



**Furry  
Friends**

Pet  
Assisted  
Therapy  
Services

Winter 2020



# Short Paws

The Official Newsletter of Furry Friends P.A.T.S.

## *A letter from your president*

Happy New Year to you and your furry friends!

Thank you to Randy Fishel for taking beautiful, professional photographs of many of our Furry Friends. My puppy's photo, right, was one of those shot by Randy.

In November, as per Furry Friends' bylaws, the board held elections for President and Secretary. Anne and I were both re-elected to another two-year term. What a busy time these past two years have been! A volunteer appreciation dinner, a volunteer picnic, and a captain's dinner were possible due to a donation from a nonprofit that went out of business.

We designed and rolled out a new website, updated the volunteer's manual, and all of the Furry Friends forms. Quarterly newsletters were published to keep our volunteers informed. Special Visits have increased in popularity and have also helped support our organization financially. After Loree McQueen retired, Tara Johnson was hired as admin and has also tackled the big job of digitizing our records.

In the past month, Furry Friends applied for and received a grant from the Farrington Foundation for continuing education classes for our volunteers. Look out for emails with more information coming soon.

Interested volunteers are welcome to our board meetings (held every other month). Email [info@furryfriends.org](mailto:info@furryfriends.org) if you would like to attend. We are always looking for passionate volunteers to give us input.

I am grateful for all your support, your kind words, and encouraging emails. Let's continue to Lick Loneliness!

Joan





## Volunteers who have hit milestone Anniversaries!

We want to thank everyone for their wonderful support and for volunteering with Furry Friends for so many years! We appreciate your hard work and dedication. We would not have the wonderful organization we do without all of you amazing Volunteers!

*\*Please note, moving forward, we will be giving the 1st to 4th year anniversary pins to Captains at the annual Captains' Dinner to distribute to their team members. Multi-year hangers will be mailed directly.*

### ~1 Year~

Thuy-Hoa Yokota  
Noel Shirley  
Carol Darcy

### ~2 Years~

Joan Centofanti  
Kim Giordano  
Monica Hasebi Chen  
Lisa McLain  
Bruce Peterson  
Sister Gemma Wilson  
Claire Loehr  
Sandro Centofanti

### ~3 Years~

Beryl Grace

### ~4 Years~

Alice Bittner

### ~5 Years~

Jeanette Roumimper  
Denise Del Carlo

### ~15 Years~

Nancy Reynolds

**Congratulations to**  
**SUSAN COLE**  
**Captain of Juvenile Hall visits**  
**for 30 years!**

## Thank You for Observing the Boundaries on Your Visits

Our insurance covers our members and their pets visiting as teams, during the regularly scheduled visits only.

If you visit outside these dates and times, you may not wear your Furry Friends attire, nor present yourself as a Furry Friends member.

Also remember that it is our furry friends who are doing the therapy.

*Thank you for observing the boundaries!*



**Furry Friends**  
Pet Assisted Therapy Services

Our mission is to consistently facilitate delivery of the love and affection of our volunteers and their pets. We enhance the lives and touch the hearts of people with special needs.

### Board of Directors

#### President

Joan Peterson

#### Vice President

Kathy Harris

#### Secretary

Anne Tiry

#### Treasurer

Randee McQueen

#### Directors

Cameron Brown

Duane Hinders

Kat Hsueh

#### Administrator

Tara Johnson

#### Animal Behaviorist

Julie Bond



Do we have your correct e-mail address?

### If in DOUBT....

Send an email with your name and current e-mail address to [admin@furryfriends.org](mailto:admin@furryfriends.org)

**When sending in vaccine records for your pet,  
please let us know your pet's last name!**

# It's a Wrap!



Furry Friends volunteers wrapped gifts at the Barnes and Noble book store on Almaden Expressway on December 15 and December 22, as a fundraiser for our organization.

We raised a total of \$487 over the two days, which is an awesome total.

Thanks to the following people and pets for their assistance:

- *Randee McQueen and Sagee,*
- *Loree McQueen,*
- *Joan Peterson and Teddy,*
- *Rhonda Hardy,*
- *Patty Guthrie and Mokey,*
- *Stephanie Nguyen,*
- *Karey Spidell and Beau,*
- *Kathy Harris,*
- *Anne Tiry and Hero*





## *Furry Friends Apparel*

The Furry Friends Online Store features the latest winter sales on the In-Stock Logo Apparel page!

There are only 23 items left at ridiculously reduced prices. Check the online Furry Friends store for your size in the high-quality grey sweatshirts as well as both grey and black fleece vests and jackets. If we have your size, you're the winner this winter as these items are perfect for cool and cold weather items will be discontinued when they are sold out!

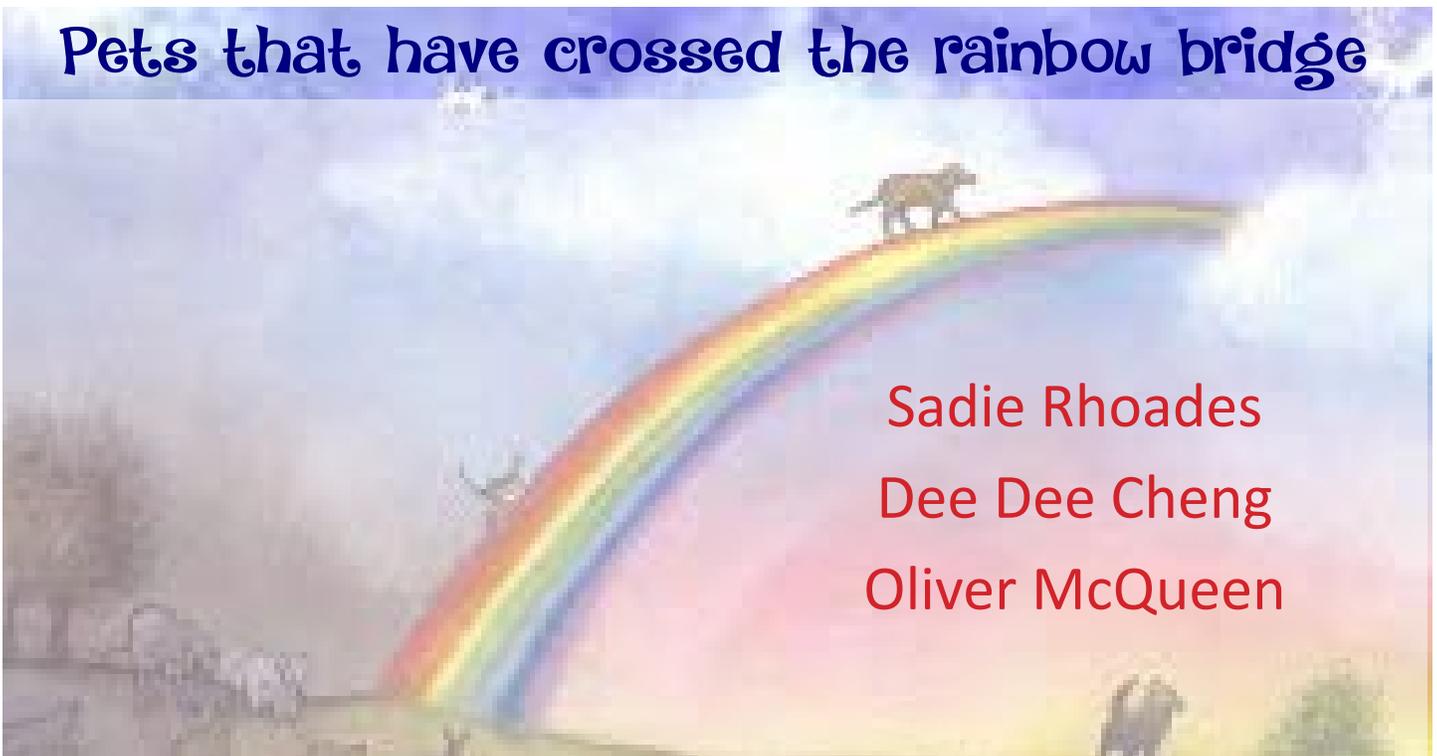


At regular prices are the popular long sleeve teal T-shirts for this winter and early spring. Special Order Apparel and Accessories include popular items, including dog patches.



## **Pets that have crossed the rainbow bridge**

Sadie Rhoades  
Dee Dee Cheng  
Oliver McQueen



# *Furry Friends PALS at the Los Gatos Holiday Parade!*



Thank you for marching in the rain! Curt and Arlene McClelland, Kieran Alcumbrac, Nancy Gum, Pattie Guthrie, Dave Zemke, Katie O'Donnell, Kathy and Rob Harris

*Photo credits: Katie O'Donnell and Kathy Harris*



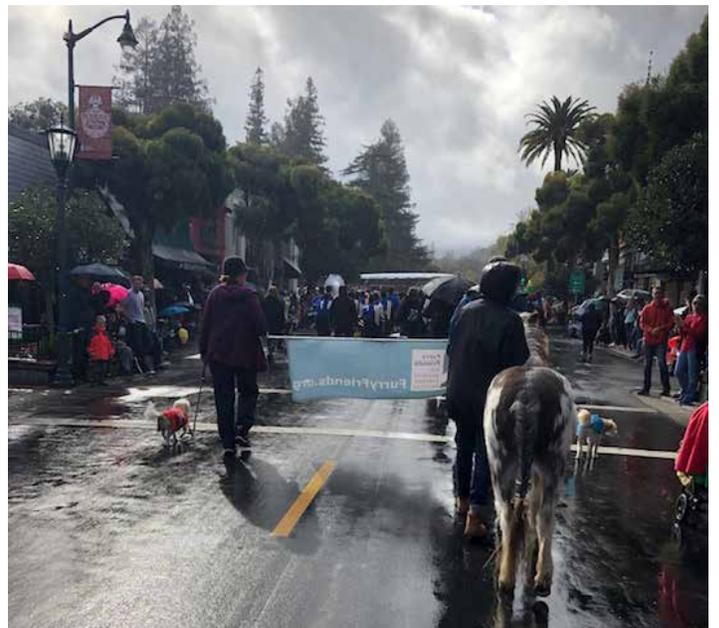
*Here we go*



*Good balance!*



*Girls with Pop*



# Critter Doctor

JULIE C. BOND, M.S., ANIMAL BEHAVIORIST



**Q** I did a special visit last month during the holidays and saw more than one person using a leash other than the purple one you handed out in class. Do we need to use the purple leashes on the special/holiday visits, or can we use any leash for those?  
*G in Morgan Hill*

**A** Generally speaking, no matter what visit you attend, you need to wear some sort of Furry Friends attire, wear your badge, have your pet's badge on them or on you, and your pet on a 4 foot purple leash. I saw the pictures you sent me of the dogs wearing tartan plaid leashes. I think the two volunteers intended to have their dogs get into the "holiday spirit" with the red and green plaid leashes. The leashes were still 4 feet in length, which was good. I think this is a perfect example of where we can be a little bit flexible with the rules. We allow costumes and other holiday attire on pets who are okay with wearing them, and the holiday sweaters, antlers, etc. are much appreciated by the people we visit with during the holidays. As long as the holiday leashes were 4 feet in length, and not retractable, I would allow them as I think they fall under the guise of "holiday attire," just like the maroon holiday sweatshirts the volunteers wore for the parade which also aren't the standard Furry Friends colors of teal and purple. The one type of leash that I would not permit on any visit is a retractable one.

**Q** My dog and I each had some health issues and missed three months worth of our visits. On our first visit back, my dog was laying on the ground next to a patient when he was approached from behind by a new dog on the team, who proceeded to sniff his backside. My dog whipped his head around and bared his teeth at the other dog and then went back to visiting with the patient. The new volunteer was miffed at me and my dog, but I feel like my dog's reaction was appropriate; her dog shouldn't have had his nose so far up my dog's behind during a visit! What are your thoughts on this?  
*S in Saratoga*

**A** Unlike some other pet assisted therapy organizations, Furry Friends does not have a set policy on distance between dogs during visits or on dog greetings. In

etiquette class, I tell all new volunteers that their team captains get to decide if dogs do a meet and greet before the visits, and if so, how those will be conducted. At all times, however, you get to do what is safest for you and your dog. Thus, you could have asked this other volunteer to give you and your dog some space while you were visiting, and that would have been okay too. My personal belief is that all dogs on leash should be at least 2 feet apart and not allowed to meet or greet one another on leash at all. Leashes create anxiety for dogs as they pull on their leashes to get to one another, gasping, staring, and often with rigid body postures. Leashes get tangled, personal spaces are invaded as happened with your dog, and often conflict ensues even among dogs who are quite friendly with other dogs. For the purposes of our visits, we are there to provide pet assisted therapy, not socialize our dogs. Keeping dogs at least two feet apart insures that dogs are able to focus on those they are visiting, and not on the other dogs in attendance. This is solely my opinion, however, and it is up to the team captains to decide how their visits will run from a dog socialization point of view. You, however, are welcome to give your input based on your experiences with your own dog. And, definitely, I think your dog's response was perfectly appropriate; the other dog should not have stuck his nose up under your dog whose focus was on a patient at that time. If there are any further issues with this, please let me know!

**Q** I met a new volunteer who wants to start doing visits with the Reading Buddies program in a few months with his son. I know that they will need to have done six months worth of regular visits before they can take the Reading Buddies class, but his son won't be 12 until later next year. Can they both take the class as soon as it is offered, or do they have to wait until the boy is 12 years old?  
*M in San Jose*

**A** It is Furry Friends policy that the minimum age for volunteers is 12 years old. Until this boy is 12, he cannot do any visits, Reading Buddies or otherwise. Once he turns 12, he can attend an etiquette class without his pet since the pet has already been approved for visits. He can also attend a Reading Buddies class once he is of age. They will need to keep in mind, however, that some of our visits, including some of the Reading Buddies visits, may have age restrictions which will prohibit him from attending even though he is the minimum accepted age for a volunteer.

**Q** I am a new volunteer and I did my first visit in December! While on that visit, I saw a dog on the team with a bandage on its front leg. I know you said in class that we should skip a visit if our pet is ill or if they have an open sore/wound as that could mean that they might not behave like themselves and/or it could be a risk

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**for transmitting MRSA. This dog seemed okay, just kind of old and gimpy, as my grandfather used to say! A child on the visit was petting my dog and asked me why the other dog had a band-aid on its leg, and I wasn't sure what I should say! I did tell the team captain, but I never saw them say anything to the other volunteer.**

*R in Menlo Park*

**A** Thank you for bringing this to my attention! Any dog with a wound requiring a bandage should not be on a visit. While the bandage might be tight enough to keep out bacteria etc., there are no guarantees. Plus, if the dog had an open sore/wound requiring a bandage, that would definitely qualify as potentially affecting the dog's behavior and thus the quality of the visit. I think that the right thing to say to the child asking would be to say that you're not sure and that they are free to ask the dog's owner about it. I certainly hope your team captain said something to the volunteer outside of the visit. If the dog attends another visit with the bandage on, please let me know so that I may follow up on this. It may be the case that this older dog has some arthritis and is licking its legs in response to the pain, causing sores called lick granulomas, which they are covering up with bandages. Thus, it may be time for this elderly pet to retire from visits.

**Q** **Just a quick question. My neighbor just rescued the sweetest dog! She wants to start doing Furry Friends visits on the team I captain. All she needs to do is sign up for class and request my site, right?**  
*P in San Martin*

**A** That's wonderful! Yes, generally speaking, your neighbor will need to sign up for the etiquette class, complete her paperwork, and have her dog evaluated by me there. She can indeed request your site for visits. If your site is closed to new volunteers, however, then you will have to let Tara our admin know that it's okay with you that this person joins your team. The big issue here is timing. Your friend must have had her new dog for at least 6 months and the dog must be over a year of age BEFORE she can have the dog evaluated by her vet, sign up for class and then attend the actual class.



## Who Can Attend Furry Friends Visits?

We are often asked if another family member, friend, or out-of-town visitor may attend your Furry Friends visit with you. Unfortunately, our insurance does not permit that. Only Furry Friends volunteers who are on our membership roster and who have attended the etiquette class may attend the visits. So please resist the impulse to bring anyone else with you on your visit.

# UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND VISITS

## SIGN UP NOW!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=c.SignUpSearch&eid=0FC5CBD6FFC5F967&cs=09B5BADA8FBF8B637B7964025BCF9BC9&sortby=startdate>

### *January*

1/18, 8AM: CSU Biotechnology Symposium, Santa Clara - WAIT LIST

1/26, 6:30PM: Stanford University, Palo Alto

1/30, 11:35AM: Mountain View High School, Mountain View

### *February*

2/14, 11:45AM: Intel Corp., Santa Clara

2/22, 3PM: Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Milpitas

### *March*

3/3, 11:30AM: University Prep Academy, San Jose

3/11, 3PM: Rose Garden Library, San Jose

3/18, 12:10PM: Palmer College of Chiropractic, San Jose

3/19, 11:15AM: DeAnza College, Cupertino

3/26, 11:35AM: Mountain View High School, Mountain View

### *April*

4/28, 11:30AM: University Prep Academy, San Jose

4/29, 12:15PM: Bellarmine College Prep, San Jose

Has your FF pet passed and you want to stay involved in Furry Friends?

If you are still want to do pet therapy but don't plan on training another animal or are in process of training, you may want to captain a visit without an animal.

Being a captain without a pet is really FUN! You still get to love all the pets, talk to the students and school/site staff about what we do, and help direct traffic and answer questions.

Please contact [admin@furryfriends.org](mailto:admin@furryfriends.org)



All Furry Friends captains are invited to join the Furry Friends board of directors for a thank you dinner

At  
China Stix  
2110 El Camino Real  
Santa Clara, 95050

On  
Monday, March 30th  
From 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

RSVP By March 15th by purchasing on our  
[online store](https://www.furryfriends.org/membership-other-fees)

<https://www.furryfriends.org/membership-other-fees>

\$10 per captain

\$32 per captain's guest

The nominal \$10 fee is to help ensure attendance!

# Furry Friends Photo Album

Keep those photos coming! Please send your favorite pet photos to [info@furryfriends.org](mailto:info@furryfriends.org)

*(Right) Sweater contest at the  
Los Gatos Holiday Parade*



*(Left) Pippin Cranford  
bringing holiday cheer*

*(Right) Mandy Hsueh  
posing for Randy Fishel*

