



**Furry
Friends**

Pet
Assisted
Therapy
Services

Winter 2018



Short Paws

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

A note from our new president:

Happy New Year Furry Friends volunteers!
Welcome all new members and all returning members!
Thank you for renewing your dues and an extra Thank You for those of you that made additional donations.
It is my pleasure to volunteer with all of you. Our organization could not exist without all of you and your passion for sharing your love and your pets with others. I share your passion!

As per our bylaws, the board elected a new president and secretary in November. Anne Tiry is now our secretary.

A little bit about myself:

My teenage daughter and I joined FF in 2001 with Heidi our Bernese Mountain Dog. Since people stopped us everywhere we went, I had sought out a way to share Heidi with others. After Heidi received her wings, Buddy (another Bernese Mountain Dog) joined our family and we continued volunteering with FF. Buddy passed on in 2013 and 3 weeks later Teddy arrived in our home. He is our biggest Furry Friend and the best lover! In May 2014, I joined the FF board and then was elected VP in Nov 2016. I also was put in charge of Special Visits. Over the years, I've been on many teams and have done numerous Special Visits. I'm still on the first team that I joined in 2001 (now called Hope Rehabilitation) and several other teams.

This year, I'd like to improve our communications with our volunteers and invite you to send me your questions, comments and any concerns you may have. You can contact me by email: joan@furryfriends.org. We welcome interested volunteers to our board meetings (which are held every other month). Email me if you would like to attend or are interested in joining our board. We are always looking for passionate volunteers to join our board. - Joan Peterson



Does Your Employer Have a Gift Matching Program?

Many employers in the Bay area have a gift-matching program, where they will match charitable donations made by their employees, up to a certain dollar value. Does your employer have such a program? If so, keep that in mind when making your tax-deductible donations to Furry Friends!



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Pet
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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

Administrator

Loree McQueen



Maya Wincor

Tootsie Sartorio

Pips Winkler

Cruzer Poppenhagen

Milpitas High School special visit



Gift Wrapping at Barnes & Noble

Furry Friends volunteered for two days of gift wrapping at the Barnes & Noble on Almaden Expressway, wrapping purchases for donations to our organization.

We had two very successful days: Sunday, December 17, and Friday, December 22. All told, we brought in \$622.02 for Furry Friends, topping last year's total of \$586.99.

Thank you to all our wrappers and furry ambassadors: Loree McQueen and Oliver, Heidi Thomas, Rhonda Hardy and Penelope, Joan Peterson and Teddy, Lisa Hirano, Fern Rhoades and Sadie, Melanie Hohnbaum, Dal Miranda, Karey Spidell and Beau, Karen Seroff, Elena Owens, Harla Norman and Willow, and Anne Tiry.



**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

Holiday Photos

For the past 5 years we have done Holiday Photos as a fundraiser for Furry Friends. The fantastic photos are taken by photographer Randy Fishel in the garage behind Randee McQueen's business. The fees that Randy charges all go to Furry Friends so it's a win-win situation for Furry Friends and its members. This year many members were not aware of the fundraiser until after it happened so only \$120 was raised. When Randy learned that more people were interested in having photos taken of their pet, he kindly offered to do an extra day and that day brought in \$500. Many thanks to Randy and all the members who participated and had photos taken. A number of them are in this year's calendar.



2017 Calendars

This year's calendar has over 140 pictures of many of our Furry Friends having fun, going for rides and doing their work as therapy dogs. People can send photos in throughout the year but 98% of the pictures came in from October till the deadline in November. We asked members to tell us how many calendars they would like to purchase this year and got 83 reservations. We ordered 100 meaning that there were 17 extra to sell. We still have some if you are interested in purchasing one. The calendar is not only a fun thing to have to remind you all year of how much fun we have with our furry friends but it is also a fundraiser. We will make between \$800 and \$900 for this fundraiser depending on how many we sell. Thank you to everyone who sent in pictures and purchased the calendars.



Critter Doctor

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



Q I joined Furry Friends just over a year ago and I am really enjoying my visits, particularly the ones I do for stress relief at schools in the area. Before those visits, I always get an email reminder about the visit, which I do appreciate. I have noticed, however, that some of my fellow volunteers aren't sticking to the guidelines in those reminder emails. I said something to the captain of my last special visit and she suggested I bring this issue up to you, so here it is!

M in San Jose

A I am really glad you brought this up! Special visits should run just like our regular visits. All volunteers should arrive on time, park in the designated area we've been assigned, arrive wearing their Furry Friends logo apparel, and with their pets on our purple leashes. Volunteers must be wearing their badges and should either be wearing or have their pet wearing their photo badge which shows that their vaccines are up to date. Toys should not be brought to these special visits, nor should the animals on these visits be off leash. You may bring water for your pet, of course, but no food of any kind. Treats are not allowed on ANY Furry Friends visits. If you need a new t-shirt or leash before an upcoming visit, just let Loree know at admin@furryfriends.org and she will arrange to get you what you need. If you forget your badge or t-shirt, you will not be allowed to do the special visit. If you have forgotten your leash, it is likely that you will still be allowed to do the visit as long as your pet is leashed on a 4-foot leash. We do not allow leashes longer than 4-feet or those that are retractable. In addition, if you are bringing your dog, they must be on a flat collar, rolled collar, martingale collar, or harness of some kind. Head halters are fine as well. We do not allow pinch/prong collars on any of our visits. Please stay in the designated visit area during these visits and clean up thoroughly behind your pets!

Q My neighbor's kids just moved her into a local, assisted living facility. I would love to visit her there as a Furry Friend! I asked my current team captain and she said to do that, I would have to get the site approved for visits first. Can you explain exactly what I need to do? Thanks!

T in Santa Cruz

A In order to visit this facility as a Furry Friend, it must first become an approved site. To do that, someone from the facility (usually it is a facility director or events person) must complete a site application which can be found on our website. Once that is received, a board member contacts that person and sets up a visit. During that site visit, the board member will work with the staff of the facility to determine how many volunteers and pets would work for visits, a good day/time for those visits, etc. At that point, the report goes back to the board as a whole for approval. Once approved, then Loree will send out an email asking for a captain for the new site. In your case, you could let Loree know that once the site is approved, you would like to captain the visit as you have a personal interest in this facility. Loree can help you recruit volunteers for the site as well. In the meantime, you can always ask at the facility if you and your pet can visit your friend on your own.

You would not be doing the visit as a Furry Friends member, so you would not wear your t-shirt and badge, or use your purple leash. However, many facilities are open to having people with well-behaved pets visit their friends in these facilities even if they are not affiliated with an organization. While our insurance covers you for your visits that you do with Furry Friends, it would be your own insurance covering you if you did these visits on your own. If you have any other questions, please let me know!

Q I am a long time Furry Friends member, currently visiting with my third dog in the program! Over the years there have been a couple of visits I've been interested in doing, but whenever I look on the website, it always shows these sites as closed. How can I get my name onto a wait list for one of these places?

R in Palo Alto

A I know it can be frustrating to keep checking back on the website only to see that the site you'd really like to visit is still closed to new members. However, we do not keep waiting lists for any of the site visits we do. The best way to find out about open sites, new sites, etc. is to keep an eye on your email as Loree lets everyone know about team openings. Checking the newsletter for sites looking for members is also a good idea, and checking back on the website as you are doing now is great. It is really important to keep in mind the fact that the number of volunteers and pets on any given team is set by the facility itself. Each facility lets us know how many volunteers and pets (and what kinds of pets!) they want for their scheduled visits, and we do our best to fill the teams to their specifications. Once a visit has a full roster, the site becomes closed to new members. If someone leaves the team, at that point, the team captain can let Loree know the team is open again and looking for a new member. Then, current volunteers can have their information forwarded to the team captain for consideration for that team. It is often the case that openings on these popular teams fill quite quickly, so being proactive in answering emails is key.

Q A friend of mine is a member of Love On A Leash. I am thinking that I'd like to join that group as well. Can I be a Furry Friends member and participate in other pet assisted therapy groups as well?

A in Los Altos

A Absolutely! Furry Friends does not restrict its members from belonging to more than one pet assisted therapy group. In fact, many of members participate in multiple organizations which is terrific!

A note from Randee, our treasurer

The operating expenses for our organization are around \$30,000 per year. This includes insurance, accounting, office expenses (postage, storage locker, id badges, etc.) and our two subcontractors: our administrator, Loree and our animal behaviorist, Julie.

Your dues, new site application & Special Visit fees almost cover these expenses. Individual and other donations cover the rest.

This year, we had a hard-working fundraising committee that was able to bring in almost \$10,000. We plan on using some of this money for meetings/dinners for our membership.

In addition, we were also very lucky to be the beneficiary of another non-profit closing down and received \$25,000. We are planning on using this money for projects which include but are not limited to members meetings, data base updates, and updating the website so it is more mobile friendly.

Leland Stress Relief Visit

