

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

Volume Ten, Number 5 • November 2008

Busy Holiday Season for Paws— Please Celebrate with Us



Last year's Santa loved our animals and was the quintessential Mr. Claus.

Two upcoming events mark the end of Paws for Healing's 2008 activities and its first decade of providing canine-assisted therapy teams to local communities.

Warm cider and cookies, pets, children and Santa—all the ingredients for PFH's annual Santa Paws! This year, join us at PetFood Express in the Bel Aire Plaza for photos and plenty of treats. The date is Saturday, November 22, and time is from 10am to 3pm.

Professional photographer, Laura Kostelac, will take photos of your pet, your children or both kids and pets with Santa. The event is open to the public and all pets must be on leash and tolerant of other dogs. Participants will receive a color 4" x 6" photo for a suggested donation to PFH of \$5.

Once more, Randy and Lea Stegman are offering the use of one of their refurbished Model-T's to make our holiday setting special.

Brat Zinsmaster, who is coordinating the event, hopes cont. pg. 3

Nov. 22 Santa Paws
Napa at PetFood Express
10 pm - 3 pm



November 28
Festival of Lights
Downtown Yountville
2 pm - 6 pm

Chris's Picks: Honey & Alvin for PFH's Rescued Dogs of the Year

Chris Williams, PFH supporter, Honorary Director of the Board and certified puppy trainer, has made an annual donation that spotlights PFH dogs who are rescued and then become canine therapists. These canines are honored for their incredible resilience and their handlers' unshakable belief in the intrinsic value of their companions.

We are very happy to announce that Chris's donation this year allows us to honor two wonderful dogs (and their humans).



Congratulations go to Carol Delacruz and Yvonne Morones whose dogs, Honey and Alvin, will be professionally photographed for PetFood Express. The dogs' best photo will be used to create posters that will hang in a local store near Carol's and Yvonne's homes. The program's message is that

rescued dogs make wonderful pets—and can be exceptional working canines as well.

While Carol had hoped Honey would naturally take to visiting others, the terrier mix trembled so hard in her first class that she was unable to pass the canine evaluation. Disappointed, Carol took Honey home because the dog was so acutely distressed. But Carol was also determined.

With nearly a year of patient training and socialization, Honey came back to class and this time confidently passed. She now volunteers with Carol at several libraries and loves her READ work with children.

Yvonne has long been a Chihuahua fan and has rescued and fostered the feisty breed for many years. Her latest village of dogs includes Alvin, who is a natural with people and children. His volunteer work takes Alvin

— *cont. on page 6*



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Santa Paws and Festival of Lights

to have some of the other Bel Aire stores involved, including two where our READ teams can take turns showing off their dogs to children. There will be an elf to paint children's faces, raffles and door prizes, and goodies for children, adults and pets.

Check our web site (www.pawsforhealing.org) for updates and news about the event.

Festival of Lights —

Yountville's 20th annual Festival of Lights kicks off Nov. 28 with a block party and continues through December. Thousand of twinkling lights, carolers, elves, horse-drawn carriage rides, ice carving and a visit with the man in red are on tap.

Santa will arrive at 2 p.m. Nov. 28, while grown-ups can sample vintages from 20 Napa wineries and the region's top restaurants, including Bouchon, étoile, Redd, Bistro Jeanty, Hurlley's Restaurant, Pacific Blues Cafe, Mustards Grill and Napa Valley Grille. Among new restaurants is Bottega by Tra Vigne founder Michael Chiarello, featuring rustic farm-to-table cuisine. Galleries, boutiques and restaurants will open their doors for late-night shopping and dining.

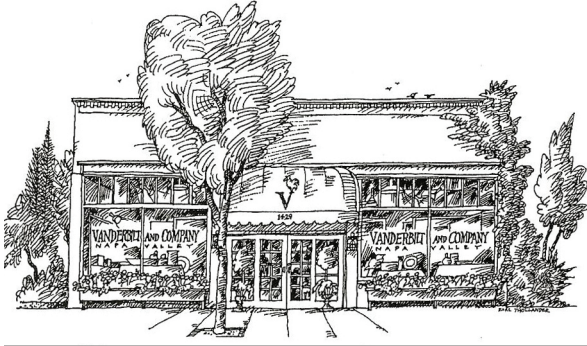
Bel Aire Plaza is located at Trancas and Highway 29 in Napa. retail stores include Target, OSH, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, Umpqua Bank, Copperfield Books, World Market, Peet's Coffee, Hallmark, and A Child's Delight. Several restaurants and food venues are also situated in the plaza to make it a convenient stop for holiday shopping and errands.

Paws for Healing will have a booth at the event, and volunteer teams are welcome to stop by, talk to visitors and bring their PFH canine therapists.

We will also have our 2009 Calendar, *Loving Dogs Loving People* for sale. Let us know if you would like to help out at the booth for a short time. 707-258-3486 or info@pawsforhealing.org. It will be a very festive occasion with lots to see and do.

Joyce Bristow is making beautiful decorative lighted wine bottles that will be a gift to anyone making a donation of \$50 or more. Thank you, Joyce, for your generosity.

For additional information on the Festival, contact Yountville's Chamber of Commerce at 707-944-0904.



Calendar Launch a Lovely Event at Vanderbilt & Co.

The calendar launch was a lovely event, and we especially want to thank Charles Gautreaux for allowing Paws teams to gather at his store in St. Helena on Oct. 25. More than 100 calendars flew out the doors, while guests nibbled on exquisite cheeses and cured meats from Sunshine Foods, Margarita pizzas from Pizzeria TraVigne, chicken wings from Silverado Brewing Company, and fabulous wraps from our friends at Kinyon! Culinary Services.

Charles' staff —Janie, Matt and Rich— were a great help in setting up a beautiful venue and making our teams and guests feel very welcome. The PFH canines were in top form and enjoyed lavish attention throughout the evening.



(l to r) Baina, Brat Zinsmaster, Nikki Pacheco and Mariah were among the many PFH teams that attended the launch.



Doug and Darci Hill (*above*) of Hill Estate were among the vintners who poured wines for guests. Cio Perez of Perez Family Estate Vineyards joined us, and wineries that donated wines were Mumm Napa Valley, Rutherford Grove Winery, and Langtry Estate.

Sales and donations raised nearly \$1700, a great success for Paws. But an added bonus was seeing so many volunteers together, relaxed and socializing with each other.

If you haven't had a chance to pick up your calendar yet, don't forget to call our hotline or order through our web site. We'll also be selling calendars at Santa Paws on Nov. 22 in Napa, and then the following week at Yountville's Festival of Lights on the 28th.

Looking for a more local outlet? Check our website under "What's New" for a list of sites that have our calendars for sale.

Easy, Fast, Painless Donating

iGive.com is a non-profit's dream

Donations to Paws for Healing can now be generated with your purchases online through a company called iGive.com. With over 700 online stores — such as Lands'End, VistaPrint, Staples.com, Overstock.com, JCPenney, Barnes & Noble, PETCO, EBay and Office Depot, you can make even routine purchases count for more.

How does iGive do it?

Online shopping allows for better prices for the customer and better profits for the company. By offering a kick-back in the form of a donation, the company becomes even more attractive to the savvy shopper. The percentages each company donates vary, but it doesn't take long to add up to some sizeable checks. And, iGive will provide you a receipt at the end of the year for the donations your purchases have generated. These are fully tax-deductible!



Curly Doodle wants to remind you that an amazing number of “designer” dogs are at shelters everywhere waiting for you.

How did PFH become registered?

Kudos go to our astute Treasurer and Board Member, Joyce Bristow, who researched online giving and found this easy and safe system for buying and donating. And it's FREE!

How do you get started?

It's easy! Go to <http://www.iGive.com/PawsForHealing> and you'll go directly to a sign-up page for Paws for Healing. First, you enter your basic information (name, postal code, email address) and then create a password. Once you've done that, hit the “register” button and you're given a list of online stores that would make the most hardened shopper swoon.

If you purchase something from a participating store within the first 45 days of registering, you'll generate an *EXTRA* \$5 donation. You shop as you normally would, except you first go through iGive.com in order to qualify for the donations.

Books for Every Reader

From Informational to Mystery and Humor

There is no dearth of books to choose from this holiday season for dog lovers. If you don't have an independent bookseller near you, look for these books online. (And if you go through iGive.com to buy from Borders or Amazon, your purchases will generate donations for PFH.)

Want to know what really goes into most dog foods and why? Then you must read *Pet Food Politics: The Chihuahua in the Coal Mine*, by Dr. Marion Nestle. Nestle is an expert on human nutrition and the food industry who focuses in this book on the pet food recall in 2007.

Beyond the recall and its reasons, Nestle reveals how the FDA protected the interests of the large manufacturers to the detriment of animals. Her findings are disturbing, well documented and material for initiating reforms in pet food industry.

How can you be a better advocate for your dog? *Speaking for Spot: Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life*, is written by veterinarian Nancy Kay. It is a well-organized, easy reference guide to what questions you should ask when your dog is under the weather.

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Honey and Alvin: This Year's Rescued Picks — from pg. 2

to Kaiser Santa Rosa, to Sebastopol where he is reading “coach”, and to Chez Louise, a skilled nursing home.

Fostering and adopting is not always an easy endeavor, and even the best of foster moms can be fooled by adorning new faces. When Alvin came to Yvonne, she immediately made an appointment to have him neutered.

Alvin must have sensed the days of free love were drawing to a close and so he had one last romantic fling with one his new roommates. You can guess the rest: Six weeks later, he was a proud papa. Luckily, there were good homes for the pups and momma Chihuahua has since made a trip to the veterinarian's office, too.

Approximately 25% of Paws dogs come through rescue organizations and they've adapted beautifully to their new jobs. PFH not only thanks Chris Williams, but also PetFood Express, for raising people's awareness of the value of all animals, including those who need a second chance.

Brandy Barks: “Let the Games Begin!”

When two of the most respected trainers in the country publish books on the same subject at the same time without consulting each other, you can bet a movement is underway. Both books are short and inexpensive, which indicates they were written in a fever of inspiration. The subject, dear to my heart, is *play training*. The different perspectives of both books will enrich your reading and your relationship with your pooch.

Pat Miller, president of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, just gave us, *Play with Your Dog*, which defines the benefits both to your dog and to you. Sure, we enjoy “just hangin’ out” together, but the interaction



What do you guess elicits such attention from this Border Collie? A ball.

of play deepens the relationship. It can also have some practical, even essential, effects. Play training will sharpen your powers of observation. Young



Brandy lives at the Veterans Home, often accompanied by Jack Brannan or Chris Williams. She dictates articles regularly for several magazines, and has been asked to do a book.

or older rescued dogs can overcome fears through games and jollity. It’s impossible to be nervous when you’re playing tug or chasing a ball.

Miller asks you to wear two hats while playing. Sure, enjoy yourself, but observe and teach at the same time. You can find answers to questions such as, “When does my dog cross over from play to over-arousal, and what triggers it?” “Which games are the most powerful in diverting and capturing my dog’s attention?”

One of PFH’s favorites, Patricia McConnell, gives us, *Play Together, Stay Together*, written with Karen London. It’s another of her series of booklets which allow you to concentrate

— *cont. pg. 9*

Books for the Howliday Reading — from pg. 6



Lolli-Pup hopes you will celebrate Read a New Book Month (Dec.) and National Book Month (Jan.) by using your library card or buying a new (or used book) to learn more about something you care about.

Speaking for Spot is perhaps the first book that addresses the new challenges for veterinarians and pet owners who have many more treatment options that can prolong a pet's life. But how does one assess the dog's quality of life and when to finally opt for euthanasia? And how should an owner evaluate the costs of treatment versus its benefits and affect on the dog?

Kay's approach is gentle and pragmatic, and her book makes a valuable gift for anyone who owns or works with dogs.

Quick Picks: Mystery writers Dean Koontz and Iris Johansen both have new editions out. Koontz's *The Darkest Evening of the Year* is now in paperback, a thriller that has been

on the New York Times' Best-Seller List.

Johansen, also a Times Best-Seller author, has released *Dark Summer* with St. Martin's Press. What danger can a devoted veterinarian, and extraordinary canine and its mysterious owner get into? You'll have to find out for yourself.

Howl is a publication by Bark Magazine and is a collection of light and delightful anecdotes about the comical interactions between humans and dogs. Well-received and very favorably reviewed, this new edition is paperback and sure to bring a smile even to Scrooge.



Jack Bond (James' bro) is special agent 00k9 who hopes to recruit more young readers at the Vacaville Library.

Animals are such agreeable friends — they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms.
- George Eliot -

Sharpen up handling skills on Jan. 17

2009 Training Seminars and Evaluations

January 17 – Canine Evaluation Day

PFH's next training date is for re-evaluations of older dogs, or humans and canines who have gone through class but need to work on handling and obedience skills. The date is also open to potential volunteers who would like to know more about the evaluation process.

If you plan on attending, make sure to sign up by emailing PFH at info@pawsforhealing.com. Or call the hotline and leave a message. We will assign participants to specific time slots.

2009 Classes

PFH will hold four, 2-day training seminars next year. We urge perspective teams to sign

up early as we tend to fill up classes at the last minute. We do try to keep class sizes limited to 12 people.

In addition to the application, canines do need to be licensed in the county where they live and have a copy of their vaccination records. While therapy dogs do not need to know a list of "tricks", they should demonstrate basic obedience.

For information on dog classes or obedience, please call our PFH Evaluator, Norm Stangler at 707-580-3272 or 707-447-1925.

Seminar Dates

March 8 and 15

May 3 and 10

Summer Break

September 13 and 20

November 1 and 8

Brandy Calls for More Play Training — *from pg. 7*

on one program. (Did you ever read a thick training book and try to apply all the concepts at the same time?)

McConnell notes that mysteries abound when two different species co-exist. Play is the major way species have of understanding and predicting one another. McConnell is particularly valuable in teaching us the cautions: are we inadvertently teaching something we don't want to encourage?

A bonus is instruction on tricks and games to wow our friends.

Recently, I was told an all-human example of how play-training works. A young friend is going to Brazil to build houses with teenagers in a program like our "Habitat for Humanity."

"You're teaching construction?" I asked.

"No, I'm teaching English, but they won't know that."

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

We are always grateful to our friends and supporters for their belief in what our canine-assisted team do on a daily basis. This quarter, we are very pleased to announce the support of The Community Foundation of Napa Valley members who donated \$4750 to Paws for Healing.

Our diligent and professional teams donate thousands of hours each year in programs throughout Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties. They visit young children, the elderly, and clients in a variety of care facilities, all of whom benefit from the warmth and comfort of a loving canine. Grants like those from the Community

Foundation of Napa Valley, the Contractors Safety Forum at Valero Refinery in Benicia, and the Solano Community Foundation are a testimony to the good work of our teams.

The following donations are an honor to our teams and help our organization to continue its mission. The Board of Directors thanks you all.

25+

*Elizabeth Hilton
William Fausset
Mary Ann Souza*

\$100+

*Roberta Oswald
Gloria Terwillinger
California AmVets Post 101*

\$200+

*Timothy Arnstein
Evalyn Trincherro*

\$4750

*Community Foundation
of Napa Valley*

*In Gratitude for the joy you spread
with your furry troops,
CA AmVets Post 101*

*In Memory of Johnny Bettencourt,
Darleen Ellingson.*

*In Memory and Thanksgiving
for Florence Stegman,
Gerard Heintzelman.*

*In Memory of Chief, a PFH
volunteer and canine therapist,
Pat and Jim Gibbany*

*In Memory of Sullivan,
who is never forgotten.
Barbara Rees*

*In Memory of Mikey,
Tristan's little scaredy cat.
Trudee Lewis*



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

You may pick up your calendar at our next two events, Santa Paws and the Festival of Lights, or by ordering online (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 Trancas Street, PMB 127
Napa, CA 94558



Happy Holidays!



Chris' Pick: Exceptional rescued canines that are PFH volunteers.

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