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Beyond the Headlines

Show Topic: Pet/Animal Therapy

Hosted By ABC7's Cheryl Jennings

ABC7's Emmy award-winning public affairs show *Beyond the Headlines* provides in-depth coverage of the topics and issues facing the people of the Bay Area. Throughout the year, *Beyond the Headlines* airs one-hour specials on issues, ranging from Bay Area housing to same-sex marriage.

Watch Sundays at 10:00 AM for new episodes.

On the next *Beyond the Headlines*, we will look at how pets and other animals can be a valuable source of therapy.

According to the American Pet Association, there are:

- Almost 63 million dogs as pets in the United States.
- Almost 77 million cats as pets in the United States.

The benefits pets bring to people is enormous. According to the international Delta Society, which brings together people with disabilities and professionally trained animals, pet owners:

- Have lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels.
- Are less afraid of being a victim of crime.
- Enjoy decreased feelings of loneliness and isolation.
- Have better overall physical health due to exercise with their pets.

Therapists for the disabled agree that physical activity is extremely important. Horseback riding may seem a difficult choice for many people with disabilities. Earlier last year, ABC7's Alan Wang took us to a ranch tucked away in Marin County (Halleck Creek Ranch), where disabled kids are learning to thrive on horseback.

Studio Guests

Robert Pope
Giant Steps Therapeutic Equestrian Center
www.giantstepsriding.org

Kristie Trousdale
Son Attends Giant Steps

Elan Winkler
Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services
www.furryfriends.org

John Lipp
Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS)
www.pawssf.org

Cindy Shelby
Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society
www.berkeleyhumane.org

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