

Therapy Dog Chronicles

A Paws for Healing, Inc. Publication

Mending Hearts, Minds and Bodies with Gentle Paws and Guiding Hands



A Message from Our Board of Directors

HELLO TO EVERYONE AND MANY THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF PAWS FOR HEALING!

We had our first try at our local Napa fundraiser –the Give Guide—this past year. This is a nonprofit only campaign to make the community aware of the various wonderful groups who are doing super deeds for others. This was our first time in this event and we did well and thank you to everyone who supported us with contributions!

And we are reaching out more strongly to our mentors in our program. The mentors are the volunteers who are responsible for a particular facility---orienting new volunteers to that facility, acting as liaison between the facility and Paws for Healing. The mentors are such a valuable part of our organization and we are hoping to have twice yearly meetings with them just to reinforce our strengths and help them to be a communicator to all of you in the trenches. So if you have issues or concerns we encourage you to talk to the mentor of your facility –they will help you out! Because of the structure of Paws for Healing, we do not have regular ‘meetings’ like a club of sorts so that makes the role of the mentor so important. So thank you to our mentors!!!!

A message from our Board of Directors (Cont.)

We have had a good response to our recent workshops and we have great news....Dr Matt Carter will be presenting another workshop this fall. Mark your calendar and save the date for September 7th—he is a well known veterinarian and his topic will be *First Aid for your Canine*. We all need to know how to deal with the simple incidents and get a confirmation on when we should actually go to the vet. We'll be at the Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa. We'll get more info to you before the date but did want you to have a heads up.

The board at PFH is here for you—we hope you know that—so if you have concerns or issues that you feel need changes or our attention please let us know. We have regular meetings and discuss what works and what is not working. We listen to your concerns and try to deal with them in the best way possible. We also love to hear about your happy events and those are what make us so grateful. We hear from our facility managers what a difference you all make in the lives of those you visit. We all feel so lucky to be involved in supporting this great organization. Thank you so much for all you do with your canine for your community!

Have a wonderful and safe summer. If you travel with your dog, we'd love to see pictures for the newsletter...send them along!



Recognizing Our Volunteers

The Solano County Board of Supervisors recognized all the volunteers that dedicated their time to county agencies on Tuesday, April 9th. In the Daily Republic newspaper, a picture of long time Paws for Healing volunteers, Joan and Chuck Constantine with their dogs Augie and Addie was posted. Thank you to Joan and Chuck and congratulations on this wonderful recognition!



UPCOMING TRAINING DATES

September 28

October 5

October 12

2020

January 25

February 1

February 8

April 25

May 2

May 9

September 26

October 3

October 10



Walk For Animals

Napa Humane is again sponsoring their Walk for Animals on August 4th, Sunday, in Napa at the Oxbow Commons. Registration and check-in starts at 730 AM and the walk starts at 830AM. We did it last year with my dogs and it was really fun. It is a slow but nice walk along the Napa River and they have lots of booths for purchasing animal related items, and refreshments, and music and there were some demonstrations of dog fun events. The cost is \$35 when you pre register. There were lots of dogs and we were in uniform and passed out some business cards for advertisement. Go to napahumane.org for registration and more information. It's a fundraiser for a good organization and a little fun also!



Weather and the Canine Volunteers

I think I remind you every year, but please bear with me. If the weather is too hot, it is okay not to go to your assigned facility. Most facilities are air conditioned these days, but even so, getting there and walking on the hot pavement to get into it....sometimes it is just not a good idea to expose your dog to the elements. We are volunteers and it is okay to call the facility and say "Can't be there today...it is too hot". They will understand. I know we all hate to miss our visitations since the people we visit really miss not seeing the dogs, but just use your good judgment!

Changing a Few Lives with a Book and a Dog

“Dear Cabo The Dog, Thank you for letting me read to you. It is so fun, I want to do it every day! You are the best! You always make me smile.”

“Cabo always listens and he is {really} cute. I love how quiet Cabo is. He is always [looking] at me.”

“My favorite book I read to Cabo was Shark Detective.”

“My mom is going to make my dog a PAWS for reading dog too!”

“I like reading. It is cool how Cabo can listen and understand us when we read to him.”

These are the quotes of second graders at Sonoma Mountain School after a year of having *Paws for Reading* in their classroom.

When we first began Paws for Reading, I thought it would be about literacy--helping kids learn to read better. Well, it is...and so much more. The teachers tell us that the kids come back from a brief reading session more calm and more focused. They are smiling and sharing stories about the book they read and how cool it is to have a dog at school. Kids that are having hard times at home get a break from worry and anxiety. Petting the dog is relaxing for them, just as it is for hospital patients and eldercare residents. Petting a dog is nothing short of magical.

If you haven't considered becoming a *Paws for Reading* team, do not miss this experience and the gift that you will give to a library or school. It is joyous, it is completely positive and it once again will make you look in awe at that wonderful canine you love as you see him or her change the world in yet another way.



Student Finals Stress Relief

We received a call from New Bethel High School in Vallejo to come down during finals week for ‘stress relief’ for the students. We arrived one day at the end of May at this large school—over 1500 students. On arrival we were escorted to a gymnasium where we put our blankets on the floor and were asked, “Are you ready?”...When we said yes, the doors were opened and they allowed 8 students to come in, drop their backpacks and come and pet the dogs for 45 seconds! We knew we were there only during their lunch hour but it was a very organized session and the kids scratched the dogs, loved the dogs, petted them, talked to them...it was chaotic and then they were told, ‘Time is up!’ and those students left and another 8 students were allowed to come in. The line for the students to come see the dogs stretched around the building and in 45 minutes, over 350 students came in for their 45 seconds of dog loves, petting, scratching, excitement. It was so much fun! The kids took videos, pics from their cell phones, laughed, compared our dogs to theirs, asked about the dogs but mostly just had fun with these 6 canine volunteers. Needless to say the dogs loved it easily as much as the students did and when it was over, once the dogs got back into car, they were exhausted from all the joyous happiness that had just occurred. Stress relief happened and the sponsors of the event were so grateful for the success of the event. They said to us as we left, “ See you next year!”



Thank you for Your Generous Support

Your contributions are used to continue Paws For Healing's mission of providing canine therapy to people in health care and educational settings. As you know your donation is tax deductible so, we all benefit. Donations help pay for our programs, materials, and classes, as well as insuring all our teams. Thank you for caring. Listed below are our generous donors.

Donors

Linda Powers

C. Joann Martin

Christine Holmberg

Lea and Randy Stegman

Trudee Lewis

Zits Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman





Honoring Volunteer Carol De La Cruz

Long time volunteer and evaluation support person, Carol De la Cruz , has decided to retire after many years of service to PFH. She and her terrier Honey began volunteering with Paws in 2007 after receiving additional training from Norm Stangler, our canine evaluator. Carol and her husband George rescued Honey and the poor little dog had many issues...she was afraid of everyone and everything and Carol went to many supplemental classes with Norm to help Honey overcome these problems. Carol said it took three tries to become a certified volunteer but persistence worked! Honey even completed her Canine Good Citizen Certification thanks to Carol's determination and good care.

Around the same time Honey became certified as a PFH volunteer, Carol started helping with the Paws for Healing evaluations. Carol is usually the person handling the walker during the eval, trying to take the leash away from the new volunteer (this is, as you know, a no no....volunteer is always to have control of the leash) but Carol NEVER failed to try to get that leash, trying to 'trick' the new volunteer. She was always there, six Saturday mornings a year at least, always smiling, always ready to help and do whatever needed to be done.

As a canine volunteer team she and Honey volunteered at Pennycook Elementary in Vallejo for 10 years including going to a special needs class. They started volunteering during the summer at Benicia Library for 10 years and Honey was wonderful with the kids and very popular. She was written up in the local paper a couple times because of her dependable service contribution to the community.

Carol is a California native; she was born in the small San Joaquin Valley town of Dos Palos and lived there until she was 13. Her family then moved to Berkeley and she has lived in the Bay area ever since. She and George were married for 35 years but he sadly died in 2011. Carol has grown children: one son, three stepsons, a step daughter and two grandsons.

Carol, a huge thank you from all of us at Paws for Healing for your dedication to our organization, for you many years volunteering in your community for PFH, and for your dependable and positive support for our evaluations. You were always there, always smiling, always cheerful, and always trying to get that darned leash from the new volunteers! You will be sadly missed but we wish you all the best! Thank you.

Would you like to honor or remember a special friend?

If you wish to make a donation* to Paws for Healing in honor of or in the memory of a beloved relative, friend or companion animal, please fill out this form so that we can acknowledge the appropriate person. The enclosed envelope is pre-addressed for your convenience. We appreciate your support.

Please circle:

In Honor of OR In Memory of _____

Send acknowledgement to _____

Message _____

** All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. PFH is a 501 (3)(c) non-profit corporation. All donors will be acknowledged with a letter as well as those families or individuals who are honored or remembered.*

WE NEED A SPACE FOR TRAINING AND STORING

We only have three training sessions each year—three Saturdays three times per year. We need a consistent place to hold those trainings. We have been renting a space from a school which works out but we cannot store our materials there and it is not always available for us so on occasion we have to scramble to find a place to do our training and our evaluations. It would be ideal if we had a classroom, a space for storing our materials, and space for the evaluations, all under one roof and of course we would pay rent. Because Napa is our home base it needs to be in Napa County. So...we are reaching out to you to see if possibly you might know of any space you could recommend that we could rent. Thank you for thinking about it!

Body Language of Fear in Dogs

As the human volunteer you are responsible for checking your animal frequently to make sure that he/she is handling a situation in a positive manner. Obvious positive reactions are wagging tail, going up to friendly people, getting excited when he sees another person, etc. However important FEAR signs are important for you to be aware of. Cowering is a big sign of fear. Other more subtle signs of fear or anxiety include pacing, moving away, looking in many directions, ears to side, panting, licking lips. All of these are little symptoms for you to be aware of so that you can help your dog get through a particular situation. The best solution is to remove the dog but sometimes you can change his direction by talking to him, physically moving him to another nearby space, offering a treat if treats work. The main thing is that you constantly observe your dog and deal with any uncomfortable reaction. We want volunteering to be positive for them and you are the one who can make sure that happens!

Pacific Union College in Angwin

Over 100 students experienced stress relief via a visit from PFH therapy dogs during finals week in June. Comments: "oh my gosh, I so needed this"... "these are the cutest things ever"... "wow whoever thought of this is a genius"... "I love this!!!"..."thank you so much"!!!



Book honoring Quincie

Former PFH volunteer Joanne Martin wrote this sweet book in honor of her beloved dog Quincie!

One poignant note... she said he was a faithful companion to Joanne's husband when he was ill and after he died sat quietly by the casket for the entire funeral.



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