



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

Volume Nine, Number 5 • November 2007

They're Big, They're Beautiful, and They're Here!

The PFH 2008 Calendar is now available on our web site as well as at a number of local stores, veterinary clinics and holiday events, including our "Santa Paws" holiday photoshoot on Dec. 1 at the CEC (Community Education Center, 1360 Menlo Avenue in Napa).

If you would like to sell calendars for PFH, please contact Judith Bernat on our hotline at 258-3486 and she will make sure you receive them. You can also email her at info@pawsforhealing.org.

If you weren't able to have your therapy dog in this year's calendar, don't fret! Plans are already underway for our 2009

edition and you may start submitting photos now to Joanne Yates at shsirene77@comcast.net. Make sure to include your therapy assistant's name and any brief story or description of the photo or the dog's experiences.

Halloween Fun at Sierra Vista (pg. 3)



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Canine Team Member has own Travel Blog! Ready for a Road Trip?

Nanci Caron is a PFH Volunteer and Lead Mentor at Napa State Hospital. Her C.A.T. (canine-assisted therapist) is Duke and Duke has set up his own blog on which he relates his adventures on the road.

Just in time for holiday traveling, this article is the first of several Nanci and Duke plan to write for the PFH Newsletter.



Nanci and Duke at work.

Traveling with our dogs can be challenging, but rewarding. My team partner, “Duke,” has accompanied me on many road trips. I recently drove to southern Oregon, and decided to write about it in Duke’s internet blog. I included photos of some of the pet-friendly stops along the way. We would love it if you checked it out for yourself at <http://dukeshappycamper.blogspot.com/>. You can also Google the following: Duke’s Happy Camper Blog, and it will come up as the first entry.

Here are some of the tips for safe and happy traveling that I’d like to share with you:

1. Plan ahead to arrange pet-friendly trips along the way to your destination. They can include parks, visits to friends’ homes, lakes and hiking trails that allow dogs, either on leash or off. Call ahead and check the internet to get information regarding the locations of your stops and what to expect there.

Get specific directions to parks and other destinations if possible so that precious travel time is not wasted while you try to find the pet-friendly place you planned to see.

2. Allow for plenty of time to visit dog-destinations once you arrive and stay flexible. My daily walks and explorations with Duke not only offered him interesting sights, smells and encounters, but also provided me with relaxing “stop and smell the roses” time during the trip. Making time for Duke sometimes required making adjustments in other people’s schedules.

3. Be sure to balance active exercise with rest, and time to just “be” by yourselves. Don’t expect that your dog will like every aspect of traveling, or will eat, sleep, or behave the same way he always does at home.

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October Parties and Ceremonies keep PFH Teams Busy and Residents Smiling!



Sierra Vista's annual Halloween Parade was well attended by both Paws volunteers and residents. Marjorie and owner/guardian Cindy Clarke (on the cover) were a hit as part of a ball-and-chain gang.

It was Jim Hornberger (l) and Riley, however, who won top honors for Riley's impersonation of a biker dog in leathers. Also in the photo are Arnie Daglia with Kellie (c) and Echo Evensen with Madame (r).

Father Jerry in white robes (r and below) held the 6th annual Blessing of the Animals at Queen of the Valley Medical Center. A gathering of dogs, a hamster, and a cat or two received the blessing (below) as Father Jerry sprin-



kled water on the pets (*and* the people who held them). Sage (c), a true water dog, couldn't wait for her turn while brother Timmy (r) was more interested in the resident squirrel that appeared for the festivities.



Happy
Holidays,
dear
friends.

*from Louie,
Pat and Steve*

Here Comes... **Santa Paws!**

*Bring your pets for a photo with Santa
or in a winter setting and receive a free,
professional 4" x 6" color photo.*

All donations benefit Paws for Healing, a local non-profit that provides canine-assisted therapy to those in need in Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties.

- * Join us for cider and holiday treats, and...
- * Find a special holiday gift, dog toy or hand-made item at our mini-fair, or...
- * Choose a holiday card set with your pet's photo with a variety of greetings and colors, or...
- * Make sure to get your copy of the 2008 Calendar, "Loving Dogs Loving People."

*December 1, Saturday
10 am - 4 pm*

*Community Education
Center at
1360 Menlo Avenue,
Napa*

*Suggested Donation: \$5
Door Prizes!*

Volunteers Randy and Lea Stegman have graciously offered PFH the use of one of their Model A's as the setting for our holiday photos. Dogs can sit on Santa's lap, behind the wheel, or in the truck bed nestled in greenery.

Laura Kostelac is a photographer and PFH volunteer with her dog, Lady. She has contributed her talents to Paws for many years, and we want to thank her for her generosity, as well. We hope you'll take advantage of this event for a marvelous photo of your pet.

Want to contribute or help? Email us: info@pawsforhealing.org.

Paws becomes official canine therapy group to Vets **AmVets Vote to Support PFH!**

The AmVets Association at the Veterans Home adopted Paws for Healing as one of their charitable causes. At last month's meeting, AmVet President and Post Commander Rita Umphries played the PFH DVD that was filmed in part at the Home where PFH had one of its first programs.

Canine therapy officially began in 1998 when PFH incorporated. Before then, however, Karen Miller and Bailey (PFH Founders) started our organization's long relationship with the Veterans Home in 1996.

PFH's board of directors and our many volunteers are privileged to be so honored by the AmVets. We will do our very

best to live up to needs and expectations of those who have served us so unselfishly in the past. Thank you for your trust and support.

Celebration Tea at Vets Home!

C.A.T. teams should set aside February 23 for a 10th Anniversary Party at the Veterans Home. Volunteers Brat Zinsmaster, Jennifer Golick, Trudee Lewis and Chris Williams are working hard to make this a happy event that marks 10 years of our teams' service to local communities.

If you would like to help, please contact PFH through our email: info@pawsforhealing.org. And stay tuned for more details in our January Newsletter!

Hostess Gifts

Gail Silvestri passes on this tip: Instead of a hostess gift, why not make a donation to Paws in honor of your host or hostess?

Gail joins other volunteers who have also suggested that donations honoring a friend or family member during the holidays or for birthdays and anniversaries make a thoughtful acknowledgement of both the person and Paws for Healing.

Our canines and volunteers thank you for considering us!

Travels with Duke

from page 2

4. Know the limitations of your destinations: some are not pet friendly. Beautiful Lithia Park in Ashland, OR, for example, does not allow dogs in most areas, even on leash. Duke had to wait in the van a few hours while I walked through the gardens. Luckily he was tired from an earlier romp at the dog park.

5. And finally, if traveling with your dog is too stressful, be fair and leave him with a trusted pet sitter. You'll both be happier.

A Rescued C.A.T. to be honored annually

Chris Williams is one of our volunteers at the Veterans Home who has also had a long career in animal rescue, dog training and writing about animals. (He's passed on several articles for our newsletter dictated to him by his charge, Brandy, who lives with Memory Care patients at the Home.)

Chris has offered to sponsor one of our PFH canines each year who originally came from a shelter or rescue to be honored by PetFood Express. The program invites individuals to donate \$300 to a shelter or rescue group. PetFood Express then has the sponsored pet photographed and a photo is selected for a poster to hang for a year in a local PetFood Express store.

Through Chris' largesse last year, Momo Mufson (rescued at Napa Humane society 11 years ago) was the first PFH "poster dog." This year Sandy Yates was chosen as the featured PFH canine.

Sandy came from NorCal Golden Retriever Rescue by way of the Santa Rosa Animal Shelter and found his new home at age 5. It wasn't an easy transition for him, but today he's a happy R.E.A.D. dog, visitor at Queen of the Valley Hospital, and a comfort to his friends at Rosehaven Rest Home in St. Helena. Sandy would like to express his heartfelt thanks to Chris and to the owners of PetFood Express for arranging the inclusion of "C.A.T" dogs into their poster program.

*In Honor of Ellen Meehan.
Get well soon, animal lover,
16 feet. ♡ Sharon Hafez*

*Blessings to PFH.
♡ Holly Rogers.*

*In memory of
Dr. Richard Hatton.
♡ Walt & Dana Spicer*

*In memory of Forrest Sedlock.
He was loved by so many.
♡ Clare LeBrun*

*In memory of my dog, Missy.
♡ Karen Glover*

*In memory of my Zoe's Zazu.
♡ Kaye & Jack Gordon*

*— 300 —
Chris Williams*

*— 100 —
United Way, Trent Vannieuwberg
Teresa Bernhards
Jim & Kristine Curtain
Pat Davis
Sandyha Pallana
Gloria Terwilliger
Evalyn Trincherro
Diane Moore*

*— 25 —
Regular Friends and Donors:
Michele Audrey
Betty Johnson
Linda Nichols
Randy & Lea Stegman*

Your Support is Always Welcomed



If you would like to make a donation (no gift is too small), you may do so in honor or celebration of or in memory of a friend, relative or beloved pet. Or you may choose to sponsor a team by underwriting part of their expenses. Forms are provided below. Woofs and thanks!

Thank you for supporting our canines that bring comfort and joy to so many people in health care or in schools in the North Bay area. Those of you who would like to participate in our program, please consider 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 my 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: _____

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.*

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

Fall - Winter 2007/08 Calendar

*Trainings and Events are held at the
Community Education Center, Napa,
unless otherwise indicated.*

Santa Paws

Dec. 1

Happy Holidays!

Training

Jan. 5 and 12

**10th Anniversary Tea
at the Veterans Home**

Feb. 23



**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NAPA, CA
PERMIT NO. 7**



*On behalf of Paws for Healing,
Molly's wishing really, REALLY
hard that the holidays bring you
peace, health and contentment
throughout the New Year.*