

“Paws & Hearts”

Animal Assisted Therapy

Fed. Tax ID #91-2096569

SPRING 2019

NEWSLETTER

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“Paws & Hearts”

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“Lucky” & “Scruffy”

Waxman

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A busy start to 2019, with an invitation to the Bighorn Cares awards dinner in early January. **“Paws & Hearts”** was honored to receive a grant along with 80 other very deserving local charities for our work in the valley.

“Maddie” has been out of action for a couple of months as she tore her ACL. She had surgery, and the recovery was long and probably very dull for her since she was not able to go on visits with her side-kick Bingo. She’ll be very happy to get back to her routine.

Our Second Annual Volunteer luncheon has been planned for early April, and we are looking forward to seeing our 2-legged volunteers at the Westin Mission Hills. Just a very nice way to say thank-you to everyone who gives of their time!

Richard Waxman

Upcoming Events to Put on Your Calendars!

Pet Bereavement Support Group

Monthly Meetings

Second Wednesday of the month, 1 pm

19th Annual Dog Walk/Fundraiser

Saturday November 30th

Registration begins at 9 am, Walk at 10 am

Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa

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

As Dad is helping me compose this note, I am sitting in my training crate wearing a cone. The surgery I had was nothing compared to this long-drawn-out recovery. I have to spend 8 weeks, did you get that, 8 weeks in this damned crate with the cone on my head. The crate is huge, the blankets I’m on are lovely, but I was sure after I grew out of puppy-hood that I’d never be back in here!

A torn ACL, how did I ever manage that? Well the good news is that Dad and Bingo are taking very good care of me, and in no time I’ll be back to my visits!



“Maddie” Waxman

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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 about to start its third year, and we have seen many faces from the valley come into the office and share love-stories of their beloved 4-legged companions.

Over these first two years of the support group we have received countless thank you's via email and card. Up until now I have never shared any of them because I wasn't comfortable in describing something so personal. Karen, our editor who chairs the group with me from time to time, keeps suggesting I share a few words of praise, so without identifying anyone here, are just a few—

Thanks so much for facilitating the group today. I learned a lot and it was good to talk about Sunset. Thanks for the idea about writing. I wrote about Sunset this afternoon and, oddly enough, I feel good. You do your animals proud by the work you do.

I have a number of comments. Most of all to let you know how much I appreciated you convening the service and you being so personally involved. I am very glad that I went. Another change that is coming about as a result of your service, is that I have decided to display the best picture I have of each of my "kids" I have lost. They truly were my family. I was so glad to hear you speak of your losses as family. Thank you, Richard. You have unique gifts/talents and have created a niche whereby you are able to share them with so many others.

Grieving in private often makes us feel like our healing process is never going to progress... Losing a beloved pet is such a painful experience; we deal through such turmoil, as it is, why go through the pain alone? Having great listening ears, great advice, and to be able to relate our experiences with others is a very comforting feeling. Paws & Hearts is such an incredible organization. The Pet Bereavement Support Group offers tremendous help to those in pain. Speaking from our experience, we STRONGLY give our highest recommendation to anyone that is seeking comfort and support, to participate in the group! Richard is beyond helpful; he runs the group very smoothly, listens, understands, relates his experience and offers the best advice. Richards's kind words bring peace and reassurance on getting through the pain.



Please continue to read our Spring Newsletter at www.pawsandhearts.org



Examples of awesome human volunteers!



What it takes to be a Great 'Human' Ambassador

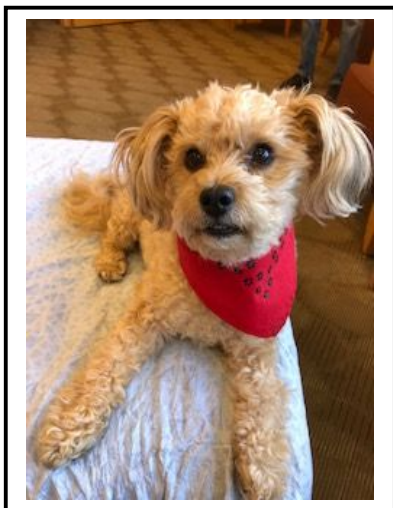
At "Paws & Hearts" we are always on the look-out for amazing dogs that have what it takes to become a great therapy dog. We also need the human at the end of the leash to have something special to offer for this kind of volunteer work.

This is what we are looking for and are things for you to consider when thinking of volunteering--

- Are you compassionate and caring?
- Are you able to listen *incredibly* well and not pass judgement?
- Are you more concerned with how the patient reacts to your dog than you are in showing off your dog?
- Are you able to visit room to room in a long term care facility and not be concerned with some of the sights and the smells you will encounter?
- Will you approach each patient and offer them a chance to visit with your dog and not be put off by anything?

These visits are all about you, our human volunteer taking the time to make conversation, sometimes out of nothing, with the patients you are meeting. You have to stay focused and positive and understand that your dog is not judgmental and is just there to make everyone happy. That should be your personal mission as well.

You and your dog will be going from room to room visiting patient after patient in bed. Your dog will be at the side of the bed, or on the bed visiting with the patients and must be engaging at all times. Please go to our website, www.pawsandhearts.org and watch the videos of Lucky & Scruffy at Eisenhower. If you think you are up to the task, we'd love to hear from you!



"Chloe"

A 5-year-old Yorkie-poo
The Thursday Visit



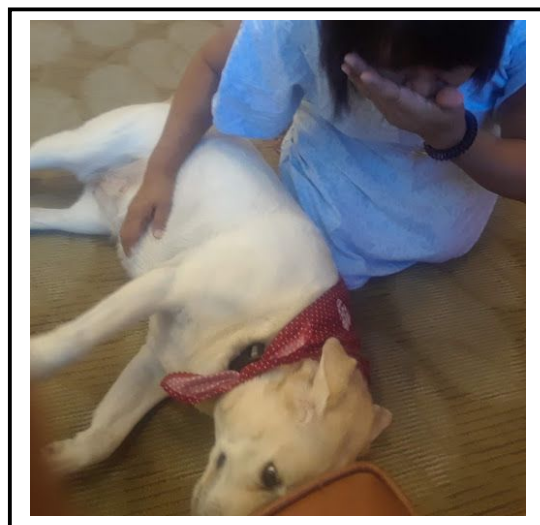
Uncle Drew, "Bingo" & "Maddie"

Maddie—7-year-old terrier mix
Bingo – almost 2-year-old terrier mix
Uncle Drew—Oh dear, I can't count that high!
The Wednesday Team



"Buddy"

A 2-year-old Golden
The Friday visit



"Goldie"

A 9-year-old Yellow Lab
The Monday Visit

As there are five weekday mornings and only four days accounted for, the Tuesday Ambassador, "Jed" is just waiting in the wings to begin. By the time this newsletter is published, Jed will have been visiting for a couple of months.

We truly need to thank Dr. Monica Khanna for making these visits possible. It has been about 15 years worth of visits to the Cancer Center, and many happy stories and memories have been made!

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.

In this issue we are going to report on the four Canine Ambassadors pictures to the left who make weekly visits to The Lucy Curci Cancer at Eisenhower.

The inspiration for this specific facility actually came from an encounter Uncle Drew had with a staff member at the new Bella Villaggio. Drew takes Maddie & Bingo to the Memory Care section on Friday mornings and he ran into a woman visiting a friend who was a client/patient at Lucy Curci, and she shared with him the following—

"I have to tell you how amazing your organization is! I had radiation treatment a couple of years ago at Lucy Curci and having a different dog in the waiting room every morning made the prospect of going there so much easier. You have no idea how petting the dogs helped everyone in the radiation waiting room and made those weeks of treatments into something positive."

Drew, "Maddie" & "Bingo": Another busy Wednesday morning in the waiting room, but I only have Bingo today as Maddie is still recovering from leg surgery. Bingo was greeted warmly by the patients that he's come to know during the weeks of their treatments. All the staff members came in and fussed over him and asked how his sister was healing and when she'd be back to work. Bingo left there knowing that he'd made the patients feel just a little better from the affection that he shared this morning!

Jeannette & "Buddy": Buddy was quite happy this morning because one of the patients brought their own dog Copper in to visit. Buddy was quite intrigued with Copper and the two of them really hit it off. Buddy enjoyed the time visiting with Copper and after he left, Buddy was back to concentrating on the patients.....which is what his mission is with his weekly visits!

Linda & "Chloe": The machines were slow this morning so Chloe and I really had a full-house of patients waiting for their radiation treatments. This gave everyone a really good chance to visit with Chloe and spend some extra time playing with her. Even David the technician came into the room to throw Chloe's ball for her to give her some extra exercise! A great visit by anyone's standards!

Susan & "Goldie": A perfect way to start the week with a visit to Lucy Curci. The regular clients were happy to start their week off with a visit from Goldie! And as usual the staff came into the waiting room to fuss over the adorable Yellow Lab who loves to visit everyone!

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.



DW PET CARE



Our Dog Walk Santa is a gentleman by the name of Duane Walters. He actually has his own in-home pet-sitting service in Cathedral City. From personal experience I can tell you that Duane provides a safe and very harmonious place for your dog. Give him a call for information 760-832-2327.

He even sends your pooch home with the cutest report card!