



Short Paws

The Official Newsletter of Furry Friends P.A.T.S.

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Spring 2013

Furry Friends Relieve Student Stress

Students at Stanford University are among the brightest and best in the nation, but even they are stressed out at final exam time. Our Furry Friends were so successful in relieving stress at our visit in December, that we were invited to visit two different housing areas, and actually had to turn down two other requests. Students responded with lots of affectionate pats and generous donations to Furry Friends. Special thanks to Don Kirk for coordinating and captaining the visit.



Sam in the ZAP House Throne. There is a wall of photos posted of Stanford students posing in this chair. Well Sam's photo made its way back to Stanford and is now hanging proudly with the student photos. I just love this visit and the students!



**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.

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Thank You for Observing the Boundaries on Your Visits

Our insurance covers our members and their pets visiting as teams, during the regularly scheduled visits only.

If you visit outside these dates and times, you may not wear your Furry Friends attire, nor present yourself as a Furry Friends member.

Also remember that is our furry friends were doing the visiting and doing the therapy

Thank you for observing the boundaries!



**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

*Pets that have
earned their wings*



Morgen Riewe

Rain Winkler

Venous McAfee

Tycho Minneti

Daisy Weiner

Bailey Campey

Clancy Deemer



Does Your Employer Have a Gift Matching Program?

Many employers in the Bay area have a gift matching program, where they will match charitable donations made by their employees, up to a certain dollar value. Does your employer have such a program? If so, keep that in mind when making your tax deductible donations to Furry Friends!

Furry Friends thanks Teri LaBounty for her donation, and for participating in Adobe's matching program. Furry Friends received donations from Adobe for \$200 and \$250.

Way to go, Teri!!

We've partnered with Cafe Press to bring you more choices in Furry Friends logo items

The best part....a portion of the proceeds from all items sold on our site goes directly to Furry Friends!! The revenue earned from the store helps to ensure that our organization will be able to continue its mission and to expand our ability to provide Pet Therapy services to those in need.

<http://www.cafepress.com/FurryFriendsPetAssistedTherapy>



The new store features many exciting choices:

- Men's & Women's Apparel
- Pet items
- Travel & Technology
- Car accessories

All items ship from Cafe Press and Cafe Press handles any service, return or order questions.

Thank you as always for your continued dedication and support of Furry Friends!!



Critter Doctor Column

JULIE C. BOND, M.S., ANIMAL BEHAVIORIST

Q: I've been with Furry Friends for almost 10 years. I recommended our group to a friend from my church and she attended a class last year with her dog. I'd suggested she join as I thought it would be fun to be on a team together; we walk our dogs together twice a week and go to the dog park together as well on the weekend. Long story short, she took the class but her dog didn't pass. Basically, you told her that her dog's behavior in class concerned you and she needed to work with her dog before trying again. I'm encouraging my friend to try again, but she's afraid the dog won't pass again and she was so embarrassed the first time. Can you make any suggestions here? Thanks!

L. in San Jose

A: I certainly hope your friend will take the class again and give me the opportunity to evaluate her dog once more. It's important to remember that I get to spend an hour and a half with a room full of volunteers and their pets on class day. While I have each owner's evaluation of their pets and their vet's evaluations as well, much of my evaluation is based on what I see in class. I watch the animals throughout the class, looking for signs of anxiety (lots of yawning, fidgeting, whining, and barking) or discomfort. I watch to see how they behave around the other pets in class (do dogs growl, stare, shove, jump up etc.) and how they are with the people (are they jumping up, pawing, nudging etc.). Lastly, I look to see how the animals are with something new (the wheelchair and walker) and then I have them come up for the one-on-one evaluation with me. Any animal who shies away from routine petting, repeatedly mouths me, jumps up constantly, etc. is a red flag for me. An animal who shies away from routine petting is going to make the people we visit feel that they aren't special and worth visiting. Animals that mouth constantly or jump up are a risk to both children and adults who may be unsteady on their feet or fearful. If a dog is growling, barking, or behaving aggressively toward other dogs in the class, that's another red flag because our visits require that dogs be able to be in close proximity to one another without incident. Any animal can have a bad evaluation day. Maybe your friend's dog didn't feel 100% that day. Maybe the group of animals present that day was uncomfortable for her. Maybe sitting in one room for two hours was just too much to handle. If the anxiety I observed was situational, then hopefully, the next evaluation will go better as the dog will be more familiar with our testing setting. However, I must reiterate....what we do in pet assisted therapy can be very stressful for our animals. We take them into new situations all the time and expect them to socialize with new people over and over. This is difficult enough for some people, let alone pets! If an animal can't make it through our class, then I have to assume that animal will have a hard time making it through a visit as well. It would be nice if I could observe each pet in a variety of situations before making my final recommendations, but that just isn't feasible. I truly hope your friend will try again. You've been helping her on her basic training issues and hopefully that will bring peace of mind to her and thus comfort to her dog. If you'd like to attend the class with her to provide support, I'd love to see you again as well ☺

Q: I have been with Furry Friends for almost three years now. I'd really like to get onto one of the Ronald McDonald house teams, but every time I check the Furry Friends website, the teams are closed. I know that you don't keep waiting lists for any of the teams, but I'm getting really frustrated. Is there any way to get onto one of these closed teams?

R. in Atherton

A: I understand your frustration. There are a number of our visits which are extremely sought after. The size and composition of any given team is up to the facility in question and the team captain, meaning adding new members and their pets is often not feasible given the space available for visits, number of patients/residents we visit with on a given day, etc. Where possible, we've added additional visit days/times to popular sites in an effort to provide more opportunities to our volunteers and better service these facilities and their needs. Having said that, though, there are only so many volunteers and pets who can visit on any given day/time at a facility. I would suggest contacting our administrative person, Loree McQueen and asking her for the email of the team captain for the visit you'd like to be a part of. That way, you can contact the captain directly and see if they are keeping a wait list or might be interested in making an exception and adding you to their team. Many captains close their teams to new members, but will take additional folks as subs or will take on a new volunteer if they feel that person and their pet would make a good fit for their team.

Q: My dog is turning 10 in May and a teammate suggested it might be time to retire her as that's kind of old for a big dog (she's a Lab mix). My dog still really enjoys our visits. She runs for the door when she sees I'm wearing my Furry Friends t-shirt and she loves all the attention she receives at the nursing home where we visit once a month. Is there an age where we should retire our pets from visits? Is there something I should be watching for behavior-wise?

E. in Mt. View

A: There is no set age for retirement in Furry Friends. You know your pet better than anyone. If your dog is still enjoying her visits and not experiencing any physical discomfort or exhaustion as a result of those visits, then there is certainly no reason for you to stop going. In fact, attending visits may be keeping your dog young at heart. Therapy visits are stimulating, engaging, and active, allowing an elderly dog the opportunity to be mentally challenged. Pet assisted therapy visits are still work for your dog, but unlike some sports like agility and fly ball, it is a job that can be done routinely and safely by an elderly pet. Just watch your dog for signs of fatigue or discomfort. If she's developed arthritis, for example, a mat to sit or lie on during visits might be helpful as well. And Happy Almost Birthday to your senior pet!



Connect with the Furry Friends Group on Facebook!

Want to keep track of what's happening in Furry Friends? Did you know that you can join the furry friends group 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.

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/20731118047/>



Dates to Remember 2013

Etiquette Classes

April 21st	July 28th	October 20th
May 19th	August 25th	November 17th
June 23rd	September 22nd	

Reading Buddies Classes

April 21st	July 28th	October 20th
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Off-Leash Classes

June 23rd	September 22	November 17th
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Sites Needing Volunteers

New sites opening all the time. Please check the new sites needing volunteers on the website at <http://www.furryfriends.org/patsSiteNeed.html> for additional sites that are currently looking for new volunteers!

If you would like to join or would like more information, email admin@furryfriends.org. Please note that some may have restrictions, or be looking for specific types of pets.

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.