

SHORT PAWS

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



Can our Furry Friends suffer from seasonal allergies?

Licking? Sneezing? Scratching? Shedding?

Yes. Like us, our friends can develop pollen allergies and while they can show symptoms any time of the year - spring can be especially challenging. Pollen enters our houses on our clothes and through open windows. Check out these signs of pollen allergies. If your Furry Friend is exhibiting any of these five symptoms, be sure to visit your vet and have them checked out. If the symptoms persist or keep on recurring, consider a visit to a pet skin specialist in order to help identify and treat your Friends' pollen or other environmental allergies.

Excessive Biting, Licking or Scratching

While still outdoors or after coming indoors, do you notice your pet scratching and itching themselves? A mild, persistent itch or furious scratching can both be indicators of an allergy (including a pollen allergy) due to increased exposure from being outdoors. Itchiness is one of the common initial symptoms seen in allergic pets. Unlike humans who usually experience respiratory issues, seasonal allergies typically manifest as a condition known as atopic dermatitis in felines. Your cat will likely not develop a runny nose, itchy eyes and watery sinuses like you would. Instead, you may see signs of allergies on the skin or coat. The longer your Furry Friend is exposed to the allergen, the worse the reaction becomes. The belly, paws, and private parts are areas that dogs may lick, scratch or bite excessively when they feel itchiness. When it comes to excessive or obsessive licking in dogs, the most likely cause is allergies.

Eye Discharge

Watery eye discharge is a possible symptom of environmental allergies in dogs. This sign may be the only sign related to eyes or may be seen along with eye puffiness or redness. Sometimes the discharge may turn mucoid (pus like) and have a green or yellow color to it.



From left to right Kristi with Audrey, Ian and Roxanne with Lucy, and David with Katie

Face Rubbing

If you notice your dog rubbing their face up against surfaces such as the carpet, couches, or pillows, this can be a clear show of their attempt to alleviate itchiness. Overgrooming in our feline friends can be a symptom of a form of itchiness. Some dogs will try and rub their entire body across one of these surfaces. Scooting (aka bum scooching) is another sign of itchiness related to rubbing of a body part to alleviate their itch.

Sneezing

Achoo! If you see your dog sneezing more than normal, this can be a sign of pollen allergies. Reverse sneezing is another sign of pollen allergies, and may be seen during their outdoor activity, or during indoor time.

Red, Smelly Ears & Head Shaking

Allergens such as pollen not only affect the skin but also cause inflammation in dog ears. This can lead to red, irritated ears that may become infected. This will lead to smelly, stinky ears that are obviously red and inflamed. Some dogs may only have mild discomfort and may not show the dramatic sign of reddened, smelly ears. Instead they may exhibit milder head shaking initially.

Dogs may shake their head because of the irritation in their ears and may not want you to pet them on their head. Head shaking can be a sign of itchiness in the ears, or a sign of discomfort due to swollen ears, an ear infection, etc.

Pollen allergies surface when our Friends inhale (inhalant allergy) or comes into direct contact with a substance (epicutaneous allergy), often - pollen, which triggers an inappropriate response in the immune system. The over-reacting immune response typically manifests as inflammation of the skin and ears which can lead to itchiness, discharge and obvious redness or lesions at the skin. The inflammation and itchiness then makes our Friends uncomfortable if it persists for a significant duration of time, leading to potential for self-trauma, secondary infection, and irritability.

Be sure to visit your vet and have your pet checked out. If signs only occur during the spring and summer, pollen allergies are likely the problem. If your pet shows these symptoms year-round, or at other times of the year, this does not rule out pollen allergy. Rather, a combination of multiple allergies may be affecting your pet with non-seasonal skin or ear problems. Your family veterinarian can help diagnose the cause of your pets' symptoms or may refer you to a pet dermatologist to help find not only the cause of the allergies, but also desensitize your pet against the pollen allergens or other environmental allergens.

letter from our president

Hello, Furry Friends!

We made it through 2020 and 2021, and many of our sites have resumed visits. On the other hand, many sites still have their visits on hold. And we have closed some sites entirely either because they have said they don't want visits, or because we simply cannot get in touch with them to get an answer.

And on top of the pandemic, the world is changing every day, due to a war half a world away. I want to share here some excerpts from an email that a friend of mind received from her financial advisor:

People are dying, running for their lives, and watching everything they've worked for go up in literal flames. And, because of technology, we've got a front-row seat in real time. Energy prices are spiking, markets are melting down. Oh yeah, there's still a pandemic.

On top of whatever personal stuff we have going on, that might pale next to the suffering of war but is still our burden to carry.

Sometimes, it's just one thing after another and everything all at once.

We remember that we're not alone.

I think the secret to getting through is kindness and love.

In the midst of everything, we can offer each other kindness, encouragement, and support.

I would like to encourage you all to continue to share your furry friends with our sites; we can all use more positivity these days. So let's go lick loneliness!

Anne

critter corner

JULIE BOND, M.S. ANIMAL BEHAVIORIST



Q: I'm on a team with two other members whose dogs are getting pretty old. The dogs still seem to be enjoying the visits as far as I can tell, but they've slowed down a lot and one lays down on the floor all the time during our visits and his owner has to get him to stand back up for people to pet him. I almost feel like the owners should think about retiring their dogs, but I'm afraid to say anything. I really like the dogs and their owners! Is there something you can do? *M in Sunnyvale*

A: This is a tough one. As the owner of a senior dog myself who is still doing visits, I know how hard it is to even consider retiring them. It is very important, however, that we ensure the safety of everyone on our visits, including our older, furry friends. A dog who has slowed down is one thing, but one who is laying down for most of the visit, could have some pain issues with standing up and/or standing on hard surfaces for an extended period of time. This issue has come up on several different teams, so the Furry Friends Board of Directors is considering some changes to our examination policy for pets in the program. In the near future, our organization will start requiring that pets have a physical exam every three years (basically timed with their vaccines) and be approved by their veterinarian as safe and healthy to continue visits at that same time. Hopefully, veterinarians will catch pets that are having discomfort with standing, are unstable on their feet, etc. In the meantime, if you would rather have someone else evaluate these dogs on a visit and make some recommendations on ways to improve their comfort during visits, if applicable, I can arrange for that to happen as well. I am happy to make a visit to your team just to ensure that these two senior pets are indeed still enjoying their therapy pet experiences!

critter corner continued...



Q. If our state removes the mask mandate for vaccinated people, does that mean we won't need to wear masks on our visits either? A in San Jose

A: Great question! Basically, it will depend on the facility. As you know, Furry Friends allows each facility to establish the rules for our visits at their site, everything from the number of volunteers they'd like on visits, to what type and size of animals to include on the teams, to TB testing, etc. If the staff at the facilities we visit feel that our volunteers need to continue to be masked for our therapy visits going forward, we, as an organization, will comply. Any volunteers who do not wish to continue to wear masks when asked, will need to be prepared to be turned away from the visits where they are still required. Given that many of our visits are indoors with elderly and immune compromised people in our communities, it certainly isn't unlikely that we will still be asked to wear masks for the bulk of our visits going forward. Conversely, if you are on a visit and the facility has told you that masks are no longer required, but YOU feel more comfortable continuing to wear one, that's fine too. We always want our volunteers to feel safe.



Q. I saw one of your recent videos on Facebook where you talked about our volunteers needing to remember to complete the vaccination/fecal form when they visit their veterinarian's office. I realize that our organization needs to keep track of our pets' health, but this form is a nuisance! Not everyone sees a vet for their pet's vaccines and vets aren't going to want to complete forms for a pet they've not seen, or one they've not seen recently. Plus, some of us don't see a need for our pets to have exams and fecals every year if they are young, healthy, and on worming preventative. It just seems like you are making volunteers do an awful lot during a time when our group should just be grateful to have people willing to volunteer. D in Los Altos

A: While I understand your frustration, you are right that we do have to put these requirements in place for the health and safety of our volunteers, their pets, and the people we visit. Ensuring that pets are healthy, up to date on vaccines, free from external and internal parasites is something that we have to do and information that we have to have a way to collect, in order to comply with the requirements of our insurance company as well. I agree that many of our volunteers are getting their pets vaccinated at vaccine clinics in the area, however, doing so does not negate the need to have that pet examined by a veterinarian regularly, certified as continuing to be behaviorally appropriate for our visits, etc. Yes, keeping your pet on preventative medications for external and internal parasites negates the need for an annual fecal, but most veterinarians will not continue to fill these prescriptions without an annual examination. It really is just a matter of remembering to print out the form and take it with you when your pet is seen, either for vaccines, an exam, etc.

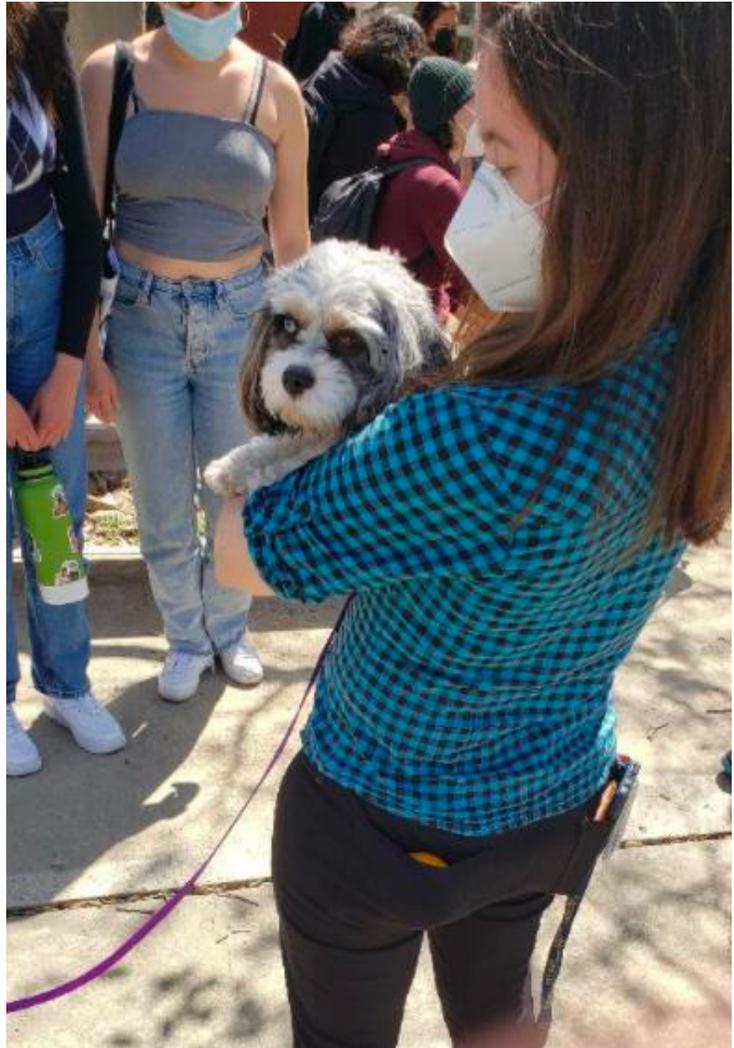
Even if you don't see your veterinarian for routine vaccines, every vaccine clinic is overseen by a veterinarian, you just need to take that extra step to ask them to sign the form. Our intention with the forms and other requirements we have in place for our organization is not to make volunteering difficult for our members, but to ensure their safety and the safety of the pets involved in our programs.

critter corner continued...



Q: I have just started doing pet therapy visits with Furry Friends. My dog is also my service dog and during class you talked about the difference between service dogs and therapy dogs, which I really appreciated, but I forgot to ask you a question! Is it okay for my dog to wear his vest during visits? *T in San Jose*

A: Please remove your dog's service vest for all Furry Friends visits! It's important for the general public to gain a greater understanding of the difference between service dogs, emotional support animals, and pet assisted therapy animals. Service dogs should be clearly designated as such (by their vest, harness, etc.) and the public should avoid interacting with those service animals while they are doing their job. It makes it confusing to the public if an animal wearing a service vest can sometimes receive attention, and other times not. It's confusing for the dog as well! Any service animal also acting as a pet assisted therapy animal for our organization must only be wearing an approved collar (we don't allow prong/pinch collars), their purple leash, and their badge (or their badge can be on their human); bandannas, costumes, etc. are fine too, as long as your pet enjoys wearing them. Upon arrival for your visits, please remove your dog's service vest. Thank you for allowing me to address this so no mistakes are made around your service dog and the work he does for you outside of our pet therapy visits.



UC Santa Cruz



Call for Site Captains

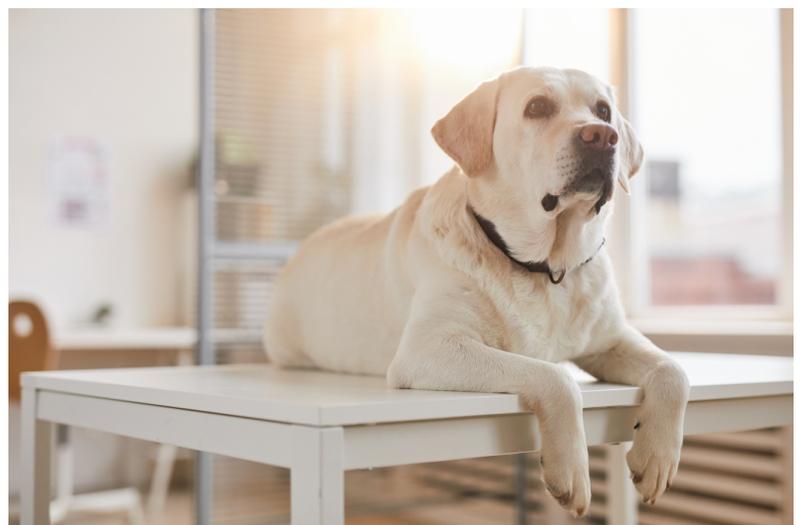
“we're licking loneliness!”

Calling all Furry Friend Volunteers!

Yes. 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. Responsibilities of a Team Captain can be found [here](#). Check [furryfriends.org](#) for our next Captain Training dates.

<p>ATHERTON HEALTHCARE</p> <p>2ND MONDAY 10:30AM</p> <p>1275 CRANE ST MENLO PARK, CA 94025</p>	<p>DRIFTWOOD HEALTHCARE CENTER</p> <p>2ND & 4TH SATURDAY 10:30 AM</p> <p>675 24TH AVENUE SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062</p>	<p>GREEN HILLS MANOR</p> <p>2ND FRIDAY 10:00 AM</p> <p>238 VIRGINIA AVENUE CAMPBELL, CA 95008</p>	<p>PACIFIC HILLS MANOR</p> <p>2ND TUESDAY 10:30AM</p> <p>370 NOBLE COURT MORGAN HILL, CA 95037</p>
<p>SKYLINE HEALTH CARE CENTER</p> <p>1ST MONDAY 10:30 AM</p> <p>2063 FOREST AVENUE SAN JOSE, CA 95126</p>	<p>SUNSHINE VILLA</p> <p>2ND SATURDAY 10:00 AM</p> <p>80 FRONT STREET SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060</p>	<p>LIVE OAK CUPERTINO</p> <p>2ND WEDNESDAY 12:45 PM</p> <p>20920 MCCCELLAN ROAD CUPERTINO, CA 95015</p>	<p>LIVE OAK GILROY</p> <p>1ST WEDNESDAY 1:00 PM</p> <p>651 W. 6TH STREET GILROY, CA 95020</p>
<p>MOLDAW FAMILY RESIDENCES</p> <p>3RD WEDNESDAY 11:00 AM</p> <p>899 E. CHARLESTON ROAD PALO ALTO, CA 94303</p>	<p>CUPERTINO HEALTH & WELLNESS</p> <p>1ST WEDNESDAY 11:00 AM</p> <p>22590 VOSS ROAD CUPERTINO, CA 95014</p>	<p>SAN TOMAS CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL</p> <p>3RD TUESDAY 6:00PM</p> <p>3580 PAYNE AVENUE SAN JOSE, CA 95117</p>	<p>PLUM TREE CARE CENTER</p> <p>TUESDAY OR THURSDAY 11 AM OR 1:30 PM</p> <p>2580 SAMARITAN DRIVE SAN JOSE, CA 95124</p>
	<p>PACIFIC GARDENS</p> <p>CAPTAIN'S CHOICE</p> <p>2384 PACIFIC DRIVE SANTA CLARA, CA 95051</p>	<p>MENLO PARK VA</p> <p>WED/THURS 11:00 AM</p> <p>795 WILLOW ROAD MENLO PARK, CA 94025</p>	

visit
[furryfriends.org](#)
for more
site details



Call for Reading Buddy Site Captains

The sites below are looking for certified Reading Buddy Site Captains!

<p>MORGAN HILL LIBRARY</p> <p>2ND WEDNESDAY 3:00 PM</p> <p>660 W. MAIN STREET MORGAN HILL, CA 95037</p>	<p>LOS GATOS LIBRARY</p> <p>4TH THURSDAY 4:00PM</p> <p>100 VILLA AVENUE LOS GATOS, CA 95030</p>	<p>GILROY LIBRARY</p> <p>4TH THURSDAY 3:30 PM</p> <p>350 W. SIXTH ST GILROY, CA 95020</p>
<p>SARATOGA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</p> <p>1ST FRIDAY 10:45 AM</p> <p>14592 OAK STREET SARATOGA, CA 95070</p>	<p>WASHINGTON OPEN ELEMENTARY</p> <p>2ND FRIDAY 11:00 PM</p> <p>270 WASHINGTON ST SANTA CLARA, CA 95050</p>	<p>EDENVALE LIBRARY</p> <p>1ST WEDNESDAY 4:00PM</p> <p>101 BRANHAM LANE ROAD SAN JOSE, CA 95111</p>





spring treats!

Your dog won't be gaining any weight this spring with this skinny treat: Green beans are low in calories, but packed with some awesome nutrients including Vitamin K and C, which are good for the blood and immune system

Doggie Green Bean Crunchies

Green Bean Crunchies are healthy dog treats that are ideal for adult dogs, especially overweight dogs. Dogs love these crunchies and you'll love that there are only two ingredients, both which are superfoods. Green beans are an excellent source of vitamins, A, C, and E, as well as fiber, potassium, and magnesium. Dogs thrive on antioxidant-rich foods such as green beans. Olive oil is another superfood that has many health benefits for dogs. This antioxidant helps to give dogs more energy, improve their immune system, and reduce dry skin. Green Bean Crunchies are a good choice when giving a treat to overweight dogs. Be sure to use portion control when giving your dog any type of treats or biscuits.

INGREDIENTS

- 16 ounces frozen green beans cut, thawed, and drained
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 170 degrees.
- Add green beans and oil to a mixing bowl and toss to coat beans. Evenly spread green beans on a large, parchment lined or non-stick, baking sheet. Dry beans in the oven for 8 hours or until all beans are crunchy. Turn off the oven and allow to cool completely before storing in an airtight container.
- Optional Dehydrator Instructions: Dry at 170 degrees for 8 hours or until crunchy

Extracted from SkinnyMs
Submit your favorite treat recipe to
info@furryfriends.org

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ANIMAL BEHAVIORIST

Julie Bond



friends beyond the rainbow bridge

Pet Name	Owner(s) Name
Sashi	Lynn Smith
Speedy	Adriana Morieko
Nereus	Dan Martinez & Monica Moran
Mimi	Keiko Hirano

"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

2 Year

Adam Patellaro
 Crystal Patellaro
 Barbara Kiviat
 John Motroni
 Kathy Rogers
 Payton Wong
 Rick Yim
 Catherine Motroni
 Michelle Colbert
 Chase Dollinger
 David Yoshida
 Caitlyn Rock
 Carole Hayworth

3 Year

Clare Rhodes

4 Year

Minna Yi
 Chuong Dang
 Karin Massoglia
 Stephanie Look
 Scott Lewis
 Laura Cribbins
 Joni Landine

5 Year

Emily Cranford
 Patrick Rivas
 Dona Rivas

10 Year

Rod Ngai
 Roe Shapiro
 Bonnie Brenner

15 Year

Lynn Smith

