



Therapy Dog Chronicles

A Publication of Paws for Healing, Inc.
Mending Hearts with Gentle Paws and Guiding Hands



New Year, New Format, Renewed Energies

Special to the Chronicles—Paws for Healing is now into its eleventh year. From a handful of volunteers and a few board members in 1998, the organization has grown to a steady volunteer force of over 200 teams that serve more than 70 facilities throughout the North Bay region.

The featured dogs at the top of the new newsletter masthead belong to the current board of directors. It is a small gesture of thanks to those people who have shepherded Paws through many changes and the usual growing pains most non-profits experience.

Amber and Bella, first on the left, are two Australian labradoodles who volunteer with Joyce Brisov. This puppy-ish twosome became PFH's first READ dogs and have

helped train almost two dozen teams that work with children in Solano libraries and schools. Joyce is PFH's READ Program Director and former Treasurer.

Whippet Baina, second left, visits returning veterans in the aero-staging facility at David Grant Medical Center on Travis Air Force Base. Her "chauffeur" is Brat Zinsmaster, newly elected Vice President of PFH. With Baina at their side, some soldiers have enjoyed their first real sleep in months, others have talked to her without hesitation about their feelings or experiences.

Nellie and Sandy, middle photo, accompany Joanne Yates, President and Co-Founder of Paws. They listen to children at the St. Helena Public School on Mondays, and then visit friends at Rosehaven Care Home and the Veterans Hospital whenever possible. Both dogs are rescued and represent more than 50 other canines in PFH that have found new jobs as therapy dogs.

New Training & Re-eval Schedule

Over the last year, PFH has used a 2-day training seminar and re-evaluation schedule that works well for both new teams and volunteer staff. PFH will continue to offer 4 training seminars a year in March, May, September and November.

2009 Training Calendar

Re-evaluation	January 17
2-day Seminar	March 7, 14
2-day Seminar	May 2, 9
Re-Evaluations	July 11
2-day Seminar	Sept. 12, 19
2-day Seminar	Oct. 31, Nov. 7

Older dogs (age 8 and older) are re-evaluated yearly to make sure they are still happy and physically able to do their work. We will set aside two days, one in January and one in July to do those assessments. (We still will do some re-evaluations on training days when volunteers are unable to make the other re-evaluations.) Please check our web site to confirm times of each class or re-evaluation.

Index

Vol. 11, No. 1, January, 2009

Louie's Story	2
Donations	2
little Dogs in a BIG World	3
Small Dog Training Tips	3
Holiday Pix	4

cont. page 4



Jake visits patients at Kaiser-Permanente in Santa Rosa.

**Haven't tried iGive.com yet?
Please don't wait.
It's painless, free and
PFH receives your help!**

Bette at iGive will help you donate every time you make an on-line purchase to Paws for Healing. In less than two months, Bette has helped raise over \$100 for Paws AND just announced that we won a \$200 gift certificate!

If you make purchases on-line, think about making them through iGive. There are over 700 participating businesses that give back a percentage of their profits to non-profits that are registered through iGive. (Amazon, Overstock, Borders are among the on-line businesses that include florists, printers, pet supply houses, and home improvement, computer, electronics, toy, bath and beauty, garden and hundreds of other stores people routinely visit.

There are no sign-up fees, the site is secure and easy to use. After you register and indicate Paws for Healing as your charity of choice, you can go to on-line sites, browse, shop and whenever you place an order, you'll help PFH. Make iGive one of your designated on-line sites so every time you buy, you also help our teams keep visiting! Why not say hello to Bette by going to:

www.iGive.com

Louie's Holiday Story...

(See this handsome boy on the last page)

"Greetings: As we reflect on our year of therapy work at Fairfield Nursing and Rehab at Loyalty Memory Loss Unit, we are so honored to be a part of the PAWS team.

"Over and over we see the love and joy that Louie, our boxer, brings to the residents. We visited on Christmas Day and everyone was so appreciative. We often forget that our "PAWS dogs are the only family some of these residents

have. We also often forget that our dogs provide stories for the residents to tell others.

"We meet many family members on Christmas Day who were delighted to meet Louie after all the stories they've heard about him.

"Please accept the check as a thank you for being the change you wish to see in the world."

Pat, Steve and Louie

Donations received—

In Honor and In Memory of the Animals and People Who Graced Our Lives

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>In Honor ...</i> | <i>of Peppy, always missed.</i> | <i>Walt & Dana Spicer</i> |
| ☿ | ☿ Sharon Hafez | Joan Sullivan |
| <i>of Jack Brannan,</i> | <i>of Bo Stewart, an English</i> | ☿ |
| <i>Thanks for Tracy's picture!</i> | <i>Bulldog who brought</i> | \$50+ |
| ☿ Lisa Hall | <i>smiles to everyone he met.</i> | <i>Teresa Bernards</i> |
| <i>of Randy, Lea, Suede</i> | ☿ John & Lisa Stewart | <i>Clare Le Brun</i> |
| <i>& Mbira Stegman, the</i> | <i>of Bo Stewart, a great-</i> | <i>Sharon DaSilva</i> |
| <i>best chauffeurs in town. ☿</i> | <i>hearted dog. ☿</i> | <i>Lisa Hall</i> |
| <i>Clare Le Brun</i> | <i>Randy & Lea Stegman,</i> | <i>Marlene Kniveton</i> |
| <i>of Bonnie Wilson ☿</i> | <i>Walt & Dana Spicer</i> | <i>Leslie Montoya</i> |
| <i>Marlene Kniveton</i> | <i>of Madame Evenson ☿</i> | <i>Robin Pintar</i> |
| <i>of Joanne Yates ☿</i> | <i>Lea & Randy Stegman</i> | <i>Lisa Stewart</i> |
| <i>Jule Adams Grant</i> | ☿ | <i>Randy & Lea Stegman</i> |
| <i>of Kodi Bernat ☿</i> | <i>PFH Donors — Friends</i> | <i>\$100+</i> |
| <i>Ron Rosnak</i> | <i>Shelli Cronin</i> | <i>Karen Schuppert</i> |
| <i>of Sara DeCrevel's</i> | <i>Robert Henderson</i> | <i>Craig Underhill</i> |
| <i>Bart and Bootsie ☿</i> | <i>Loli Lonso</i> | ☿ |
| <i>Leslie Montoya</i> | <i>Diane Moore</i> | \$250 |
| <i>In Memory ...</i> | <i>Joan Morey</i> | <i>Timothy Wable</i> |
| ☿ | <i>Holly Rogers</i> | <i>Napa Valley Community</i> |
| <i>of Lizzy Murio ☿</i> | ☿ | <i>Foundation</i> |
| <i>Marlene Kniveton</i> | \$25+ | <i>The Denver Foundation</i> |
| | <i>Sharon Hafez</i> | ☿ |
| | <i>William Lenehan</i> | \$500 |
| | <i>Diane Brisebois Peterson</i> | <i>Pat & Steve Davis</i> |
| | <i>Ron Rosenak</i> | <i>Nikki Godfrey</i> |
| | | <i>Chris Williams</i> |



Gracie is a therapy-pup in training and a lovely little Dachshund.

As Brandy says, small dogs are not “toys” and treating them as though they were can create real behavioral problems, such as acute shyness, aggressiveness, or separation anxiety. Dogs, not matter what their size, must be protected from rough handling, being stepped on, or teasing. Owners of small dogs, however, may make the mistake of carrying their pups everywhere, even though the dogs are perfectly capable of walking and running on their own.

Just like their larger relatives, small dogs need to understand boundaries, to learn appropriate behavior when greeting other dogs and people, and to respect their handlers. Just because they’re small, dogs that snap, jump up on people or in other dogs’ faces, urinate from fear, or that bark uncontrollably are still a problem and risk to owners.

Help your new puppy or smaller dog get off on the right paw: learn positive training methods that make your pooch confident around people and in new situations. When dogs understand what is appropriate and what is expected of them, they are happier—and safer—companions.

Have a question about TRAINING or want OBEDIENCE CLASSES? Call Norm Stangler who evaluates PFH canines as well as shelter dogs and teaches training classes. Cell: 707-580-3272.

little Dogs in a BIG World

by Brandy Mae, Veterans Home Facility Canine

I’ve lived in a hospital ward for eight years since I was a pup. It’s not bad, but I seldom see kids and I love ‘em. Specially those little ‘uns that are still kind of unsteady on their feet. Aren’t they the cutest things? When I see one, I run to it at top speed. I’m a big girl, and I know I might scare them, so, when I’m a ways away, I drop to my belly and crawl the rest of the way so they can pat the top of my head. Then they sit down and we have a real cuddle.

All the adults around say, “Awww...” then look at my ol’ handler. “You are a wonderful dog-trainer!” they say. He smiles modestly and pretends he taught me that. Honestly. As if I didn’t know you shouldn’t tower over little people and scare them.

I wonder why most people aren’t so considerate about little dogs. I watch small dogs that are on the ground in a crowd of people. A few are confident; most are not. Some are nervous and showing the whites of their eyes. I’ll bet they’ve been stepped on. Meanwhile, far

above them, the humans are yapping at each other, oblivious to what’s going on below them.

“I prefer big dogs,” a lot of people say. “Little dogs are noisy and snappy.” Don’t they know people have made them that way? My handler does one thing pretty smart. When people get a new puppy, he has them get down on their hands and knees and crawl around their house “puppy-proofing” it. They can see anything that might be dangerous and while they’re down there, they can see how the world looks when you’re little.

Among its many mistakes, the American Kennel Club should never have called small breeds “Toys”. No dogs are toys. Small dogs have big hearts and sharp minds in compact bodies. They’ll become the way they’re treated.

You know why I think small therapy dogs are different? They have a job, and therefore they’re treated with respect. We all deserve respect regardless of gender, race, species or... size.

If you wish to make a donation* to Paws for Healing to honor of or in the memory of a beloved friend, please fill out this form so that we can acknowledge the person, family member or companion animal. The enclosed envelope is pre-addressed for your convenience.

Please circle:

In Honor of | 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.



Over the Holidays, PFH teams visited a number of facilities, including the hospital at the Veterans Home in Yountville. Ed Lombardi (top r) visits with Barney the Puli with his handler, Steve Yost. Schmiegle (middle) a therapy dog in training, gives a Christmas kiss to Gwen Robinson in Volunteer Services. And Brandy (below), with handler Jack Branran, brings holiday cheer to Charles Darst (below r) and residents on 1B.



cont. from page 1

PFH Board of Directors' Dogs are Working Dogs, Too

Chelsea (second right) works with Cindy Jacque, our longest-serving board member and PFH's Chief Mentor. Most people don't realize that 95% of rest-home residents never have visitors, and so Chelsea is especially welcome at Merrill Gardens in Vallejo.

Happy Mariah is our oldest board member canine and has had a long career with PFH. Her first assignment was Parkway USARC PACE in Vacaville. Her cheery demeanor and gentle behavior helped staff reach clients with developmental disabilities in new and

meaningful ways. Mariah now accompanies Nikki Pacheco, Board Secretary, to Vacaville libraries where she listens carefully to the children who read to her.

Sharon DaSilva and Travis Pacheco are PFH's remaining board members. Sharon's dachshund, Gracie, is a therapy dog in training. Travis makes sure to keep Mariah in plenty of kibble and treats.

The Board of Directors is truly a working group of compassionate and dedicated people who make it possible for PFH to continue its mission. Thank you, past and present members, for all you have done. Your work has changed people's lives in so many wonderful ways.

Louie Davis spent part of the holidays seeing his friends. See pg. 2 for his comments.



Want to make a difference? Then volunteer, with or without dog! Come to trainings to help stuff newsletters, get to know our volunteer teams at evaluations. Or share your talents at our events (like Santa Paws) or show off your skills in some other way to help our teams keep doing their jobs.

• 707-258-3486 •



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