

# **“Paws & Hearts”**

**Animal Assisted Therapy**

Fed. Tax ID #91-2096569

**FALL 2022**

**NEWSLETTER**

## Board of Directors

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Virginia Tillmannshofer

### *Vice President*

Richard Waxman  
Executive Director  
“Paws & Hearts”

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“Lucky” & “Scruffy”  
Waxman

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I always find it very interesting sitting down to write the Fall Newsletter in August when the average daily temperature in the desert is 115 degrees. Just the word Fall makes me think of Halloween, pumpkins, and much cooler temps, and all of that just can't come fast enough.

First thing you'll notice on our Upcoming Events Calendar is the date of the next Dog Walk Fundraiser. The board has decided to once again post-pone the walk due to the continuing Corona Virus outbreaks. At the time of this writing there is that pesky new Subvariant BA-5 adding up daily case numbers, and we just don't want to be responsible for bringing a couple hundred people together and risk having anyone get infected. I love putting together this yearly event, but safety needs to be the big concern here.

The same as last year, we are going to initiate our On-Line Fall Fundraising Campaign which was a very great success last year. More information on it in the newsletter, and a special email blast will go later this fall.

In this newsletter I have freshened up an article I've included in the past regarding Pet Trusts. We all need to plan for the care of our beloved 4-legged companions in the event that something happens to us.

Enjoy this newsletter! Thank you.

*Richard Waxman*

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

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

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

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

**23rd Annual Dog Walk/Fundraiser**

**Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**“Paws & Hearts” 42-600 Cook Street, Ste. 138  
Palm Desert, CA 92211  
(760) 836-1406**

**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)**

### ***“Terry’s” Views***

***(“Lucky”, “Scruffy”, “Maddie” & “Bingo” in thought)***

All during the summer Dad has schlepped me on Monday mornings (who wants to work on Monday mornings?) up to the Comprehensive Cancer Center at Desert Regional to visit the patients in the three waiting rooms.

He lectures me non-stop in the car as we drive there with that damned Studio 54 station on. (Is this guy trying to relieve his youth or what??) He tells me to be friendly with the patients, which I am, and he also tells me to focus on each and every one of them as they are petting me. I'm just a puppy for God's sakes. I haven't learned how to focus; I'm always checking out the room to see whose next!

I must be doing a pretty good job because after going on visits for the last three or four months, I'm getting really relaxed around everyone. I know the routine backwards and forwards, and I'm guessing from all the happy smiles and kind words for my visit that I am making these cancer patients just a tiny bit happier. I know that one dear woman whispered these words to me after our visit—  
***“Thank you Terry for calming me down before my treatment!”*** So, that's why I go every Monday with Dad!

***“Terry” Waxman***

*Planning for your Pet(s) if you are no longer able to.....*

Making sure that our beloved 4-legged companions are provided for if we are unable to care for them, or no longer around, should be every pet-parents responsibility.

Pet Trusts can provide legal instructions and protections for the care and placement of animals when an owner dies or becomes incapacitated.

Pet trusts are not much different from irrevocable trusts that we make to avoid the time and expense of having our estates go through probate. For the sake of this article we are just going to focus on pet trusts, which have 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. By providing a pet trust, an owner can spell out exactly their wishes for how their beloved animal is to be taken care of, right down to the brand of chew toys and cat nip!

You also could specify many other details, such as your cat being fed grain-free kibble or 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.

The costs to have an attorney draft a trust vary and are somewhat negotiable. As a general guide, living-trust packages for human beneficiaries typically start around \$1,000 but can rise to several thousand dollars or more, depending on the attorney, the complexities and the assets involved. Pet trusts, which are simpler, should cost less. If you already have a living trust, most likely you would 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. A suggested funding amount into a pet trust is at least \$10,000. Any money left after the animal(s) dies can be donated to a non-profit group.

If you don't establish a pet trust, consider spelling out your pet-care wishes in a letter given to a trusted relative or friend; although, these instructions wouldn't be legally binding. You could leave funds with care instructions, but without a trust, nothing will prevent (the person) from using the money for some other purpose and/or giving your pets away.

This is a big issue to work through and with the assistance of your attorney or estate planner, provisions can and should be put in place to take care of your beloved 4-legged companions if he or she should outlive you. Just something to think about!

**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.

Volunteer Stories

*At the time of this issue we had 'a few' volunteer teams making visits and were adding more as quickly as the facilities would take them. Here are just a couple of our recent Volunteer Reports.*

Richard & "Terry"— The Comprehensive Cancer Center – What a busy Monday Morning Mr. Terry and I had today-- so much busier than last Monday and just so much more enjoyable. We visited non-stop with no break in between customers! Terry was amazing this morning and was praised for his visit by so many patients and staff members.

One dear old woman who was there with her equally old daughter couldn't get enough of Terry. I had Terry in the chair between the two of them, and the older woman thanked Terry for distracting her from the real reason she was there!

One very old gentleman actually called us over to visit. He couldn't stop praising Terry for his adorable looks and stellar personality.

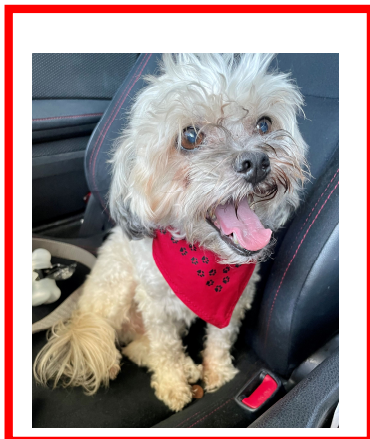
If ever a dog was idolized, it was this morning. Terry is truly a therapy dog now!!!

Abril & "Oliver"—Rancho Mirage Healthcare -- What a special day! Today Oliver and I visited about 15 patients. A lot of them were sleeping. Oliver got to be present when a nurse came over to check the vitals of one of the patients, Jackie. She struggles with high pressure... you won't believe this, she had been petting Oliver for a few minutes and her pressure came out normal. I am amazed of the impact dogs can have in our lives, even the nurse said it. Another patient, Cheryl, asked her sister to buy and mail some goodies for Oliver and me to show her appreciation towards us for showing up to visit on Tuesday mornings. We definitely feel the love, I am so proud of Oliver!

Sandie, "Shelby" & "Hudson – The Comprehensive Cancer Center -- This was a good visit. I was most happy to see Hudson warming up and getting into being touched and petted. I think he watched Shelby getting all the attention too much, so his "plan" for the day was to push her out of the way and get his own touches!!! Again, the staff and the patients were so welcoming and thankful we were there. Lots of comments about how "cute" they were together. I had some extended conversations with a few people about their dogs! It was fun.

**TERRY**

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**HUDSON & SHELBY**

### **Fall 2022 On-Line Fundraiser**

*Right after this newsletter is posted on our website and electronically sent to all of our volunteers and donors, we are going to follow up with a Donation Ask. In lieu of this year's Annual Dog Walk-Fundraiser we are going to repeat last fall's on-line fundraiser. We did pretty good last year with donations and are hoping for the same this year!*

*Same as last year, we have a modest fund-raising goal of \$10,000.00 and based on the number of volunteers and donors we have, this should be very achievable.*

*We are gradually getting back to visits. We wish the pace were faster, but many of our senior volunteers decided not to come back to volunteer for us. A few of the Canine Ambassadors have passed away. The increased cost of gas and cost of living has kept many potential volunteers not looking for the additional expense of driving to and from a weekly visit.*

*Our Monthly Pet Loss Bereavement Group is still meeting monthly in the office and is of great help to those who attend.*

*So please, when you see the Donation Request, send in a check or go to our website and make a donation using Paypal. All donations will be acknowledged and greatly appreciated!*