 5-year-old friends at Learning in Motion Academy, a Pre-K program in Coopersburg, Pennsylvania.

She's doing wonderfully and the kids love her. She smiles on these visits and in the pictures. Thank you for allowing us to bring to many smiles to so many people.

The smile doesn't leave this dog's face each visit she gets with her friends!

—Stephanie Mantz, Center Valley, PA



The CLT Canine Crew is comprised of volunteer dog teams that welcome travelers to Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

Join the CLT Canine Crew!
Visit cltairport.com
for more information.



A Dream Comes True That Left a Mark

Over 20 years ago, my wife, Stephanie and I had our first big dream. We wanted to do therapy dog work together. Our dream was to have two therapy dogs at the same time so we each had a dog to handle at a visit.

A little over 20 years ago, part of that dream came true. We certified our first ATD (Therapy Dogs Inc. at the time) therapy dog, Majo, a 3-year-

old Tosa Ken (Japanese Mastiff). She would set the bar high for all our dogs to come. Not only was she a great therapy dog for 10 years, but she was just a great dog.

Approximately 10 years later, we almost completed our dream. Gaag, a 2-year-old rescued Saint Bernard, became our second certified therapy dog. Unfortunately, Majo and Gaag were never able to do an official therapy dog visit together. They



were like two ships passing in the night. It was time for Majo to retire, and Gaag was just starting to get his therapy dog legs. Thankfully, he had a great mentor in Majo.

After Gaag died, we had somewhat of a rough go of things. We lost six dogs in less than six years. Each dog had a different struggle in life. Stephanie and I started to wonder if we would ever have two certified therapy dogs at the same time. We weren't ready to give up.

Two years ago, we rescued a 5-year-old female Newfoundland whom we named Ila. About a year and a half later, we added a rescued 5-year-old Olde English Bulldogge whom we named Henry. Right away, with both dogs, we felt they had what it would take to become certified therapy dogs – both love people. It's their happy place. We might be able to make this happen after all.

As with any dog we add, therapy dog training pretty much starts on Day 1. Ila needed a little more time than Henry did. Ila spent her whole life before us as a breeder female. She knew nothing else. Even though Henry came to us a little roughed up, somewhere along his path, he had been loved and was a house dog. He was a great teacher for Ila. He was able to show Ila what being part of a family was all about.

In June of 2022, Stephanie and I completed the testing process with both dogs. We officially had two certified therapy dogs in the house at the same time – a dream come true.

Every visit we do together is amazing. Ila and Henry primarily visit at a mental health and substance abuse counseling facility.

Not only have Ila and Henry helped make a dream come true, but they have also literally left their mark, especially on me. Every dog that my wife

and I have had receive a place of honor on my skin. For each dog, I have a special tattoo in their honor. Ila and Henry are no different. Since they made our dream come true, I felt it was appropriate to design a piece that represented that accomplishment. Earlier this year, I had a tattoo done to scale that is based off the red heart tags each dog wears on a visit. Since we all did it together, it seemed appropriate to have their tags come together.

Dreams do come true and can leave a mark in more ways than one.

—Don and Stephanie Vaughan, Kasson, MN



SCHOLARSHIP

Miss Keanu's calling was to be a therapy dog. Her love of serving others will continue for years to come. Through the generosity of her parents, Joe and Arles Hendershott Love, the Miss Keanu Love Excellence in Veterinary Medicine Scholarship Fund has been established at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine where Keanu received compassionate care for cancer. Beginning in 2023-24, a deserving student will receive support in Keanu's honor as they pursue their dream of becoming a veterinarian. Keanu's love of helping others will also live on through a gift that Joe and Arles have shared in support of the school's *Animals Need Heroes Too* campaign, a critically important facilities expansion. "Joe and Arles' generosity in honor of Keanu will help enable the school's UW Veterinary Care teaching hospital to better serve the thousands of patients who rely on the school for care," says Dean Mark Markel. "Their kindness will have a ripple effect on others, just like Keanu's life positively impacted so many." The UW School of Veterinary Medicine is one of the top ranked Veterinary Schools in the nation and the world, and the Teaching Hospital provides care to more than 30,000 animals each year.

—Arles and Joe Love, Rockford, IL



Giving Back After COVID



Every person in the world has a COVID story. So, too, do our dogs.

Mr. Georgie Porgie was rescued from a dumpster. He is a 10-year-old black, 14-lb. miniature poodle. He has been a certified therapy dog with Alliance of Therapy Dogs since 2015. He visits the chemo wards of children and adults in hospitals, participates in the read to the dogs program at an elementary school, and is part of 28 dog teams who visit the delayed and cancelled flights boarding areas of San Diego's airport. COVID lockdown was very challenging for Georgie, as he had only known the lifestyle of a therapy dog since I adopted him. He spent days, weeks and months waiting at the front door confused expecting to be going out on assignments. Finally, we were invited back to volunteer. The rattle of his harness with his ATD red heart now ignites much excitement and zoomies and "talking."

Miss Ginger is a red, 17-lb. miniature poodle, I adopted from Korea on February 8, 2021. She is a survivor of a dog meat farm raid in December of 2020. Before that, she was forced to have multiple litters in an illegal puppy mill for the first three years of her life. After the raid, she

was fostered by a loving family in Seoul, North Korea, for 2½ months. Her veterinary treatments and follow up care were provided by a Korean rescue group. She was shipped in a crate for 13½ hours to Los Angeles International Airport. Once she arrived in the United States, I determined that she was a candidate for pet therapy work. She passed adult 1 & 2 training and Canine Good Citizen on the first test. She now proudly wears her ATD red heart on her harness. She alternates with her stepbrother on visits.

We three continue to be a joyful distraction, sharing smiles with the public.

I became a widow in August of 2021 after 49 years of marriage. My two "kids" give me purpose.

The power of pets heals our pain, help us cope and improve our well-being.

Cheers.

—Carole Stevens, San Diego, CA



Sir Hugo

Meet Sir Hugo, an endearing 10-year-old American Staffordshire Terrier who entered my life as a tiny puppy. While I prioritized his socialization during his early years, I admittedly neglected his formal training, resulting in his exuberant personality and lack of manners.

However, a defining moment occurred when Hugo reached the age of four. A profound expression gleamed in his eyes. From that point onward, I understood Hugo was meant to be more than a well-behaved pet, so we embarked on an extraordinary journey to become a therapy dog team.

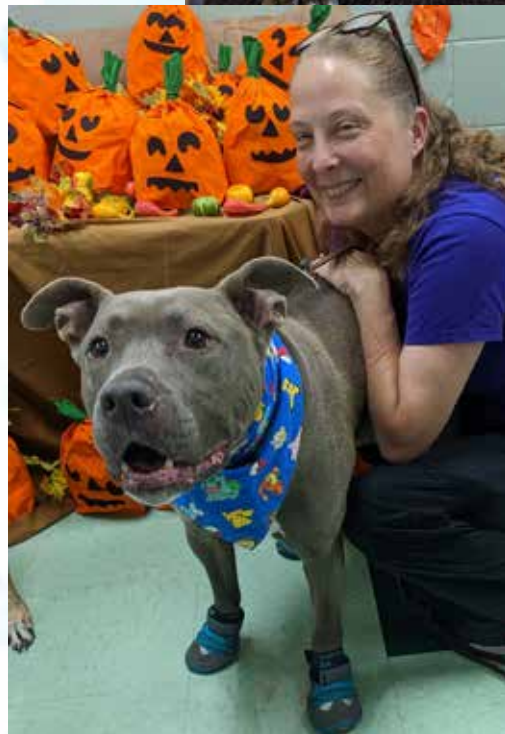
After meeting with several trainers, we were introduced to an exceptional individual who perfectly complemented Hugo's temperament. Under their guidance, Hugo thrived, accomplishing remarkable feats such as achieving his CGC, CGCA, CGU, and Trick Dog Novice titles. We proudly joined the esteemed ranks of ATD, eager to fulfill our shared aspiration of offering solace to those in hospice care.

For the past 3 ½ years, Hugo and I have joyously served as a dedicated therapy dog team, cherishing every precious moment. Additionally, we actively participate in our local group, Therapy K9's of Florida, and contribute to the Punta Gorda Airport Comfort Crew.

During one of our visits to hospice, while engaging with our regular recipients, an unexpected incident unfolded. Hugo, inexplicably captivated, fixated his attention on the person's groin area, much to my dismay. Profusely apologizing for his uncharacteristic behavior, I explained that Hugo was not typically a "crotch dog." Surprisingly, the gentleman inquired if Hugo possessed the ability to detect illnesses. I responded affirmatively, citing a few instances when he had done so before. The gentleman told me he had received a diagnosis of prostate enlargement the previous day. We did not see him for a couple of weeks as he underwent treatment. Upon his return, Hugo never displayed an interest in sniffing his groin area. Hugo is an awe-inspiring teammate.

Over the course of our volunteer career, I have witnessed countless extraordinary and unexplainable connections between Hugo and the individuals we visit. The profound bond that Hugo forges with each person he encounters, combined with our transformative journey as volunteers, has undeniably changed our lives forever.

— Belinda Metz, Cape Coral, FL



WINSTON EMPOWERING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Sometimes you just know who your people are. Perhaps dogs do, too. Winston, my therapy dog, knows his people – and they happen to be children, especially those with special needs. It's as if he senses that life can be challenging for them, and he steps in to bring them calm, comfort, and confidence.

During the school year, you'll find us at Friendship Circle's life skills village, where special needs children of all ages learn essential life skills in a safe environment. Winston's favorite spot is the pet shop, where he teaches the kids how to interact with dogs in the friendliest way possible. While in the village, Winston also models good citizenship in places like the village park, library, and street corners.

While each day brings delightful moments at Friendship Circle, the real triumphs often go unnoticed. I'll never forget Levi, a young boy with autism spectrum disorder (ASD, the Spectrum) who was intensely afraid of dogs. Witnessing his father being bitten by one had left him traumatized. On his first encounter with Winston, Levi wouldn't even look at him, let alone approach him. But with time and Winston's patient presence, Levi started feeling more at ease. Eventually, Levi gained the courage to touch Winston's coat.

I can't express the joy in Levi's voice when he exclaimed, "He's so soft!"

And that's not all. During Levi's next visit to Friendship Circle, he greeted Winston in the village park with a big, heartfelt hug! Can you imagine the sheer happiness we felt? It was pure magic!

Unbeknownst to me, my incredible journey into therapy dog work started around two decades ago when I was raising my son with ASD. During his formative years, we crossed paths with Kobe – a remarkable off-duty

therapy dog in our neighborhood.

Kobe, the therapy dog, played a pivotal role in my son's life, teaching him invaluable lessons in caring for animals. Kobe showed him unconditional love while teaching my son the ropes – how to approach a dog, communicate with one, and extend love and care toward animals. My son blossomed with the help of his new four-legged friend.

As a veteran teacher and a parent of a child on the spectrum, I've become acutely aware of the challenges that parents and educators face. Perhaps the empathy that Winston and I show will help meet the unique needs of special needs children.

The past two years have been filled with priceless lessons. As we've ventured into various therapy dog settings, I've come to a significant realization – we may not fit perfectly into every situation, and you know what? That's absolutely fine.

There's something truly special about our connection with children, and I can't help but wonder if it's the educator in me that draws us to them. Discovering our people group has been a profound experience, shaping us into a stronger team each day. It's a journey of growth, one paw at a time!

—Marilyn Floyd, Brighton, MI



*Photo credit: Erin McConnell,
Friendship Circle*

Lifelong Dedication through Service

Coming from a military family, Nancy Hester was highly motivated to find a way to serve her country. She enlisted in the U.S. Army and worked stateside as a medic. Medics are the enlisted first responders. Nancy treated military folks returning home from Vietnam with eye injuries. This experience left a lasting impression on her and a desire to continue to help people with vision loss. Nancy always looked for new ways to support veterans and others in need. Thirty-one years ago, this quest inspired Nancy to volunteer her time between two different not-for-profit organizations – Southeastern Guide Dogs and ATD – with the common thread of helping others.

One of the dogs from Southeastern Guide Dogs was Dana, a golden retriever that had 2 litters and 18 pups. When Dana retired from the program, Nancy adopted her, and they joined ATD. Dana's maternal instincts and cheerful personality make her a perfect therapy dog. They have visited patients in hospitals, nursing homes as well as children in schools.

Recently, Dana was selected as an ambassador dog for Southeastern Guide Dogs. Both Nancy and Dana share their experiences throughout the community. Nancy's lifelong dedication through service has touched the lives of many.

—Nancy Hester, Winter Haven, FL





Maggie

My name is Danielle Paulson. Maggie, my Labrador, came into my life when she was 4 months old. I have always known that she would be a great therapy dog ever since she was a puppy. She was always special and amazing around our grandchildren.

For the last two months, I have been taking her to an assisted living facility here in the Orlando, Florida, area.

Maggie has been a source of joy and comfort to all the individuals she has met there. Her tail never stops wagging once she steps into the building. The residents say that Maggie is a ray of sunshine and are grateful to receive her visits.

We have belonged to Alliance of Therapy Dogs for the past year and just wanted you to know what a great organization it is.

—Danielle Paulson, Orlando, FL

*Danielle Paulson and Maggie with
Serenades by Sonata Lifestyle
Director Amanda Rui.*



The Adventures of Harley Quinn

Harley Quinn is now a certified therapy dog through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. We began volunteering as a team in May 2023 and enjoyed visiting elementary schools and nursing homes. She is an 8-year-old all-white boxer who has the softest fur I have ever felt, like velvet. And yes, she is named after the villain from Batman. Everyone we meet hiking that pets Harley Quinn gets told her story – where she came from and where she is today. Harley Quinn is a rescue dog whose mission has been and will always be to provide therapy to everyone she meets. She has a special collar for therapy dog visits. Every time I pull down her collar, she does a special wiggle because she knows exactly what we are going out to do: spreading love and joy to those who need it.

Rescued in 2020 at the age of at least 5, Harley Quinn was used as a bait dog for fighting dogs. She is missing most of her teeth. She is full of scars from bites, and at the time that I rescued her she had mange, fleas, and ticks. She also, was extremely malnourished, had a UTI, an eye infection (you

couldn't see her eyes), stitches, could not walk more than 1/10 of a mile because of her injuries and arthritis, and many behavior problems. The local animal shelter and vets considered putting her down because of the extent of her injuries. I am grateful they gave my girl a fighting chance. It took me about nine months to rehab her physically and 1.5-2 years to work through the bad behaviors.

I have considered getting Harley Quinn certified to be a therapy dog since the day I met her and realized how sweet she was. I was afraid she would not pass the test with her previous issues. In April of 2023, I decided the time was right because she was not getting any younger. She passed with flying colors, and I could not be prouder. Our goal is to volunteer once a week. In July of 2023, Harley Quinn started acting funny. We went to three emergency vets in 24 hours. The third vet found a tumor in her spleen that was beginning to rupture and bleed into her stomach. I was informed that due to its location, her age, and breed it was cancer, but they would biopsy it anyway if I agreed to a \$5,000 surgery to remove the tumor and her spleen. I was also informed that she had three to six months left to live if they did the surgery. If the tumor remained, it would kill her. The surgery could kill her. I cried a lot for my sweet girl and all the volunteering I knew we still had to do together. I opted for surgery.

As I left Harley Quinn overnight for her surgery, I told her that I loved her and if she wanted to fight one more time, I would give her that chance. If she was done, I promised I would be ok. She pulled through surgery. I considered retiring her from serving as a therapy dog, but something told me to wait. Two weeks after the surgery, I got a phone call that to everyone's disbelief her tumor was benign. The surgery fixed her issues. It still brings tears to my eyes. Somehow this beautiful dog beat the odds one more time. August 28th was our first official (short) therapy dog visit post-surgery. She has recovered well. Our first visit was to an alternative high school with troubled youth on their first day back at school. Our next visit was to welcome the kindergartners back to school about a week later. Children are her favorite people to visit with, and it lights me up watching her smile and the kids smile as well.

I know that she is at least eight or nine years old and that my time with her will not last forever. I will continue to cherish every single day with Harley Quinn, and I will do what is best for her. I have changed her life, but she has changed my life as well. She has provided me with therapy more times than I can count and has made me laugh and smile daily. She has provided me with unconditional love and shown me what a joy having a rescue dog can be. I am so grateful and blessed that she is healthy and that we can continue to serve as a therapy dog team together. Thank you ATD for providing a wonderful program that impacts so many lives.

—Gabrielle Juba, Brevard, NC



DOGS IN THE NEWS

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

Shining Star Ambassador Collie “Lifetime Service” Award – “Banner’s Golden Legacy SAR-W THDD CGC ATD Deker” appeared in the Collie Club of America Bulletin, Fall 2022

K-9 Deker was honored as the first Collie Club of America Shining Star Ambassador to be recognized with their Lifetime Service Award. Deker’s lifetime of service as a therapy dog, rehabilitation dog, reading dog, crisis response dog, YAPS Pen Pal, Bark for Life Ambassador, Iowa Hawkeye Hero, and Iowa Governor’s Award was recognized. In addition to earning his Distinguished Therapy Dog recognition, Deker’s community service included being a nationally certified search, rescue and recovery dog with Emergency K-9 Operations, Inc. and a K-9 Deputy with the Clinton County Sheriff’s Office Reserve. He deployed on over 200 missions involving missing persons, disasters, drownings, evidence recovery, criminal investigations, and cold cases. His greatness continues to shine through in all the people he has touched and inspired.



—Lois and Bill Hall, Ellijay, GA

Editor’s note: Deker died in 2018 after 13 years of service.



Duckworth Letter

The ATD therapy dog team of Joe Love and Miss Keanu received a letter from Illinois Senator Tammy Duckworth congratulating them on earning the AKC Supreme Therapy Dog title. Duckworth also commended them on helping others during COVID.

—Arles and Joe Love, Rockford, IL

What’s Wrong? (from Page 16)

- #1 Two-foot rule: Member Handbook Rules and Regulations, Page 12, VII. Safety precautions: 31. Two-Foot Rule
- #2 Flip flops/No backs on shoes: Member Handbook Rules and Regulations, Page 10, VI. Attire and Equipment 28. Handler attire
- #3 Tank top: Member Handbook Rules and Regulations, Page 10, VI. Attire and Equipment 28. Handler attire
- #4 Seresto collar: Member Handbook Rules and Regulations, Page 10, V. Grooming Requirements 25. Dog grooming requirements
- #5 Standing on the leash (Dalmatian): Member Handbook Rules and Regulations, Page 12, VII. Safety precautions: 38. Only the certified handler may handle his/her dog
- #6 Dropped leash (Beagle): Member Handbook Rules and Regulations, Page 12, VII. Safety precautions: 38. Only the certified handler may handle his/her dog

Retired



Marta

Louella Stoeve, Denver, CO
Years of Service: 13
Marta visited several hospitals. She had a special ability to make people feel loved and happy. Marta, a rescue from a hoarder, had a way of looking at each patient with eyes full of love. She is enjoying her retirement with lots of walks, rides in the car and naps.

Chuckie

Ann De Lara, Angels Camp, CA
Years of Service: 12
Chuckie was born deaf, but it did stop him from becoming a therapy dog at the age of one. He was a member of the Dancing Dogs of the Sierra, participated in reading programs, and visited fire camps, schools and retirement homes.

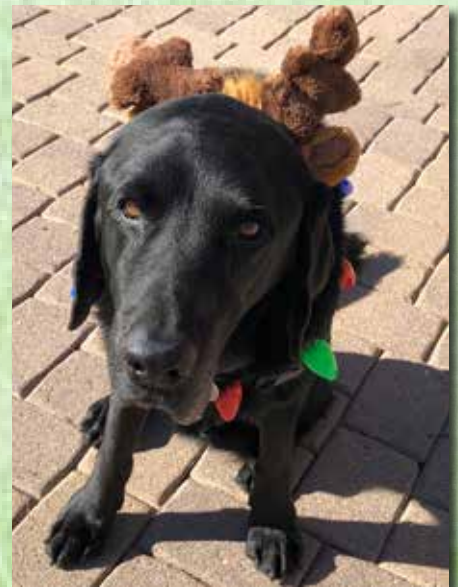


Fabee

Kris Shoemaker, Fond du Lac, WI
Years of Service: 6
We have met wonderful people all over the Fond du Lac area, including folks in nursing homes, assisted living, group homes, sheltered workshops, special music, art and writing groups. While we know we brought smiles to all we met, our ATD involvement brought HUGE SMILES to our heart.

Kale

Denise Cahalan, Oro Valley, AZ
Years of Service: 9
I adopted Kale when a good friend passed away. Kale loved his visits in California at the local hospital ICU, assisted living facilities, mental health facilities, and special events. In Arizona, he visited hospitals, a residence for teenaged girls, and kids' readings programs. He was a blessing to many.



Daisy

Kathy Tabak, Barrington, IL
Years of Service: 15
Daisy, a miniature wire-haired dachshund, visited Northwest Community Hospital and the retirement community where her "Grandpa" lives. Daisy's the dog who changed my life by allowing us to become involved in the wonderful world of therapy dog service. At 14 pounds, Daisy perfected the art of bed and lap visits.



Tristan

Betsy Farrell, Bethany, CT

Years of Service: 10

During his 10 years of service, Tristan visited classrooms, senior living facilities, Griffin Hospital, and Griffin Hospital's Center for Cancer Care. While enjoying a well-deserved retirement, he will continue to share smiles and joy with everyone he meets because that is what Tristan loves to do.

Shiloh

Marysue Gellis, Cave Creek, AZ

Years of Service: 8

Shiloh loves greeting people and being petted, more than she loves treats. She is attention motivated, so being a therapy dog was a perfect fit. The residents and staff at the assisted living and memory care facilities loved her, too. Her happy tail spoke louder than words.



Mr. Bandit

Terri J. Carruthers, Phoenix, AZ

Years of Service: 10

What an exciting journey! So many faces and places at Banner University Medical Center, rehab, Arizona American Red Cross, and special events. We made so many memories, sharing, caring, and touching hearts. Not just a dog but a special friend – owned and loved by Terri, Paul and Miss Cuddles.

Nala

Kara Norton, Jonesboro, AR

Years of Service: 6.5

Nala has an infectious personality that can move mountains. A natural skill, intelligence and empathetic nature that brings peace to the geriatric population. Her kindness and devotion allowed her to help hundreds of people over the years in rehab facilities. She plans to retire with tennis balls by the pool.



Rachel Louise

Annie Sitton, Charleston, SC

Years of Service: 13

Rachel Louise was born February 17, 2009, at Charleston Animal Society (CAS) after her pregnant mother was rescued from a puppy mill. Rachel Louise volunteered at Charleston's schools' Woof to Read program, receiving the "Volunteer of the Year" award in 2014. She did summer camp programs, including CAS's Bark Camp.



Corduroy

Maria Kelson, Hutchinson, KS
 Years of Service: 2
Corduroy was adopted from Colorado Cell Dogs at two years old. He once won Waggiest Tail at a local pet expo. He became a therapy dog at 13 and loved visiting with children at Read to Rover. Now he's 15 and looking forward to reading at home.

Bentley

Lynda Oester, Charlotte, NC
 Years of Service: 8
Bentley, a Mini Schnauzer, born on November 14, 2011, began his journey as a therapy dog eight years ago working at a memory care facility. Nurses would call on him because of his unique bond with patients when challenges would arise. He was always loving and gentle with his patients.

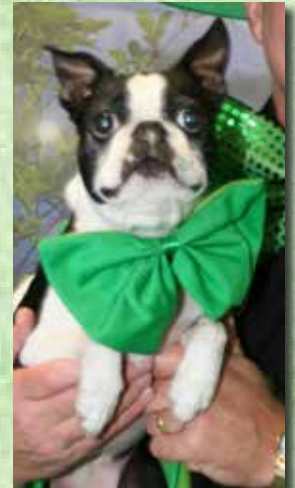


Jenna

Loma Gaulke, Maribel, WI
 Years of Service: 11
A dear friend referred us to ATD. Jenna passed the test with ease, proudly volunteering at several nursing homes. My little 5-pound girl spread smiles and joy wherever we went. She'd prance down the halls like she knew exactly where she was going, bringing cheer to many lonely people.

Kallie

Rev. Shellie K. Pinner, Runnemede, NJ
 Years of Service: 13
Kallie spent 13 years visiting through two therapy organizations. Her loving, gentle demeanor, and joy of "dressing up" have endeared her to the five senior living facilities she's visited monthly. Kallie has now become visually impaired, but even in retirement, she'll always have the heart of a therapy dog!



Toree

Carol Magargee, Greenville, PA
 Years of Service: 9
Born Christmas 2011, she was a gift to everyone she met. Osteosarcoma and dilated cardiomyopathy ended her therapy career. Toree's therapy work covered: Paws Hand Delivery, American Red Cross K-9 Therapy Action Team, Hope Animal Assisted Crisis Response Team, St. Paul's Senior Living Community, schools, and funeral homes.

Finn

Cathy Robbins, West Bradenton, FL
 Years of Service: 6
Finn, a rescue, became an amazing therapy dog for the patients and staff at our local hospital. He provided so much comfort to everyone he encountered, especially during the pandemic. Now 9, it's time to hang up the red heart. He is retired, living the good life in Florida.





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.

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."



Chase

Michelle Brownell, Deerfield, IL
7/11/15-12/2/22 | Years of Service: 5
Chase was born for therapy work. Chase spent his last few months bringing comfort to many of the first responders after the July 4th parade shooting in Highland Park, Illinois. The memory of the love and kindness he had in his heart will always be a blessing.



Sophie

Kathleen and Gerald Fisher,
Milledgeville, GA | Years of Service: 5
Sophie was a beautiful therapy dog who drew both the old and young to her with their hands eager to reach out to pet and hug! She welcomed everyone with such a gentle spirit. Along with sisters Celeste and Jasmine, we will miss Sophie, more than words can adequately express.



Georgie

James A. Smith, Middleburg, PA
Unknown-2/16/23 | Years of Service: 5
Georgie went over the Rainbow Bridge on Thursday, February 16, 2023. He served 12 years as a therapy dog and did over 1,500 visits from Middleburg, Pennsylvania.



Earnest T

Phyllis Burress Pence, Marshall, IL
8/29/10-3/2/23 | Years of Service: 11½
Earnest T was well known for his personality. He loved "working" at the public library in Marshall. He also visited nursing homes, group homes, schools, churches, birthday parties and a Mother-Daughter Banquet with his mum. Thank you so much for bringing so much joy to his life.



Vixen

Anthony Benade, Bradenton, FL
1/1/09-3/13/23 | Years of Service: 10
Until a few weeks before her passing, Vixen was active at the Sarasota Humane Society, as she would attend special functions for the children's day camps. She loved being with young children. She has brought smiles and joy to so many over the years. She will be greatly missed.



Gus

Karen Caldwell, Davenport, IA
6/15/07-3/30/23 | Years of Service: 14
Gus was a very sweet, loving dog who brought joy to all, whether human or canine. They all loved him too. The staff at our veterinary office would each exclaim, "Gus is here!" whenever we would arrive at the clinic. He will be missed.

Forrest

Donna Wilt, Glendale, AZ
4/17-4/23 | Years of Service: 6
Forrest loved everyone he met and breakfast. He served in hospice, memory care and skilled nursing. He was the Arizona Special Olympics Self-Soothing Pet Therapy Station, marched with Custer County (Colorado) Girl Scouts, and enjoyed Buckeye H.S. special needs students.

**Bentley**

Linda Berdine, Lewes, DE
1/24/12-5/12/23 | Years of Service: 10
Our Big Gentle Bentley gave us the gift of his gentle soul and calming nature. He enriched our lives with his unconditional love, walks on the beach, and always greeting us with a ball or bone in his mouth. You will always live in our hearts, Ben Boy.

**Lily**

Barbara Stoppenhagen, Peoria, IL
7/23/09-5/11/23 | Years of Service: 10
Lily was the last of our k9crew3. She was our sweet little "princess" who was confident and smart. She would strut to show off her beautiful white hair, and have people marvel at how pretty she was. She loved attention, being held, and cuddled. She will be missed so much!

**Brody**

Sue Smith, Haskins, OH
5/10/08-5/19/23 | Years of Service: 10
In Brody's 10 years of service, we visited schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and a residential center for at-risk teens. We would walk into a room and Brody would take me to the person who needed him the most. He was an angel on earth with four paws.

**Gizmo**

Katie Grant
12/19/09-3/13/23 | Years of Service: 10
Gizmo worked with Katie in her private practice counseling office, helping people of all ages heal from trauma in connection with safety and calm. Most of all, Gizmo was Katie's grounding force so she was able to help others. Gizmo left a legacy of love.

**Keanu**

Arles and Joe Love, Rockford, IL
10/1/10 | Years of Service: 4
Miss Keanu crossed the Rainbow Bridge with her family by her side. The first Border Collie to earn AKC's Supreme Therapy Dog Title and ended her career with 735 visits. She was honored by the Illinois State Senate, Congresswoman Cheri Bustos and Senator Tammy Duckworth.

**Kes**

Ezell Fox, Grand Island, NE
2/4/12-06/12/23 | Years of Service: 5
AKC CH Gallants Top Story V Ciden, CGC PTH was one of a kind. A sweet and loving soul, whom I'm grateful to have had as my teammate. When I put on her collar, she would immediately know we were going to visit our 'special friends.' They all loved her!

Freya

Dean Sever, Pinellas Park, FL
2/28/15-6/16/23 | Years of Service: 3
Goddess of Love, thank you for the great life, peace and acceptance you gave everyone you came in contact with, demonstrating an agape-type love to the fullest. We know you are now in the Shelter of God's care at peaceful rest.

**Star**

Linnea & Robert Saputo, Ocala, FL
12/08/08-3/19/23 | Years of Service: 13
Star was a wonderful therapy dog who loved everyone and everything. She raised six puppies – those of which became therapy dogs. Her eyes would light up each time we took her to the orphanage, hospital, and hospice. She will be sorely missed.

**Sassie**

Linnea & Robert Saputo, Ocala, FL
6/22/12-5/6/23 | Years of Service: 10
Sassie was a 10¾-inch Sheltie with the personality the size of a giant. She excelled in everything she did – obedience, agility and therapy dog activities. Sassie captured the heart of everyone she met. Until we meet again at the Rainbow Bridge. Godspeed.

**Josie**

Julie Lentz-Andrus, Oconomowoc, WI
3/20/12-2/11/23 | Years of Service: 10
Josie was the best therapy dog, always enticing people to pet her with those sweet eyes and wagging tail. She also enjoyed helping with testing and observing new prospective therapy dog members. Josie and I were active in agility until the day she unexpectedly passed away. Miss you!

**Dharma**

Julie Lentz-Andrus, Oconomowoc, WI
6/26/08-4/24/23 | Years of Service: 14
Dharma was a sweet little sheltie that loved visiting with people at the assisted living home, adults with developmental disabilities, and kids at the library. She also was my partner in agility and a feisty flyball Iron Dog. She will forever be missed by many. Love you!



Hugger

Mary Jane Bowe, Emmaus, PA
12/31/09-6/7/23 | Years of Service: 11
Hugger was and always will be my cherished friend and companion. We visited hospitals, residential facilities, private homes, schools (Tail Wagging Tutor) and church functions. Hugger intuitively knew when a situation needed her quiet, gentle nature – providing warm, loving snuggles.



Legend

Jared Wadley, Jordan Wadley and Devin Wadley, Ypsilanti Township, MI
4/11/10-5/28/23 | Years of service: 9
A former show dog, Legend seamlessly transitioned into therapy work. He selflessly served with three ATD members, including two junior handlers. Gentle. Patient. Loyal. Smart. Thank you for being a wonderful collie ambassador. You are dearly missed.



Ricky

Susanna Spencer, Madison, VA
1/1/10-7/3/23 | Years of Service: 11
I retired Ricky at the end of 2022. Ricky was on his way to the shelter when we were asked to adopt him. So glad we did! He brought a lot of joy to people during his 11 years as a therapy dog – mainly listening to children read.



Paige

Alexandra Penny, Bellevue, NE
11/17/15-5/20/23 | Years of Service: 2
A retired racing greyhound, Paige's loving personality and ability to look into your eyes melted the hearts and souls of those she met. She brought joy and smiles to the neighborhood children and the residents she would visit in hospice care, memory support units and assisted living.



Arlo

Denise Cahalan, Oro Valley, AZ
3/09-7/23 | Years of Service: 12
I was lucky to adopt Arlo as a "career changed" dog from Guide Dogs for the Blind. Known for his gentle spirit and wiggle butt, Arlo especially enjoyed visiting the hospital with his brother, Kale. I'm truly blessed to have had him in my life. He is missed every day.



Bindi

Marci Vanover, Lawton, OK
12/30/10-7/11/23 | Years of Service: 4
Bindi came to therapy work with Paws With Love late in life, but took it very seriously. Reading with kids at the library was perfect for her. She loved the kids and staff and was always happy to see them. Her wings were ready, but my heart was not.



Pierre

Madge Healy, Stafford, VA
6/15/09-5/04/23 | Years of Service: 10
Pierre loved being a therapy dog and was a happy pappy! His service included 400 hours and over 200 visits. But his favorite activity was "PAWS for Reading" with children at libraries. Pierre made thousands of friends who will miss him. We will love you forever our precious Pierre!



Jo Jo

Barbara Joyce, Jacksonville, FL
7/26/09-2/3/23 | Years of Service: 5
Jo Jo was the gentlest Toy Poodle who loved to be around people. He was a community hospice therapy dog who visited daycare and 24-hour homes for Alzheimer patients. He brought joy and comfort to any path he crossed. He was always fully dress in different outfits for the occasion.



Clancey

Jack and Jackie Wood, Jackson, TN
4/17/09-7/17/23 | Years of Service: 10
After a show career, Clancey, a wheaten Cairn terrier, joined our family. He soon certified as a therapy dog, visiting nursing homes, colleges, hospitals, and libraries. Full of terrier sweetness and vinegar, he brought delight and comfort to those he visited. His memory will be cherished.



Shadow

Patricia Krause, Phenix City, AL
3/14/05-7/13/23 | Years of Service: 4
Shadow visited nursing homes, Alzheimer's units, hospice, rehabilitation units, Autistic Learning Center, and schools over 16 years. He was sensitive to the needs of whomever he visited, a great listener, and loved to listen to the children read to him. He was gentle, sweet, loving, and deeply loved.



Zena

Jonnie and Chuck Haldt, Beaufort, SC
1/26/14-7/2/23 | Years of Service: 8
Zena was a beautiful standard Poodle, both inside and out. She brought comfort and love on over 400 visits. An outstanding ambassador for her breed.



Sammy

Ina Dunlap, Eugene, OR
12/12/11-6/29/23 | Years of Service: 3
Sammy loved people. He greeted everyone with enthusiasm. He brought smiles wherever we went. He enjoyed the hospital, the airport and R.E.A.D. He had a special place in his heart for the youth in Serbu Juvenile Detention. They were his final visit. We miss his smile and his cuddles.

Max

Calvin Slawson, Miami, FL
 8/24/16-7/13/23 | Years of Service: 4½
Max was born to be a therapy dog. He enjoyed his visits at the hospital and cancer center. He visited schools and was a hit every time he visited. He had the keen ability to sense when he was. He will be forever in our hearts and prayers.

**Ginger**

Carol Hall, Erie, PA
 1/08-4/23 | Years of Service: 10
Ginger loved visiting at the VA hospital and nursing homes.

**Darla**

Lynn Goldfarb, West Hartford, CT
 3/26/11-6/14/23 | Years of Service: 9+
A beloved therapy and R.E.A.D. dog, CH Cobblestone's Heart to Heart CGC THDX made 380 visits to schools, libraries, colleges, seniors, individuals, and the bereaved. My gentle "heart dog," sweet Darla, adored children of all abilities. The first slice of banana will always be hers.



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