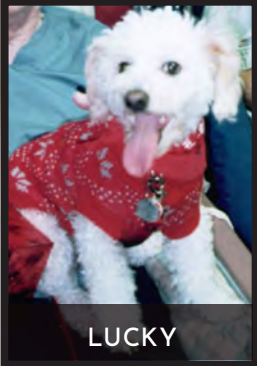


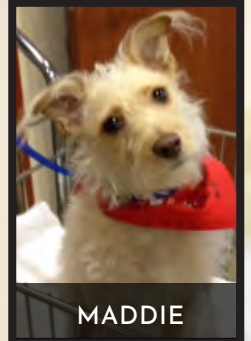
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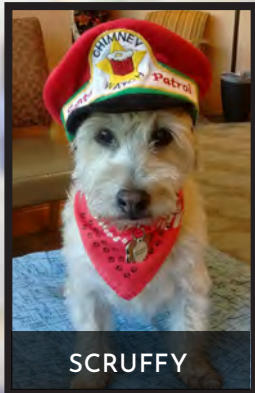
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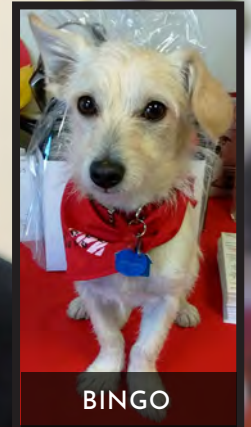
LUCKY



MADDIE



SCRUFFY



BINGO

PAWS & HEARTS

Animal Assisted Therapy - *How It All Came To Be*

"Lucky was only a year old, but he was like an old soul, he knew exactly what to do and how to interact with every patient." ...Page 24

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"Paws & Hearts"



Animal Assisted Therapy

How It All Came To Be

Written By Richard Waxman, Executive Director

Let's go back almost 24 years ago to July 4th, 2000, when a little stray poodle-something jumped into my arms on the street. I just took him home and named him Lucky, and that's how this all began! At the time, I was working rehabbing apartments, and I took Lucky to work with me every day. A gentleman came to see a unit, and it turned out he was the nursing director of Valencia Palms in Indio. He asked me to bring Lucky to visit his residents sometime. Little did he know that Animal Assisted Therapy was a long-time passion of mine, and I wondered if the very next day would be too soon for a visit!

Lucky and I went down to Indio the next afternoon, and I remember it like it was yesterday; Lucky was excellent from the first bed. He was only a year old, but he was like an old soul; he knew exactly where to lie, what to do, and how to interact with every patient. I was blown away by his natural abilities at this type of work.

Being the marketer that I am, I called the Desert Sun and asked if they wanted to do a cute article. As fate would have it, their cover story for the Desert People section was canceled, and they were scrambling for a heart-warming tale... enter "Paws & Hearts!" They asked if they could come the next day with a writer and photographer, so Lucky and I returned and did another visit.

The article came out, and my phone started to ring. What I thought would be a cute hobby, finding volunteers, both 2-legged and 4-legged, to make Pet Therapy visits, turned into so much more. Within a year, I had registered "Paws & Hearts" as a 501 C3, assembled a board of directors, found an office, and started going to work every day. Along the way, I was joined by "Scruffy," "Maddie," and "Bingo," all amazing therapy dogs! *(Read their bios on page 25!)*

Over the years, I've met some incredible canines and humans who became volunteers, board members, and donors!

But two individuals stand out and need to be recognized because they are no longer with us. In January of this year,



Terry Waxman (Left) -Terry is the newest pup on the "Paws & Hearts" payroll.... *the Milk-Bone payroll that it is!* While Terry hasn't followed in any of his predecessors footsteps by becoming a visiting Canine Ambassador, Terry is the office mascot. Terry is happy to bark at passers-by all day long as his way of greeting people

Valerie Zugates passed away. Valerie walked into our office 16 years ago out of the blue and asked if we needed a bookkeeper. She just dropped into my lap! Valerie started doing the books and then took over our website. What a treasure she was, and how I miss her.

And then Drew Marefos. Most of you reading this article who follow us on Facebook know that my buddy and side-kick Drew was part of our organization for almost 16 years. Drew trained many of the new volunteer teams; he took my dogs and did his own visits at the Lucy Curci Cancer Center every Wednesday morning. Drew and I made presentations all across the valley, and he helped put the dog walk together for years. There was nothing he wouldn't do; he was so proud to put on his "Paws & Hearts" volunteer shirt. How these two are missed!

We are always looking for volunteer teams wanting to get involved, and the information is on page 26!

We have a great website with all the information required to become a volunteer and a Facebook page updated every Monday morning.

In addition to our therapy dog program, we offer a monthly Pet Loss Bereavement Group. We've helped many people cope with losing a beloved dog or cat. So, please check us out!

Our organization stays afloat via donations from grants and personal donations, turn to page 26 to learn how to make a donation. In lieu of a dog walk this year, we are once again holding our Fall Online Fundraiser. We hope that all of you will consider making a donation!

COVER STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 26...

Celebrating all those who built



"Scruffy" Waxman (Left)—The pup I never thought would become a therapy dog. But Uncle Phillip trained him while on visits at Eisenhower. Scruffy was happy being Lucky's co-star. He was one smart guy, he figured out that all he had to do was look handsome, give a little hand kiss to each patient and he'd get a cookie!

"Lucky" Waxman (Above Left)—There never would have been a "Paws & Hearts" without Lucky. I found him as a stray one very hot July 4th abandoned at a small country club. He jumped in my arms and the rest is history! What an amazing therapy dog he was from his very first visit at Valencia Palms. He just knew how to snuggle up on a patient's lap to make them feel like they were the most important visit of his day!



"Maddie" Waxman (Left)—Was there ever a sweeter soul than Miss Maddie? She truly was the most quiet, gentle, healing little dog. Everyone who watched her visit thought that Lucky had somehow come back, but Maddie was amazing on her own and just gave the most heart-felt visits. When she snuggled up to a patient the patient just relaxed right into little Maddie!



"Bingo" Waxman (Left) — Bingo didn't get to be a therapy dog for very long, his life was abruptly ended by a vicious dog attack that killed him. He was just starting out on visits at the Lucy Curci Cancer Center with "Maddie" and Drew, and everyone loved the spunky little pup who always had one ear up, and one ear down. He would have been great!

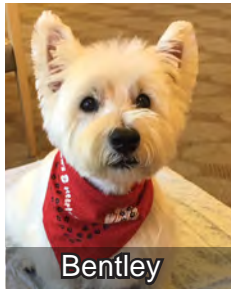
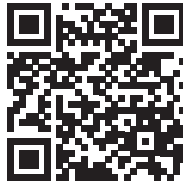
Valerie Zugates (Bottom Right)—Dear Valerie.....my life at "Paws & Hearts" got a whole lot better the day you appeared. About 16 years ago Valerie just walked into our first office and said that she heard we needed a bookkeeper and she would be willing to donate her time once a month. *Really?* Okay, she was hired! A few months later Valerie looked over my shoulder as I was frustrated with our website and she said, "Web design is what I specialize in, let me do this for you!" For 16 years Valerie did our books, she balanced the check book every month, she did updates to our website, she strategized with me on fund-raising issues, she helped with grant applications, she just never once said no. My work life is not the same since she passed way from Cancer in January of this year. She and Drew helped build "Paw & Hearts" with their love and devotion, and neither of them can ever be replaced.



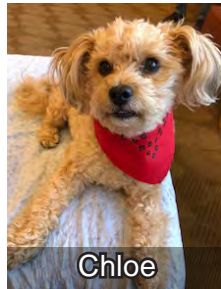
Drew Merefos (Above, left)—Another Rancho Mirage resident and my best buddy for 16 years. Drew passed away on April 28th of this year and originally this article was going to be about the return of our Annual Dog Walk-Fundraiser to be held this month. Without Drew around my heart just wasn't in it. This amazing guy worked tirelessly for "Paws & Hearts" throughout the years of our friendship. He took great pride in putting on his volunteer shirt and going on his own weekly visit. He trained new volunteers, he worked in the office, he was on the board To say that I'm lost without him would be an understatement.

Fall Online/Fundraiser

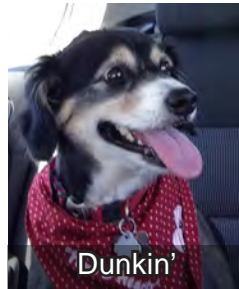
This fundraiser began in early October. Donating is easy; using your phone's camera to scan the QR code or go to this link: pawsandhearts.org/donationform.html it will take you right to our PayPal online donation page. You can make an easy online donation or mail in a check. Either method is much appreciated and will be acknowledged with a proper thank-you letter!



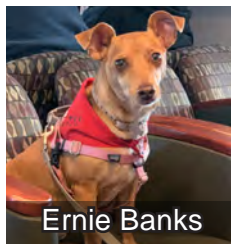
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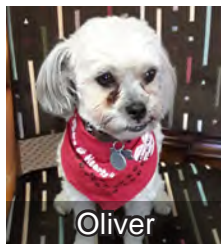
Chloe



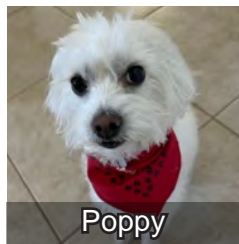
Dunkin'



Ernie Banks



Oliver



Poppy

How to Volunteer with us!

The volunteer application is on our website, www.pawsandhearts.org. Before applying, please read through our website thoroughly, watch both training videos, and call the office for an informal phone interview. We want volunteers who are genuinely dedicated to this type of work! All dogs must be at least a year old, spayed or neutered, incredibly friendly and outgoing, and work well with their pet parent. *Full-time residents only.*

Must be willing to commit to weekly visits.

You and your pooch will be trained in how to conduct a visit to your assigned facility.

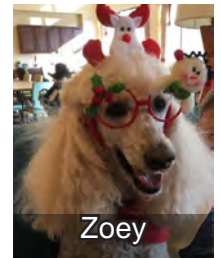
Please feel free to give us a call or send an email:

760-836-1406 ❤️ pawsandhearts@aol.com.

Our office is located at 42-600 Cook St. Ste. 138, The Berger Foundation Building, Palm Desert, CA 92211



Sadie & Tiffany



Zoey