THE MOST MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE:

Ed & Molly on One Thousand Therapy Visits

Around The Country
Interview With Dr. J. Scott Weese
First Annual National Therapy Animal Day

Stories of lives improved by positive human & animal interactions.
Pet Partners is required to file financial information with several states. Ten of those states will provide copies to their residents upon request:

California: Pet Partners is registered as ‘Pet Partners Therapy Animals’ in the state of California.

Florida: A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, WITHIN THE STATE, 1-800-HELP-FLA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. CH5226.

Maryland: For the cost of copies and postage, Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Mississippi: The official registration and financial information of Pet Partners may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State’s office by calling 1-888-236-6167. Registration by the Secretary of State does not imply endorsement.

Missouri: Pet Partners is registered as ‘Pet Partners Nonprofit Corporation’ in the state of Missouri.

New Jersey: INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION and the percentage of contributions received by the charity during the last reporting period that were dedicated to the charitable purpose MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING 973-504-6215 and is available on the internet at www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/ocsp.htm#charity. REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT.

New York: Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

North Carolina: Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the state. Pet Partners is registered as ‘Pet Partners Nonprofit Corporation’ in North Carolina.

North Dakota: Pet Partners is registered as ‘Pet Partners Therapy Animals’ in North Dakota.

Pennsylvania: The official registration and financial information of Pet Partners may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Virginia: State Division of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, PO Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218.

Washington: Charities Division, Office of the Secretary of State, State of Washington, Olympia, WA 98504-0422, 1-800-332-4483.

West Virginia: Residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305.

REGISTRATION WITH A STATE AGENCY DOES NOT CONSTITUTE OR IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THAT STATE.

BOARD LIST
Mary Craig, DVM, MBA, Chair
Lynnette Eastlake, MBA, Vice Chair
Raquel Lackey, CPA, CMA, CFE, Treasurer
Jackie Gunby, Secretary
Jack Barron Jr.
Chad Biagini
Lisa Burby
Dr. Aubrey Fine, EdD
Ryan Granard
Dr. Rebecca A. Johnson, PhD, RN, FAAN, FNAP
Diana Kiriakides
Derrick Kraemer
Mike Mossholder
Stacey Neu
David Peart
Laird Pisto
Michael Sapp
Brenda Bax, Ex-Officio

HONORARY BOARD LIST
Sophie Engelhard Craighead, Chair
Marty Becker, DVM
Nan Bush
Kathy Vignos Folson
Carol and Scott Glenn
Linda Hackett
Chandi Heffner
Karen LeFrak
Carolynn D. Loacker
Elise B. Lufkin
William McCulloch, DVM
Mary Tyler Moore
Victoria Newhouse
Jeannie Nordstrom
Annette de la Renta
Jonah Shacknai
Sarah W. Sweatt
Irving Taylor, MD
Dave Underiner
Bruce Weber
Andrew Weil, MD
Betty White
Joanne Woodward

PUBLICATION CREDITS
Editor: Glen Miller
Contributors: Kris Betker, C. Annie Magnant, Paula Scott, Dr. J. Scott Weese
Graphic Design: Wolken Communique
Cover Photography: Michael B. Johnston

Pet Partners
425.679.5500
info@petpartners.org
www.petpartners.org

CONTENTS
The Organization
We Will Be Tomorrow 1
The Most Meaningful Experience of My Life 2
Caring Community Profile: Betty and Richard Bauder 4
Treats & Sweets/First Annual National Therapy Animal Day 7
What’s New 8
Interview With Dr. J. Scott Weese 8

Departments
Saying Goodbye 5
Things We Like 7
Around The Country 10
When Pet Partners was founded 38 years ago, to some people the idea that the wellness of humans and animals were inextricably linked was as revolutionary as the idea that the world was round. Today, the Human Animal Bond (HAB) and animal assisted interactions (AAI) are embraced, celebrated, and much desired. We have the founders of the Delta Foundation, then Delta Society and now Pet Partners to thank.

During these 38 years, different initiatives at different times advanced the HAB. We were there in the early days of service dogs providing information and referral, we advocated for legislation like the Housing and Urban Rural Recovery Act of 1983 — which allowed people with disabilities and the elderly living in federally subsidized housing to keep companion animals, and were the first to educate the public about the power of the HAB. We literally wrote the book on therapy animal visitation that launched an entire movement of human-animal volunteer teams in hospitals, libraries, and nursing homes. We shared our policies and procedures generously. The mission was “bigger than Delta” and there was no room for resource guarding. Anyone who has ever received a therapy animal visit should thank the founders: Drs. Leo Bustad, Mike McCulloch and Bill McCulloch — the hard-working visionaries who created the Pet Partners program; and Sophie Craighead Engelhard and other incredibly generous supporters. Today the program continues to be the Gold Standard for therapy animal visitation because of the involvement of people like Dr. Scott Weese. You’re going to enjoy his interview in this issue.

In recent years, Pet Partners, the organization, has focused on Pet Partners’ therapy animal program with our teams being referred to as Pet Partners. We remain committed to this core program activity. Our vision to strengthen our position as Best in Class while becoming the lifelong learning organization for people who give back through AAI will require more funding than we receive today. One quality online course with videos and voice-over can cost as much as $50,000. For those of you who have read the newest version of the Handler’s Guide and Team Evaluator Manual, it is in thanks to the generous gifts from the Wishnick Foundation. If you’ve taken the Working with Veterans course or Visiting Clients with Alzheimer’s Disease or Other Forms of Dementia, you’ve benefitted from the generosity of Carolynn D. Loacker and PetSmart.

Up until now, we haven’t done a great job of explaining why we need to fundraise. Unlike many other nonprofits, a portion of our budget comes from “fee for service activity,” i.e. the registration fees that offset expenses for the real costs to process registrations, provide insurance and support our teams. To the Pet Partners handlers, instructors and evaluators who are reading this, you are making the world a better place one therapy animal visit at a time. We are proud of the role we play in helping you and recognize that there are costs associating with volunteering in this way, both to you and to Pet Partners. The fees collected by Pet Partners only cover one third of our operating budget for the organization we are today.

The organization we will be tomorrow will require an even greater investment.

Let’s step back for a minute and talk about philanthropy instead of fundraising. Pet Partners exists today because of people who support the mission and not all of us have an animal suited for therapy work. Some of you express your commitment through volunteering, some through your financial support and some through both. Philanthropy is one of the best opportunities any of us has to tell the world who we are and what we care most about.

You don’t have to be wealthy to be a philanthropist, but you do have to give and give generously. Being a member of Pet Partners’ donor community is an important way to be involved, and for those of us who don’t have an animal suited for therapy work in our lives, a different but just as meaningful way to demonstrate that this matters to us.

So when you hear us talking more and more about fundraising and philanthropy it’s not because we don’t care about the mission. It’s because we do and we know you do, too.

C. Annie Magnant
President and CEO, Pet Partners
Between them, Molly and Ed have lived 92 years. Together, they have made more than 1,000 Pet Partners visits to schools, assisted-living facilities, day care centers and other sites. The team has comforted those who were near the end of life, calmed frightened children, coaxed conversation out of those reluctant to speak, and in at least one instance, may have helped turn a life around.

Molly is a 12-year-old Boxer who barely survived Hurricane Katrina. Abandoned and scheduled to be euthanized, she was given another chance at Boxer Aid and Rescue Coalition (BARC) in Tallahassee, Florida and at a BARC foster home in nearby Monticello. That’s where Molly met Ed Fangmann.

The Florida retiree had lost his Boxer recently and didn’t know whether he was ready for another dog, but agreed to take a look. When he arrived, Molly was sitting all alone on the side of a fence opposite four other dogs. Ed got out of his car and called her over, and Molly came running and jumped into his arms. It was love at first sight.

The three-year old dog noticed that Ed’s car window was open, made a beeline for the car, and flew through the window. Ed says she sat down and looked at him as if to say, “Well, let’s go!”

“She knew exactly what she was doing,” he said.

Molly settled into her new home quickly and within a week, Ed knew she would be a perfect therapy dog.

“Molly is the most lovable, affectionate dog,” Ed said. “You have to prove you’re not lovable to her.”

Ed and Molly signed up for a handler training class through Pet Partners, and eight weeks later they were a registered team. For the past two years, the pair has volunteered with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Animal Therapy. TMH Animal Therapy Program Manager Stephanie Perkins says Ed is “truly inspirational.”

“They not only make you smile on the outside, but also on the inside,” she said.

“They have touched the lives of so many with their visits, and have definitely created a ripple. Their visits inspire so many others to visit with their animals.”

For more than a decade, the duo have been touching lives throughout the Tallahassee area. And because Molly is so comfortable and confident, she is able to go everywhere animal therapy teams are welcome.

Some places are so familiar that Ed says, “it’s like a party with Ed and Molly.”

“We have made more than 480 visits at one facility,” he said.

“Many are no longer just clients, but now friends.”

Molly will be 13 in August so the team is slowing down and making fewer visits, focusing on assisted living facilities on Tuesdays and Thursdays. (On holidays when they don’t go out on visits, Ed says Molly will begin staring at him when she thinks it’s time to leave.)

Ed tells the story of one man in his 80s the team visited for about a year. Charlie used a wheelchair and usually sat alone – at least until Molly arrived. She would sit right next to him; sometimes putting her head in his lap.

When the man took a turn for the worse and wasn’t in the common area when they arrived, Ed asked if they could go to his room for a visit. Charlie’s bed was low to the floor so Molly was able to climb up next to him, resting her head on his stomach.
During the following visit, Charlie was not very coherent, but again Molly sat right next to him.

On the shelf in Charlie’s room was a photo of a Boxer. His daughter told Ed that was Princess – a dog from her father’s past.

Charlie looked at Molly and began to speak.

“Princess is here to say hello,” he said quietly. “Thank you Princess – I love you so much.”

He kissed Molly on the nose, and the team said goodbye.

Charlie passed away before the team’s next visit. His daughter told Ed the last words her father said to her were, “Thank you for bringing Princess to see me one last time.”

During another visit to an assisted-living facility, Molly zeroed in on a man sitting alone in the TV room. She sat next to him and put her paw on the man’s knee. He ignored her but she persisted – vigorously wagging her tail and whimpering to get his attention. Finally the man relaxed and reached down to pet her. For the next ten minutes, he caressed Molly and chattered away.

After Ed and Molly left the room, a nursing staffer said she was amazed that he spoke – that the man never speaks to other residents and barely talks to the workers. She was astounded that he would open up to Molly.

Although she is friendly toward everyone, Molly especially loves kids. She adores Ed’s two grandchildren and follows them around the house when they come for a visit.

Time spent in the community is no different.

“Without fail, one or two kids will really affect her.” Ed said. “She will go right over to them and rest her head in their lap.”

Ed says one particular visit may have forever changed a life for the better.

The team was giving a presentation at a school for at-risk teenagers; sitting among the students on the floor. Molly approached one young man and crawled into his lap. For more than an hour, they sat together, while the teenager gently stroked Molly’s fur.

“When we left, the young man said that Molly made such a positive impression on him that he intended to become a vet,” Ed said. “We later found out that he actually applied to the University of Florida and was accepted.”

Ed says that becoming a Pet Partners team – both with Molly and also with his earlier Boxer – is the best thing he’s ever done.

“This is the most meaningful experience of my life,” he said. “I never imagined I’d be having so much fun. And it’s a great experience for the people we visit, and for Molly and me … everyone wins.

“It makes me feel so good. I know there will be a doggy place for Molly in heaven.”

Photography: Michael B. Johnston
Years ago, Betty Bauder’s mother underwent major surgery at Meridian Park Hospital just outside of Portland, Oregon. “My mother was in the hospital for weeks and was depressed,” Betty said. “She was very attached to our Siamese cat Roxanne, who she loved and cared for during our vacations. They had a great bond. Mother’s doctor thought it was a good idea to bring Roxanne to the hospital and that their connection may help the healing process. We were cleared and walked into the hospital with Roxanne on her harness and leash. Roxanne was well mannered and the nurses marveled at her presence and also asked if she was authorized to be there. We were happy to let the staff know that her visit was approved by the doctor. Roxanne walked onto the elevator and down to my mother’s room. Mother was so happy to see Roxanne and hold her. It touched our hearts.”

Betty and Richard Bauder reside in Beaverton, Oregon with their cat JJ Binx.

If you are interested in learning how you can provide for Pet Partners’ future by leaving a gift through the Caring Community, contact Pet Partners’ Senior Philanthropic Advisor, Mary Bohmke, at 425.679.5502 or maryb@petpartners.org.

LEANER & GREENER

To save paper and to save money in printing, we have moved the Caring Community and Honor and Memorial Donations lists to our annual report and online at www.petpartners.org. We thank you for your generous support and hope that you think this is a thoughtful and responsible use of our resources.
Cisco the Leonberger acquired many noteworthy titles during his short nine-year life; he was an AKC Bronze Grand Champion, a registered Pet Partners therapy dog who was also trained for Animal-Assisted Crisis Response, the 2011 Westminster Award of Merit Winner and Lorene McLaughlin’s best friend. “He was so loved and adored by all the patients, staff and children we visited here in the Rutland, Vermont community. He loved every minute of it; you could see his face light up when we were getting our gear bag and vest ready in the morning of our visits.” The team visited a special education classroom each Tuesday where the students would read to Cisco as he patiently listened. One young boy was afraid of the 165-pound dog in the beginning, but by the end of the school year was the first to greet him and say, “He was so friendly and wanted to play with me.”

Cisco made a lasting impact on the students, staff, and community. He was a beloved therapy dog who brought joy and comfort to those he visited. His presence had a positive effect on the people he touched, and he will be missed by all who knew him.
ABBY, Golden Retriever, Geri Sullivan, NV
AGNES, Terrier mix, Kay Zollner, OR
ALYA, Labrador Retriever, Jerilyn E. Felton, OR
AMBER, Chocolate Lab, Barbara Kallan, CT
ANNA, Golden Retriever, Patricia Almeda, PA
ANNE, Golden Retriever, Deanna M. Tuley, CO
ANYA, Standard Poodle, Meredith Krause, VA
AUBREY, Australian Shepherd, Bryan G. Nelson, IA
BABE, Golden Retriever, Jennifer Donner, NM
BAILEY, Golden Retriever, Amy McCullough, CO
BAILEY, Rabbit, Carol Jud, MN
BAILEY, Goldendoodle, Randee Edmundson, MN
BALO, Newfoundland, Pamela L. Kroll, WI
BANDI, Golden Retriever, Rita J. Hartman, AZ
BARKLEY, Bullmastiff, Barbara Dietz, AZ
BARNEY, Golden Retriever, Carol M. Rosen, CT
BAYLOR, Chow Chow mix, Sharon Leebi, AZ
BECKY, Pointer, Ann P. Duffin, OR
BEELZI, Gunea pig, Camilla Bolch, AL
BELLA, Labrador Retriever, Karen A. Gibson, NC
BELLA, Australian Shepherd, Vivian B. Aiello, FL
BELLA, Boxer, Brenda Reed, OR
BELLE, Golden Retriever, Judith W. Landau, GA
BENTLEY, English Bulldog, Pat Miya, WA
BEXAR, Bernese Mountain Dog, Robin Ashman-terrell and Julie Reddy, TX
BILLY, Golden Retriever, Cindy K. Mahoney, CO
BINGO, Labradoodle, Sandy Gardner, WA
BLANCA, Pekingese, Keirstin Pinela, CA
BLUE, Great Dane, Leah L. LaGrone, AL
BOO, Mixed breed dog, Lisa J. Edwards, NY
BOONE, Border Collie, Susan Orr, OR
BOONE, Australian Shepherd mix, Linda Campbell, TX
BRUCE, Pomeranian, Susanne J. Wolmar, MN
BUDDY, Shih Tzu, Linda Shetley, New Hampshire
BUDDY, Whippet, Karrilynn A. Stachowicz, IL
BUDDY, Miniature horse, Jennifer Rogers, NY
CAESAR, Labradoodle, Eileen and Susan Pedrosa, NY
CALLIE, Golden Retriever, Barbara Murphy, CA
CASPER, Norwegian Forest cat, Karen Talbott, OR
CEASAR, Golden Retriever, Marianne Hamilton, IA
CHACO, Australian Shepherd, Mandy Bell, CO
CHAMBORD, Golden Retriever, Colin Ladd, CT
CHILI, Afghan Hound, Mary Sonnen, MN
CHIP, Chocolate Lab, Barbara Boyd, AZ
CHLOE, Chihuahua, Beth Barbaratta, MA
CIDER, Golden Retriever, Kim Defling, OH
CISCO, Leonberger, Loren D. McLaughlin, VT
Cleo, Irish Wolfhound, Paula Bensel, AZ
COOPER, Golden Retriever, James and Samantha Pribyt, NH
CRICKET, Whippet, Michelle Langloss, Nevada
CRUZ, Australian Shepherd, Al and Mary Shaddourne, CA
DAISY, Mastiff, Jessica Hurtado, CA
DAISY, Bernese Mountain Dog, Chriann Verges, GA
DAPHNE, Bichon Frise, Ann Jenkins, KY
DASHER, Shetland Sheepdog, Annette Deslauriers, MN
DASH, Shetland Sheepdog, Doddra G. Johnson, NV
EMMA, Miniature Poodle, Ann E. Nelson, MI
EOWYN, Shetland Sheepdog, Darlene Byrom, ON
FAVIN, Greyhound, R. P. Johnson, FL
FRED, Doberman mix, Patricia F. Pratt, NE
GARBO, Standard Poodle, Samuel and Katie Costello, OH
GLEN, Border Collie, Susan Orr, OR
GORDO, Mixed breed dog, Kris Bergen, CA
GRACIE, Greyhound, Susan McLaughlin, CA
GUMBO, Greyhound, Joan S. Speckin, CA
GYPSY ROSE, Shetland Sheepdog, Kathy J. Cross, AL
HARLOW, Golden Retriever, Charles and Michael Richardson, WA
HEIDI, Yorkshire Terrier, Linda David, CA
HULA, Labrador, Tina Jones, CO
IZZY, Golden Retriever, Nancy Tetenbaum, NM
JAKE, Cockerpoo, Gina A. McHugh, IL
JELLY, Golden Retriever, Elle Kahler, CO
JENNA, English Cocker, Joan Bradley, VT
JERRY, Golden Retriever, Dean Robbins, NH
JETTA, Golden Retriever mix, Christine A. Spaezel, OH
KATIE, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Anne M. Przybyla, CO
KAYLA, Hound mix, Barbara J. Tackett, NY
KAYLEY, Cocker Spaniel, Judith J. Werner, IL
KELLY, Golden Retriever, Cheryl R. Van Denburg, MT
KIKI, French Bulldog, Marilyn M. Edwards, OH
KODA, English Springer Spaniel, Karla D. Holt, CO
LADDIE, Rough Collie, Brooke Kowalski, WA
LAURENT, Yellow Lab, Katie Spaulding, ME
LILLIE, Golden Retriever, Patricia Hobson, OR
LILY, Pug, Donna A. Angelieri, IL
LOUIE, Domestic short-hair cat, Robin Ashman-terrell, OR
LUATH, Greyhound, Christine Vereide, MN
LUU, Mixed breed dog, Eileen G. Roston, MN
LUCY, Brittany, Emily Ragsdale, NC
LUG NUT, Pitbull, Laura Goodhue, AZ
LULLI, Golden Retriever, DiAnne Brown, CA
LUMBER, Newfoundland, Christine A. Palmer, RI
LUNA, Pitbull, Heather Jenkins Brazzell, VA
MAHLEA, Alaskan Malamute, Kim C. Criddle, AZ
MAIA, Golden Retriever, Bunny H. Frost, TX
MALACHI, German Shepherd mix, Donna Crandall, WV
MARLEY, Golden Retriever, Sherry McCabe, WA
MAX, Border Collie, Susan Orr, OR
MAX, Chinese Crested, Catherine Varidel, GA
MIA, Golden Retriever, Sarah O. Gardner, NH
MCHEY, Havanese, Jeanie NY
MIKI, Lhasa Apso mix, Peggy Muro, FL
MISY, Golden Retriever, Barbara M. Lindberg, TX
MISY, Golden Retriever, Terri Rafter, IL
MISY, Lab mix, Chris Monahan, CA
MISTY, Standard Poodle, Marianne Mitchell, AZ
MOKI, Border Collie mix, Chuck Simon, CA
MOLLY, Great Pyrenees, Linda J. Anderson, WA
MOOSE, Bernese Mountain Dog, Katrina Zabinska, WA
MUDDY, Greyhound, Linda C. Wandin, OR
MURPHY, Golden Retriever, Tracey M. Viall, WA
MURPHY, Golden Retriever, Dave Hill, AZ
MURPHY, Pitbull, Amanda Clase, CA
NATALIE, Shetland Sheepdog, Wendy Waddick, IL
NELLIE, Lab mix, Kristen D. Heller, CO
NELLIE, Australian Shepherd, Mandii Cramer, OH
NEMO, Newfoundland, Susan D. Marino, MA
NEMO, Italian Greyhound, Aimee Kline, NY
NEWT, Standard Poodle, Sue Eno, AZ
NORM II, Golden Lab, Sue Ellen Chaste, IL
NUGGET, Golden Retriever, Nancy E. Scott, VA
NUTS, Shetland Sheepdog, Karen Cluck, IL
ONTARIO, Golden Retriever, Linda Helms, AZ
ORVILLE, Golden Retriever, Michael Galuskin, NY
OSTHELIO, German Shepherd, Laura Pavlech, WI
OWN, Australian Shepherd, Linn Huizinga, CA
PACO, Black Lab, Jane Tomlinson, CA
PANCake, Rex rabbit, Kristin Woodbury, OH
PARKER, Domestic short-hair cat, Julia P. Pesek, NE
PEANUT, Rabbit, Lillian Pringle, MN
POGO, Poodle, Fran Rudy, CA
POKEY, Jack Russell, Chris A. Doyle, MA
PONY, Golden Retriever, Edward P. Allen, RI
POPS, Pug, Peggy Mattingly, AZ
PUNKY, Golden Retriever, Linn Huizinga, CA
REGGIE, Great Pyrenees, Ruth Carnes, OH
REILLY, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Charlotte Champ, NC
RHODI, Rhodesian Ridge, Lynn L. Watson, AZ
RIESLING, Labrador Retriever, Amanda Singer, TX
RILEY, Terrier mix, Diane McGuire, AZ
ROOOSEVELT, Golden Retriever, Margaret Brindley, WI
ROSCOE, Greyhound, Deborah Wnuk, AZ
ROSSIE, Basset Hound, Seth Fuller, AL
RUBY, Golden Retriever, Castin Smith, OR
RUDY, Golden Retriever, James R. Peters, OR
RUNZA, Greyhound, Mino Fuller, CO
RUSTY, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Pamala R. Valentine, CA
SADIE, Golden Retriever, Jacki Keating, MT
SADIE, Basset Hound, Debbi Y. Martin, TN
SAGE, Golden Retriever, Bruce Aronson, MT
SAGE, Golden Retriever, Ani Aronson, MT
SAMSON, Standard Poodle, Diana Pate, TX
SARGE, German Shepherd, Cathleen Hess, NY
SASHA, Maltese, Joni Vorns, CA
SCOOTER, German Shorthaired Pointer, Ellen K. Mazur, NC
SCOUT, Flat Coated Retriever, Elizabeth Zott, IL
SHADE, Blue Merle Collie, Linda Chiaramonte, IL
SHADOW, Cocker Spaniel, Mark Rhodes, OH
SHEENA, German Shepherd, Robin Ratner, AZ
SHEENA, Yellow Lab, Teddi A. Berger, NY
SHERLOCK, Labrador, Tom and Sandra Doyle, NC
SHERMAN, Shetland Sheepdog, Linda M. Stutz, OH
SKIPPY, Golden Retriever, Anne Adley, WA
SOLEVINO, Golden Retriever mix, Susan Ribeck, TX
SONNY, Yorkshire Terrier, Mary Miller, CA
SOPHIE, Golden Retriever, Jacki Keating, MT
SOPHIE, Toy Poodle, Lauren Wellen, IL
SPICE, Golden Retriever, Jeanie NY
STRIDER, Golden Retriever, Michele Loe, CA
SUNNIE, Golden Retriever, Lyn Findley, MT
TANI, Smooth Collie, Gail F. Thompson, PA
TATE, Black Lab, Mary Ann Emmerton, WI
TATER, French Bulldog, Tracy Kinney, OH
TEX, Black Lab, Jennifer Voss, IL
TOMMY, Golden Retriever, Janet Bayless, CO
TRYST, English Labrador, Larissa Brushder, IN
TUCKER, Whippet, Susan Banks, VA
TWINKIE, Mixed breed dog, Eileen Domnitz, NY
TYCHO, Boxer, Janet Doer, IL
TYLER, German Shepherd, Kristi Hanna, TX
VALENTINE, Mixed breed dog, Salli Chandler, CA
VINNY, Golden Retriever, Pat Coto-Antin, CA
VIOLET, Bernese Mountain Dog, Jeannie Bussey, AL
VON DRAKE, Dog, Neil and Yvonne Young, PA
WALLY, German Shepherd mix, Shirley Atwood, CT
WHISPER, English Setter, Naomi B. Vizena, MI
WILL, Golden Retriever, James Cramer, MT
WILL, Mastiff mix, Kathy A. Young, CO
WINNIE, Labrador Retriever, Catherine Ward, NE
WRIGLEY, Golden Retriever mix, Patricia F. Pratt, NE
YAZ, Greyhound, Karrilynn A. Stachowicz, AZ
ZINDEL, Retriever mix, Nicholas C. Contes, CA
Are you ready to support Pet Partners in the sweetest way? It is time to flex your flour power! On Monday, May 18, in honor of National Therapy Animal Day™, thousands of bakers from all over the country will be breaking out their mixing bowls, putting on their aprons and whipping up some treats and sweets for their animal and human friends alike. Treats & Sweets Day is the yummiest fundraising event of the year, and is a piece of cake to celebrate. All funds raised will support Pet Partners.

**FIVE FUN WAYS TO SUPPORT TREATS & SWEETS DAY**

1. Sign up as a baker and create your Treats & Sweets Day “online bakery”
2. Host a wonderful Treats & Sweets Day party or bake sale
3. Fill the kitchen by recruiting a bake team…the more the tastier
4. Spread more than frosting. Spread the word! Post and share your recipes and photos
5. Bake like a boss…Get your business involved in supporting the cause

By signing up for Treats & Sweets Day™ for Pet Partners you are helping to bring the healing power of animals to many people across the country and in your community. Your participation in this year’s Treats & Sweets Day will support Pet Partners in training and registering thousands of therapy animal teams who make over a million life-enhancing visits each year. Thank you for making the world a whole lot sweeter. To learn more visit www.treatsandsweetsday.org or email us at treatsandsweetsday@petpartners.org.

The first 500 registered bakers will receive a free Start-Up Kit in the mail which includes a fundraising guide, paper chef’s hat, Treats & Sweets Day stickers and poster as well as a special offer from Animal Wellness Magazine, our official Treats & Sweets Day media sponsor.

**FIRST ANNUAL NATIONAL THERAPY ANIMAL DAY: Monday May 18**

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 different settings including hospitals, pediatric care units, schools, and nursing homes.

**Some 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

**CELEBRITY PARTICIPANTS:**

- **Dr. Marty Becker,** America’s Veterinarian
  - You’ve seen him on “Good Morning America” and “The Dr. Oz Show.” Dr. Marty Becker, an honorary board member for Pet Partners, is the author of 22 books that have sold more than 7 million copies combined, including three New York Times best-sellers. One of his books is the fastest-selling pet book of all time, “Chicken Soup for the Pet-Lovers Soul.” Dr. Marty Becker truly is “America’s Veterinarian.”

- **David Mazouz,** “Bruce Wayne” on Gotham
  - You probably recognize David Mazouz for his role as a young Bruce Wayne on the hit TV show Gotham, but we think he is a real-life hero for Pet Partners! When he is not busy on the set of Gotham, David loves hanging out with his family and his two beloved dogs, Lilah and Starlit. David plans to bake up some treats and sweets to help support the amazing heroic work of Pet Partner therapy animals! Holy cupcakes Batman! Won’t you be David’s sidekick and join in the fun?

**THINGS WE LIKE**

Purchase this limited edition, custom designed National Therapy Animal Day T-shirt during the week of April 27-May 4, 2015 at www.float.org and $8 from every shirt sold goes to support the Pet Partners program.
Dr. J. Scott Weese is an Associate Professor at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph and a Zoonotic Disease/Public Health Microbiologist at the University of Guelph’s Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses. He is also Chief of Infection Control at the Ontario Veterinary College Teaching Hospital and holds a Canada Research Chair in zoonotic diseases.

Interview With

J. Scott Weese, DMV

WHAT’S NEW

As part of our commitment to education and engagement Pet Partners Therapy Animal Program offers a variety of webinars for volunteers, pet owners, and the general public. Session registration is generally available on our website www.petpartners.org 4-6 weeks in advance of the event. Webinars feature live presentations with question/answer opportunities. Below is a quick glance at some of the upcoming opportunities followed by a longer description of our next event.

May – Best Practices for Hosting a College Stress Relief Event, presented by Nancy Lefkowitz, Pepperdine University (detailed description below)
June – Volunteering with Your Pet, presented by Laure MacConnell, Pet Partners National Program Educator
July – Volunteering with Your Pet, presented by Pet Partners handler Susan Tiss
August – Being Your Animal’s Advocate: Best practices for pet owners and therapy animal teams
September – The Impact of the Human-Animal Bond, presented by Dr. Aubrey Fine
Late summer – Volunteering with Your Pet Guinea Pig, with Pet Partners handler Niki Vettel
Fall – Volunteering with Your Pet Cat, with Pet Partners handlers Keith and Pam Phillips

Paws to Relax before finals
The Housing & Residence Life team at Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA has successfully run this event for the past five years as each semester ends. The program has grown to include Pepperdine’s School of Law students and the Psychology Department recently expanded the event by conducting an in-depth research study.

Students love helping with the planning details from reserving VIP parking spots for the Pet Partners teams to stuffing thank you goodie bags for the pups and their chauffeurs. Many students miss their families especially their dogs and look forward to seeing them when they head home after finals.

Learn why early planning pays off and consistent protocols are a must. Join us in May for this webinar on best practices for hosting this college event for students, staff, and faculty to reduce stress and enjoy the benefits of animal-assisted therapy.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our 11,000 teams give their animals a safe and loving home. They train them through the Pet Partners program, they gas up their cars and spend their time in traffic and weather all so that they can pay a visit to someone who really needs a helping paw, a sympathetic nuzzle or to feel a connection to an animal. They do this one million times a year.

We salute them during National Volunteer Week, April 12-18, 2015.
Dr. Weese is Pet Partners’ Chair of Research, Medical Advisory and Public Policy (R-MAPP) Committee, a group of veterinary professionals who serve in an advisory capacity when questions of policy regarding health and safety arise for our therapy animal teams. This advisory committee — ostensibly unique to organizations that register therapy animal teams — is one of the many reasons Pet Partners is considered the Gold Standard of such organizations.

**Pet Partners:** Pet Partners handlers are expected to abide by infection control procedures our teams agree to respect when they are visiting with their therapy animals. Among other precautions, these include:

- The animal must be free of any signs of ill health
- The animal must be free of internal and external parasites
- Thorough bathing and grooming of the animal must be completed within 24 hours of visiting
- Hand sanitizer should be used between visits

Some of our teams have reported that they have been asked about the risk of transmitting Ebola and MRSA, two infectious diseases that have gotten a lot of press lately. Are these fears valid if the above procedures are followed?

Dr. J. Scott Weese: Ebola is not a concern because of its rarity in North America and the fact that no animal would get close to an infected patient in hospital. Concerns are greatest with the common bugs that are present in hospitals, such as MRSA, where dogs can be infected and act as carriers, or where then can be vectors whereby someone contaminates the animal’s hair coat and another person subsequently gets exposed (e.g. if someone has influenza and they contaminate their hands, they could deposit the virus on the dog’s coat and plausibly, someone who touches the dog shortly thereafter could pick up the virus). Good procedures reduce, but never eliminate, those risks. However, adherence to these basic common sense practices should have a big impact and minimize the risk, while maximizing the benefits.

**Has there been any scientific research performed to determine the risks of therapy animals passing germs from patient to patient?**

Studies have identified transmission of pathogens to animals during visitation and contamination of their hair coats. Actual infection of people has not been documented. That’s probably more because of inadequate investigation than it not occurring. It’s not easy to confirm an animal as a source of bacteria/viruses that also have many other potential exposure sources and routes.

**Do certain species of animals pose a bigger risk of spreading disease than others?**

Yes, although it’s not completely understood. Certain species like any reptile are high risk. Species that we know more about, have good preventive medicine programs for and have better management practices are usually associated with lower risk.

You were a member of the panel that published a 2008 report in the American Journal of Infection Control entitled, “Guidelines for animal-assisted interventions in health care facilities.” Pet Partners’ policies and procedures are aligned with these guidelines, including the periodic re-evaluation of visiting animals, health screening and dietary guidelines. Have any of these policies been revised since that time?

A new set of guidelines, largely adapted from the AJIC guidelines, will be coming out very soon.

What about the risk of pathogen exposure to the therapy animal? How concerned should handlers be about taking their pets into a hospital environment?

There’s always some risk. Hospitals are sites where there is a lot of potential exposure to pathogens and dogs are susceptible to many of these. Our infection control practices can reduce but never eliminate the risk. The true health risks are limited for your average healthy dog, which is one reason we register only healthy animals.

Why is it that animals taking antibiotics should not make visits?

It may increase the likelihood that they acquire and/or shed a multidrug resistant bacterium like MRSA.

As a leader in your field, why do you volunteer as the Chair of the R-MAPP committee?

Visitation programs can have a great impact on patients; however, the risks can’t be discounted. As part of R-MAPP, I can help maintain these programs while minimizing the risks to patients and pets.
AROUND THE COUNTRY
PET PARTNERS TEAMS AT WORK

Northeast

Albert Emond, Daisy and Ziggy
Stratford, Connecticut

Surrounded by members of her family, the patient was thought to be on her death bed. Albert entered the room with Daisy, one of his two registered Pet Partners therapy dogs. The woman was on a respirator, lying still with her eyes closed, when Al whispered to her that Daisy was there to visit. Her eyes opened, and she slowly turned her head in Daisy’s direction and smiled. The team stayed for only a short period of time, knowing the gravity of the situation. But before leaving, Al told the woman he would be back to visit her the following week with his other dog, Ziggy. She turned her head and with a smile said, “I’ll be here waiting,” then closed her eyes.

The next week the woman was sitting up in her wheelchair, wide-eyed and very happy to see Ziggy. She is still very much with us, and continues to eagerly await visits from her good friends Daisy and Ziggy.

Charley Bednarsh and Paz
New York, NY

Paz, a 5-year-old Australian Labradoodle, accompanies his handler Charley to the Brooklyn Family Justice Center, where Paz provides support to children who have witnessed domestic violence and/or are crime victims. Paz’s gentle presence is often requested by prosecutors when interviewing children who may be too frightened to disclose the details of a crime they have witnessed or of which they have been victims. During the child’s interview, Paz’s physical presence is soothing and gives the child a sense of security.

Recently Paz provided invaluable assistance to a 7-year-old boy who had witnessed his mother’s murder. The child was the only witness and prosecutors needed the child’s statement to convict the perpetrator. Throughout the interview, the child wrapped his arms around Paz, who was seated on a couch next to him. Whenever the child began to cry or shudder, Paz instinctively began to nudge him and attempt to lick his tears away. As a result of Paz’s presence during the interview, the child felt secure enough to provide statements that led to the perpetrator’s conviction.

Beverly Myers Bailey and Sadie
Westport, CT

One early Saturday morning, Beverly received a call that her beloved Aunt Bernice had passed away. Bernice’s husband Richard took her death hard and with tears in his eyes spoke at her funeral of the love he had for his deceased wife.

As so often happens to the elderly who are hard of hearing, Richard found himself sitting alone at the reception in a room full of people who didn’t know what to say to him. Sadie, Beverly’s registered therapy dog, pulled Richard toward her, placed her head on his lap and would not leave his side. Visitors would stop by to express their condolences but hastened on their way in discomfort. Richard petted Sadie and found comfort in her soft fur and warm eyes. She seemed to understand his pain. Richard later went to the dining room for a bite to eat. Sadie followed him and rested her head on his foot under the table. For the first time that day, Richard smiled and felt he had found a kindred soul who understood; he called her his guardian angel. Somehow Sadie knew he needed her on one of the worst days of his life.
Midwest

Jenn Eckert and Betsy
New Berlin, Wisconsin

Jenn Eckert adopted Betsy, a 20-pound Flemish Giant rabbit, to help her through a devastating loss. She attributes much of her healing to the sensitive rabbit who would hop up next to her whenever she was feeling down. “I knew that if she could help me so much, she could share her love with others and help them heal as well,” she said.

Jenn and Betsy now regularly visit the child/adolescent unit at a local hospital. She recently met a woman who began asking questions about Betsy. After a few minutes of conversing, the woman realized that Jenn had previously taken Betsy to visit her child in the hospital. The woman choked back tears and told Jenn, “Betsy saved my child’s life.” Conversations like that and the benefits she witnesses firsthand are the reasons Jenn is so passionate about volunteering. In Jenn’s words, animal-assisted interactions are “an asset to any patient’s recovery, and I hope to make more people aware of the benefits as we continue to volunteer within the community."

Stephanie Hurthel and Boots
Johnson County, KS

The Alzheimer’s patient was asleep, so Stephanie tried to lead Boots away. Besides, there was only a tiny space between her wheelchair, oxygen tank and dresser. But Boots was steadfast and refused to be pulled away. He seemed to sense that he was needed. Reluctantly, Stephanie knocked on the open door and squeezed herself and the 68-pound dog into the room. “Betty, the staff told me you like dogs. Would you like a visit from Boots?” Stephanie asked. Betty slowly opened her eyes. Without hesitation, Boots moved even closer and looked straight into her eyes. Betty’s eyes sparkled. Boots was confined in this tiny space, but he scooted his body right next to Betty’s leg, oblivious to the foot rest that poked his ribs. For the next several minutes, Betty petted Boots and told stories. “Boots and I gave her attention and love,” said Stephanie. “Betty gave us the same.”

Southeast

Beckie Jarrell and Abby
Rome, GA

The elderly patient at Redmond Hospital had refused to get out of her bed for days. She wouldn’t eat and only whispered replies to her family and nurses that made no sense. They were afraid her condition was changing to the grim status of “failure to thrive.” The nurse told her a dog would visit if she would attempt to stand and sit up in a chair so they could change her bedding. When Beckie and Abby entered the room, the patient immediately tried to stand while muttering, “don’t leave, don’t leave.” The family and nurse were astounded and brought to tears. The patient couldn’t keep her eyes off of Abby’s face as she petted and talked to her for nearly an hour.

Beckie knew of another Pet Partners therapy animal team that would be visiting the hospital later that week and contacted the handler with the patient’s room number. That visit never occurred however, because Abby’s visit had been the turning point for the patient. She had eaten her dinner, continued to speak and was discharged the next day.
Marilyn Ross and Angel
Englewood, FL

Marilyn Ross does pro bono work for impoverished people needing access to healthcare. Once when she and Angel accompanied a homeless man to the emergency room, another man spotted the friendly Great Dane and asked the team to visit his dying wife.

Angel began to sniff the woman from her feet upward and then rested her head near the woman’s face. The patient whispered, “Hi Angel. I’m in terrible pain, but you make me smile. I love you.” She kissed Angel, then closed her eyes and relaxed with her hands on Angel’s muzzle. Angel licked her tears away. It seemed to give her peace and she was smiling. Angel stood very still while the woman slipped away. Then Angel turned to the woman’s husband and rested her chin on his shoulder. He wrapped his arms around her neck and tears came to his eyes.

Bunny Sumner Young and Goose
Bumpass, VA

Bunny’s service dog Goose is also a registered Pet Partners therapy dog. The team visits clients of a local home health care agency near Richmond, VA. Last month they visited a woman who refused to engage in her physical therapy activities and would not allow the nurse to change her bandages or give her a bath. When Goose and Bunny arrived she could only focus on the big dog and nothing else seemed to matter. She still wouldn’t perform her physical therapy, but her arms and fingers got more than enough exercise petting every spot on Goose’s neck and back. The nurse was able to change her dressing, read her vital signs, and give her a bath — all with a smile on her face. Said Bunny, “It’s a joke now among the staff that Goose is one of the most requested nurses.”

Southwest

David Hornack and Hank
Beaumont, TX

Hank and his handler David Hornack have been serving a privately owned assisted-living center. They normally visit the same six or seven residents in the memory care unit on a weekly basis. On one occasion, a resident was sitting alone on the other side of the room. All of a sudden she stood up and began shaking violently. No one seemed to notice, but Hank fixed his gaze on her and barked; seemingly to alert an attendant because Hank had never before made a sound during a visit. When Hank saw the attendant helping the resident, he resumed his normal visitation behavior. “I was awestruck!” said David. “It truly touched my heart. We had never reviewed this skill. He just seemed to know that the resident was in distress, needed assistance and it was his job to get someone.”

Evan Thompson and Dusty
Flagstaff, AZ

Evan and his Collie mix Dusty entered the patient’s room, the patriarch of his Navajo clan. In the room with him were his extended family members, who ranged in age from five to adult. When they saw the dog, a few of the young children petted her, but it wasn’t until Evan played the Navajo recording he made, “Her name is Dusty,” that the ice was broken and everyone smiled and began to talk to Dusty in their native language. Evan picked up Dusty and held her over the bed so the patriarch could pet her. The man spoke to her at length in Navajo and then said something to his wife, which she translated. He had said, “This is a good sheepdog.” Everyone was still smiling when the team left the room.

Susan Ribnick and Solovino
Austin, TX

Susan and Solovino, a Golden Retriever mix, volunteered for almost 10 years in various hospitals and facilities. One particular visit remains etched in Susan’s memory. She received a call from a Dell Children’s Hospital Director of Child Life at an odd hour. She requested an available team to visit the hospital as soon as possible. When Susan and Solovino arrived, it was obvious that
one young patient was nearing the end of her life. The family had requested a therapy dog to come to the room to provide comfort to the child. The visit was very intense; Solovino ultimately comforted not only the patient, but her family, the doctors, nurses and technicians.

“The intensity of that visit stayed with me for many days,” said Susan. “I thought about not only what animal-assisted interactions do for patients, but what they do for us as handlers. Who does not leave a hospital after seeing what goes on there and not reassess life’s daily challenges? It’s kind of like hitting a weekly emotional reset button.”

Sadly, that visit turned out to be Solovino’s last; he passed away from the afflictions of old age this past autumn. Susan continues to volunteer with her gregarious Golden Retriever Bijou.

Michael Eisenberg and Clyde
Northridge, CA

On Christmas Eve Michael Eisenberg knocked on the door of a 10-year-old girl in the oncology ward to ask if she wanted a visit from his Newfoundland Clyde. Her mother answered favorably for her and explained that her daughter was unable to speak because of the pain and swelling in her throat from her treatments. While the girl was cuddling Clyde, her doctor, nurse and a Life Specialist all entered the room to discuss the little girl’s stay in the hospital with her mother. The little girl continued to pet and hug Clyde while the medical staff conferred in the corner. All of a sudden, after about 10 minutes, the little girl could be heard talking sweetly to Clyde, telling him how soft and cuddly he was. With the exception of the little girl’s flowing words, the room went instantly silent. The nurse asked the little girl how her throat was feeling, and she answered, “Much better now.”

Margaret Griffo and Waverly
Anchorage, AK

Waverly the Keeshond is extremely sensitive to the needs of clients. On one visit to an assisted-living facility, Waverly pulled Margaret toward a man sitting in a wheelchair. He looked up but did not say anything to Margaret, just began to pet and talk to the dog. Waverly then placed her paws on the arm rest of the chair and snuggled as close as she could get, her eyes focused only on him. Margaret remarked that Waverly seemed to care especially for him. When they moved on to the next area, Margaret saw that the facility’s activities coordinator had tears in her eyes. She had never seen this particular gentleman interact with others before that moment and reported that he was very, very lonely. Now whenever the team visits, the man is waiting for them, sometimes even outside in the Alaska winter cold. Margaret said, “One day I told him how much Waverly loves him and how she dances when I put the Pet Partners vest on her. He looked at her and said, ‘She is the only one who does.’ It made me sad for a second, but then so glad he could benefit and feel wanted by such a special little dog. I’ve learned to follow Waverly’s lead … she’s much more aware of the needs of people she meets than I can ever hope to be.”

Irish McNeil and Niki
Chico, CA

Irish and her teammate Niki the Golden Retriever were visiting at the cancer center when they were asked to stop in the room of a very unhappy 6-year-old patient. The nurses explained that the girl would not smile or talk to them. The team entered and Irish asked if Niki could put her front paws on the bed. The girl nodded slightly without looking up. Niki jumped to her side and started licking her arm, tickling her. She giggled, then began to ask Irish questions about Niki. The nurses stood in the corner with tears in their eyes. Niki performed some tricks and the girl smiled and asked her to do them again. The smiles turned to laughter and the little patient begged Irish to bring Niki back again – “even if I’m asleep!”

On the girl’s last day of treatment she gave Niki a card she’d made herself. Irish reported a very happy ending to the story: “Happily she is cancer-free after a year of grueling procedures. She and her family visited us on Christmas. She wanted to introduce us to her new puppy. I’ll never forget her or our visits - very special!”
LEARN THE PET PARTNERS DIFFERENCE

**LESEN THE RISK** of disease transmission through infection control protocols, grooming guidelines, raw diet restrictions and animal/handler health requirements

**EDUCATION** of handlers, including continuing education creates the best prepared volunteers

**ANIMAL WELFARE** is a priority supported by re-evaluations every two years. An aging dog with arthritis may no longer enjoy the same physical contact it did at a younger age, leading to safety concerns

**RIGOR** of evaluation process provides peace of mind that each team is well prepared for therapy work

**NINE SPECIES** registered for therapy work