



**Furry
Friends**

Pet
Assisted
Therapy
Services

Spring 2019



Short Paws

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



A letter from your president

This month, I want to highlight and thank: Julie Bond, Loree McQueen, Kat Hsueh & Duane Hinders.

Julie is Furry Friends' animal behaviorist and long time Furry Friends volunteer. Julie teaches the etiquette, Reading Buddies and off-leash classes and advises Furry Friends on any animal related issues. She is a huge asset to Furry Friends and the organization could not operate without her. If you ever have questions or problems with your animal, she's your go-to person. You can email Julie at critterdoctor@furryfriends.org.

Loree is retiring from being the Furry Friends administrator. She has been our admin for 15+ years and has been a big asset to Furry Friends. She has responded to many, many emails each and every day and we have all relied on her to give us the information we need. Loree handled requests for new sites, new volunteers, new captains, rosters for existing sites and pretty much everything else administrative-wise. Loree also has been a long time Furry Friends volunteer and will continue volunteering with her boys. The board has redistributed some of Loree's workload among board members and will hire an outside admin to do the database and stuff for classes.

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Starting in 2019, Kat is Furry Friends' newsletter editor and is a board member and Furry Friend volunteer for 5 years. If you have topics, stories, pictures or questions about the newsletter, email Kat at newsletters@furryfriends.org.

I want to welcome Duane Hinders to the Furry Friends board. He is a dedicated volunteer & captain. Many of you may also have met him on a Special Visit. Duane has agreed to take over the job of managing Special Visits and you will now be hearing from him. Thank you Duane! If you have any questions about Special Visits, email DuaneSpecialVisits@furryfriends.org.

Thank you Julie, Loree, Kat, Duane, all of the board members and all of our Furry Friends volunteers. Furry Friends cannot meet its mission without every volunteer and their animals so please give an extra hug to your animal from me. As always, I welcome and look forward to any suggestions, compliments and/or comments. This newsletter is our main way of communicating with all of the volunteers.

We are licking loneliness!

Joan Peterson



Delilah, a Kindergartener, reading to Jamie during a Reading Buddies session at the Cambrian (San Jose) Public Library

(Photo taken and submitted with permission)

Licking loneliness in the East Bay!

We had our first team visit to Stoneridge Creek and their memory support facility, Creekview Care. This visit is the 3rd Thursday at 1:30 PM and is our second Furry Friends visit a month licking loneliness in the East Bay!



From Left to Right: Linn Joanis with Reggae; Julie Bond with Desi, co-captain; and Muriel Kao with Monty, captain.

Pets that have crossed the rainbow bridge

Scarlett Grant
 Penelope Hardy
 Dobby Magner
 Sofee Schuster



Penelope Hardy



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

Allison Aaronson
 Cameron Brown
 Duane Hinders
 Kat Hsueh
 Julie Skeen

Administrator
 Loree McQueen



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!

Critter Doctor

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



Q I have started working with another pet assisted therapy organization in addition to Furry Friends. One of my Furry Friends teammates told me that I can't actually do this! Is that true?!
M in Palo Alto

A Oh my gosh, NO! Furry Friends encourages our volunteers to "lick loneliness" in their communities any way that they can. We do not restrict our members from participating in other, similar organizations to ours, although we are aware that there are other organizations both on the local and national level who DO restrict volunteers from belonging to multiple groups. Have fun working with your new group!

Q I am a new member to Furry Friends having just passed the class last month with my dog! I know you said in class that important information goes out via email and can be found in the newsletters, but do you post information on social media as well? I check my Facebook much more often than my email! LOL.
T in Los Gatos

A It was a pleasure meeting you in class last month! We do have a social media presence on Facebook and Instagram and we encourage our members to share photos of themselves and their pets on visits (just no pictures of patients since that violates privacy rules!), as well as articles and other postings that relate to pet assisted therapy work. You will notice that we have a much bigger presence right now on Facebook, with a page for our organization as well as a groups page, than Instagram, but we hope that changes going forward! Here are the links to our pages on

Facebook 1: <https://www.facebook.com/FurryFriendsPATs>

Facebook 2: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/20731118047/?ref=share>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/furry_friends_pats/?hl=en

Q I am a long time team captain and I am also on several teams that I don't captain. It seems to me that it might be a good idea if Furry Friends did some kind of re-training of volunteers. While most of the new members I see seem good about following the rules and adhering to the guidelines presented in class, older members often get lax and actually get a bit cranky if you call them out on their errors. I don't like being bossy with my team members, but I do like to think that they understand the rules and why they are in place. Has Furry Friends ever considered any kind of re-training?
J in Santa Cruz

A While many people, myself included, feel that re-training of some kind would be good for our volunteers, it is hard to require something like that given how many members we have. This issue has been brought before the Board of Directors and they are actively working to try to figure out a way to make sure ALL of our volunteers are current in their knowledge with regard to visits, and find a way to track re-training as we move forward. Personally, I would also like to have some sort of re-evaluation process for our pets, even if it was just a questionnaire, in order to be proactive with changes in health status or behavior as our pets age. This is certain to be a future topic of discussion. If any other volunteers have thoughts about how to do this effectively, please share with the board via email at board@furryfriends.org.

Q My son joined Furry Friends with me two years ago. Now that he is in high school, he needs to keep track of his volunteer hours for school credit. Can he use his Furry Friends hours for that?
K in Menlo Park

A Absolutely! Just have your son print up the form provided by his school for tracking volunteer hours. Your team captain(s) can sign off on his hours with Furry Friends. And if he is in need of additional hours, please have him check the website for sites looking for more volunteers. So many of our sites LOVE having young people on the visits, almost as much, or even more than, they like seeing the pets.

Q Most people think it is perfectly okay to let their dogs sniff noses without asking. In fact, I've had people tell me that the purpose of the pre-visit get-together is exactly for that! This is a problem for me as my dog is super-social, and will only want to visit with the other dogs if we start out our visit this way. And on one of

my teams, there are a couple of dogs who get snarky when other dogs get in their faces. I belong to another organization that requires all dogs to remain 2 feet apart on their therapy visits. What are the rules with this regard in Furry Friends?

A in San Jose

A Furry Friends does not have a strict policy with regard to this, but rather we allow each of our team captains to set up the guidelines regarding this issue for each of their teams. Some team captains like to allow the dogs to visit, while others prefer to keep them at a distance from one another. I think that every member on the team should have some input on their comfort level with the policy in place for their team. I myself don't mind a bit of sniffing, but I DO like when I am asked if it is okay for another dog to approach my dog. I think this issue is of particular significance on our special visits where there are lots of dogs and lots of people about. We want our dogs on those visits to stay focused on and interested in the people they are meeting, more than the other dogs.



SignUpGenius

All Special Visits will use SignUpGenius to ensure all volunteers have equal opportunity to sign up for Special Visits.

If you ever want to take a look at Special Visit opportunities, you can look on [SignUpGenius](https://www.signupgenius.com/). If the link doesn't work, copy and paste the link below into your browser.

Upcoming Special Events and Visits - sign up now!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=c.SignUpSearch&eid=0FC5CBD66FC5F967&cs=09B5BADA8FBF8B637B7964025BCF9BC9&sortby=startdate>

4/25, 11:30AM: Walmart eCommerce	5/23, 12:30PM: Gunderson High School
4/26, Noon: Willow Glen Middle School	5/28, 11:50AM: Milpitas High School
5/1, 12:45PM: Monta Vista High School	5/31, Noon: Mountain View High School
5/3, 11:45AM Willow Glen High School	6/3, 11:15AM: Leland High School
5/7, 11:30AM: University Prep Academy	6/6, Noon: Stanford
5/8, 11AM: San Jose State University	6/19, 11:30AM: Foothill College
5/9, Noon: West Valley College	6/20, 11:15AM: DeAnza College
5/15, Noon: Bellarmine College Prep	8/5, 10AM: Camp Pals @ Santa Clara U
5/20, 10AM: Gavilan College	11/5, 11:30AM: University Prep Academy
5/21, 10AM: Los Gatos High School	12/5, 11:15AM: DeAnza College



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.



Volunteers who have hit milestone Anniversaries!

We want to thank everyone for his or her 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!
-Loree McQueen

5 YEARS

Marti Ainsworth
Kim Celestre
Susan Fagin
Lisa Gwillim
Tom Reilly
Lindsey Chin-Jones
Denise East
Kim Shakeri
Deborarh Armstrong
Yvonne Kwong

10 YEARS

Julie Smiley
Amy Robe

15 YEARS

Susan Karen

25 YEARS

Randee McQueen



Network for Good

Thank you for spreading the word about Furry Friends!

In January, we received \$110 anonymous donations made through Facebook!

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

Reminder: Quarterly Rosters for Captains (from Loree, FF Admin)

Please be sure to fill in the quarterly rosters and return to me. If it's easier, just send me the names and months your volunteers attended. It's very important that we receive updated rosters so that we know we are visiting the site, volunteers get credit for volunteering and receive their pins. If there is a problem, please let me know.

To those Captains who send in their rosters, THANK YOU!

You may note some volunteers names not on your roster. That means they did not pay their yearly dues and were removed from the database. Please make sure everyone visiting is current on vaccinations.

Thanks for all you do for Furry Friends and hope to see you all at the Captain's dinner!

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.

Furry Friends of the Month!

We need more photos! Please send your favorite pet photos to newsletter@furryfriends.org.

**Audrey Hepburn Patterson
and Stella Patterson**



April

Molly Kirk



May

Pippa Hinders



June