

“Paws & Hearts”

Animal Assisted Therapy

Fed. Tax ID #91-2096569

FALL 2018

NEWSLETTER

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Our Fall issue is the second Newsletter that we mail out each year. Most non-profits have gone completely digital and everything is on-line. While we post our four yearly Newsletters on our website and email them to our subscribers, personally I still love to hold the finished Newsletter in my hand and read it. There is nothing like holding a newspaper or cracking the spine of a new book. The younger generation has it all wrong about doing everything on their hand-held devices!

Fall must mean that it is once again time for our Annual Dog Walk-Fundraiser. I have been working on this yearly event since July, and I never tire of putting this event together.

Everything fell into place perfectly last year from the weather, the KMIR commercials, and the volunteer participation. The event was such a success that we have big paws to fill this year!

Richard Waxman

Upcoming Events to Put on Your Calendars!

18th Annual Dog Walk/Fundraiser

Saturday November 24th

Registration begins at 9 am, Walk at 10 am

Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa

Pet Bereavement Support Group

Monthly Meetings

Second Wednesday of the month, 1 pm

“Paws & Hearts” 74-133 El Paseo, Ste. 7
Palm Desert, CA 92260

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

E-Mail: Pawsandhearts@aol.com

Website: www.pawsandhearts.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pawsandheartsorg

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

I don’t want to sound like a broken record here, but once again I have to admit that my new brother “Bingo” is quite the asset on visits. I guess I’d forgotten what it was like to be part of a team when I worked alongside “Scruffy,” but quite honestly now I only have to do only 50% of the work. Little Bingo, the scene stealer, just moves right in on each and every bed and starts the visits. I get to lie down and look pretty while Bingo does all the work. I knew this getting an assistant would work out for me!

Dad, Bingo, and I visited so many thankful patients over the summer at Desert Regional Medical Center that selecting just one story to share was really hard, but this was our favorite!

We visited with one woman who was deaf. Her father and brother were visiting and they did sign so we could communicate. She asked all kinds of questions about the dogs and was thrilled to find out that they were therapy dogs who visited the hospital every two weeks.

When it was time to leave she grabbed my hand and tried very hard to say, ‘thank you.’ That was one of the nicest thank-you’s I’ve ever received!

“Maddie” Waxman

Paws & Hearts

Taking One Giant Step for Pet Therapy

Paws & Hearts to hold annual dog walk to raise funds for therapy programs.

by Richard Waxman
Community contributor

•Television station KMIR is supporting the cause, and morning crew Thalia Hayden and Bryan Gallo will once again be our Grand Marshals.

On Saturday, Nov. 24th, Paws & Hearts will hold its 18th Annual Dog Walk fundraiser at the Westin Mission Hills Resort and Spa. The yearly fundraiser will celebrate the work that the Canine Ambassadors from Paws & Hearts' Animal Assisted Therapy program are doing.

The canines work very hard throughout the year, visiting local hospitals, long-term care facilities, cancer hospitals and Alzheimer's centers. The patients and residents that these therapy dogs visit really love the time they spend with the dogs. Last year alone, a group of over 40 teams made over 110 thousand bedside visits to people in these kinds of facilities.

Once again, it is time to make plans for the Annual "Paws & Hearts" Dog Walk. It's to lend a paw in support of the therapy dogs who visit all of these hospitals, health care facilities and cancer centers, by coming out.

Walkers are asked to raise donations in their dog's name. Pledge sheets are available on the Paws & Hearts' website. Each walker who participates will receive a commemorative dog walk T-shirt.

Paws & Hearts invites all valley residents and their well-behaved dogs to attend our two-mile walk around the lovely grounds of the Westin Mission Hills Resort and Spa. Donation sheets can be found at most pet stores in the valley, or by visiting pawsandhearts.org. The organization asks that participants get sponsors in their dog's name and turn in their pledge sheet and donations the day of the walk.

Paws & Hearts also offers a wonderful continental breakfast for all the walkers, and a ton of water and dog treats provided by Bones-n-Scones for dogs big and small.

In addition, Santa Claus will be on hand for holiday pet photos, and raffles for various gift baskets will also be held during the event. Registration for the walk begins at 9 a.m., and the walk officially sets off at 10 a.m.

Richard Waxman is the executive director of Paws & Hearts, which is located at 74-133 El Paseo, Ste. 7 in Palm Desert. For information on the event, and to inquire about volunteering, please call Waxman at 760-836-1406. Our website is www.pawsandhearts.org



The Paws and Hearts Dog Walk raises donations for the organization's pet therapy program, which sends friendly dogs to various hospitals and health care facilities to brighten a patient's day. This year's walk will be held on Saturday, Nov. 24th at the Westin Mission Hills Resort and Spa.
Photo courtesy of Richard Waxman

18th Annual Dog Walk

PAUSE FOR PETS



◀ Lend a paw in support of therapy dogs who visit hospitals and more as you and your four-legged friend participate in the Paws & Hearts 18th Annual Dog Walk Fundraiser on **November 24th** at The Westin Mission Hills Resort and Spa. Raise donations in your dog's name online and receive a commemorative dog walk t-shirt, treats

and continental

breakfast. Santa will be on hand for pet pics. Register 9 a.m., walk at 10 a.m.; 71-333 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage; (760) 836-1406; pawsandhearts.org



MICHAEL SNYDER/MYDESERT FILE

Walk to help animals: "Paws & Hearts" 18th annual Dog Walk fundraiser, featuring a two-mile walk, continental breakfast and raffle, gets under way at 9 a.m. Saturday at Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa, 71333 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage. Cost is \$25. (760) 836-1406 or PawsAndHearts.org

Pet lovers share their Heart in annual walk

The recent 17th annual "Paws & Hearts" Dog Walk fundraiser hosted by The Westin Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage enjoyed weather that was as spectacular as the turnout. An estimated 300 walkers and their four-legged pooches participated in this great two-mile walk, breakfast, raffle and photo session. This year's walk exceeded its goal and guaranteed that it will take place again next year. Information: (760) 836-1406; www.pawsandhearts.org

Therapy's for Dogs, Too

by Doug Gausepohl
Editor

Pet therapy can be beneficial for children, adults and senior citizens. According to the Paws & Hearts website, pet therapy can help diminish physical and emotional pain, reduce boredom and teach its younger participants to be caring and interact safely with a pet.

Paws & Hearts is a nonprofit that focuses on providing pet therapy to people in hospitals in Palm Desert. The organization is encouraging people of Palm Desert to bring their dogs if they believe they would be good pet therapy dogs. For more information on pet therapy, visit pawsandhearts.org.



Pet therapy can help relieve physical and emotional pain and teach children to be kind to animals.
Photo courtesy of Hibu



**Thank You ❤️
For Joining Us!**

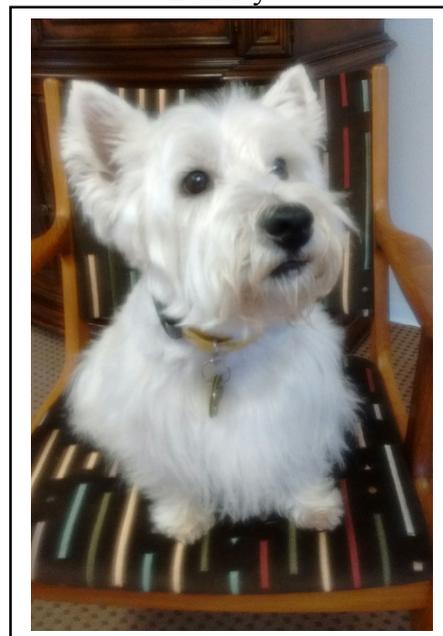




"Divot"



"Shaina"



"Bentley"



"Maddie" &
"Bingo"

Pet Bereavement Support Group

Our group meets 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 and to bring a photograph of their beloved dog or cat, (not on a cell phone.) The group is in its second year and we have seen many faces from the valley come into the office and share love-stories of their beloved 4-legged companions.

It is our deepest wish that this support group is really helping those individuals who have recently lost their companion animal. We are here to help. Just give us a call.



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.

Rancho Mirage Healthcare– Susan & “Divot”: As usual we saw many residents and patients this morning but one visit seemed particularly meaningful to me. Divot happily greeted a 92 yr. old man who is a resident at RMH. At first, he was quiet and aloof but as Divot snuggled on the bed with him, he began to smile and talk. He continuously touched Divot, talked about his situation, his life in the military, his regrets and his accomplishments in life. It was a privilege to share these memories with him.

Lucy Curci Cancer Center--Sandie & “Bentley”: Awesome visit! It was quiet at the beginning, but Dr. Kanna came out to chat and pet Bentley for a minute. Things picked up as the morning went on. We celebrated one man’s last day and he remembered that Bentley was not there last week and said he missed him! The highlight for me was chatting with a 98-year old World War II vet who had been at the Battle of the Bulge. What a blessing to hear his story and to be able to ask questions! He was really “with it” and a pleasure to talk to. Love going to this place!

Stonewall Gardens Assisted Living—Risa & “Shaina”: Shaina and I pulled up to Stonewall Gardens right when the van was leaving. The residents on the van (and the driver) were waving when they took off from the driveway. We found the remaining residents in the dining room. The collective cheer of welcoming for their “Paws & Hearts” dog never gets old. Shaina began her visits and made her rounds from table to table. I was glad to see some of the residents that we have missed in the past few weeks. One gentleman was eager to pet Shaina. I could tell that his ability to talk clearly has declined, but he did great interacting with Shaina. He held her paw and she gazed into his eyes. He laughed and snuggled with her. Our last visit was to gentleman in his room. He told me that his home health nurse was coming in a few minutes to change the bandages on his legs. He requested that Shaina stay during his home health visit, explaining to me that it would “help him to relax”. The arrival of the nurse peaked Shaina's curiosity. And for some reason she instinctively knew to stay close to the resident. The resident started to chuckle over how Shaina stayed close to him and appeared to be supervising the nurse. After a few moments the nurse looked up and smiled at his canine assistant. Bandages were applied and the patient was very grateful. We stayed for a few moments after the nurse left. It was obvious that the patient was exhausted and soon he was starting to fall asleep (ironically so was Shaina). We made our goodbyes. I am glad that Shaina was able to bring some comfort to the residents of Stonewall Gardens today.

Desert Regional Medical Center—Richard, “Maddie” & “Bingo”: Lovely Thursday morning at Desert. We saw some of the nicest patients and family members. One really nice big boy who had lost his arm in an accident could not get over how adorable Maddie & Bingo were. His father came in the room and he took scads of pics of the dogs with his son. He shook my hand and told me that we just made his day so much better! And then there was the young woman whose Aunt from Puerto Rico was visiting. The Aunt filmed the entire visit and had to show us a film of her 5 dogs back home. She kept thanking me in Spanish and the niece was translating. They were just lovely. And then a young family from New Zealand--Dad came down with a kidney infection, but this couple and their two kids got a real kick out of Maddie & Bingo. It was a delightful Thursday morning!

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.

2018 Annual Dog Walk

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

Saturday, November 24th, (Thanksgiving weekend) will be the date of our 18th Annual Dog Walk-Fundraiser.

With our glorious desert weather, walkers will enjoy a very easy 2-mile walk around the grounds of the Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa, a continental breakfast, an amazing raffle and vendor booths.

Santa will appear again this year to pose for holiday photos were with your dog!

