

# Alliance of **THERAPY DOGS**

NEWSMAGAZINE



Spring/Summer 2024



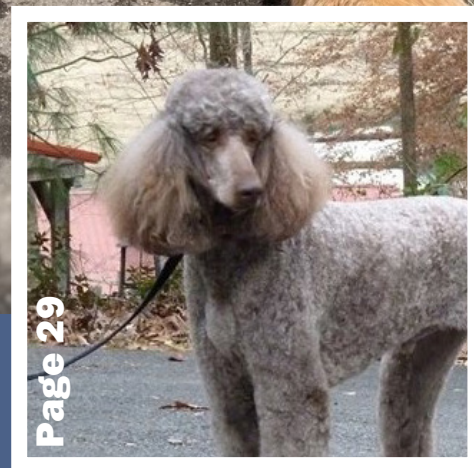
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### **Magazine Editors:**

Don Vaughan  
Jared Wadley

### **Graphic Designers:**

Courtney Roberts  
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.

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*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.*

## **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.

### **Prepare to renew:**

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

### **Time to renew:**

- You can go to [www.therapydogs.com](http://www.therapydogs.com) to renew online. Sign into the member portal. Your username is your email address, and your initial password (if you have not changed it) is your member number.
- 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](mailto:office@therapydogs.com).



# Alliance of Therapy Dogs

## Officers

### President

**Kimberly Williams**  
Kearney, NE

### Vice President

**Don Vaughan**  
Kasson, MN

### Secretary

**Laurie Schlossnagle**  
Conway, SC

### Treasurer

**Sandy Schiller**  
Raleigh, NC

## Directors

**Monica Callahan**  
North Charleston, SC

**Pat Coglianesi**  
Rock Hill, SC

**Stefanie Giese-Bogdan**  
River Falls, WI

**Cris Lewis**  
Neenah WI

## Board Advisors

### Executive Director

**Amy Brockel**  
Cheyenne, WY

### Immediate Past President

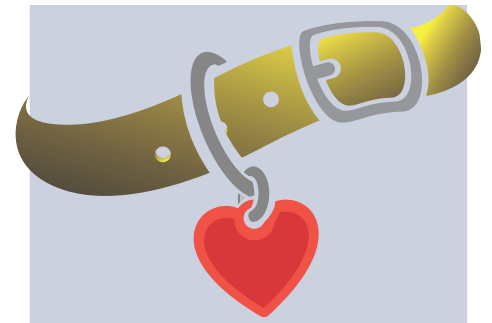
**Pat Coglianesi**  
Rock Hill, SC

### Past President

**Jane Hirsch**  
Mt. Pleasant, SC

### Past President

**Teri Meadows**  
Golden, CO



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](mailto:office@therapydogs.com)

Website: [www.therapydogs.com](http://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.**



# Spring 2024 President's Message

It's hard to believe ATD's fiscal year 2023-2024 is coming to an end on June 30. Spring is a unique season for ATD. Some of our Directors are leaving the Board, and their expertise and insights will be greatly missed. However, this means that new Directors will bring fresh ideas and perspectives to the next term. The new term will begin with the annual Board of Directors meeting in July in Cheyenne, Wyoming. One of the unique benefits of meeting in Cheyenne is the opportunity to personally visit our office and the wonderful ATD staff.

In Cheyenne, I will be stepping down from the role of President. Alliance of Therapy Dogs is a great source of pride for me. I fell in love with ATD's purpose and became a member in 2005 - every year since has been a journey of change and growth. I've been honored to serve as President, succeeding Pat Coglianesse in 2021. However, it is now time for me to pass the baton to the capable hands of Don Vaughan with Cris Lewis as Vice President. You may know Don as the Lead Editor of the ATD Newsmagazine and current Vice President. Don has been a part of ATD since December of 2002, joining the Board in 2016. Cris Lewis also joined ATD in of 2002 and was selected to the ATD Board in 2021. She is Chair of the Grievance and Ethics Committee.

Have you checked out the ATD Facebook page and YouTube channel lately? Even if you don't use social media on a regular basis, both are excellent sources for current ATD information. Two recent YouTube videos are Changes in the 2024 Member Handbook and a recording of a live webinar, Advocating for Your Dog. Blogs on social media and the ATD website cover a wide range of topics, from general to more specific information, including "How to Give Bad News" and "Loose Leash Walking."

Even though I will remain on the Board for one more year, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the lessons learned while serving as President. I want to thank the volunteers, donors, facilities, past and present Directors, Past Presidents, former Executive Director Billie Smith, current Executive Director Amy Brockel, and the dedicated ATD staff who have been so willing to share in my personal and professional development. Each of you has contributed to ATD's growth into the strong organization it is today. It has been an honor to serve the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. I'm looking forward to seeing what the next year brings!



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



# ATD Merchandise



ATD tags,  
vests, ties,  
collars,  
leashes,  
leash sleeves  
& bandanas

ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS  
Sharing Smiles and Joy  
www.therapydogs.com



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/](http://www.ATDmerch.Myshopify.com/)  
 if you have not set up your shopify account email [office@therapydogs.com](mailto:office@therapydogs.com) to request an invite.  
 We also provide give away items for booths or events.  
 Email [office@therapydogs.com](mailto:office@therapydogs.com) to request free items for your next event.

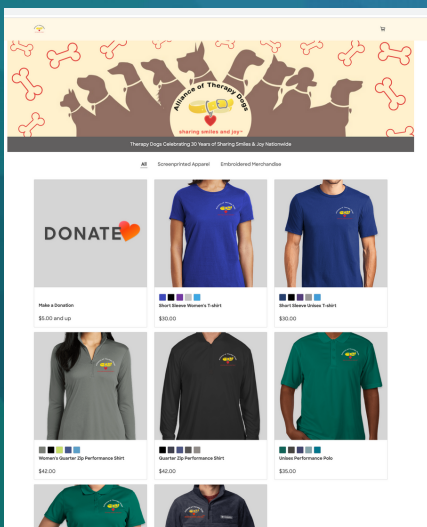
# Bookmarks, lanyards, magnets, stickers, pins & patches



# 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.







# ATTENTION TESTER/OBSERVERS

Have you ever considered joining the Board of Directors?

The ATD Board is an active working board, not simply an advisory board, and is responsible for implementing the strategy and policies of our organization. The anticipated volunteer commitment by each successful applicant includes:

- **10-15 hours per week.**
- **In-person attendance at the multi-day Annual Board Meeting in July each year.**
- **Virtual attendance at a one-day Midyear Board Meeting.**
- **Review and response to emails within three business days.**

## 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?

### Did you answer yes?

If you are a Tester/Observer, we would love to have you apply to be elected to the Board of Directors.

If you are interested in applying, please contact the ATD Office.  
When there is an opening, an announcement will be made via the  
T/O Egroup and an email blast.

307-432-0272 or 877-843-7364 • office@therapydogs.com  
www.therapydogs.com



## Notes from the ATD Office:

The staff of Alliance of Therapy Dogs greatly appreciate the positive impact our members have on the communities in which they live. The five staff that work in the Cheyenne, Wyoming, office do so because we believe in ATD's mission and we take pride in the indirect impact we have in making therapy visits possible.

We are excited to share that in the last year our members logged a total of 254,046 visits. We estimate that each visit encounters roughly 12 individuals, meaning our teams shared smiles and joy with more than three million people in 2023. That is an incredible impact our volunteers are having across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. We hope our members continue to meet the visit requirement and log a minimum of one visit every three months to keep their account up-to-date and remain in good standing.

When the ATD Office is being particular and detailed on paperwork and requirements, we are ensuring the paperwork is in line with what our Board and insurance provider have asked us to collect so they can extend liability coverage to our members while they are volunteering on behalf of ATD. Please review and ensure all renewal and application documents are complete and up to date before the paperwork is sent to the office. Doing so expedites your paperwork and turnaround time on renewals and applications. Please help us, help you.

The staff works hard to keep up with requests and get things resolved quickly. With that said, we are

human. We do have hard days. We have days when employees are out sick and there are instances when we encounter unexpected delays that slow down the ability to get our work done. We'd love for our members to understand that working at our small, but mighty, office can be an exhausting job at times, but we are here for it. We have found that many members are not aware there are nearly 18,000 ATD teams and only five staff. Knowing that, we would ask everyone to be respectful and professional in making requests. We are happy to help and will as soon as we can.

If our staff had one favor to ask our members, it would be to become more familiar with the important information in their Member Handbook. Many members are remiss in knowing that the ATD Rules and Regulations govern how members must conduct themselves as ATD representatives. Failure to adhere to the ATD Rules and Regulations will jeopardize your membership and nullify the liability insurance policy.

Lastly, our staff would like to remind members that the ATD member portal is a great resource. There are handbooks, documents, videos, membership cards, renewal forms and more available to you 24 hours a day. If you don't know how to access your portal, reach out to the Office – we are happy to help. Thank you for all the good our members contribute to the world. We hear some incredible stories about the individuals you visit and we are proud to support the work you do.



# 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 (T/O).

T/Os are role models for Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) 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.

The main purpose of the T/O role is to assess the skills of teams seeking certification and coach prospective and current members. The T/O provides constructive and encouraging feedback that helps teams (both the handler and the dog) improve their skills and confidence in providing animal-assisted activities or therapy. ATD has the following expectations of its T/Os:

- Abide by the ATD and T/O Code of Ethics.
- Be a role model and follow all current ATD rules and guidelines as an example to handlers and prospective members.
- Review the Member and T/O Handbooks yearly and incorporate any changes into their practices.
- Follow current Certification Guidelines as outlined in the T/O Handbook.
- Coach prospective and existing members on following all current ATD rules. Do not criticize them but inform them so they understand ATD rules and guidelines and have the opportunity to make changes. If coaching is ignored, contact the ATD Office for guidance.

In addition, 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:

- Interaction on various levels with a 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.
- Training dogs for performance venues such as obedience, agility or herding.
- Reading a variety of books by animal trainers and behaviorists and/or attending seminars on training and behaviors.
- Experience in teaching or assisting in teaching dog training classes.
- Fostering and rehoming dogs.

There are additional abilities that may qualify you as well, so please contact the ATD 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](http://www.therapydogs.com/MemberDocuments.html) or in your handbook)
- b. You may submit more than one photo, but usually only one will be selected for printing.
- c. We prefer that all photos submitted be high-resolution digital photos. Hard copy photographs are also acceptable.
- d. Please, no newspaper clippings or copies of such.

## 3. 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. Retired

- 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. Somewhere Over the Rainbow

- a. Photos must follow the above guidelines.
- b. Include the following: owner's/handler's name, dog's name, breed, date of birth, date of death and years of service.
- c. You may include a few lines (no more than 50 words) about the dog's service or special qualities, but we may need to edit it accordingly.
- d. Due to limited space, human obituaries are not published.

## Submission deadline dates are always February 15 and August 31

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

Send electronic submissions to [office@therapydogs.com](mailto:office@therapydogs.com).

Hard copies mail to ATD, PO Box 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 verified incident/accident or complaint filed against them which resulted in action taken by ATD
- 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.



## Alliance of Therapy Dog *Scholarship*

### ARE YOU

- An Alliance of Therapy Dogs member in good standing?
- Applying to an accredited college program?

### Yes? Apply for our scholarship today!

Send us your application, plus

- A letter of introduction telling us about yourself
- Institution's verification of acceptance
- Copy of your current transcript (within the past 10 years)
- Two letters of recommendation from non-family members. One from a facility visited by you and your therapy dog
- The completed Alliance of Therapy Dogs scholarship questionnaire (available on the website or by request from the office at [office@therapydogs.com](mailto:office@therapydogs.com)).

Scholarship winners will be notified by April 15.

Questions? [office@therapydogs.com](mailto:office@therapydogs.com) | [therapydogs.com](http://therapydogs.com)

This scholarship is awarded annually. Applicants must meet the above criteria. A portion of priority scholarship funding will be dedicated to qualified junior handlers.

# 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.

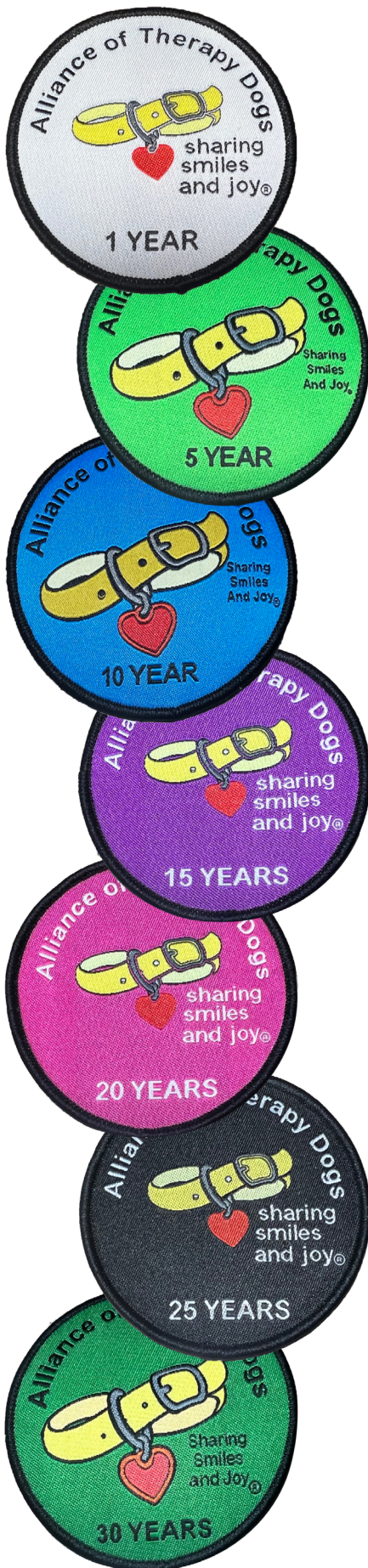
## Alliance of Therapy Dogs Visit Certificates

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/>.**





# 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.

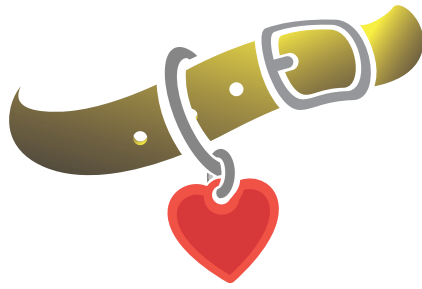
**Newsmagazine:** Choose and edit submissions and design the semi-annual newsmagazine.

**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.





## Ways to Donate to **Alliance of Therapy Dogs**

The easiest way to donate is to go to our website  
**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 (ATD) by donating to ATD’s Endowment. The ATD Board of Directors approved and established an endowment to ensure that ATD will have the foundation and funds to continue to support its volunteers for decades to come across our vast service area of the USA, Canada and Puerto Rico. This endowment is set up to accept donations from all over the world and in various forms, from cash and securities to real estate. Please contact the ATD Office if you have questions or if you would like to learn more about donating or about updating your estate plans to include Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

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 Stacy Shultz-Bisset



*This is not the end;  
it's just the beginning*

To give members a voice, the Alliance of Therapy Dogs (then Therapy Dogs, Inc.) produced a one-page newsletter in January 1991 that highlighted some teams.

The newsletter changed over the years, including becoming a 5x7 black-and-white newsmagazine in the 1990s with photos, obits, and recipes. By the early 2000s, it became a color publication designed by graphic artist Stacy Shultz-Bisset, who wanted the bi-annual magazine to reflect a modern feel.

"My expectation was to have a magazine that would have upbeat, inspiring content," Stacy said. "A publication where members could share their experiences and challenges."

More than 20 years later, after completing the magazine layout for hundreds of members' stories, obits, and news in more than 40 issues, Stacy is retiring from her role as the Newsmagazine's and Member and Tester/Observer Handbooks' graphic designer.

Actually, it's a double retirement. She is also leaving her professional job as manager of internal communications and printing at Laramie County Community College after 35 years of service.





*Pictured Above: Courtney Roberts*



"I can't thank Stacy enough for the approximately 20 years she has been helping with the Newsmagazine and Handbooks. It is greatly appreciated," said Don Vaughan, ATD Vice President and Newsmagazine lead editor.

Courtney Roberts, who also works at the college as a graphic designer, will take the reins, starting with the 2024 Spring/Summer issue. "She has a good eye for design," Stacy noted.

The transition to a new graphic designer should be seamless, both said.

"I'm so glad she will be there to answer any questions I may have, especially, on this first issue," Courtney added. "But I know if I have questions in the future she would be happy to help."

At this time, Courtney doesn't plan to make major changes to the magazine, but wants to maintain a feeling that continues "the mission and values with the dogs at the forefront." The handbooks may get a custom "therapy dogs" design element, she said.

After working in printing for 45 years, Stacy said the timing was ideal for a change.

"I am also looking forward to spending some time back east with my family," she explained.

What Stacy will remember most about the Newsmagazine -- which takes about 40 hours per issue to design -- is reading the inspiring content from members. And while she doesn't have a favorite story, what she liked was creating the Newsmagazine cover. She will treasure her time with the organization.

"I have enjoyed my time at ATD," Stacy said. "I have made some great friends. I hope, at some point, to have a dog who I can get back into visits with."







# Outstanding Member Award

## Winner



*twenty-twenty three*

grief. Joy is a wonderful example of the power of the human-animal bond and the incredible impact that connection can have on someone's life.

Each year, members nominate other members for The Alliance of Therapy Dogs Outstanding Member Award. The ATD Nominating and Awards Committee narrowed it down to three finalists and ATD members cast their votes to select the winner.

### *Other finalists:*

We are proud to announce the 2023 OMA winner is:

Daniel and Kathie Brusseau – ATD members since 2020, Daniel and Kathie are a husband and wife who made history with their Golden Retrievers, Dillion and Archie, as the first-ever airport therapy dog handlers in South Dakota. In addition, they selflessly dedicate countless hours of their time at nursing homes, Ellsworth Air Force Base, the American Red Cross and other locations, spreading joy and positivity wherever they go. Their commitment to supporting the health and wellness of veterans and servicemembers is quite impressive, as they drive 30-60 minutes one way, depending on what facility they visit. This can become a challenge during the winter months in South Dakota, but they strive to be there for the military community. The Brusseaus make a positive impact to our local heroes with every smile and every kindness shown to those who may never get visitors and who may miss their own pets. Since their visits to Ellsworth Air Force Base, there has been a decrease in safety violations, DUI violations, and violations of the Airman's Creed.



*Joy Belsley* – An ATD member since 2009, Joy and her shelties, currently Crosby and Cramer, have had a lasting, positive impact on Peoria, Illinois, and the surrounding communities. Joy and her shelties have visited countless patients, staff, and visitors at OSF Medical Center, brightening their days, easing their stress, and giving them a moment to forget their troubles. Not long into her volunteer work, Joy also became a preceptor and mentor to countless new certified therapy dog teams at OSF. Joy's impact on our community extends well beyond OSF. In 2011, Joy and her friend, Claire, conceived and created a therapy dog organization impacting not only Peoria, but also many other towns and communities in Central Illinois. Cleverly named "WOOF" for "We Offer Our Friends." Joy is passionate and dedicated to connecting therapy dogs – both hers and others – to people in times of happiness and joy, loneliness and stress, sadness and

Elise Mebel – A member since 2019 and a T/O since 2022, Elise epitomizes the pet therapy handler we all strive to be. Elise and her dog, Moosh, an Australian Shepherd, are incredibly active and consistent in their. A brilliant T/O, she is able to see the nuances in both dog and people behavior, point out what she observes and make clear recommendations for the teams on how best to safely and effectively visit. As a T/O, Elise stands out in her willingness to test, welcome, and mentor new teams. Elise has introduced pet therapy to multiple facilities, including assisted living, libraries, and hospice. She organizes group visits as well as managing her own visit schedule and her T/O responsibilities. In the past 15 months, she has organized more than 45 group visits that have made a huge difference in our community. Elise is extremely active and a true advocate for ATD. In fact, she is mentoring the next generation of handlers having now certified three junior handler teams this year.

# Board Meeting



On Sunday, January 28, the Alliance of Therapy Dogs Board of Directors, along with Executive Director Amy Brockel, met via Zoom for the annual Midyear Board Meeting. Discussion centered on strategic planning, ATD Committee assignments and the recruitment of new Board Directors.

Pictured: (Top Row) Stefanie Giese-Bogdan, Vice President Don Vaughan and Secretary Laurie Schlossnagle. (Second Row) President Kim Williams, Kat Walthers and Executive Director Amy Brockel. (Third Row) Treasurer Sandy Schiller, Monica Callahan and Pat Coglianesse. (Bottom Row) Cris Lewis.





# What's Wrong?



This photo has been staged by ATD members. Can you find what's wrong with this photo?  
See Page 28 for the answers.



**Scenario:** Handler Kim has been invited by a hotel chain to visit their hotel guests and staff with therapy dog Emme. Kim is checking in at the lobby front desk for their visit, but the attendant is not currently available, so she's waiting for their arrival. Kim and Emme are approached by hotel guest, Laurie, because she adores beagles!



# Avery Greenberg's Perspective as a Junior Handler

To be a role model means to inspire others through charismatic behavior, goal-oriented mindsets, and genuine values. As high school students, we are told to lead by example and set the standards of success for our generation. However, throughout high school I have learned that success cannot be achieved by a good report card or high ACT score, but through partaking in influential, fulfilling, and service-led activities. Volunteering used to feel like a box to check before graduation, but since becoming a member of the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, volunteering has turned into a hobby that has shaped my values and taught me lessons that I am extremely grateful for.

On Thursdays, my English Golden Retriever, Cash, and I visit a local memory care facility. This facility is home to elderly residents with Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease. We assist the staff with their daily activities and partake in one-on-one visits with the residents. There is one resident in particular who has developed a relationship with Cash. She tells me about her childhood growing up in Brooklyn, New York, and how her parents surprised her with a dog who became her guardian and best companion. As she pets Cash, her face lights up and stories of her childhood dog named "Chi Chi" fill the surrounding room. Another resident we visit always comments on the unusual white color of Cash's fur. This resident tells me the story of how she and her brother surprised their mother, who was afraid of dogs, with a puppy who followed them home from school every day. These individuals have lived successful and accomplished lives, yet some of their most treasured stories are of their childhood dogs. Volunteering has taught me to treasure every moment with Cash, even when I am bathing him and spending an hour alone blow drying his thick coat of fur!

We recently began volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House, which provides housing and resources for families whose children are receiving treatment at the nearby hospital. One of the most memorable visits was when Cash and I were sitting in the lobby and a little boy came in who had been discharged from the hospital after being there for three months. The first people he saw as he walked in were me and Cash. As he pet Cash, he told me about the puppy he was getting when he got home. What touched me the most was that even after going through months of treatment, he was the most enthusiastic and high-spirited one in the room. It was so beautiful to see how the simple interaction brought so much excitement, as the boy envisioned himself sitting the same way as he was with Cash, petting his future puppy.

While I am unable to fluently express every lesson and value I have been taught since beginning volunteering, I can articulate the fact that I am beyond fortunate to have the opportunity to engage in such meaningful and influential activities. While legally I am not yet an adult, I can say that I have experienced and learned what most adults have not and may not have the chance to experience in their lifetime. I am grateful that the Alliance of Therapy Dogs trusts and creates opportunities for high schoolers to develop profound values and unique experiences.

*--Avery Greenberg, Orlando, FL*



I AM A  
THERAPY  
DOG

**"Volunteering used to feel like a box to check before graduation, but since becoming a member of the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, volunteering has turned into a hobby that has shaped my values and taught me lessons that I am extremely grateful for."**





# Rule 18.

## Walking the dog in a facility

**Location:** The end of a narrow hallway where a heavy self-closing door on the left opens inward for access to the lobby.

The dog and I are headed down the hallway toward the lobby. Ahead of us a staff worker escorting a child is also heading for the lobby. The worker opens the lobby door and the pair step into the doorway and stop. In the hallway I have paused a few steps away to wait for our turn. Still standing in the doorway, the worker turns toward the child awkwardly, one outstretched arm still holding open the door. Thinking the pair would clear the doorway and knowing that I would have to catch and hold the door anyway for our own exit, I step forward with some sort of "I'll get that." comment. I stretch out my arm and grab the outer edge of the door. Now I'm behind the pair, sideways in the hallway with my back to the wall opposite the open door. The worker releases the door and turns their full attention to the child. It is from this vantage point that I realize that the pair are not moving because the child is quietly vomiting. This is atypical vomiting. There is no warning before each wave erupts and the child makes no attempt to contain or direct the flow. Vomit is flowing in various streams down the child and is being splashed about in random directions.

I look over to check on my dog. Fortunately, he is near my leg and close to the wall I have my back to. But I notice a clear unidentified puddle not far from his feet. By chance I had stepped over this puddle. I shorten the leash to bring him even closer to me and put my foot out to gently confine him between my leg and the wall, so he won't wander out into the situation.

I look back to the scene. Now there are several staff workers darting about the area from the hallway and from the lobby. The sick child remains squarely in the open doorway and is now surrounded by expanding puddles and a wide variety of splashes. The scurrying staff workers are busy containing and managing the situation. I'm still standing with my back to the wall holding open the door.

I feel movement by my leg and look to check on my dog. He has taken my immobility as a signal to take a power nap. I make a feeble attempt to keep him standing but he slides down to the floor anyway. Thankfully (and uncharacteristic of him) all his limbs remain under him; he hasn't



# Notify a staff member if help is needed.

stuck a foot into any puddles or into traffic. Only his tail, now on the floor, is in mild danger but it is close to the wall and there is nothing I can do to protect him in this moment.

I look back to the scene. A staff worker is standing close by dispensing paper towels. I point out the puddle near the dog and ask for it to be dealt with so the dog won't step in it. I look up from this and now the mother arrives from the lobby. She stands near the child and begins to assess the situation. She is standing in the doorway between the child and the open door. Seeing my opportunity for escape I let the door gently close against her shoulder. The flustered mother looks at me as she feels the weight, I make some sort of "You got this?" comment as I nod toward the door and although I feel guilty, I let the door go anyway.

I turn and step back to the dog. Leaning over him, I carefully guide him straight up into a standing position watching to avoid the various puddles and the traffic. I then carefully back him up along the wall several feet until we are clear of the commotion. We then hurriedly distance ourselves from the situation.

**Conclusion:** Of course, I would never help a patient or a staff worker, even if asked, that seems so obvious to me. I would never do that. But this one moment of catching the door put me and the dog in the very center of a chaotic situation we had no business being in. I was just being polite, being thoughtful. No. There wasn't even any thought, it was just a reaction. I never realized how even just a polite reaction can turn into a situation! Fortunately, everything turned out fine. This time. For us, the entire incident lasted only seconds, probably less than a minute. But the dog could have been accidentally stepped on or kicked by someone who didn't see him. Or one or both of us could have been splashed with vomit.

I don't want to be rude, but now instead of stepping in, I practice giving a polite "Let me get someone to help."

**Moral:** Rule 18 also applies to being "polite," but following this rule keeps you and your dog out of trouble.

*--Lisa Wright, Houston, TX*





# A Bond Like No Other



Therapy dogs are special and have endearing traits. The training that goes into developing these extraordinary dogs is unique to each therapy organization. The dogs must be agreeable to working with different types of people in varied situations and places.

Their handlers are remarkable people. Both handler and dog give their time to bring happiness to others.

A therapeutic encounter might only last a few minutes. But the beneficial result cannot be measured by the minute, instead by the smiles and joy seen on their faces.

The bond between humans and these working dogs is complex. Not only must the dog understand the handler, but the dog also must relate well to the people he or she meets.

I have been with my cavalier therapy dog, Britan, for over eight years. He exemplifies the kind of dog that does therapy work. As a young dog, he was obedient, playful, loving, and eager to please.

After his training to become a Canine Good Citizen, he started work. At just two years old, he seemed to like his job. It took him a while to learn the process, but today he is almost perfect. I say "almost" because he has a personality like no other. Unusual as it is for a cavalier, he is not a Velcro dog. He is quite selective, and he lets you know when he is not comfortable with his surroundings or with some people. To show his reluctance, he will gently back away. What he is thinking, I cannot surmise; but I never push him to get closer if he is not okay with doing so.

Initially, when I went to a breeder and told her of my intent to do therapy dog work, she encouraged me to take Britan. Britan's father had been a therapy dog. What a good choice to get Britan! His personality matches the job.

At home he is a perfect gentleman. He doesn't interfere with our mealtime and sits quietly nearby, not begging for food. Of course, he would gladly take our meals if we let him. Our other two



cavaliers sometimes make mischief, but Britan continues to obey the rules.

He loves to be with me but is not clingy. He and I understand each other's needs. As I mentioned, cavaliers are known to be Velcro dogs, but Britan doesn't follow the trend. He likes his alone time.

When it is time to do his job as a therapy dog, he steps right up. He is ready to bring smiles to all he meets.

Britan has favorite clients at the assisted living facility that we visit each week, but he interacts well with all.

His facial expressions and wagging tail tell a lot about his feelings at each place we visit. When we're at the library, he probably does not know what book the kids are reading to him. But he sits by the children, occasionally looking at the pages in the book they are reading, patiently waiting for a pat or two. He connects easily with kids anywhere, such as at the airport and school.

At the end of his workday, he is tired. When we get home, he goes to the bedroom or his favorite cubby to chill. I know he needs this rest time. He knows I understand that he must recharge. Any day on which he has given time and love to others always ends with a positive theme.

Britan and I are a team. We are in sync with each other, and he is my biggest supporter in times of need.

When I injured my knee and was in bed for six weeks. Britan was there. He knew something was wrong because I couldn't walk him, play with him, or take him places with me. He spent most of his time on the bed next to me during those weeks. Although he isn't a snuggle dog, he was not far from my side. I think he knew the pain I was feeling and just wanted to be a comfort in his own way.

When I go out of the house for errands, or to places he is not allowed, my return is greeted by cries of joy. He does often

accompany me to some stores and the hair salon, where he is always welcomed. The car is one of his favorite places. That's because he knows he is going to be with me wherever I go. Who could ask for more?

The relationship I have with him transcends many others. He gives and doesn't ask for much in return. His presence tells all. This bond is special. Others who are lucky to have dogs know it.

My goal each day is to love him and be supportive and nurturing. In return, Britan gives back in the same way.

*Therapy dogs  
rock!*

*--Barbara J. Peters, Alpharetta, GA*





## Where did Angel come from?

I get all kinds of questions about Angel. Today, I must admit, was a new one.

Most often people ask:  
Her age, she was 3 years, December 28.

What breed? Full Golden Retriever, all though her coat is snowy white with gold tinges. A Golden's coat can range from as red as an Irish Setter to as white as a Great Pyrenees. Some people call them English Crème.

What does she eat? We feed her a popular brand of dog food because so far, it has never been recalled. When I'm trying to teach her something new, I give her treats to make it fun. If it is something really difficult, I increase the treat value to something like hotdogs.

Where did she come from? She came from 4 Paws for Ability, located in Xenia, OH, a nonprofit that raises service dogs for kids with special needs and vets. After reading the book *The Underdogs* by Melissa Fay Greene, I immediately signed up to be a volunteer. I spent hours of volunteer work sitting in a room full of puppies, socializing them.

I decided to commit more so I volunteered to be a foster for a year and took Angel (her first name was Merry from the Snow Day Litter) home with me to raise her. 4 Paws provides all the food, equipment, vet costs, and training for me to train her.

That was a beautiful, but very difficult year, loving her fiercely and preparing to give her up. People often ask as they look at her with wonder, "How can you do that, give her up?"

The answer is complicated, after seeing these service

dogs literally save the lives of kids who have seizures or diabetes and alerting, how can I not?

After raising Merry/Angel and socializing her four times per week, she failed as a service dog. She loves people, as is evident on our therapy visits, but she doesn't like going to new places as is also evident in our therapy visits. For that reason, we do weekly visits at a mental health hospital and a school where kids are given one more chance to stay in school.

I was given the choice of buying/adopting her or putting her up for adoption.

People ask how did she get her name? I was reeling after her failed evaluation, and I was in my backyard talking to God about it. All of a sudden, she came streaking through the backyard at lightning speed and I laughed as I saw her, with the feathering on her legs and tail blazing behind her I thought she looked like an Angel. "She is yours," came the answer, dropped right into my soul.

I laughed and said, "Thank you, I will name her Angel because she will have a new job. She will be a therapy dog."

What does she like to do? She loves running and chasing squirrels as we live on a farm. She eats pears when they are ripe. She loves to wrestle Sky, a 4-year-old medium Golden. She loves Lucy the grey, mini donkey, she jumps up on her shoulder to lick her face.

Then the new question today was, "Is she chunky or fluffy?"

I answered, "She is fluffy, just like me."

--Terry Calico, Germantown, OH

*Alliance of Therapy Dogs*



# Angel Unaware

Something happened at the Kettering Health Behavioral Medical Center (KHBMC) that I hadn't seen before.

Each time we visit, Angel gets a little stronger. Even though she is still jumpy at the cleaning cart and ice machine, she has completely made friends with the medical chart/computer on wheels.

She was giving out lots of hugs and laughs.

We were in the second unit, where the illnesses are more severe. A lot of patients are brought here who have tried to harm themselves in so many ways - drugs, knives, ropes. I think this room has a weight, scent, color all its own. This is a harder place for us to be.

We were standing by the desk and the exit door when a tall young man, carrying a paper bag with his belongings headed our way, followed closely by an employee. He was obviously headed out. Usually, when other patients see this, they give well wishes.

Angel did something different. As he walked out of the open door toward a long hallway, she stood and came

along beside him and walked out, too. With my 4-foot leash, and outstretched arm, I caught up.

She matched him step for step, perfectly aligned, her shoulder to his knee and executed his unfaltering gate. Occasionally she looked up to check his face, but he did not look down. I don't think he knew she was there.

That is like us sometimes, we think we are alone, too.

I think angels walk beside us like that every day.

Know they are walking with us today like Angel was, walking along beside of and we are unaware.

He reached the exterior door and didn't look back. Angel stood there in that space, looking out at him, still caring about him, until he jumped in a car and drove off.

Angel wasn't alone either.

*--Terry Calico, Germantown, OH*



# Pawsitively Impactful:

## Two Families' Journey of Volunteerism with Therapy Dogs of ATD

*Written by Elise Mebel, friend and Tester/Observer, who had the honor of testing and now volunteering with all of these amazing dogs and humans.*

*San Luis Obispo, CA*



In the heart of our community of San Luis Obispo, California, two families stand out not just for their dedication to volunteerism but for the unique bond they share with their furry companions. Anna Bates and her 15-year-old son, Stevie, along with Stephanie Ruggerone and her granddaughter, Madison, have embarked on a remarkable journey as volunteers with Alliance of Therapy Dogs. What makes their story truly special is the intertwining roles of both humans and canines, forming bonds that transcend traditional volunteering.

Anna, Stevie, and their three ATD-certified Golden Retrievers (JoJo, Wayne, and Meli) epitomize the essence of family and service. Initially certified with JoJ in 2019, Anna's journey continued with certifying Wayne (who she bred) in 2022 and finally with her third Golden Meli in 2023. Stevie (15) as a junior handler, followed suit, and certified with JoJo himself. This dynamic duo represents not only the enduring love between a mother and son but also the shared passion for spreading joy and comfort through therapy dog visits.

Their story takes on an even more unique twist as they might just be ATD's only mother-son duo, both in human and canine capacities. The connection they share with JoJo and Wayne adds an extra layer of depth to their volunteer work, making their visits not just about providing therapy but also about family bonding and creating lasting memories.

Across town, Stephanie Ruggerone and her granddaughter Madison walk a similar path of volunteerism with their beloved therapy dogs, Sutter and Gandhi. Sutter (also JoJo's son bred by Anna and a littermate to Wayne) adds another dimension to the intertwined relationships within the ATD community. Stephanie and Madison, like Anna and Stevie, exemplify the power of familial bonds strengthened through shared experiences in volunteering.

Their dedication to service goes beyond just their immediate family. Stephanie's commitment to volunteering with her granddaughter showcases the importance of passing down values of compassion and empathy to future generations. Madison, at just 15 years old, carries on the legacy of volunteerism with grace and enthusiasm, certified as a junior handler with Sutter by her side.

Together, these two families are making a profound impact in their community, one therapy dog visit at a time. Their presence brings comfort to hospital patients, joy to nursing home residents, and smiles to children in schools. But it's not just about the therapy dogs; it's about the love, connection, and sense of purpose they bring to every interaction.

As Anna, Stevie, Stephanie, and Madison continue their volunteer journey, they serve as inspirations to others, showing that making a difference doesn't require grand gestures but rather small acts of kindness and genuine connections. Their story reminds us of the power of family, both human and canine, in creating positive change in the world around us.

*Photo 1 – JoJo with her sons Wayne (right) and Sutter (left).*

*Photo 2 - From left to right, Stephanie Ruggerone and Gandhi, her granddaughter Madison Ruggerone with Sutter, Stevie Bates with JoJo, Anna Bates with Wayne.*









# Happy's First Official Solo Therapy Dog Visit

Happy and I volunteered at the Friendship House in Santa Ynez, California, which is a home for those with Alzheimer's. I could have never imagined that our very first solo visit as a therapy dog team would turn out to be such an amazing and heartwarming experience.

The visit with the residents took place in a living room setting. There were couches, chairs, and a fireplace with a long hearth. There were about 15 residents, all waiting to meet Happy for the first time. Happy is a 3-year-old 5 lb. papillon with lots of personality and big, beautiful ears that look like butterfly wings, his ears always puts a smile on everyone's faces. Happy greeted all the residents one at a time. Once finished with his meet and greet, he performed some of his tricks. There was one lady that was not sitting, she was only pacing around the room. She was very frail, had no expression and no interaction with others. As she would pass by Happy, Happy would turn and go to her every time. She would stop for a brief moment and then return to her pacing. Some of the residents commented on the fact that Happy must really like her. We finished all our tricks, and Happy once again visited each resident, including the staff sitting on their laps as they quietly and gently petted him. I then sat down on the fireplace hearth with Happy on my lap to talk with everyone. Robbie, the activity

director sat down with us, leaving a space between us. The lady that was doing the pacing came over to Robbie. Robbie asked her if she would like to sit with us. She did not answer but allowed Robbie to very gently help her sit down between us. A couple of the residents commented on how they had never seen her sit down before. Robbie spoke very quietly to her, making comments about how cute Happy is and asked if she would like to pet him. Robbie gently took the lady's hand and placed it on Happy to pet him. At that point I asked Robbie "Should I put Happy on her lap?" Robbie said, "You can try." I placed Happy on her lap and within seconds tears were running down her face. I looked over at Robbie to see her getting up to get a tissue so she could wipe the tears from both of their eyes, now my eyes were tearing up as well. Robbie turned to the others in the room and said, "She is crying." Robbie then looked back at me and said, "This is a very good day." I believe that all the staff and residents realized what a special moment this was as they all sat quietly for about 10 minutes watching this lady with Happy. I can't put into words what a profound feeling it was for me to see this lovely woman's reaction to Happy. It was a very special moment for sure, one I will never forget.

At the time, I did not know her name, but now know



that this very special lady's name is Dawn. One week later, we made our second visit to the Friendship House. I took lots of props this time so that Happy could do some different tricks from the last visit. Dawn, the lady from last week, was there. When we finished our presentation, we sat down on the fireplace hearth as we did last time. Dawn once again sat down next to me and Happy. This time, when I put Happy on her lap, her reaction was a tear, a smile, and a laugh. Happy received some loving pets from her, which she did on her own, and I got a firm pat on my thigh with a smile. I believe that was her way of thanking us for being there.



The third visit was another week later. I took some agility equipment, three jumps, a set of six weave poles and a small tunnel. When I was setting it up, Dawn came walking into the room. All the others were already sitting and waiting. I was filling the floor space up with so much equipment there was not really any room left for Dawn to pace. When I looked in her direction, she had a smile on her face, she had stopped pacing and just stood there watching us. A staff member that had been on vacation when we were there prior came over and took Dawn's hand to lead her out of the room. Robbie, the activity director, quickly said no, she's fine. Robbie was sitting on a couch with another resident. She invited Dawn to sit with them and she did so with a big smile. Dawn sat there for an hour and 10 minutes with the biggest smile while Happy did some agility and visited with others in the room.

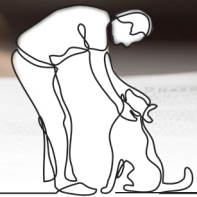
When it was Dawn's turn to have Happy visit her (I saved Dawn for last so she could have all the time she wanted with Happy), I put Happy on her lap. Her reaction was the cutest little giggle. She kept looking up at me and not looking down at Happy. I was not sure if she really knew he was there. Suddenly Happy started to slip off her lap and in a flash, she used both her hands to softly catch him. She knew he was there!

This has been such an amazing experience to watch Happy being such a light in someone's day. Together we have been able to create special moments in our life and the life of others, I look forward to future visits with the hope of brightening Dawn's day along with all of the other residents of the friendship house.

--Caryn Cantella, Santa  
Ynez, CA







# Dogs in the News

**Have your furry friends been in the news?  
We'd love to hear about it.**

**To submit your news, check out the guidelines on Page 7.**

## What's Wrong?



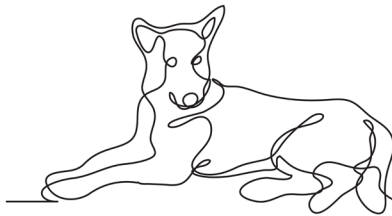
(from Page 16)

The rule being broken is :

### **VII. safety precautions**

39. Maintaining Control: during visits, always keep your eyes on your dog and work as a team to help people know the best way to interact with your dog. Immediately intervene if you see any signs of stress in your dog. Maintain control of your dog's head at all times. There are a number of ways to do this: including, but not limited to, hold your dog's collar, face your dog away from the person they are visiting, and/or gently hold your dog's face or chin.

# Retired



## Reggie

Terrylee West, Yadkinville, NC  
Years of Service: 7

Reggie-Boy has been a part of our community his entire life. He loved going to our Hospice Home and being with the families who were there. He visited our small hospital till it closed. Reggie is so well-loved around town by all the merchants and their clients.



## Roscoe

Stella L. Jones, Charleston, SC  
Years of Service: 7

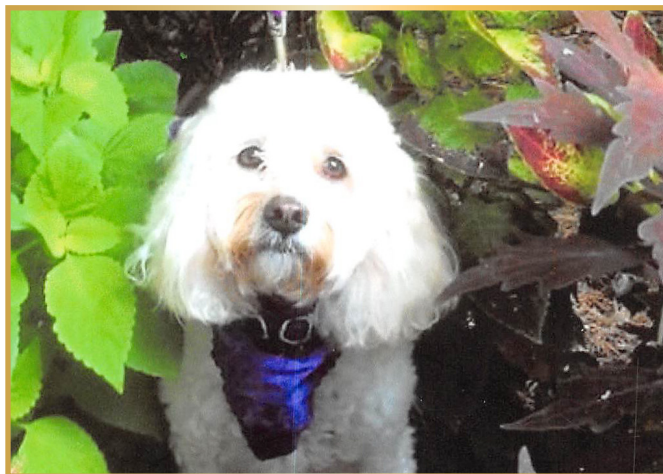
Roscoe came from Joplin, Missouri, in 2011 to the SPCA in Charleston, "Love at first sight." We became a therapy team in 2016. Visiting oncology, nursing, rehab facilities and bringing smiles and joy to all. Each day of Roscoe's life will be precious to me and Scarlett, "his sister."



## Clara

Natalie Torgeson, Augusta, ME  
Years of Service: 6

Clara had an amazing career as a therapy dog. Working primarily at the local hospital in the behavioral health unit, she knew how to "work a room." Going into the unit, she greeted everyone with tail wags and a happy face. She seemed to know who needed to see her.



## Ginger

Carolyn Dryden, Roscoe, IL  
Years of Service: 10

My stepson was a mentally challenged young man. Ginger absolutely loved his Special Olympic friends. That is helped me make the decision to have her become a therapy dog. She enjoyed visiting hospitals, house-bound cancer patients with dementia, the 911 unit and local police department, and children at the library.



*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

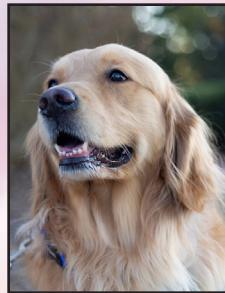
## Memorial Submissions

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."



### Ember

Len Jasuinas, Green Valley, CA  
6/1/09-9/9/23 | Years of Service: 3  
She faithfully visited memory care and hospice weekly for most of three years and made many people happy who ordinarily don't have a chance to get out of the facility or to interact with a dog. She was gentle and loved all ages.



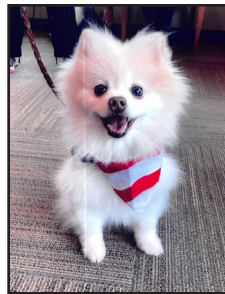
### Rosie

Susie Atcheson, Dallas, GA  
11/7/14-8/7/23 | Years of Service: 7  
Rosie was a wonderful therapy dog and companion, and brought smiles to the nursing home, R.E.A.D.ing with kids at the library, and participating in school functions. She was part of the therapy dog team at our local Juvenile Court spending countless hours with children at risk.



### Tiara

Jill Wright, Chesapeake, VA  
2/26/07-9/15/23 | Years of Service: 15  
Tiara was a devoted friend to old and young alike. Therapy visits were her life. She was confident around children and always knew who needed her. She visited nursing homes, hospitals, and schools. She also served as welcoming mascot at community events.



### Ora-Mae

Tom Meyers, Greensboro, GA  
11/25/23-7/2/23 | Years of Service: 9  
Ora-Mae loved to visit school kids, college kids and healthcare residents. Always so energetic, she was known as "The Energizer Bunny Pup" by many. We were blessed to have had her in our lives and fortunate to share her love with others. She lives on in the hearts of many.



### Maddie

Ede Jankowski, Channahon, IL  
10/17/12-9/4/23 | Years of Service: 10  
Maddie loved her visits, from schools, to assisted living, and more. She brought joy to all she met. Being a relatively unknown breed - Berger Picard - many asked what she was. She played the part of "Sandy" in the stage performance of "Annie," that was a great experience!



### Buddy

Leslee Edward, Reno, NV  
Unknown-11/17/23 | Years of Service: 1  
Buddy, a rescue, found his calling late in life, being certified at age 10½. He was such a kind and gentle boy with a beautiful soul you could see deep in his eyes. Buddy visited seniors, a blood drive, and kids at Paws2Read. Love you sweet, sweet BuddyBoy.



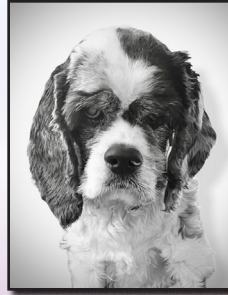
### **Luxembourg "Lux"**

Jessica Tepas, Inverness, IL  
11/ 22/17-11/29/23 | Years of Service: 1  
Lux was a deeply loved pup that worked in Chicago and surrounding suburbs. Primarily working in nursing homes and with adults suffering from PTSD and addictions, he was also a trained ESA and simply a joy to be around. He is intensely missed by his owner, family, and friends.



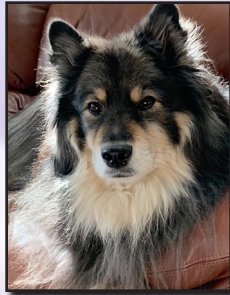
### **Harmony Hope**

Sue Carmody, Latham, NY  
6/29/21(rescued)-10/14/23  
Sweet Harmony had a rough start to life but became a therapy dog at 13 and found purpose. Blind and deaf she never let disabilities stop her from spreading endless love and joy. Harmony was a true earth angel and now soars as one in the skies above. Forever missed.



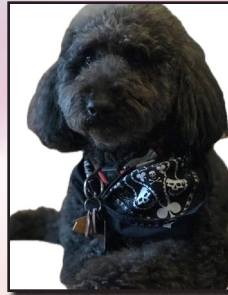
### **Taavi**

Pamela Rietdorf, Hendersonville NC  
3/10/13-9/28/23 | Years of Service: 4  
Taavi was a shining star at Asheville airport's "Paws for Passengers" therapy program. Children loved him and enjoyed collecting his airport trading card with "stats." He truly loved his "work," proudly wore his vest, and brought joy to everyone he touched.



### **Shellee**

Susan Theise, Rockland County, NY  
Years of Service:11  
When Shellee arrived from Petfinders.com, I knew she was special. This kind and gentle soul began her "career" in a nursing home. Later, she was a regular at the Raso Hospice Residence, where she brought smiles and joy to patients, families and staff.



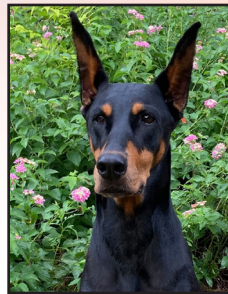
### **Smokey**

Ralph Orlando, Wilbur By The Sea, FL  
7/10/10 -12/21/23 | Years of Service: 12  
Liebchen's Smokey Bones Mountain Mischief became a therapy dog at 15 months. Smokey had 23 titles. His other favorite job activity was in visiting nursing homes, hospitals and wherever it was to make someone smile and be happy.



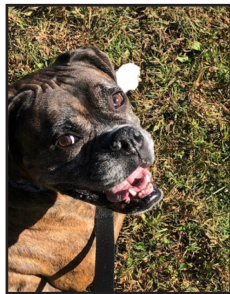
### **Raina**

Colleen Raitte, Laurel Hill, FL  
3/27/14-12/26/23 | Years of Service: 5  
UKC CH Jambalou's Right As Raina CD RE WAC CGC was my "dream come true" dog. An injury ended her show career but led us into the joy of therapy work. She brightened countless lives with her uncanny ability to connect with people. Such an incredible, sweet dog!



### **Moxie**

Sarah Stout, Keene, NH  
10/9/11-8/22/23 | Years of Service: 3  
Moxie was a bright spot in everyone's life. She was a perpetual puppy who loved frisbee, walks, and teenagers. She would sit with students letting them pet her as they completed work. She'd seek out people who needed her and just sit with them. She was loved by so many.



### **Roxy Sunshine Boyle**

Susan Boyle, Springfield, VA  
7/19/10-12/01/23 | Years of Service: 4  
Roxy was a gentle soul who comforted and loved all people. Until six weeks before she passed, she visited hospitals, doctors' offices and schools to ease anxiety in patients, employees and students. What a privilege to work beside her and faces lighting up upon her arrival.



### **Maggie**

Mary Kay Crowell, Dahlongega, GA  
8/07-3/22 | Years of Service: 8  
Intuitive, sweet, smart and all heart. She exuded compassion and happiness at READ, retirement homes, physical therapy, stress relief and parades. Titled in Trick Dog and Agility. Maggie visited until the week before she passed.



### **Ellie**

Doran Richart, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA  
12/27/11-9/3/23 | Years of Service: 5  
Ellie was an airport therapy dog with LAXPUPs (Pets Unstressing Passengers). She also volunteered at a memory care facility, schools and was one of 3,000 study dogs in the Morris Animal Foundation Golden Retriever Lifetime Study.



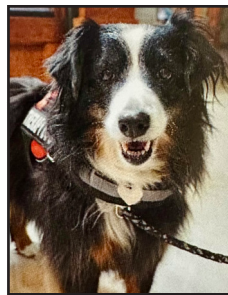
### **Cruz**

Seth Wertz, Sarasota FL  
10/13/11-9/29/23 | Years of Service: 4  
Cruz was entertaining residents at two assisted living facilities until the day before he let us know he could not do it any longer. His engaging eye contact, conversational skills and hilarious interactions brought smiles and joy to all those who knew him.



### **Hunny**

Donna Kapala, Reno, NV  
4/08-12/23 | Years of Service:4  
Hunny was rescued at age 6. When my husband was recovering from hand surgery, it soon became apparent that her true calling was as a therapy dog, as she licked his hand back to health. She was well known and loved at her work site, Renown Hospital. Loved and missed.





### **Shasta**

Marie Zell, Cheyenne, WY  
Years of Service: 7

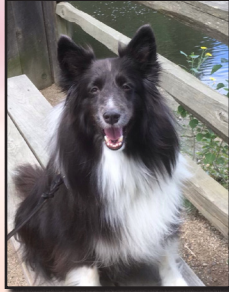
A retired racing greyhound, Shasta loved to be a therapy dog. She enjoyed meeting people and being petted by them. She brought joy and happiness to those we visited at schools, nursing homes and assisted living facilities.



### **Tristan**

Betsy Farrell, Bethany, CT  
11/10-1/19/24 | Years of Service: 10

Tristan enriched the lives of everyone he met. His bright smile, silky-smooth coat, spirited bark, and enthusiastic yet calming nature brought joy and comfort to all.



### **Scout**

Lee and Kathy Rigling, Tangerine, FL  
Unknown-1/24 | Years of Service: 7

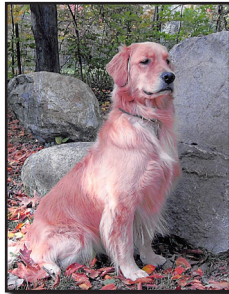
Scout was so sweet and gentle, she touched so many children and adults in her therapy visits. She especially loved visiting the bookstore and the library for reading visits. She made us laugh when she rolled on her back for tummy rubs. She always had a smile.



### **Toree**

Carole Magargee, Greenville, PA  
Years of Service: 9

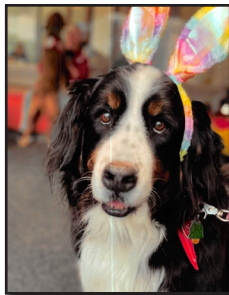
One of the best things in life is to give joy to others. Toree brought the joy. I brought the love. We were a great team together, visiting disasters, military, senior living facilities, schools and funeral homes.



### **Cota**

Patti Benner, Sullivan, OH  
4/9/15-7/2/23 | Years of Service: 7

Cota loved bringing joy to the children at the library, schools, Dog Bite Prevention training, stress relief for college students and other events organized by the Caring Therapy Canines group. She was a blessing for all who met her and will be forever loved and missed.



*"How lucky are we  
to have something that  
makes saying goodbye  
so hard"*

-Winnie the Pooh



Alliance of Therapy Dogs

# Photograph Authorization Release Form

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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.

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