

"Paws & Hearts"

Animal Assisted Therapy

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FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

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"Paws & Hearts"

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Happy Fall in the Desert! Well, it will be fall by the time this Newsletter reaches you; right now it is early August and hotter than blazes! Ugh.....

If you remember my Summer Newsletter, I told you that I was going to take some much needed time and spend part of my summer in Canada. Oy, was that short lived! I missed the desert, I missed my little house, and I missed going into the office to work. If I ever mention the word retire again, someone please remind me of Summer 2025!

I have done a lot of thinking about the future of "Paws & Hearts" and my ability to keep the momentum up and to keep things fresh. I spent the better part of the summer updating our website and all of our print materials. I made a commitment to the board to say 'yes' to every single speaking engagement that is offered from here on in! After all, "Terry" has to earn his keep, to say nothing of his Dad!

And the most important decision--by the time you read this Newsletter we will have moved our office upstairs to a new suite. I wanted a fresh beginning for the start of our second 25 years! "Terry" and I are settling in quite nicely, and we are thinking of a *Valentine's Day Open House!*

- Richard Waxman

UPCOMING EVENTS

Add to your calendar!

PET BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Monthly Meetings
1st & 3rd Wednesday of the Month

VOLUNTEER BOOK CLUB

Last Wednesday of the Month 1:00pm

OPEN HOUSE

in our new office in the Berger Building
Date to be discussed!

"TERRY'S" VIEWS

("Lucky", "Scruffy", "Maddie" & "Bingo"
in thought)



Mid-August, hotter than you-know-what, and Dad has asked me to help him sort through and pack up the office to move upstairs. Why are we moving upstairs? I was so happy barking at passers-by all the time. Dad says he wanted a fresh start and to make new memories. Gee, I hope I still have my job with the organization! We all know I'm not much of a therapy dog!

It looks like we are getting a smaller space which will be easier to take care of. Instead of looking at that dusty parking lot, we now have a beautiful view of the mountains from the other side of the building. Too bad Dad has to pick me up and hold me at the window. These windows are not floor to ceiling. I guess my barking days are over!

So, new memories to be made.....and Thank God most of those blow-up pictures of Dad over the years are in storage. Sheesh, I was sure getting tired of looking at the old guy when he was so much younger!

Bad Boy for those comments--

 "Terry" Waxman

"Paws & Hearts"

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Program Updates

PET LOSS BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Due to the success of this monthly group, we have decided to offer it twice a month to accommodate those who may not be able to attend the regularly-scheduled second Wednesday of the month meeting time. Beginning in October, we will meet on the first and third Wednesday, and depending on the sign-ups, I'll be flexible with the start time. We'll do either 10AM, or 1PM, depending on participants' schedules.

This group is always full of heart-felt stories and many tears, and it is our sincere hope that our meetings help in some small way to start the healing process after having said good-bye to a beloved 4-legged member of the family.

VOLUNTEER BOOK CLUB



Our monthly Volunteer Book Club has been going strong for two years now! We have a core group of eight volunteers who have grown to know each other, and everyone shares a little about their weekly visits before we start discussing books. Our Book Club is different than most. We don't assign a book for everyone to read and then dissect it at a meeting; instead, everyone in our club presents a book that he or she has just read. Many of us have learned about authors we were not previously familiar with, and in-turn have read some very interesting books because one of us talked about it. We've even hosted author presentations in our office and over Zoom! The Book Club meets the last Wednesday of every month at 1PM and is open to all our volunteers. Please consider joining. We have a lot of fun for 2 hours once a month!

INQUIRIES FROM POTENTIAL VOLUNTEERS



As always, we receive many calls from potential volunteers, and after the initial phone call quite often a volunteer application never shows up. This is nothing new and has been happening for 25 years now. I make it a bit challenging for people to volunteer with us for a reason—I need to make sure the potential volunteer will do the 'homework' required before the interview process is even scheduled. So, please don't be offended when I ask my initial questions about the temperament of your dog, and don't be put off by the fact that I ask you to mail in the application. I have my reasons. I truly want everyone who calls to become the best volunteers they can be with our amazing organization. But you have to do a little work to understand the nature of Pet Therapy and what's required of you and your dog. It is imperative that you fully review our website and watch the training videos. Remember, not only am I interviewing your dog, but I am also interviewing you, the one at the end of the leash!!

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 ~

This to me is always the highlight of our quarterly Newsletters, sharing Volunteer Stories so that everyone gets to read the volunteers' reports of what they and their Canine Ambassador experience while on their weekly visit. These three reports amazingly express why "Paws & Hearts" provides the services that it does!

"CHLOE" & LINDA

Bayshire, Rancho Mirage

Today's visit was very rewarding. There was a patient by the name of Cheryl who was patiently waiting for Chloe to come to her room. She had just undergone major surgery and had her leg amputated. She was very emotional but that all changed when she saw Chloe. She grabbed her and kissed her. Cheryl recently lost her little Multi-poo and it literally broke her heart. Seeing Chloe today was the best thing ever. It brought tears to both our eyes 😊



"SHELBY" & SANDIE

Comprehensive Cancer Center in Palm Springs—

Today we met some very excited dog lovers! As you can see, Shelby loved the little girl on first floor. Her name was Alana and she had just turned 3. She was with her brother waiting for her mom. After her mom's treatments, Alana was hoping to get a dog of her own. She loved that Shelby was there and they hugged and kissed! It was hard saying goodbye. I am sure Alana did not realize what her mom was undergoing but, it helped to have Shelby to hug and talk to while she waited! I must have seen a dozen pictures of dogs today. Almost everyone we talked to had a pic on their phone of a present or past dog or two they wanted to share with us! Again it was nice to see Jen and Tanya again on 2nd floor. Both were down on the floor with Shelby in their laps! All in all, a great Tuesday morning at the Cancer Center!



"THOR" & BOB

Vista Cove Memory Care, Rancho Mirage

We had one of the best visits today! As we got started in the 2nd building, the staff was cleaning the main sitting area and we had to visit the residents in the sitting areas off each wing. Each of these sitting areas are locked from the main sitting area. Gail, one of Thor's biggest fans, was sitting by herself in one of these areas and Christopher (the new activities director) came in to say hello. Gail was sitting in one of the big lounge chairs and it is hard for Thor to jump up to share the lounge chair. I recommended to Christopher it would be easier for Gail to sit on the small couch and this would allow Thor to lay next to her. Christopher helped Gail move over to the couch and Thor immediately jumped on the couch to sit next to her. After about five minutes the other Gail (Gail #2) came in and sat on the same couch with Thor in between them. Gail #2's husband is out of town for the week and Christopher was taking photos of her letting the husband know that she was OK. Then Christopher took a photo of both Gails and Thor. Then Gail #1 suggested that I get in the photo (attached). Once we finished our visit with the Gails, Christopher took Thor and I to visit some of the more withdrawn residents. We usually do not try to visit with these residents since they do not respond. Christopher spoke to each of these residents and made an introduction letting them know that Thor came to visit them. While speaking to these residents, he would hold their hand and try to get Thor in their line of sight. Once he was holding their hand, he would try to move their hand close to Thor so they could feel Thor's fur. *You could almost see in the residents eyes a very brief moment of connection.*





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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

A little glimpse into what happened office-wise this summer!

As you can see, the first pictures are of what our new office looked like before, and the beautiful pictures show off what that space with our furniture and 'stuff' has become!

Jeff, I am eternally grateful for all the work you put into this!!

