

Journal and Activities of PFH Canine-Assisted Therapies Teams
Volunteering in Napa, Sonoma and Solano Counties

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Pet Parade Lets PFH Show Off Their Therapy Canines

St. Helena, CA, Associated Dog Press — PFH volunteers joined over two hundred people and uncounted animals at the 13th Annual Pet Parade in St. Helena, CA, on October 21. Despite stiff competition, Jill Gamble’s Belle, a Great Dane, won the Judges’ Prize for her impersonation of a Unicorn. “Action Jackson,” Milt Carri-gan’s Bichon, showed off his therapy skills by kissing the Mis-tress of Ceremonies, Rebecca Bell, and thereby made the front page of the *St. Helena Star*.



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(l to r) Tom Gracy helps Steve Yost (out of photo) to line up his Hungarian Puli dogs (behind Sandy’s tail), while Barbara Yost (somewhere in parade) handles Puli Chanel #5. Marilyn Horvitz follows Mimi, who is following Joanne Yates with Sandy and Nellie (out of photo). Elaine Fohr handles Maya (also outside of photo). Despite the lack of parade formation, PFH volunteers still make news!

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Training Never Ceases... as Brandy, our PFH Canine-Dog Evaluator, Explains

Hello, dearies! I'm Brandy, a full-time PFH dog who lives in the hospital at the Veteran's home. I've met several of you with the people you own when you come to visit the patients. It really makes their day and they talk about you even after you're gone.

It isn't easy being a therapy dog, is it, darlings? You have to make everyone you meet feel special, and after a while you can get a little tired and your attention wanders. But my handler, the old dear, has several ways to help me stay fresh and focused.

When I'm not working, we practice and my very favorite game is this: He holds a treat (bits of cheese are my personal preference) near his eyes and says my name. I look about a bit, but when I look into his eyes, Bingo! here comes the treat. Just when I've got that down he begins to move the treat farther and farther away. Of course, I look at the treat, but that doesn't get me anything.

Eventually, to figure out what's happening, I look back at his face, and Voila!, there comes the treat. Aha! I've got to look at him to get my yummys. Then

he gets a couple of other people to do this, too, so that I remember to look at the person's face when he says my name.

When I'm off duty, my handler uses my pet names when he talks to me. (*Snookums* is one I like best.) That way my real name is always special and I know to look at him when I hear "Brandy" (or at the person who is says my name).

So what happens when I'm at work? My handler carries little dry bits, sometimes just pieces of kibble, and gives one to each person we meet and he says, "Hi! This is Brandy!" Well, almost always the person says my name, and when I look at them, they give me the treat. Now we've got a relationship!

Some days when I'm kind of draggy, he has better treats. Freeze-dried liver is the best. I always get some of those after a visit, and when I've done a really good job, I'll get three or four all at once. He calls that the "jackpot" and it's really exciting.

Why not contact me if you have any tips, suggestions or questions? Drop me line here at the newsletter, and we'll woof about it—just ask for Brandy.

Holiday fare is rich and can cause canine stomach and intestinal upsets.

Sponsorship is an easy way to help PFH dogs and humans do their jobs

The 12 faces you see on the enclosed sponsor card represent the 160+ volunteer teams that visit facilities throughout the north bay area on behalf of Paws for Healing. Most of our readers already know that, but what you may not realize is that our volunteers underwrite nearly all the costs of serving others as canine-assisted therapy teams.

Why are there costs for being a volunteer? Sometimes people have asked, “I’ve got a dog, so why do I need training? All I’m going to do is visit someone.” Or they might wonder why a uniform or carrying antiseptic wipes or using a 4-foot leash is needed.

These are all good questions that also clarify the financial commitment a canine-assisted team must make in order to volunteer effectively and safely.

Our volunteer teams do more than “visit.” They learn how to mesh their dog’s skills with the patient’s needs.



Crashed canine: Working as a canine therapist is one of the most demanding jobs dogs do for humans. Most dogs can work only 30 to 45 minutes before tiring. They need breaks and plenty of water to lessen their stress. That is why portable water dishes are required for all PFH teams when they volunteer.

First, our sites require that PFH dogs are certified by their veterinarians to be healthy, current with vaccinations and free of parasites. While most people take their pets in for exams and shots, they don’t necessarily have their dogs on heartworm preventative or use products to discourage ticks and fleas. Those are costly treatments that volunteers pay for annually.

Secondly, most people already have leashes for their dogs. Some, however, are 6 foot in length or longer; others are retractable; and some may be attached to pinch *cont. p. 5*

Ask family and guests to feed your canine only kibble or approved treats.

Join us for holiday photos and more!

cont. from p. 1

PFH's participation in the Pet Parade is part of the group's outreach and fund raising programs that Joyce Bristow and Marilyn Horvitz have organized. They have made and gathered gifts from other volunteers who have handcrafted pillows, throws and blankets for pets and special holiday gifts for humans.

"It's a way for people to help who don't have dogs or the time to devote to therapy work," explains Joyce, who has two labradoodles that volunteer in Solano. Among our busy helpers are Florence Stegman, Dana Spicer, Lea Stegman, Mary Lou Gracy, Sharon Schaefer, Tracey Wingerter and Janeann Erickson. All proceeds from the sales go directly to Paws because these volunteers have donated their time.

If you would like to help, please mark your calendars and consider doing your holiday shopping with Paws for Healing at these events:

*Frontier Pet Clinic
Holiday Photos & Fair
November 18 * 10am to 4pm
1119 3rd Ave., Napa
(707) 252-3390*

*Western Ranch & Pet Supply
Holiday Photos & Fair
December 2-3 & 9-10
10 to 4 pm (Sat); 11 to 3pm (Sun)
103 Aegean Way, Vacaville
(707) 448-6568*

*Calistoga Community Bazaar
December 2 * 9am to 4pm
Calistoga Fair Grounds
1435 N. Oak, Calistoga
CalistogaChristmas@earthlink.net*



One of our most popular items is Canine Crisps® dog cookies made by St. Helena High School students. Left, Polly gives the dough its "sniff test" and approval. Below, teacher Cory Roche monitors Happy's appetite while students and volunteers handle brisk sales



at the Farmers' Market in St. Helena. Bonnie Belle, a Sheltie (m), is part of the clean-up crew.

While humans can tolerate artificial sugars, dogs can die from them.

Why sponsorship matters...

cont. from p. 3

or chain collars. Unfortunately, those are all dangerous to use for therapy work, which explains why PFH requires 4-foot leads.

Dogs need to be close to their handlers so they are monitored and won't find medications on the floor they could accidentally ingest, sometimes with fatal results. A long leash not only makes it easier for a dog to stray away, but can also trip up patients or staff, or become entangled in equipment. A handler must be able to control the canine without metal collars that could pinch or scratch the fragile skin of elderly patients or young children should they suddenly grasp the collar.

Antiseptic wipes and hand-washing are the most important means for limiting infectious contact between people, and for that reason wipes are required for volunteers to carry. Not only should volunteers offer wipes to anyone who spends time with their canines, they should also use them to wipe off a dog or its uniform if someone with a cold or flu has touched their dog. This simple procedure prevents passing on germs to others who later pet the canine therapist.



PFH teams learn and practice proper infection, safety and site protocols.

Finally, PFH dogs should be clearly identified as working canines so there is no confusion as to what dogs are legitimately welcomed into health care and educational facilities. (Our volunteers also tell us that when their canines see their vest or bandana, they know it's time to "work" with their handlers.)

Paws for Healing's mission is to provide qualified and safe teams for people who need to be comforted. When you look at the canines' faces on the sponsor card, you can imagine the unconditional love they provide others.

Can you continue their work with a donation to defray their costs? If so, please fill out the form on page 7 and send it in with your check. We thank you.

Make sure "diet" sweets are safely stored and out of reach for your dog.

Woofs and Thanks for your generosity!

Your support matters, especially as we add new programs and facilities to our list of services offered to more North Bay communities.

*In Memory of my special
Veterans in Yountville.
Trudee Lewis*



*In Honor of Senior Master
Sergeant Mark Shrode.
USAF Band of the Golden West*

*In appreciation of two special
special ladies: Barbara Simonson
& Dorothy Scott
Dana Spicer*

*In honor of Max and his
dedication to the Veterans in
Yountville. His work lives on!
Fran Lindsey*

*In Memory of Jiggs Le Brun
Suede Stegman*

*In Memory of our devoted
friends, Oliver, Dalai & Panda.
Col. Stanley Wellins (Ret) and
Sharon Wellins*

\$300+

Chris Williams

200+

*Trent Van Nieuwberg
Harrison Vineyards*

100+

*Gloria Terwilliger & Lark Lyn
Louis & Evalyn Trincherro*

50+

*Bridget Neidhart
Diane Brisebois Peterson
Sandy & Nellie Yates*

25+

*Gwen (Alumbaugh) Chandler
Edwina Leggett*



*Bessie takes time for a roll in
the grass after a day's work at
Napa State Hospital.*

In life and death, our true friends and companions are always with us...

Won't you please help sponsor me?

The enclosed card features 12 of our special canines who have volunteered with their humans to help mend the hearts of the people they visit. Please consider sponsoring our teams with a donation* that will help defray the costs of volunteering. Our dogs and humans are very grateful for your help at any level.

I. Antiseptic Wipes & Water Bowl \$10. II. Safety Leash, ID & Collar 15.
III. Therapy Vest or Bandana 25. IV. Total Team Package 50.

You may sponsor one team at any level, two or more teams at any level, or sponsor a team package for one or more of our volunteers.

I can sponsor _____ team(s) at \$_____ per team to underwrite volunteer costs.

Enclosed is a check for _____ Please send an acknowledgement to:

If you care to make a contribution* to Paws for Healing to honor or in memory of a beloved friend, please provide us with the information that will enable us to acknowledge the person, family and companion animal. The enclosed envelope is for your convenience.

In Honor of _____ **or**

In Memory of _____

Send acknowledgement to: _____

** 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.*

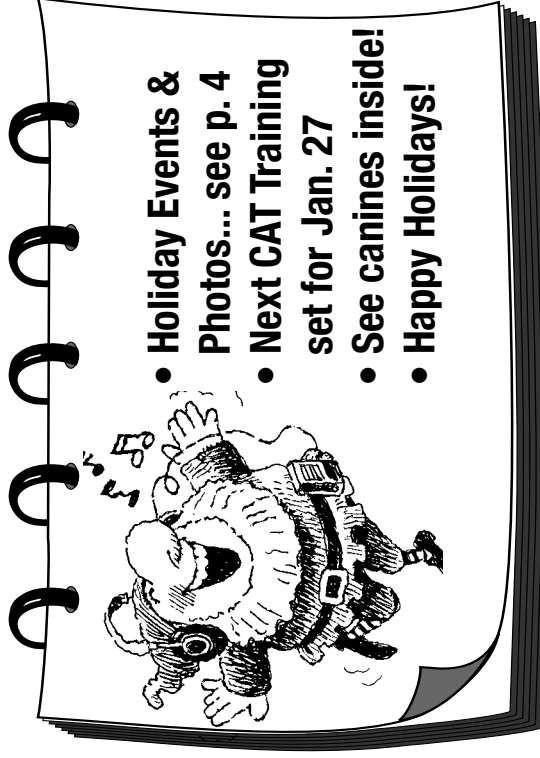
May we see them again one day and revel in their light and love.



Paws for Healing, Inc.
1370 Trancas Street, PMB 127
Napa, CA 94558



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NAPA, CA
PERMIT NO. 7**



- **Holiday Events & Photos... see p. 4**
- **Next CAT Training set for Jan. 27**
- **See canines inside!**
- **Happy Holidays!**