

# ***“Paws & Hearts”***

***Animal Assisted Therapy***

*Fed. Tax ID #91-2096569*

**SUMMER 2021**

**NEWSLETTER**

## Board of Directors

### *President*

Virginia Tillmannshofer

### *Vice President*

Richard Waxman  
Executive Director  
“Paws & Hearts”

### *Founders*

“Lucky” & “Scruffy”  
Waxman

### *Secretary/Treasurer*

Valerie Zugates

### *Members at Large*

Drew Marefos  
Karen Gebala

It is almost Summer in the desert as I pen this abbreviated Newsletter. Abbreviated because we are still not on visits and have no Volunteer Reports to share. (More on the visits later)

As a non-profit having to deal with what is hopefully the conclusion of this pandemic, we are most grateful to still be around. While our Pet Therapy Visits stopped a year ago March, our monthly Pet Loss Bereavement Support Group has continued. With the exception of two months, a small group has assembled at the office observing the safest of guidelines.

I am in constant contact with a few local long-term care facilities to get their latest State visitation guidelines, and I’m also in touch with the SF/SPCA Pet Therapy Department. They too are waiting to send their volunteers out on visits and are developing safety procedures and protocols which they will share with us.

A little more patience on our part, and hopefully later this year we’ll be back on visits!  
*Richard Waxman*

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

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

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

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

### **21 Annual Dog Walk/Fundraiser**

***(We sincerely hope!)***

**Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

***“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)***

### ***“Maddie’s” Views***

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

I’m guessing from Dad’s opening remarks that visits for Uncle Drew and me are still away’s-a-way. While all of this lying around the house watching back to back Hallmark Movies has been fun, I could honestly recite the lines in most of those Aurora Teagarden Mysteries at this point! OY!!

The one good thing for me is that Dad takes me into the office with him two or three mornings a week. I get to walk around the little courtyard, pick up the mail, and trot upstairs to my little bed while Dad conducts business.

The other thing I get to do is to act as Ambassador once a month when Dad hosts the Pet Loss Bereavement Groups. I know these sessions are tough for the participants; however, I do the best I can make the attendees feel comfortable in the office. A few months ago Dad had three participants, and there was a lot of crying going on. By the end of the session there was a bit of laughter and many ‘good luck’s’ shared among the group and Dad received lots of thank-you’s.

So, at least I get to contribute a tiny bit and earn those Charlie Bear’s!

***“Maddie” Waxman***

## *Updates!*

### **VISITATIONS AND VACCINATIONS**

All of our volunteers have continued to receive email updates on the status of potential visits later this year. While most of us have been fully vaccinated, the pandemic is not over yet, and the State guidelines for volunteers to return to visits is still being worked out. It is not my intent to send any of us out there until the time is right. Most of you have sent in proof of vaccinations, but we need everyone to send them in.

As we hopefully approach a time when visits may resume, each volunteer has to ask themselves if in fact they want to continue visiting facilities. So far four volunteers have withdrawn from the program, and I totally respect their decisions. If any of you are in a quandary, don't hesitate to pick up the phone and we'll talk.

### **DOG WALK-FUNDRAISER**

At our April board meeting we discussed holding our Annual Dog Walk-Fundraiser this November, and so far we haven't decided anything conclusively. As the CDC guidelines continue to evolve, we'll take our cues from them and from other local non-profits and continue to discuss holding the event at our July meeting.

### **Pet Loss Support Group**

We started our 5<sup>th</sup> year of this monthly group in April, and while we meet people at a devastating chapter in their lives, the group is a great help to those who attend. We are very proud to offer this service to the community.

### ***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). We started the fifth year this April, and we have seen many faces from the valley come into the office and share love stories of their beloved 4-legged companions who have passed away. We are here to listen.*



*Introducing Our New Pet  
Bereavement Support Group*