

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

Volume Ten, Number 4 • September 2008

Immortal Canine Graces PFH's Roster of Therapy Teams



Robert Weatherwax, owner and trainer, of the famous collies who played "Lassie."

The television series "Lassie" is famous for its portrayal of the deep bond between a collie and a young boy who almost always needed his dog to save him from serious trouble. Each week, "Lassie" proved that dogs are indeed people's best friends.

While the original "Lassie" was played by a female for the first shows, she was eventually replaced by males named Laddie so that she could breed and whelp her puppies. There have been nine Laddies, eight of

them descendents of the famous girl, and trained by her owner, Robert Weatherwax.

Board member Brat Zinsmaster became friends with Laddie and Weatherwax over the last year and was instrumental in sponsoring them as PFH's newest therapy teams.

Last June on the steps of California's capitol building, Assemblywoman Fiona Ma read citations to Weatherwax and Provost honoring their

— *cont. page 5*



Jon Provost, who played "Timmie," with Laddie at the State Capitol.

Calendar News & Previews

The 2009 PFH calendar, “Loving Dogs Loving People,” is printed and estimated to arrive October 24.* We have received advance copies and the opinion is, “It’s even *better* than last year’s!”

Here is a preview (in black and white) of the beautiful color photos and stories of our volunteer teams and their experiences with the people and children they visit. Paws teams offer non-threatening, unconditional comfort for those in health care and educational settings. They do it neither for money nor recognition, but in order to make a life — or passing — a little easier for others to bear. Please support our volunteer teams’ work with the purchase of a calendar. An order form at the end of the newsletter is included for your convenience. For multiple orders, go to our web site: www.pawsforhealing.org. For larger quantities and discount pricing, contact us at info@pawsforhealing.org.



“**Duke** (left) is the incentive for his clients to keep appointments (and more important, their privileges). That way they can spend time together.. Duke just loves his buddies because he gets undivided attention (including massages!) from them.” Nanci, Caron, Occupational Therapist, Napa State Hospital.

Handsome Pierre (right) is a Paws for Healing volunteer who goes nearly everyday to the Veterans Home in Yountville. His job is to keep his friends and residents engaged in the good things still available to them: laughter, comfort, and love. He works alongside his handler, Thelma Taylor, who helps her clients through counseling.



** We are very grateful to our local printer, Albright Printing, where we enjoy substantial discounts on our newsletters and special projects. Kinko’s and Staples have produced posters and last-minute orders for us. Our full-color printing for the READ bookmarks, holiday greetings or special invitations is done by a CatPrints in New York. We are pleased to use On the Mark for our calendar, a company once located in Silicon Valley and is now based in Hawaii. Our goal is to do as much business as locally as possible, while making sure we use our donations and grants as wisely and responsibly as possible.*

Calendar News and Previews...



Mariah (above) and **Bubbles** (below) are both in the 2009 calendar, along with more than 200 photos of PFH canines. Mariah, now 13, is still an active READ dog who goes to the Vacaville Library. Bubbles is a fashionista and sports one of her hunting outfits, complete with knife and tam. She visits friends at Chez Louise, a care facility in Rohnert Park.



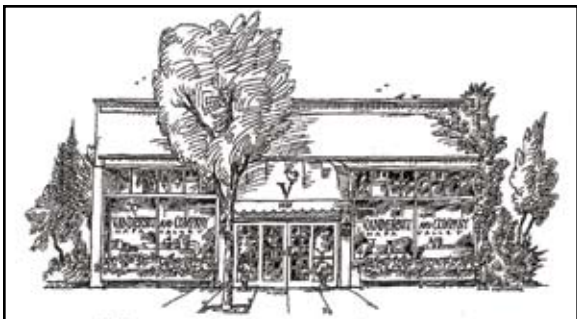
“**Ellie** (above) volunteers at Kaiser-Santa Rosa who soothes patients with her gentleness.”



Molly (above) is best friends with Roland, who looks forward to her visits. So much so, that she has been credited for her friend’s renewed interest in life.



Buffy (left) is one of several terriers who work as loving therapists for PFH.



Look for your invitation for a calendar launch party at Vanderbilt and Company, one of our calendar sponsors. We’ll sip on wine, nibble on hors d’oeuvres and have calendars for sale and distribution. Please come join us.



Elegant **Lili** (left) has her nails painted bright red to delight the children and patients she sees at the Queen of the Valley Medical Center.

BRANDY ASKS ...

“What’s in it for me?”



You’ve looked at the studies, heard the stories, and seen it for yourself: animals give a ton of benefits when they interact with humans. That’s good, but does your owner make sure that *you* benefit from the interchange, too? You know the trouble with being a good dog? The bad ones get all the attention.

You’ve heard this joke? A child had never spoken. He was five years old when one morning he looked up from his breakfast and said, “This oatmeal is lumpy.” His parents were overwhelmed with joy, but asked, “Darling, why haven’t you said anything before?”

“Well,” he said, “up until now everything’s been all right.”

Many grown-up people (particularly men. There! I said it!) are like that. They complain when your behavior displeases them; when you’re perfect... silence. It’s enough to turn you into a delinquent, scrounging through garbage or digging up plants.

Some people were never even taught to say, “Please” and “Thank you!” to their dogs. But listen up, fellow canines: Here are a few things you can teach your owners that will strengthen the bond between you.

Dale Carnegie wrote, “The sweetest sound is that of our own name.” He didn’t say so, but that goes double for dogs. Make your owners use your name every chance they get, particularly when something pleasant is going to happen or you’re going to get a treat. This is particularly important when

**You know the trouble
with being a good dog?
The bad ones get all the
attention.**

there’s more than one animal in the household. It tells you this is your special time.

Never pass up a chance to touch. When they put on your collar, make sure they take an extra second or two to tickle your ears. (I really like a scratch under the chin when my leash goes on.) And waiting on the curb to cross the street is a good time for a nice stroke down the side.

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Laddie becomes PFH Therapy Canine

work on behalf of canines and then placed a therapy scarf around Laddie's neck.

Behavioral and medical research tells us that dogs share a number of emotions with humans, one being altruism: a good deed done and intended as such. There are well-documented accounts of canines who search for humans after natural catastrophes.

For centuries, dogs have served alongside soldiers, often losing their own lives. And, like "Lassie," they have protected our children. Not least of these unselfish deeds are those provided by therapy dogs who give their love, kindness and comfort to strangers for little more than a smile or stroke on the head.

Laddie will stand alongside more than 200 active therapy dogs trained by PFH that visit 70+ facilities in the NorthBay counties of Napa, Solano and Sonoma. In turn, his stature brings great honor to our teams, and for that, we thank him (and his owner, Robert Weatherwax, and mate, Jon Provost) from the bottom of our hearts.



Brat Zinsmaster with friend Laddie.

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Brandy Speaks: It's All about "the Bond"

Let them know what you especially like by leaning in or moving away to help them understand where you want to be touched.

In return for this attention, we should do something nice in return. You know what works? Teaching our owners to ask "Please" when they are about to do something for us. Show them you can sit before giving you a treat, for example, or putting on your leash, open-

ing the door for you or serving your dinner. Once they get the idea, they'll be asking you with pleases and thank yous just about every time you turn around. It makes for a nice little interchange.

Once you add up all these little attentions, getting lots of thanks for being a good dog, what do you enjoy? The biggest thing in our lives. *The bond, of course.*

Spirit of Paws for Healing Reaches Florida, a letter from the Horvitzes



For those of you who don't know us, we are Meir and Marilyn Horvitz, formerly of Fairfield, now residents of Melbourne, Florida. Even though we are 3,000 miles to the east and no longer can bring our dogs to volunteer under the PFH banner, we still have very close ties with PFH.

We joined in 1999 with our two dogs, Amos and Annie.

Amos is about seventeen now and has been retired for the past two years. During his tenure, our little poodle mix was awarded many citations and plaques. We are proudest of the Purple Heart pin given to him by a wounded soldier at David Grant Medical Center who had returned from Iraq. Annie, a Brittany, passed away nearly three years ago. We now have three dogs, two of which are still volunteering: Poco, a feisty Chihuahua, and Mimi, a toy poodle.

While we were in Fairfield, Meir served on the board of PFH as the treasurer and later as vice president. Marilyn is probably better known as our "K9grandma" who embroiders all the dog uniforms and many other items for raffles and special Paws events.

Currently, we are affiliated with Therapy Dogs Inc., a national group with headquarters in Cheyenne, WY. The group is a bit different from PFH. Volunteers with TD, Inc. are very independent in how they volunteer and where they visit. It is very seldom that they get to know each other or have social gatherings like the annual tea PFH arranges for all of us.

Recently, we approached Patrick Air Force Base in Melbourne so that we could bring canine assisted therapy to the many Active Duty and retired personnel that utilize that clinic. We made the PFH presentation to the Executive Staff of the Patrick Air Base Medical clinic as there is no hospital on the base but they do have a busy clinic. On the dogs' first visit they were met by the Commander and her Deputy Commander, who welcomed the team to the clinic. People in the waiting rooms are delighted to pet the dogs. We have been active for about one month now and as all of you can imagine, the staff was won over the first time Mimi and Poco walked in. Meir is retired from the US Army so we are very comfortable in the military environment.

We are planning to return to the Bay Area sometime early next year and we will undoubtedly continue our extremely rewarding association with PFH. We hope to see you soon.



Santa Paws is Coming to Town...

Don't Miss our Holiday Photo Party



Please join fellow volunteers for “Santa Paws” on November 22, from 10 to 4 pm. We’ll gather at the Community Education Center on Menlo Street in Napa for photo ops with professional photographer, Laura Kostelac, and plenty of treats and holiday cheer.

Last year, Lea and Randy Stegman volunteered their beautifully refurbished Model T truck as a backdrop for Santa and dogs (and a parrot, a cat and a couple of kids!). Nestled in evergreens, the truck looked as though it just returned from the mountains with the family’s holiday tree in tow.

For an optional \$5 donation, you can have your pets photographed with Santa and will receive a color 4” x 6” color photo of them. Laura can also help you create customized cards for the holidays if you

choose. There will also be a raffle and door prizes, holiday music, and lots of camaraderie.

Santa Paws is open to the public, so bring friends, family and let others know the event.

If you would like to help set up the day before or the day of the event, make cookies, or help in another way, please email Brat Zinsmaster or Joanne Yates at info@pawsforhealing.org. We’d love to hear from you.

***Santa Paws
Saturday, Nov. 22
10 am to 4 pm
Community Ed Center,
1360 Menlo, Napa.
Cider, Treats, Raffle
and Door Prizes
Laura K Photography***

Important Odds 'n' Ends... *from the Editor*

*From Michael W. Fox's (DVM, PhD) latest book,
"The Healing Touch for Dogs"*

"Good dogs can see and respond to our own deep heart's core of love and devotion because it is from this center of our own being that we embrace and celebrate theirs. That is what Franz Kafka meant in his essay 'Investigation of a Dog' when he wrote: 'All knowledge, the totality of all questions and awareness, is contained in the dog'. And this is why the ancient Egyptians believed that dogs were our guide to the afterlife -- they were such good guides and companions in this life. Embodying finer qualities than the relatively irresponsible and emotionally challenged human, they are worthy of being looked up to with awe and gratitude. We should help others of our own kind feel and know that in the deep heart's core of all good dogs and wild wolves lies the source of abiding affection that we, in moments of grace and communion, may share."

I've been able to read a little more of late, particularly books that friends (who know my interest in dogs) have told me about. I start with the rather weighty quote above because I believe it to be true, but I don't believe anyone can prove it.

What I do know, however, is that the books I mention here speak to Dr. Fox's point: good dogs are the source of abiding affection that we may share—in moments of grace. It is an affection unlike any other, deeply rooted in our shared past as fellow animals

—without language or words—that we remember in chance moments.

Here are two marvelous books that will provide plenty to think about, will make you cry, but are so essentially "dog" that you need to read them.

Merle's Door, by Ted Kerosote
The Story of Edgar Sawtelle, by David Wroblewski

A final thought from a dear friend who has donated in the honor of our aging canines:
"While they get older, their owners seem to get younger. How very odd."

News Flash: Remember "our band", the Rock 'n' Relics? They've played for our Appreciation Tea and the Veterans, and now they are raising money for clean water in Africa. Help them reach their goal of "100 Wells in Africa" by going to their concert at the Millennium Athletic Club in Vallejo. 100% of the proceeds will go to their cause.

**Nov. 14th, Friday Night, 7-10 pm,
Millennium Athletic Club off Magazine Street
Dessert Tasting, Raffle, Silent Auction
www.bloodwatermission.com, 707-644-7788**

PFH Teams Provide Assistance at No Cost to Facilities Because YOU Make It Possible.

Your donations enable Paws teams to visit health care sites and to work with scores of children in schools and libraries who need extra help in reading.

We are especially grateful to the Valero Contractors Safety Forum at Benecia for their \$9000 donation this year. As a result of their ongoing support, PFH now has volunteers in libraries throughout Solano and Napa, and a strong program in Windsor, Sonoma County.



Board of Directors

Joyce Bristow is the Director of READ and she has developed the “Frequent Reader Program” that is now starting in several of our sites. When children finish reading 9 books and fill up their reading card, Joyce sends them a new book selected by librarians and offered through the Scholastic Literacy Project. Thank you for making this possible!

Friends:

Donna Welter
Anonymous

\$25+

Elizabeth Holzhauer
Jim, Jeanne & Riley Hornberger
Dana Spicer
Maurine & Al Tribach
Trent VanNieuwburg

\$50+

Pamela Burr
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Mary Lou Gracy
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Trudee Lewis
Ellen Maxton
Randy & Lea Stegman

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\$250+

John Pershing

\$500+

Chris Williams

\$750+

Soroptimist International
of St. Helena

\$1000+

Jim, Kris & Greta Curtain

\$9000

Contractors Safety Forum

*In Honor of
Jeanne Hornberger's Birthday,
Maurine & Al Trimbauch*

*In Honor of
Dr. Anthony and Lois Gouveia,
for their care of both the pets
and their owners!
Sandy & Nellie Yates*

*For Marty Diem,
Claréteen Parron*

*In Memory of Harley Holderby,
May he rest in peace.
Jim, Jeanne & Riley Hornberger*

*In Memory of Gladys Smith,
Dana Spicer*

*In Memory William Short,
Michelle, Terry &
Ruby Hornberger*

*In Honor of Cat Roberts' two dogs,
Marlene & Lili Kniveton*

*In Honor of Guga, my little angel.
Pamela Burr*

*In Honor of Mary Ellen Wilson's
Bonnie.
Marlene & Lili Kniveton*

*In Honor of Tristan,
Trudee Lewis*

*In Honor of Molly,
Mary Lou Gracy*

*In Honor of Mr. T and in Memory of
his mom, gentle Jewell.
Don & Joanne Yates*

*In Honor of Brenda Schneider's
Budreaus and Gumbo,
Marlene & Lili Kniveton*

*In Memory of Molly,
and in commemoration of
her joy for life.
Jim, Kris & Greta Curtain, &
Neighbors Sandy & Nellie*

*In Memory of Buddy,
the Gentle Giant.
Elaine Miller*

*In Memory of Sadi Coyner,
Randy & Lea Stegman*

*In Memory of Hanna,
loyal and loving companion of
Cheryl Meyer & Ed Malovcic
Betsy Holzhauer*

*In Memory of Missy,
Marlene & Lili Kniveton*

*In Memory of Paula and Bruce
Patty's beautiful and beloved dog,
Jasmine.
Elaine Miller*

*In Memory of Mikey,
Tristan's and Trudee's Scaredy Cat
Randy & Lea Stegman*

*In Memory of Bo Boyce, a gentle and
valiant volunteer whom we all miss.
Randy & Lea Stegman
Sandy & Nellie Yates*

*In Memory of Shasta,
brother of PFH dog, Balou.
Ellen Maxton*

*In Memory of Temple,
Marlene & Lili Kniveton*

*In Memory of Elmo,
whose body just couldn't keep up
with his great big spirit.
Joanne Yates*

Support PFH by Ordering Your 2009 Calendar Today! Email for Quantity Orders & Discounts!

You may pick up your calendar at our next training, at Santa Paws, by ordering on line (www.pawsforhealing.org), or by sending in your order below. For large quantities, please email us at info@pawsforhealing.org to arrange easy delivery and special pricing.

To order your “Loving Dogs Loving People® 2009 Calendar, please fill in your mailing address below and send in the enclosed envelope with a check. If you want to use a credit card, please feel free to order on line: www.pawsforhealing.org

Name and Address: _____

1 Calendar, including tax and shipping: \$20
2 Calendars: \$37.50
3 Calendars: \$55

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

In Honor of _____ **or**

In Memory of _____

Send acknowledgement to: _____

Message _____

Your Name & Address: _____

* 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 Francas Street, PMB 127
Napa, CA 94558



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*Can you guess who
this handsome lad is?*

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
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NAPA, CA
PERMIT NO. 7**