



**Furry
Friends**

Pet
Assisted
Therapy
Services

Summer 2018



Short Paws

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

A note from our president

I would like to thank all of the volunteers that came to the Furry Friends volunteer appreciation dinner in April. Every attendee received a window decal, leash cover, license plate holder and a nice dinner. There were also lots of free raffle items. I've heard a number of questions about the leash cover so I've included a picture of Teddy modeling the reflective leash cover. I also want to thank Mae Cunningham and Donna King for helping in numerous ways to make the dinner a success. Sorry, we forgot to take pictures!



Our board members were introduced at the volunteer dinner and I forgot to ask if anyone would be interested in joining our board. Our next board meeting is Tuesday, July 24, 6:30pm. Our meetings usually last 2 - 2 ½ hours. Please email me, joan@furryfriends.org, if you are interested in attending a board meeting.

Joan Peterson



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

Anne Tiry

Secretary

Anne Tiry

Treasurer

Randee McQueen

Directors

Kathy Harris

Kat Hsueh

Julie Skeen

Administrator

Loree McQueen



Hannah Young

Skippy Taller

Rollie Premeau

Mr. Darcy Diamond

Simba Brigham

We are in the process of redoing our website and need more current pictures. Captains, please send us pictures of your team or pets working. No clients faces in the photos please! Here's an example of an acceptable picture:



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

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



Attention Amazon shoppers!

If you shop on Amazon, you may sign up for AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Furry Friends PATS every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Our organization is listed as: Pet Assisted Therapy Services, Location: Campbell, CA. Enter Pet Assisted Therapy Services in the search & then click on it. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation to Furry Friends.



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.

Critter Doctor

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



Q I am a long time captain with a collar question! I just had a new volunteer join my team and her dog was wearing a collar that had a partial chain on it. I didn't think we allowed choke chains on our visits. Can you clarify again what types of collars can and can't be used. Thanks! L in San Jose
L in San Jose

A I am really glad you asked! The collar you saw this volunteer's dog wearing is one type of Martingale collar. Martingale collars, sometimes even referred to as Greyhound or Whippet collars, are a gentler slip collar. They can have a chain piece that is attached to the flat nylon collar that tightens if the dog pulls, or they can be made completely of nylon where there is a smaller loop of nylon that tightens if the dog pulls. Both versions are gentler on a dog's neck than a traditional choke chain. While choke chains MAY be used on some teams, it is up to the discretion of the facility being visited. Some of the facilities have asked that dogs on the visits not wear choke chains and we must comply with that request. On no visits may a dog wear a pinch or prong collar. Head halters such as Haltis or Gentle Leaders are acceptable for all visits as are body harnesses both of the "no pull" variety, as well as the full body harness style. All cats must be on a body harness and leash; cat leashes should not be attached to a cat's collar at any time. If you have any other questions, please let me know!

Q I attended one of your training classes earlier this year. During the class, you gave each of us a purple leash for our dogs. On a recent special visit, I saw two different dogs wearing other leashes. One had a different kind of purple leash than the rest of us, and the other had sort of greenish-blue leash. Can you clarify what leashes we can use for the different types of Furry Friends visits?
T in Palo Alto

A Absolutely! Everyone who joins Furry Friends is given a 4-foot, purple nylon leash for their pet. I have three different sizes, one suitable for every pet from a rabbit or cat, all the way up to a large dog. If your leash gets lost or damaged, we will replace

your leash. You simply need to email Loree, admin@furryfriends.org and she will collect your information so that we can send you a new leash. You will definitely see some members still using teal colored leashes. Years ago, that was the color of all of our leashes until the manufacturer discontinued that color and we moved to the dark purple we use now. If you see a volunteer with one of those teal leashes, definitely ask how long they've been with Furry Friends! As for other purple leashes: we have allowed volunteers to use other purple leashes on their pets for visits as long as those leashes are 4 feet in length. I know of several members who have hand-braided purple leashes for their pets' visits, as well as a couple volunteers with beautiful, purple leather leashes for their dogs. Again, as long as they are 4 feet in length, they are fine for use on any of our visits. On no visits should you ever see a volunteer using a leash longer than 4 feet or a retractable style leash. If you see someone using a leash that is too long or that is retractable, please let your captain know as using them creates a potential safety issue.

Q My dog and I are on a team with other dogs, as well as a couple of cats. My dog lives with cats and doesn't really pay them much attention, but I noticed that a new dog on our team was definitely interested in the cats as he barked and pulled the owner toward the cats. The owner stated that the dog loves cats so much! I thought you checked all the dogs for their ability to be around cats and ignore them during the training class? This dog makes me uncomfortable, so I can't imagine how the cats feel! By the way, I did tell my team captain already!
P in Sunnyvale

A While I do try to cat-test all of the dogs (and other cats too!) during the etiquette class, it certainly isn't fool-proof. First of all, we don't always have a cat available when we hold the classes, so some dogs will go through the class and I have to rely on the what their owners tell me about their dogs behavior around cats. For the classes where we do have a cat there, it isn't always the case that the dogs actually react to the cat! Some dogs simply don't react in that classroom situation because they are overwhelmed by everything, but they do, unfortunately, react when they are out on real visits. In any event, a dog barking and/or pulling on its leash to get toward a cat on your team is inappropriate. If correcting the dog with a stern "leave it/quiet" and redirecting the dog's attention elsewhere didn't work, then that dog should have been taken outside to settle down. Once they returned, if the dog responded negatively to the cats again, then the dog should have been removed from that visit and that team and ultimately placed onto a team without cats. The new dog on your team that barked and pulled may very well be friendly with cats, but that level of exuberance won't work for our visits as it creates stress and anxiety for everyone, especially the cats and their owners!

This is an excellent flyer from Canine Companions for Independence. Remember, most of FF's pets are Therapy Animals.

A service dog is more than a vest™

What can a business ask? “Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?”
“What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?”



Assistance/Service Dog

DEFINITION: A dog trained in specific tasks that mitigate the handler's disability.

ACCESS RIGHTS: Permitted with handler in any place the public is allowed.

TRAINING REQUIRED: Extensively trained to perform specific tasks to mitigate effects of handler's disability.

WHAT IF THE ANIMAL IS MISBEHAVING? Must be in control at all times and behave in a safe manner. Aggression or failure to remedy misbehavior can result in the dog's removal from a business under the ADA.



Emotional Support Animal

DEFINITION: A dog or other animal whose sole function is to provide comfort or provides emotional support to its owner with a disability.

ACCESS RIGHTS: Only allowed in owner's home, college dormitories and airplanes as outlined in Fair Housing Act and Air Carrier Access Act.

TRAINING REQUIRED: Basic manners expected but none required by law.

WHAT IF THE ANIMAL IS MISBEHAVING? Can be removed.



Puppies in Training

DEFINITION: A dog that is learning tasks for a handler with a disability or for a program that provides service dogs.

ACCESS RIGHTS: With permission. Rely on goodwill of businesses for access to prepare the puppy for service. Some state laws permit puppies in training in any place the public is allowed.

TRAINING REQUIRED: In the process of training and socialization to mitigate the effects of disability.

WHAT IF THE ANIMAL IS MISBEHAVING? Must be in control at all times and behave in a safe manner. Puppies in training rely on the goodwill of businesses for access, but can be removed.



Therapy Animal

DEFINITION: A temperament-tested pet providing comfort in an approved facility.

ACCESS RIGHTS: Only with permission at designated facility.

TRAINING REQUIRED: Basic obedience and sound temperament expected but not required.

WHAT IF THE ANIMAL IS MISBEHAVING? Can be removed.



New Section to the newsletter! Volunteers who have hit the milestone marks of 5 and 10 years!

We want to thank everyone for his or her wonderful support and for volunteering with Furry Friends for so many years! We would not have the wonderful organization we do without all the amazing Volunteers.

Furry Friends has approximately 35 other volunteers who have already hit the 10-year mark- all the way to the longest still visiting volunteer of 28 years!

At this time the volunteers who hit the 5 and 10-year mark:

5 YEARS

Tiffany Crouse
Connie Dowler
Elsie Kirchhofer
Rich Nederostek
Debra Robinson
Rhondal Jeong
Lynn Cornish

10 YEARS

Candy Papier
Sherrlyn Lancaster

Furry Friends wishes to thank all of you for all your hard work and dedication to Furry Friends. We would not be an organization without all of you!

Loree McQueen

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

If you are still wanting 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 Loree at admin@furryfriends.org



YouTube Special Visits

YouTube requested our help after the horrific shooting. The 3 weeks following, we sent teams of 40, 20 & 10 volunteers to provide pet therapy. After these Special Visits, YouTube donated \$5000 to Furry Friends. Thank you YouTube for your generous donation!

A thank you from YouTube

I just wanted to pass along my coworker's thank you. Friday's furry friends visit was everyone's talk this morning again. They appreciated so much being able to spend time with all the dogs and all of you, and were so touched by your kindness and by how many of you came (even from all the way in the South Bay) on a Friday afternoon.

The visit made a huge difference for everyone and my coworkers and teammates really wanted to make sure to convey how much the furry friends presence meant to them. Thanks again for being here!

You Tube Special Visits feedback

A letter from a volunteer:

The day we went to YouTube after the shooting event, a young gentleman came up, sat down next to Sachi and started petting her. He didn't look at me or say a word. Up until then, every person that came to pet Sachi would ask at least one question, What's her name, What kind of dog is she, How old is she, etc. But this young man didn't say anything, he just wanted to pet her. He looked off in the distance, stroking her fur and at one point, he put his head down on top of her and let out a content sigh. It was at the moment that I "got it," I understood what pet therapy was. Petting, hugging, experiencing love and affection from an animal can be so therapeutic, no matter what you are going through, not matter where you are in life. So many of us are fortunate enough to have our own amazing pets to give us love and comfort every day. I am thankful that we were able to share that with the people at YouTube that day. And hopefully with many people in many places to come...

And another:

Willson and I went to YouTube again today and we met a young woman who spent practically an hour with Willson on Friday (he shamelessly spent two hours getting lovin' on Friday). She told me that she was not sleeping and was having nightmares every night until she spent time with Willson on Friday. It was so touching, I wanted to cry :)



Possible Outing?

Roaring Camp Railroad is nestled in the Santa Cruz Mountains in Felton. Ride into the Past on 19th Century Steam Trains. Travel over trestles, through towering redwood groves and up a winding narrow-gauge grade to the summit of Bear Mountain as conductors narrate the history of Roaring Camp, the railroad and the forest. (One hour and fifteen minutes round trip).

In the 1880s, narrow-gauge steam locomotives were used to haul giant redwood logs out of the mountains. Roaring Camp's steam engines date from 1890 and are among the oldest and most authentically preserved narrow-gauge steam engines providing regularly scheduled passenger service in America.

Years ago, we did a Furry Friends day on the train. They allow dogs on one car of the three cars. We can buy tickets in advance and we are allowed to load first. Ideally, we have enough tickets to be the only one in that car on the train. It is great fun, the dogs all enjoyed it. Even if it is hot that day, the trees allow for enough shade for it to be nice.

Would someone be interested in heading up the planning of doing another Roaring Camp Railroad day for Furry Friends? We are looking for a couple of volunteers that would like to work with a couple of board members to set this up. If you are interesting in helping put on this event or one similar for members of Furry Friends, please contact Randee (FF Treasurer) at Randee@furryfriends.org

SignUpGenius

Recently Furry Friends has been using this program to notify members of special visits that need participants. We first ask for a captain and then members. We are able to set a limit of how many people that we need. It allows us to create a list for that event that we can update information to and about without sending it to the entire FF list. When at the last minute we were asked to come to YouTube, we were able to get information out quickly and reliably to members that wanted to help. We are still working out kinks, but overall it is a new great program for us to use for Furry Friends.

Randee McQueen