

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

2025 Walk Champion TRISH SMITH & ROSIE

I've always loved animals. Growing up on a small farm in Northwest Indiana, we had all kinds—dogs, cats, chickens, ducks, even a pony. Our dogs were rescues and part of the family, each with their own big personality.

After retiring from a 44-year career in the insurance industry, I was looking for a more personal and meaningful way to give back. That's when I found Pet Partners and began my journey as a therapy animal handler. My first therapy dog, Bella, was a sweet Bichon Yorkie mix. After she passed unexpectedly, Rosie—a smart and spirited Yorkie—came into my life.

With training, socialization, and help from our nine grandchildren, Rosie and I became a registered therapy team in 2022. We now volunteer with Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati, making visits to hospitals, hospices, schools, and first responders. We've made over 300 visits so far, and in 2023, we earned our Animal-Assisted Crisis Response (AACR) credential.



This year, we're proud to be National Walk Champions for the 2025 World's Largest Pet Walk. While we walk to support our local efforts, we know the impact reaches far beyond our community.

The need for therapy animals is growing every day. Across the country, people are facing rising levels of stress, isolation, and mental health challenges. More than 130 new facilities reach out to Pet Partners each month asking for therapy animal visits. But to meet this demand, we need more trained teams.

By participating in the World's Largest Pet Walk, you're helping make that possible. Your support means more therapy animal teams can bring comfort and connection to those who need it most.

Rosie and I will be walking with members of Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati to raise awareness of the key role we play in the health and well-being of greater Cincinnati communities—and we hope you'll walk with us, wherever you are.

SIGN UP AT PETPARTNERS.ORG/WLPW