

# ***“Paws & Hearts”***

***Animal Assisted Therapy***

*Fed. Tax ID #91-2096569*

**SUMMER 2017**

**NEWSLETTER**

## Board of Directors

### *President:*

Virginia Tillmannshofer

### *Vice President:*

Richard Waxman  
Executive Director  
“Paws & Hearts”

### *Founders:*

“Lucky” & “Scruffy”  
Waxman

### *Secretary/Treasurer*

Danielle Barton,  
Branch Retail Executive  
BBVA Compass Bank

Anita Jameson

Retired Educator

Summer is upon us in the desert and we are now half way through our 17<sup>th</sup> year. Somehow those 17 years just don’t seem possible, but thanks to all our human and canine volunteers they are.

Much to report about in this Summer newsletter. We’ve had our first couple of Bereavement Support Groups, and the feedback has been very positive, so we hope we are helping.

I have included another article on Pet Trusts that I saw a few months ago in The Arizona Republic. Since it is such an important subject I thought it was worth repeating.

Our organization continues to flourish and grow with new volunteers coming on-board, and we are always grateful when a new dog is crowned ***“Canine Ambassador!”***

*Richard Waxman*

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

### ***Pet Bereavement Support Group***

#### ***Monthly Meetings***

***Second Wednesday of the month, 1 pm***

***17<sup>th</sup> Annual Dog Walk/Fundraiser***

***Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup>***

***Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort***

***“Paws & Hearts” 74-854 Velie Way, Ste. 7  
Palm Desert, CA 92260***

***(760) 836-1406 fax (760) 836-1426***

***E-Mail: [Pawsandhearts@aol.com](mailto:Pawsandhearts@aol.com)***

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

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

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

#### ***“Maddie’s” Views***

Visits, visits, visits, that’s all I seem to do with Dad twice a week and Uncle Drew twice a week. Sheesh, I need a vacation (in Fort Lauderdale) and an increase in pay!

The most fun I’ve had this spring was being interviewed a couple of times on TV for the new Pet Bereavement Support Group. Our first visit was to KMIR, and Dad and I got to sit at the table with the most lovely Thalia Hayden and talk about the new group. Upon seeing Dad, Thalia asked where “Scruffy” was, which made Dad choke up, but that turned out to be a good lead into the formation of this group!

Then it was on to Eye-on-the-Desert with Patrick Evans. He and Dad talked about the new group, while I just slept on Dad’s lap. (It had been a long day, I had done a visit that morning!) Patrick told Dad that he just said good-bye to “Sophie”, a dog of his that was 20 years old.

Not sure how many of these interviews I will be doing over the summer, but they sure are easy for me—all I have to do is smile and look cute!

***“Maddie” Waxman***

## *Pet Trusts*

You may remember that last year we ran an article on Pet Trusts that a local attorney was kind enough to write for us. The response to the article was quite positive, and I think it gave all of us who have companion animals food for thought. I read an article in the Arizona Republic newspaper on the same subject and thought the information was important to share. The article has been a bit abbreviated as per the papers request, but the contact information is listed at the conclusion.

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Trusts are a common way to provide for a spouse, children or other family members after you're gone, and they even can be used for family members that have fur, fins or feathers.

Though less widespread than trusts drafted for human beneficiaries, pet trusts serve many of the same functions. They can provide legal instructions and protections for the care and placement of animals when an owner dies or becomes incapacitated.

Some ardent pet enthusiasts might find a trust appealing and worth the cost. Americans spent an estimated \$62.8 billion on their pets in 2016, primarily for food, veterinary care and supplies, according to the American Pet Products Association. That's \$787 a year on average for the nearly 80 million pet-owning households.

To understand why a pet trust might make sense, it helps to review a few general basics about trusts. Among their main uses, trusts allow for assets to be transferred to others without going through the probate process.

They also can provide ongoing financial support for beneficiaries who might squander a lump sum, including children or people with special needs.

Pet trusts focus around some of the same concepts. The key aim is to name a trusted person or organization to provide ongoing care for your animals, while providing funds to do so. Many people instead make informal arrangements, asking friends or relatives to take in their animals. But without a trust or other legal document, there's no assurance your wishes will be fulfilled.

"The last thing you want is for your pet to go to a shelter, get traumatized there and possibly get euthanized," said Jodi Polanski, executive director of Lost Our Home Pet Rescue in Tempe, Ariz., one of various animal-adoption groups that encourage people to consider trusts.

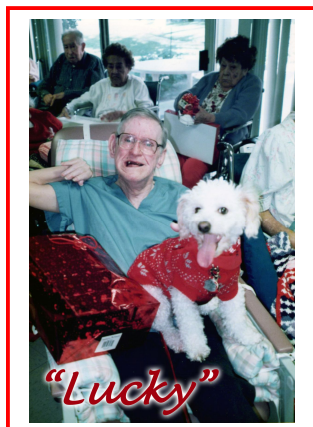
An owner could spell out how much medical care should be given to a pet, especially an older one, and when euthanasia might become the preferred option, said Kiser, who works with Lost Our Home. Trusts can plan for those and other contingencies. "At least you would have some control over what happens to your pet," she said.

You also could specify many other details, such as that your cat be fed grain-free kibble or that your dog be exercised regularly at dog parks. A key decision is naming the right trustee — the person or organization entrusted with carrying out your wishes.

If you already have a living trust, you might be able to include an addendum rather than draft a separate pet trust. As with trusts for humans, pet trusts can involve an investment-management component, especially if several animals are involved or they are long-lived, as with some birds. Kiser suggests funding a pet trust with at least \$10,000. Any money left after the animal dies can be donated to a non-profit group.

Reach the reporter at [russ.wiles@arizonarepublic.com](mailto:russ.wiles@arizonarepublic.com) or 602-444-8616.

### *Some of our Canine Ambassadors that are at the Rainbow Bridge*



### *Our First Pet Bereavement Support Group*

Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017, we had our First Pet Bereavement Support Group. We had six in attendance and Karen Gebala and Richard Waxman facilitated. As requested, everyone brought along a photograph of their dog or cat, and one attendee even brought a book that friends had made to commemorate his beloved dog to share with the group.

The group lasted for 2 hours and the conversation and tears flowed from all the participants. Everyone got to share stories of their beloved companion with others who were going through the same grief process. There were many hugs at the conclusion of the session and the feedback was very positive.

The group will meet the second Wednesday of every month, 1pm, at our office in Palm Desert. Each participant is asked to register on our website, [www.pawsandhearts.org](http://www.pawsandhearts.org) and to bring a photograph of their beloved (not on a cell phone.)

A photograph of a rainbow arching over a mountain range at sunset. The sky is orange and yellow, and the mountains are silhouetted against the horizon.

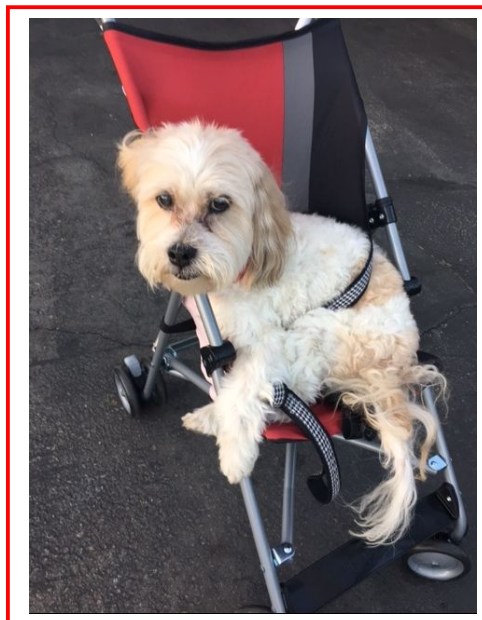
*Introducing Our New Pet  
Bereavement Support Group*

## *Another Amazing Canine Ambassador has gone to the Rainbow Bridge*

### *"Waldo"*

Sadly, another very long-time 4-legged volunteer, "Waldo" has gone to the Rainbow Bridge. Waldo & his side-kick "Emerson" had been weekly Sunday fixtures at Rancho Mirage Healthcare for over a decade. These two boys had the biggest fan-club of long-term residents of any of our **Canine Ambassadors**. Karen herself did the most heart-felt visits and these three were known valley-wide for their commitment to Pet Therapy and for the most amazing, uplifting Sundays in town.

"Waldo" will be very much missed by the residents at his facility, but no where near as much as by his Mom, Dad, and brother Emerson.



## 2017 Annual Dog Walk

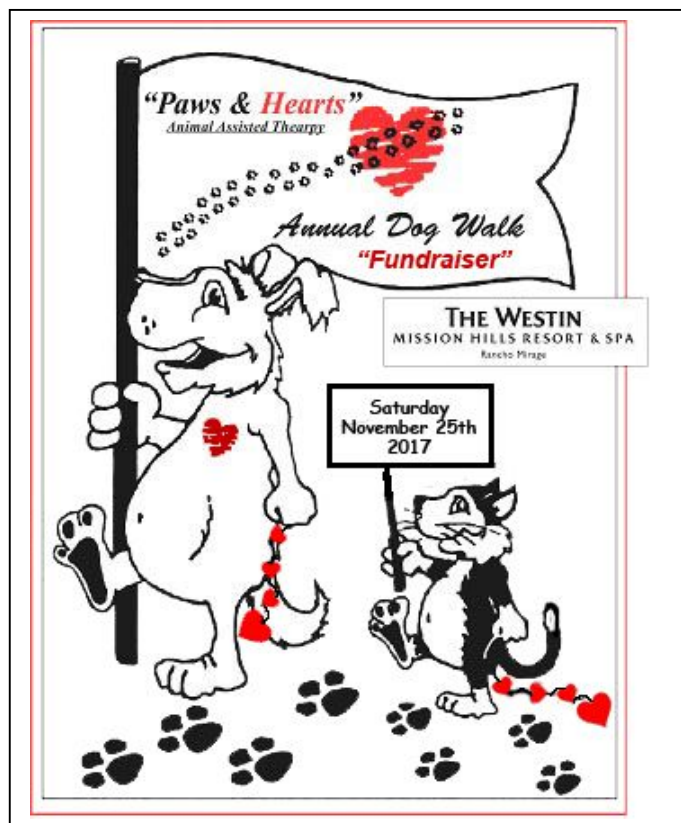
Can it ever be too early to mark your calendars for another dog walk?

Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, (Thanksgiving weekend) will be the date of our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Dog Walk-Fundraiser. Has it really been sixteen walks already?

As always, we ask our volunteers, donors, and supporters to come out to the walk and enjoy the morning with us. With our glorious weather we get to enjoy a great walk around the Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa.

Santa & Mrs. Claus will appear again this year because last year's holiday photos were the best we've ever had!

Raffle, continental breakfast, vendors, just a great morning to celebrate our work (and raise a few bucks in donation!)





### 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.*

Manor Care – Gayle & “Toby” Today we visited Sally, who we had visited for several weeks before. She is always so happy to see Toby, and she was going home today, so we were glad to see her one last time. She got a phone call while we were there, and her "caregiver" answered the phone. Sally told her to tell the caller that he was competing with an adorable pup, and he would just have to call back! She mentioned that she had told everyone about Toby, and I am so happy that I was here to see him one more time. She said, "I will miss him." Then she had her care-giver take a picture of him and she laughed and said, "Now I can show everyone who I have been talking about so much." When we left she said that we had helped to make her stay at Manor Care a happy one. It was a good day!

The Fountains at the Carlotta -- Cathy & “Zoey” We visited the therapy room and there were 3 patients in there who were really excited to see Zoey. One lady got a big smile on her face and the Physical Therapist said she really likes dogs. The PT leaned down and Zoey gave her a kiss, so the patient leaned down and Zoey gave her a kiss. There was also a man who was quiet, but smiled the entire time he petted Zoey. Another lady said she loved dogs and was so happy Zoey visited her. We visited a man in his room that Zoey visits with each week. He had 3 lady visitors, 2 daughters and wife, who were so excited to meet Zoey and see how she interacted with their dad/husband. They thanked us for coming to visit each and every Friday!

Premier Health Care & Rehabilitation -- Suze & “Dunkin” We had another lovely visit this week. Dunkin was feeling good and showing off his fresh haircut. Everyone was happy to see him and he was happy to see everyone! He got his bacon from Wayne and then an extra special extra serving of bacon from Virginia.

And then after going through the hallways and checking in on several of our regular patients, we met a lovely woman in the lobby who was there recuperating from knee replacement surgery. She had this really interesting honeycombed-shaped, squishy covering over her incision, so we started to talk about that and then we started talking about dogs and she just loved the fact that the facility allowed therapy dogs to visit. We talked about “*Paws & Hearts*” and I told her how amazing it is to watch Dunkin take away a little of the pain, a little of the stress, and a little of the sadness from the patients we visit. It never ceases to amaze me! He was conked out for hours when he got home to his bed!

Desert Regional Medical Center– Richard & “Maddie” Busy, busy 2 + hours this afternoon. Maddie was held and petted and kissed by more patients today. We had more repeats who remembered her from past visits, just a lovely couple of hours. One couple asked if they could send us a donation so I gave them the newsletter and envelope, and they told Maddie that she'd made her first sale of the afternoon!

### 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 frail and special care cases that require the loving attention and affection that only a “four-legged” healer can provide.

*Pet Bereavement Support Group at "Paws & Hearts"*



*We are here to help you get through this.....*