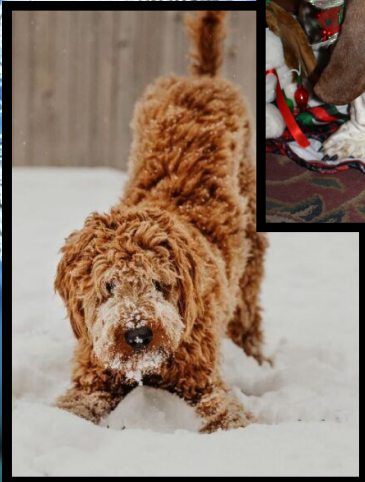




Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati





A Letter from our President

Hello fellow PPGC members! I hope you are staying warm in these snowy and somewhat frigid conditions we have been experiencing.

We have some significant topics that need your attention:

Bylaws

In the next few weeks, you will be receiving an email from Marilyn Edwards asking for your approval of our revised bylaws. Marilyn and her committee (Dee Volante, Amy Hudoba, Marle Billman (advisor), with legal review by Larry Bennett) have spent a great deal of time and effort updating our previous bylaws (approved in 2015). Thanks to the team for your thoughtful and diligent effort.

As you may know, any changes to the bylaws must be approved by the membership, so please respond to Marilyn when asked for your vote.

Elections

It is that time of year when we need to think about electing new Board members. The positions (all for 2 year terms with the exception of secretary) that are open this year are:

President

Treasurer

Trustee (2)

Secretary (1 year term replacing Karin Dyke who will be stepping down this summer)

Sam Gingrich has agreed to be the chair of the nominating committee and will be sending out a notice asking for all who are interested in serving on the board to submit their name and a brief bio for the position they wish to fill. Sam needs 2 additional members to serve on his committee to follow-up with members and to count and certify the vote. Please contact Sam directly (firman1653@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the committee. The vote is scheduled to take place in early May via email.





A Letter from our President (continued)

Magnified Giving

This year we have been contacted by 4 different schools as part of the Magnified Giving Program. Recall this is a program that teaches students about philanthropy as they research non-profits they are interested in and then make recommendations to their schools for awarding grants. We have been the beneficiary of a total of \$5000 in awards the last 2 years.

This year we have been contacted by Little Miami 6th graders, Lakota West Freshman School, Summit Country Day School and Beechwood (Ky).

When asked what we will use any funds for, we have indicated the funds will be used for recruiting. Recall, the first installment went to creating and printing our new brochure. We are now offering stipends/scholarships to individuals to cover some of the costs of becoming a registered team.

Recruiting

Our recruiting efforts have been focused on offering information sessions with our partner hospital systems (Tri-Health, Mercy (Anderson and West), St. Elizabeth). These facilities have worked with us to provide space, advertising at their facilities and through their networks, and creating site specific marketing material featuring some of our members.

In the past year we have held 3 sessions at Bethesda North, 1 at St. E's, 1 at Mercy West and an upcoming session in March at Mercy Anderson. We have indicated to participants that if they register at Pet Partners, take an in-person workshop and evaluation locally, we will reimburse fees. We are just beginning to see results from this effort.





A Letter from our President (continued)

Opportunities beyond Visits

I am sure you are all aware there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to keep this organization running to meet the needs of the communities we serve. I wanted to highlight some of those roles, as well as the names of key people working in these areas, and ask that you consider offering your skills and talents in areas of interest to you:

Visit Coordination - Heather Hauser

Recruiting/information sessions

Bylaws & Standing Rules – Marilyn Edwards

Newsletter – Sharon Newman

Special Events (PP Fundraisers like the World's Largest Pet Walk)

Volunteer Appreciation (Luncheon) – Karen Howell

Marketing/PR & Education – Sam Gingrich

Membership – Kathryn Louis

Technology (webpage, electronic evaluations) – Kurt Louis

Luncheon 2022

We have a date for our luncheon – June 11, 2022. This of course is dependent on securing a space and the status of COVID but we are optimistic! More to come.





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati
Treasurer's Report for September 2021 thru January 2022

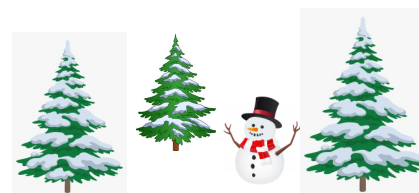
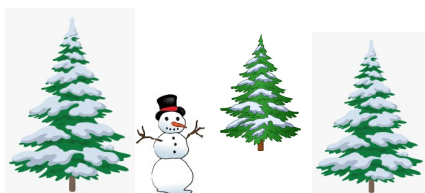
	Sept - Jan
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$24,450.86
Income	\$2,588.79
Expenses	<u>-\$4,943.08</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$22,096.57

INCOME (Deposits)

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Workshops	\$970.00
Evaluation fees	\$640.00
Dues	\$405.00
Donations	<u>\$573.79</u>
TOTAL INCOME (Deposits):	\$2,588.79

EXPENSES (Checks Written or Credit Card Charges)

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General expenses & supplies	\$1,202.43
Evaluation expenses	\$66.64
Shirts	\$1,681.18
Vests	\$1,958.80
PayPal fee	<u>\$34.03</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES (Checks Written or CC):	\$4,943.08





Pet Partners

COVID-19 Resources

The COVID-19 pandemic required major adjustments for all of us, and ongoing decisions about how to continue therapy animal visitation in some form. Throughout the pandemic, Pet Partners has been dedicated to supporting our volunteers and the facilities and clients they serve, to ensure that everyone can still benefit from the powerful effects of the human-animal bond. The website page <https://petpartners.org/covid-19-resources> is a summary of the resources created to help volunteers and facilities make decisions that are right for their circumstances based on the best available science and current practices. The page is updated periodically as the circumstances around COVID-19 evolve.

Information provided on the Pet Partners website includes:

Resources for Volunteers

[CDC Guidance for Therapy Animal Handlers](#)

[Policies & Safety Guidelines for Pet Partners Volunteers](#)

[Animal-Related Engagement](#)

[Virtual And Alternative Visits](#)

[We Are All Ears: A Worldwide Reading Project](#)

Go to <https://petpartners.org/covid-19-resources> for more info.



Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati



Pet Partners

A New Signature Fundraising Event: Pet Partners Pet of the Year



Does your dog stand out from the rest of the pack? Is your feline friend known for their amazing *cat*-itude? Perhaps your horse is ready to gallop into a new role. Pet Partners is pleased to announce a new signature fundraising event that celebrates **all** of the amazing pets that enrich our lives: We are seeking pets to take part in a six-week fundraising competition for the title of 2022 Pet Partners Pet of the Year!

The national title of Pet Partners Pet of the Year is awarded to the pet whose fundraising team raises the most funds during the six-week competition. The winner and runner up will be crowned at the close of the competition and awarded an exciting variety of prizes for their efforts, including appearing on the cover of *Interactions* magazine and airfare to a destination of your choice.

During the six-week fundraising competition, pet candidates (with help from the humans who love them) will raise funds in support of the Pet Partners Therapy Animal Program. Any pet can be a candidate—all species are welcome, and candidates aren't required to be registered therapy animals.

Go to <https://petpartners.org/blog/a-new-signature-event-pet-partners-pet-of-the-year> for more info.



Pet Partners



April 30 is National Therapy Animal Day!

National Therapy Animal Day was created by Pet Partners to recognize all of the exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions to bring comfort and healing to those in need. Therapy animals and their handlers can be found helping people of all ages in a variety of settings including hospitals, pediatric care units, schools, and assisted living facilities.

Goals of National Therapy Animal Day

- Recognize and honor therapy animals.
- Raise awareness and educate the public about the role therapy animals play in enhancing the health and well-being of humans.
- Honor the thousands of dedicated handlers (the human members of therapy animal teams) who volunteer their time and compassion during visits.

What Can I Do?

- Join us in raising awareness on National Therapy Animal Day by participating in [Treats & Sweets Day](#).
- Work with your local officials to have April 30 officially proclaimed Therapy Animal Day in your city, county, or state! Use the [action alert form](#) to send a request to your local leaders.
- Contact your local media and suggest a “good news” story about National Therapy Animal Day and how therapy animals are making your community a healthier and happier place. We have a [letter to the editor template](#) to help you get started.
- Show your support on social media on April 30 by sharing our special Pet Partners posts, and by posting your own photos and stories of you with your favorite therapy animals. Make sure to use these hashtags: [#NationalTherapyAnimalDay](#) and [#PetPartners](#)

Go to <https://petpartners.org/act/national-therapy-animal-day> for links to [forms](#).



Meet George the GIANT rabbit! George passed his evaluation in October and has been very popular on visits.

Unfortunately the guinea pigs are getting older and about ready to retire, so I researched

different breeds of rabbit and found that Flemish giants are known as the "gentle giants" of the rabbit world. They are very calm, curious, and social and George has lived up to all of that!

George has not only been a big hit with the people he visits, the dogs have been loving him as well. He had a short love affair with Toaster until he licked her missing eye and she got mad. He just got a little carried away with the grooming and to be fair bunnies love to groom each other's faces. I guess there will be some misunderstandings in an interspecies relationship, but I have faith that Toaster will take him back one day.



George has also made friends with Dasani, Fiona, and Bo and has a socially distanced relationship with Troi the basset hound. He looks forward to meeting everyone else soon.

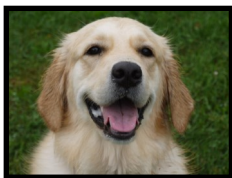


~Heather Hauser





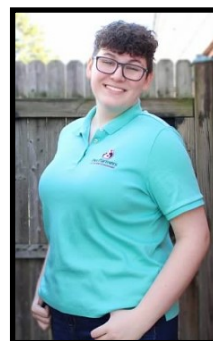
Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati



Fava always likes to ride in the car, even if all she has to do is wait for us to return from errands. The task for the day was to purchase a replacement mattress from a local mattress store. The young salesman was working solo for the second day of his recent employment. He made a half dozen telephone calls to ask questions about processing the sale. In addition, the computer software was running slow so it took over a half hour to complete the purchase. The salesman was struggling to maintain his professional demeanor, but it was obvious that he was very stressed. I asked him if he would like to meet my therapy dog who was waiting in the car. He readily accepted and I brought Fava into the store. As Fava greeted the salesman, his stress level plunged. He couldn't thank me enough for Fava's visit.

~**LaVerne Ailman**

Hello! My name is Kallista Edwards, and I'm a senior at Mount Notre Dame high school. I volunteered to help PPGC this summer for my capstone project.



My project was based around recruiting new members to this wonderful organization. To do this, I designed a flyer about Information Sessions that were on July 28th, August 22nd, and September 26th at Bethesda North. I helped out at three evaluations sessions to understand how people can get involved with Pet Partners. This summer PPGC volunteered for the Kroger Wellness Festival on August 20th and 21st. We shared a tent with the Stickylickits (edible stickers for kids) booth, who was promoting the new Paw Patrol movie. I had an amazing time! I was able to spread the word of Pet Partners to a lot of people, and I discovered my love for photography!

This journey has truly brought me out of my shell. I've learned to be confident in my strengths and to get myself out of my comfort zone, even with small things. I am so grateful to have had this once in a lifetime chance to work with Pet Partners. Thank you for everything!

~**Kallista Edwards**





PET THERAPY RESPONSE TEAM – LOOKING FOR MORE MEMBERS TO HELP EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

We currently have 7 members of Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati on the Response Team, and we are looking to expand. The Team will be contacted when there has been a critical incident involving a police department, fire department, 911 Dispatch or hospital employee.

The only requirement is a monthly visit to a 911 Center with your registered dog. Our Response Team members are now doing monthly dog visits at Hamilton County 911, Cincinnati 911, Warren County 911.

The Response Team will be an asset for two mental health organizations for emergency responders: Tri-State Peer Support Team (<https://tsfirstresponderpst.org/>); and SW Ohio Critical Incident Stress Management Team (<https://www.cism-southwestohio.org/>). Emergency responders or hospitals wanting the Pet Therapy Response Team simply call Hamilton County 911, who will contact one of the mental health organizations to arrange pet therapy response.



For example, in August, 2021 a Great Cincinnati Pet Therapy dog assisted EMS and Fire personnel who had responded to a motor vehicle accident involving death of a 9 year old girl. In Jan. 2021, a Pet Therapy dog went to University Hospital when a Colerain police officer died. In Dec. 2020, a Pet Therapy dog was present for Fire, EMS and State Patrol, who had been most of the day at collapse of a former power plant being demolished, when they were called to head-on motor vehicle crash involving deaths.

Like to get involved? Please contact Larry Bennett, Program Chair, Fire Science & Emergency Management, University of Cincinnati (Cell 513-470-2744; lawrence.bennett@uc.edu). He and FRYE would be happy to introduce you to the Directors of 911 Centers.





CENTER FOR ADDICTION TREATMENT LOOKING FOR MORE DOGS

Located across from Union Terminal, 830 Ezzard Charles Dr, Cincinnati, OH 45214 (fenced in parking lot).

Open 7 days a week; one of the Pet Partner team visits on first Sunday of month, 1 pm – 1:30 pm with women, and 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm with men. Contact Valerie Herrick if interested.

Valeri Herrick, LPC, MA (She/Her/Hers)

Residential Supervisor

513-381-6672 x 132

valerih@ccatsober.org

www.catsober.org

830 Ezzard Charles Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45214

Frye at Christ Hospital 7-West Intensive Care





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati



Millie and I have been busy over the holiday visiting Mercy Fairfield Hospital. I usually get at least one person during every visit that wants to take Millie home with them.

The Nurses definitely are benefiting from the visits just as much if not more than the patients. One of the nurses has even been bringing dog treats

to work so when Millie is there he can share them with her. The nurses all know Millie by name.



~ Caitlyn Visscher

PPGC Mission Statement

Through our trained Therapy Animal teams, the members of Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati are able to provide unconditional love, emotional support, comfort, joy, and a pleasant distraction from the everyday stresses in life by allowing our pets to interact and bond with the people they meet. We strive to make a positive difference in the lives we touch in all the facilities we visit, including health care facilities, retirement communities, and schools, while we educate the community about the significant value of the human-animal bond.





Dog Oatmeal Cookie Treats

24 Cookies	48 Cookies
$\frac{3}{4}$ cups oats	$1 \frac{1}{2}$ cups oats
$\frac{1}{8}$ cup vegetable oil	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup vegetable oil
$\frac{1}{4}$ cup chicken or beef broth	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup chicken or beef broth
$\frac{1}{4}$ cup all-purpose flour	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup all-purpose flour
2 tbsp peanut butter (optional)	4 tbsp peanut butter (optional)

Mix all ingredients well until dough forms. Shape dough with hands into cookies by forming small balls or drop by tablespoon; slightly flatten each one. Place on greased or lined cookie sheet, bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes until lightly brown.

Cool and store in an air tight container.





8 Ways to Keep Your Dog Warm

From AKC.org

Snow, sleet, ice, and wind... there's a lot to prepare for when it comes to winter weather. Just like we're affected by the cold, our dogs are, too. Here are a few simple measures you can take to make sure your dog stays warm, happy, and healthy throughout the winter.

1. Limit Dog's Time Outside

Dogs can suffer from frostbite, especially on delicate earflaps and tail tips. In extreme cold, it's a good idea to keep dogs inside, with the exception of the heavy-coated northern breeds that thrive in low temperatures. If it's not possible to keep the dogs indoors, be aware of the major signs of frostbite, which include skin that appears white or blue.

2. Stay Indoors When Possible

Even a big fuzzy dog that lives indoors will need some time to acclimate to freezing temperatures. Short romps outside will help your dog's body get used to the change in the weather. Keep indoor activities fun with new indoor games. There are also dozens of indoor interactive dog games to give your dog a fun way to get both mental and physical exercise.

3. Bundle Your Dog Up

Sure, most dogs have their own coat, but you wouldn't want to go out in a blizzard in a light spring jacket. Make sure small, delicate, and short-haired dogs, even large ones like Greyhounds, have an appropriate winter wardrobe, including a sturdy winter coat and a fitted sweater.

4. Consider Your Dog's Age

Where climate is concerned, age is more than a number. Like humans, very young and very old dogs have a hard time regulating body temperature, so they have more extreme reactions to changes in weather. Romps in the snow may be too much for their more delicate constitutions. Keep the older dogs and the puppies indoors as much as possible.

5. Protect Your Dog's Paws

Look at the Iditarod sled-dog teams, and you'll notice that their paws are covered by booties. Mushers know that the race may be lost because of injuries and abrasions from running on ice. Even if your dog isn't dashing through 1,000 miles of frozen Alaskan wilderness, winter conditions can still do damage. Different retailers offer dog boots or paw protectors that work well to keep your pup's feet safe.

6. Invest in a Heated Dog Bed

Yes, heated dog beds are safe! A heated dog bed can be a great option for dogs that tend to get chilly, including senior dogs. Look for one made specifically for dogs that also has an auto-shutoff.

7. Trim Foot Fuzz

Hair on the feet of long-haired dogs can form ice balls between pads and toes. Keep them well-trimmed, cutting the hair so that it is even with the surface of the foot.

8. Clean Your Dog's Feet

City streets are coated with deicing substances, such as sodium chloride (rock salt) and calcium chloride, which make sidewalks safe for pedestrians, but can damage paw pads. Make sure you wash off your dog's feet. Some people keep a bucket next to the door to rinse their dog's feet as soon as they come in from the cold. Use warm water and make sure to reach spots between the toes and pads. Some dogs will also need a paw balm or moisturizer for dry skin.





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

Editor's Note

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, despite the challenges we continue to face with Covid-19 and its variants. Staying indoors more through the cold winter puts my mind to cooking and baking, both for me and for my dog! In this issue I've included a very easy recipe for a homemade treat that I make for Roxie all year long. If you have one that your pet enjoys and would like to share it, please send it to me and I will include it in our next issue. Stay warm and safe.

~Sharon Newman



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