



Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati





A Letter from our President



Hello PPGC Members!

I hope everyone is having a great start to the new year! I thought I would take a little trip down memory lane to review some of our accomplishments in 2022.

As we recover from the Covid quarantines, the demand for visits at hospitals, schools, nursing homes, and businesses has greatly increased, partly due to the stress of returning to the new normal. This has resulted in a high demand for us to recruit new teams to fill the need for animal therapy visits as noted in Heather's column on PPGC visits.

Here is a summary of some of our efforts to meet the needs of the community to grow our number of animal therapy teams while maintaining our high standards.

Evaluations:

Our Evaluators Karen Spradlin, Karen Howell, Deb Newstrand, Heather Hauser (new to our team in 2022) and I had a very busy year especially since many team registrations extended into 2022. With the support of Bethesda North, Mercy Anderson and St Elizabeth, we have 3 evaluation locations. We held 26 evaluation events and conducted 120 evaluations on animal therapy teams which included dogs, cats, and rabbits. In addition to our renewals and new pets, we also passed 27 new animal therapy teams who registered with Pet Partners in 2022.

Workshops:

We held 6 handler workshops, more workshops in 2022 than ever before. We trained 62 new handlers this year. Our instructors were Karen Spradlin, Karen Howell, Susan Steinhart (new to our team in 2022) and me. We also added St. Elizabeth as a new location to give Handler Workshops.





A Letter from our President (continued)

Mini-Workshops / Promotional events:

Forgive me if I miss mentioning some of the events and people involved. We did more Mini-Workshops (“Volunteer with Your Pet”, “Benefits of Pet Therapy”) and promotional events then ever before. A dozen or more Mini-Workshops were conducted at various hospitals and facilities associated with Mercy Health, St Elizabeth, Christ, and TriHealth. In addition there were educational/promotional events at businesses, clubs/organizations and educational facilities. Some of the venues included Gorilla Glue, Rotary Club, OLLI at UC, Butler Tech and Christ Hospital nursing programs.

By the way, you do not have to be a Pet Partner Instructor to give these talks. Jen Garrett and Heather Hauser lead some of these events. Heather also taught Mini-Workshops “Volunteer with Your Pet”. These are one hour events to promote pet therapy and engage new potential handlers. If you are interested in promoting pet therapy by giving presentations or in becoming an instructor or evaluator, please let me know. All educational material is provided.

Update on Pet Therapy Support Team:

I want to welcome Kenny Schroeder who has taken over Larry Bennett’s role of Captain of the Pet Therapy Support Team. We are very fortunate to have him leading this effort. He is a true testament of the importance of animal therapy. Please check out his article and the new flyer developed by Debbie Bauer for the Pet Therapy Support Team for the First Responders. If you have an interest in volunteering with this wonderful PPGC team, contact her at 513-788-1570.

If you have ever had any doubts on why we work so hard to support animal therapy and the importance of the human-animal bond in our community, please have a look at part of an article on the next page that Jen Garrett and her husband were so kind to forward to me. When you have the time, the other articles are worth your time to review.





A Letter from our President (continued)

Why is animal therapy important to First Responders?

Compared to the general population, first responders experience higher rates of depression, PTSD, burnout, anxiety and other mental health issues.⁽¹⁾ In law enforcement, one study found a more than 20 year difference in life expectancy compared to the average American male.⁽²⁾ In addition, it's estimated 20-25% of all first responders experience post-traumatic stress.⁽³⁾ Therapy dogs are proven to have a positive impact on mental and physical health. Studies have shown that interacting with animals can improve coping and recovery, enhance morale, decrease stress, and reduce the effects of PTSD and emotional distress.⁽⁴⁾

1 Purvis, M., Fullencamp, L. & Docherty, M. (2020). Animal Assisted Therapy on Law Enforcement Mental Health: A Therapy Dog Implementation Guide. Bowling Green University.

2 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4734369/>

3 <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/dtac/supplementalresearchbulletin-firstresponders-may2018.pdf>

4 Tedeschi, P. and Jenkins, M. (2019). Transforming Trauma: Resilience and Healing through our connections with animals. Purdue University Press.

Article from First Net Launched by AT&T

https://about.att.com/story/2021/fn_rog_the_dog.html

[https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?](https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1045&context=purduepress_ebooks)

[article=1045&context=purduepress_ebooks](https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1045&context=purduepress_ebooks)

[https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?](https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1669&context=honorsprojects)

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Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

Treasurer's Report



Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati
dba
Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati
FYE 06/30/2023
2nd Quarter

1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		Year to Date 12/31/2022	
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 19,075.58	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 19,668.50	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 19,075.58
Income	\$ 4,190.23	Income	\$ 4,826.39	Income	\$ 9,016.62
Expenses	\$ 3,597.31	Expenses	\$ 3,775.92	Expenses	\$ 7,373.23
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 19,668.50	ENDING BALANCE	\$ 20,718.97	ENDING BALANCE	\$ 20,718.97
INCOME		INCOME		INCOME	
Dues/Membership	\$ 260.00	Dues/Membership	\$ 630.00	Dues/Membership	\$ 890.00
Donations	\$ 1,580.02	Donations	\$ 2,296.39	Donations	\$ 3,876.41
Evaluations	\$ 380.00	Evaluations	\$ 580.00	Evaluations	\$ 960.00
Shirts	\$ 120.00	Shirts	\$ 240.00	Shirts	\$ 360.00
Workshops	\$ 880.00	Workshops	\$ 1,080.00	Workshops	\$ 1,960.00
Other/CC Refund	\$ 970.21	Other/CC Refund	\$ -	Other/CC Refund	\$ 970.21
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 4,190.23	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 4,826.39	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 9,016.62
EXPENSES		EXPENSES		EXPENSES	
AACR Reimbursements	\$ 297.00	AACR Reimbursements	\$ -	AACR Reimbursements	\$ 297.00
Booth Fees	\$ 300.00	Booth Fees	\$ -	Booth Fees	\$ 300.00
Evaluations/ General/ Workshops	\$ 1,062.82	Evaluations/ General/ Workshops	\$ 2,955.70	Evaluations/ General/ Workshops	\$ 4,018.52
Insurance	\$ 180.00	Insurance	\$ 707.00	Insurance	\$ 887.00
Shirts	\$ 1,720.34	Shirts	\$ -	Shirts	\$ 1,720.34
PayPal Fees	\$ 37.15	Bank & PayPal Fees	\$ 113.22	Bank & PayPal Fees	\$ 150.37
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,597.31	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,775.92	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 7,373.23





Susan's Musings



We all have heard that Pet Partners is considered the “gold standard” when it comes to pet therapy programs.

In recent discussions with our facility partners, I have pulled together the following highlights of the Pet Partners program and how we are differentiated from other local programs. I hope you find this helpful.

- Pet Partners requires extensive training of Handlers with emphasis on infection control, appropriate interactions with clients, professional behavior, Pet Partner Guidelines. No other organization provides this kind of training.
- Pet Partners is a national organization that trains and licenses the individuals who provide handler training and evaluations. Instructors and evaluators must renew their license every 2 years (and pass a knowledge check).
- The Pet Partners evaluation is focused on both the handler and the therapy animal emphasizing both skill and aptitude. Other organizations rely on outside assessments (Canine Good Citizen) or have their own evaluation focused on the dog's basic obedience.
- Pet Partners requires both a knowledge check and re-evaluation every 2 years for each team. No other organization has this requirement.
- Pet Partners supports and sponsors ongoing research on the benefits of Animal Assisted Interventions.
- Pet Partners provides additional training and education on specific topics such as Animal Assisted Crisis Response, reading programs, walk with me programs, infection control, etc.
- Pet Partners has established a sister program expressly for professionals wanting to include therapy animals in their practices providing guidance and accessing liability insurance.

Susan Steinhardt, PPGC Board Ex-Officio

susan.steinhardt@tpgcpets.org





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati



Pet Partners

February 1 - March 15, 2023

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! We have more than 100 pets competing in a six-week fundraising competition for the title of the 2023 Pet Partners Pet of the Year!

[Nominate Your Pet](#)

or

[Nominate Someone Else's Pet](#)

This exciting fundraising competition is a perfect way to celebrate your best friend while supporting a great cause! Funds raised by pet candidates (with help from their favorite humans) will support the Pet Partners Therapy Animal Program. This amazing program brings unconditional love, happiness, and healing to millions of seniors, patients, veterans, and children in need all around the world each 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 thousands of dollars in prizes for their efforts.

Go to <https://p2p.onecause.com/pppetoftheyear/home> for more info.



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☆☆ **Some New Members of PPGC** ☆☆

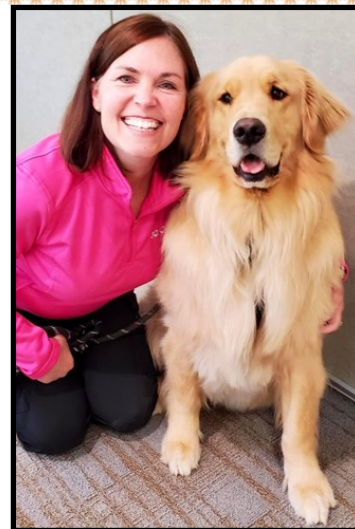
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Hi, my name is Lisa Jennings, and my Golden buddy's name is Hank. Hank is two, and he is the sunshine in my family's life. He brightens our mornings with his wagging tail, makes us laugh with his zoomies in the backyard, and melts our hearts when he snuggles with us on the couch to cheer on the Bengals.

Hank is well known in our community as he greets the many walkers on our street and loves to receive ear rubs from many high school students when he rides to pick up his twin sisters from sports practices. He even has his own Instagram page (goldennamedhank) run by his teenage siblings.

I felt compelled to share Hank with others after witnessing the way he brightens people's days by a simple interaction. We have visited his sisters' high school during exam week, and it is our hope that we will receive the green light soon to begin regular visits.

Passing our evaluation was such an exciting moment, and I told my family and friends that I was as nervous for the evaluation as I was to pass my driver's test when I was sixteen! Hank and I are excited for many fulfilling visits in the years to come.



~ **Lisa Jennings**



Maisy was a pandemic pup that was surrendered by her original owners. She came to us after our other two dogs died suddenly, within 2 weeks of each other, right before Christmas 2020. We knew we needed to fill that empty spot with another dog. When we met her in Jan 2021, she was in a perfect sit/stay with her foster mom, and her coat was so soft, we knew she was meant for us. When we began training her, I decided that I would put in the extra effort to have her registered as a therapy dog. We've recently become empty nesters, so we have more time to devote to training than we ever had before. I thought to myself, "If I'm going to spend this much money and time, I want her to bring more love to the world." She did not pass on her first evaluation attempt, but we're thrilled that she is now official. She will be 3 in April.

Right after she had her first visit to the library, I called my mom. I was bursting with a sense of accomplishment, and my mom told me a story of which I have no memory. Apparently, when I was a teenager working part time at a nursing home, I was given permission to bring our cocker spaniel, Freckles, to visit the residents. Freckles jumped right up on the bed, and of course I was asked to leave. I guess I've wanted to do this for a long time!!

We know that she is a retriever mix and has many qualities of that breed - the soft coat of a golden, the short hair of a lab, and the good nature of each. We plan to also visit at local nursing homes, the hospital and schools.

~ **Laura Priebe**



Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati



My family adopted a dog from Cincinnati Lab Rescue a few years ago and then started fostering dogs for them. We were asked to foster Lucy and she quickly became a "foster failure."

We quickly noticed she loved to be petted and loved people. She is a gentle dog who loves attention and really has a

sweet, gentle, and loving demeanor. Last winter we took Lucy to Miami University to see our youngest daughter. Word spread that there was a dog in the dorm and soon her room was filled with college freshmen needing some love! She played and cuddled with our daughter and her friends and it was at that moment we knew Lucy should be a therapy dog.

I retired from teaching at Princeton High School in 2020 after teaching anatomy and biology for 35 years. Soon after, I was searching for something meaningful to do with my free time besides play golf! I decided to take the steps necessary to get Lucy registered as a therapy dog so we could share her gift. We were told about Pet Partners. We met some amazing people at PPGC and now we are on board.

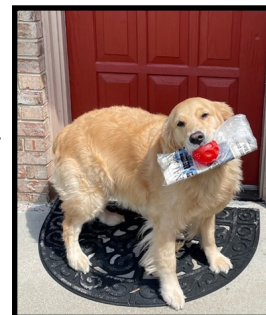
In 2014 I was diagnosed with cancer. I was quickly admitted to Good Samaritan Hospital for treatment. I received wonderful care from the good people at that hospital and from Tri Health in general. Because of that great care, I am trying to give back by taking Lucy to Bethesda North and hopefully to Good Sam. Medical facilities will be our primary focus for visits.

Many sincere thanks to the volunteers at Cincinnati Lab Rescue, Queen City Dog Training Club, and Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati.

~ Dave Buquo



My name is Terry Richardson and this is my 6 year old golden retriever Nava. Nava was in service dog training at Circle Tail but had to be re-signed at the age of 2 due to impulse control (she thinks the entire world is here just to pet her). I have a lot of back pain and diabetes so Nava still uses a lot of her service dog training helping me around the house and alerting me when my blood sugars are fluctuating or my pump alarms, carrying in the newspaper and the mail. She loves to work!!



We joined Pet Partners because of Nava's love of people and natural ability to know when somebody is upset. Her calm demeanor and desire to be petted makes her a great therapy dog.

Nava recently had a mast cell tumor removed but I am happy to report that with the help of modern medicine and electrochemotherapy her prognosis looks good. We look forward to many years of pet therapy.

Currently we are doing outpatient and hospital visits through Tri Health. I would like to eventually get established with the court system to provide pet therapy for children and adults awaiting court hearings in the juvenile court.



~ Terry Richardson





8 Ways to Keep Your Dog Warm

From AKC.org

Editor's note: This was published in The Pet Connection last winter and is repeated here due to its importance.

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 great! 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



Pet Therapy Support Team for 1st Responders

The Pet Therapy Support Team is trained and available to provide Stress Relief visits and post-Critical Incident support visits for all local First Responders: Fire, EMS, Police, Corrections & 911 Dispatchers.



The Pet Therapy Support Team serves all city, suburban and rural departments in the Tri-State area.

Members of our team can be scheduled to visit departments on either a regular basis or following a traumatic event, to provide Stress Relief sessions for both sworn and civilian employees. These sessions are very relaxed & informal, allowing participation by anyone who could use a dose of companionship & unconditional love from our therapy animals.

Departments may also request to sponsor a "Family Day" visit for employees and their family members to experience the benefits of these wonderful animals.

The Pet Therapy Support Team is a part of Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati, an all-volunteer group of over 140 animal therapy teams. Pet Partners requires pets and handlers to be re-evaluated every two years and is covered by a \$2 million general liability insurance policy. The team is also an active member of the Tri-State Peer Support Team: www.tsfirstresponderpst.org.

For further information or to schedule a visit, contact: (513) 788-1570

Team Coordinator: Kenny Schroeder (kenny.schroeder@tpgcpets.org)

Fire & EMS: Amanda Kinman (amanda.kinman@tpgcpets.org)

Police & Corrections: Debbie Bauer (debbie.bauer@tpgcpets.org)



Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

Kenny Schroeder, Fort Mitchell firefighter/paramedic, has generously volunteered to assume the role of Team Coordinator for the PPGC Pet Therapy Support Team. Here are a few words from him.



First responders and pets have been connected since the beginning of time. Maybe not as far back as cavemen and dinosaurs, but close. Dalmatians have been spotted in fire stations across the country and can be considered a fire "man's" best friend. Police officers have enlisted the services of K-9s for years to help fight crime with a nose for solving cold cases. Is there more to this first responders and four-legged friend companionship? Yes there is!

First responders and pets have been connected since the beginning of time. Maybe not as far back as cavemen and dinosaurs, but close. Dalmatians have been spotted in fire stations across the country and can be considered a fire "man's" best friend. Police officers have enlisted the services of K-9s for years to help fight crime with a nose for solving cold cases. Is there more to this first responders and four-legged friend companionship? Yes, there is!

My name is Kenny Schroeder and I am currently a firefighter/paramedic with the Fort Mitchell Fire Department, KYFFPS Team Coordinator and also the Team Coordinator for the *Pet Therapy Support Team for 1st Responders*. Along with Amanda Kinman and Debbie Bauer, we organize visits to local fire departments, police departments, dispatch facilities and other municipalities across the Tristate area with our amazing team of handlers and pets. Imagine going to work every day prepared to assist our communities on potentially their worst day. Handling the emergencies to perfection but exhausting your internal resources in the process.

In walks a smiling volunteer with a furry friend by their side and you can feel the energy in the room flip. Smiles are seen throughout the agency as tails wag back and forth in a frenzy. What I described is what pet therapy for first responders is all about. Therapy pets are proven to have a positive impact on mental and physical health. Studies have shown that interacting with animals can improve coping and recovery, enhance morale, decrease stress, and reduce the effects of PTSD and emotional distress. Our team of volunteers excels at what they do and do it all out of love for those that keep us safe every day.



Why are programs like pet therapy so important to me? After spending over 20 years in a career of fire and emergency medical services, I found out what it is like to have my own worst day. As I watched my life spiral out of control overwhelmed by the chaos that PTSD can create, I was in need of help. And if not for resources available, like pet therapy, I would not be here today. I am grateful for Pet Partners and the many people that have worked over the years to develop and implement the programs available today. I live for every single day, enjoy sharing my time and talents with others and surround myself with people and animals that love me. That is my "why". What is yours?

If you need help or are in crisis, please do not hesitate to get the help you need. Call 911, 988, go to <https://tsfirstresponderpst.org/> or <https://www.kyffps.org/>. You are not alone!





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

2022 Was A Banner Year!

We have had a huge year of visits! Everyone is finally coming out of their Covid hibernation and they all want some pet therapy! I'm so excited that so many people are seeing the power of the human-animal bond and the joy/stress relief that our animals can bring. All of these visits could not happen without our amazing members! Thank you so much to all of you who have responded to requests, stepped up at the last minute, and squeezed one more visit into your busy schedule. It is also so amazing to see the number of places everyone is visiting on a regular basis. We are spreading the furry love all over the Greater Cincinnati area, keep up the good work!

2022 Visit Request summary

- 52 School visits
- 24 Nursing home visits
- 21 College visits
- 20 Fire/Police Department visits
- 19 Mental Health/Adult Day Facilities visits
- 15 Business visits
- 11 Boys & Girls Club visits
- 8 Other visits

Additional routine visit locations

- 8 Schools
- 12 Nursing homes
- 5 Mental Health/Adult Day Facilities
- 23 Hospital/Hospice Locations
- 11 Libraries
- Ronald McDonald House

~ Heather Hauser

Vice President
Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati
Licensed Evaluator





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati



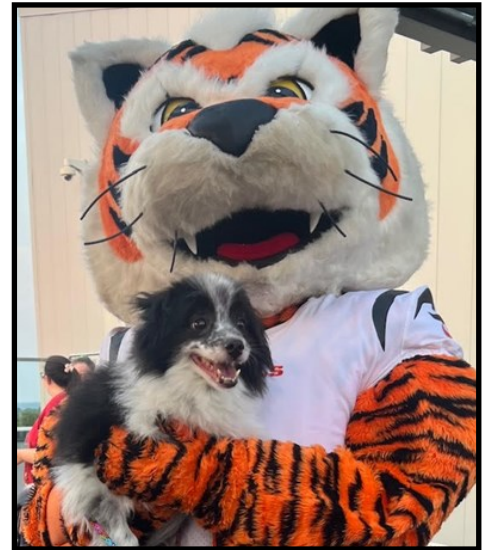
Fava at Arrow Springs Med Center

~ LaVerne Ailman



Finnegan with Who Dey, the Cincinnati Bengals mascot, at a fall Bengals-themed event for the children and Ronald McDonald House.

~ Amy Showalter





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

By invitation, a presentation about the Pet Partners program was made to the Eastside Newcomers on February 8, 2023. There were over 50 participants who thoroughly enjoyed meeting Heather Hauser & George, Maureen Goddard & Toaster, Deb Bryant & Oliver, Tracy Kinney & Cheesecake, Susan Steinhardt & Bailey.





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati



Sharon Newman & Roxie, Nancy Mulvey & Minnie, Barb Haintl & Fiona, Kenny Schroeder, Debbie Bauer at the Hamilton County Coroner & Crime Lab.



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.





Cheddar Dog Treats



3 dozen Cookies

1 cup all-purpose flour

1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

1 tbsp butter, softened

1/3 cup whole milk

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Mix together flour and cheese. Add butter, stir until combined. Gradually add milk, stir until just moistened. Turn out onto floured surface, knead 8-10 times.

Roll into a 12x9 rectangle. Cut in 3x1 strips or cut out shapes with cookie cutter. Place on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes until golden brown. Turn off oven, let stand in oven with door slightly open until completely cooled.

Store in an air tight container.

Peanut Butter Dog Treats

2 dozen Cookies

2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour

1 large egg

1 cup peanut butter

1 cup water

2 tbsp honey

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line baking sheets with parchment paper or silicon mat.

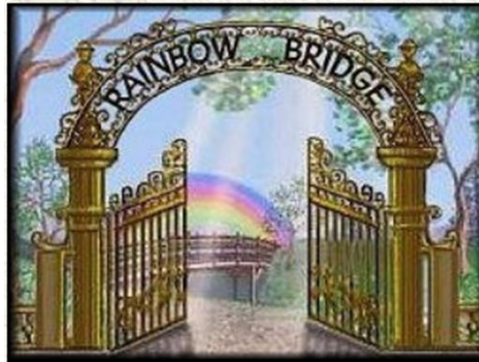
Mix together flour and egg. Add remaining ingredients, stir until combined. Dough will be firm and sticky; you may need to use your hands.

Roll into small balls and flatten, or roll 1/2 inch thick on a floured surface and cut in shapes with cookie cutter or knife. Place on baking sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 18-20 minutes until golden brown. Cool on baking sheets.





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.



Theo



I adopted Theo, a black lab/shepherd mix in January, 2018. Due to aggressive cancer, I made the decision to have Theo cross the rainbow bridge in the comfort of our home on November 22, 2022.

I knew very early on that Theo was made for pet therapy work. He just naturally went to comfort people. When we went on our daily walks, Theo would find people who needed comfort. One particular moment that stands out is when we came up to an employee who was sitting on the curb. Before I knew it, the employee was laying down next to Theo with her arms around him and her face buried in his fur. I don't know exactly what was going on, but Theo did and knew what to do.

We officially became a registered pet therapy team in October 2021. We mainly volunteered at the Thomas Center Infusion Center and Bethesda North. One visit that stands out was our last visit at the Thomas Center. While we did not share with patients why this was our last visit, the staff knew. Theo leaned into each staff member who came to hug and pet him. He welcomed the many repeat hugs! Tears formed in their eyes as they each said their good-byes to us. It was a heartwarming, though emotionally wrenching, end to our pet therapy work.

~ Shannon McGinnis





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

Gilbert



Gilbert was a sweet old man. He had a blown disc in his lower back that gave him the shakes in his back legs. I called it his Elvis legs. But he loved going places and meeting people. He was a rescue that was given up by his previous owners because they were having a baby. We miss him.

~Tracy Kinney





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

Board President	Marilyn Edwards
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	Denise Sebastianelli
	Sam Gingrich
Ex-Officio	Susan Steinhardt

Editor's Note

It's wonderful to see how many pet therapy visits there have been and continue to be scheduled. And we have so many new members! It just shows how big-hearted the people of Greater Cincinnati are, and I'm proud to be a part of it.

Thanks to our board members, evaluators, trainers, and coordinators for all your hard work. And special thanks to Kenny Schroeder, firefighter/paramedic, for serving as coordinator for the Pet Therapy Support Team. Your generosity and efficiency are so greatly appreciated.

~Sharon Newman



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