



Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati





A Letter from our President



Hello PPGC Members.

I would like to welcome our new board Vice President Heather Hauser, Treasurer Louise Nathanson, Secretary Julianna Johnson, our Trustees Karen Howell, Denise Sebastianelli, and Sam Gingrich and our Ex Officio Advisor Susan Steinhardt. We have worked hard to get up to speed in our new roles and I am confident we will maintain our positive direction.

I am excited about some of the changes being implemented such as slimming down the emails sent for evaluations & workshops, changes in accounting practices and registration process at evaluations, new approaches in promoting pet therapy in the community, and new approaches in recruiting non-therapy pet owners as volunteers with PPGC.

I will follow up with email messages on the progress of these changes and about members stepping up to take on new responsibilities as our group continues to grow in the Greater Cincinnati area.

Our commitment with hospitals and businesses has strengthened since Covid. They have seen first-hand the benefits pets provide for patients and employees. The hospitals are eager to support our information workshops to encourage pet owners to become pet therapy teams. They have provided the facilities and have promoted our events within the hospitals.

Volunteering has been a way for me to give back to the community, however it has also benefited me. It has given me an opportunity to meet some wonderful people and very supportive friends. I would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement, along with a special thanks to my husband Taylor for without his support and patience I would not be able to fulfill this role.

Looking forward to an exciting year for PPGC in the community!
Please welcome our new board members!

Marilyn Edwards
President of PPGC
Licensed Evaluator and Instructor for Pet Partners





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

Treasurer's Report



Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati

dba

Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

FYE 06/30/2023

1st Quarter

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 19,075.58
Income	\$ 4,190.23
Expenses	\$ 3,597.31
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 19,668.50

INCOME

Dues/Membership	\$ 260.00
Donations	\$ 1,580.02
Evaluations	\$ 380.00
Shirts	\$ 120.00
Workshops	\$ 880.00
Other/CC Refund	\$ 970.21

TOTAL INCOME	\$ 4,190.23
--------------	-------------

EXPENSES

AACR Reimbursements	\$ 297.00
Booth Fees	\$ 300.00
Evaluations/ General./	
Workshops	\$ 1,062.82
Insurance	\$ 180.00
Shirts	\$ 1,720.34
PayPal Fees	\$ 37.15

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,597.31
----------------	-------------





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

Susan's Musings



Hello PPGC Members! Marilyn has asked me to continue to provide some perspective in this and upcoming newsletters.

Lots of Changes!

Well, it has been a tumultuous few months for our Board of Directors! Due to some professional and personal challenges, both our President (Jen Garrett) and Treasurer (Sarah Schuck) have made the difficult decision to resign from their PPGC positions. Fortunately, our Bylaws provide us with the guidelines for filling these vacancies.

As has been previously communicated, our Bylaws state that the vacant President role is to be filled by the current Vice President (Marilyn Edwards). Other vacancies may be filled by recommendation and election by the Board of Directors. Hence, Heather Hauser has been approved to fill the role of Vice President, completing Marilyn Edwards term through spring of 2023. Louise Nathanson has been selected to fill the role of Treasurer and Sam Gingrich has been asked to fill the trustee role vacated by Heather Hauser. Heather and Sam have been Board members for a number of years. Louise has been an evaluation assistant and membership support person and is an accountant.

Recruiting

Recruiting remains a key focus area for us. We have been able to hold a number of "Volunteering with Your Pet" information sessions at our partner hospitals (2 at St. Elizabeth, 2 at Mercy West and 2 at Tri-Health facilities). We have received high levels of interest and as a result, have added an in-person workshop at St. Elizabeth on October 22. We will be looking at additional ways to increase our recruiting efforts including through social media and member support.

Workshops

FYI, I am now a Licensed PP Instructor. I held my first workshop in partnership with Marilyn at St. Elizabeth on October 22. We had 8 wonderful participants who are very enthusiastic about embarking on their journey to becoming registered therapy teams. We now have 4 instructors in PPGC and hope to be adding workshops in the near future.

Questions?

Let me know if there are questions or topics you would like me to discuss in upcoming newsletters.

Susan Steinhardt, PPGC Board Ex-Officio
susan.steinhardt@tpgcpets.org





Pet Partners

8 Tell-Tail Signs Your Dog is Stressed During a Visit

Licking

You may be used to your dog licking his jowls when he smells something tasty, or licking his paws to dry off after walking in wet grass. If your dog is demonstrating licking behaviors in the absence of appetizing smells or wet paws, this is a signal that he is experiencing anxiety.

Yawning

Is your dog in sunny spot, ready for her afternoon nap? Did she get a little carried away with the zoomies after her bath? If so, it's normal for your dog to be sleepy and to let out a big yawn. However, if your dog begins yawning during a visit without any apparent reason, she could be experiencing stress.

Panting

Dogs cool themselves off through panting, so it's customary for your pup to pant after a long run or spending time in high temperatures. However, if he begins to pant during a visit in the absence of physical exertion or heat, this is a very obvious sign of stress.

Turning away

Similar to humans, dogs will try to remove themselves from situations that they find stressful. Many do this by turning their heads away from the trigger. Keep an eye out for this during visits, and keep track of what is triggering this stress response for future visits.

Showing the whites of the eyes

This dog body language, also called "whale eyes," is a dog's way of trying to remove herself from the situation, while also trying to keep an eye out for any potential signs of danger. Her nose will stay pointed forward, but her eyes will move sideways so she can monitor the situation. This is a sure sign that your dog is experiencing anxiety during a visit.

Turning or flattening of the ears

Dog's ears have a lot to say. Ears turning backwards or flattening against the head are an indication that your dog is nervous.

Lowered tail

A low tail or tail between the legs is a fairly well-known sign that a dog is stressed. However, tail wags are often misconceived as a happy sign. If your dog's tail is low and has a slight, stiff wag, this doesn't mean that he is enjoying himself. In fact, it's a sign that your pup is worried.

Lowered body

If you notice that your dog is lowering his body in an attempt to make himself seem smaller, this is a red flag. Dogs instinctively lower their bodies toward the ground when they are feeling anxious.

For more info go to <https://petpartners.org/blog/8-tell-tail-signs-your-dog-is-stressed-during-a-visit/>



Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

Stress Relief Visits to Fire Stations Increase Awareness of Crisis Response Team Availability for Emergency Responders



Westchester Fire Station, 8/17/22



Deerfield Fire Station, 10/19/22





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

Miami Township Fire Station, 10/1/22





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati



Karl is Greatly Appreciated at Edgewood High



Published on Edgewoodschools.com:

Edgewood City Schools Director of Social Emotional Learning John Cecere worked with Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati to bring Edgewood High School a unique experience to interact with Karl a therapy dog from Pet Partners. Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati is an all-volunteer group of over 200 volunteer Therapy Teams that provide Animal Assisted Activities (AAA) and Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) to clients throughout the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky metro area. Therapy dogs will be at Edgewood High School on the first and fourth Mondays of the month. Passive permission slips are sent to classes ahead of time before students are permitted to meet Karl in the Calm Room.

On Monday, October 24th students had the opportunity to interact with Karl and his handler Alicia Johnson. Ms. Alicia Johnson, a community member, who has a 6th grader in EMS, and a 2nd grader at EPS volunteers with Pet Partners. Our students had an amazing time with Karl and are excited to welcome Karl and Alicia back in November.

I'm so proud of this dog!!!! He does great things!!! Not only is he an incredible ambassador for his "breed", but he proudly represents all that is Pet Partners!

~Alicia Johnson





Sweetpea and Penny Help Gather Bone Marrow Donors



Penny and Sweetpea recently visited Mt. St. Joseph University for Physician Assistant week. The Physician Assistant students were holding a registration opportunity for “Be The Match”, the national registry for bone marrow transplantation. The students had to perform a simple cheek swab and were then registered as possible donors. The PA students had a goal of registering 30 students during the lunch hours. They were able to achieve this in an hour! Everyone loved having the dogs there and caused many students to stop and listen about the program.

~Cindy Broderick





Pet Partners

The Pet Partners Magic Award

Pet Partners is pleased to offer scholarships to registered volunteers and AAAIP members for use in personal/professional development in the field of AAI. Applications are accepted September 1 through December 1 with the award given in December for use in the following calendar year.

Examples of personal/professional development opportunities include but are not limited to continuing education, conference attendance, professional certificates, and university or graduate studies in AAI. Successful applications include clear detail about how funds will be spent and what goals the individual hopes to achieve with assistance of these funds. *Funds are not awarded for therapy animal training and care or to cover costs incurred by your therapy animal work, such as transportation, additional insurance or equipment.*

Pet Partners wishes to thank Dr. Aubrey Fine for establishing this scholarship fund in memory of his therapy dog, Magic, and in recognition of the magic that Pet Partners teams make happen every day through the power of the human-animal bond.

For more info go to <https://petpartners.org/volunteer/volunteer-center/magic-award/>

Have you visited lately?

Log your visit

<https://petpartners.org/volunteer/volunteer-center/visit-summary/>

Recent Resources

Animal-Assisted Crisis Response

This page contains links to various AACR materials that may assist you in your AACR volunteerism.

Animal-Assisted Crisis Response Flyer

Are you an AACR team or community group looking to build relationships locally? Use this flyer to introduce AACR to facilities in your community.

Finding Evaluation Space Guide

Pet Partners offers a guide to begin your evaluation space outreach. Resources are provided to help you locate and request space for conducting evaluations.

AACR Newsletter Archive

Archive of previous newsletters sent to active Animal Assisted Crisis Response teams.

Facility Tool Kit

This is a guide to assist facilities in understanding Pet Partners and the volunteerism of therapy animal teams. Pet Partners volunteers are welcome to share this kit with facilities where they are visiting or hope to visit. Facility Tool Kit toolkit guide



Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati



Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor. Those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent. His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together...

Author unknown.



Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

Scarlett



The week that I brought Scarlett home, she was 10 weeks old. I took her to visit my mom in a memory care unit. Mom was never a fan of dogs and did not want to visit her, so we visited the other residents. Even at that age, her intuition was amazing. We went regularly and she had quite a fan base. It was only natural then to join Pet Partners (then Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati).

We have been a therapy pet team for over five years. I have been blessed to meet the most wonderful people because of Scarlett. Our regular visits were with Bridgeway Pointe, Bethesda North, Hospice of Cincinnati and Ronald McDonald House. We also made a few stops at the fire houses and Hamilton County 911, along with special events and a private hospice patient. She was a delight to work with. The two of us were in sync and were a true team.

Losing her, especially at this young age (7 years old), has left a huge hole in my life. However, I am grateful for the time I have had with this once-in-a-lifetime dog.

I love the work and I love Pet Partners. I have been training my younger dog, and as soon as he passes an evaluation, I hope to find new opportunities with him through Pet Partners.

~Anne Hodapp





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

LouLou



LouLou was born in France on October 10, 2012 and passed away at home on October 15, 2022.

During her life she was a therapy pet ambassador, neutral dog for evaluations and brought joy to everyone who met her. She provided comfort to patients in the hospitals and respite for the hospital staff. She consoled loved ones at funerals and visitations when called upon. She listened patiently to children as they read to her at the libraries, and put in hundreds of hours in the almost 8 years she volunteered.

LouLou was also sworn in by Judge James Humphrey as the first canine to be appointed as a child advocate in Dearborn/Ohio County Indiana. Channel 19 news even covered the swearing in ceremony.

LouLou had a gentle heart, loving spirit and an instinct to know when someone needed solace. She was a ready hiking partner, lookout on the kayak, great listener and soft snuggler. She traveled to over 15 states, was a God sent breath of goodness and an integral part of so many people's lives. She was 39 pounds of pure joy.

It's with a shattered heart and a broken spirit I write that LouLou passed away peacefully Saturday, October 15. Words cannot express my sorrow, but I know each of you feel a special, unbreakable bond with your pet as I did with LouLou so you understand my pain. I had nine glorious years with her, and shared her for almost eight years with so many children and adults through pet therapy.

Until we meet again.

~ Donna Parniuk





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati



HELP WANTED for PPGC

**Would you like to participate in
pulling together our yearly
*celebration?***

Join the Luncheon Committee to plan our yearly event. Tentatively scheduled this summer at Bethesda North Hospital with help from the BN volunteer office.

Contact: Marilyn Edwards 513-300-4680



Do you like to help people succeed?

1) Pet Partners has a volunteer opportunity for you to help with the membership team to follow up with new and renewing members to complete their registration with Pet Partners and with PPGC. Approximately 1 to 2 hour per week and we will train you.

2) Pet Partners has a volunteer opportunity for you to help new teams register on the Pet Partners website. It would be helpful if you have your own laptop computer to use. You would be helping instructors who give information sessions at the hospitals to register potential new teams with Pet Partners. This process is critical to getting new teams started. Days and Time will vary. Approximately 10 events per year / 90 mins per event. We will train.

Contact: Marilyn Edwards 513-300-4680



Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

Board President	Marilyn Edwards
Board Vice President	Heather Hauser
Board Secretary	Julie Johnson
Board Treasurer	Louise Nathanson
Trustees	Karen Howell
	Denise Sebastianelli
	Sam Gingrich
Ex-Officio	Susan Steinhardt

Editor's Note

Autumn is a special time of year. It brings cooler days and nights, beautifully colored leaves and landscapes, and the fun of Halloween.

With Thanksgiving comes family and friends gathering and reflecting on all we have to be thankful for. Of course, it also brings a lot of work raking those leaves and preparing those Thanksgiving meals! But it's all worth the effort for such a beautiful time of year.



Thank you to our Board of Directors, old and new, for your dedication to our organization.

Enjoy what remains of Autumn, and get ready for a cold and wet winter in Cincy!

~Sharon Newman

