



Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati

The Pet Connection

SUMMER 2017

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Electronics: Doug Grau

Photo Album: McKenzie Grau

Luncheon: Robin Daniels, Joy Fotsch, Glenda Flaughner

Message from our Director

Hello Everyone,

As I always say, you guys are the best! When I think there are no more facilities TPGC could add, we get another one! A big thank you to Suzanne Malenfant and Rasha for stepping in and coordinating Mariemont Elementary School. Also thanks to Suzanne and Susan Coates for handling John Parker School.

Many new members are stepping forward—this is great, including Cheryl & Brady for coming to Union Elementary School, Katie & Ranger & Laura Parsley & Libby. It was great to see you.

I am working on having a workshop for existing members that might need an update on changes from Pet Partners. Stay tuned for more details.

A big thank you to Alice for organizing the event at Cabela's to help animals impacted by the storms in Texas. So many people showed up and it was great fun!

We can't forget the board; Susan is doing a great job, she is working very hard and besides being President, her daughter is getting married on Sept. 23.

If there is anything you would like to do, please let me know.

*~Glenna, Executive Director
Founder, TPGC*



UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 28, 2017 9 AM-3PM

Pet Partner testing

Bethesda North Hospital
Must have gone through a work shop, or renewal

Contact: [Glenna](#)

Nov. 4, 2017 9AM-3PM

Pet Partners Workshop

Locust Corner United Meth. Church

Must Register in Advance

Contact: [Karen](#)

Nov. 5 2017 9 AM-3PM

Pet Partners Work shop

Bethesda North Hospital
Must register in advance

Contact: [Glenna](#)

Nov. 19, 2017 9 AM-3PM

Pet Partner testing

Bethesda North Hospital
Must have gone through a work shop, or renewal

Contact: [Glenna](#)

Dec. 3, 2017 9 AM-3PM

Pet Partner testing

Bethesda North Hospital
Must have gone through a work shop, or renewal

Contact: [Glenna](#)

Dec. 3, 2017 9 AM-3PM

Pet Partner testing

Locust Corner United Meth. Church

Must have gone through a work shop, or renewal

Contact: [Karen](#)

GLENNA'S CORNER

1. Are men and boys allowed to test and go on visits wearing shorts?
2. On visiting and testing, can your pet wear a flea collar?
3. What is the leading accident your pet does on a visit that would need medical attention?

FAREWELL MAGGIE!

Memorial: Maggie #24 aka Maggie Moo, The Mags, Moo Moo or just Moo.

Senior GRRAND Rescue with no known birth date – August 7, 2017.

It is with a very heavy heart that I must share that sweet Moo crossed to the Rainbow Bridge. Recently diagnosed with Degenerative Myelopathy, she developed a limp in one of her front paws. Turns out the limp was unrelated to DM. X-ray of her shoulder showed a large tumor in the bone. She could barely walk today, obviously in much pain. Options were surgery (out), chemo and radiation (not for my old girl, not gonna add misery to your last days), much heavier medication for palliative care (but might not work, much more sleepy, no smiling Maggie) or release her from pain, which I did. She is pain free and the pain went right to my broken heart.

Always a happy girl who made people smile just looking at that sweet sugar face!

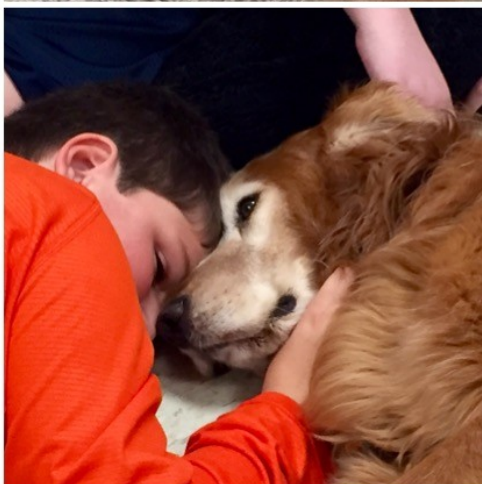
A pup who loved everyone so much that she clearly told me, “I am a therapy dog!” so we got certified as a therapy team with TPGC and Pet Partners. We visited nursing homes, high schools, colleges and read with some awesome kids at JF Burns Elementary School and at our local library. She was rescued from a hoarding situation and joined our family where she was treated like a queen. She loved to roll over into her upward facing dog pose for a belly rub, and I could never ignore that request! She also did this crazy thing when she got excited...rubbing her head on the carpet and wagging her bum around in the air! A dear friend said that dogs live in the moment so to her, time with us was a full and happy life.

Run pain free sweet girl, chase ducks and bunnies, and I don't know if there is gross stuff in heaven, but if there is, roll away!

Always in my heart.

~Jamie Stewart

FAREWELL MAGGIE!



Welcome New Members!



Laura Parsley & Libby

Laura and her Sheltie Libby joined TPGC in April 2017.



Karen Sizemore & Daisy

What a treasure the TPGC mentor program is!

I was able to shadow with Karen Spradlin and her partner, Baxter, at Mercy Hospital Clermont.

I also visited Mercy Hospital Fairfield with my official mentor, Ann Bobonick and her partner, Rose.

The insight gained about protocol and the ideas of ways to communicate with people while visiting was invaluable.

I was totally in awe at Karen, Ann, Baxter, and Rose's ability to comfort, calm, and bring joy to people.

Daisy and I did our first official hospital therapy visit together with Ann and Baxter on Friday September 15.

It's difficult to adequately express the happiness/emotions that came from this work.

Talk about warm-fuzzy feelings!:

One patient was heard praying (as we left the room) thanking God for getting a visit from us.

Another patient broke down in tears as she hugged Daisy telling her "you have no idea how much I needed you today".

Just, WOW!!!

Daisy and I are looking forward to many more visits...



Letter from the President

Hello fellow TPGC Members,

I thought I'd take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new President of the TPGC Board as well as highlight a few items for your review.

I have been a member of TPGC since 2014. Many of you may recognize my name as the Newsletter Editor. My pet partner is Bailey, a golden retriever. We visit Kings High School, Our Lady of Visitation reading program as well as various events in our community. I am married to my husband of 38 years, Mark and have twin daughters, one who got married 2 weeks ago and the other who will be married 6 months from now.

Pet Partners

There seems to be some questions/confusion around TPGC's relationship with Pet Partners. Pet Partners is a national organization that each of us belongs to through our testing and registration process. They are the entity that provides our insurance coverage. TPGC is a local Community Partner of Pet Partners. Membership in TPGC provides access to the many opportunities to visit a multitude of facilities in our area. Glenna Mockbee is the Founder of TPGC as well as the Executive Director. She works with the elected Board of Directors to carry out the aims and purposes of TPGC. We all are required to follow the policies and procedures of Pet Partners as well as the Standing Rules for how we operate as TPGC.

Incident Reporting

There has also been a question about when to report an "incident" and who to report the incident to.

Pet Partners Guidelines State:

You must promptly report certain types of situations both to the facility that you and your animal are visiting and to Pet Partners. The facility might call these situations "unusual incidents" or "unusual occurrences." Pet Partners will investigate and determine a course of action. Note: Pet Partners activities, including visits, might be put on hold until the investigation is completed.

Letter from the President Continued

These situations include the following:

Injury to a person (including you) or an animal

High potential that an injury could have occurred either to a person or an animal, even though no one was hurt at the time

The perception of an injury

The perception of an accident or error

Damage to property

We have recently had 2 incidents in which a client was scratched or poked. Both handlers immediately self-reported to Pet Partners and were back to visiting within 24 hours. Pet Partners will always try to work with a team so that they may continue visiting including remediation training if necessary.

If you have an experience that you are unsure of as to reporting requirements, please contact Glenna or me (513-236-9860) and we will provide you with guidance as to next steps.

The Future

There is a lot of good stuff happening within TPGC.

We are getting more and more requests for visits (the word is out)

We continue to add new members

We have 5 qualified evaluators in our area (Glenna Mockbee, Robin Daniels, Karen Spradlin, Marilyn Edwards and Karen Howell) allowing us to offer more evaluations in multiple locations

Look for our new and updated website in the coming weeks which will include a calendar of all upcoming events including workshops and testings

New opportunities for us to meet and greet each other with "Cake & Coffee" on Nov. 3 from 4-7 PM at Bethesda North

I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming months at our various events.

~Susan Steinhardt

Answers to Glenna's Corner: 1. NO, 2. NO, 3. Jumping on people and scratching them

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to Karen Spradlin and her Labradoodle, Baxter, who have earned the highest Therapy Dog Title awarded by the AKC. The AKC Therapy Dog™ program awards official AKC titles to dog teams who have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the people they have visited and to award the Human-Animal Bond which is expressed through Animal Assisted Activities, Animal Assisted Therapy, or Animal Assisted Education (READ programs). AKC Therapy Dog titles can be earned by dogs that have performed the required number of visits and who are registered/certified by an AKC recognized Therapy Dog Organization.

Baxter has earned these Therapy Titles: THDN, (Therapy Dog Novice) THD, (Therapy Dog) THDA (Therapy Dog Advanced) THDX (Therapy Dog Excellent) and the **final therapy title one can earn THDD (Therapy Dog Distinguished)**. Baxter is registered with Pet Partners® and has made over 400 therapy visits.

Karen Spradlin is grateful to the AKC for allowing “mixed breed” dogs an opportunity to become recognized. Baxter has been a therapy dog since 2013. Karen has been a Pet Partners® Handler since 2009, an Evaluator since 2014, and an Instructor since 2015. She has performed many Therapy Information Sessions, Pet Partners® Workshops, and Evaluations at the Clermont County Dog Training Club and the Locust Corner Church for the benefit of those interested in therapy work. kspradlin@fuse.net

Baxter has visited numerous hospitals, nursing homes, and mental health facilities throughout the Tri-State area. He and Karen are regulars at Batavia Elementary, the Amelia Library, the Forest Hills Care Center, Beckett Springs, and the VA Medical Center. At the VA, they have been assigned to the Suicide Prevention and PTSD floors. Karen instructs the veterans how to obtain a PTSD Assistance/Service Dog while Baxter provides his love for them. In addition, Karen has established the first Clermont County Juvenile Detention Therapy Dog Program to be launched in July. Judge James Shriver recognizes the benefit of the program and Karen met with all the administrators of the CCJDC in May to present her plan. She will be visiting with Baxter, Sheri Yust and Bella on a weekly basis. Baxter’s next adventure is to become a “Comfort Dog” to work at funeral homes during the “visitation” phase of a funeral. We are very proud of Baxter and Karen. Their love and commitment knows no bounds.

HURRICANE RELIEF FOR TEXAS ANIMALS

Several TPGC teams participated in a fundraising effort at Cabela's in West Chester the weekend of September 2nd-3rd. Donations were collected for Louie's Legacy and the animals displaced by Hurricane Harvey. Lots of smiles, hugs, pets for the dogs and cat! and some tears were shared by our group. Close to \$1,000.00 was collected and approximately \$1,500.00 in supplies were donated. Not only was this a fundraising event, but also a wonderful opportunity to talk about the benefits of TPGC and recruit new handlers. We already have a couple new handlers registered for the next Pet Partners Workshop November 5th. This was also an opportunity to come together with fellow handler teams, share stories and experiences and build new relationships. Thank you to all teams that participated. What a great weekend!

Submitted by Alice Sturgeon









Professionalizing the Passion 2017 Pet Partners Conference in Bellevue, WA

Annie Peters, Pet Partners CEO, opened the conference by sharing that it had been 14 years since the last conference. By the end of the two days, the attendees agreed it should not be that long before the next one. For me, other than the base pleasure of meeting other individuals and groups who enjoy sharing their animals to help people, the conference meant 3 key things--1) exposure to clinical data supporting everything we witness with our animals everyday related to improvement in health and wellness, 2) best practices for visiting with therapy animals for the benefit of the animal, and 3) information to connect with the increasing knowledge of Human Animal Interaction (HAI) for the future. The conference was a wonderful experience, I would highly recommend going to the next one, if you have interest. After a conversation with TPGC Handler and conference speaker, Amy Showalter, I recognized that I had a unique experience and that the rest of the group could benefit, if I shared. I hope you find something useful or interesting in all this information I've captured. Feel free to reach out to me if you have questions.

Khari Barger (handler of beagle mix Joe Cool) - joecooltherapydog@gmail.com

1. Clinical data supporting Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI)

Beyond all the wonderful stories we each have to share about how our animals have helped individual people, clinical data proving specific benefits of Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI) is the information needed to influence the schools, hospital administrators, and regulators to overcome the fears of disease transmission and potential harm. Several animal behaviorists presented the positive results of the initial studies, shared the format of studies in progress, and continued to call for more research & funding. (Websites with clinical data provided below.) Patricia McConnell (Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist, Keynote speaker and author of "The Other End of the Leash") said "Social interaction and support is one of the most important predictors of physical and mental health." Based on the data already in hand, our efforts have a very bright future in helping more people.



TPGC was represented at Pet Partners "Professionalizing the Passion" conference Sept 8-9 in Bellevue, Washington. L to R: Handler Amy Showalter (Finnegan), Handler Khari Barger (Joe Cool) and Pet Partners CEO Annie Peters.

Amy was the closing plenary session speaker on the importance of grassroots advocacy for the therapy animal movement.

Pet Partners Conference Recap

2. Best practices for Visits

In addition to the clinical data supporting the benefits, we also need to assure best practices when visiting with our animals to minimize stress and maximize enjoyment for the animal, thereby minimizing negative impacts to the person being visited. As the data about the benefits of AAI enters into popular media, we are witnessing the growing need for our wonderful animals in new facilities and settings every day. Unfortunately, this growing attention will continue to bring other animal teams to visits that might not follow the standards that Pet Partners expects. One example, shared by several speakers at the conference was a college exam stress relief event with a bear cub. While I'm sure the cub was cute, you have to wonder if that was best for the cub and/or the students. Pet Partners was highly regarded amongst the animal behaviorist speakers for our high standards, including: You Are Your Animals Best Advocate (YAYABA), biennial testing to ensure quality visiting throughout the animal's career, and continuing education available on the website (includes infection control, working with veterans, etc.) Pet Partners supports us doing what we need to ensure the wellness of our animals before, during, and after a visit. Colleen Pelar, a trainer and speaker on dog/family relationships, took the time to point out that some handlers only focus on two options 1) stay and make the animal tolerate a little longer or 2) leave early - neither of these options are ideal. Colleen prefers we think of it as 1) make it better or 2) make it shorter. She focused on the things we all do, and maybe can do more often, to help our animals feel more relaxed-like talking to them, touching them, even taking a short break away from the action. (Pet Partners refers to these as PETS-presence, eye contact, touch, and speech). We can all easily do more of this during our visits. Additionally, consider the continuing education courses available on the Pet Partners website. Log into the volunteer center and then go to the training center - the infection control course was mentioned several times as being highly regarded, there is a working with veterans course, and they are gathering feedback on a new working with children course. Check back as they develop more in the future.

3. Human-Animal Interaction Websites For More Information

Research data that exists and studies ongoing to support benefits to child health and development, healthy aging, and mental health and wellness due to the Human-Animal bond. Some have the ability to sign up to receive email newsletters. Each is presented from a different perspective.

HABRI.org - Human Animal Bond Research Institute

ThePetEffect.org - very friendly website for sharing the health benefits of pets. It has 2 commercials for pet ownership--one for dog and one for cat-- I promise you will want to share these entertaining commercials with other animal lovers!

Hai.tufts.edu - Tufts Institute for Human-Animal Interaction

manual for starting a new facility with checklist and can be useful to get some facilities to understand what they need to do

waltham.com/waltham-research/hai-research/ - Waltham Pet Nutrition/Mars Petcare - much research is through Waltham

<https://chai.vcu.edu/> - the Center for Human-Animal Interaction at Virginia Commonwealth University

thebluedog.org - lots of good pet owner material to share with others - of particular note during the conference was the dog bite prevention materials for kids

winnfelinefoundation.org - advances feline health by supporting research and education

stevedalepetworld.com - cats, dogs, and fear free vet visits among other topics

Pet Partners Conference Recap

Advocacy for Human-Animal Interaction (HAI)

Pet Partners closed the conference by recognizing that we are leaders in our field and recognized the need for education related to our work as part of Human-Animal Interactions and our thoughts on those interactions, in general. Our very own TPGC member, Amy Showalter, was the conference's closing speaker to share how grassroots advocacy can benefit our work. Consider signing up for the advocacy program which will have different levels of involvement. Look for the Pet Partners email that came mid-September for information. As examples, see the Federal Legislations below that you could choose to support with your voice - Human-Animal Interactions that would benefit people in need. Other programs will come later.

Federal Legislation that has been Introduced Related to Human-Animal Interaction (HAI)

H.R.909 - Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act of 2017. Would expand federal law to include protections for pets of domestic violence victims and establish a federal grant program that will help ensure that victims have access to safe shelters for their pets. (Note: Speaker Phil Arkow, National Resource Center on the LINK between animal abuse and human violence, spoke about how some victims of abuse will not leave the situation for fear of what will happen to the pet they may have to leave behind, as abusers often use pets as leverage.)

H.R.2327 - Puppies Assisting Wounded Service Members Act (PAWS) Act of 2017. Would create a pilot program at the VA to provide service dogs to wounded veterans undergoing treatment for post-traumatic stress.

Special events of interest from the Conference

Pet Partners Magic Award - Dr. Aubrey Fine (licensed psychologist specializing in children with the help of many animals, author of "Our Faithful Companions" and co-author of "How Animals Help Students Learn" Gee, Fine, & McCardie). At the end of the presentation about the wonderful bond we have with our animals, Dr. Fine announced a scholarship to fund personal and professional development in the field of AAI. Maybe you can have your future conference attendance or other event funded by this award! See Pet Partners email from mid-September to apply.

Tribute to founders--Dr. William "Bill" McCulloch joined the conference in person, spoke about he and his brother, Michael, founding Pet Partners (then Delta Society), and received a rousing round of "Happy Birthday" from all the attendees for his 85th birthday! Link to video presentation in the mid-September email from Pet Partners.

Aetna Workplace Stress Relief Program - Because of the data showing health benefits of animal visits, Aetna started their own workplace stress relief program, currently at 8 sites across the U.S. Successes and challenges of the program were shared. It has been so successful they have now included pet adoption as a reimbursable expense within their wellness account.



THERAPY PETS OF GREATER CINCINNATI SOCIAL EVENT
COFFEE and CAKE MEET and GREET

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017

@ BETHESDA NORTH HOSPITAL 2ND FLOOR
10500 Montgomery Road
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45242

PLANNED AS AN OPEN HOUSE FROM 4-7PM
WE WILL PROVIDE COFFEE, WATER, AND A VARIETY OF
SWEETS

MEMBERS PLEASE COME AND PROVIDE THE FELLOWSHIP!

(No Pets Please, a Member Event Only)

Questions: rrdaniels@twc.com

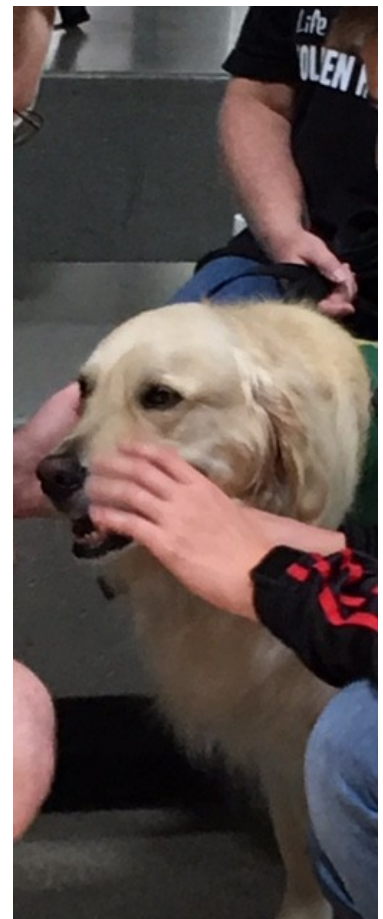
UC Visits Return

We started back to UC on September 7th!

The students and staff were very happy to see the dogs! It's always a fun, very relaxed visit and the dogs and handlers always seem to enjoy it too!

We will be meeting the first Thursday of each month through December from 12-1 in the Recreation Center.

If you are interested, please contact Lisa Ackels at lisaackels@gmail.com



OUT AND ABOUT...



Rudi and Nadia leaving Mason Community Center's Pages 'N Paws



"The spa treatment at Ronald McDonald House makes Finn smile!"

A Note from Sami Smith



My pet partner Lexi and I were ambassadors for TPGC since 2005 until her passing Xmas 2016. We served 12 years of making a difference one paw at a time. I met some great friends thru TPGC and my life served a special purpose in my heart. TPGC provided Lexi with a passion to share her love while pursuing the strengths of the human-animal bond with thousands of children.. At this time I'm choosing to retire from TPGC to pursue happiness with my new four pawed Oreo as I face emotional challenges in 2017.

Sami Smith...for the love of Lexi (513) 793-9920



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MEMBERS PLEASE COME AND PROVIDE THE FELLOWSHIP!
(No Pets Please, a Member Event Only)
RSVP/Questions: rrdaniels@twc.com

Mason Community Center - READ Program

The READ Program at the Mason Community Center is every Tuesday from 5:30pm-6:15pm. 6-8 children have attended this event each week. They really enjoy reading to the dogs, petting the dogs and building confidence in their reading skills. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Glenna Mockbee at gmockbee@fuse.net.



CONGRATULATIONS!



Kivrin earned her AKC Therapy Dog Excellent Title this summer for visiting over 200 times during her first year as part of a registered Pet Partners Team. Her handler is very proud to wear the Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati logo on all his shirts when visiting. A big thanks to everyone in this supportive and unique group, especially its leaders Glenna and Susan who both give nothing but encouragement to keep trying when other groups say it can't be done. Kivrin is well on her way to earn her AKC Therapy Dog Distinguished Title with an additional 200 visits this year before needing to renew her credentials.

Kivrin is also very famous at one of the libraries where she visits for their reading program. Kids are easily impressed when they realize that the dog they are reading to, has her very own poster on the wall in the library. What's next; maybe her own story book! Children would love to read that.

~ Mark Smyers



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3. Sign in to your online account, or create an account
4. Find and select our organization, and click "Save"

You'll start earning rewards for our organization right away on qualifying purchases made using your Kroger Plus Card! Learn more at www.kroger.com/communityrewards and thank you for your support.

*Remember, you'll need to re-enroll every August.



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