

# ***“Paws & Hearts”***

***Animal Assisted Therapy***

*Fed. Tax ID #91-2096569*

**SUMMER 2019**

**NEWSLETTER**

## Board of Directors

### *President*

Virginia Tillmannshofer

### *Vice President*

Richard Waxman  
Executive Director  
“Paws & Hearts”

### *Founders*

“Lucky” & “Scruffy”  
Waxman

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As I work on this issue of the Newsletter, summer hasn't quite kicked in, and the valley is still experiencing amazing spring-like weather! If only it would last until November.....

The first part of our year at ***“Paws & Hearts”*** has been pretty amazing. In April we started the third year of our Pet Bereavement Support Group, something that I am very proud of. Our friends at NBC Palm Springs were gracious enough to let us come on the morning show and talk about the positive impact attending the group can have.

As always, we continue to have 2-legged and 4-legged volunteers applying to be part of our program, and it seems an abundance of grant applications to submit. Whatever is on my ‘to-do’ list is always a joy because I am always thinking of ways to improve and make our services better!

*Richard Waxman*

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

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

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

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

### **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Dog Walk/Fundraiser**

**Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Registration begins at 9 am, Walk at 10 am**

**Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa**

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

The great news is that my leg has pretty much healed up and I'm now back on visits with my buddy “Bingo.” Actually “Bingo” felt like he should write this issue's story because he has done all the visits by himself these last few months, but that is certainly not happening!

Lounging around the house for eight weeks was agony. Dad and “Bingo” were great company, but the little physical therapy walks were much too short for a go-getter like me, and having “Bingo” come in all pooped-out after visits made me just the slightest bit jealous. Once Dad felt I was ready, he started carrying me up the stairs to the office so I felt as though I was contributing.

Now that we are back on visits I see that “Bingo” has taken it upon himself to start at a new facility without me.....what in the hell? He visits, excuse me, WE visit with both Uncle Drew and Uncle Emelio every Friday morning at the new Bella Villaggio in Palm Desert. We visit the Memory Care Section and talk about first-class swank—the four of us wouldn't mind checking in for a weekend of pampering! So good to be back at it!!!

***“Maddie” Waxman***

***“Paws & Hearts” 74-133 El Paseo, Ste. 7***

***Palm Desert, CA 92260***

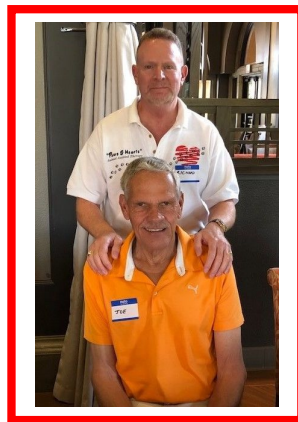
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***Website: [www.pawsandhearts.org](http://www.pawsandhearts.org)***

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

*Our Annual Volunteer Luncheon in April  
Looks like we all had great fun at the Westin this year!*



**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](http://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.*



## Therapy Dog vs. Service Dog

In the last two newsletters we talked about what makes a great *Canine Ambassador* and what makes a great human volunteer. Now we should address the difference between service dogs and therapy dogs, something I’ve talked about before in our newsletters.

Since the start of this year I’ve received more calls not from people wanting to volunteer, but from people who want to have their dog classified as a service dog so they can *schlep* the dog anywhere they want and for free on airplanes. When I hear this request, like an angered dog, the hair on my neck stands straight up.

There are many people in the world with valid medical needs who require a ‘certified service dog,’ one who has been professionally trained to assist its owner with special needs—a dog who will work beside its master protecting him or her.

Those individuals who want to cheat the system and slap a *fake service dog vest* on their dog to allow it access to areas not accessible to everyday dogs are doing true service dogs and their handlers a huge disservice.

The difference between a Therapy Dog and a Service Dog is that the classification for each one is something completely different. For the sake of this discussion we will just focus on therapy dogs. Dogs used in Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) are meant to be taken room to room in an institutionalized setting, such as a hospital, long-term care facility, and cancer center. After a brief introduction of the dog and with the client’s approval, the dog is meant to be petted, hugged, give a paw shake, a high-five, and even a kiss. Therapy Dogs are meant to be shared with many people while making their visits.

Service Dogs are trained to be *‘in-service’* to their handler, and not to be distracted while beside their owner.

Therapy Dogs are given no special preference on airlines, restaurants, public places, etc. They are given entry only to healthcare facilities because they are trained to visit patients. And the way a dog becomes an amazing therapy dog is by repetition--going each and every week on a visit and getting to know the patients and staff he or she will visit.

Therapy Dogs are nothing like Service Dogs, and vice versa.

In summation—if you have a great dog, that is friendly and outgoing with everyone, and you’d like to give back to the community, consider sharing your amazing dog to make people feel better by volunteering with  
*“Paws & Hearts”!*

### Our Mission Statement

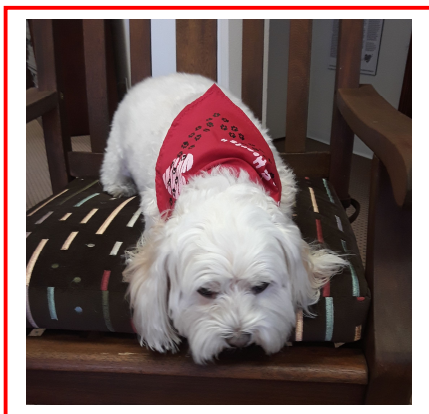
*“Paws & Hearts”* is a leader in the field of Animal Assisted Therapy, (AAT) and it is our mission to enrich the lives of frail and special care cases that require the loving attention and affection that only a “four-legged” healer can provide.



*Joe & "Bob" & "Zoso"*



*Joanne & "Bailey"*



*Ann & "Maggie"*

*We truly need to thank Theresa Whipple for making these visits possible. It has been about 15-years worth of visits to the Comprehensive 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 three volunteers who make weekly visits to The Comprehensive Cancer Center at Desert Regional Medical Center.

Joe & "Bob" & "Zoso": Joe and his two Standard Poodles "Bob" & "Zoso" have been visiting the Cancer Center at Desert Regional Medical Center, as well as the hospital for 11 years. Joe shared a very personal story with us, and we share it with our readers.....

The usual smiles and handshakes for my boys, at both the Cancer Center and the hospital.

Later in the evening, I received a phone call from a friend I play golf with. His wife who is very disabled, was in the hospital I visited that morning. We had chatted for a short time and it seemed to cheer her up. She related the visit I had made to her husband and how she got to pet the boys.

Her husband told me on the phone how he appreciated my which helped comfort her. She was just released from ICU. She is critically ill. My visit gave me a chance to talk with my friend and give him my support. I believe in 11 years of my visits to DMRC, this is the first time my visit resulted in a phone call from a family member thanking me and seeking my support.

*"What I thought to be a mundane routine visit which I do every Tuesday, turned out to be much more than that!"*

Joanne & "Bailey": Every Wednesday Mom brings out my very own red "Paws & Hearts" bandana, my personal ID card with my handsome picture and then we are off to the Comprehensive Cancer Center at Desert Regional Medical Center. Can't help it--my tail goes into "fast wag" as we arrive and I get to see my friends who staff the Reception desk in the lobby...we are best buddies! But the real thrill is getting to see the nice people who are there for the special services of the CCC.

Some of my most favorites are the ones in wheel chairs, walkers or crutches. I kinda' think they need my little fuzzy face the most. Because I am so well-behaved, we also spend some really wonderful time on the Radiology and Chemo floors... Now, I don't want to sound like a braggart, but seems like everybody wants to pet me, some even kiss me and so many want to have their picture made with me!

Mom has me do a few tricks (yeah, I have to tolerate that part) but I know that the patients I get to meet feel better after they get a chance to pet me...some call me "An Angel with Paws" and so many say that "You have just made my day!" Wow, I had no idea that my life would have such meaning to so many people facing such circumstances.

Ann & "Maggie":

Maggie had a wonderful day at the Cancer Center at Desert Regional Medical Center on Thursday. She loves to meet her old friends as well as new ones. Today, she met a very nice lady who was having a beef jerky snack while waiting for her treatment. Maggie assumed that she would share her treat! When the lady said: "No, this might make you sick," Maggie became even more affectionate than usual. She sat with her paw up, rolled over, and did everything within her power to persuade the patient to share her treat! The lady said that was the highlight of her day watching Maggie go above and beyond her role as a great therapy dog. Good job Maggie!

# Save the Date

For the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual

"Paws & Hearts"

*Dog Walk-Fundraiser*

Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Registration begins at 9 am, Walk at 10 am

Come and join us for our annual event and help in raising donations. As always we will have our amazing raffle baskets, continental breakfast, a ton of dog treats, and Santa Claus himself for your pets holiday photo! And that fun 2-mile walk for everyone!

