

“Paws & Hearts”

Animal Assisted Therapy

Fed. Tax ID #91-2096569

WINTER 2023

NEWSLETTER

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“Paws & Hearts”

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“Lucky” & “Scruffy”

Waxman

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Executive Director’s Message

Early winter in the desert, at least our version of winter, and what can be lovelier than shorter, much cooler days with a bit of rain every once in a while. Just lovely!

First off—let me again thank each and every one of you who was so kind to make a donation towards our Fall On-Line Fundraiser. It took a bit longer than last year, but we hit our goal, and the board and I truly appreciate everyone’s generosity.

Over the last few months we’ve had an almost weekly parade of potential volunteers come through the office for temperament testing. We have put six new **Canine Ambassadors** out there, and it looks like we are finally shaking off the hold that the pandemic had on us.

In this Newsletter I’ll talk about a chance meeting with a lovely woman who revitalized my passion for “Paws & Hearts” and in her own way made my thoughts of retirement fly right out the window!

We had our first Open House/ Holiday Party at the end of December, and I’ve included a few photos to share with our readers. Enjoy the next few winter months and the 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 25th, 2023

“Paws & Hearts” 42-600 Cook Street, Ste. 138

Palm Desert, CA 92211

(760) 836-1406

E-Mail: Pawsandhearts@aol.com

Website: www.pawsandhearts.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pawsandheartsorg

“Terry’s” Views

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

So it looks like my days of visiting the Cancer Center are over for now. Dad says the visits are just on hold until I ‘grow up a bit.’ Not sure when that will happen, but I’m happy to just go into the office with him. I love the little walk from the car to the mailbox, but my real joy comes from barking at passers-by. This new office is so much better than the last one. The whole front of the office is nothing but windows, I can see people coming from all angles, and I can get to barking really quickly!

Dad keeps telling me to ‘knock it off’ and be quiet, but I can’t help saying hello to people in my own puppy-like way!

Well that’s okay, Dad says I’m a good guy when we have to make a presentation together. Back in September we made a presentation to the Sun City Pet Lover’s Club, and I impressed everyone in the room (myself included!) by just sitting beside Dad on a chair while he made his presentation. See, I can be quiet when I have to be Dad!

What exactly does “OY” mean? I sure do hear it enough!

“Terry” Waxman

So much for retirement!

Even with setting up a new office this past Spring I was seriously thinking about retiring and handing over the reins to someone else to run the organization. (Not that I even looked for someone!) Funny how a chance encounter can change almost anything.....

Last week I was training a new volunteer at the Comprehensive Cancer Center in Palm Springs. The third patient/client we came across was a woman who looked at our volunteer shirts and said, "My husband was a patient a few years ago at The Lucy Curci Cancer Center and your dogs were there. He went for treatments Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings and he really loved those dogs. We couldn't have pets where we lived and his time with your dog's made a huge difference to his treatments."

I was already blown away by this, and my response was, "On Tuesday he would have seen a little-copper colored dog by the name of Chloe." And with that she pulled out her phone and showed us a picture of her husband (her late husband Christopher, who has since passed away) with his arms wrapped around Chloe.

As I was fighting back tears I introduced myself and explained how the program came to be at Lucy Curci all because of Dr. Monica Khanna. Jackie took my hand and thanked me profusely for making these dogs possible.

We went back a second time to visit with her and I asked for her name and email address and her permission to share this story. I told her that it was the first day of Jewish New Year's and her sharing of this very personal story was the greatest thing she could have done for me. Well, in her email that afternoon where she shared pictures from the waiting room, she told me she was also celebrating Rosh Hashanah, and I will give you a few lines of her note to us.

As I said, the dogs brought him such great comfort and joy during treatment. He looked forward to dog days.

Thank You again for all of the wonderful experiences with the therapy dogs.

You really don't know what a true impact it makes.

You have a friend in me.



God bless you all for volunteering with "Paws & Hearts" over the years, and for those of you who have been donors, thank you for supporting our program to make memories like this possible.

Richard Waxman

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.

Winston & "Ernie Banks" visit The Comprehensive Cancer Center at Desert Regional on Thursdays--

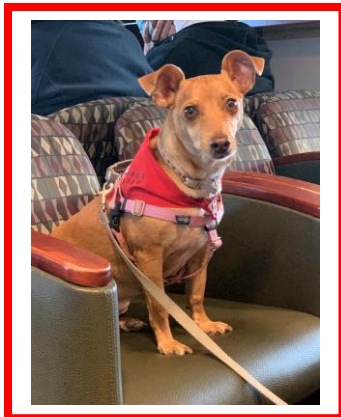
While I have fun every week, today was the most fun I've had so far. We met so many nice, friendly people, including one woman who loved Ernie so much she asked if she could take her picture. I said yes, and then she texted me the photo, which I have attached for you. And then there was one older gentleman who saw us approaching and called out "Ernie Banks!" :-)

Abril & "Oliver" visit Rancho Mirage Healthcare every Tuesday--

Today was a very mellow day, everyone was as happy to see Oliver as usual, there are some new patients in station two, and most of them hang out in the hallway. Oliver already knows and goes from one patient to the next. We also visited Maria, who said our visit meant so much to us because her kids couldn't visit her. She held Oliver in her arms, he fell asleep, and I saw some tears running down her cheeks. It was an emotional moment! Can't wait to see what next week brings!

Marcia & "Ziggy" visit The Comprehensive Cancer Center at Desert Regional on Mondays--

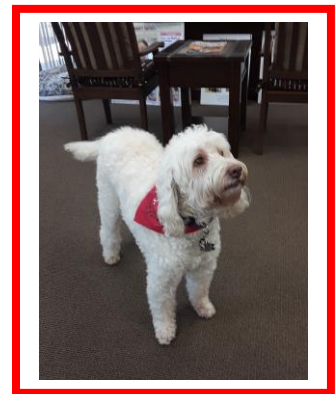
My highlight of the visit was a man named Richard who has been coming to the Cancer Center daily for several weeks for radiation treatments. He is a very kind man and I look forward to seeing him every Monday. Today he told me that he is almost finished with his treatments and that seeing Ziggy every Monday and the other dogs on the alternate days has been a true blessing for him and it touched my heart.



"Ernie Banks"



"Oliver"



"Ziggy"

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.



Place
Stamp
Here

“Paws & Hearts”

42-600 Cook Street, Ste. 138
The Berger Foundation Building
Palm Desert, CA 92211

Our December 28th Open House-Holiday Party

We finally had all the volunteers into our new office for a little after-Christmas-before-New Year’s holiday party. The new volunteers got to meet some of our board members and each other. And for the second time we put our Holiday Tree and adorned it with pictures of our ***Canine Ambassadors!***

