



Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati





## *A Letter from our President*

### Welcome Back!

After a long hiatus due to COVID, we are beginning to renew and revive many of our activities:

- Our newsletter “The Pet Connection” is back in publication thanks to the efforts of Sharon Newman, our new editor.
- We have resumed in person workshops
- Evaluations have been offered at both Mercy Anderson and Bethesda North on an almost monthly basis
- Visit requests have been increasing at facilities we have previously served as well as new facilities

### Recruiting

Recruiting has become a key focus area for the board. We have lost several members due to pet partner losses and retirements as well as members moving out of state.

Before the pandemic, we had recognized the need for an emphasis on recruiting as it was getting difficult to meet the ever-growing number of visit requests. Now, many of our partner hospitals are working to grow their animal therapy programs and are partnering with us to offer information sessions and incentive programs.

We have held 3 information sessions at Bethesda North with a total of 40 participants. Our student intern, Kallista, is in the process of following up with these folks to determine if they are interested in pursuing registration or have any questions.

Bethesda North is also offering “TriHealth Pet Therapy Perks”. This program includes a preferred parking spot designated with a sign reserved for the Pet Therapy team, monthly pet store gift card for 10+ hours served, “Phinley in the house” frame to place in units when visiting, mentoring program, hospital guide. All TriHealth facilities are looking for more volunteers (Good Sam, Arrow Springs, Bethesda North, Bethesda Butler, McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital in Oxford, Western Ridge, Evendale). If interested, contact me.





## *A Letter from our President (continued)*

Mercy West is also interested in growing their program. We were able to offer a visit to staff this month to generate some enthusiasm and are working with the volunteer coordinator to schedule an information session. If we get a lot of interest, we may be able to offer an evaluation at their location.

### Committee Updates

1. Bylaws – we have a small team working to update our by-laws. The by-laws were last updated in 2015 and as you all know, we have made several changes in the way we operate, including our name change. We will be sharing these changes with the membership in the near future before we ask for a vote to approve.
2. Membership – after many, many years of dedicated effort (and lots and lots of files), Betty McCord has decided to retire from her role as Membership Chair. Kathryn Louis has graciously agreed to take over this role and has some big shoes to fill. Betty will continue to be a member and to offer her knowledge and experience.
3. Pillows – Arlene Martin and Linda Hartman (a talented new member) are hard at work creating pillows in new colors and with our new logo to honor those pet partners who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge in 2019, 2020 and 2021 (we have had a lot of losses).
4. Mentoring – Heather Hauser continues to manage our mentoring program. We are in need of more people willing to mentor at various facilities. Please contact Heather ([heather.hauser@tpgcpets.org](mailto:heather.hauser@tpgcpets.org)) if you are open to offering to help.
5. Marketing – Due to generous donations, Sam Gingrich has designed a new flyer for us to use in our recruiting efforts. We have also been able to order portable banners to put up outside events, new membership cards and stationery.
6. Newsletter – As mentioned above, Sharon Newman has taken over the job of pulling together our quarterly newsletter. If you have articles or pictures you would like to see published, send them to Sharon at [Sharon.Newman5@gmail.com](mailto:Sharon.Newman5@gmail.com).





## *A Letter from our President (continued)*

### Other Items of Interest

1. Shirt and Vest replacement – we have fulfilled our first set of orders for new vests/scarves as well as shirts for all members who were active as of July 1, 2021. For those who have not placed an order yet, please contact me for vests/scarves ([susan.steinhardt@tpgcpets.org](mailto:susan.steinhardt@tpgcpets.org)) or Barb Haintl ([bhaintl@me.com](mailto:bhaintl@me.com)) for shirts.

Recall, vest and shirt replacement were offered to all active members when we voted to change our name to Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati.

2. Magnified Giving – We received 3 \$1000 grants from the Magnified Giving Program during the 2020/21 school year. Magnified Giving is a program designed to teach kids 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up about philanthropy. We were contacted by 7 different schools, followed by many, many Zoom meetings. St. Michaels in Sharonville, Wyoming Middle School and Lakota West Freshman all selected Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati for their awards.





**Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati  
Treasurer's Report for April 2021 thru August 2021**

	<b>Apr - Jun</b>	<b>Jul - Aug</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	\$24,208.88	\$26,626.23	\$24,208.88
Income	\$2,649.60	\$1,390.00	\$4,039.60
Expenses	<u>-\$232.25</u>	<u>-\$3,565.37</u>	<u>-\$3,797.62</u>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$26,626.23</b>	<b>\$24,450.86</b>	<b>\$24,450.86</b>

**INCOME (Deposits)**

Description	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Workshops	\$270.00	\$120.00	\$390.00
Evaluation fees	\$100.00	\$120.00	\$220.00
Dues	\$60.00	\$150.00	\$210.00
Donations	<u>\$2,219.60</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$3,219.60</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME (Deposits):</b>	<b>\$2,649.60</b>	<b>\$1,390.00</b>	<b>\$4,039.60</b>

**EXPENSES (Checks Written or Credit Card Charges)**

Description	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General expenses & supplies	\$203.25		\$203.25
Evaluation expenses		\$130.08	\$130.08
Workshop expenses		\$1,479.30	\$1,479.30
Shirts	<u>\$29.00</u>	<u>\$1,955.99</u>	<u>\$1,984.99</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES (Checks Written or CC):</b>	<b>\$232.25</b>	<b>\$3,565.37</b>	<b>\$3,797.62</b>





## Pet Partners

### COVID-19 Policies and Resources



#### COVID-19 Vaccination Policy and Mask Guidance

Pet Partners' mission is to improve human health and well-being through the human-animal bond. As part of our mission, concern for client safety and the safety of our volunteers is paramount.

In response to the high degree of transmission of the Delta variant of COVID-19, at this time we are requiring those participating in Pet Partners in-person activities to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and to follow the masking guidance of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and applicable local public health guidance.

For the purposes of this policy and consistent with CDC guidance, "fully vaccinated" means that at least two weeks have elapsed since the individual received the full course of the COVID-19 dose(s) for the vaccine type the individual was administered.

While this policy is in effect, no registered or prospective volunteer who is not fully vaccinated may participate in an in-person Pet Partners therapy animal visit, Pet Partners team evaluation, or Pet Partners instructor-led workshop.

We understand there are many reasons why some cannot be or have chosen not to be vaccinated. If you will not be fully vaccinated before your next scheduled in-person Pet Partners activity, we kindly ask you to cancel any upcoming visits or events. Unvaccinated handlers are encouraged to continue participating in virtual visits. We look forward to having you resume in-person therapy animal program activities as soon as your vaccination is complete or once the public health situation changes.

If you do not plan to become vaccinated, we want to thank you for everything you do as a Pet Partners volunteer, and we look forward to having you resume in-person therapy animal program activities once the public health situation changes.

This policy remains in effect until formally rescinded by Pet Partners.

Visit <https://petpartners.org/resource/covid-19-safety-guidelines/> for more info.



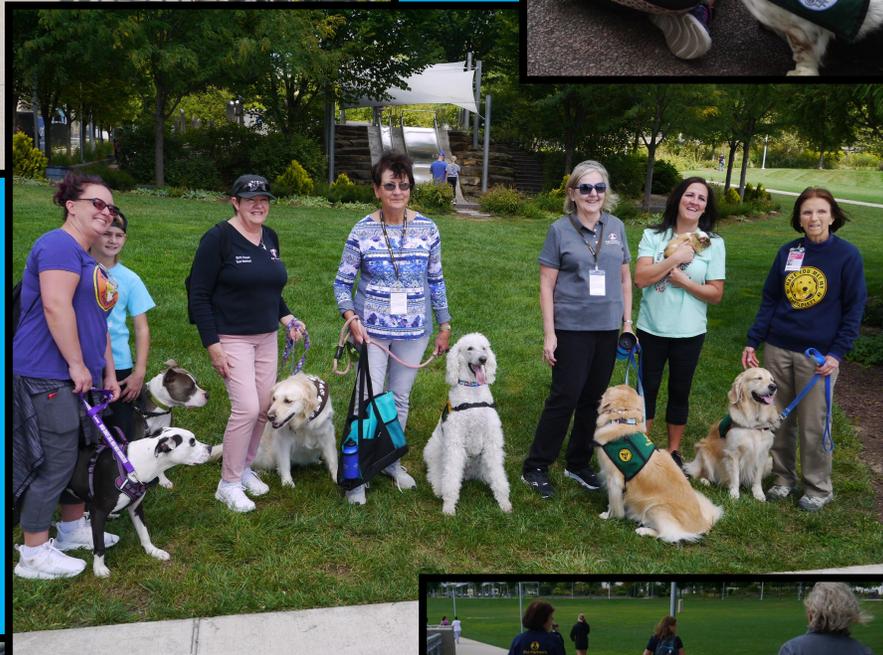
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# World's Largest Pet Walk 2021





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**Phinley** and I are new team members. I am a retired nurse and wanted to be able to give back to the same place that has given so much to me. Pet therapy has always intrigued me, and I always thought, that's going to me some day. Phinley is a year and a half and gets so much enjoyment of pleasing others, not to mention, he loves all the attention he receives. We are excited to be apart of Pet Partners and looking forward to the many experiences that are available to us.

~ **Robbyn & Phinley**



**Troi** at St. Elizabeth Hospital's Laboratory Week in April 2021. Troi and I, along with other pet partner teams visited with the staff of several St. E labs during April's lab week celebration.

~ **Terri Ralenkotter**

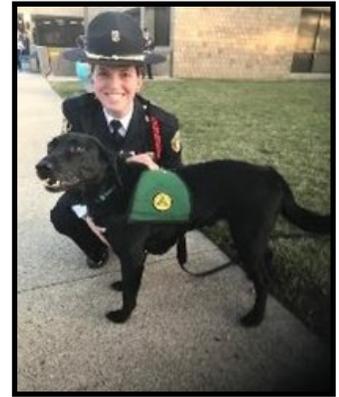




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**Larry Bennett and Frye** visited the City of Cincinnati Communications (911) center.

They are also working on the Pet Therapy Response Team for emergency responders and their mental health, activated by calls to Hamilton County Communications. If you would like to join the team, or for more info, contact Larry Bennett, Response Team Coordinator, [lawrence.bennett@uc.edu](mailto:lawrence.bennett@uc.edu)



#### 911 Centers:

- Hamilton County Communications
- City of Cincinnati Communications
- Warren County Communications (starting 10/20/2021)

#### Hospitals:

- Bethesda North Hospital / Emergency Department
- The Christ Hospital / Emergency Department
- Jewish Kenwood Hospital / Emergency Department (on hold COVID)
- Mercy West Hospital / Emergency Department (on hold COVID)

#### Other:

- Springdale PD (3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. month)
- Springdale FD (3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. month)
- Center For Addiction Treatment (1<sup>st</sup> Sun. month)
- SW Ohio CISM / Tri-State Peer Support / Pet Partners Call Ups

#### LEGAL COUNSEL (Pro Bono) - Attorney-Client Privileged Conversations

- Tri-State Peer Support Team
- SW Ohio Critical Incident Stress Management





Two Pet Partner Teams recently completed requirements to visit Hospice of Cincinnati:

***Nancy Mulvey with Minnie*** (Boston Terrier)

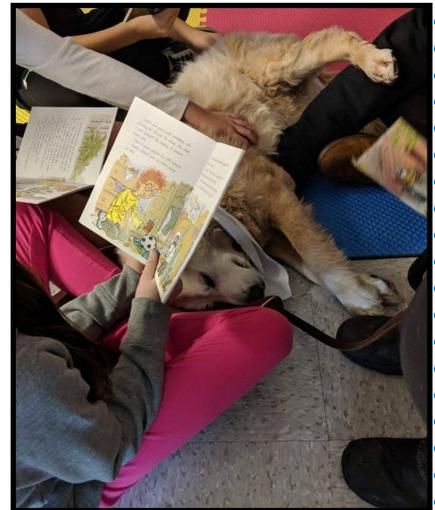


***Susan Hirth with Porter*** (Bernedoodle). Ellen Scully of PPGC as their Mentor.





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- **Izzy**, a senior GRRAND Golden Retriever rescue, was adopted by me in January of 2019. She loves ALL people and I saw that she had thus far missed her calling as a therapy dog! She tested in July and has been visiting with hospice patients, special needs high school students, and now with reading intervention kids at JF Burns Elementary school! She loves her work!

- At Kings High School....Izzy visited with a non verbal young lady who was being a bit rough, but not so rough that I needed to intervene. The girl had a full time aide, but Izzy placed both her front paws over the girls legs (deep pressure) naturally, and the girl calmed down. I was in awe of Izzy's innate knowledge of what she should do. As an 11 yr old rescue, this dog is doing what she was born to do. I am blessed as she is blessing others.

Jamie



*It is with sadness that we report Izzy's passing over the Rainbow Bridge since this submission.*





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Hi my name is **Caitlyn Visscher**. I am a nurse, currently working at The Christ Hospital as a Care Manager in our Primary Provider office. Prior to my current job, I was a Critical Care nurse for about 10 years prior to my current job and I remember how amazing it was when the hospital therapy dogs would come around to see patients. Not only what they did for the patients but also what they did for the staff,

giving hope, joy, love, and the feeling that I can make a difference in my patient's lives even on the toughest days. I remember thinking, if I ever had a dog that, I would want to do that for others.

**Millie**, is a 5 year old Beagle Mix. (Turning 6 in Jan.) Her Got You Day was in February 10, 2018. We started working as a therapy team in Dec. 2018.

**Caitlyn Visscher, BSN, RN**  
**The Christ Hospital**  
**Case Management, CPC+**





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I am **Teri Wellbrock**: trauma-warrior, host of The Healing Place Podcast (now downloaded in 44 countries around our beautiful world), speaker, blogger, children's book author of *The Doodle with the Noodle*, founder of *Sammie's Bundles of Hope*, business owner of *InvizaShield*, and therapy-dog handler. And my sweet Labradoodle, **Sammie**, is a volunteer at Terrace Park Elementary school each week along with being the star of her own



Facebook and Instagram pages and her website [www.sammiedoodle.com](http://www.sammiedoodle.com). Sammie is truly the sweetest soul I know. She is drawn to children, particularly those who are struggling with anxiety or grief. She has a gentle spirit that longs to comfort others. We have been a therapy pet team since 2017 and LOVE bringing joy to those needing it most 

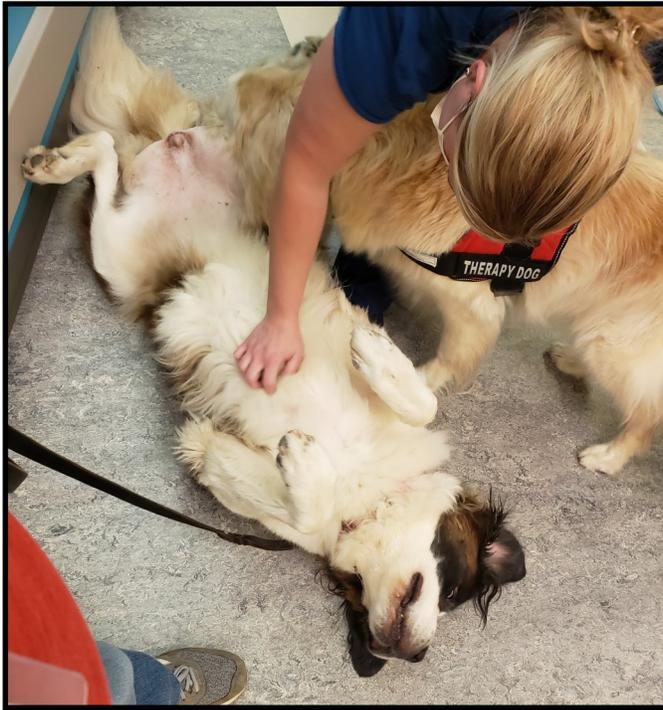


Peace,  
Teri





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Aside from making a boyfriend at a visit to Mercy West hospital (as you see here)

**Lola** really made a lot of people's day. But, there was one person she was not able to visit.

We were in the cardiovascular area. Just walking down the hallway and Lola stopped in front of a room. And tried to pull me in with all her 125 pounds. A nurse that was visiting us for the therapy dogs said to Lola, you

can't go in there, they are not doing well.

On a typical visit Lola diligently goes from person to person. Once Lola found this room. Nothing else mattered. She did as I asked her and visited everyone but as soon as she'd said hi to everyone she wanted to go back to this room. Lola continued to pull me as hard as she could to try and get in that room. I finally peeked in... the patient was hooked up to many machines. I told Lola she was bound to knock one down and we could not risk that. Instead we pray for them, there's nothing else we could do.

Lola knew who needed her most. Her intuition amazes me. This is why she is an amazing therapy dog and a good girl.

**~Angela Payne**

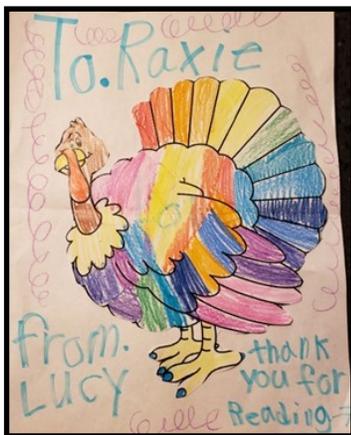




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**Roxie** has been my pet since 8 weeks of age, and a therapy dog since she was 1 year old. Over the years she and I have visited many different sites. Now, at the age of 10, she is still enthusiastically making visits to various places. Her favorite is going to the second grade classes at St. Veronica Catholic School. Our visits there have been curtailed due to Covid-19, but before its onset we went there once a month. We sat on the floor on top of our “reading blanket” and the students sat with us, one at a time, and read stories to her.



We visited St. Veronica for three years and hope to continue again next year. Roxie is quite well known there, almost with celebrity-like status. As we walk through the halls we always pass children who excitedly call out “Roxie!” and say hello to her. She is also often presented with hand drawn pictures and letters from the children when we complete a session. In early November, knowing that Thanksgiving would arrive before our next visit, several children gave her drawings of turkeys with personal messages.

At the end of each school year they all give us personal thank you notes and pictures. Roxie keeps them in her own box of mementos.

~ **Sharon Newman**



Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

# Working or Playing – Therapy dogs know which is which!



maplevalleybranch • Follow

maplevalleybranch It's a happy day because Kivrin the reading dog is here visiting us at the branch!

4h



4 likes  
4 HOURS AGO

Log in to like or comment.

Pet Therapy can't be all work and no play. Kivrin is always serious when visiting, but she does know how to play when it is over!

**Mark Smyers and Kivrin**





**Terri Ralenkotter** was honored with the 2019 AKC Good Sportsmanship Award from the Basset Hound Club of America during their National Specialty held in October.

Terri has been a member of the BHCA since 2001 and has served in many capacities over the years including editing the club magazine.

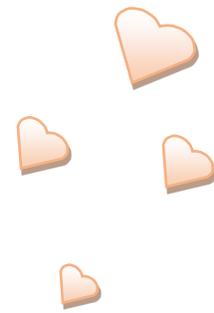
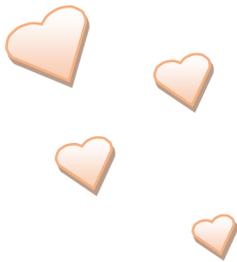
Terri's Basset Hounds have titled in conformation, obedience, tracking, rally, scent work, agility, therapy work, lure coursing and the hunting performance test, all owner-handled. For over 20 years, she and her Bassets have served as therapy dog volunteers at Shriners Hospital, St. Elizabeth Hospital, nursing homes, schools and libraries.

"I am honored to receive this award," said Terri. "It is really thanks to the breeders who entrusted me with my Basset Hounds: David Bee, Ellen Ferguson, Gene McDonald, and Eric and Kelly Weaver. They enabled me to go on this exciting and rewarding journey."





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### **Kena, therapy dog and beloved golden**

Kena was pulled from Campbell County Shelter, Kentucky in 2012 by Circle Tail, and estimated to be about 4 years old. She was enrolled in the service dog training program and was trained in basic obedience by prison inmates, but was released from the program due to lack of focus. After my golden retriever, Rookie, died I was looking for another dog and Marlys introduced me to Kena. She was a beautiful amber color, had silky soft fur, and the prettiest eyes I've ever seen! I fell in love with her and adopted her that day!

Kena was an exuberant dog and sometimes it was hard to curb her enthusiasm, but she loved life! She loved to play fetch in the yard, loved her walks, and always had a toy in her mouth, whether greeting someone at the door or falling asleep. She got along great with my Cairn mix, Bathilda, and they became great friends. She was good with all dogs and was a rock with children. This led me to getting her certified as a therapy dog with Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati in 2013. She was an awesome therapy dog and brought joy to so many people, especially children, whom she loved!

Kena was a kind, gentle, loving soul and made the world a better place through her presence. I will miss reaching down and feeling her golden head, as she was always by my side. There is a line from a Van Morrison song that says, "fill my heart with gladness, take away my sadness, ease my troubles that's what you do" which is exactly what Kena did for me and many other people. I am grateful that she was part of my life and I was part of hers. Such unconditional love is something to be treasured. While my heart is breaking for her loss, she will be in my heart always. Rest peacefully, Kena, and I hope that one day we will be together again.

Passed December 19, 2019, Age 11.





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## Behavior and Training Department Tips and Techniques



Another strange myth that has popped up lately is one that dogs are always trying to dominate each other. If dogs know each other – even for a few minutes – they may attempt to figure out who's stronger and smarter. However, body slamming (running into another dog) and mounting (self explanatory!) are actions of adolescent dogs and are usually just plain rude! The dogs are experimenting with their power; they're not actually trying to figure out who is boss.

Dominating behavior actually requires some sort of incipient or established relationship. Imagine yourself at a cocktail party, where there are a variety of people you don't know. Some will be more forceful than others, and some could actually be rude. Their actions, however, don't mean that they're establishing a relationship. That's just their way of communicating, crass as that may be. However, in a more formal relationship, such as a family, or work group, someone usually is the acknowledged leader. And that "boss" may NOT be the boss in another situation.

Until social maturity, we recommend that you socialize your dog to other dogs, but very carefully. One traumatic experience can shape his attitude towards other dogs forever. If he's being bullied at a dog park, you should leave immediately. If he begins to BE a bully, jumping on top of other dogs, or chasing them, he should only play with dogs who can handle that. If you think your dog is uncomfortable, frightened or acting inappropriately, you should take action. Think of yourself as a parent rather than an on-looker, and manage the environment as much as you can.

### Socialization at Dog-Training Classes

During puppy classes, we encourage socialization, with a great deal of owner interaction. This is because the class is primarily to help your dog bond to you, and for you to develop communication skills with your puppy. Puppy classes are not really playgroups, though compatible puppies can develop great relationships with each other. As the pups are playing, we as "parents" should be watching and intervening if necessary. Puppies who hide under chairs or behind their owners legs are not happy, and shouldn't be forced to play. Pups that crash into other puppies have to be calmed down fairly often to avoid over-excitement.

Classes for adolescent and adult dogs tend to have little or no canine socialization time. As dogs get older, dog play and socialization can be very tricky to organize – as we indicated, some of the dogs in class are not interested in other dogs, and their feelings should be respected. In addition, classes are aimed at having your dog obey and respect *you*. In real life, you should be able to control whether your dog meets and plays with another dog. In many classes, we actually teach ways to get past other dogs without socializing!

Of course, we encourage you to make friends with other people in class and their dogs, and to set aside time for socialization.

Trish King





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

Board President	Susan Steinhardt
Board Vice President	Marilyn Edwards
Board Secretary	Karin Dyke
Board Treasurer	Barb Haintl
Trustees	Sam Gringrich
	Heather Hauser
	Karen Howell
Founder	Glenna Mockbee

### Editor's Note

This Fall 2021 edition is the first one that I have had the pleasure of creating. Most of the items featured were submitted for inclusion in our newsletter prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. They have not been published yet but are all so noteworthy we just had to include them now.

I hope you enjoy this edition and the new format. I look forward to sharing more news and your stories in the quarters to come. Have a wonderful holiday season.

~Sharon Newman



For Upcoming Events Visit our website: <https://www.tpgcpets.org/>

