



Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati

The Pet Connection



WINTER 2017

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Electronics: Doug Grau

Photo Album: McKenzie Grau

Luncheon: Robin Daniels, Joy Fotsch, Glenda Flaughter

Message from our Director

Hello everyone,

Lot's of things happening this year. In May, we are having a Practicum. Karen Spradlin and Anita Burdosky-Mays offered to help me. I will need a few dog Teams to help, and a few more extra hands, depending how many people are coming to the Practicum to become Evaluators. This will take place May 20th and 21st. The Luncheon is coming up in May as well as the election of Officers to the Board. This year we will have Vice President, Sec. and Trustee. I am also planning on having a work shop for our members, most of you do not know the new rules and up date on material of Pet Partner, so I am going to start working on that. Purchasing a Manual is a good idea it has a lot of material in it, they are \$20.00. We have had members talking about Pet Partners on TV and Radio, hope I don't miss anyone, Karen Spradlin, Tracy Kinney, Amy Hudoba, Sue Stumple and Glenna Mockbee. Also we have gotten new facilities. The High Schools have been unreal with the dogs for Exams. Chris Dauenhauer got two new High Schools for Exams, St X and Ursuline.. A big Thank You to Betsy Beck and Jake for starting Princeton Middle School. Jake has to retire from the school because of health, but they did get replacement. Thank you Betsy and Jake. Also Tom Ogg at Christ Hospital for making great pamphlets for our up coming work shop. Also planning a work shop at Christ Hospital. Now for a Great Honor for one of our Junior Handlers, this is the first time a Junior Handler has been Honored, Peter Dauenhauer,, I told his mother to contact Pet Partners about this young man, wait tell you read about this story, everyone was in tears over what he is doing. Like I say, the young people are the future of Pet Partners. Just think of all the Pet Partner Teams, Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati has the first Junior Handler Honored. I Thank each and every one of you for all your hard work for making TPGC what it is today. THANK YOU

~Glenna

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb - April- Tuesdays

Pages N' Paws- 5:30- 6:30 pm

6050 Mason- Montgomery Road
Community Center

Kids will read to the dogs

Contact: [Glenna Mockbee](#)

Thursday, February 23rd 2017

University of Cincinnati visit
12:00pm to 1:00pm University of
Cincinnati Campus Recreation
Center

Contact: [Lisa Ackels](#)

Feb 26th -Pet Partner Testing

9:30-3:00 Bethesda North Hospital
Must have done a PP Work
Shop or a long Line Course

Contact: [Glenna Mockbee](#)

March 10, 2017—Science Day

Loveland Intermediate

8:50 AM- 1:15p.m

757 S. Lebanon Rd, Loveland,
Ohio 45140

Contact: [Glenna Mockbee](#)

March 12,2017

Pet Partner Work Shop

9:30am-4:00pm Bethesda North
Hospital must register in advance.

Contact: [Glenna Mockbee](#)

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, WHITNEY!



October 12, 2016 one of TPGC's newest Pages 'N' Paws READ dogs was honored at the North Adams County Library. Nancy Orth, handler, and Whitney, who just turned 5, were pleasantly surprised when Julia McCane-Knox, Library Clerk/Programmer, held a wonderful birthday celebration in Whitney's honor. Whitney, a blind Golden Retriever, has been the sole therapy dog doling out love and kindness to all the children who read to her. Whitney was a "puppy mill" mama and was never let out of her cage. She lost hair, in patches, all over her body due to urine scalding. Her living conditions were so horrible that she developed an awful parasite that caused her to lose her two puppies and also caused her blindness. Thrown out and abandoned a Golden Retriever rescue took Whitney in. While with the GRR she became a prison dog but her blindness wouldn't allow her to adjust to the noise and commotion of the prison. Along came Nancy Orth who fell in love with Whitney. Nancy became Whitney's foster mom but just couldn't give her up. She adopted Whitney and the two of them started training, and working hard to learn what it meant to be an animal-assisted activities team. After taking the Pet Partners therapy test, Whitney and Nancy became TPGC members and a Pet Partners therapy team. We are so proud of them. Whitney warms hearts wherever she goes.



In June of 2016, Prince and I were presented the opportunity to begin visiting the Midpoint Library in Middletown, OH, once a month, as a READ team. Prince listens to a story that each child personally chooses. The following letter was sent to the Midpoint Library by a parent praising what Prince did for her little boy. The parent has given her permission for me to post it.

To whom it may concern:

I would like to share some information with you regarding the community service of Jaden Bennett, a 2nd grade student at St. John XX111 Catholic Elementary School.

Three years ago I was diagnosed with Epilepsy after having a seizure due to a brain tumor, which has been removed. As part of the Accelerated Reading (AR) Program at St. John XX111, students are encouraged to read a variety of books to expand and build up their reading vocabulary and comprehension. Jaden worked really hard on his AR that he finished at 22 points with a goal of 7.5 points! One of the books he read was "Puppy Place (Daisy)" which narrates a story about a young boy who was picked on by other kids although no-one knew he had Epilepsy until he has a seizure and receives a "Therapy Dog".

This book was very personal to Jaden considering what has happened to me, his mother. By visiting the Midpoint Library (Middletown Branch) several times a week, we picked up a Calendar of Events, which offers once a month, "Children reading to Therapy Dogs".

On Monday 11/28 after returning from a long week off from school, Jaden goes to the Midpoint Library (Middletown Branch) and reads to PRINCE, a Therapy Dog of Greater Handler, who is amazed of Jaden's reading level as he reads to PRINCE, "Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets." She too laughed at the vocabulary words narrated by author, Dav Pilkey.

PRINCE is a certified Therapy Dog who interacts well with children, adults, and people who are in need of any assistance. This dog has met all the criteria and training needed to assist anyone regardless of their needs.

Thank you Midpoint Library for having such learning and development services for children of all ages!

Sincerely,

*The Jaden Bennett Family
Madolyn Jones-Bennett
Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated
1000 Coca-Cola Blvd.
Huber Heights, OH 45424
(937) 546-3741*

Since I retired therapy work was at the top of my bucket list. I have been blessed with this amazing dog who brings joy and laughter to everyone he meets.

Anita Burtosky-Mays



Dogs, the Christmas spirit and Tracy of Batavia, Ohio – an “Ordinary Hero”

Look out, St. Francis: we’ve got a new contender for the “patron saint of animals!”

For a very special holiday episode of Dog Talk I interviewed Tracy, a listener from Batavia, Ohio. Her story exemplifies the very best of the holiday spirit and good cheer.



Merry Pack of Bullies and Others

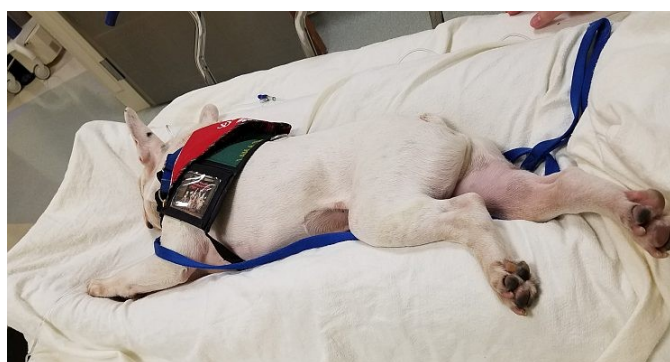
For years, Tracy has been sending me her annual online Christmas card, featuring her huge, adorable, rag-tag pack of rescued dogs (whom she refers to as her “scratch and dents!”). This [video](#) of how she managed to line them all up for the Christmas photograph this year will make your day.

Tracy has helped hundreds of rescued pooches, taking many into her home and training some for therapy work. At one point, she had 22 shelter dogs, some retired breeders rescued from mills.

“People think I’m crazy,” says Tracy. “But when they see how much love, training and attention I give to all my dogs, they realize it’s a good kind of crazy.”

Her pack is now 12 strong, with six of them serving as certified therapy dogs through her affiliation with [Pet Partners](#), a national organization for therapy animals and their handlers and she volunteers with [Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati](#). She takes one or two dogs with her to work — which is cleaning fish tanks in offices, nursing homes and in homes in the Cincinnati area.

I was devastated to find out that this holiday Tracy is undergoing treatment for cancer, first chemo, then radiation, followed by surgery, but she hasn’t lost her enthusiasm and optimism. One of her therapy dogs, Squish (a deaf French bulldog) accompanies her to the appointments and treatments.



Squish on Tracy’s bed in the post-op recovery area after she had a port surgically implanted



Here’s Squish with Tracy a day later in the chemo chair. You can see just how powerful a bond they share. Facing such great challenges, Tracy shows exemplary courage and tenacity. “I have the same outlook I’ve always had,” she says. “I take one day at a time, and live in the moment. I think I have a dog brain!”

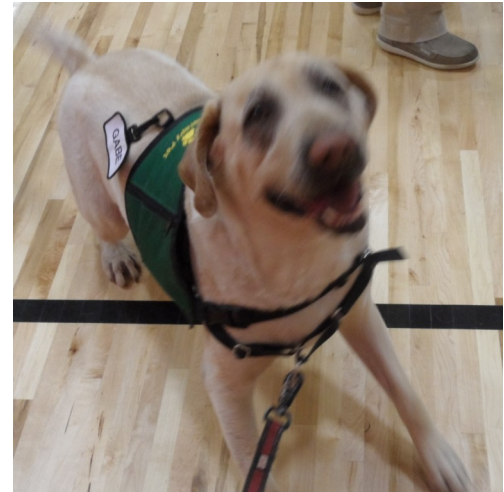
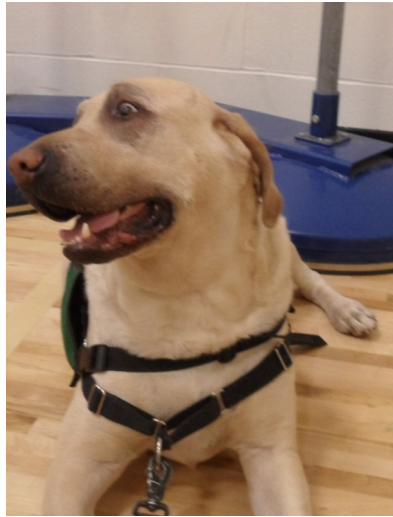
My heart goes out to Tracy and her pack. I’m glad they have each other, along with her devoted husband and a few friends ready to pitch in if needed. She’s often in my thoughts, as I wish her a full and fast recovery so she can go back to having her dogs help others in need as they are now doing for her.

—Tracie Hotchner

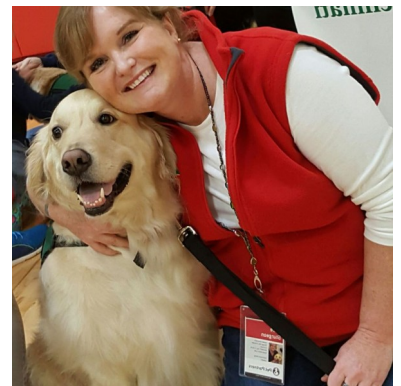
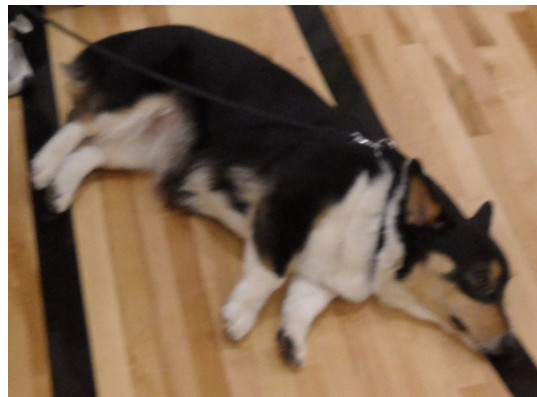
Boyd E Smith Elementary School Science Fair



Alice and her gorgeous boy, Luke!



Gabe's first event after chemo! What fun!



Our fearless leader, Glenna Mockbee, with a lapful of corgi at the Boyd E Smith Elementary School!



CONGRATULATIONS GLENNA!



Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati, founded by [Glenna Mockbee](#), was recognized at a Bengals game for the community volunteer work provided by over 175 therapy teams in Cincinnati, N. Kentucky and Indiana area. With the dedication of the volunteers, unconditional love is being spread to folks of all ages in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, college stress relief, and countless other special requests.

Such a special honor for an incredible group of people!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 26, 2017

Pet Partner Testing

9:30-3:00 Bethesda North
Must have done a PP Work
Shop or a long Line Course
Contact: [Glenna Mockbee](#)

Thursday, March 30th 2017

University of Cincinnati visit
12:00pm to 1:00pm University
of Cincinnati Campus Recrea-
tion Center
Contact: [Lisa Ackels](#)

Thursday, April 27th 2017

University of Cincinnati visit
12:00pm to 1:00pm University
of Cincinnati Campus Recrea-
tion Center
Contact: [Lisa Ackels](#)

Thursday, May 25th 2017

University of Cincinnati visit
12:00pm to 1:00pm
University of Cincinnati Cam-
pus Recreation Center
Contact: [Lisa Ackels](#)



A Tribute to Lexi

For the love of Lexi, my pet partner, whose goal in life was to make a difference, one paw at a time, with the help of Angel's Paws/Angel's Watch (animal Hospice) she has crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Today I said goodbye with tears streaming down my face and an agonizing ache in my heart. I held her paw for the last time. I kissed her sweet senior face as I cradled her head as she laid under the Xmas tree decorated with her stuffed animals. It was ever so hard to watch you decline yet I knew you were still feeling my love and came to realize my love was not leaving you, you were taking it with you, and I was receiving all you had left to give. My tears were simply the river running beneath the Rainbow Bridge as you crossed. Lexi was rescued from euthanasia by Volunteers For Animal Welfare when she came to me as "Precious" and went on to become an award winning therapy dog. She had an incredible passion to spread her unconditional love, especially for children thru Lexi Pet Therapy Reading Program at Madeira Elementary School. Students who read to her in first grade went on to graduate with fond memories of Lexi Days. Those students and all who read/met Lexi experienced greatness with the human-animal bond. As we pulled into the parking lot her tail would wag and she would make a bee-line for the front door on a mission for belly rubs. Once inside school she just didn't want to leave. Lexi always walked the halls carrying her beloved stuffed animal of the day.

For 12 years she attended school and was honored with the highest Board of Education's "I Make A Difference" award and a memorial paw print stone in the Butterfly Garden she so loved (thank you Tess). Students read their books as Lexi absorbed the words, the hugs and the kisses. She was nominated for National Hero Dog award, but in the eyes of students who made her hundreds of cards she was always their hero every week.

A Tribute to Lexi cont'd

Recognized from the White House, Governor, USA Weekend, Pet Partners, Mayor, Board of Education, TPGC, Hospitals, nursing homes, Hospice and other great organizations was well earned. We took one last ride fulfilling our bucket list with trips to her favorite parks in Madeira and Indian Hill, as well as the Madeira library and all the schools. Then we went on to goodbye visits to Mrs. Wilson, Paula, Rachael, Ginger, Nancy, Jean, and Mt. Lookout Animal Hospital, DMV Dr. Katie and a special visit from DVM Dr. Morrison. Our final stops included our beloved cabin, the doggie beach, military vets, Madeira Firehouse, Madeira Police, Madeira Kroger and Performance Kings Honda (where her picture hangs in the lobby) with our final stop to visit with her furry doggie buddies Misty and Fella.

Lexi loved stuffed animals, but she chewed the eyes out so we saved them in a jar for students to guess the number each year. We ended with 916. As Lexi's four paws reached out to change the world with her heart and to create forever doggie memories, we created Lexi's Legacy. Each Monday a stuffed animal is gifted to a child at MES for a reading buddy. If you visit the Madeira library you can put your name in Lexi's jar to win a stuffed animal each month. If you take your injured or sick pet to Care Center on Kemper Road you can pick a stuffed animal to love, hold and take home while you await the fate of your own pet.

If Lexi has at anytime touched your heart, the heart of your child or loved one, please consider a donation of a stuffed animal to Lexi's Legacy or make a donation to Angel's Watch (animal Hospice) or Volunteers For Animal Welfare c/o Sami Smith, 7124 Wallace Avenue, Madeira OH 45243. Donations are tax deductible. This is not the last chapter of Lexi's life. On behalf of Lexi's therapy work and her unconditional love for all she met I ask you for the love of Lexi, please honor her legacy so she can continue making a difference. Please visit a shelter/rescue and give a pet a second chance and a loving forever home. Greatness awaits you with four paws.

Sami Smith/Lexi Pet Therapy

KROGER REWARDS PROGRAM

TPGC is partnering with Kroger Community Rewards to raise funds for our organization. All you have to do is register your Kroger Plus card and keep shopping at Kroger! With very little effort and no personal cost, we can make a big difference for our organization. Sign up today!

As of 12/01/16, our participation in the program has dropped tremendously. It doesn't cost you anything and only takes a couple minutes to enroll. Once you are enrolled, you'll earn rewards for TPGC every time you shop and use your Plus Card!

Follow the below steps to register your card:

1. Register your card online at krogercommunityrewards.com (be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register with Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati after you sign up).
2. Scroll down to the state you reside. Click on Enroll Now. Click on Sign In/Register. If you are a new online customer, you must click on Create an Account. Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions.
3. An email will be sent for your confirmation. Enter your Kroger Plus Card number or alternate ID (phone number) and your last name.
4. Enter Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati from the list and enroll. To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see TPGC name on the right side of your Account Summary.

Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus Card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus Card when shopping for each purchase to count towards the Community Rewards.

*** If you do not have a Kroger Plus Card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger store

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION! LET'S GO KROGERING!

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI



From left to right: Susie Kavanaugh & Keg, Lisa Ackels & Henry, Jake (w/o Betsy Beck), Ariella Bachrach & Bella, Ann Sullivan & Walter

We have been going to various locations at UC for quite awhile, Med School, Law School, Dorms, and this event is usually during exam week and a favorite for Handlers, dogs, students and staff, Relaxation Station! We are now going to UC in the Recreation Center the last Thursday of the month from 12-1, this month it will be on the 26th. The students are super happy to see the dogs, since many have pets at home and of course they can't on campus. Exam week is especially stressful, so they love the comfort the dogs give. We have all had so many positive experiences at these events. Once there was a freshman from Africa who had never pet a dog. Her friends talked her into petting My dog Henry, and she spent the rest of the event petting every dog & learning about them! This is a great event to meet other handlers and an easy event to interact with the students and staff. Many times I've met up with people and we go down together, since it maybe overwhelming to find your way around campus. If you're interested or have questions, it is the last Thursday of the next 4 months, please contact me at lisaackels@gmail.com.

The Difference We Make...

Lexi's Legacy

When Lexi retired from our reading program at school in May we started Lexi's Legacy. Each Monday I donate a stuffed animal to the school and the principal and teachers pick a child who is in need of a "reading buddy"...a child shy or with low self esteem or having a hard time in school.....each month I donate a stuffed animal to Madeira Library that sits on a shelf with Lexi's picture. Each time you come to the library you put your name in Lexi's jar and they pick a winner at the end of the month. I continually keep a basket of stuffed animals in a basket at the ER Care Center on Kemper Road. If you bring your sick or injured pet to the ER you can pick a stuffed animal out of the basket for free to take home and hold, love, and have something to help you while awaiting the fate of your own animal.....and if your pet goes home you are free to give the stuffed animal to the pet if you want.

Each stuffed animal has one of Lexi's Pet Partners cards on it along with a note that it is from Lexi's Legacy compliments of therapy dog Lexi.....it's my way of continuing to make a difference knowing Lexi will help others.....even after crossing the Rainbow Bridge. For past 13 years we had reading program at school we gave out stuffed animals thru various Lexi contest. Children learned to use their creative abilities, learned to write and learned to express feelings by making Lexi cards and letters to win ...we did many contests thru out the year to encourage reading and educationand right before Spring Break each year every child got a stuffed animal to take home and "read a book to since Lexi was not available. Then after Spring Break they brought in a card/story about the book they read. And every "super" contest we had the principal would hold up the huge stuffed animals on the tv monitor in the classrooms so students would have an incentive to enter the contest and the winners were always, all year, announced over the intercom.....it became a tradition for 13 years and the kids always talked about and knew about it each year and looked forward to Lexi's contests and reading/education games.....it was a super way to get students so interested in picking out a book to read to Lexi each week.....I now drop off a stuffed animal each Monday at school....it's gratifying to know that I can return to school without Lexi and continue her reputation for making a difference.

So.....many, many stuffed animals are finding their way to my house for Lexi's Legacy.....yea!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Ursuline Academy



Take 1!



Take 2!



Take 3!



Take 4!

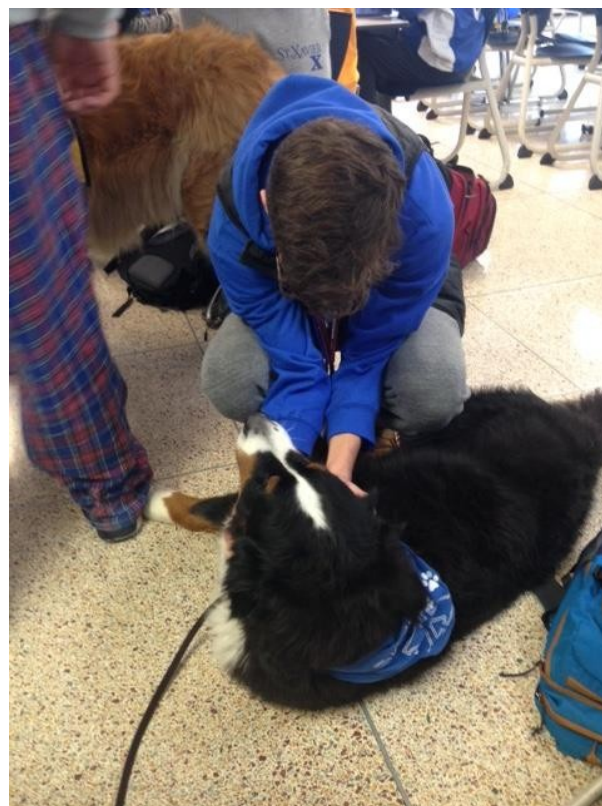
How many attempts does it take to get dogs (and handlers) to get a good picture?

Answer—5!



TPGC members kicked off the New Year in style with an incredible event at Ursuline Academy girls high school. This was our FIRST event at this school, and after several months of planning with the schools National Honor Society team, our De-Stress event for exam week was the grand finale of a week-long set of de-stress activities (e.g. yoga, meditation, etc.). We had what we thought was a HUGE team of 9 dogs, but quickly realized it was exactly what was needed to handle all the excitement and energy from hundreds of stressed out teenage girls! We spent 2 hours managing 'the mobs' of girls who were so excited to love on the dogs. The faculty and staff were equally excited and so appreciative of our work. At one point the organizer said, 'I think we will have a student revolt if we don't make this a regular event!'. It was that good. Thanks to all who participated and we can expect an invite back in the spring!!

[St. Xavier High School](#)



[News Tidbits](#)

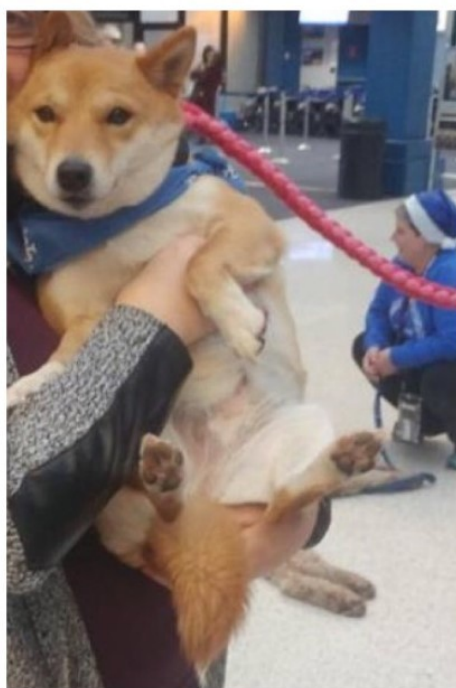
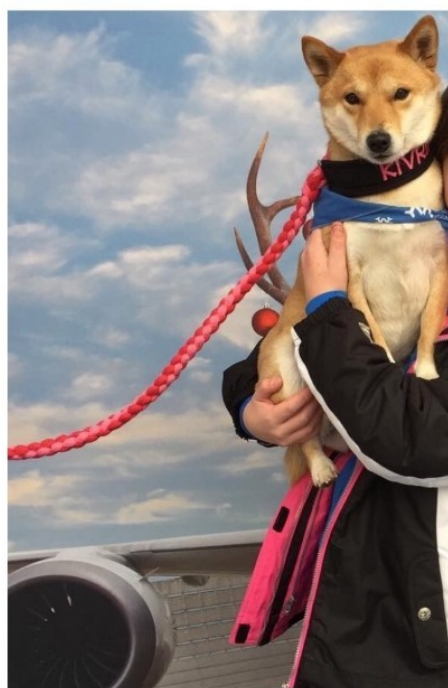
Our sincere condolences to Betty McCord whose husband, Lance, passed away in late January after a long illness.

Deb Newstrand will be retiring on March 31. Congratulations Deb!

Her new email is deborah.newstrand@gmail.com

John Wallace has 2 Extra Large Crates with hardware, no cost. Just pick up at his house. Contact John at jwallace@cinci.rr.com

We are lucky that we may have 3 new evaluators. We are going to need more help in testing, so if you are interested please let [Glenna](#) know



Kivrin was the representative therapy dog for TPGC among many other Pet Partner Groups at the Cleveland Airport over the holidays. For three days, UnitedPaws provided a little stress relief for weary travelers with lots of petting and photos. In addition, United Airlines donated a dollar to Pet Partners for each hash-tagged photo. As was usual, Kivrin had to start out early going and coming to get through to any destination because she is stopped so much along the way to provide therapy and get her handler Mark to answer questions about whether she is a fox or not.

MY GRANDPA

BY: ZACH GRAU

The person who I am most thankful for is my grandpa. My grandpa helps protect me and our country (was in the army not now). He also helps me by puts me on the bus and brings me to my swim practice. Sometimes my grandpa will come in and watch me at swim meets and is their for about 7-8+ hours! He is always their for me when I need to go somewhere or need to do something. He is one of the people who helps me in things.

I am also so grateful by all the things he does things for me like the swim practice because my parents are at work and putting me on the bus and on the way we talk about different kinds of things. I am also grateful for is when he gives me things like my old stuff from when I was about 3-5 years old! Also, he always listens to me when I have interesting things to tell him and when he has interesting things to tell me I listen to what he has to say. Finally, whenever I forget something or forget to do something he helps remind me to do/get something. That is why I am very grateful for my grandpa.

~Glenna's Grandson