



Short Paws

The official newsletter of Furry Friends P.A.T.S. Vol 19 Issue 5 October/November/December 2011



Furry Friends At The Los Gatos Holiday Parade!

Furry Friends participated again this year in the Los Gatos Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 3. We had the best turnout ever this year, nearly 40 volunteers! It was a beautiful day, lots of sunshine, not too hot and not too cold. We were entry number 107 out of 269, so it was a long wait until we actually started walking down Santa Cruz Avenue. There were lots of spectators too – maybe more this year because San Jose’s holiday parade was cancelled.

Check out all the photos here: <https://picasaweb.google.com/ffpats/LosGatosHolidayParade2011#>

Special thanks go to:

- Loree McQueen for going down early in the morning and helping schlep the sweatshirts and cart from the parking lot to our assigned spot
- Megan Siedel and Maya Mulleneaux for leading our group and carrying the banner
- Steve Wincor for pulling the cart

Thanks, too, to all the volunteers who made up our contingent this year – and I apologize if anyone was left out: Loree McQueen, Oliver and Baxter; Patty Guthrie, Dave Zemke, Mokey, and Crystal; Wynter Schuyler and Shep; Ann Zis and Scotch; Kathy Harris and Harry; Cheryl and Mark Hayden and Cheyenne; Lucy Mills and Sadie; Sandy and Russ Louthian, Snickers, and JD; Wendy Sprague and Molly; Judy Sparagna and Gracie; Nancy Reynolds, Dixie, Dolly, and Rosie; Shirley Wright and Tyson; Barbara Lee, Megan Siedel, and Coconut; Mitzi and Caitlyn McElligott and Candy; Linda Harris and Sophie; Elaine Kay, Maya Mulleneaux, Pockets and Penny; Joy Stevens and Casey; Michelle Choquette and Lacey; Anne Kearney and Dexter; Cindy Davis and Scout; Dee Niemann and Honey; Ellen and James Bond, Hannah, and Quinn; Dave and Bonny Morley and Jeremy; Michelle Downs and Spock; Steve and Maureen Wincor and Maya; Kris Kasten and Rubi; Felix Caserta and Cooper; Joe & Judy Ventimiglia and Puzzle; Marsha Smith and Lulu; Wendy Wingo and Hazel; Anne Tiry and Robert Young, Hannah, and Jake.

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
Steve Wincor
Ann Begun

Administrator
Loree McQueen

Steve Wincor and his wife Maureen have recently joined Furry Friends with their standard poodle Maya. They are part of the EMQ, Ronald McDonald House, Family Shelter, Merrill Gardens, and Reading Buddies teams. Maya is 5 years old and is a retired show poodle. Steve joins the Board with a wealth of experience serving as past Chair of San Jose Advisory Commission on Rents to Chair of the Technology Committee for the Santa Clara Council of the Boy Scouts. Over the past 12 years Steve has served on over 15 Non-Profit Boards/Committees. Steve works as a Principal Engineer with Lockheed Martin. Steve is looking forward to working with the Board of Furry Friends!

Furry Friends participated again this year in the holiday gift wrapping program at Barnes and Noble. The store uses various non-profit groups to provide "free" gift wrapping in exchange for a donation to the group providing the wrapping. This year, Furry Friends had three days – two Friday afternoons (December 9 and 16), and one Sunday morning (December 18). We raised \$200 for our group in just a few hours of wrapping. Thanks to the following volunteers for participating:

Laura Pedersen, Barb Gallucci, Joan Peterson, Muriel Kao, Rhonda Hardy, Sandy Leibson, Michelle Choquette, Virginia Whittier, Loree McQueen, and Anne Tiry.

My intro to Furry Friends came while attending a dog agility class, with me whining about how frustrated I was with a national therapy dog organization, and the lack of guidance/assistance they provided to new members. Classmate Ellen (with Belgian Malinois Quinn), suggested Furry Friends, and that was three years ago. I wanted to do therapy dog work to balance out my life a bit, since I spend many weekends a year competing in dog obedience trials, along with other dog performance venues. As the head of the corporate philanthropic committee where I work, I knew I wanted something along those lines, and pet therapy allowed me to marry my two interests. I currently captain the third Tuesday Ronald McDonald House team, and am also actively involved in Hospice of the Valley's Pet Companion team, where I'm the Canine Good Citizen evaluator. I'm currently owned by two female Labrador Retrievers, OTCH Red River's There's Always Hope UDX5 OM6 RN TD JH CGC TDI (Hope) and Shimmy Shimmy Ko Ko Pup CGC (Jamie Lynn). I hope my philanthropic activities will assist in fund-raising for Furry Friends and I have a special interest in improving communications between the FF members and board.

-Ann Begun



On Monday, November 21, several Furry Friends volunteers visited at Santa Clara Law School.

We were invited to come during the lunch hour to provide stress relief during exams week. We had great participation from our volunteers, considering it was a week-day visit. We gathered in a grassy area between the law library and law school, and we were a huge hit with students and staff alike. They have already asked us to come back for their April exam week!

Check out all the photos here: <https://picasaweb.google.com/ffpats/SantaClaraLawSchoolVisit#>



Thanks to the following volunteers who participated in this fun event:

Cindi Rhodes and Rubi; Kathy Noether and Mieko; Wynter Schuyler and Shep; Maureen Wincor and Maya; Dave and Bonny Morley and Jeremy; Kirsten Winters and Toluca; Stan Kaut and Buster; Stephanie Anderson and Zoe; Maud Goldfield and Liberty; Pat Homan and Peekka; Kathy Harris and Harry; Wendy and Liz Sprague and Molly; Kristy Sieverson and Ruby; Janet Gee and Mulligan; Loree McQueen and Oliver; Robert Young and Hannah; Anne Tiry and Jake.

My apologies if I left anyone out!

CRITTER DOCTOR COLUMN

JULIE C. BOND, M.S, ANIMAL BEHAVIORIST

Q: I attended the etiquette class in October with my dog and have been on my first visit with him. We enjoyed our visit immensely and I'm looking forward to adding additional sites to my calendar in the New Year. How do I go about adding sites to visit?

J. in San Jose

A: I'm pleased that you are enjoying your Furry Friends experience. This is a wonderful community service organization indeed. We'd love to have you add as many visits as you have time to do and that your dog will enjoy as well. Your first step is to visit the Furry Friends website at www.furryfriends.org and look at the list of sites and find ones that are actively seeking additional members. If a site is listed as filled this means that they are not looking to add new members at this time. While we do not keep waiting lists for any of our sites, you can check back at the website regularly to see if a full site becomes open. Once you've figured out which sites you'd like to add, you will need to email Loree McQueen, the Furry Friends administrator, at admin@furryfriends.org. She will forward your request and your pet's evaluation from etiquette class to the team captains at the sites you are interested in joining. Those team captains will contact you directly about visiting with their teams.

Q: My dog and I are new to Furry Friends. We've done four visits so far and I've made several new friends on my team. I wasn't sure who to ask about this, but you said in class that questions can come to you or the board, so here goes. I've been wearing my blue Furry Friends shirt on my visits but several of my team members don't wear their shirts. Everyone has their badges, but I'm wondering if we have to wear our shirts? One team member I asked said that she never wears her shirt as she prefers to wear her own "doggie stuff" on visits. I feel uncomfortable bringing it up with my team captain since she's not wearing her Furry Friends shirt either (she does wear her badge). What is the policy on the Furry Friends shirts?

D. in Los Gatos

A: I really appreciate you bringing this issue to my attention as it has definitely come up before and obviously deserves repeating. All members should wear some type of Furry Friends approved apparel on their visits. While all members receive a Furry Friends t-shirt when they join the organization, many of our members don't like to wear t-shirts and have opted instead to wear one of the other shirts available for purchase through the website. Furry Friends offers denim shirts and polo shirts, as well as sweatshirts, vests, and fleece jackets with the official Furry Friends logo embroidered on them. For long time members whose shirts have faded, torn, or worn out, we can replace their t-shirts at no cost. To replace an old t-shirt, please email Loree at admin@furryfriends.org. A few members have found that the shirts available through the website do not fit them properly and are thus uncomfortable to wear. For those members, Furry Friends offers the following service: If you supply your team captain with an appropriate shirt that you know fits you (it can be a plain turquoise or purple polo shirt since those are the groups' official colors or a plain denim shirt), we will embroider your personal shirt for you with the Furry Friends logo and you can wear that shirt for your visits. Team captains who have received shirts from their team members that need embroidery, should make sure the shirts get to either a board member or me for shipping to the embroidery person. I'm pleased that all of your teammates are wearing their badges (and hopefully using their Furry Friends leashes too!), and hope that this clarifies the shirt issue.

Q: I know this sounds ridiculous, but I hate my picture on my badge! It was taken during class a few years ago and my hair looked awful that day and I wasn't wearing a very nice top; I didn't know we'd have our pictures taken! Thank heavens my dog looked great that day; I just put his badge in front of mine on our visits because I find it so embarrassing. Any chance I could get a new badge?

F. in Mountain View

A: No question is ever ridiculous! Of course you can get a new picture put on your badge. All you need to do is email a new photo to Randee McQueen at Randee@furryfriends.org. Please make sure your photo is identified with your name (e.g. JaneSmith.jpg) so that Randee can keep track of the photos; we have over 500 members after all! She will put the new photo on a badge and mail it to you. Everyone needs to wear their badge and have their pet's badge on their lanyard or on their pet's collar for every visit. Our badges identify us as official members of Furry Friends. Our badges also identify when our membership dues need to be renewed and our pet's badges identify when their vaccines expire. If you have Furry Friends pins for years of service and you'd like to add them to your badge, you can do that by contacting Randee as well. She has a special hold puncher that can make holes in your badge for the pins to be displayed there.

Dates to Remember

2012

Several of our Furry Friends sites are off-leash visits: Juvenile Hall, Eastfield Ming Quong, Gilroy Children's Home, San Jose Family Shelter, Services for Brain Injury.

Our policy has been to evaluate dogs for off-leash teams during a 15 minute session at the end of the regular etiquette class. This really isn't sufficient to do a proper evaluation for these off-leash teams.

So beginning in 2012, we will be holding separate off-leash evaluation sessions, similar to how we are doing the Reading Buddies evaluations. The schedule for the off-leash classes is listed below, and the cost will be \$20. Classes will be at 1:30pm, in the Campbell area; details will be provided prior to the class.

If you are already a member of an off-leash team, you do not need to attend this class. This is for new off-leash team members only.

February 26
May 20
August 19
November 18

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

Third Tuesday Ronald McDonald House Furry Friends Visit

By Ann Begun, captain

Whew! The name of our team is a bit long, but our visits are great! I've been visiting RMH since joining Furry Friends about four years ago. Originally, our captain was Lori Baenziger (and her wonderful Golden Retriever, Pearl). We then split into multiple teams, with Lori captaining another Tuesday and my taking over for the 3rd Tues.

Visiting the ill kids and their families (siblings, parents, grandparents, etc.) is a joy and, at times, heart-wrenching. It's difficult to see a 3-year old with so many staples in her skull (ear-to-ear) that it looks like an enormous zipper. Or another child, whose eyes are yellow with jaundice. But RMH is a place of HOPE, where many of these kids get better because they are able to get the medical care at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital that they were unable to get while at their homes. Kids from as far away as Alaska and Florida are there at times. Being able to see the joy in a child's face when they hug Karlie, Jean Koenen's Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (see her photo on the cover of the FF calendar!), or watch them petting Beenxy the bunny's (Judy Buller) ultra soft fur and know that they are able to have a few minutes respite from their illness is incredibly rewarding.

We are lucky to have an incredible, terrific team of pets and owners for the 3rd Tues. RMH visit. In addition to Jean / Karlie and Judy / Beenxy, we have Cookie Kay with Penny & Pockets (Shih Tzus), Veronica Lake (Papillon) and Hyzy Hornyak, Livi Goldstone and Bailey (Bichon Frise), FF board member Patty Guthrie and Mokey The Cat (yes, the dogs adore Mokey, although the reverse isn't always true), Tobi Bruce and Peanut (Labradoodle) and Wally Powell with Margie the Labrador (named after a stick of margarine for her bright yellow color as a pup). My own dogs also participate, Jamie The Wonder Dog (because we always wonder what she will do next) and Obedience Trial Champion Hope.

P.S. We currently have a few openings on our team. If interested, please email me at dogalogs@pacbell.net. We meet from 4:00 – 5:00 PM on the 3rd Tues. of the month.

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

Teruu THD ~ Randee McQueen
Rochelle ~ Roy & Julie Wash
Mickey ~ Anne Giansiracusa
Max ~ Nancy Reynolds
Smokey ~ Wayne Nielson

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.

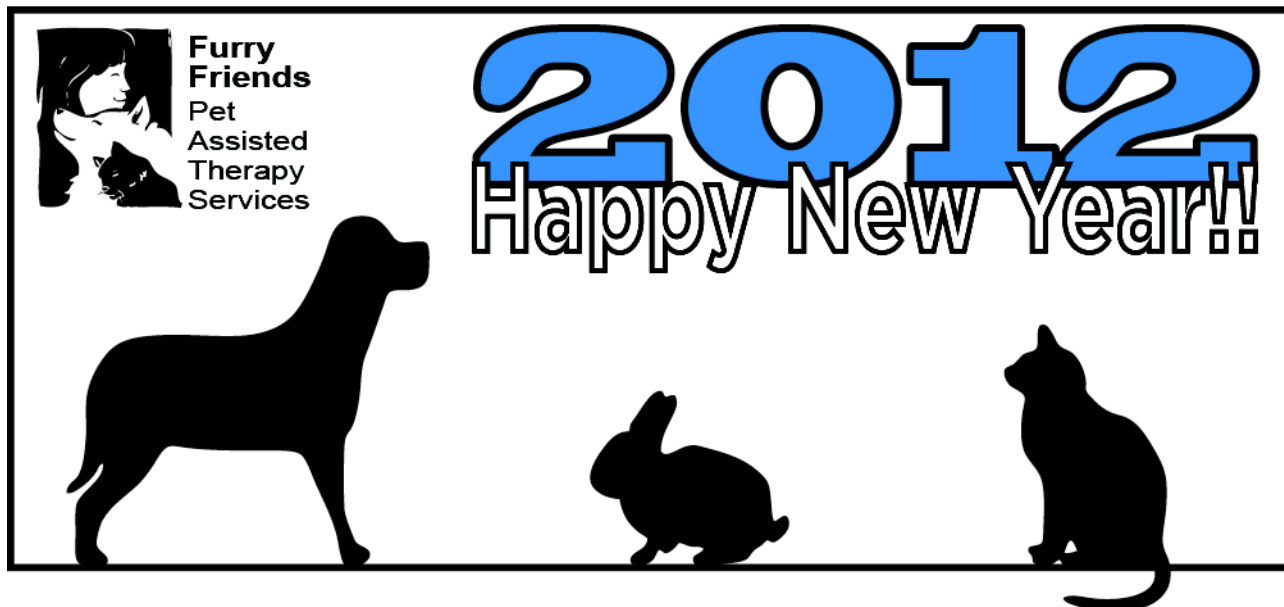
Empress Care, San Jose, 3rd Sunday at 2 p.m.

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!



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!

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*

Please check your membership badge (not your pet's badge). If your expiration date says 2011, then you need to renew your membership! You can do so by going to <http://www.furryfriends.org> or by sending in the form below.

Please do not visit until your membership dues for 2012 have been processed.
Thank You!

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>