

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

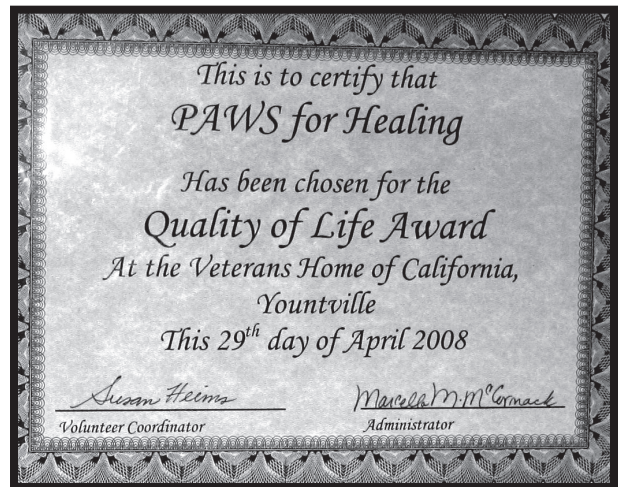
Volume Ten, Number 3 • May 2008

## PFH Garner Awards, Praise and Grants for Volunteer Teams' Efforts

*Our 10th Anniversary* has truly been a year to celebrate. We started with our Appreciation Event and Celebration Canteen in February, and our volunteers continue to receive awards and grants in honor of their work in several PFH programs.

Paws for Healing is especially proud of the “Quality of Life Award” that was presented by the Veterans Home in honor of Trudee Lewis and Tristan, and the 14 teams that visit the men and women who live there.

PFH Volunteers will also be honored at Queen of the Valley Medical later this month, including Lea Stegman who was nominated for the Core Values



Awards for Dignity and Service. Later this month, The Napa Chamber of Commerce is honoring Paws for Healing as one of its nominees for Volunteer Organization of the Year. And Arnold Daglia and Kellie have been named the Volunteers of the Year at Sierra Vista.

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## Accolades for PFH Teams *(cont. from pg. 1)*

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*Thelma Taylor's Pierre at work.*

The Dey Solano Giving Fund provided the organization with another \$3000 grant to continue and support our programs at Travis Air Force Base. "Team Travis," was given a special round of applause for their work at David Grant Medical Center and the Aero Staging Facility.

Medtronics in Santa Rosa gave PFH a \$1000 donation in honor of one of our most dedicated volunteers, Nikki Godrey. Next month, PFH has been invited once more to the Golf Tournament given by the Contractors Safety Forum in Benicia as one of the non-profits they sponsor. In large part,

their support is due to the work of Joyce Bristow who is the PFH Director of the R.E.A.D. program. (See page 5 for more details on her programs.)

Not all facilities are able to honor their volunteers, but I do know that each and every Paws for Healing Team brightens the time that our clients and patients have on this earth. And many others know that as well.

This quarter PFH has received over \$8000 in donations and grants. We are honored by our volunteers and the support they garner through their service to others. I am privileged to be President of this wonderful organization that all of you nourish with your talent and love.

*Joanne Yates*



## Advice from the Vets Home's Own Celeb

# Brandy on Books: Listen Up, Dahlings

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*Brandy lives in the Memory Care Unit in the Veterans Home Hospital.*

My ol' handler reviews books for the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, which means we often get them before they hit the shelves. I say "we" because, while he reads the books, I read him. I can tell at a glance what he thinks of a book. This is handy because sometimes he throws one against the wall, and knowing what he thinks gives me plenty of time to get out of the way.

Dogs read people with just a glance—we've been practicing for generations. People read dogs poorly, if at all. It's because they have to turn everything into words. How dull, and it's so slow that we're doing something else by the time it sinks in. Despite this, people have been writing for decades on how to train dogs with no attention to what the dog is thinking and doing.

Communication is two-way street, doncha know.

Just within the last few years, some experts have stepped in to fill this gap. The "biggie" appeared two years ago: *Canine Body Language, a Photographic Guide* by Brenda Aloff. It's 350 pages of photos of dogs doing their thing with Aloff's take on what's happening. Warning to all dogs: this book seems to be addictive to dogPeople. They submerge themselves in it for hours, mumbling, "I've seen that. But I never really *saw* it!" To get their attention, you have to prod them with your nose. They'll know what you mean by then.

Aloff's latest book builds on that. *Get Connected with Your Dog* is just out and includes a 90-minute DVD to illustrate the principles. She guides you into building a relationship in which learning can flourish and the needs of dog and owner are both met.

Now, my darlings, because you've been attentive [Good girls! Good boys!], I'm going to share a gem with you, and endearing, colorful little jewel—sorta like Aloff's books condensed into a diamond. It's *Tail Talk, Understanding the Secret Language of Dogs* by

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**For Paws Volunteers—**

## **Trish King to Give Special Workshop**

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*Trish King is one of the nation's foremost experts on canine behavior and positive training techniques. She is the Director of the Behavior and Training Department at the Marin Humane Society.*

On July 12 Trish King will present a 3-hour workshop for PFH volunteers starting at noon. The place is not determined but we will be sending out a postcard with the final details for those of you who would like to attend.

Crucial to a sound relationship between handler and canine is the ability to walk together on a loose lead. That, as well as recall techniques and recognizing dangerous behaviors, will be the subjects Trish will discuss in this comprehensive program.

*Get a headstart on Trish King's workshop by going to this site: [http://www.positivelytrained.com/edu\\_resources.php](http://www.positivelytrained.com/edu_resources.php)*

*There are over 25 articles that treat everything from introducing a baby (a real one, not a puppy) to a doggie household, to what to know about dog parks. Topics include travel, behavior problems, training techniques and toys. This is an educational service that Marin Humane Society offers and the articles can be downloaded for your personal referral.*

PFH is sponsoring this event and there is no cost to our volunteers. Those of you who would like to attend are urged to leave a message on our hotline or to contact PFH at our email address: [info@pawsforhealing.org](mailto:info@pawsforhealing.org). Participation will be limited by a first come, first served basis. Those of you who respond will receive a confirmation postcard in late June.

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### **Brandy on Books (cont. from page 3)**

Sophie Collins. The forward is by Karen Overall, the renowned veterinary behaviorist, is worth the pittance of a price. It costs about the same as a dog toy, and while you might prefer the squeaky, your guardian will communicate so much better for having read it.

To test whether or not you read the newsletter, Brandy has offered to send a free copy of *Tail Talk* to the first five people who drop a note to Sandy and Nellie at 555 Canon Park Drive, St. Helena, CA 94574.

## R.E.A.D. Programs Take Off!

# PFH Become Literacy Partner

The R.E.A.D. program is now a Literacy Partner with Scholastic, a global children's publishing, education and media company. The company's goal is helping children around the world to read and learn.

Since 1921, Scholastic has provided products and services designed to help children enlarge their understanding of the world around them. As a "partner" in literacy, PFH receives support for its R.E.A.D. projects with discounted books and materials. Our newest addition is the "Frequent Reader Program" that was developed by Joyce Bristow, R.E.A.D. Director.

Students who participate in library programs like "Paws for Reading", "Barks and Books," "Woofs for Books" already receive bookmarks featuring their favorite canine. In the Frequent



Reader Program, which is being piloted at Vacaville Public Library, children have reading cards that they fill up with stickers that they earn for each visit.

When the card is completed, they present it to a R.E.A.D. team and then are sent a book from PFH. The books are selected by librarians and teachers and are appropriate for the child's grade and reading levels. And now, PFH can order many of the books from Scholastic at significantly reduced prices.

**How do you become a R.E.A.D. team?** There is addi-

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*Bella listens while two young students visit the Vacaville Public Library for an after-school R.E.A.D. program.*

*Reading Education Assistance Dogs make it easier for students to read by helping them relax and enjoy the experience. That's what real learning should be: enjoyable.*

# Reading scores improve through R.E.A.D.

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tional training and a video to watch that gives new teams techniques for working with a variety of children with different reading needs. Some children are learning English and need a safe, uncritical environment in which to practice, while others have learning deficits that make reading aloud a anxiety-ridden activity. Even children who love to read benefit because their love of learning is reinforced.

Once volunteers take the class and pass the test, they become official through the R.E.A.D. program's headquarters (Intermountain Therapy Dogs) in Salt Lake City, Utah and are ready to be placed.

**What if you want to start a R.E.A.D. program at a school or library?** If you are a librarian, we will help you begin a

R.E.A.D. program and provide start-up materials, such as signs, huge paw prints, and bookmarks.

If you are a teacher, we can provide you with research or speak to your principal about how children's reading scores improve when they work with R.E.A.D. teams. Teachers must have the approval of their principals and sometimes the district in order to implement the program and that should be done before inviting teams to the classroom.

For more information, please contact Joyce Bristow by email: [jbristowca@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbristowca@sbcglobal.net). PFH sponsors R.E.A.D. activities in Vacaville, Fairfield, Benicia, American Canyon, Napa, and Windsor and our teams have been warmly welcomed by parents, staff and children.



*R.E.A.D. dogs Alvin (l) and Jalepena (r) work with Ray and Clayton at Pinecrest Elementary School in Sebastopol. Not only do the children like reading to their "coaches," but they learn to be kind to these friends, too. Nurturing and empathy are important life-long skills that develop in childhood.*

## Training Matters

# A Match for Life by Nanci Caron

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*Nanci Caron is PFH's assistant evaluator and mentor at Napa State Hospital where she works and volunteers with her canine, Duke. In her spare time, she is a part-time petsitter, and avid traveler and writer. Visit her blog (with travel tips for dogs): <http://www.dukeshappycamperblog.com>*



*Carol Delacruz and PFH Certified Therapy Dog, Honey.*

After volunteering for almost a year with Norm Stangler, our *Paws for Healing* canine evaluator and trainer, I asked to “interview” him regarding his previous and current work with dogs. We sat down together, after one of his Saturday dog obedience classes, and talked about his work and his reasons for staying dedicated to it.

Almost a decade ago, Norm's lifelong love of dogs led him to work at the Vacaville SPCA, and later at the Fairfield County Animal Shelter. Norm's duties there include working with the dogs that are up for adoption - training, doing behavioral consult-

ing, and screening potential new owners. His interventions at the shelter are individualized to the needs of the dogs, but his basic obedience training has proven to be one of the key factors in successful adoptions. The goal in this process is to match the right person with the appropriate dog – something he called a “match for life.”

Norm's professional education includes extensive training through the shelter, as well as ongoing intensive workshops and seminars by well-known trainers. Along with his respected mentors, Norm works tirelessly to encourage people to begin and continue the bonding and training process with their dogs. He knows that more “matches for life” are maintained this way.

“Practice having your dog focus on you, maintaining eye contact, and being attentive to you,” Norm urges. “This first step in dog obedience is one of the most important building blocks for further training.”

How do we accomplish that (and other desired dog behav-

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# ***Persistence pays off for Honey and Carol***

**cont. from page 7**

iors) on a case-by-case basis? Ask Norm for some tips next time you see him at one of our PFH events, or sign up for one of his Saturday obedience classes at the Community Education Center on Menlo Street.

One of his students is Carol Delacruz, whose rescued dog, Honey, improved significantly after a series of these weekly classes and some private training sessions with Norm. Carol says Honey is less stressed in all sorts of situations now.

“Thanks to Norm,” says Carol, “Honey received her Canine Good Citizen Certificate. She is more confident now and more at ease with strangers, environmental noises, and being handled by others.” Norm’s interventions helped Honey overcome several behavioral obstacles.

Although Honey did not pass the PFH canine evaluation test in the spring of 2006, (before Norm’s interventions), she performed so much better during the January evaluation session that we all cheered! Carol and Honey became a certified PFH team on January 12, 2008, and are now volunteering in a new R.E.A.D. program in Benicia.

Norm actively did his part to enhance that “match for life” with Carol and Honey, and he continues to strive daily to find

matches for dogs who are waiting to be adopted from the Solano Shelter. His training sessions are fun and helpful for all. Norm can be reached at (707) 447-1925.

*For those of you who are working with Norm to pass the canine evaluation for certification, Norm will be holding an evaluation on July 12 at the CEC from 10 to 11:30 before the Trish King workshop. If you have completed the both days of classroom training and only need your dog evaluated, please sign up by emailing PFH at [info@pawsforhealing.org](mailto:info@pawsforhealing.org).*



*Establishing good eye contact is key to building a strong relationship between handler and dog.*

# News 'n' Notes

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## A Fond Farewell

Bof and Siriporn Toongsuwan are heading to Boston, MA, this month. Siriporn has a new job, and while we are very sad to see them leave, we know they will love the east coast, especially Bof who is a real snow lover.

Siriporn came from Chicago where she was involved in reading programs with Bof. That experience made her instrumental in launching the R.E.A.D. program at both the Napa County Library and its branch in American Canyon.

Thank you both for your many contributions and for the many teams you guided to the R.E.A.D. program. You'll be warmly remembered.

## By Special Request

Remember the Rock 'n Relics, the fabulous rock and roll band that donated their time to play at the Appreciation Tea and Celebration Canteen?

Well, they're coming back for a return engagement on August 2 to play for our volunteers and the members of the Veterans Home. PFH teams can bring a picnic supper, their certified therapy dogs and listen to some great tunes from the era whose musical performers and writers changed pop culture forever.

Make sure you mark the date on your calendars and expect a reminder postcard in July. (Also rumored is a special appearance of the Blues Brothers... a performance not to be missed!)

## Calendar Update

The 2008 Calendar has been an eloquent means to show what our teams do and how canine-assisted therapy is a valuable contribution to our communities. We hope the 2009 Calendar (in production now) will do the same and appreciate everyone's support. They will be available by September 1.

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*The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue. — Aerosmith*

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# Mending Hearts with Gentle Paws and Guiding Hands with Your Support

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*In Honor of Jim Hornberger's Birthday!*

☾ Michelle Hornberger

*In Honor of Nikki Godfrey & Jake*

☾ Medtronic Volunteer Program

*In Honor of Dalai, Panda & Oliver,*

*Gone but not forgotten.*

☾ Stan Wellins

*In Honor of Bounder and*

*in Memory of Bus*

☾ Mark Velliquette

*In Memory of my father,*

*Keith Lambertson, who spent a lifetime*

*in awe of the miracles of nature. May*

*he rest in peace.*

☾ Sonia Murray

*In Memory of Louis Vahle*

☾ Dana Spicer,

Randy & Lea Stegman

*In Memory of John Dickson*

☾ Randy and Lea Stegman

*In Memory of Florence Stegman*

☾ Jerry & Pauls Beldin

*In Memory of Bean*

☾ Mark Wilkinson

*In Memory of Siskiyou Cedar*

☾ Willard Wyman

*In Memory of Prince*

Sharon Hafez

*In Belated Memory of*

Maggie LeBrun

☾ Alice, Gene & Cara Bickers

— Tail Waggers (5+) —

Sharon Hafez

Linda Marcello

Diane Moore

Christine Roth

Margery Smith

Karen Sulenski

— Paws Up (25+) —

Anita Boyce

William Austin Hayne

Deborah Hoey

Georgina Jensen

Willand Wyman

— High Five (50+) —

Jerry & Paula Beldin

Alice Gene & Cara Bickers

Carrie Zoller

— Best Friend (100+) —

California Peace Officers Association

Celia & Richard Lenson

Sonia Murray

Randy & Lea Stegman

Joanne Van Dyke

Sandy & Nellie Yates

— Pack Leader (250+) —

Kiwanis Club of Yountville (\$300)

Kathy Millich

Mark Wilkinson

— Honorary Team (500+) —

Napa Small Animal Hospital

Wilson's Feed and Supplies

— Top Dog (1000+) —

Dey Community Giving Fund (\$3000)

Medtronic Foundation

Chris Williams

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# Your Support is Always Welcomed

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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** \_\_\_\_\_

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*\* 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

**Summer 2008 Calendar**

**Trish King Workshop**      July 12  
**Rock 'n Relics Concert**      Aug. 2  
**Next Training**      Sept. 13 & 20



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*New Adventures for Bof & Siri*

