

FALL 2023 | SHORT PAWS

# SHORT PAWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FURRY FRIENDS P.A.T.S



# letter from our president

**Hello, Furry Friends!**

It's hard to believe that it's September already! That means that Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas are just around the corner. As the holidays approach, please make every effort to attend your scheduled visits. We all get busy – so much to do, and so little time. But many of the people we visit don't have family nearby; we may be the only spot of joy in an otherwise dreary existence. So please take the hour or so out of your day; I guarantee you, it will make a difference.

On another note, many of you have been looking forward to resuming our visits at Juvenile Hall. Unfortunately, that is not going to happen.

They sent us their standard, 20+ page contractors' agreement to sign; it includes requirements for workmen's comp and automobile insurance, among other things. There was also a document stating that we would require COVID vaccines for all our volunteers, that we would track and maintain that information, and that we would keep up with changing county requirements and adapt our policies accordingly.

As you all know, we do not require that our volunteers be vaccinated, and we do not track that information. Every facility we visit has a vaccination requirement, and without exception, those facilities are responsible for ensuring that visitors are vaccinated. Juvenile Hall was not willing to do this. We do not believe that Furry Friends should collect and store your Protected Health Information (PHI).

Unfortunately, Juvenile Hall was not willing to budge on having us track your vaccination status. So as a result, we will not be resuming visits at this facility.

## **Visits to Santa Clara County Main Jail and Elmwood Correctional Facility**

Furry Friends has recently started visits to the Santa Clara County Main Jail in downtown San Jose, and to Elmwood Correctional Facility in Milpitas.

The first visit to the Main Jail was on Saturday, July 8, and as of this writing, we have completed 3 visits there. The inaugural visit to Elmwood Correctional Facility was on Thursday, August 17, and the next visit is coming up on September 21.

Furry Friends teams are escorted by deputies at all times, and our visits are well-received by inmates and staff alike.

Right now the teams are fairly small, to ensure that things go smoothly and that the program gets off to a great start. Once the program is established, we expect to increase the size of the teams and/or add more visits. Fingerprinting and background checks are required for all volunteers at these sites.

**Anne**

# critter corner

JULIE BOND, M.S. ANIMAL BEHAVIORIST



I've been receiving a lot of questions of late regarding topics that I typically cover in the etiquette class. These questions are important to me as they remind me just how much material I cover in the class! I think it would be valuable to start reviewing some of this material covered in the class as many of you haven't attended one in several years and I'm always adding information to the class as our policies and procedures change/get updated over time. For those of you who have attended a recent etiquette class, these next few newsletter columns from me should serve as a gentle reminder of what we covered there. As always, if any of this isn't clear, or you have further questions, please let me know!

## **T-SHIRTS, BADGES, PURPLE LANYARDS & PURPLE LEASHES:**

Every new volunteer receives a round-neck Furry Friends t-shirt, a purple lanyard, and a purple leash at class. Returning/existing volunteers attending class receive a leash only, no new t-shirt or lanyard. All attendees receive badges in the mail following class as their photos, and their pet photos, are taken at the end of class. Returning/existing volunteers only get a new badge for the new pet they are adding to our program.

If you decide you don't like your photo on your badge, or you don't like your pet's photo, you may send in a new head shot (neutral background, clearly labeled as to who it is and in JPEG or JPG format) to [admin@furryfriends.org](mailto:admin@furryfriends.org). You will be charged for generating the new badge as the badge templates are an expense for Furry Friends.

If your t-shirt needs replacing (you need a new size, yours is worn, or if you'd simply like a different style), you can go to the store link on our website and choose your new piece of Furry Friends apparel. You will need to pay for that apparel at check out. We are not making a profit on the production of any of the t-shirts, so when you order a shirt through the website, you are simply covering the cost to make your individual shirt and mail it to you.

If you lose your purple leash, it gets frayed, or the clasp breaks, I will replace it for you. You will simply need to send me your address so that I can mail it your way. Same goes for captains who would like additional leashes to keep on hand for team members who forget to bring theirs. Just let me know what size and how many leashes you need and I can send those to you. Leashes come in three sizes, basically a cat/rabbit sized leash, a small dog leash (dogs from approximately 10-30 lbs) and large dog leashes (for dogs over 30 lbs). You must wear a piece of Furry Friends logo apparel and your badge for all Furry Friends visits. You must wear, or have your pet wear, their badge as well. And your pet must be using either the purple leash I gave you in class, or an approved substitution. If you choose to use a different lanyard for your Furry Friends visits than the one I gave you in class, that's fine, as long as it is purple OR fits our pet therapy theme (has paw prints on it, for example). Please do not use lanyards that advertise other groups/organizations, businesses, or venues. If you lose or break your lanyard and would like a replacement, just let me know, and I'll send you one. If you are using a different purple leash for your pet, it must be 4-6 feet in length, maximum, or it can be shorter. It cannot be a retractable leash and it cannot be longer than 6 feet. You are free to choose the collar style for your pet (flat buckle, martingale, harness of any kind), however, you can NEVER use a pinch/prong collar for your Furry Friend, nor can they wear an electronic correction collar of any kind, even if it is turned off or to vibrate. Those collars must be removed before your visit. If you like to use a choke chain on your dog, or a metal slip lead, Furry Friends allows those in a general sense, though some of your visit sites have asked that the dogs not wear metal/chain collars; if you are visiting a site that has that added requirement of no chain collars, then you must comply. Please do not attend a visit with a pinch/prong collar on your dog, attempting to cover it with a bandanna or scarf. A hand can still get pinched in that, even if you have the prongs covered with the scarf, or they are covered with plastic caps. This is a liability risk for our organization.

### **LARGE HARNESSSES, SCARVES, & COSTUMES:**

As mentioned above, you may use any style harness on your pet that you choose. I will however, make a suggestion to you that the harness chosen (or scarf) not cover a significant portion of your pet's trunk region as that's the area you'd actually like to encourage people to pet/touch. If you cover the region with a large harness or scarf, patients will reach more often for your pet's head or back end, and that may be less desirable for your pet. Same goes for costumes; please make sure that they don't cover your pet's entire body so that visits are difficult for people wanting to pet them. It's fine to put your pet in a full costume as long as that costume can be removed or adjusted to make the visit go smoothly. For example, if your pet is wearing a cape, make sure that the cape can be easily removed or hung to the side, allowing for patients to touch your pet in that area easily.

And it goes without saying: If your pet hates costumes, please do not make them wear one. There are other options for your pet to participate in holiday visits including holiday collars, holiday bandannas, and holiday collar covers, basically large scrunchies that slide over a flat buckle collar allowing you to make your pet more festive without forcing them to wear a costume.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS:**

In order to comply with patient/resident privacy guidelines, do not photograph anyone living/residing in the facilities you visit. Even if the patient or resident says it's okay to photograph them, please don't. They may not have the mental capacity or understanding of what they are agreeing to. It's fine for staff at the facility to take photos during our visits and use those as they know who can be photographed and how those pictures can be used. It is also fine for family members to photograph their loved ones with our volunteers and/or their pets as those family members are using those photos for their own purposes. You may take pictures of yourselves and your pets and team photos. If you are taking a group photo of the pets on your team, someone must still be holding the leashes of the Furry Friends pets in those photos; do not drop the leashes and/or put the pets in a stay for the photo. At least one volunteer must be holding the leashes in the photograph in order to comply with our group rules of a volunteer being in charge of the leash(es) at all times. If you are taking a picture of someone engaging your pet, please make sure that they cannot be identified in the photo at all. Crop the photo to insure that person's privacy is maintained. Someone wearing a mask is still identifiable! Feel free to send those pictures my way and I will share them on our Facebook accounts and on Instagram.

Please make sure the pictures you send me do not include the faces of patients, residents, or students even in the background. Also, make sure that all team members in the photo are wearing their Furry Friends logo apparel and badges and using purple leashes. I cannot post any pictures that depict our members not in compliance with these basic requirements. Remember: Furry Friends carries insurance to cover our volunteers and their pets on Furry Friends sanctioned visits. One of the requirements for the insurance coverage is that our volunteers and their pets are clearly designated on those visits with shirts, badges, and leashes that represent our organization.

### **VACCINATION FORM:**

All new volunteers complete a variety of forms prior to attending the etiquette class. Returning volunteers coming to class with a new pet also complete these forms. One of the forms that is completed is our "Vaccination/Fecal Record" form. This form needs to be completed EVERY SINGLE TIME YOU GO TO THE VET FOR VACCINES, FECAL EXAMS, YEARLY EXAMINATIONS, etc. Simply print out the form from our website, or print the copy that Tara sends you in your reminder email that your pet is due for a vaccine, fecal exam/verification of worming medications, or yearly examination. You can fill out a large part of this form yourself in advance of your veterinary appointment. Please make sure that your veterinarian completes that bottom part of the form where they certify that your pet is still suitable for pet therapy visits. If your pet is still suitable, they should be checking the spot that says "no," as the question there asks the vet if the pet has any health concerns that would make them a risk for visits. The answer should be no! We've had a few veterinarians mark "yes" thinking that they were certifying that the pet is safe, not realizing that marking "yes" means the pet has an issue that would keep them from being safe! Do make sure your veterinarian signs the form as well. If you'd like to review the form yourself, here it is:

[https://www.furryfriends.org/\\_files/ugd/46d825\\_1755f44c5bae4244b3eae4e3c7ac825a.pdf](https://www.furryfriends.org/_files/ugd/46d825_1755f44c5bae4244b3eae4e3c7ac825a.pdf)

### **WHO CAN ATTEND FURRY FRIENDS VISITS:**

The only people who can attend a Furry Friends visit are members in good standing, who've paid their membership dues, and have completed the necessary class(es) for the visit they are attending. No additional family members or friends may attend your visits with you if they are not official Furry Friends members. Even if they simply want to observe a visit, they cannot do so. The only pets that may attend visits are those who are current on their vaccinations, fecal exams, and yearly exams, and have completed the requisite class(es) for the visit they are attending. All pets must complete the etiquette class evaluation to attend our regular site visits, special visits, and special events like the holiday parade. Volunteers and their pets attending a Reading Buddies visit must have attended and passed the Reading Buddies class. All pets and volunteers must have completed 6 months worth of regular Furry Friends visits (these include hospital visits, nursing home visits, special visits, etc.) before they can attend the Reading Buddies class and evaluation. Members interested in off leash visits must attend the off leash class and have their pet evaluated at that time. You do not need to do 6 months worth of regular visits to attend an off leash class.

Each volunteer may only attend a visit with one pet. If you have multiple pets who have passed the requisite classes for visits, that's terrific! You can rotate which animal you bring to each of your visits. However, for each visit you may only be in charge of one pet. Our volunteers can, at times, be in charge of multiple leashes during a visit if, for example, one of your team members needs to step outside, use the bathroom, etc. However, if you are holding more than one leash you may not visit with patients/residents until your team member comes back to collect their pet in order to comply with the rule of "one pet per volunteer doing visits."

# Furry Friends extends a big WELCOME to our new volunteers.

## **June 2023**

Jianing Tan  
Blythe Jack  
Winnie Lam  
Charlotte Hammer  
Peggy Cheung  
Julie Daly  
Charlotte Morrison  
Kevin Bransfield  
Mark Bettelheim

## **July 2023**

Alison Casanova  
Darrell Benatar  
Katrina Rubenstein  
Gayathri Balasundar  
Amy Palaniuk  
Connie Howard

## **August 2023**

Viktoria Klement  
Andrea Hineman  
Betty Byrne  
Sein Tun  
Nikki Simpson  
Debbie Tully  
Larry Weisgal  
Mia Hiura  
Chas Ayala

# 2023 Etiquette Training



October 22nd at 10:30 a.m.

November 12th at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.



## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

THESE SITES ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

### **OAK GROVE HIGH SCHOOL**

285 BLOSSOM HILL ROAD SAN JOSE, CA 95123  
1ST THURSDAY 10:20 AM

### **IDYLWOOD CARE FACILITY**

1002 W. FREMONT SUNNYVALE, CA 94087  
2ND WEDNESDAY 2:00 PM

### **CRESTWOOD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

1425 FRUITDALE AVE SAN JOSE, CA 95128  
1ST & 3RD FRIDAY 1:00 PM

### **LOS GATOS THERAPY CENTER**

482 W SAN CARLOS STREET SAN JOSE, CA 95126  
3RD THURSDAY 4:00 PM

### **MERRILL GARDENS - WILLOW GLEN**

1420 CURCI AVE SAN JOSE, CA 95126  
3RD MONDAY 1:00 PM

### **SANTA CLARA POST ACUTE CARE/VALLEY HOUSE**

991 CLYDE AVENUE SANTA CLARA, CA 95054  
3RD TUESDAY 10:00 AM

### **SKYLINE HEALTH CARE CENTER**

2063 FOREST AVENUE, SAN JOSE, CA 95126  
1ST MONDAY 11:00 AM

# CALL FOR SITE CAPTAINS

We STILL have a number of sites awaiting visits - each first requires a Team Captain! As a Team Captain, you will serve as a point of contact between the Furry Friends Team and the site.

Check [furryfriends.org](http://furryfriends.org) for our next Captain Training dates.

## **REGULAR SITES NEEDING CAPTAINS**

### **CUPERTINO HEALTH & WELLNESS**

22590 VOSS ROAD CUPERTINO,  
CA 95014  
WEEKDAY VISITS REQUESTED

**SUNNY VIEW MANOR**  
22445 CUPERTINO ROAD  
CUPERTINO, CA 95014  
2ND SAT 10:00 AM

**SARATOGA ADULT CARE**  
19655 ALLENDALE AVE  
SARATOGA, CA 95070  
MONDAY OR TUESDAYS

**PACIFIC GARDENS**  
2384 PACIFIC DRIVE SANTA  
CLARA, CA 95051

**PLUM TREE CARE CENTER**  
2580 SAMARITAN DR, SAN JOSE,  
CA 95124

## **READING BUDDIES TEAMS NEEDING CAPTAINS**

**ALUM ROCK LIBRARY**  
3090 ALUM ROCK AVE SAN JOSE,  
CA 95127  
2ND MON 4:00 PM

**EDENVALE LIBRARY**  
101 BRANHAM LANE EAST SAN  
JOSE, CA 95111  
1ST WED 4:00 PM

**MORGAN HILL LIBRARY**  
660 W. MAIN STREET MORGAN  
HILL, CA 95037  
2ND WED 3:00 PM

**SANTA TERESA LIBRARY**  
290 INTERNATIONAL CIR SAN  
JOSE, CA 95119  
MON, TUES, OR FRI AFTERNOONS

**FOOTHILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
13919 LYNDE AVE SARATOGA, CA  
95070  
4TH THURS 1:00 PM

# CALL FOR READING BUDDIES



## FURRY LISTENING EARS NEEDED

### **SILICON VALLEY PET PROJECT**

14408 UNION AVENUE SAN JOSE, CA 95124  
3RD THURSDAY 4:00 PM

### **ALMADEN LIBRARY**

6445 CAMDEN AVENUE SAN JOSE, CA 95120  
3 PM ON THE 2ND & 4TH THURSDAY

### **SCOTTS VALLEY LIBRARY**

251 KINGS VILLAGE ROAD SCOTTS VALLEY, CA 95066  
2ND & 4TH TUESDAY 4:00 PM

### **HILLVIEW LIBRARY**

1600 HOPKINS DRIVE SAN JOSE, CA 95122  
1ST SATURDAY 1:00 PM

### **APOSTLE'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

5828 SANTA TERESA BLVD. SAN JOSE, CA 95123  
2ND THURSDAY 1:00 PM

### **FOOTHILL ELEMENTARY**

13919 LYNDE AVE SARATOGA, CA 95070  
1ST FRIDAY 10:45 AM

# VOLUNTEER STORIES

## Story 1:

My GSD mix, "K", and I are on the weekly Palo Alto VA team. There is a security check point that you drive up to, show your VA clearance badge, and then drive onto the campus. I always stop and let K hang out the window and invite the guard to pet her if they choose to. One day, the guard on duty stepped up to the car and started loving on K and said, "Man, I really needed this today. I've been struggling in a dark place and this really helps. Thank you so much for stopping."

It took maybe 10-15 seconds and I'd like to think that K helped to lift the guard up that day. You never know what someone is going through.

I'm not gonna lie. It was powerful to witness the man's voice and body language change right before my eyes. As I pulled away to meet up with K's team, I started sobbing. To be able to be a part of this. What an honor. You never know who/what/where/how/why your dog will touch. That's why we do what we do.

## Story 2:

Also at the Palo Alto VA. We visit the PTSD Ward, which is on lock down. Our team is escorted into the Ward through 2 sets of locked doors to an open air courtyard. To gain access to the courtyard, the patients also need to be let in through a locked door. Our team was settling in and a patient plastered himself up against the window and yelled, "A German Shepherd!" I thought uh-oh.

The therapist unlocked the door and this man bolted over to where K was laying. He plopped down next to her and spent the better part of an hour loving on her. He started talking about his life. He had a GSD at home that he just adored and missed her terribly.

He talked and talked and talked and shared that when he was on tour in Afghanistan, a GSD named Gunner saved his life. His unit was out on foot patrol and Gunner stepped in front of him and growled. He thought, that's weird, Gunner never growls. He stepped around Gunner. Again, body block and growl. He called to his unit leader to bring in the IED team. Sure enough, 3 feet ahead he was about to step on a land mine. And that's why he has a GSD dog at home and was so focused on K.

I left that visit thinking, 'Holy crap, totally unprepared for that!' It was very moving and I was grateful that K was there that day to give the man some peace and to ease his being away from home.

I find that the dogs act as a bridge to the vets. When they see the dogs, you can see their bodies relax and then they start talking about anything and everything. The dogs normalize them.

K and I are so proud to be a part of Furry Friends.

-T

*If you have any funny and/or heartwarming stories to share with your fellow FF members, please email Bronte at [bronte.reed@gmail.com](mailto:bronte.reed@gmail.com) for it to be included in the next newsletter*



## board of directors

### **PRESIDENT**

Anne Tiry

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Paul Fulton

Bronte Reed

### **ADMINISTRATOR**

Tara Johnson

admin@furryfriends.org

### **ANIMAL BEHAVIORIST**

Julie Bond

## Pupkin' Spice Homemade Pumpkin Dog Treats

### Ingredients

- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- 2 ½ cups whole wheat flour
- 2 eggs
- 3 tablespoon peanut butter, natural
- ¾ cup oats old fashioned
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt optional
- ½ teaspoon ground turmeric
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 

### Directions:

- PREHEAT YOUR OVEN TO 350°F.
- ADD ALL OF THE INGREDIENTS TO YOUR MIXING BOWL.
- 1 CUP CANNED PUMPKIN, 2 ½ CUPS WHOLE WHEAT FLOUR, 2 EGGS, 3 TABLESPOON PEANUT BUTTER, NATURAL, ¾ CUP OATS, ½ TEASPOON KOSHER SALT, ½ TEASPOON GROUND TURMERIC, ½ TEASPOON GROUND GINGER, ½ TEASPOON GROUND CINNAMON
- MIX TOGETHER UNTIL EVERYTHING IS COMBINED – IT WILL BE A BIT DRY AND CRUMBLY BUT IT WILL STICK TOGETHER AND BE MALLEABLE. (LIKE THE TEXTURE OF PLAYDOUGH.)
- USING YOUR FINGERS, PRESS THE DOUGH INTO YOUR FAVORITE MOLDS – I GOT THESE LITTLE PAW AND BONE MOLDS ON AMAZON – THEY ARE SUPER CUTE!
- AFTER YOU FILL THE TRAYS YOU CAN MAKE THE REST OF THE BATCH BY ROLLING ABOUT A TEASPOON OF DOUGH INTO A BALL AND THEN PRESSING IT FLAT WITH YOUR THUMB. PLACE YOUR COOKIES ON A COOKIE SHEET LINED WITH PARCHMENT PAPER OR A NON-STICK BAKING MAT. THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE SPACED TOO FAR APART BECAUSE THEY WON'T REALLY EXPAND, BUT THEY WILL STICK TOGETHER IF THEY ARE TOUCHING.
- BAKE IN THE OVEN AT 350°F FOR 40 – 45 MINUTES, UNTIL THE BISCUITS ARE HARD/CRUNCHY. (IF YOU USE A MOLD, THEY WILL BE A LITTLE THICK AND WILL MOST LIKELY NEED THE FULL 45 MINUTES.)
- LET THE TREATS COOL FOR A FEW MINUTES AND THEN LET YOUR PUP TRY THEM OUT!



<https://southern-bytes.com/pupkin-spice-dog-treats/>



## friends beyond the rainbow bridge

**Pet:** Wyatt **Owner:** Susan Day

**Pet:** Bailee **Owner:** Loree McQueen

"Over the Rainbow Bridge you went.  
I always knew you were Heaven sent.

I cherish our time spent together.

"Til we meet again,  
I will love you forever".

### anniversaries

<b>1 Year</b> Nina Lamour Merrie Asimow Christie Tatsuyama Kiran Bhakta Ari Rich Erin Chung Diana Whittier Clara Burke Ryan Collier Dawn King Melanie Cheung Leonor Cheong Sara Heidelberger Renee Signorotti Annalisa DiLeonardo Lilian Glim Kami Vu Mary English Peter Sill Bobbie Vandervoort	<b>2 Years</b> Lynda Won Chung Jessica Ponce Joy Sodeifi Sepi Sohrabi Vicki O'Malley Julia Im Lauren Rock Jennifer Gravem Toni Parga Dia Guido Sandy Chun Bronte Reed Yoko Hughes Michael Basile Ann Jeghers	<b>5 Years</b> Hiroko Yoshida Elizabeth Basile Anna Kremer Harrison Guire Logan Guire Alice Patrick Patty Holaday
	<b>4 Years</b> Jihwon Im Sophia Im Jon McBain Doris Atkinson Betsy Smith Grace Mittelstaedt	<b>10 Years</b> Lisa Hirano
		<b>15 Years</b> Ann Zis