



**Furry  
Friends**

Pet  
Assisted  
Therapy  
Services

Spring 2018



# Short Paws

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

## *A note from our president*

First of all, I want to invite each and every Furry Friends volunteer to our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on April 30! Furry Friends PATS makes a difference in so many lives each month. We could not provide so much love without you. See Flyer in this newsletter for more info. I look forward to seeing you on April 30!

I am so sad to let you know that Furry Friends is no longer visiting Lucille Packard's Children's Hospital or El Camino Hospital. Furry Friends was not able to sign their new agreement to continue services with them. It's such a shame that they are requiring this agreement with our volunteer organization. Lucille Packard's Children's Hospital was our first team and we have had a very dedicated group of volunteers visiting there for 35 years. Unfortunately their legal team would not discuss this with our attorney.

- The required agreement called for Furry Friends to indemnify LPCH. Furry Friends' Insurance Policy expressly states it will not cover damages Furry Friends is obligated to pay by reason of the assumption of liability in an agreement. And without insurance, we cannot visit.
- The agreement mischaracterized the relationship between LPCH and Furry Friends, seeking to make Furry Friends an independent contractor. Independent contractor status carries large potential liability. Moreover, this inaccurate characterization is far removed from the true nature of the relationship, where Furry Friends is a volunteer, going only to parts of the hospital allowed by LPCH and visiting only patients referred by LPCH. By making us a vendor, the agreement required Furry Friends to provide workers compensation insurance. We would have to cover all of our volunteers at all sites at a cost of thousands of dollars a year. Clearly, we cannot afford to do this.

Furry Friends' board is so sorry this did not work out the way we all hoped it would. An email has been sent to LPCH explaining that Furry Friends cannot sign a written agreement with LPCH, but remains hopeful that LPCH will change its position in the future and Furry Friends will be open to a discussion in the event that happens.

*Joan Peterson*

## *A note from Lucile Children's Hospital*

"It is with regret that I inform you that Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Child Life and Creative Arts will no longer be working in collaboration with Furry Friends to provide pet therapy visits to patients and families. This was a difficult decision to be made as your generosity and support has allowed us to bring some much needed normalcy and bonding experiences to the patients and families throughout their hospital stay."

"I want to thank you for the joy that Furry Friends has brought to our patients and families. We wish you well in future endeavors."



**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**

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Randee McQueen

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Kathy Harris

Kat Hsueh

Julie Skeen

**Administrator**

Loree McQueen

To All Those Who Have Generously Given Their Time and Effort by Volunteering for Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services

You Are Invited To A

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER**

- > Special Gift for those who attend
- > FREE Raffle – prizes include pet items to gift cards.



**Furry Friends**  
Pet Assisted Therapy Services

Dinner to be held at:  
Harry's Hofbrau  
390 Saratoga Ave,  
San Jose 95129

Cost: \$10 FF Volunteer  
\$40 Guest Non-FF Volunteer

Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
from 6:00 to 9:00 PM

Please RSVP by APRIL 16 at  
<http://www.furryfriends.org/storeAccessories.html>

RSVP AT - <http://www.furryfriends.org/storeAccessories.org>



*Hannah Lee*

*Ruffie Grabowski*

*Tigger Shakeri*



**Do we have your correct E-mail Address?**

**If in DOUBT....**

Send an email with your name and current e-mail address to [admin@furryfriends.org](mailto:admin@furryfriends.org)

**When sending in vaccine records for your pet, please let us know your pet's last name!**



## Attention Amazon shoppers!

If you shop on Amazon, you may sign up for AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Furry Friends PATS every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services.

### *How do I shop at AmazonSmile?*

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

### *Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?*

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

### *How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?*

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Our organization is listed as: Pet Assisted Therapy Services, Location: Campbell, CA. Enter Pet Assisted Therapy Services in the search & then click on it. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation to Furry Friends.



## Who Can Attend Furry Friends Visits?

We are often asked if another family member, friend, or out-of-town visitor may attend your Furry Friends visit with you. Unfortunately, our insurance does not permit that. Only Furry Friends volunteers who are on our membership roster and who have attended the etiquette class may attend the visits. So please resist the impulse to bring anyone else with you on your visit.

# Critter Doctor

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



**Q** I got an email about a volunteer appreciation dinner coming up soon. I am new to Furry Friends, so I'm not sure what this is all about! *A in San Jose*

**A** I am really glad you asked! Over the years, Furry Friends has held several different kinds of activities designed to bring volunteers together outside of their usual visits. It is a way for our amazing volunteers to meet one another and all get together in one place. We've held potluck picnics and hosted dinners where members can also ask questions of the board of directors, learn about new sites and upcoming special events, and even ask me questions about animal behavior and pet assisted therapy. There is always a free raffle drawing for pet-related items, gift cards, etc. And....there is always really great swag for attendees to take home! This year, there are several take-home gifts for attendees that I am excited about (and had input in choosing as well). You will be receiving more details shortly on the dinner and I hope you will attend. There is always a small fee for the dinner, but this is simply to make sure you have a spot and help the caterers determine how much food to provide. The bulk of the cost for the appreciation dinner will come from Furry Friends itself. And, for anyone who didn't see the email, the dinner is on Monday April 30th!

**Q** I am on two different Reading Buddies teams with Furry Friends. Over the last year or so, I have noticed fewer kids attending our visits and we seem to be losing volunteers on my teams as well. When I looked at the class calendar for this year, I only see two Reading Buddies classes even being offered. Is Furry Friends phasing out the Reading Buddies program? This was really the main reason I joined Furry Friends, so I'd be very sad to see the program go away. *E in Palo Alto*

**A** I would really miss this program too if it were to go away! Rest assured, Furry Friends does not intend to discontinue the Reading Buddies program. It is important to keep in mind, however, that volunteer interests do change. The number of classes offered this year reflects that change in interest. More and more volunteers coming into our organization are showing interest in special visits like those we do for stress relief

at local schools and colleges. While we still see interest in the reading programs in schools and libraries, the interest has definitely dropped off over the last couple of years. In addition, more than one library has seen a decreased interest in the program at their site and asked that the visits be discontinued. The program first began almost 10 years ago, so I am not surprised that you have seen the membership on your teams change. Many of the original Reading Buddies members have had their pets get too old to enjoy the program any longer, or had their animals earn their wings and cross the rainbow bridge. As with all of our teams and visits, this program has also seen a fair share of members move out of the area and on to pet assisted therapy in their new home towns. Fear not! I am still actively discussing and promoting this wonderful program and will continue to fill the Reading Buddies teams we have up and running with new volunteers and their pets as they complete the additional training required. If we can generate more interest in the program again, then we can actively pursue additional sites to visit. At this time, however, we are not adding any additional Reading Buddies sites because we just don't have enough qualified volunteers to fill them.

**Q** **I was flying out of SFO recently and saw a group of people and their pets doing pet assisted therapy work right there in the airport! I would love to be able to do this too. Is this a program that Furry Friends offers? I don't see any airport visits listed on the website.** *R in San Mateo*

**A** I, too, have seen pet assisted therapy teams in our local airports! While Furry Friends does not have any airport teams, we do have members who visit the local airports as part of other organizations. Furry Friends does not restrict its members from visiting with other groups, so these volunteers are doing their airport visits as part of Love On A Leash and/or Alliance of Therapy Dogs. You can find more information on both of these groups by visiting their websites.

**Q** **I am asking this question for a friend of mine! She has several really sweet, well-socialized retired show dogs that she'd like to have become Furry Friends. Her question is this: On our website it lists the vaccines that are required in order to do visits and we require the Rabies vaccine. She doesn't give that vaccine to any of her dogs after their 5th birthday. If she can prove that they have immunity via titers, can her dogs become pet assisted therapists with Furry Friends?** *J in Santa Clara*

**A** State law requires dogs and cats to be vaccinated against rabies, regardless of age and whether or not they are indoor or outdoor pets. Titers cannot be accepted in place of the rabies vaccine, so unfortunately, your friend and her dogs will not be able to join Furry Friends unless she is willing to give them those Rabies vaccines.



## Importance of photos at our sites

Since I have been a member of Furry Friends PATS we have always had Polaroid cameras to take pictures of those we visit. I didn't think much about the photos until I started going to Agnews State Hospital before it closed. We were asked to come to expose many of the clients to dogs as many had never been with one and most of the smaller facilities that these people would be moving to would have pets. The first time I went to evaluate the site with my dog Teruu, we took some pictures with some clients, using the Polaroid, and left them with the staff. At our first visit we saw almost 100 clients and took over 200 pictures that we put on tables and the staff gave them to each of the units. We had 8 dogs and 4 additional people that just came to help take pictures. We had one photographer per every 2 dogs. The staff

really enjoyed the pictures. After about 6 months one of the nurses told me a few stories about the importance of the photos that we took. One of the very first pictures I took with Teruu and a patient when we came to evaluate the site was the only picture the family had when the patient died a few months after the picture. A picture of the patient and Teruu was used at his funeral. Many of the staff took the pictures we had taken and mailed them to families that could not come often to see their family members. They all really appreciated them. We were at that site for almost 4 years before it closed.

I have been Captain of Valley Medical Pediatrics for 15+ years... and have also seen how important the pictures are to the kids and families. The kids have a nice happy thought about their visits. Recently one mom kept wanting to have two of the dog's pictures taken with her son. The third month we were there she showed me his progress those three months with the pictures that had been taken with him and the two dogs. The first they just sat next to him, the second he was laying there and patting them, the third he was in a wheelchair and holding one and the other he was hugging. The mom loved our pictures.

At our team, we have one of our members each month dedicated to taking pictures and not bringing their dog to the visit. Many don't think about what that picture means to others, it means a lot.

The new Polaroid camera that some of us have been using can take and print over 50 pictures in a charge. If you need one for your team contact the Admin@furryfriends.com



*Randee McQueen*

# New Section to the newsletter! Volunteers who have hit the milestone marks of 5 and 10 years!

We want to thank everyone for his or her wonderful support and for volunteering with Furry Friends for so many years! We would not have the wonderful organization we do without all the amazing Volunteers. Furry Friends has approximately 35 other volunteers who have already hit the 10-year mark- all the way to the longest still visiting volunteer of 28 years!

At this time the volunteers who hit the 5 and 10-year mark:

## 5 YEARS

Karen Allen  
 Andrew Baw  
 Nancy Degnan  
 Kathleen Jensby  
 Olivia Lau  
 Michelle Martin  
 Kathy Niven  
 Laura Westley  
 Bonnie Brenner  
 Roe Shapiro  
 Tamey Falk  
 Chris Spievak  
 Grace Spievak  
 Robert Armstrong

## 10 YEARS

Ann Begun  
 Bill Johanson  
 Peter Sartorio  
 Jeanne Sartorio  
 Mary Tsow  
 Debbie VanderZwaag  
 Nancy Wong  
 Janet Gee  
 Cookie Kay

And, since this is the first time we have published this information – here are the names of the other volunteers previously hitting the years of volunteering!

Carol Gesell-Rossi	11 Years	Wayne Nielsen	14 Years
Gwen Hacker	11 Years	Lynn Smith	15 Years
Teri Shipe	11 Years	Anne Tiry	17 Years
Tom Shipe	11 Years	G. Roy Wash	17 Years
Phillip Campey	11 years	Joan Peterson	17 Years
Rhonda Hardy	12 Years	Vickie Miyaoka	17 Years
Janet Plant	12 Years	Ellen Barker	18 Years
Harvey Schuster	12 Years	Tom Shoup	18 Years
Diana Murphy	12 Years	Mary Collins	20 years
Diane Premeau	12 Years	Ellen Bond	23 Years
Patty Guthrie	13 years	James Bond	23 Years
David Zemke	13 years	Randee McQueen	25 Years
Mark Goodman	13 Years	Susan Cole	27 Years
Nancy Reynolds	13 Years	Rick Salazar	27 Years
Rina Larson	14 Years	Sandy Gabe	28 Years
Susan Karon	14 Years		

We are looking forward to adding more names in the next newsletter!

Furry Friends wishes to thank all of you for all your hard work and dedication to Furry Friends. We would not be an organization without all of you!

*Loree McQueen*