

“Paws & Hearts”

Animal Assisted Therapy

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FALL 2021

NEWSLETTER

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This will be a tough Newsletter to put together because “Maddie” went to the Rainbow Bridge in June and while I’ve adopted another pup, not having my little secretary in the office with me, or beside me in bed at night has been pretty awful.

We all have to say good-bye to a beloved 4-legged companion whom we have shared a number of years with and it never gets any easier. In Maddie’s case, it was her time to join Scruffy, Sam and Bingo at the Rainbow Bridge. Maddie courageously battled Cushing’s Disease for two years, but sadly her time was up.

Part of this Newsletter will be devoted to her amazing 11 years as our star Canine Ambassador. Maddie visited everywhere—she started out with Scruffy at Eisenhower, moved onto Desert Regional, and wound up going every Wednesday morning to the Lucy Curci Cancer Center with Uncle Drew. She spent a few years accompanying Scruffy, and then she trained Bingo on visits. More on her life on the next page.

We have decided to post-poner this year’s Dog Walk-Fundraiser until 2022, but we are going to have a Fall Fundraiser which we will talk about in the newsletter. We have two volunteers back on visits, and have temperament tested new volunteer teams who are waiting to be trained and given assignments.

Let’s just hang in there a little longer!

Richard Waxman

Upcoming Events to Put on Your Calendars!

Pet Bereavement Support Group

Monthly Meetings

Second Wednesday of the month, 1 pm

22nd Annual Dog Walk/Fundraiser

(We have to skip this year!)

Saturday, November 26th, 2022

**“Paws & Hearts” 74-133 El Paseo, Ste. 7
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“Maddie’s” Views (“Lucky”, “Scruffy” & “Bingo” in thought)

Dad is writing Maddie’s column this time and it is a tribute to her. It will be carried over onto the second page in pictures of her many visits over almost 11 years.

Maddie came along six months after Lucky passed away. She sure wasn’t my first choice at that November pet adopt-a-thon, I wasn’t even looking for a dog, but we all know how that goes.

And what a little pistol she was, that 8-month-old puppy. OMG, was she difficult to train or what? For exercise, she would nibble on Scruffy’s ear and run him through the house. Poor old guy, but he never lost his patience with her. This dog, I was ready to return numerous times—she chewed the corners of all the pillows on the living room sofa, and many other bad things!

However, after 6 or 7 months I took her on a visit to Eisenhower with Scruffy, where she just blossomed. It was like Lucky was inside her heart. With no training she instinctively did everything the way Lucky used to do it and from that first visit, all the puppy nonsense was gone.

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Maddie continued

Together, Maddie and Scruffy visited Eisenhower three mornings per week for a few years, and then they were asked to start visiting Desert Regional. At some point Scruffy passed away, and Maddie did visits solo for close to a year until Bad Boy Bingo came along. Maddie did her best to train Bingo, and what 'calm' Bingo didn't bring to a visit, he made up for in his enthusiastic greetings for all the patients he visited.

From Desert Regional, Maddie and Bingo spent almost 2 years visiting every Wednesday morning at the Lucy Curci Cancer Center with Uncle Drew. These three were a staple amongst staff and patients and always a big hit. Maddie would position herself on the ottoman, while Bingo would approach each and every patient that came into the room to say hello.

Maddie, Bingo and I made presentations around the valley and I remember filming the dog walk commercials at KMIR were such a treat. Maddie was the perfect dog in Thalia's arms, and Bingo was just such a ball of trouble in Bryan's arms. But amazing memories never-the-less!

Maddie went to the Rainbow Bridge in June, and it got pretty quiet around the house. All during the pandemic, Maddie came into the office and kept me company. I always referred to her as my secretary-- Lucy Carter. She was always right on her bed behind my office chair.

Maddie made countless visits in her time as the consummate *Canine Ambassador* and she made so many people feel just a bit better from her gentle, loving visit. She is much missed by everyone, but no one more than her Dad.

Rest in peace Maddie, your memory will never be forgotten kiddo!

