

“Paws & Hearts”

Animal Assisted Therapy

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FALL 2019

NEWSLETTER

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“Lucky” & “Scruffy”
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Working on the Fall Newsletter in the summer always seems a bit strange to me. I’m thinking of cooler temps in the triple digits!

We had some very sad news this past spring. A very dear supporter of ours, Emelio Valentino, Drew’s long-time partner, passed away in May. For years Emelio had prepared the Spring and Fall newsletters for mailing and accompanied Drew on his visits on Friday mornings. He particularly liked Bingo! Emelio will be a tough act to follow for Drew and for all of those who knew and loved him.

At our office, the beat goes on. We’ve been very lucky in that new volunteer teams have found their way to our organization. And our Pet Loss Bereavement Support Group has helped attendees every month this year.

This is the Newsletter where I talk about the upcoming dog walk fundraiser, so please, read on.....

Richard Waxman

Upcoming Events to Put on Your Calendars!

19th Annual Dog Walk/Fundraiser

Saturday November 30th

Registration begins at 9 am, Walk at 10 am

Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa

Pet Bereavement Support Group

Monthly Meetings

Second Wednesday of the month, 1 pm

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Website: www.pawsandhearts.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pawsandheartsorg

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

With all the stuff happening in Uncle Drew’s life, Dad has been taking Bingo and me on visits to the Lucy Curci Cancer Center every Wednesday morning.

Some weeks we are just so busy that the two hours fly by—we get to visit with lots of patients who are waiting for their radiation treatments. As tough as this time is for these people, so many of them are so grateful that Bingo and I and all the ***Canine Ambassadors***, provide some much needed relief while waiting.

One of the patients always brought his wife into the waiting room with him and she struck up a conversation with Dad. She told him that six years ago she had undergone radiation treatments at the center and how she looked forward to seeing a different dog every morning. She went on to say that we had no idea how helpful just petting a dog could be, and that she was beyond thrilled that we were still doing it.

Again, the power of Animal Assisted Therapy is truly remarkable! Suit me up Dad, I’m always happy to wear my ***red working bandana!***

“Maddie” Waxman

Upcoming Annual Dog Walk-Fundraiser

Once again we are in the planning stages of our **Annual Dog Walk Fundraiser**. This will be our 19th Annual Walk! (Really? How can that be possible?)

The date of this year's walk is Saturday, November 30th, the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

As always the walk will be held on the grounds of the beautiful Westin Mission Hills Resort in Rancho Mirage. Our event boasts a continental breakfast, a ton of water and treats for your dog, and even Santa who poses for your holiday photos with your dog! As always we have the most amazing raffle baskets!

Please plan on attending and help us to raise donations for our non-profit.



Pet Bereavement Support Group

Our group meets the second Wednesday of every month, 1pm, at our office in Palm Desert. Each participant is asked to register on our website, www.pawsandhearts.org, and to bring a photograph of their beloved dog or cat (not on a cell phone). The group is now in its third year, and we have seen many faces from the valley come into the office and share love stories of their beloved 4-legged companions who have passed away.



Be sure to finish reading our entire Newsletter on our website: www.pawsandhearts.org

In Memoriam



Emelio Valentino
October 1936 -- May 2019

*Here we are at last year's dog walk
with Santa--
Emelio seated, Drew (L) Richard (R)*

With the passing of Emelio, a very good question has come up. Over the last couple of weeks we've received two calls from local hospitals with patients who had no way to care for the dog they left behind at home. The staff called asking for suggestions. This is always a tough call, and I've heard this for years from all the hospital visits I have made, "I live alone. I was rushed here by ambulance last night and will be here for a few days. I have a dog/cat at home. I don't know what to do?"

I've talked in the past about making provisions for your beloved pet in your final wishes, and equally as important is having a plan in place if God-forbid a situation like the one described happens. So many seniors live alone with the companionship of a dog, cat, or both.

I know for myself my dog walker has a key to my house, and all the instructions how to care for Maddie & Bingo if something like this should ever happen to me. I can't stress enough the importance of being prepared in the unlikely event that you are unable to take care of your pet.

Consider finding a reputable dog/cat sitter, checking references, and setting them up to be on-call if something happens. That old adage, 'forwarned is forarmed' really does apply here!

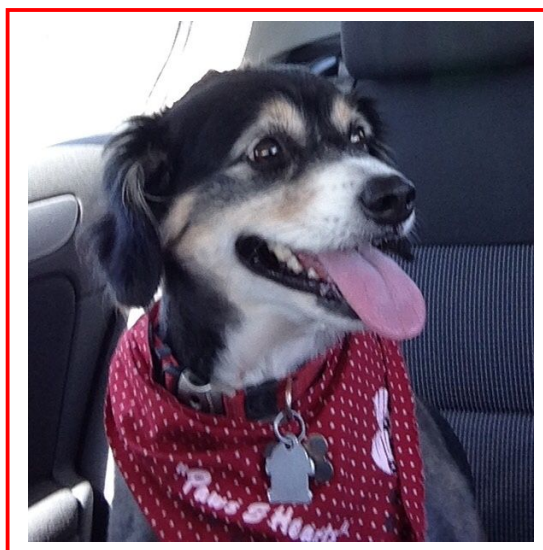
Our Mission Statement

"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.



"Zoey"

"Dunkin"



Our first day volunteering!!



"Chi"

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.

Cathy & "Zoey": Zoey visited with patients at Red Cliffs Health & Rehabilitation in the activity area. One lady called her over and said she wanted to pet that fluffy head. Zoey put her paw up to shake and the lady got excited and said that was the prettiest paw ever. A gentleman called her over and rubbed her back and gave her a treat. Another lady held up her hand to show that her nail polish almost matched Zoey and said that makes her happy.

Then we visited individual rooms. There was a lady in her bed and Zoey put her paws on the edge of the bed. The lady got tears in her eyes and said she really misses her little dog and this made her day. A man was sitting in his wheelchair with his back to us. Zoey went around to see him and the man let out a loud, "Wow, you are really pretty." Zoey kissed his hand and the man smiled the entire time.

There were 2 ladies in their room and they both called Zoey over and she kept going back and forth between them. We visited the therapy room and all the activity stopped so the patients and staff also could pet Zoey. One lady could hardly move her hand and the therapist told her to try to pet Zoey, so she reached out and stroked her back, and got so excited that she was doing that. A man was with a therapist and said he wanted to stop because he had to visit with that gorgeous Poodle. Another very successful morning for the amazing Standard Poodle by the name of "Zoey!"

Suze & "Dunkin": Dunkin was a very busy boy on Saturday. He was in a terrific mood; scampering down the halls and going inside each room, sticking his head under the curtains and putting his paws up on the beds to smile and say hello. And he got a smile back from every single person. We met lots of new people and everyone was pleased to know that we come to visit every Saturday. What really stood out was Dunkin zigzagging back-and-forth across the hallways to go into each room, he was so funny. He got lots of cuddles, lots of kisses, and he did really amazing Pet Therapy work this Saturday morning. We met lots of new people and everyone was pleased to know that we come to visit every Saturday. And was my boy tired when we left. The amazing therapy dog slept for the rest of the day!

Stephanie & "Chi": Another wonderful Friday morning at Indio Nursing and Rehabilitation. We greeted everyone as we walked into the facility and said hello to all the clients who were sitting outside of the activity room. We said goodbye to a patient who was leaving for home. This patient loved every visit we had with him so much, and he shared many stories of his Japanese Chin named Pepper. The patient and his spouse were so happy to have one last visit with Chi. Chi gave them lots of hugs and kisses goodbye.

We next visited the "fish room" and had a visit with the patient who is always waiting and watching TV in this room. He so happy to have Chi come and sit on his lap. This patient is not able to make sounds with his voice and I try my best to read his lips. The patient looked so happy and joyful as Chi gave little kisses. I told Chi in Spanish to "give a little hug and a little kiss." The Spanish speaking patients find this to be very cute. We also had a very nice visit with the patient who was waiting and prepared for our visit time. He had the dog treats in-hand and the dog blanket on his lap ready for Chi. He said to Chi in Spanish, "have a cookie!"

We visited with a couple of patients who don't respond, giving each person a couple of minutes with Chi sitting next to them as I speak and tell them who we are and about "Paws & Hearts". We visited our last two patients who share the same room. One patient told us how they had planned to go home but had a little breathing set back. Chi usually likes to lay down and have a little rest when we visit with this patient, and she becomes very calm as they pet her. We then visited with the roommate for a quick hi and bye, because they had called for a nurse. We told them we would start off our visit on that side of the facility next week and we hope they continue improving.

It was another wonderful morning and we look forward to seeing everyone again next Friday!

Save the Date

For the 19th Annual

"Paws & Hearts"

Dog Walk-Fundraiser

Saturday, November 30th, 2019

Registration begins at 9 am, Walk at 10 am

Come and join us for our annual event and help in raising donations. As always we will have our amazing raffle baskets, continental breakfast, a ton of dog treats, and Santa Claus himself for your pets holiday photo! And that fun 2-mile walk for everyone!

