

# **“Paws & Hearts”**

**Animal Assisted Therapy**

Fed. Tax ID #91-2096569

**FALL 2016**

**NEWSLETTER**

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Virginia Tillmannshofer

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Richard Waxman  
Executive Director  
“Paws & Hearts”

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“Lucky” & “Scruffy”  
Waxman

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This is the Newsletter that I have dreaded having to write because it means that “Scruffy” really is gone and won’t be coming back home. Most of you know that “Scruffy” joined “Lucky” at the Rainbow Bridge on June 9<sup>th</sup>, and my life just hasn’t been the same since.

The past 18 months of care-giving were actually not so bad. I learned how to give “Scruffy” his twice daily insulin shots, and with the help (insistence!) of Dr. Hicks I even learned how to check his blood sugar. Funny how when it is necessary, you find the ability to step up to the plate, build your life and time around a loved one’s medical needs, and do whatever is required.

I knew we were on borrowed time. When “Scruffy” was diagnosed in December 2014 with diabetes and a few months later with Cushing’s disease at 14 years old, I had no idea how long he’d be around. But “Scruffy” was a real trooper. His visits at Eisenhower had to stop because he couldn’t do all the walking so every Wednesday morning we went to the Lucy Curci Cancer Center. There he could sit on the ottoman, visit with the patients, dispense kisses, and in that little body of his continue to make a huge difference.

I tried to freeze all of these last visits in my mind because I knew I’d need the memories to last a life time. God I miss you Big Bear.....

*Richard Waxman*

## **Upcoming Events to Put on Your Calendars!**

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Dog Walk/**

**Fundraiser**

**“In Memory of Scruffy”**

**Saturday November 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort**

## **“Maddie’s” Views ( “Lucky” & “Scruffy” in thought)**

Seems like I sort-of have the bi-line for this article. I’m not sure how come I’m having to share it with Lucky & Scruffy, but I know that Dad keeps telling me when I’m on my visits that I was trained by the best, Scruffy, and he was trained by Lucky. So I guess writing this article about my visits comes from the three of us. (I should get triple the amount of Charlie Bear’s then!)

Dad continues to take me to Desert Regional Medical Center on Monday and Thursday mornings, and Uncle Drew takes me to the Lucy Curci Center on Wednesdays, and then to Brookdale-Rancho Mirage on Friday’s. Say, I should be getting a lot more treats!

I know I’m doing some of the visits that my brother Scruffy used to do, and I’m always honored when someone asks Dad or Drew, “Where is Scruffy?” I know it has to hurt, but how wonderful that he was so loved for almost 14 years of therapy visits throughout the valley. We even made the cover of a magazine that is in this newsletter.

It’s kinda’ hard being a solo act. I mean I love all the praise I’m getting on these 4-weekly (count ‘em 4!) visits, but this is a lot of work for a little girl dog. Pretty soon, I’m going to need an assistant! Miss you Scruffy, there is no one to play tug-of-war with anymore, and I miss using your toosh as my pillow in bed!

**“Maddie’s” Views**

**“Paws & Hearts” 74-854 Velie Way, Ste. 7**

**Palm Desert, CA 92260**

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**Website: [www.pawsandhearts.org](http://www.pawsandhearts.org)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pawsandheartsorg](http://www.facebook.com/pawsandheartsorg)**

### Reprint of "Scruffy's" Facebook story

Monday morning and not my typical Volunteer Report—

We are all very lucky when we can make the world a better place by taking a lonely dog or a cat out of a shelter and providing them a loving home. We give them all kinds of love and affection, vaccination shots, and in some cases our dogs get a job that defines their journey on this earth.

My dog Scruffy, who I called Big Bear all of his life, went to join his buddy Lucky at the Rainbow Bridge last Thursday. Scruffy was diagnosed with diabetes 18 months ago and Cushing's Disease 14 months ago. For a year-and-a-half the insulin for the diabetes worked, and the medication for Cushing's worked. Two weeks ago, nothing much worked. There were many trips to Dr. Hicks, way too many at-home blood sugar tests, and just too much stress for a 15-year-old-dog, with two really strong diseases.

So, the evening after Scruffy's last visit to Dr. Hicks, I just had a talk with him. I gave him an option and said that if he'd had enough of the pokes and the insulin and being carried everywhere, he could go and join Lucky and be out of pain and young again. Scruffy, who never kissed his Dad on the face, looked at me, and totally covered my face in sweet, warm kisses. And there was my answer.

The pain of losing Scruffy is still way too intense to really talk about without crying, but before I post all the pictures with this note I just have to say how proud I am of all the thousands of hours of volunteering that Scruffy did. He visited Eisenhower Medical Center three mornings every week for 13 years. For the last year he visited the Lucy Curci Cancer Center every Wednesday morning. And he was interviewed many times on KMIR, made hundreds of presentations around the valley, did every library reading session we did, and even made the cover of a magazine this Spring. Not bad for a pup who was found in Indio tied up to some discarded furniture. A good Samaritan picked him up, took him to the Pet Rescue Center, and he came to our second Dog Walk with a group of dogs up for adoption. He and Lucky hit it off and the rest was history!

My favorite Scruffy, Big Bear story is now many years old—he and Lucky were visiting a patient at Eisenhower. The woman was a cancer patient and had lost all of her hair. She was sitting up in bed and invited both boys up on the bed with her. Scruffy, the non-kisser, walked around behind the woman, stood up, put his front paws on her shoulders and proceeded to lick her ear lobes. I'd never seen him doing that, and I'm saying, "Scruffy, get down." The patient asked me how my dog knew that her ears were so sensitive from the chemo, and begged me to let him keep on doing it because it felt so good. For the next 10 minutes, Scruffy licked, the woman smiled and cried, and I had a big lump in my throat.

Scruffy was an amazing therapy dog. He had a much quieter style than Lucky, he made patients feel better by lying down at their side and kissing their hand. For years, I heard how relaxing those kisses felt.

And now I've been able to make Scruffy feel better, by letting him rejoin his buddy Lucky. *Scruffy, you have no idea how much Dad misses you. We had a hell of a good time these last 14 years together. You and Lucky, and then you and Maddie, made a great team.*

*Rest in peace Big Bear—Maddie, Samantha and I are very unhappy without you at home.*

We sincerely thank Dr. Terry Hicks, at the Palm Desert Pet Hospital for all the care he gave Scruffy through this final chapter.

*For the rest of our Newsletter dedicated to "Scruffy" please log onto our website: [www.pawsandhearts.org](http://www.pawsandhearts.org)*

## The Desert Sun ran this amazing obituary for "Scruffy"

### "Scruffy" Waxman

February 2001 ~ June 9, 2016

*"Scruffy" the Cairn-terrier-mix therapy dog from "Paws & Hearts" joined his brother "Lucky" at the Rainbow Bridge last week. For any of you who had been a patient at Eisenhower Medical Center over the last 13 years, and had two terriers on the bed with you, "Scruffy" the big boy, was the one who laid at your side and licked your hand.*



#### **After battling diabetes**

and Cushing's disease, for 18 months, it was time to let Scruffy go to a better place. Never has a therapy dog been as amazing as Scruffy at very quietly making patients feel better with a visit. When Scruffy heard, 'You made my day' he always gave a big smile! Scruffy worked right up until last week, with Friday the 3rd of June being his last visit at Lucy Curci. How he loved to jump off that ottoman, hippidy-hop over to a patient, say hello, and then make a bee-line for a treat. After all, a hello was worth a Charlie Bear in Scruffy's book! What a career, and how many thousands of patients he touched with his gentle disposition. *He leaves behind Maddie, Samantha, and a very heart-broken Dad.*

Please feel free to email a note to Scruffy at, [pawsandhearts@aol.com](mailto:pawsandhearts@aol.com) and we will post them on his Memorial Page. If you'd like to send a card or a remembrance, please address it to, **Scruffy Waxman, c/o Paws & Hearts, 74-854 Velie Way, Ste. 7 Palm Desert CA, 92260.**

***Rest in Peace Big Bear--Scruffy,***  
*Your work as a Canine Ambassador will never be forgotten.*

#### Our Mission Statement

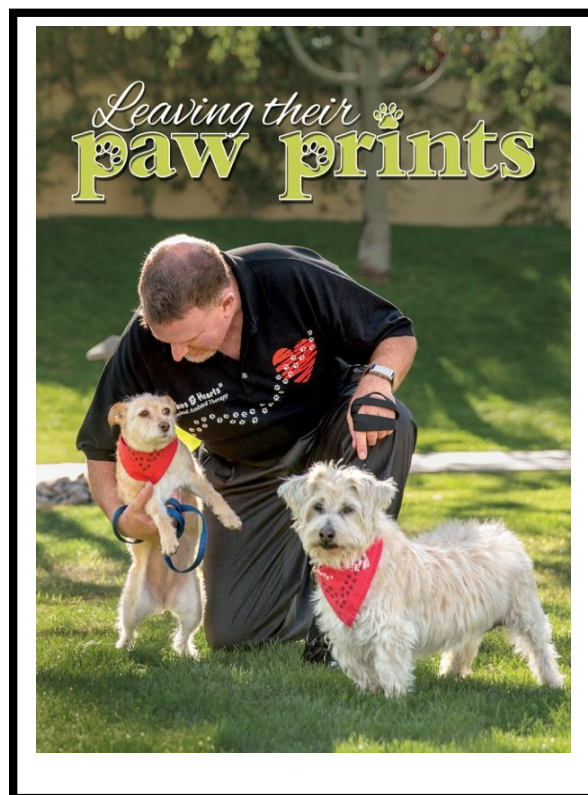
*"Paws & Hearts"* is a leader in the field of "Animal Assisted Therapy" (AAT) and it is our mission to enrich the lives of the frail and special care cases that require the loving attention and affection that only a "four-legged" healer can provide.

## Scruffy Waxman Memorial Fund

*I'd like to thank all of you who sent in a donation in memory of Scruffy.*

Rita Steffen	\$500.00
Dad	250.00
"Uncle" Drew	100.00
Valerie Zugates (in-kind)	250.00
Phyllis Harkins	100.00
Nick Papadakis	50.00
Mary Ann & Philip Sutherland	500.00
Jerry Abraham	100.00
Linda Jolly	50.00
Diana Finnegan	50.00
Anonymous	20.00

*(We are still receiving donations and your names will be on the list in the next newsletter.)*



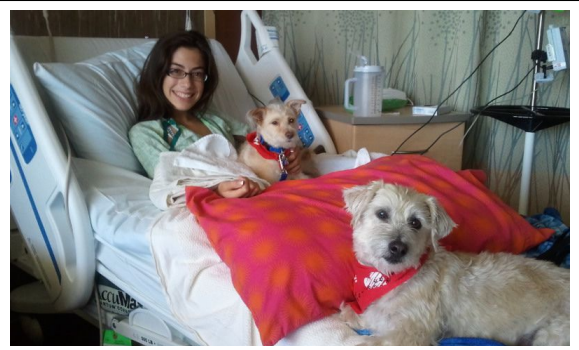
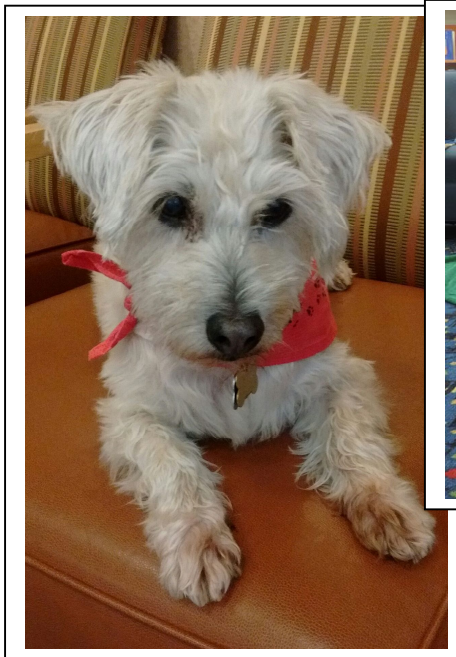
After all his hard years of work, "Scruffy" finally made the cover of a National Magazine, the Modern Woodmen, Spring 2016 issue.

### Volunteer Stories

*Many of our readers have asked where our Volunteer Stories come from. Our volunteer teams visit their assigned facility each and every week and part of their commitment is to email into our office a weekly report, complete with their visitation story. Some day, these stories along with photographs will be turned into a book because the stories are heart-warming and the patients/clients we visit truly treasure their weekly visit.*

Lucy Curci Cancer Center, Richard & "Scruffy" This was "Scruffy's" last visit.

Filled in this morning for Mary Ann and Hannah, and then Drew came in at 9am and took Maddie across the street to Brookdale, so that she didn't have to be out in the afternoon heat today. Finally, some new clients to visit with. Not good that these folks need treatment, but at least there are new people to talk to! We had about 20 minutes with Mr. Ortiz who's last week is next week. We've really come to like him, such a fine man. He didn't stop playing with his buddy Scruffy! The new folks were very nice to Big-Bear-Scruffy, and now everyone is home where it is safe and cool, and Dad has to head to the office!



**Save the Date**

**For the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Dog Walk/**

**Fundraiser**

**This year in Memory of "Scruffy"**

**Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Registration begins at 9 am**

**Walk at 10 am**

**Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa  
Dinah Shore Drive  
Rancho Mirage, CA**

