



Alliance of **THERAPY DOGS**

NEWSMAGAZINE

Winter 2025

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Disclaimer

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

Advertising Requirments

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.

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:

401 West 19th St. Suite 201
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-432-0272

877-843-7364 (Toll Free)

307-638-2079 (Fax)

Email: office@therapydogs.com

Website: www.therapydogs.com

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 2 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.

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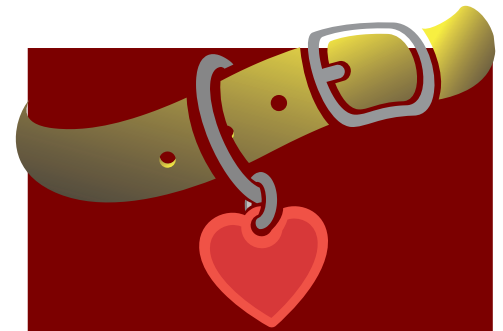
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Alliance of
Therapy Dogs

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.

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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.

Requirements for Alliance of Therapy Dogs Newsmagazine Submissions

We love your stories! Reading each and every 1 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 or 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.
- e. Only 1 story submission from a Member per issue. Stories submitted in consecutive issues from the same Member must not be on the same topic as the previously submitted story.

2. Photos

- a. Photos of non-members must be accompanied by a signed Media Authorization Release Form, or we cannot publish them. (www.therapydogs.com/MemberDocuments.html)
- b. You may submit more than 1 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, 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. Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. 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

Board Committees

Certification (CERT): Ensure the quality of Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) T/Os by reviewing T/O applications, developing the annual Tester/Observer Review, monitoring the T/O Egroup, advising the ATD Office on concerns regarding T/O that surface, and investigating and resolving T/O grievances. Review and approve membership applications outside the standard ATD Certification Test when there is no available T/O in the area of the prospective member. Reviews, approves and denies all concerns that fall outside the established ATD rules.

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

Executive: 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 Bylaws, conducting research to assist in strategic planning, assisting in emergent and sensitive issues, and acting as the Appeals Committee. It assists the ATD Office with research and investigation issues as needed.

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

Newsmagazine: Choose and edit submissions and design the semiannual newsmagazine.

Nominating And Awards (N&A): Conduct election of Officers and Board members with the assistance of the ATD Office. Set scholarship criteria and choose recipients; review and select the recipient of the annual Outstanding Member Award.





Fall 2025 President's Message

In July, the Board of Directors and Executive Director Amy Brockel gathered in Appleton, WI, for the 2025 Annual Board Meeting. Not only was it a successful meeting, but thanks to our host, Vice President Cris Lewis, we were able to meet several local teams while there. It's always an honor to get to meet our teams in person when we have the chance.

Back to growth and change: The ATD Office added a new IT Support position, Nick Knight. Welcome, Nick. Nick has been a great addition and team player, ready to jump in assist whenever and wherever he can. Nick will play an important role with ATD moving forward.

With the growth and change, the Board and Office are working on ATD's future - specifically, what can and must be done to make sure ATD is here for another 35 years. Throughout the next year and beyond, expect to see adjustments to how we operate, potentially more Staff and/or Board Members, new Committees, technology improvements and more.

For example, later this year, keep an eye out for a redesign of the ATD website. You'll learn more about this as the launch gets closer.

Thank you for choosing ATD as your certifying therapy dog organization. We are extremely grateful for our Members, Tester/Observers, and those who support our mission.

Continue sharing smiles and joy!

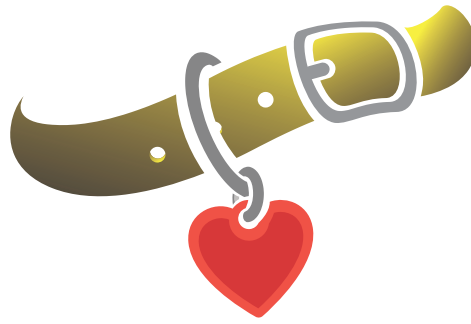
Growth and change have been a common theme the past few years. During this past year, we surpassed 20,000 Members. When Jack and Ann Butrick started this organization 35 years ago with 500 Member and 10 Tester/Observers, I wonder if they had any idea we would still be here today and that we would have grown this much.

Given our recent growth, I would like to welcome all our new Members and Tester/Observers, as well as our newest Director, Deb Miller of Joplin, MO, who joined the Board in June.

We have also said goodbye to a these Directors:

- Immediate Past President Kim Williams
- Secretary Stefanie Giese-Bogdan
- Director Maurice Kuypers
- Director Betsy Richardson

They will all be missed. Their time on the Board is greatly appreciated. We wish all of them well on their new adventures.



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
“DONATE” button in the upper right-hand corner.

The Donate button will give you the option to:

- 🐾 Donate 1-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.



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 Handbook and Tester/Observer Handbook yearly and incorporate any changes into their practices.
- Follow current Certification Guidelines as outlined in the Tester/Observer 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!**



ATD Merchandise

Members may purchase the following items from Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

If you would like to place an order, you can scan the QR Code or go to:

www.atdmerch.myshopify.com/

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



**ATD tags, vests, collars, ties,
leashes, bandanas, and more!**

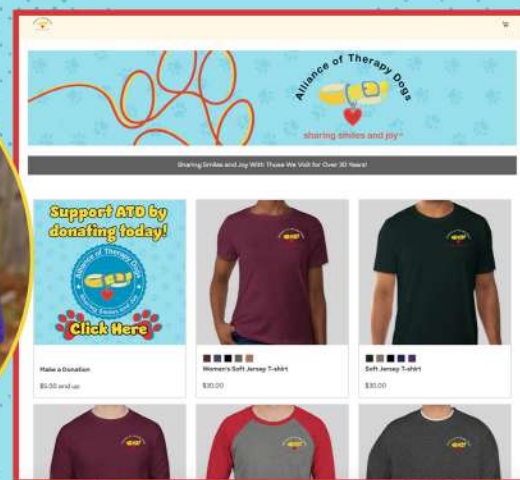
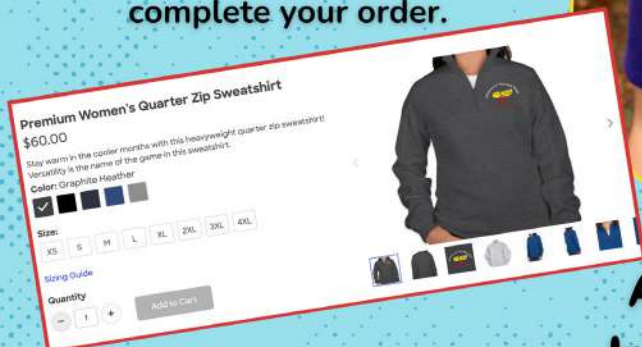
Members may purchase the following items from ATD.
We also provide giveaway items for booths or events!
Email office@therapydogs.com to request free items for your next event.



**Bookmarks, magnets,
notecards, stickers,
pins, patches, and more!**

ATD Clothing from Custom Ink

Please note: There are print minimums on orders. Merchandise will print and ship approximately every 2 weeks. Custom Ink will let you know printing estimates as you complete your order.



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

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

Spotlight

A woman with short, wavy, light brown hair is sitting on a porch, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a pink sleeveless polo shirt and blue patterned shorts. She is flanked by two brown Weimaraner dogs, both of whom have their tongues out. The porch has white columns and a railing. In the background, there are green trees and a white door.

Elizabeth Vardell, Director
Charlottesville, VA

(Photo: Hoss is on the left and Jo is on the right.)

What inspired you to become a therapy dog handler?

When searching for our first family dog, I met Sophie, a large Chesapeake Bay retriever. She and her handler were volunteering at a children's hospital in New York. Sophie was an amazing, all-around dog who excelled at many dog sports and still managed to be sweet and gentle enough for therapy dog work. I joined the waiting list for 1 of her puppies, and eventually, Beau entered our lives. He and I would go on to do therapy dog work for 9 years.

How did you choose the dog who would become your therapy partner? What makes your dog particularly suited for therapy work?

After Beau, we had 2 other Chesapeakes, neither of whom was suited to working as therapy dogs, although they excelled at other things. I met Jo, my current therapy dog partner, when we were at the breeder to drop off our dog for boarding. There was a pen full of puppies, 1 of which was older and much bigger than the rest. She gravitated to my husband, who was struggling with dementia, and he promptly fell in love with her. He wanted to take her home, but I didn't think that I had the time or energy to devote to a puppy while dealing with his illness. While on our trip, he talked about her incessantly and even named her. I contacted the breeder and told her that if she could successfully introduce Jo to the older dog, we would take her home. That's how I ended up with the dog that I didn't want and never knew that I needed. Now I can't imagine my life without her. She is an empath, seeing when people need her.

How has being a handler changed you personally?

Being a therapy dog handler has opened my eyes to the struggles that people are going through. It has made me more grateful for all that I have and has helped me to keep minor annoyances in perspective.

What kind of training did you and your dog complete to become certified?

The Alliance of Therapy Dogs has no class requirements to become a certified team. That being said, basic obedience classes are very beneficial in learning to communicate as a team. Exposure to lots of people and different situations is helpful, as is ongoing training in something that you and your dog enjoy. For us, that means agility training, rally, obedience, and scent work.

What advice would you give to someone preparing for the therapy dog test?

ATD has a video on the website of teams being tested, and that is a wonderful roadmap. Tester/Observers are required to follow that protocol. You can also download the testing sheet to help you prepare for the Handling Assessment.

Can you describe one visit that touched your heart?

Jo and I began volunteering at a library and a senior center, but my interest has always been in medical settings. Luckily, our introduction began at the Medical University of South Carolina under their amazing volunteer coordinator. After our interview, she escorted us to our 1st visit. We had been called to the Intensive Care Unit and were met there by a nurse. Standing in the hallway, I could see a gravely injured patient in the bed surrounded by four young women. Upon spotting Jo, the young women all came out and wrapped their arms around her. What transpired after that was remarkable to watch, as a peace settled around them and they were able to talk about what they were all going through and the life that they had shared with the patient. I walked out, struck by the comfort that Jo was able to provide just by being there, and I have seen that repeated many times over.

How do you handle emotionally heavy visits or situations?

I'm grateful to have a strong family and friend support system. The hospital where I currently volunteer, The Medical University of Virginia, also has a very intuitive volunteer coordinator and staff. Jo and I also watch out for one another. If there has been a highly charged, emotional encounter, we will leave and go for a walk or do another fun activity.

Can you describe the bond that you share with your dog through this therapy experience?

Jo has given me a perspective that I would not have had without her. Being an empath makes her very tuned in to how I'm feeling. She comforted me during the loss of my husband and gave me a job to do going forward. Cathy Bennett, the Volunteer Coordinator at the Medical University of South Carolina, used to say that we are the Uber drivers for these amazing dogs. If they had opposable thumbs and could drive, they could do the work themselves! So, my job is to keep going to allow her to share joy and smiles with those that are in need.

Magical Miracle Moment

On 1 of the last golden days of May, it felt as if summer had arrived early - its warmth spilling across Central Michigan University's campus. The air shimmered with heat, but Bree trotted forward unfazed with her tail high and heart wide open, ready to meet a crowd unlike any other.

More than 3,000 athletes, partners, coaches, and chaperones filled the Michigan Special Olympics Summer Games with the kind of energy you can feel in your chest - laughter that rippled through the air and determination that shone brighter than the medals waiting to be placed around their necks.

For 2 hours, Bree soaked it all in - track runners catching their breath, swimmers shaking off drops of victory, and pickleball players swapping high-fives. Pride hung in the air like a banner. She was their cheerleader on 4 paws.

And just when I thought our day was done, the moment that will stay with me forever unfolded.

We headed to the car when I spotted a van parked in the shade - 2 young athletes inside, sharing lunch with their chaperone. I almost kept walking; the day had been long, the heat relentless. But Bree, refreshed after a drink of cold water, tugged ever so slightly in their direction.

"Just 5 more minutes," I thought. The athletes set down their sandwiches and stepped out. Their curiosity had been sparked by the

friendly, white-coated collie wearing an olive green therapy vest. They stroked her fur, laughed, and returned to their seats to finish lunch before their next event 30 minutes later.

That's when the chaperone pulled me aside, eyes brimming. She told me her 19-year-old athlete - who had been non-verbal for the past 3 years - had giggled and made a sound for the first time while petting Bree.

"You never know who is watching you," she said softly. "Thank you for bringing Bree."

It was a small miracle in the middle of the bustling games, a powerful moment that slows time and reminds you why you show up.

In those few seconds, the noise, the heat, and the miles ahead on the road - all of it fell away. Bree had done what medals could not: she'd unlocked a sound of joy that had been silent for a long time.

As we walked back to the car, I felt different. The heaviness of a draining day didn't just fade - it lifted, as if Bree had tucked the memory into my chest and replaced my tired bones with wings. I drove home not counting the hours or the miles, but holding



tight to that feeling - the quiet, fierce pride of "Team Bree."

That memorable May afternoon still stays with me. It's a highlight among several hundred visits logged in Bree's short 2 years as a certified therapy dog.

Since then, Bree has continued showing up - such as the University of Michigan Track and Field Stadium which hosted an annual sporting event for athletes with and without disabilities. She greets each competitor with the same wholehearted tail wags and gentle nuzzles. We'll keep going, paws and all, because every smile, every hug, and every unexpected giggle is worth it.

And sometimes, those moments don't just change the day. They change a life.

Jared Wadley, Ypsilanti, MI



Resilience

Boaz's story is a remarkable tale of resilience and transformation. Rescued from a harrowing puppy mill situation, where conditions were appalling and lives were neglected, Boaz emerged as a symbol of hope. From the beginning of his life to the age of 5 was defined by fear, isolation, and trauma, leaving him with no social skills and deep mistrust of humans.

Under the care of Puppy Haven Rescue and his foster family The Moody's, Boaz faced significant challenges. Despite being deemed 1 of the most difficult cases by the vet, his foster family refused to give up on him. Over 9 months, they worked tirelessly to help him feel safe and loved.

Adoption proved challenging, as 4 families struggled to manage his fear and lack of

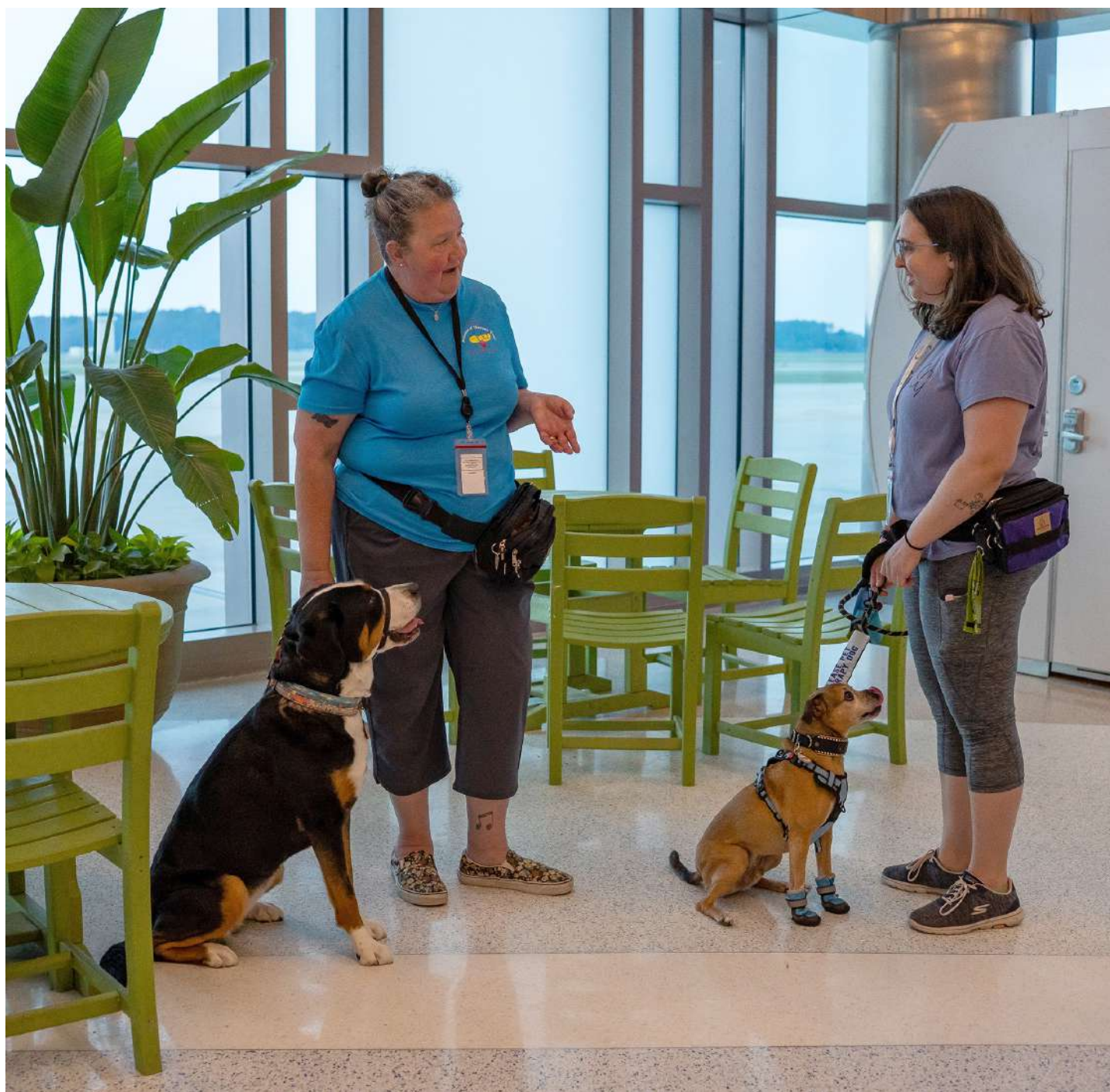
socialization he was returned. But everything changed with the Mayer family. With their 2 certified therapy dogs, they embraced Boaz and began an extraordinary journey of healing. Through their dedication, patience, and the companionship of their other dogs, Boaz gradually gained confidence.

Within 6 months, Boaz not only overcame some of his fears but excelled in an obedience class, earning 3rd place. Today, he stands proud as an Alliance Therapy Dog, bringing comfort and joy to others as well as for himself understanding that not all humans are bad. His incredible transformation highlights the power of compassion, patience, and unwavering love.

Boaz's journey is a testament to the fact that with the right care, even the most broken souls can heal and thrive. Truly, a story to inspire and warm the heart.

Brad and Lisa Mayer, Wagoner, OK

Tidbits



Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) has a set of Rules and Regulations that Members are expected to follow on all ATD visits. Every year, our insurance backs our Rules and Regulations and as long as Members follow those, they will be covered on a visit if an accident occurs. One of these rules is our 2-foot Rule which reads: Dogs must always be kept at least 2 feet from other dogs and animals while representing ATD on a visit or event to discourage play, to ensure that dogs have enough personal

space for focusing on the person being visited, and to prevent any interaction between dogs that could possibly lead to an injury to a 3rd party, the Handlers or their dogs. This also applies to dogs that live in the same household. If a dog prefers more than 2 feet, the Handler should be sure to provide for the dog's needs. Insurance is not in effect if your dog is less than 2 feet from another animal, including when posing for photos. Let's look at why we have this rule and when you need to follow it.

Why do I need to follow the 2-foot Rule?

Safety is our number one priority on ATD visits. We want to keep those you are visiting, your dog and you, safe. It is very easy for someone to get tangled in leashes if you allow your dogs to mingle together on a visit. If you are visiting someone who is not stable on their feet, you can accidentally cause a fall by letting the dogs mingle together. Some of our Handlers have mobility issues and letting your dog cross in front of them as they move can cause an accident with a fellow ATD Member.

ATD wants our therapy dogs to know that when they are on a visit, it is time to focus on the people they are visiting, not other dogs. If we allow playtime to happen on facility property, this can begin to blur the picture for our dogs. Keeping things very clear for our dog helps our dogs have a successful therapy dog visit. If your dog learns that they cannot go say hi to other animals while on a visit, this will cut down on whining, barking, and pulling. If your dog gets into the habit of getting to go say hi to other animals, this can increase those undesirable behaviors. Make visits easier for your dog by sticking to the 2-foot Rule for every visit, every time.

Animals are unpredictable by nature. Ultimately, you don't know how another dog or animal will react to your dog. For your dog's safety, it is important to keep at least 2 feet from other animals to prevent potential injury. Even if a dog or animal is normally docile and well-behaved, they may be having a bad day and not feeling the best. The same can be said for your dog. While your dog may normally be friendly with other animals, 1 bad day can result in you having to file an ATD Incident Report Form because your dog injured another animal.

When does the 2-foot Rule apply?

Like all ATD Rules and Regulations, the 2-foot Rule must be followed the entire time you are on facility property. This includes in the parking lot, outside of the building or visiting space, and inside facility buildings. Even if your dog is not actively visiting with people, you are still on an ATD visit on that facility's property. Just because you are off the clock in the back field of a school does not mean you are no longer on an ATD visit. If the field is part of the school's property, then you must abide by ATD Rules and Regulations.

The 2-foot Rule also applies to dogs and animals that know each other or live in the same household. Just because 2 dogs live together does not mean they can be together on an ATD visit. When 2 dogs from the same household visit together, they still pose the same risks when it comes to people tripping over dogs or leashes. They can also struggle with staying focused on the people they are visiting or have bad days and take it out on their housemate.

The 2-foot Rule still applies for photos as well. Dogs must be on a leash when posing for photos or videos while on a visit. The Handler may only drop the leash for a photo or video if the dog is not posing with a person or any other animal(s). For group photos, all leashes must be held, and the 2-foot Rule must be observed.

Every year, our Board of Directors go over suggestions from our Members and make changes to our Rules and Regulations they deem necessary to keep our Members and those they visit safe.

ATD is comprised of over 19,000 Members and their dogs that visit in a wide variety of facilities. It is important to remember that our Rules and Regulations need to keep all our teams safe and not every team is the same.

While it may seem unnecessary for your dog to follow some rules, those rules are necessary to keep all our teams safe in a variety of settings. To be covered under ATD insurance, you must comply with ATD Rules and Regulations on every visit. If you have any questions about a situation that has occurred or about a rule in the ATD Member Handbook, the ATD Office is always willing to speak with our Members. You can call the ATD Office at 307-432-0272 or email at office@therapydogs.com.





2025 Scholarship Recipients

Dear ATD Board of Directors,

I am honored to have been selected as a recipient of the ATD Scholarship this Spring. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting my graduate studies in speech-language pathology.

Being a part of this organization means a great deal to me, and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue growing as a therapy dog handler while pursuing my professional goals. This scholarship will help me further my education and deepen my ability to provide compassionate, effective care. I look forward to incorporating therapy dog work into my career and making a lasting impact with Louis and Brida.

With gratitude,
Lauren VanSpeybroeck

To the Board of Directors at
Alliance of Therapy Dogs, April 16, 2025

Thank you so much for selecting me as an Alliance of Therapy Dogs Scholarship recipient for 2025! It is such an honor to be chosen! This scholarship will be put to great use as I become a student at Mississippi State! I have loved the opportunity to volunteer through your organization.

Sincerely, Ava Nipper

The Nominating and Awards Committee is excited and proud to announce the 2025 Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) scholarship recipients.

Thank you to all who applied. It was rewarding to read about all the wonderful work the applicants have been doing to give back to their respective communities. We had a very large and strong group of applicants, and encourage those who were not selected this year to apply again. Please meet the ATD Scholarship recipients:

Vivian Guizar has been an official Junior Handler with ATD since late 2024, but started doing unofficial visits to a local nursing home with her young dog Lady to bring comfort to a relative and other patients for two years. Once Vivian's dog was old enough to be certified with ATD, they have been busy frequenting the Easter Seals daycare and schools making a difference with children. She has been involved in many service projects with 4-H and National Honor Society. Penn State University is in Vivian's future this fall with plans to major in Animal Science. She is currently a senior at Bellefonte Area High School in Pennsylvania.

Martin Heberlie attends Berthold High School in North Dakota and plans to study Engineering at either Bismark State College or the University of North Dakota. He became involved with ATD as a Junior Handler after experiencing first-hand the impact that therapy dogs have while he was recovering from a spinal injury at Mayo Clinic. Martin and his dog Bruno have been visiting libraries, schools, nursing homes

and an Air Force base since 2024. He truly enjoys watching

how his dog brings joy and a connection to elderly residents with memory issues, as well as helping young students build their confidence when they read to his dog.

Ava Nipper is a tennis athlete at Jackson High School in Missouri and plans to attend Mississippi State University to study Educational Psychology. She hopes to start her own practice and use animal-assisted intervention to help patients. She has a great foundation for this goal as she has been a Junior Handler since early 2024 with her family's dogs: June, Sammie, Lea and Gabe. Ava has helped train and is certified with all four dogs, and the dogs excitedly take turns doing visits to local nursing homes where she is in awe of the joy, comfort and happiness her therapy dogs bring to residents. Her involvement with reading programs for young students is what convinced her of the impact her Therapy Dogs can have to help others.

Georgia Giannaras is attending the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School and is a member of the Class of 2026. She and her dog Sami have been an ATD team since 2023 visiting many sites such as libraries, Children's Hospital, the local Ronald McDonald House and many distressing events on her college campus. Her dog has a medical condition that Georgia uses to help build a relationship with sick

children, and is amazed at how the kids light up when they realize Sami is coping with similar issues but has such a happy disposition. The empathy Georgia has learned to apply as an ATD Handler will assist her as she becomes a veterinarian soon.

Jahi Hamilton a Master's level student in the University of Georgia Mental Health Counseling Program. He and his dog Marko have been involved with informal therapy dog activities for the last four years, becoming a certified ATD team in 2024. They visit the University Cancer and Blood Center as well as assisted living facilities. Jahi feels dogs are the closest thing to unconditional love, teaching what it means to be patient, loving, and kind. He hopes to integrate pet therapy in the services he will provide as a licensed counselor.

Sophia Porcari is a student at Robert Morris University in Pennsylvania, pursuing a degree in Strategic Communications. She and her dog Gunner have spent the last year working as an ATD therapy dog team visiting nursing homes, medical facilities and the Pittsburgh International Airport. Volunteering has opened her eyes to the impact that therapy dogs have in the workplace, furthering her intent to incorporate her dog into her future career. Sophia truly enjoys the smiles that a simple visit with Gunnar brings to many and also opens the door to meaningful conversations.

Lisa Stevens and her dog Lexie have been visiting as an ATD team since 2023 at the University of Michigan Pediatric Rehabilitation Center, along with other medical facilities. She will be attending the University of Michigan Medical School in the Fall of 2025. Lisa is constantly in awe of the much-needed support and smiles that she and Lexie bring to individuals on a regular basis, and proud to be Lexie's partner.

Lauren VanSpeybroeck is a graduate student in the Communications Sciences and Disorders program at New York University. She and her dogs Louis and Brida have been doing therapy dog work with a local group since 2023, and then became certified with ATD in 2024 (Louis) and 2025 (Brida). They visit at schools, community events and the Children's Therapy Center of the Quad Cities. Watching her dogs interact with children and others reaffirms how powerful animal-assisted therapy can be in supporting communication and social engagement.

ATD has been awarding an annual scholarship since 2004. Scholarship Application information can be found on the Members page of the ATD website in the Helpful Documents section.

*Dear ATD Nominating and Awards Committee,
Board of Directors, and Staff,*

I want to express how grateful I am to have received this scholarship as I begin medical school. Thank you so much for your consideration and for your support as I embark on this next step.

Volunteering with Lexie has provided many experiences I would have otherwise missed out on, such as seeing a patient speak and walk for the first time during her therapy session by connecting with Lexie. Volunteering together has also allowed us to bond in a new way and grow as a team. These experiences are very meaningful to both of us.

*Again, thank you very much.
Sincerely,
Lisa Stevens*

Thank you so much for selecting me as one of your scholarship recipients; this financial award will help me greatly in investing in my future career! I will monitor the mail for your letter in the upcoming weeks. Sami and I love providing pet therapy to the community through ATD, and are honored to be a part of such a great mission!

Georgia Giannaras

Dear Board of Directors,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for selecting me as a recipient of the ATD Scholarship Award for 2025. I am beyond happy and truly honored to receive this generous scholarship. This support means so much to me as I continue my educational journey, and I am deeply thankful to the Alliance of Therapy Dogs for making this possible.

Bruno and I have had an incredible experience working together and becoming a certified therapy dog team, and this scholarship will go a long way in helping me pursue my academic goals. It's a privilege to be part of such a wonderful organization, and I'm so thankful for all the opportunities it has provided me and my dog.

As a small token of appreciation, Bruno will definitely be getting an extra treat to celebrate!

Thank you again for your generosity and belief in my future. I truly appreciate it.

*Sincerely,
Martin Heberlie*



Bernie the Therapy Dog

My son decided to get a Bernedoodle as a family pet. Shortly before his second birthday, it was evident that he would be an excellent therapy dog. Standing at 29 inches tall and tipping the scales at 105 pounds, he is the quintessential teddy bear. He doesn't bark at other dogs, jump up on anyone or lick your face. Sweetest pooch you will ever meet.

I reached out to the Alliance of Therapy Dogs to see if he might meet the criteria as a therapy dog, and in no time, they arranged for Bernie to be tested. This encompasses at least 3 meetings with the tester and their dog at busy locales in order to note Bernie's reaction to crowds and other dogs in strange places. He passed with flying colors and was issued his red heart tag.

My next step was to contact the volunteer office at Jefferson/Abington Hospital in nearby Jenkintown, PA. This was quite a laborious paper process due to the exposure to patients, some of which would likely be minors. Once completed, Bernie and I were issued our volunteer badges.

My routine is to call Pediatrics while on my way to determine if there are any age-appropriate (3 and up) children who would like to meet Bernie. If yes, we go to the Buerger Building. If no, we go to the Widener Building. We typically start at the top floor and work our way down.

If there is a pediatric patient, we go there first then to the top floor.

Here are some of my experiences with Bernie during therapy visits.

One day, even though they had no pediatric patients, I stopped in to have Bernie visit the nurses. As luck would have it, there was a 7-year-old boy who had just been discharged, which was why they didn't know he was still in the unit. When we arrived, the boy's mother was there and enjoyed the interaction between Bernie and her son. A few days later, the mother posted the following on Bernie's Instagram account: "Hi Bernie! Thanks for stopping in on the pediatric floor Monday! My son was there (we did get discharged). He has been nonstop talking about Bernie! He's even bringing Bernie's card to school today! Thank you for making his day!"

The hospital hallways were always a mix of quiet anticipation and unseen emotions. As Bernie and I walked through the corridors, the soft tapping of his paws seemed to bring a little warmth to the otherwise sterile environment.

One afternoon, we visited a patient who greeted Bernie with a gentle smile. As she reached out to pet him, she shared something unexpected. "You know," she said, her voice tinged with nostalgia, "my dad's name was Bernie."

It was a small connection, but one that seemed to light up her face. We stayed for a while, letting her enjoy his comforting presence before saying our goodbyes.

As we waited for the elevator, I heard the soft shuffle of a walker approaching. Turning around, I saw the same patient making her way toward us. She stopped just a few feet away and looked up with kind yet serious eyes. "Can I say something to you?" she asked. In a hospital, you never quite know what's coming next, but I nodded, inviting her to share whatever was on her mind.

She took a deep breath and said, "When you go to sleep tonight, I want you to remember how you made me feel today." Her words settled in my heart like a warm embrace. I smiled, a lump forming in my throat. "I will," I promised. As the elevator doors closed behind us, I glanced at Bernie, who sat patiently at my side. He had no idea just how much joy, comfort, and connection he brought to the world - but I did. And that night, as I lay in bed, I kept my promise. I remembered.

One afternoon as Bernie and I exited the elevator, I heard blood-curdling screams. My initial thought was, "hope we don't need to go in that room." It wasn't long before we were outside of that room, and the young girl was still distraught. I asked the nurses if they thought we could help, and they were more than happy for us to try. She instantly calmed down as she was petting him.

Another day Bernie and I stepped into a room, which was filled with visitors. The air was heavy with quiet conversations and concern. Everyone had gathered because the patient wasn't doing well. As always, Bernie made his rounds, weaving through the crowd, offering comfort in the way only he could. He greeted each visitor, his gentle presence bringing a brief moment of warmth amid the sadness. Later, after visiting the entire floor, we stepped into the elevator with one of the visitors. He turned to us, his voice soft yet heavy with emotion. "He just passed," he said. It was a first for us, being there so close to the final moment.

That evening, my son, Scott, called. A neighbor had stopped him during Bernie's walk, recognizing him. She had been 1 of the visitors in the room that day. Bernie had touched more lives than I realize.

Occasionally, we will do other events such as the "Fitzwater Family Read" at the Fitzwater Elementary School. Therapy dogs are gathered with the children in the school library. The children are encouraged to pick a book and read to the dogs. This is known to improve reading skills as the dogs foster a non-threatening environment. At this event, a mother and her daughter approached, and the daughter said, "I remember Bernie! He visited me in the hospital." How rewarding was it for Bernie to have such a positive effect on a child.

Dennis Binsfeld, Southampton, PA

What's Wrong?

This photo has been staged by ATD Members. Can you find what's wrong with this photo?

See Page 31 for the answers.





Therefore, the hospital staff arranged for Santa to come and visit in a quiet setting. One other pet therapy team was also on hand to interact with the children and families as they waited to see the Jolly Old Man.

I noticed that a young teenage boy, whom I will call Michael, arrived led by his father who clasped the boy's elbow. Michael stared at the floor, shuffled his feet and kept his arms tightly clenched about his body. His hands were knotted fists. He looked at no one and kept silent as his father took him to stand by a wall and await his turn.

After a time, a nurse approached and asked if I would take Riley to meet Michael. When we got close, Michael didn't acknowledge us, despite urging from the nurse and his father. He never looked up, and kept his body taut. Meanwhile, Riley quietly, patiently stood close, looking up with her soft brown hound eyes. Eventually, Michael slowly moved 1 hand, gently touched her nose and then pulled back quickly. After a few seconds, he did it again. After a 3rd time, he turned away, so Riley and I left him.

About 5 minutes later, the nurse came to us, tears in her eyes. She said that she didn't believe we could understand the significance of what just happened. She explained that Michael had undergone such a traumatic experience 3 months ago that he shut down. He won't speak, he won't eat unless spoon-fed, he won't touch anything, he won't walk anywhere unless led by his father, he won't interact with anyone. He is completely isolated within himself. Until now, when he touched your dog. The father was on the phone crying as he told his wife that perhaps this was the breakthrough for which they had been praying. My eyes filled as I listened.

This is why we do what we do. And yes, Riley got a special treat afterwards.

Luis O. Krug, Edinburg, VA

My Miracle Moment with Riley

My dog Riley, a female Treeing Walker Coonhound mix, and I were invited to visit a local hospital's pre-Christmas event for a group of pediatric patients. This group of children and their families were dealing with a variety of medical, physical and psychological challenges. The common denominator was that a visit to see Santa in a public place among strangers would be overwhelming.



A Special Place

Britan has been a therapy dog for over 7 years. He has visited nursing homes, residential treatment facilities, schools, colleges, airports, assisted living facilities and libraries. Of course, along the way he met many people and brought smiles and joy to all of them.

He made lots of friends. Some of his friends passed and he was not able to say goodbye. Most days he would come home tired and would spend a few hours just chilling alone. Even though the job was not strenuous it was emotionally challenging. He never complained.

He always knew when I put his red therapy heart on him it was time to make people happy.

The library stood out as special. He has always loved kids. Having kids read to him seemed just perfect. They would pet him and show him pictures and ask all kinds of questions about him. They brought him all kinds of books, but many were about animals, in particular dogs.

Most of the time they read by themselves but sometimes a parent helped. Some kids were afraid to read out loud. Most kids were curious and wanted to know how old Britan was and what kind of dog he was. They would even tell me about their own dogs and show me pictures of them. One little boy had a cavalier just like Britan and would show us his picture. The parents were thankful that their kids were reading and enjoying Britan.

This experience made me think of how I could help kids learn more about the wonderful things therapy dogs do. So, I thought putting it in a children's book that they could read to him would be perfect. What a great idea.

I wanted to show the kids that just a few moments with a therapy dog could bring some sunshine to people, help lessen their fears and bring comfort in stressful situations.

My mission was to have kids see the value of a therapy dog and maybe someday even be able to provide this service with 1 of their own.

Britan loved kids the best so I knew he would be happy if he told his story to them. We called the book Moments With Britan A Therapy Dog.

Barbara J. Peters, Alpharetta, GA





Annual Board Meeting

The Alliance of Therapy Dogs Board of Directors (ATD) and Executive Director Amy Brockel gathered in Appleton, WI, from July 11-13, for the 2025 ATD Annual Board Meeting. Besides the traditional all-day meetings, the Board and Amy had the opportunity to meet and visit with some teams from the Appleton area. At lunch, different Committees met to discuss Committee-specific topics.



Board Photo

Front Row: (L-R) Director Margaret May, Vice President Cris Lewis, Treasurer Sandy Schiller, Secretary Pat Coglianese, Director Deb Miller, Executive Director Amy Brockel.

Back Row: (L-R) President Don Vaughan, Director Andy Germann, Director Keri Brammer, Director Jamie Smith, Director Jessica Davis, and Director Betsy Richardson.



Officer Photo
(L-R) President Don Vaughan, Vice President
Cris Lewis, Treasurer Sandy Schiller and
Secretary Pat Coglianese





A Gentle Teacher: *Winston Supports Special Needs Education*

Teaching special needs children about kindness, respect, and courage sometimes begins with the simple act of meeting a dog. For Winston and me, every visit to LifeTown is a chance to build trust - 1 touch at a time.

Some days, it's all or nothing for Winston. Working with children with special needs can often feel like that - they're either hesitant and fearful, or they love on him a little too much. My job is to educate - while always keeping Winston's best interests at heart.

Winton is a 7-year-old miniature Goldendoodle who has done therapy visits for 4 years.

Winston and I are regular volunteers at Friendship Circle's LifeTown, a remarkable, true-to-life cityscape spanning over 5,000 square feet. Designed to teach practical life skills, LifeTown offers children, teens, and young adults opportunities to practice real-world activities: withdrawing cash from the bank, making spending decisions at the mov-

ie theater, café, or drugstore, visiting the doctor or dentist, and following traffic laws on tricycles. Winston and I can often be found in the pet store, strolling in the city park, or simply walking the streets, modeling good citizenship.

At times, particularly with elementary students from lower-income neighborhoods, we encounter almost universal fear of dogs. In these communities, dogs are often seen more as protectors, not pets. Children have been taught - or conditioned - to stay away.

On days like this, it's all about education. I encourage the kids to meet Winston, showing them he's a friendly dog. I model how to ask permission to pet, saying, "I want to touch Winston."

I then demonstrate the correct approach - offering a hand to sniff - and showing them to pet him on the back, not the head. I also talk to them about walking away slowly, rather than running. Winston helps by showing what a

friendly dog looks like: a relaxed body, wagging tail, soft gaze, and relaxed ears.

I'm quick to remind a reluctant child that they do not have to touch Winston, saying something like, "He makes me nervous. I can look and not touch."

These types of statements are known as Gestalt Language Processing. It is a way some individuals - particularly those with autism - learn and use language. Instead of starting with single words, they may repeat entire phrases they've heard. When I say something like, "I want to touch Winston," and the child echoes it, that's part of how they're processing. My words help support their learning experience.

When a hesitant child becomes brave enough to reach out, we celebrate! I ask, "What does he feel like?"

My favorite response so far: "The rug on my bathroom floor!" (Honestly, it's pretty accurate.)

Sometimes, simply seeing Winston walking calmly on a

loose lead, sitting patiently at the crosswalk, practicing good citizenship, is enough. And sometimes, we perform simple obedience tricks (on leash) in the city park.

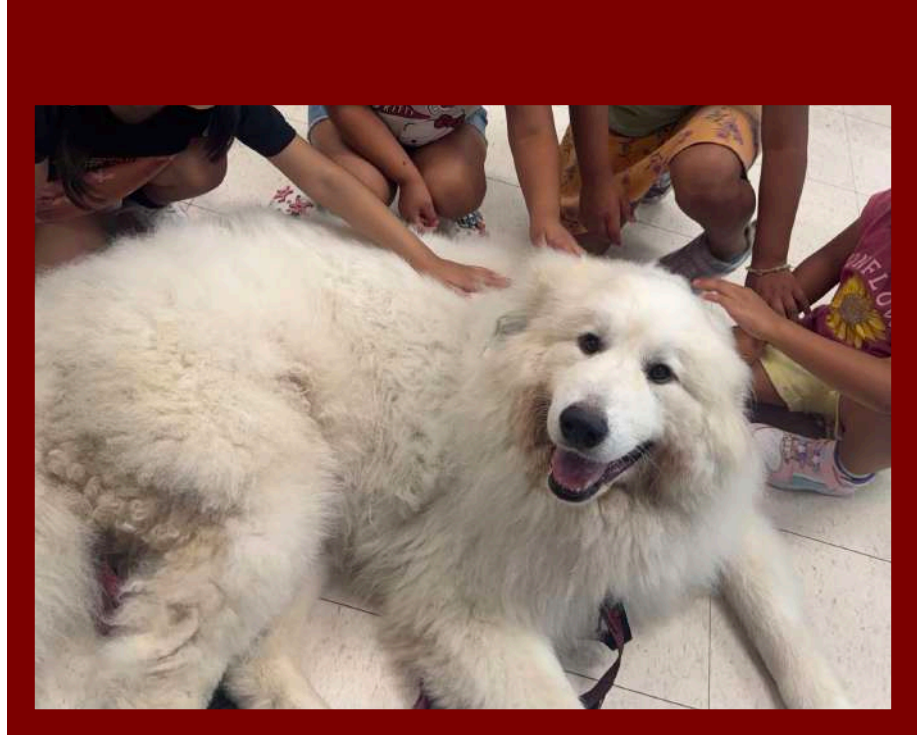
Other days, we meet the huggers - children are eager to overwhelm Winston with love. Here, too, there's room for learning: not all dogs enjoy hugs and kisses. For some dogs, just like with people, it can feel uncomfortable or even stressful. Children with autism understand the idea of respecting personal space, even when that space belongs to a dog. I might say, "Oh, Winston needs space. He needs a break. Let's give Winston space."

The behaviors of special needs children can be erratic and intense. I've learned to closely watch Winston's body language, giving him time for a sip of water, a moment in kid-free zones, or even a step outside for some fresh air.

LifeTown offers more than just real-world practice for people with special needs; it teaches life's deeper lessons - respect, kindness, and courage.

Marilyn Floyd, Brighton, MI





Summer the Pyr Princess: *A Story of Friendship and Paws*

Summer isn't your typical dog. She is a Great Pyrenees, with thick, snowy white fur, a calm heart, and the kindest eyes you've ever seen. She is big - some might say huge - but she moves like a cloud, softly and slowly. Everyone at Brookside Elementary calls her the "gentle giant," and they mean it with all the sweetness in the world.

Every week, the excitement buzzes through the halls even before the bell rings. The first and second graders peek out their classroom windows, hoping to catch a glimpse of Summer arriving. She comes with her big bow or red vest and a wag of her fluffy tail, ready to do a very important job: helping kids feel brave, safe, and heard.

Summer is a proud Member of the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. Her job is to be there for the children (and adults) and she does it well.

In Ms. Lebenberg's speech therapy room, Summer will lie down on her soft bed, curling her big paws under her body as students practice saying their sounds. Some kids are nervous at first, but it doesn't take long for them to smile and sit a little taller when Summer rests her head next to them or gives a gentle paw of encouragement. She doesn't mind hearing stories with articulation errors or uncertain voices. She just listens calmly and kindly, and somehow that makes everything easier.

For many of the Brookside children, Summer is a read-

ing buddy. They take turns sitting beside her on a bean bag, holding their stories or papers with tiny hands and reading aloud. "Summer doesn't care if I mess up," 1 little girl once whispered. She just likes the story." And that is true. Summer sometimes closes her eyes and breathes deeply, as if she is dreaming along with the words the children speak verbally or with their communication devices.

Summer is trained to follow the students' commands when they press words on their speaking devices. She also uses her own communication button to request when she wants a treat which thrills the students. These special skills help to ensure that every student at school feels connected to and can communicate with Summer.

Sometimes, Summer visits the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports) store. There, students can use their earned tickets for special treats - and 1 of the big rewards is a visit, brush, walk, pet and photo with Summer. Hugs, high-fives, or just sitting quietly next to her helps kids beam with pride. She is a popular prize, and she makes the children feel like winners inside and out.

The staff loves her too. Teachers smile more on "Summer days," and sometimes they sneak a quick moment to give her a pet, hug or whisper, "Thanks for being here." It feels like Summer has a special kind of magic that makes the whole school feel lighter.

And this week? It is an extra special one - because it is Summer's birthday!

To celebrate, Ms. Lebenberg decided to do something that Summer would love: help others. So, students and families were asked to make birthday cards for Summer and/or donate coins to the Alliance of Therapy Dogs - the organization that supports dogs like her. The donation will help other gentle giants (and little dogs, too!) bring comfort and joy just like Summer does.

The card and coin bags overflowed. There were drawings of Summer in party hats, pictures of her with books, stickers, glitter, and so many sweet messages:

"You are my best friend."

"I love reading to you."

"Happy Bark-day, Summer!"

"You make me feel brave."

Some students even brought dog treats or paw-print art. The school was filled with wagging tails (on paper), laughter, and a lot of love.

On her birthday, Summer walked into Brookside with a pink sash and colorful party hat. She took her time, letting kids pet her, posing for photos with her usual calm, regal presence. Even when someone squealed a little too loudly or dropped a coin, Summer just wagged her tail and kept smiling in her gentle way.

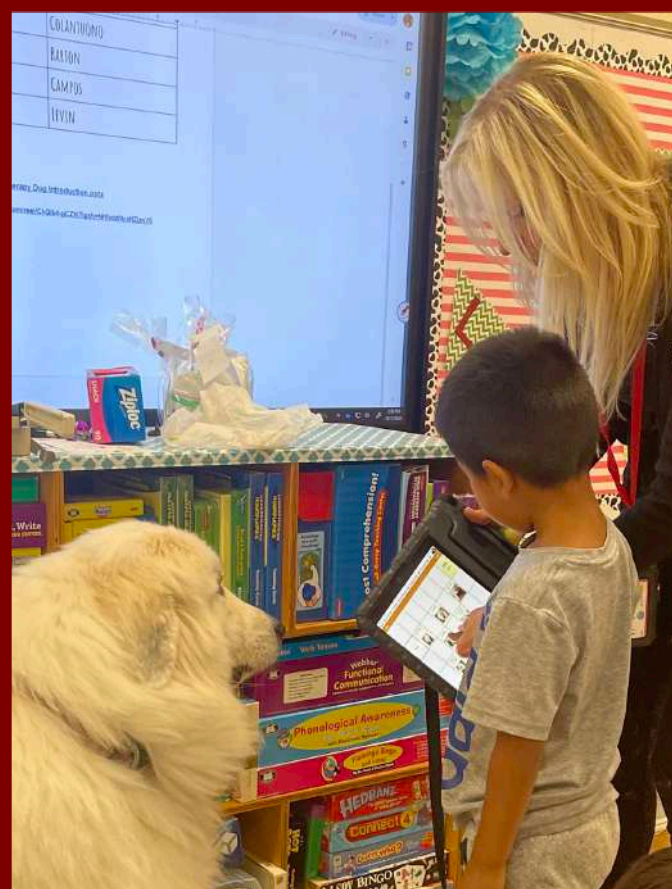
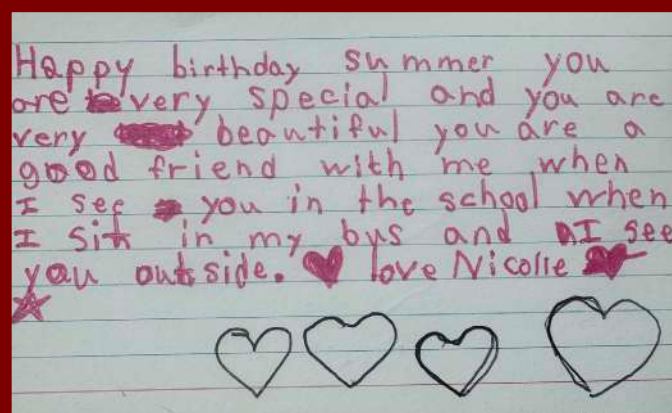
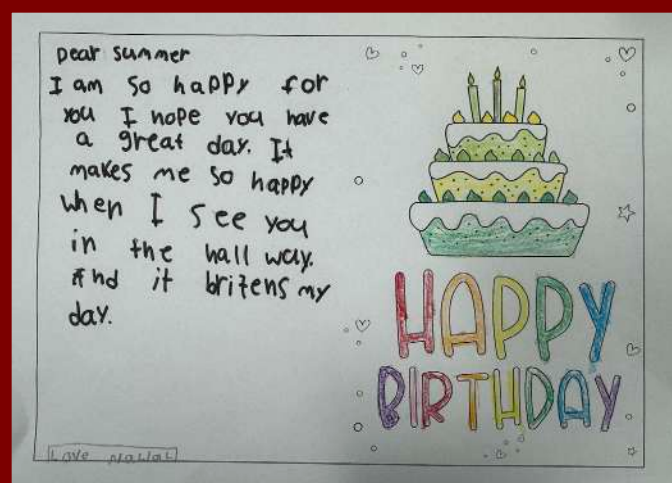
The class that donated the most cards and coins earned the opportunity to color Summer's hair. The principal, Ms. Orduz, announced the total raised for the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. Everyone cheered. Summer wagged her tail once, then again. It wasn't just her birthday - it was a celebration of kindness, friendship, and the power of paws.

As the day ended, Summer rested on her favorite bed in the speech therapy office. A small boy who had struggled with speech all year tiptoed up and placed one last birthday card in the bag. Then he looked at Summer, smiled, and whispered, "Thank you for listening to me."

Summer didn't say a word. She just leaned forward, gave his hand the softest paw, and laid her head gently next to him.

Because that's what therapy dogs do.

Michelle Lebenberg, Highland Mills, NY





Ruby's Rounds

Ruby the Golden Retriever doesn't walk into Wyndham Assisted Living - she bursts in, tail wagging like a banner in the wind, golden fur catching the sunlight through the sliding doors. She wears her red therapy dog vest with pride, but the vest is the only formal thing about her. Everything else - her joy, her sparkle, the way she sometimes howls a greeting when she sees her favorite people - is pure exuberance. "Ruby's here!" someone always calls, and it spreads down the halls like news of a carnival.

She pauses at the front desk just long enough for her owner, Cindy, to sign them in, but her eyes are already scanning for the regulars. Her paws tap-tap on the tile floor, barely able to stay still. Then, the moment she gets the all-clear, she's off - nose nudging open doorways, tail sweeping corners, ears perking up at the sound of laughter.



Cindy, a retired social worker and lifelong Golden Retriever lover, sometimes wonders if she rescued Ruby or if it was the other way around. There's no doubt Ruby has helped fill the space that opened up when Cindy left behind her career of helping people through some of their darkest days. Now, Ruby carries the light forward.

Back inside, Ruby climbs onto the couch and rests her head on Cindy's lap. It's quiet now, just the 2 of them with nothing to fix or cheer up or organize. Cindy strokes her ears, grateful for the stillness, the trust, the deep, slow rhythm of Ruby's breathing.

Tomorrow, they'll be back at the airport. Friday is school. But tonight is soft and slow, and Ruby, who gives so much of herself to the world, sleeps with her nose tucked under Cindy's hand, exactly where she belongs.

Her howl isn't loud or scary - it's more of a soulful, "Hel-looooo!" that always makes the staff chuckle and brings residents to their doorways, smiling. A few even howl back.

Ruby is a dog who sees with her heart first. "She's like a walking hug," 1 of the nurses said once, and Cindy couldn't have put it better.

Wyndham is just 1 of Ruby's therapy dog gigs. At the San Luis Obispo County Airport, Ruby is welcoming and joyful, anchoring anxious travelers. At schools, she's patient and sweet, resting her chin on a child's sneaker while they sound out words.

After a full afternoon of visits, Ruby settles into the back seat of Cindy's Subaru with a dramatic sigh, her red vest slightly askew and her fur warm from a hundred gentle hands. Cindy laughs as she reaches back to unclip the vest.

"There we go," she says softly. "Off the clock, baby girl." Ruby gives a happy tail thump in response, already half-way to sleep by the time they merge onto the quiet road leading out of town.

The drive back to Arroyo Grande winds past strawberry fields and eucalyptus groves, the late sun painting golden stripes across the hills. Windows cracked just enough for Ruby to sniff the sea breeze, Cindy hums along to the radio, grateful in that quiet way only a dog person understands - that deep, full-bodied peace of being with your dog after a good day.

Ruby bounds out of the car as soon as they pull into the driveway, her energy miraculously restored at the sound of a scurrying squirrel nearby. She barks once - just to say hello - then heads straight for her water bowl, slurping noisily before flopping down on her favorite rug in the living room.

Cindy Nott, Arroyo Grande, CA





From Broken Leg to Healing Hearts: *Theo's Journey*

Theo is a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel; his long silky hair and ears are luxuriant, and extra fun to pet. Additionally, he's a "Tricolor," and people comment on how "pretty" he is. I first saw Theo at 8 weeks old; he was much more people oriented than his 2 brothers. When I got him at 9 weeks, I knew I wanted him to be a therapy dog. The road "there" was quite challenging, but this increased my resilience as a person. Theo earned his AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certification; not a requirement to become a therapy dog, but quite useful. Shortly after Theo passed his 1st, major assessment with Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD), a wonderful, wonderful therapy dog organization, just in his running down the front steps, his foreleg shattered. Major surgery and months of concern and rehabilitation followed as the leg never healed properly, but in time, Theo was well enough to finish his assessment with ATD, and we became a certified therapy dog team.

Theo and I have done over 50 visits in the last year. Every Monday, we go to Brookdale Meadowmont, a residential facility - the residents love Theo and really look forward to seeing him. Theo is extremely loving and loves being petted and being a therapy dog. Many residents had dogs in their past lives. A few people have very good family support networks; many do not, and so our weekly visits are really something special for them, and a major point of interest in their week. I have come to know the residents and they of course know Theo well, so this continuity is special for all of us. Wednesdays we go to SECU Family House,

where UNC Hospital patients and family members can stay for free. SECU is a very nice, supportive place and Wonderful for patients and their families. People at SECU frequently have dogs and miss them and enjoy hanging out with Theo. Many have taken pictures of themselves with Theo to share with folks back home. I also really enjoy SECU because I adore its Director, Georgie Clemens, and it's interesting and provides perspective when people talk about their diseases and their frequently quite complex medical treatments or their lives. One appreciates one's own good health and the high quality of medical resources in this area. What Theo and I really love best is visiting students, frequently at Duke, which is very dog-oriented, but also at UNC and high schools. It's really interesting to hear about students' studies and their views on the world.

Theo? Theo is love. Theo is joy. Theo creates bonds and happiness, laughter and special moments. People he helps love how handsome he is, and admire his gay spirit and fun nature. Being the person in a therapy dog team is very meaningful, interesting, and fun for me. It's enhanced my skills and confidence with both people and dogs. I hope to become a Tester/Observer for ATD so we can have more therapy dogs in this area: I also plan to do other things to support the ATD itself and create more volunteer opportunities in our area's colleges and schools. Almost all institutions require that a therapy dog team is certified by 1 of the charitable therapy dog organizations.

Sarah Collins, Pittsboro, NC

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 34.



On July 28, 2025, members of Maggie & Friends Therapy Dogs gathered with their dogs at Kirkland Cancer Center in Jackson, Tenn. They presented a \$200 donation to the center's Patient Needs Fund. Kirkland Cancer Center is a comprehensive community cancer center, offering diagnosis, treatment, and support for various types of cancer. Several of the Maggie & Friends therapy dog teams visit the Center on a regular basis. Maggie & Friends Therapy Dogs was established in 2010 and serves Jackson and the surrounding West Tennessee area. All dogs are ATD-certified. The local TV station and other media covered the event.

Photos courtesy of WBBJ TV, Jackson, TN

Pictured with their dogs, from left to right: Kim Rawson and Bleu, Jennifer Langhans and Izzy, Don Hubbard and Simon, Michelle Boyd and Mercee, JoLene Lee and Sailor, Jack Wood and Lawson, Alina Loux and Pearl.

Holding the check are Elizabeth Vickery with Kirkland Cancer Center and Cathi Roberts with Maggie & Friends Therapy Dogs.

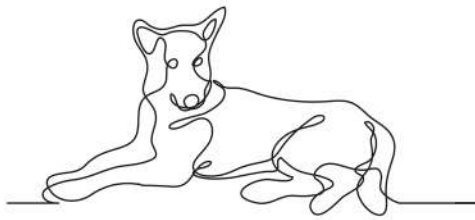
JoLene Lee, Jackson, TN



Bree appeared in 3 TV and print news stories - Lansing State Journal, Channel 13 (Grand Rapids), and Channel 7 (Detroit) - about the anniversary of the Michigan State University shooting that left 3 students dead and 3 injured. She comforted numerous grieving students, faculty, and staff at 2 campus locations. MLive shared a photo of her participation in the Ann Arbor (Michigan) Fourth of July parade. She was featured in the summer Collie Club of America Bulletin for receiving the 2025 Shining Star Ambassador Award. Her extensive therapy work, involving several hundred visits within 2 years of certification, led to the honor bestowed by CCA. This "lifetime" achievement award meant she represents more than 5,000 collies nationwide and in various countries. At age 3, she was 1 of the youngest collies to receive the honor.

Jared Wadley, Ypsilanti Township, MI

Retired



Blaze Bordeaux

Wanda Roberts and Richard Stolz,
Duncan, SC

Years of Service: 1

After his short second career as a therapy dog, Blaze Bordeaux announces his retirement. He plans to enjoy travel and lots of play time with his BFFs.



Oscer

Bethany Golebiewski, Vestal, NY
Years of Service: 9

Oscer helped spread smiles and happiness visiting nursing homes, senior living centers and area schools. Our community, family, and especially his best Hudson, who is autistic, are truly blessed by his everyday presence. We are honored by the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing organization.



Maggie

Crystal Nowka, New Hudson, MI
Years of Service: 7

Maggie spent most of her time in schools providing smiles for thousands of students during her years as a therapy dog. She has the sweetest temperament and always looked forward to "going to school." Enjoy retirement, Maggs!



Rusty

Kathy Smith, Katy, TX

Years of Service: 13

Rusty's calm and gentle nature made him an ideal therapy dog. Over 13 years, he brought comfort to elementary and college students, libraries, hospitals, senior facilities and special needs kids at church. As a READ dog, he encouraged many young readers. Rusty was deeply loved by everyone he met.



Karma

Barbara Blanchfield,
Monroeville, PA

Years of Service: 6

At 15½ years old, Karma is retiring from a job she loved. She especially loved to visit schools from elementary to universities. She visited and brought comfort to many people in high stress jobs, including EMT, 911, courtroom and emergency room personnel. Her visits will be missed by all.



Peewee

Cheryl Slabozeski, Crest Hill, IL
Years of Service: 10

For the past 10 years, Peewee has been a shining light, bringing comfort, joy, healing, and most importantly - love - to many people lives. He is known for his many performance tricks. We will miss our visits, but we carry all the happy memories in our hearts.

Retired



Baby

Lily Kuehl, South Daytona, FL
Years of Service: 9

Baby was found in a trash dumpster when she was only months old. After weeks of veterinary care, she was offered for adoption. Baby formed a special bond with her new family's mother and enjoyed volunteering with her at Halifax Health. At retirement, the team's combined ages totaled over 100!



Watson

Larry Langohr, Neenah, WI
Years of Service: 7

Watson is a 12-year-old English Labrador. He is a retired hospice and therapy dog with 7 years of visits to retirement homes, hospitals and veterans with PTSD. My daughter trained him as a show dog, and he retired as a Grand Champion. He was loved by all.

What's Wrong?



"What's Wrong? (from Page 17)

There are no rules being broken.

Someewhere 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."



Kale

Denise Cahalan,
Oro Valley, AZ
12/28/10-2/18/25
Years of Service: 12
Kale was to be a guide dog. Instead, he went on to make a difference as a therapy dog. He brought joy to those in hospitals, nursing homes, rehab centers, schools, in-house programs for young women, and special events. I was blessed to have him for many years.



Maverick

Sarah Ramirez,
Perrysburg, OH
1/31/15-7/29/24
Years of Service: 1
Mav spent his last year at Woodward High School, where his gentle presence brought comfort and joy to staff and students. He walked in multiple parades with the Toledo Newsboys. He cherished time at family gatherings, taking long walks, camping with his people, and just chilling.



Sunny

Tina Fox, Rupert, ID
4/12-12/13/24
Years of Service: 10
Sunny was our "Go" dog. His vocal enthusiasm was endless at home, but when the bandana was on and we arrived at the designated pet therapy facility, he was all business. He loved attention and became a favorite at the schools and juvenile detention.



Desde

Dede Brownstein,
Albuquerque, NM
Unknown-2/8/25 | Years of Service: 4
We adopted Desde at the beginning of Covid after losing both my therapy dogs within 2 months of each other. She achieved huge successes in AKC scent work, was the perfect neutral testing dog, and was a loving therapy dog who only wanted to please and be loved by everyone.



Gemma

Les Cubberley,
Bordentown, NJ
3/10/09-3/3/25
Years of Service: 5
Gemma was certified for therapy work at 10 years of age. Gemma loved her therapy visits and making people happy. She touched the hearts of many, many people during her therapy career, and will be missed. Love you, my sweet, sweet girl! Gone, but never forgotten!



Dozer

Kelly Pastuszek,
Lewisburg, PA
4/12/16-12/27/24
Years of Service: 7½
Dozer enjoyed his visits and was just shy of his 500th. Having been born with a disability, he had a special bond with the Special Olympic athletes. One athlete telling his mom, "Dozer is special, just like me." Dozer touched many lives and is greatly missed.



Lizzie

Ellen Cassatt, Howe, TX
1/31/14-3/9/25
Years of Service: 9
My Lizzie Girl visited rehab centers, mental health wards, and the Dallas Police Department. Her favorite of all visits was libraries and the R.E.A.D. programs. She was gentle, kind and very engaging with everyone. I miss her to the moon and back. She was my heart dog.



Hamilton

Julie and Scott Fincher,
Lafayette, CO
5/31/16-2/27/25 | Years of Service: 7
It is with great love and heavy hearts that we said goodbye to our noble Leonberger, Hamilton. By the age of 1, he became a therapy dog, going on to provide calm, reassuring comfort and joy to countless patients at Avista Adventist Hospital in Louisville, CO.



Sue

Robert Hurtekant,
Kalamazoo, MI
Rescued 7/2/22-4/30/24
Years of Service: 1
Sue, a senior, rescued me for 22 months to cherish for a lifetime. Completing training and certification in our 1st year, Sue began her life's true mission. Recognized by her happy prance and "tulip" ears bouncing merrily, she gave love to all she encountered, instinctively knowing who needed her most.



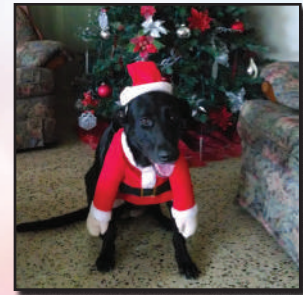
Clifford

Ron and Kim Maxey,
Midlothian, VA
5/7/13-3/17/25
Years of Service: 9
Clifford's presence wasn't just comforting, it was healing. He always seemed to know when he was needed the most. Clifford had a way of making the world a little lighter, even in the heaviest moments. He will always have a place in the hearts of many.



Karly

Lynn Pike, Tulsa, OK
11/01/12-4/22/25
Years of Service: 10
Karly brought so much joy to so many. Our several 100 visits to retirement homes, hospices, schools, and libraries as an Ambassador and other events were eagerly anticipated. Kids were her favorite. We retired because we became about as rickety as many of the old folks we used to see.



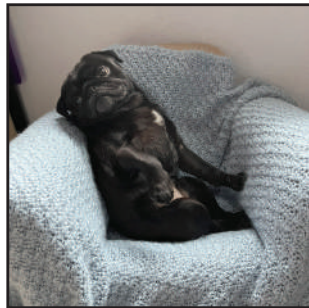
Violeta

Harold Jesurun, Ponce, PR
2010-12/22/24
Years of Service: 8
She began her work in 2015 and retired in 2023. She was a noble, loving, obedient, and cooperative dog who visited nursing homes, schools, summer camps, universities, and other activities. She will live on in the memories of everyone, especially those whose tears she turned into smiles.



Duffy

Sharon Sigler, Dryden, MI
10/23/10-4/28/25
Years of Service: 5
Duffy was a wonderful therapy dog for about 5-6 years. He visited hospitals, schools, assisted living facilities, mental health facilities and homes. He loved people and children. He loved his work. He would be excited when I got out his therapy dog leash. He is deeply missed.



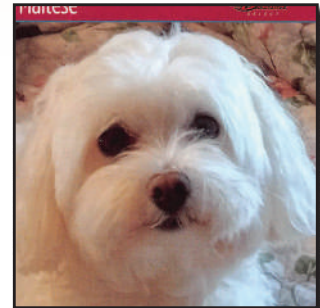
Sammy

Candace Reeves, Albany, OR
10/30/18-5/7/25
Year of Service: 1
Sammy was the best. He made someone smile, laugh or feel loved every single day of his life. He was a goofball and a snuggle bug. He loved going for walks, hiding socks, sunbathing, eating raw broccoli and meeting new people. We miss him so much.



Tutu Tilly

Anna Marie and Kenneth Christley, West Columbia, SC
9/17/11-4/1/25
Years of Service: 12
Tilly was born to be a therapy dog. Wearing her signature tutus, she brought smiles to nursing homes, hospitals, airports and schools. Awards include WIS TV Community Builder, LMCEC Pet of the Year and CGC. We were so blessed to share her, and her memory will live on.



Mickey

Bonnie Medve, Coopersburg, PA
10/31/17-1/24/25
Years of Service: 6
Gone too soon. Mickey was born to be a therapy dog. He loved everyone, especially the children at the library. He would sit on their laps while they read to him. I'm happy they were touched by his unconditional love. I always called him "my angel in disguise."



Avery

Bill Prescott, Fruita, CO
2/17/15-5/29/25
Years of Service: 5
With her love and kindness, she touched the hearts of so many people. We volunteered at Family Health West Hospital, Pediatric Rehab, Oaks Assisted Living Center and Memory Care, as well as the Mesa County Library-Fruita branch. I was truly blessed to have 1 of God's special angels with me.



Oreo

Angie Moe, Mattawan, MI
4/21/2019-3/28/25 | Years of Service: 5
Oreo was known as a gentle giant with a particular fondness for children. At around 115 pounds, his calm and steady presence spoke to those who endured hard times. He was also beloved amongst students at Western Michigan University. Cancer cut his life short, but his impact will last forever.



Eden

Molly Kuekes, Charlotte, NC
10/4/16-6/20/25
Years of Service: 8
Lover of her 2 tiny humans, begging for table scraps, romping in the water, basking in the sun, and above all, sharing fluffy love to all without exception. May we all love like dogs love!



Crosby

Joy Belsley, Metamora, IL
2/19/11-4/11/25
Years of Service: 13
Crosby was my shadow, my gentle, loving companion, my inseparable therapy dog partner achieving over 400 visits and earning AKC Distinguished Therapy Dog title. If love could have saved Crosby, he would have lived forever. I cherish every second God blessed us together.



Tonks

Michelle Ozog, Greenville, SC
8/1/15-7/1/25
Years of Service: 1
Tonks was Michelle's service dog and lived in the women's dorms at USC. She went on to support Michelle through 4 years of medical school and, in our eyes, earned her own MD. Her kind eyes and soft coat brought love to everyone she encountered. Forever in our hearts.



Harley

Peter Gostout, Cape Coral, FL
10/27/07-5/4/25
Years of Service: 16
The night I clicked on Petfinder turned out to be one of the best nights of my life. Little Harley was a faithful and gentle companion. Harley's greatest pleasure was to be by my side. Harley was loved by all. I will miss him. Harley was my best friend.



Ricky

Dawn Jackson, Collinsville, OK
2010-7/16/25
Years of Service: 7
Ricky loved fetching at the lake. All of his favorite toys squeaked. He visited colleges, nursing homes and the library. In 2019, he became a member of Tulsa Airports Welcome Waggin'. And in 2020, he joined the Tulsa Courthouse Dog Team. He was awarded the AKC Therapy Dog Excellence Award.



Roscoe

Stella Lillian Jones, Charleston, SC
4/22/10-8/6/25
Years of Service: 8
Roscoe will always be in my heart. He was a rescue from Missouri. Always kind, loving, and bringing smiles and joy to everyone he greeted. He enjoyed performance events of all kinds, mostly agility. He loved his soccer ball, frisbee, and swimming. Loved and missed forever, Lillian and Scarlett.



Nash

Amy McCarthy, Tulsa, OK
12/25/19-11/25/24
Years of Service: 3½
A big goofy boy who always enjoyed belly rubs, Nash had a relaxed personality, which made him very approachable despite his 160 pounds. Whether at the hospital, airport, library, CHAMPs, or a nursing home, those who had met Nash before welcomed him with open arms.



Tuffie

Amy McCarthy, Tulsa, OK
7/16/14-7/15/25
Years of Service: 9
A fluffy, full-figured girl, Tuffie was the epitome of what a Saint Bernard should be - a gentle giant. While her greatest accomplishment was receiving the 2023 AKC ACE award in the therapy dog category, her greatest gift was working with developmentally challenged individuals. Job well done, Tuffie.



Hattie Mae

Melodie Rogers, Atlanta, GA
5/22/13-5/4/25
Years of Service: 8
Hattie Mae was a beloved family dog, therapy dog, and READ dog. For many years in Atlanta, she brought joy walking in parades in costume, visiting hospitals, universities, veterans, and children at schools with reading. She is so missed but her spirit stays in our heart through love.



Piper

Sarah Liziewski, Kennebunk, ME
2011-8/8/25
Years of Service: 9
Piper loved her visits to Hospice of Southern Maine's Gosnell Memorial Hospice House. Staff, patients and visitors all loved her kind spirit and sympathetic presence. She will be missed by many, but her memory lives on forever.



Brady

Ruth Brown, Asheville, NC
6/11/10-1/24/25
Years of Service: 11
Brady, an enthusiastic Labradoodle, loved his 1,100 therapy visits. He brought smiles and joy to young and old, especially when he "said his prayers." Mission Hospital chose him to be the cover boy for the first therapy dog calendar. His loving eyes and gentle heart will be missed.



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

-Winnie the Pooh

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 2 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 1 year of service, patches are offered in 5-year increments thereafter. If you would like a service patch, please order at <https://atdmerch.myshopify.com/>.





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 1-day Midyear Board Meeting.
- Virtual attendance at a ½-day Spring and Fall Quarterly Board Meeting.
- Review and respond to emails within 3 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 you 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

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 and Awards 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.

Nominations must be postmarked by November 1. 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).

The deadline to apply is February 15.

Scholarship winners will be notified by April 15.

Questions? office@therapydogs.com | therapydogs.com

This scholarship is awarded annually. Applicants must meet the above criteria. A portion of the scholarship is dedicated to qualified Junior Handlers.



Alliance of Therapy Dogs
P.O. Box 20227
Cheyenne, WY 82003
307-432-0272 or 877-843-7364
office@therapydogs.com
www.therapydogs.com

Media Authorization Release Form

Instructions for Alliance of Therapy Dogs Member: Please type or print legibly. Follow all facility rules regarding photographs, videos, or other digital media including filling out a facility photo release form if requested. For the privacy of those whom we visit and to protect both Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) and our Members from liability, Members must have an ATD Media Authorization Release Form signed prior to taking any photo, video, or other digital media that identifies any individual (e.g., face, tattoo, birthmark, scar, etc.). The signed ATD Media Authorization Release Form must accompany any submission to an ATD-managed publication or social media platform. A facility or organization media release may not be used instead of the ATD Media Authorization Release. If you are not submitting the media to ATD for publication, simply retain this signed form for your records.

I do hereby consent, without the promise of compensation of any kind, to grant Alliance of Therapy Dogs, a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation headquartered in Wyoming, its successors and assigns, including those acting under its permission, the right to reproduce, copyright, publish, circulate, or otherwise use my likeness and name in photograph, video, or other digital media.

This authorization and release covers the use of said material in any published form and any medium of advertising, publicity, or trade in any part of the world, including, but not limited to the Alliance of Therapy Dogs Newsmagazine, website, presentations, and social media.

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

Please return this signed and dated form with any photos you submit for Alliance of Therapy Dogs' publication and social media use:

Alliance of Therapy Dogs
P.O. Box 20227
Cheyenne, WY 82003
307-432-0272 or 877-843-7364
office@therapydogs.com

Member Name and Number:

Photo Description, Location and Date:

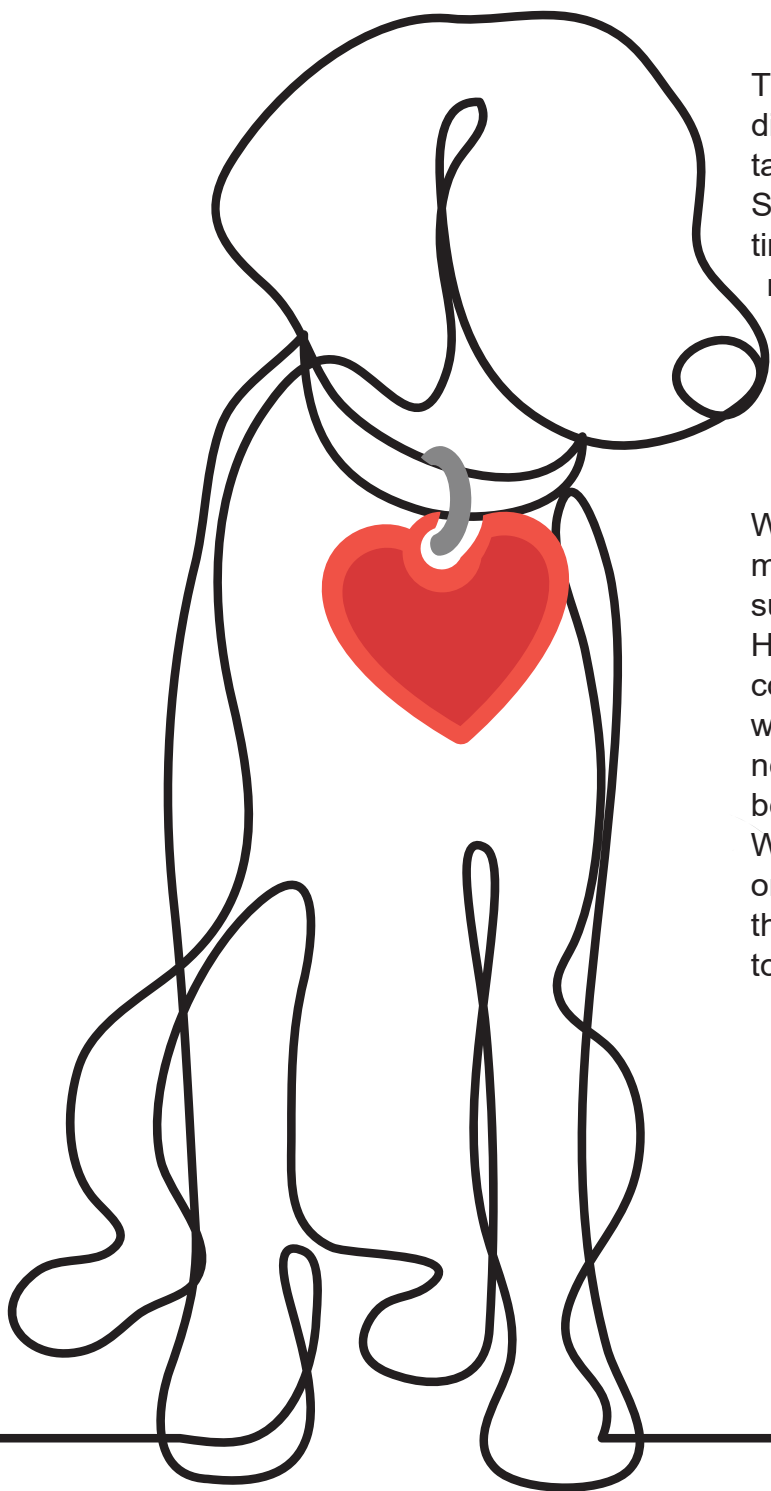
I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE MEDIA RELEASE. I AFFIRM THAT I AM AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE, OR, IF I AM UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, I HAVE OBTAINED THE REQUIRED CONSENT OF MY PARENTS/GUARDIANS AS EVIDENCED BY THEIR SIGNATURES BELOW. I ACCEPT:

Signature	Printed Name	Guardian Signature (if necessary)	Printed Guardian Name

If more signatures are required than are spaces above, use the back of the page for additional signatures.

Is it time to hang up the *red* heart?

Become a Supporting Member!



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

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

Alliance of Therapy Dogs Photo Tags & IDs

ONLINE ORDERING ONLY: www.k9tag.com/tdog.html

A donation is made to Alliance of Therapy Dogs with each order.

FRONT



Laminated
stainless steel!

Collar tag size is 1 1/4" diameter

COLLAR TAG

Collar ring
included.

BACK



Wallet IDs are the size of a credit card &
a badge holder with slot at top is included.

WALLET IDs

BACK

HUMAN ID FRONT



DOG ID FRONT



USE THIS LINK TO ORDER: www.k9tag.com/tdog.html

EMAIL THE IMAGES FOR YOUR ORDER TO: tag@k9tag.com

☐ Dog collar size tag \$6.95 ☐ Dog wallet ID \$6.95 ☐ Human wallet ID \$6.95

Handler's Name:

Pet's Name - 25 Character limit:

Address Line one - 25 character limit: **USED FOR MAILING ONLY, NOT USED ON IDs OR TAGS.**

Address line two (city / state / zip) - 25 character limit: **USED FOR MAILING ONLY, NOT ON IDs OR TAGS.**

MEMBER ID NUMBER:

THERAPY DOG #:

Sex:

Breed:

QUESTIONS? email tag@k9tag.com or phone 703-402-6917



Alliance of Therapy Dogs

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