



**Furry
Friends**

Pet
Assisted
Therapy
Services

Spring 2020



Short Paws

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

HAPPY EASTER!



Above: A few of our Furry Friends visiting the San Jose Family Shelter

For more photos, please check out our SmugMug photo album at <https://patsfurryfriends.smugmug.com/>

Please feel free to submit photos to info@furryfriends.org



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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.

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Julie Bond

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

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Above: Audrey and Stella ready for Easter

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A letter from your President



Oh my gosh! What a rollercoaster the COVID-19 pandemic has been! By now, all of our visits have been suspended for over two months. And we don't know when our visits will resume.

All Special Visits and Etiquette, Reading Buddies, and Off-leash classes have been canceled through May. Please check the [Furry Friends website's home page](#) and emails from Furry Friends for the latest updates.

Everyone is missing us! Please give your Furry Friends an extra hug and, above all, stay safe!

Joan

MUTTS



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.

Editor's Note

Kat Hsueh, Editor
& Mandy, Furry Friend



How are you doing?

Our world is upside down right now. It's a challenging time and I hope you, your families, and your pets are safe. I personally am very thankful to feel healthy (despite allergies!) and to have a job that allows me to work remotely. My family is doing alright as well, although my dad is extremely stubborn and insists on putting himself at risk by going out. Does anyone else have to tell their parents to stay home?!?! Exciting news is that my brother is expecting his first child in a couple of months and I can't wait to be an Auntie. I hope the Coronavirus is not as rampant at that time.

Due to the Coronavirus, all visits and events are currently canceled or postponed. **HOWEVER**, you can still help someone by submitting a video of your dog (see page 7). **Once the shelter mandate is lifted, we still urgently need volunteers for the sites that have "URGENT" noted in the "Status" column of the site visit directory (<https://www.furryfriends.org/current-sites>).**

In the meantime, a few housekeeping items and reminders:

- **We have updated some documents including: the Member Handbook and Captain's Guidelines. Please read them so you are up to date!** (Find them on our home page on [furryfriends.org](https://www.furryfriends.org))
- In case you are interested, Board meeting notes are also on our website underneath the Board roster (<https://www.furryfriends.org/board>)
- Please remember to turn in your proof of vaccination to renew your pet's ID badge.
- Please submit fecal test results annually and ensure you are using a deworming product on your pets
- We will print another Furry Friends calendar this year--please submit your pet's photo. In return, we expect those who submit a photo to purchase a calendar to help offset the cost.

CAPTAINS:

- Please note the **Captains' Dinner** that has been rescheduled to **Monday, June 29th**
- Also, this is a good time to catch up on any outstanding rosters for your site visits. The volunteers on your team depend on you for this (so they can join Reading Buddies, etc.)

Take care and be safe!



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~

Aileen Gulesserian
Annie Baker
Beverley Canon
Chris Hartley
Clare Rhodes
Corinne Poulsen
David Harris
Denise Dinsmore
Emily Chung
Erin Gullung Hartley
Garrett Dinsmore
Kai Deering
Nancy Gum
Richard Napolitan
Timothy Pebworth
Wendy Harris

~10 Years~

Kathy Harris

~2 Years~

Chuong Dang
Claire Davis
Eva Kwong
Huifen Dunn
Joni Landine
Karin Massoglia
Kieran Alcumbrac
Laura Cribbins
Minna Yi
Scott Lewis
Stephanie Look

~3 Years~

Beverly Navara
Dona Rivas
Emily Cranford
Jeanette Murphy
Patrick E. Rivas

~4 Years~

Alyse Rossiter
Ann Dege-Weitz
Arlene McClelland
Barbara Doss
Carol Sowolla
Curt McClelland
Jill Williams
Naomi Florin-Gosciminski
Priscilia Lee

~5 Years~

Amy Alexander
Laura Norimoto
Marica Martinez
Ron Hawkinson
Russell Jeong
Suzanne Duckler

New Reading Buddies Teams!

Joni Landine with Daisy
Ann Begun with Laverne
Karin Massoglia with Murphy
Annie Baker with Winston



*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, CA 95050**

On: Monday, **June 29th (new date!)
From 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**RSVP: By June 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!

The AKC sent us the note below--we hope you can help!

You can view the note online at:

<https://link.akc.org/view/5e83985eee45023fd77fa501buasu.17/4ef3b229>

Here is the link to the AKC PupPals Program:

<https://www.akc.org/public-education/akc-puppals-program>



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB

Dear Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services,

The COVID-19 crisis has changed the way we live and interact with each other. It has also limited our interactions with loved ones who count on our visits and quality time. We want to assist them by bringing some joy and you can help!

The [AKC PupPals Program](#) provides people in need of uplifting with a video message from a canine friend. Anyone is eligible to receive a video, including people who are struggling with an illness, the illness/death of a loved one (human or pet), loneliness, or who are otherwise struggling through a difficult time.

Now, more than ever, we would like to bring joy to those who are directly affected by our current world pandemic.

AKC Education is seeking nominees to receive a video as well as videos of dogs to send to people in need of a PupPal.

[Learn More About Enrolling a Person or a Dog](#)

[Full directions on how to submit your video and a sample video are also available here.](#)

Critter Doctor

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



Q My husband and I went through the etiquette class together with our Golden Retriever a couple of years ago. Our dog also passed the Reading Buddies class. When my husband and I took him on a recent Reading Buddies visit though, the captain said only I could bring the dog to the Reading Buddies visits because my husband didn't attend the Reading Buddies class. I was a bit miffed. Can you go over the rules on this again? I thought it was just important that the pet be evaluated for the Reading Buddies program.

L in Palo Alto

A In order to participate in any Furry Friends visits, you must complete the etiquette class. In order to participate in the Reading Buddies program, you must complete that additional class. And if you want to do off leash visits, you must take the off leash class. In order to attend any class, you must sign up for the class online, you can't just show up to a class without enrolling in advance. If a pet is evaluated for any of our programs and passes the evaluation with one of its human handlers, then the pet does not need to return to be evaluated, but any additional handlers wishing to do those visits must attend a training class. The classes aren't just about evaluating the pets, they are about preparing the human volunteers for those visits as well. Our Reading Buddies program is intense; the animals work very hard and the human volunteers must be extra vigilant. Your Reading Buddies team captain made the right call; your husband needs to take a Reading Buddies class in order to participate in any of those visits with you and your dog.

Q My veterinarian and my breeder have advised me to wait to spay my dog until she is 2-3 years old. Given that I am following their advice, I am wondering what I should do for my visits when she is in heat? Can she wear her sanitary pants for those visits?

M in San Jose

A I'm so glad you brought this up! At our etiquette classes, I am seeing more and more intact dogs (that is, not spayed or neutered) coming into our organization.

Current research being done seems to indicate that there are health benefits to keeping dogs intact at least until they are around 2 years of age; for some breeds, even longer is recommended. Because we will have more intact animals participating in Furry Friends, it's important to know what to do, particularly if you are the owner of an intact female dog. Intact female dogs are not only of inordinate interest to male dogs, they create interest in other female dogs as well. Plus, we do have intact male dogs doing visits too which could make visits around a female dog in season very stressful. Here is our new policy regarding intact female dogs (you can find this on our website as well):

An intact female dog's estrus (heat) cycle lasts 2-4 weeks and dogs generally cycle one to two times per year. Intact female dogs may not do therapy visits during their cycle as this can be disruptive for other dogs on the team whether those other dogs are intact or neutered. Visiting with sanitary pants on an intact female dog in heat is not permitted either.

As always, team captains decide on the membership for their teams. If a team captain is uncomfortable having intact dogs on his/her team, they can make the choice not to accept members whose dogs are intact. And if problems arise with intact animals on any visit, please let me know as soon as possible!

Q On a recent visit, my dog was being petted by a patient who bent over him to pet him. When the man bent forward, my dog jumped up, and they conked heads! I felt terrible and I did report what happened to my team captain. A facility staff member checked out the patient and he was fine. What else do I need to do?
A in San Jose

A This is truly unfortunate. I tell everyone in etiquette class that they need to stand on their dog's leash to prevent jumping up. Dogs that jump up can knock people over, scratch them, even split open a lip, cause a patient to bite their tongue, or result in a concussion! Letting your team captain and the staff know was the right way to respond. Your team captain will file a formal incident report and we will need to be in contact with the facility to make sure that there isn't anything further that results from this unfortunate situation. Bottom line: anyone with a dog who might jump up MUST stand on their dog's leash for all greetings. No exceptions. If you are in doubt, stand on the leash to be safe.

Q I work for an assisted living facility where Furry Friends visits once a month. I want to add this visit to my own volunteer schedule. Is it okay for me to do volunteer visits at a place where I also happen to work?
R in San Mateo

continued from page 9

A While we do not currently have a policy regarding this issue, I think it would be best for you not to do volunteer visits at a facility for which you are also employed. Even though you would be doing the visits as a volunteer in your off time, you are still an employee of that facility. Patients and other staff know you there as an employee which might make it difficult for you to do visits there as “just a volunteer.” And if you do have occasion to bring your dog to work with you, please remember that you are bringing him as yourself, not as a representative of Furry Friends since all of our visits are on specified days/times and done as a team.

Q Recently, I did a visit where I observed another dog on my team growl and give a low bark toward a person of color visiting a patient at that facility. The volunteer quickly moved her dog away from the situation, but I did hear the man who was barked/growled at say, “Gee. That dog didn’t like me at all.” Afterward, my team captain brought us all together to talk about what happened. The volunteer actually said that her dog “doesn’t really like people of color because he’s a rescue and he was abused.” The team captain made a couple of suggestions for the future, but everyone was really uncomfortable. I’m wondering what you think about this.
P in Menlo Park

A A dog who barks or growls on a visit is a huge concern for me. It is a clear signal that the dog is feeling anxious, and I am relieved that the owner quickly moved her dog out of the situation and did not allow it to escalate. And, while it is certainly possible for dogs to discriminate based on many features, including skin color, this is not something that should be affecting our visits. We are there to lick loneliness, not have people commenting that our pets don’t like them! I will speak with this volunteer personally as she never mentioned in class that her dog had any issues with any particular groups of people. Going forward, she will need to be more cautious on her visits to keep her dog away from anyone she thinks will trigger his anxiety, or she may choose to retire her dog from visits if that is too difficult for her to do.

Pets that have crossed the rainbow bridge

Aiden Wincor

Gilbert Ludwico

Jack Croft

Jeremy Morley

Luke Tiry

Viola Centofanti



Above: Joan and Viola Centofanti

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

admin@furryfriends.org



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We're Licking Loneliness!

or go to our website and pay using PayPal:

<http://www.furryfriends.org/renew-membership>

Membership Renewal Form

Name: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: (Primary) _____ (Other) _____

Email Address: _____

If someone else in your household already receives the Short Paws newsletter, please check below to remove your name from the mailing list:

Remove me from the mailing list

Please indicate if you could help with:

- Phone calling (calling existing volunteers)
- New Volunteer Recruitment
- Computer work (email, data entry, web pages, database)
- Publications (newsletters, brochures, forms, etc.)
- Evaluating New Sites
- Being a Team Captain
- Assisting at events (volunteer picnic, Bark in the Park, etc.)
- Membership on the Board of Directors

Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services

A California non-profit organization

P.O. Box 5099 San Jose, CA 95150-5099

www.FurryFriends.org
membership renewal 8-2019

email: admin@furryfriends.org