



Therapy Dog Chronicles

A Publication of Paws for Healing, Inc

January 2012



A message from our President

Happy 2012 to each of you and your canine friends! In looking back at 2011, we all feel that it was a very busy and eventful year. And despite the economy, our grants and donations have thankfully kept us going, we have trained and evaluated many new volunteers, and we have had some fun also---our thank you picnic, Santa Paws, Easter Paws, Dine and Donate at Mary's Pizza, book fair at Barnes and Noble to name a few. So, we feel we have much to be thankful for, but of course the main thing we are thankful for is our incredible group of volunteers, human and canine!

As we begin a new year, we look forward to new ideas and new events. We are currently in the process of updating our training manual and our training sessions in order to keep the training efficient and current. Our plans this year are to have some roundtable workshops—many of you have asked for first aid training and more in depth training for better assisting some of our clients that we visit. We are also hoping to do our required evaluations in more local surroundings—hopefully in Sonoma and Solano counties in addition to the ones we do in Napa—to reduce the travel time for our volunteers. We are hoping to have mentor meetings so that we can update our mentoring guidelines and make sure that we are doing our best for our gracious facilities. Additionally we are hoping to provide you with some new pur-

chase items from our store—canine related of course. Those are just some of the ideas we are working on for 2012.

Our need for help continues all the time. We have over 200 canine-handler teams, requiring much paperwork and monitoring to keep their status updated and current. We have five two-day training sessions every year, each of which requires planning, educating, and many hours of our time. We have a website which needs monitoring and constant updating. We have over 80 facility sites which require mentors to be in charge of the volunteer teams who are there. The sites also need to have someone contact them periodically to make sure they are happy with the PFH teams. We have a PFH “store” where we sell canine and human uniforms and accessories. Not only do we have to be the sales agents for the store but those items need to be replenished and stored. We carry liability insurance for each of our teams, and in addition to needing money for the premium, someone has to be in contact with our agent and monitor any claims. Our newsletter needs a graphic artist to help with the format and someone to write the new articles, and then a team to get them mailed out.

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Training and Evaluation Dates for 2012

Mark your calendar for the training and re-evaluation dates for 2012. They will be held at the Community Education Center building 1360 Menlo Avenue in Napa as usual. This year we are again planning to combine the training dates for new volunteers in conjunction with re-evaluation dates for experienced volunteers. Volunteers are notified if they need to bring their dog in for a re-evaluation.

In addition, a new change is that on the first day of the training, the Paws for Reading Program will be added as a new station where an overview of the program will be presented.

Dates for 2012 are as follows:

January 21/28

March 17/24

May 12/19

September 15/22

October 27/November 3



Norm Stangler observes the
evaluation process

We frequently need extra help on those days so if you are available, please let us know: 707-258-3486 or info@pawsforhealing.org

Additionally, the Santa Paws photo op for 2012 will be held on Saturday November 17th.

Come and Visit the Store

If you have not been to the PFH "store" lately then I suggest you stop by and check out the new merchandise on hand. New items now available are PFH travel bags and treat bags. Color: Black with teal PFH logo. Cost: \$12.00/ travel bag and \$8.00/treat bag.

The travel bag is a great tool to carry all the various items you may need for you and your furry friend when you set out to volunteer together as a PFH "CAT" team. The treat bags fit snugly on a belt or waistband and will easily carry enough treats to please any size dog.

We also have plenty of the new Teal color polo shirts in stock still as well. Mens/Ladies Polo Shirts. Cost: \$22.00. PFH and PFR t-shirts are also available. Cost: \$12.00. With winter here you might want to grab a PFH fleece jacket or vest as well. Navy Fleece Vests Cost \$30.00; Tan Fleece Vests Cost: \$24.00; Jacket \$28.00. Other items available are PFH ink pens, lanyards, collars, leashes, first aid kits, and much more! Stop by and check it out.

As a reminder the PFH store is open on the second day of every training class. The store will be open January 28, March 24, May 19, September 22 and November 3.

PFH Blood Donor Dogs

By Bruce and Debbie Gross

A few years ago, one of our dogs was diagnosed with cancer. We took her to U.C. Davis for treatment. During the following surgery, she needed blood from the Canine blood bank. U.C. Davis maintains a canine blood bank for the area vets as well as their vet hospital.

We found out the they are always needing blood donors, and it seems that the Weimaraner blood can be used in all canines, a universal type. After asking about the program, Roger stepped up and became a blood donor. After getting a free health check up and blood work done, all checked out good and the donations started.

After arriving on his appointment day, he was weighed, some treats, temperature taken and a small patch on his neck shaved, a few more treats and a small stick and the donation taken, then a few more treats and he was done.

Roger was able to donate every other month, for three years. At age eight, he was retired as this is the maximum age for donators. However, Roger has a niece and nephew donating now, Leia and Chief. Chief is a new Pet Therapy canine with Paws for Healing and has been donating for about a year now.

Roger has not completely retired. He just fathered a litter of seven puppies and still goes to the library, but is a Court Dog with the Solano County Courts, but that's another story.

Frugal Dog Care tips

Make an inexpensive dog toy. Drill a hole through a tennis ball, large enough to put a rope through. Thread a 6-8 foot rope through the 2 holes, and tie knots as close to the ball as possible. Then make a loop with the remaining rope, and tie a knot. Dogs love to play "Tug

and Toss" with this.

Shop at your local Humane Society for dog food. The price is low, and the money benefits a great cause!

Dry skin relief: A low cost home remedy (less than \$1.00!) for your dog's dry skin is chamomile tea. Just brew a few cups, allow it to cool, and pour it over your dog, working it gently into his skin. Not only is it soothing, but it won't leave any oily residue.

Low-Cost Herbal Dog Shampoo: You can make an excellent and inexpensive herbal dog shampoo from things that you probably already have around the house. Simply dilute a handful of Aloe Vera gel with water and work it into your dog's coat (it's best if your dog's coat is dry!), then rinse well with water. If you like a little more foaming action, add a touch of baby shampoo to the recipe. This shampoo is very mild on your dog's skin and will leave his coat gleaming!

Newsletter Articles

We are always looking for new articles and comments that would be of interest to our volunteers for inclusion in our newsletter. Any volunteer that would like to submit an article for publication please send to Meir Horvitz at (mihorvitz@comcast.net or snail mail to 3414 Glen Ellen Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534).

Would you like a "Letters to the Editor" or a "comments from our Volunteers" section to be included?

Let us know.

Thank you for your Extremely Generous Support

January 2011—December 2011

How does PFH use the donations you give us? We are so grateful for our supporters and donations. As you know, your donation is tax deductible so we all benefit from your generosity. We have many expenses, as you can imagine, and we do our best to use these funds as frugally as possible. We pay for the training expenses (the continental breakfast and lunch, the workbooks, the evaluations), the liability insurance, the website, printing of any brochures and newsletter, birthday and sympathy cards, accounting, mailing expenses, READ book rewards—all this just names a few of our expenses. If you have any questions please contact any of our board members and we would be happy to discuss. So, thank you once again. Listed below are our generous donors this past year.

Board Members

Sara Decrevel, President

Pauline Seago, Vice President and Volunteer Coordinator

Meir Horvitz, Secretary/Treasurer

Joyce Bristow, Paws for Reading Coordinator

~In Honor~

of Annie Moore ♥ Deborah Wheeler

of Mary Bouman's 50th Birthday
♥ Mary Bouman and Melissa Peters

of Sandra Norwitt ♥ Marlene & Stan
Rosenberg

~In Loving Memory~

of Jack Brannan ♥ Andy Brannan

of Louis Davis, Boxer ♥ Pat & Steve Davis

of Dylan ♥ Janeann Erickson

of our precious Molly loving PFH
volunteer ♥ Tom & Mary Lou Gracy

of Josephine Yost McCoy ♥ Mack, Duncan
and Kelso

of Mariah Pacheco.

What a loving, gorgeous dog,
♥ Clare Le Brun

of Dylan Erickson. ♥ Lee Morgan

of Kyle Glueck and Mariah ♥ Nikki & Travis
Pacheco

of Dylan ♥ Jane K. Porter

of Jack LeBrun
♥ Randy & Lea Stegman

of Max
May Max's loving Spirit be with you
♥ Paula A Romani

of Mojo (Canine)
♥ Randy & Lea Stegman

of Rose King
♥ Randy & Lea Stegman

of Molly, Mariah, Winston, Tim, Rosie
♥ Randy & Lea Stegman

of Sandra Norwitt ♥ Marlene & Stan
Rosenberg



The Rainbow Bridge Embroidery

The Wisdom of a 6 Year Old

“People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life -- like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?”
The Six-year-old continued,

"Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

~A Special Thank You~

to Adrienne & Lou Rovens
♥ Marlene & Stan Rosenberg

~Special Programs~

Aldergate United Methodist Church
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Contractors Safety Forum
Mary's Pizza Shack
Tony Stewart Foundation

~Donors~

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Kristy Juliano
Fran Kelley
William Lenehan
Trudee Lewis
LeAnn Luna
Diane Moore
Lee Morgan
Kathy Mosher
Larry Van Overmeer
Sandra Pugh Warbritton
Bennett Wetch

TAILS OF MARIN: UNDER- STANDING WHY DOGS DO WHAT THEY DO

Nanci Caron
(Canine Evaluator for Paws for Healing)

Last spring, I attended the 12-week Canine Behavior Academy (CBA) with instructor, Trish King, director of behavior and training for the Marin Humane Society (MHS).

Those Saturday afternoons in Novato became the highlight of my week. Trish is a nationally renowned author, dog evaluator, trainer and behaviorist. During those sessions she shared her knowledge about canine behavior with us. Sessions ranged from lectures and hands-on work with dogs, to evaluations of shelter dogs, and brainstorming ways to intervene with problematic behaviors, both for hypothetical and real cases. Trish introduced various positive training methods and canine learning theories, which students then discuss, debate, and apply.

Because the field of dog training and canine care is not standardized, there are many approaches, philosophies and methods. Trish presented various behavior and training philosophies and methodologies in a way that encouraged students to be creative when exploring various ways to deal with the problems we often face while working with dogs.

CBA students range from pet owners to professional trainers, dog walkers, pet sitters, and those with boarding facilities. We also had veterinary students, shelter and rescue workers, and even an animal control officer in our class. From what I could gather from my 50 fellow classmates, the feeling was unanimous - we were all excited and appreciative to learn from Trish, and I feel I have greatly benefited from her expertise. I would recommend her classes for anyone who is interested in

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furthering their knowledge of canine evolution, behavior and/or training. Information for future classes can be found on the MHS website.

Message from the President --Continued

These are just a few of the main things that we have to do just to keep Paws functioning. Quite honestly we need constant assistance from our volunteers, over and above the volunteering at sites that you do on a weekly basis.

While we know that your time is very valuable and you probably feel as though you cannot squeeze another thing onto your packed calendar, we really hope you will consider helping us out with some of our extra things.

Our biggest need is on our board. We only have four members on our board and we need to have at least three additional members.

If that is something you might be interested in, I would be happy to discuss that with you. If you would like to become involved on the Board contact Meir Horvitz, 707-207-3273 mihoritz@comcast.net and a Board Application will be sent to you. We are a working board, but we also have several "extraordinary" board related items that you might be interested in, such as managing a fundraiser, or organizing the thank you picnic. Additionally, there are several other areas that require assistance. If you have had any retail experience our store could use a new Manager We need help with the training sessions, we have someone who mails out our thank you notes when we receive a donation, we have someone who mails sympathy cards when that is sadly necessary—again, lots of details but we have something for everyone. Because all of our volunteers are super people, I think you will find that whatever extra volunteering you might find time to do, you will have fun doing it.

The people and their canine buddies in Paws for Healing are the best, and I mean that and that is why it is such a great organization, full of opportunities, full of fun as we continue on our mission of mending hearts, minds, and bodies with gentle paws and healing hands.

Thank you for considering, but always know that we are incredibly grateful to you for your continued support of Paws for Healing. Again...**happy 2012!**
Sara DeCrevel, President

Special Dogs and the Rainbow Bridge

Each year we lose special dogs that have added so much to our lives and to the lives of the patients and clients that they visit each week. As most of you know, whenever we do lose a dog, our incredible PFH creative person, Marilyn Horvitz, creates a framed, embroidered Rainbow Bridge picture on fabric and sends this to each of the owners as a remembrance of their dog, the idea of course is that each of us will join our beloved pets eventually and cross the Rainbow Bridge together.

Molly, owned by Mary Lou and Tom Gracy, was one of the special volunteers we lost last year. Following is an article from Mary Lou:

“Fate brought Molly to us in November of 1999 and we had 12 1/2 extraordinary years with her. She began her therapy work with PFH in 2002 and visited patients at Queen of the Valley Medical Center, Hospice and Adult Day Services as well as being a favorite at the library in the R.E.A.D. program. She spent almost 3 years visiting a very special Hospice patient in St. Helena. He came on and off Hospice care 3 times and I know Molly had a huge part in that. She was a very important part of so many patients' lives. A family of one Hospice patient insisted that she attend their mother's memorial service and be introduced to everyone there. Molly also helped a patient at the Queen, who was in a coma due to a car accident, regain consciousness. Molly got up on his bed in ICU and began licking his hand. He began to move his hand to stroke her and slowly opened his eyes for the first time in over 2 weeks! It truly seemed like watching a miracle unfold! She dressed up in costume for all the holidays and brought a smile to anyone whoever met her. She was awarded the Core Value Award for Dignity for 2011 from the

Queen of the Valley.

Even though Molly has left our lives, she will never leave our hearts. I know she awaits us on the Rainbow Bridge.”
Mary Lou Gracy



What is the Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to the Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those that were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; his eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together.

PICTURES, WE NEED PICTURES...

Get your cameras going and share some of the fun pictures you might have of your canines... as they volunteer (be sure to get a permission slip signed if someone other than a Paws volunteer is in the picture), dressed to go to "work", playing, relaxing. Best way is to email them to info@pawsforhealing.org but you can also snail mail hard copies to 1370 Trancas Street, PMB 127, Napa 94558 and we can scan and use them. Be sure to identify canine, handler, and what is going on in the photo. Because we have a website, print a newsletter, publish brochures, we always need new photos of our active canines. Thank you for your help!



Airmen with Toby at David
Grant Medical Center
Travis AFB



K.T. Whittle at Work

Paws for Healing, Inc.
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Napa, CA 94558
707-258-3486
www.pawsforhealing.org

Paws for Healing is a 501(c)(3) and its mission is to mend hearts with gentle paws and healing hands. In the past 12 years our teams have donated well over 76,000 hours and we continue to grow in the North Bay counties.

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