



Short Paws

The official newsletter of Furry Friends P.A.T.S. Vol 19 Issue 4

July/August/September 2011

Reading Buddies Program at Cupertino Library

Article from Kacie Wong (Furry Friends)



My name is Kacie Wong (Australian Sheppard/Kelpie Lab mix) and I am part of the Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Reading Buddies program at the Cupertino Library. I started visiting this library on Oct 7, 2010, and I now visit the site on the 1st Thursday of each month. Our team captain, Lauren Flato, is wonderful, and I love my other canine teams too. I cannot drive, so I have to ask my mom, Nancy Wong, to take me every month to visit this site. My mom keeps a calendar and lets me know when it's time for our visit. I get so excited once my mom puts her Furry Friends badge on and puts on my badge. My tail wags so fast, and once Nancy opens that car door, I jump right in the back seat. Once we get in the parking lot of the Cupertino Library, I know I will be listening to all the wonderful kids for an hour. Once inside the library, I will be passing a large fish tank and then seeing the young kids waiting in line before we enter the room. All of them have big smiles with books in their hands, and they can't wait to read to us. The double doors open and I pick my spot where to sit. Once we are ready, the kids pick a dog to read to and the fun begins.

I love this type of program, and I know the kids love to read to us too. I support the Reading Buddies 100% because it nurtures every child's self esteem and confidence. It creates a supportive environment

Furry Friends is now requiring that a Furry Friends logo shirt be worn on all visits, that members and pets have their badges clearly visible at all times, and that the Furry Friends leash is used for all visits.

The shirt, badge, and leash present a professional appearance, and makes it clear who we are. It easily distinguishes us from facility staff and from family members and other visitors.

Everyone received a t-shirt and leash at the etiquette class. Other items, such as polo shirts, sweatshirts, and denim shirts can be ordered through our on-line store; leashes are available as well. If your t-shirt is worn out from lots of use, we will provide you a new one at no charge.

Team captains, it is important that you follow these rules yourself, and help reinforce this message with your team members. It's also a good idea to keep an extra Furry Friends leash or two in your car to loan to a volunteer who forgets theirs. We can provide you with an extra leash or two to keep handy.

We have a great organization! We should all be proud of what we do, and proud to be affiliated with Furry Friends.

Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services

Our mission is to consistently facilitate delivery of the love and affection of our volunteers and their pets. We enhance the lives and touch the hearts of people with special needs.

Board of Directors

President
Anne Tiry

Vice President
Patty Guthrie

Secretary & Treasurer
Newsletter
Randee McQueen

Director
**Rhonda Hardy
Michelle Choquette**

Administrator
Loree McQueen

My name is Michelle Choquette and I am excited to join the Board of Furry Friends. My husband, Brian, and I live in Campbell with our two dogs (Lacey, 6 year old Schipperke, and Oreo, 12 year old Chow & Schipperke mix). Lacey and I are part of the San Jose Family Shelter Team. My goal is to work with the Board and the members of Furry Friends to increase fundraising and to help with our administrative tasks. I will be attending Bark in the Park (September 17th) and will be in the booth from 12:30pm on, please stop by and introduce yourself and let me know what can I do for your team and our organization.

Best,
Michelle Choquette

for children so that they may read without corrections or interruption. It provides a non-judgmental atmosphere and gives them a chance to read to an animal and pet them at the same time when they are reading. I believe it's less stressful for a child to read aloud to a dog or cat than to a teacher or even with parent(s). After all, a dog or cat won't laugh or judge how you're reading to them.

The best part of this is that I receive a thank you note with my name on it from my readers after the visit ends. We all get a thank you note and it is so sweet receiving them. I have asked my mom, Nancy, to start a binder of all of my thank you notes, and every time I receive a new one, I make sure it gets put into a clear sheet protector and placed in my Reading Buddies binder. Also, it's a nice feeling when parents come up to you and say thank you for letting their child read to you. I cannot answer back to them so I let my mom answer for me. The best feedback is to hear "my child is reading so much better, thanks to you".

Thank you notes are only part of it; I also get my photo taken with my readers, which is awesome. I make sure I sit up, put on a big smile, and even get a hug while the librarian takes our photo. Sorry, Mom, you're not part of the photo. However, she makes sure that I look very nice when the photo is taken.

It's so fun that even my sister, Niki (Black Lab mix), comes to the Cupertino Library sometimes too. That's difficult because we both love doing this type of visit and only one of us can go at a time. To resolve this issue, we now have to flip a doggie biscuit to decide which one will visit for that month. So far, I have been winning the toss and I'm happy. Next month might be a different story though.

The kids are reading so much better, and I usually get the same readers each month. I love all the kids and am glad that Furry Friends has this type of program. No one pays attention quite like a dog and cat. Many of the kids are reluctant to read, but because a dog, cat, or even a rabbit doesn't criticize or correct, the kids feel more confident reading to them instead of to a human.

The kids are often structured from the time they wake up until the time they go to bed. The Furry Friends program is much more laid back. It's almost like they don't realize they're getting something out of it; "it's just fun" and reading to an animal brings joys of reading.

To become a member of the Furry Friends Reading Buddies program, you just have to go through a Reading Buddies program evaluation. I was nervous, but I wasn't alone and there were other animals going through the same evaluation class. Once you're part of the Reading Buddies program, it's very rewarding. Also, the demand for this type of program is growing.

I would like to say thank you to the Furry Friends family and everyone who is involve in the Reading Buddies program. Making a young child read better is my job, and volunteering my time is priceless. My mom, Nancy Wong, also appreciates this type of program and encourages others to consider this type of volunteering with your pet.

Woof - Kacie Wong
Parent - Nancy Wong

For more information about joining a Reading Buddies team, please go to <http://www.furryfriends.org/RBFAQ.html>.

Show off your best buddy in our Furry Friends 2012 Calendar.

There is no charge to submit your favorite photo in JPEG format. For only \$5 we will place the photo on a particular month or day (birthday, perhaps?) if the day isn't taken yet.

You can send photos to Rhonda@furryfriends.org

Pupsicles - Dog ice cream recipe

Source: www.dog-pound.net

- 2 cups low salt beef or chicken broth
- 2/3 cup water
- 2 or 3 ice cube trays
- Small rawhide sticks

Mix water with beef or chicken broth and pour into ice cube trays. Place in freezer and serve cold. Add a [rawhide stick](#) halfway through the freezing. This recipe is quick, easy, and fun. It's probably best to serve this dish outside.



Pets that have earned their wings

Maggie ~ Anne Tiry & Robert Young
Kilaa ~ Randee McQueen
Bailey ~ Annette Cable
Milo ~ Heidi Ng

CRITTER DOCTOR COLUMN

JULIE C. BOND, M.S, ANIMAL BEHAVIORIST

The one constant in this world is change. The concept of change is often difficult for us humans; we resist, complain, and sometimes flat out ignore changes that are staring us in the face. It seems our pets are much better at coping with change than we are! We change their diets, their classes, their schedules, and their routines and our furred and feathered friends rarely complain. I think there is a lesson in there for us all.

That being said, Furry Friends is facing a big change in our policy with regard to treats on our visits. Up until now, it has been the case that the individual facilities we visit or our individual team captains could determine whether team members brought treats for their pets on visits. This rule was put in place to allow facilities to dictate how we conducted our visits at their sites and to allow the team captains to control what was being done on their individual teams. The one exception to this rule was the Reading Buddies visits. ALL Reading Buddies visits are “no treats allowed” to encourage the pets to focus on the job at hand and not get distracted unnecessarily. This general policy, however, is no longer working effectively for our organization. We truly have very few incidents occur each year. However, the fact of the matter is, the majority of incidents we do have revolve around food. We’ve had patients’ fingers being snapped at, dogs jumping up for treats, dogs fighting with each other over access to fallen treats or treats being handed out, and dogs spending entire visits foraging around on the floor for treat crumbs left behind, rather than visiting with patients and residents. Even the nicest, most reliable pet may inadvertently pinch someone’s fingers when reaching out for a treat. There have been enough of these occurrences to have our policy come into question.

I had the opportunity to attend the most recent Board of Directors meeting for our organization. During that meeting we discussed the pros and cons of our treats policy, what other similar organizations are doing with regard to treats, and what we think we should do going forward. While I do test for treat safety during class, that is not enough to really test for every possible treat related scenario that might occur over a pet’s tenure with our organization. In addition, many pets’ relationship with treats and food changes as they get older and their eye sight fails, they become more competitive, etc. Given the potential risks involved and the inability to guarantee to our insurance carrier that every pet is “bomb proof” with regard to food, the decision was made to require all Furry Friends visits, leashed and off leash, to become no treats allowed visits.

Now, I realize that even if we don’t bring treats to our visits, many of the facilities we visit have treats for our pets and/or residents hand out treats to our pets. It is up to each and every volunteer to educate the staff at the facilities we visit with regard to this new policy. We can all gently and gracefully let residents and patients know about the new policy and why it was put into place. Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services places the safety of our volunteers, their pets, and the community we serve FIRST. While I realize that it may seem that we are allowing the behavior of a few pets determine the destiny of all of our pets, in this case I believe it is warranted. We simply cannot jeopardize our visits with a policy that puts anyone at risk. Furry Friends has a stellar reputation in the community and we certainly want to keep it that way!

So, change happens. Change is good. Change means growth. Here’s to embracing change and moving forward! Again, if you have questions regarding this policy, or any other questions or concerns with regard to the behavior of your pets on our visits, please don’t hesitate to contact me. I love hearing from you!

AKC has a Therapy Dog Title

The purpose of this program is to recognize AKC dogs and their owners who have given their time and helped people by volunteering as a therapy dog and owner team. The title is awarded to dogs who have worked to improve the lives of the people they have visited. The AKC Therapy Dog title (THD) can be earned by dogs who have been certified by AKC recognized therapy dog organizations and have performed 50 or more community visits. AKC does not certify therapy dogs; the certification and training is done by qualified therapy dog organizations. Furry Friends, Pet Assisted Therapy Services is a qualified organization.



Whether you have an AKC registered dog or a PAS/ILP with AKC you can get a title. The program was started on 6/27/11. To date I know that at least 4 members of FF have received their titles and many others are working for the number of visits or have compiled their information and have sent it in. You received a certificate and a patch.

They are accepting verification of visits from 1/1/00 to 6/26/11 from each organization. We have created a form letter that we will send with the sites you visited, number of visits and the rough dates. FF, PATS does not keep track of which pets visit which sites. We will depend on you to be honest and give us the number of visits which we will put on the form and return it to you. For visits after 6/26/11 go to the FF websites and download the form to have your captain sign for each visit.

<http://www.furryfriends.org/members.html>

If you have questions or to request the letter for visits before 6/27/11, contact Randee McQueen at randee@com-ctl.com.

Dates to Remember 2011

Reading Buddies Classes
November 28

Tricks Classes
October 23

Do we have your correct E-mail Address?

If in **DOUBT**....

Send an email to : admin@furryfriends.org

Send your name and your current e-mail address

The Fall Furry Flurry

Every year a number of rescue organizations work together on a walk a thon to benefit various rescues. There is a 5 k walk, costume contests, bobbing for wieners, musical sits and a great raffle with things for our pets and great stuff for us. Along with the games and raffle their will be ASK THE BEHAVIORIST, Canine Good Citizen test and experience Rally.

Every year they allow Furry Friends, Pet Assisted Therapy Services to participate and raise funds for our group. We do not do fundraising events so this is a great opportunity for us to raise funds. Ask your friends to pledge for you walking on behalf of FF, PATS. A entry form is included in the newsletter.

We hope that members will participate for FF, PATS



Pet Awareness and Welfare Society for SJACS and the Bay Area Siberian Husky Club are nonprofit animal welfare organizations. All registration fees from this walk in excess of expenses will go to the medical needs of the animals in PAWS and BASH programs. Pledges for walkers go directly to the rescue indicated on the pledge sheet.

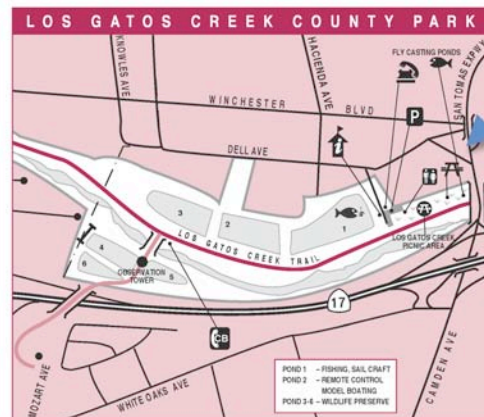
- Rescues participating in this event:**
- 13th Street Cats
 - Animal Friends Rescue Project
 - Bay Area Siberian Husky Club
 - Companion Animal Rescue Effort
 - Friends of Silicon Valley Animal Control
 - Furry Friends, Pet Assisted Therapy
 - Group Education To Protect and Defend Animals
 - Humane Society of Silicon Valley
 - Malamutes Unloved Needing Homes
 - Northern Sled Dog Rescue
 - Pet Awareness Welfare Society for SJACS
 - Rabbit Haven
 - San Francisco Samoyed Rescue
 - Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary
 - Save a Bunny
 - STAR Rescue
 - The Perfect Dog Rescue
 - Town Cats
 - Unconditional Love

- Festival Activities**
- 5 K walk with your pet
 - Ask the Behaviorist!
 - Costume Parade
 - Canine Good Citizen
 - Fun and Games with your pet
 - Rally Obedience
 - Largest Dog/Smallest Dog Contest
 - Pupperazi photos with your pet

Each walker receives a raffle ticket and pet goody bag
 Sign in – 9:00 to 10:30 5 K Walk – 9:30 to 12:30
 Contests/Games – 11:00 to 12:30 Raffle Drawing – 12:30
 Silent Auction – 1:00



www.PAWS4SJACS.org



Start Here

There is a \$6 parking fee in the park. Limited street parking available.

The Fall Furry Flurry

Safety Requirements

Walk: dogs must be on a 6 foot or shorter leash (NO flexi leashes); be currently vaccinated for rabies; appear to be in good health; female dogs in heat cannot participate; puppies must be at least 4 months old; bring poop bags to pick up after your dogs.

Entry Form for walkers

To register for the 5 K walk, please fill out this form. Feel free to make as many photocopies of this form as you need to register each participant/family.

Name(s) _____

Pet's name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

In consideration of accepting my entry, I, The undersigned, intend to be legally bound for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators to waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the beneficiaries, organizers, sponsors, advertisers and employees, volunteers and committee members, federal, state and local governments or private parties on whose property this event may be run including but not limited to the City of Campbell, the County of Santa Clara, the State of California, Pet Awareness and Welfare Society for SJACS and the Bay Area Siberian Husky Club of any and all injuries suffered by me or my animal(s) while traveling to or from, or participating in this event.

Registrant's Signature/Guardian if under 18 years _____ Date _____

Pre-Entry Fees must be received no later than October 10, 2011

\$25 per person*, # of people _____ \$ _____ or

\$60 per family* (up to 4 people) \$ _____

T-shirt sizes and number requested:

____ S ____ M ____ L ____ XL ____ XXL

Prepaid registration is guaranteed a shirt. Shirts day of event, while supplies last.

Make checks payable to PAWS for SJACS.

MAIL THE REGISTRATION FORM WITH FEES TO:

PAWS for SJACS, 2633 S BASCOM AVE, CAMPBELL CA 95008

*Day of Walk fees will be \$30.00/person, \$80.00/family

For more information and additional entry forms, call 408-559-3230 x 108 or

visit our Web site at www.PAWS4SJACS.org.

Fall Furry Flurry Pledge Sheet

Walker's name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Pledges for **Furry Friends, Pet Assisted Therapy Services**

(Make checks payable to this organization.)

Thank you for supporting our rescue efforts! Your pledge is tax deductible for any IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Donor Name Address Donation \$

Total Pledge Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Pledge form may be photocopied. All checks should be made payable to the rescue identified above. Please staple your pledge forms to checks/money orders and mail to:

PAWS for SJACS
2633 S Bascom Ave, Campbell, CA 95008.

ALL pledges must be collected by the walker and received no later than November 2, 2011.

Furry Friends is on FACEBOOK!

If you have a Facebook account, you can find Furry Friends as a group by searching for Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services. Furry Friends is also listed as a Cause Too! You will need the "Causes" app installed on your account. To find Furry Friends, open up the Causes app and search for Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services. Yes, we are in the digital age!

Sites Needing Volunteers

Furry Friends often has sites that are either new, or have had volunteers leave, and therefore are requesting more volunteers with pets visit. If you find any of the below sites interesting and would like to join or would like more information, please email admin@furryfriends.org. Please note that some may have restrictions, or be looking for specific types of pets.

Ronald McDonald House, Palo Alto, 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Volunteers must be at least 16; this team is open to adding couple of smaller/medium size dogs.

Ronald McDonald House, Palo Alto, 2nd Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Volunteers must be at least 16; this team visits children in the immune unit, so the captain is ideally looking for non shedding dogs, but shedding and non shedding dogs can participate if bathed within 24 hours of the visit. The immune wing does require all dogs to be bathed within 24 hours of visit. These dogs need to be particularly gentle.

Ronald McDonald House, Palo Alto, 3rd Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Volunteers must be at least 16; this team is open to adding a couple of calm dogs of any size and smaller non-dog pets as well, no birds.

Ronald McDonald House, 4th Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Volunteers must be at least 16; this team is open to adding a couple of smaller dogs only and smaller non-dog pets.

Santa Clara County Juvenile Hall, San Jose, 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 9:35 (only can make one Saturday, NO PROBLEM!)

Volunteers must be at least 18; security check required; no intact male dogs. When considering Juvenile Hall, please remember that it's an off-leash visit with a high level of interactivity. Dogs that join the Juvenile Hall team should be non-reactive to other dogs even when there's lots of running around, toys being thrown, all of which raise the excitement level. Some dogs that do very well in more low-key on-leash situations are not right for Juvenile Hall. Open to any size pets except intact male dogs.

El Camino Adolescent Unit, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesdays, 7 p.m. - all four teams looking for new volunteers, but no additional golden retrievers needed on the 2nd Wednesday team.

Volunteers MUST have been through the Lucille Packard orientation, training and approval before visiting these sites.

Lifeways Senior Center, San Jose, 3rd Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

This lovely on-leash site has great parking, a bright, happy setting, and seniors who absolutely adore dogs. Large and small dogs are welcome.

Empress Care, San Jose, 3rd Sunday at 2 p.m.

This is a small Skilled Nursing Facility, located in West San Jose. Visits will occur the 3rd Sunday of the month from 2-3pm. A brand new site starting up in September!

Belmont Village, Sunnyvale, 3rd Tuesday at 10 a.m.

This is an Assisted Living Community that offers assistance with daily living. Visits are also made to an Alzheimer's unit. Currently open to any interested volunteers/pets.

As always, please check our website' at <http://www.furryfriends.org/patsSiteNeed.html> for additional sites that are currently looking for new volunteers!

Special thanks to Kathy Noether and Meko, Lynn Smith and Sashi, and Wendy Wingo and Hazel for participating at Councilmember Rose Herrera's Annual Senior Health Fair and Walk on May 21 at Eastridge. Walkers and Shoppers enjoyed learning about Furry Friends and interacting with our Furry Friends. Check out Evergreen Daily News, May 26 edition for the great press we received or go to our Furry Friends Website for details.

<http://www.server-ibmultimedia.net/EvergreenTimes/sitebase/index.aspx?view=single&adgroupid=198328&webstoryid=20093429&webstoryid2=20093429&FH=635>

Apologies to this team for omitting this article from our last newsletter!

The planning committee for Lucile Packard Children's Hospital's 20th Birthday Party sends you our sincerest thanks in helping us celebrate our 20th birthday this past Sunday! The day was an outstanding success with over 80 booths with activities for our community's children and families, delicious lunch and snack choices from our favorite local restaurants and food vendors, and enthusiastic and engaged participation from hospital staff and our community partners. Your participation truly made the day a "time to play" for children and families as well as a health education opportunity for all. If you are interested in viewing photos of the event, you are welcome to visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/packardchildrens. Additionally, although this email will only reach each of the Booth Coordinators, please extend our thanks to any and all for who helped to make our 20th Birthday Party such a wonderful day!

Again, we genuinely appreciate your kind and generous interaction with our community's families! Please accept our heartfelt gratitude and our wishes for continued success in all that you do to improve the lives of children and families.

*Many, many thanks!
The 20th Birthday Party Planning Committee
Colleen Haesloop, Pamela Bohlmann, Iris Korol,*

*Colleen Haesloop,
Community Programs Coordinator*

Newsletter Editor –needed

Do you have a little spare time and are great at putting information into a readable format? It does not have to be fancy. It is currently being done in Word. We have Adobe products available also for an editor to use. PATS would like to be able to put out a newsletter every two months. It can be very short and to the point. It could be only a few pages or longer if you want. All articles will be sent to you from board members and volunteers for different events. The editor can add other information as they choose. It would then be sent PDF to the web coordinator and the Treasurer who mails out the few that are mailed.

*If you are interested and or would like more information about the newsletter,
please contact Randee at Randee@com-ctl.com or (408)377-2900*

Membership Renewal

Name: _____

Additional names under the same address _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip: _____

Phone # _____ email: _____

Individual \$40 _____ Family : \$60 _____

Send payment to: or go to our website and pay using PayPal:

PATS, Furry Friends

P.O. Box 5099

San Jose CA 95150-5099

<http://www.furryfriends.org/memberRenewal.html>