

“Paws & Hearts”

Animal Assisted Therapy

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WINTER 2018

NEWSLETTER

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Winter is here, and for all of us who are full time residents, it is a delightful time. We actually get to don sweaters and jackets after that much too long summer. What a treat!

Our **17th Annual Dog Walk Fundraiser** is once again behind us for another year, and this one was truly the best of them all. The weather was glorious (warm and no wind), and we had the biggest turn-out ever so much so, that we ran out of most sizes of commemorative t-shirts. How will we top this next year?

The monthly Pet Bereavement Group continues to grow in popularity. Seems like every month a group of folks find their way to our office to share their loss and find those of like minds to listen and lend support.

We are in our 18th year now.....who would have ever thought?

Richard Waxman

Upcoming Events to Put on Your Calendars!

Pet Bereavement Support Group

Monthly Meetings

Second Wednesday of the month, 1 pm

“Maddie’s” Views (“Lucky” & “Scruffy” in thought)

Visits, visits, visits, that’s all I do.....4 of them a week, count ‘em--4!!! Did my two predecessors have to work this hard? Don’t get me wrong, I love going to Desert Regional Medical Center with Dad twice per week and on two visits with Uncle Drew, but I’m going to need an assistant real soon!

Of all the visits I have done these last few months it was my Thanksgiving Day visit at Desert that really got to me. Dad and I visited many rooms that afternoon in the Sinatra Tower, but it was the family—Mother was the patient, and the five children who were a delight!

The children were all so gentle with me, taking individual turns to pet me. After all the individual hello’s were said Dad asked the oldest child to take a picture of everyone, myself included. The family got some great shots that they wanted to share, but the best picture was the last one where it was just the Mother hugging me. This woman took Dad’s hand and thanked him for truly making her family’s Thanksgiving afternoon very memorable.

Truth be told, our visit with this family made *OUR* day truly special!

“Maddie” Waxman

“Paws & Hearts” 74-133 El Paseo, Ste. 7

Palm Desert, CA 92260

(760) 836-1406 fax (760) 836-1426

E-Mail: Pawsandhearts@aol.com

Website: www.pawsandhearts.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pawsandheartsorg

An Amazing Annual Dog Walk/Fundraiser in pictures!

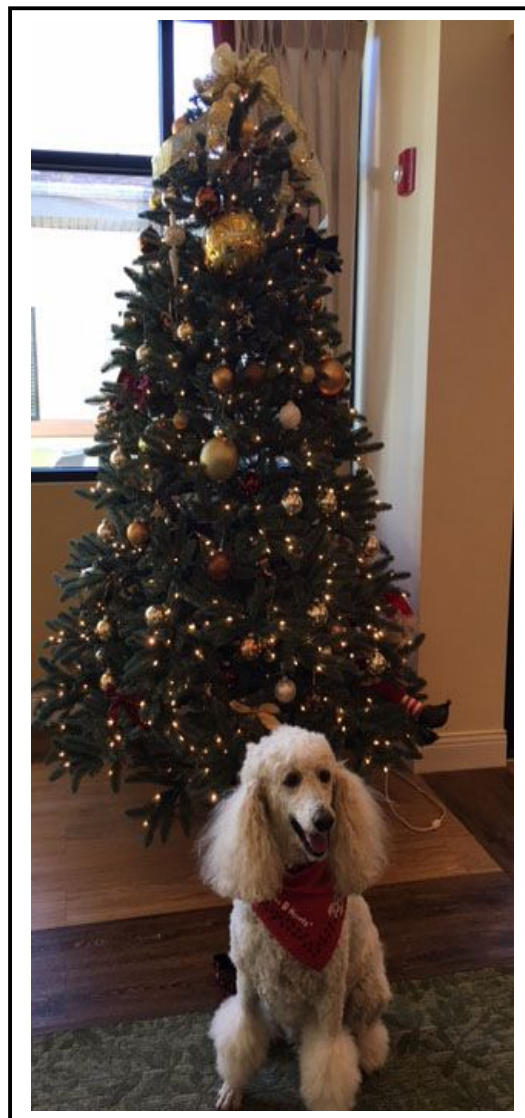


Cathy & "Zoey"—an update

In the Fall 2017 Newsletter I had bid a fond-farewell to Cathy & "Zoey" who had moved to Utah. Turns out, they may be hundreds of miles away, but clearly the farewell was a bit pre-mature. Cathy made her volunteer work well known in her new community, and it wasn't long before the director of a health care facility asked if "Zoey" could make a visit.

All it took was for the bandana and volunteer shirt to come out and Cathy and "Zoey" were back in business. They visit *The Meadows, Assisted Living & Memory Care* every Thursday morning and their weekly volunteer reports resumed. These pictures are of "Zoey" at her new facility, where she makes all kinds of residents feel a bit better, (volunteer report on pg. 5).

Cathy and "Zoey" our 'satellite volunteer team!'



"Paws & Hearts"

Animal Assisted Therapy



Announces their monthly

Pet Bereavement Support Group

If you have recently lost your beloved companion dog or cat, or are caring for your senior pet and need a support group, we are here for you.

Please check out the information on our website at www.pawsandhearts.org and if we can be of help, complete the short registration form, and we'll get back to you.

"Paws & Hearts" Animal Assisted Therapy (760) 836-1406



We will be holding our Monthly Support Group the second Wednesday of every month—1pm at our office in Palm Desert.

Please call for information, and we ask you to register with a very short questionnaire on our website:

www.pawsandhearts.org

Volunteer Stories

Many of our readers have asked where our Volunteer Stories come from. Our volunteer teams visit their assigned facility each and every week and part of their commitment is to email into our office a weekly report, complete with their visitation story. Some day, these stories along with photographs will be turned into a book because the stories are heart-warming and the patients/clients we visit truly treasure their weekly visit.

Comprehensive Cancer Center at Desert Regional—Joanne & "Bailey"--Today's visit was a unique combination of "old friends and new acquaintances ." Seems that once Bailey and a patient meet, they both are exceptionally enthusiastic when they see each other again. Today, one of the radiology patients (who happens to be 90 years old) and Bailey greeted each other like long-lost buddies! The patient had a bit of trouble remembering Bailey's name but he certainly remembered "that big white fluffy dog who is so friendly."

Bailey met a new friend, 5 year-old Mason who took Bailey on a little walk around the reception area and had a very hard time saying goodbye. No doubt that Bailey and Mason will greet each other with great love and enthusiasm when they meet again! And every week, the staff and Bailey have a bit of a love fest, especially nurse Jennifer, and Deborah, the radiology admissions lady who always say, 'therapy dogs are total objects of love and delight!'

The Meadows—Cathy & "Zoey"-- There was a large group of patients when we entered sitting around a table and hitting a balloon. Zoey went up to them, and they said "Zoey wants to play." We decided to start our rounds. Zoey went to Geri's room and she wasn't there, but we found her sitting in a chair and all smiles. She asked to take Zoey's leash and we walked around for quite some time. Then we sat in chairs and talked, then walked back to her room. We went back to the big group and Geri's hospice worker came. The hospice worker told the activity director that she would wait because Geri interacting with Zoey is more important. When they went over to a table to do a check-up on Geri, Zoey kept going over and checking on her. They really have bonded and even the activity director and hospice worker said they have quite a beautiful bond. Geri said Zoey could live there and everyone else agreed.

We were asked by one of the staff to visit Lucy in her room. Zoey has visited her before and she has a bird that sits on top of its cage. Zoey and the bird just look at each other. Lucy loves Zoey--she petted her, gave her a treat, and even gave her kisses. We went back to the group who had stopped playing with the balloon. Zoey made her way around the group and got lots of pets and gave lots of kisses. One lady is afraid of dogs, but today said she doesn't like dogs, but likes Zoey. Zoey went over and kissed her arm and the lady said she is beautiful. There was a new man, who the activity director said is very confused and has no grasp on reality. Zoey went up to him and another patient asked what kind of dog Zoey is. This man said, "She is a Standard Poodle and I had one." The activity director couldn't believe he said something that made sense. Once again, the powers of Animal Assisted Therapy at work!

Lucy Curci Cancer Center—Sandie & "Bentley"--A few patients celebrated with us because it was their last visit - they are done with radiation. Many were thankful Bentley and I were there. I will miss seeing them (but, I am glad they are done!). Bentley was great, he greeted everyone with a wagging tail and many kisses. He did his usual - follow them to the edge of the hallway, wait, and then stand and wiggle when they come out until they come back to pet him! One woman who was never very talkative started chatting more this time. That was very nice!

Our Mission Statement

"Paws & Hearts" is a leader in the field of Animal Assisted Therapy, (AAT) and it is our mission to enrich the lives of frail and special care cases that require the loving attention and affection that only a "four-legged" healer can provide.

*Pet Bereavement Support Group at "Paws & *Hearts*"*



We are here to help you get through this.....