

P.E.T. P.A.L.S.

Pitter Patter Newsletter

September 2017

P.E.T. P.A.L.S. Celebrates Its Volunteers

"Our Volunteers are Paws-itively Great!" is the theme of the P.E.T. P.A.L.S. annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, which will celebrate the 34th birthday of our organization. The festivities will take place on October 23 at the Waterloo Center for the Arts, located at 225 Commercial St. in Waterloo.

Please plan to arrive by 5:45 p.m. Serving will begin at 6:00 p.m. with P.E.T. P.A.L.S. providing lasagna (with and without meat) and drinks. Guests should bring a dish to share. We encourage you to bring a potential volunteer or family member. Please RSVP e-mail reservations by October 19 to PetPalsNews@gmail.com or leave a message at (319) 610-7379. Be sure to tell your name and how many will be attending.

Waterloo Fire Marshal Chris Ferguson will be the guest speaker. He will bring Radar, the department's accelerant detection dog, with him. He will talk about Radar, a golden lab/golden retriever mix, and the work he does after fires, sniffing for signs of arson. He will also talk about the use of pet oxygen masks, which P.E.T. P.A.L.S. and some local veterinarians donated to local fire departments many years ago.

Join us as we celebrate the dedication of our members and the longevity of P.E.T. P.A.L.S. A great evening is guaranteed!

Congratulations to Rachelle Yousefi

Congratulations to Rachelle Yousefi for being nominated for the Mayors' Volunteer Award this past spring.

She was one of the volunteers recognized at a special luncheon for demonstrating an outstanding commitment to service through volunteerism in the Cedar Valley. Rachelle and her dog, Chloe, have been members of P.E.T. P.A.L.S. since 2004.



Rachelle is a special member and has been involved in many ways. She serves as the head of membership where she acts as the first contact for new volunteers. She also organizes volunteers for Younker's Community Days and for UNI's De-stress Days and helps with booths, our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, and other projects. Rachelle is always willing to help out and for that we are very grateful.

Pictured from left are Jan Thompson, Rachelle Yousefi, Sue Lund, and Bette Nee-Williams.

Spotlight On Visits: Western Home Community

Our new member Suzzie and her pet Aggie have been visiting two Dementia cottages at the Western Home Community for about 5 months. The Thuesen and Nation Cottages opened in June of 2015 and are located at 1511 and 1527 Caraway Lane in Cedar Falls.

"I enjoy seeing the residents' eyes light up, and the smile it brings to their faces, when they see Aggie and I come walking in," Suzzie says. "They are usually waiting in the commons area when we get there."

The Cottages allow residents to live in a home, a freestanding house where caregivers work around the residents' schedules.

The residents get so excited when Suzzie and Aggie come to visit! They love Aggie's soft fur, and one of the ladies there always comments about what a BIG dog she is. Aggie likes to check each room, peering in, to see if someone needs a personal one-on-one visit!



Summer Events Review

Farmer's Market:

On July 1, 2017, Mavis Floss and Rachelle Yousefi set up a booth at the Cedar Falls Farmers Market. Brochures and other information were handed out about the P.E.T. P.A.L.S. program. We want to thank the Cedar Falls Farmers Market for allowing non-profit groups such as ours to take part in the market so we could spread the word about our organization!

Reading Pals:

We just finished another successful summer of Reading Pals!. Six dedicated volunteers and their pets spent time at the Denver Public Library and the Cedar Valley Preschool and Child Care Center during May and June. This program pairs individual students with a pet from our organization. The child reads aloud for fifteen minutes to practice their reading fluency and expression. During this time, the animal either sits or lays next to them. It's always a big hit with the children who are so excited to be greeted by a friendly and patient animal. Of course, there is a lot of tail wagging and kisses as the dogs respond to hugs and affection from the children.

Saying Good-Bye

P.E.T. P.A.L.S. volunteer Sharon Mixdorf passed away on June 10, 2017. She was a long-time volunteer and originally visited with her collie at Friendship Village. Sharon was very involved in many state and local rabbit breeding clubs. As a result of her love of rabbits, Sharon would often take one in a basket to visit residents.

In recent years, Sharon helped P.E.T. P.A.L.S. with various projects such as the Pizza Ranch Fundraiser and Younkers Community Days. We could always count on her to donate door prizes for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinners. Our condolences to her husband, Eric. Sharon will be greatly missed.

Our condolences also go out to P.E.T. P.A.L.S. members on the loss of their pets.

- Corrina Coverdale's dog, Buddy who visited at Windsor/Pinnacle Care
- Anita Kabele's dog, Koko Pellie, aka "Pelli"

Memorials

Losing a family member is never easy, as many of us know all too well. For P.E.T. P.A.L.S. members, losing our furry family members is like losing an extension of ourselves. One way to keep the memory of our pets alive is to give a donation to our organization through a P.E.T. P.A.L.S. memorial gift.

Recently, a gift was made by Joyce Kohn, a friend of our organization. It read, "In memory of my beloved dog, Toto Kohn." Thank you, Joyce, for supporting our goal of bringing joy to others with the work that we do.

If you or someone you know would like to provide a memorial gift, please send any donations and information about the pet or person to us at our mailing address. We will acknowledge memorial donations in each newsletter.

P.E.T. P.A.L.S.
Box 371
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Health Check Form Reminders

Remember to turn in your yearly health check form. These are available on our new website: petpals.cedarvalley.org. Note that we are no longer accepting copies of the pet's records from the vet's office. Send forms to Suzzie Young at the address below. You can call her at (319) 830-6712 or email at suzziey@aol.com with any questions.

Suzzie Young
121 Elm St.
Hudson, IA 50643

Welcome New Volunteers

The following people have participated in training and their pets have passed their temperament evaluations. Welcome to P.E.T. P.A.L.S.!

- Cheryl Miller and her dog, Argos
- Theresa Stalnaker and her dog, Bo
- Heather Schneider and her dog, Libby
- Robyn Smuck and her dog, Zizou
- Lori Johnson, and her dog, Stella
- Charlotte Feckers and her dog, Rose
- Barbara Harris and her dog, Maizy
- Cindy Kline with her dog ,Scout
- Deb Hudspeth with her dog ,Chase
- Karla Rubio and Kelsey Elfritz and their dog, Maggie
- Samantha Hahn joins us as a volunteer for special projects
- Kathy Buchholz returns as a volunteer with her new dog, Ivy

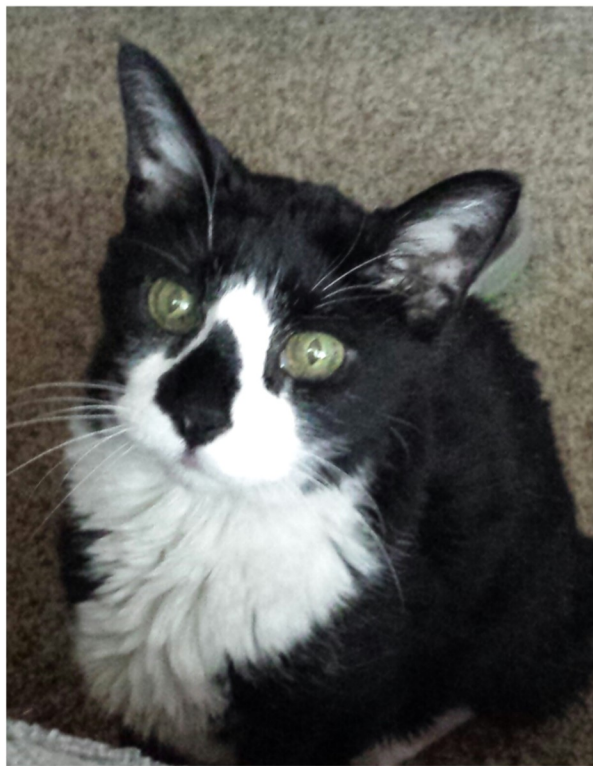
Warm 'N' Furry Moments

Diane Hensley & Buddha

Buddha, and I first visited David at the Hospice Home. David was thrilled to see Buddha as he missed his cats at home with his wife. When I left that day, he said, "You made my Father's Day." My father had passed when I was 27, so I hadn't even thought about it being Father's Day.

We visited a couple of times when David was there after that. One time a nurse I had gotten to know called to let me know he was there. He talked to me as he petted Buddha that night and I was told later that he hadn't talked that much in total since he'd arrived a few days earlier.

Because David told me his wife was moving him to Bickford Cottages, we were able to continue visiting there until his passing. One comical thing about the connection we three shared developed. Buddha would drool whenever we visited David, both at the Hospice Home and at Bickford Cottages. He never drooled any other time!



Do you have a memorable P.E.T. P.A.L.S. moment? Please share it with us! We love hearing about the differences we make in others' lives and how the work we do also enriches our own. Email your stories (and pictures if you can) to Marcy at PetPalsNews@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events: Volunteers Needed

UNI Destress Days

The University of Northern Iowa library has once again asked P.E.T. P.A.L.S. members to bring their pets during finals week to help students “de-stress” during their final exams. The students love the pets and our pets love all the attention and petting they receive while there! The de-stress days for the Fall semester will be December 6-8 and December 11-13. If you would like to participate, there will be a sign-up sheet at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. It's really a fun time with the students at the library!

Younkers Community Days

Once again, P.E.T. P.A.L.S. will be selling Younkers Community Day event coupon books to raise money for our organization. This year the event will be from Wednesday, November 8 through Saturday, November 11. Younkers gives us the opportunity to sell coupon books in the store. We are even allowed to bring our pets to help us sell the books! Please help us out by volunteering to sell coupon books in the store. There will be a sign-up sheet at the dinner with dates and times.

You can also help us by purchasing a coupon book. Each book costs only \$5.00 and includes a \$10 off coupon and many additional discount coupons. The best part is that P.E.T. P.A.L.S. gets to keep the whole \$5.00 for each coupon book we sell! Coupon books will also be available for purchase at the Volunteer Appreciation dinner. Please help us by buying a coupon book. If you can't use it, buy it for someone else or buy one or more as a donation to P.E.T. P.A.L.S.!

P.E.T. P.A.L.S. Member Helps Victims of Hurricane Harvey



Arlene and veteran Red Cross member, Ron Telsch, EMT.

Arlene Prather-O'Kane is taking her helpful nature to those suffering as a result of hurricane Harvey. She will be working at shelters in various cities affected by the storm, including Beaumont, Houston, and Austin.

We're following her journey on Facebook. In one post she shared a picture and wrote, "This is the massive shelter where I started to work in today! So many in need of a kind word and listening ear. We have about 8,000 living here!"

Thank you, Arlene, for your generous heart and giving spirit.

Should You Vaccinate Your Pet?

The following article is from Purr-sonal Care Cat Clinic in Waterloo, Iowa.

Why Are Vaccines Important?

Vaccines not only prevent your pet from catching infectious diseases, but also offer other important benefits, including:

- **Reduction of Disease Transmission.**

When the majority of pets are vaccinated, they can't spread diseases to other animals. Vaccination plays an important role in preventing rabies and other infectious diseases from flourishing. Vaccinating your pet also protects other animals that are too young to receive the vaccines.

- **Lower Costs.**

Treating the diseases that vaccines prevent can be very expensive, particularly if the disease causes chronic health problems. Vaccinating your pet is a simple, effective way to avoid high-cost treatments that can derail your budget.

- **Reduced Zoonotic Disease Rates.**

Zoonotic diseases, such as rabies and leptospirosis, are passed between humans and animals. Vaccinating animals against the diseases also protect humans.

- **Compliance with Local Laws.**

Most municipalities in the U.S. require rabies vaccination for pets. Vaccination may be needed to obtain a license for your dog or cat.

What Do Vaccines Do?

Antigens, substances that trigger the production of antibodies, are contained in vaccines. Antibodies identify foreign bacteria and viruses and react quickly, killing the invading organisms before they can cause disease symptoms.

Before your pet receives a vaccination, his or her veterinarian will perform a thorough examination and may even recommend a few tests to ensure that your pet is healthy enough to receive the vaccine. The veterinarian may also recommend checking his or her immunity level before offering a vaccine.

For more information and to read the whole article, visit Purr-sonal Cat Care Clinic online at http://purrsonalcarecatclinic.net/_articles?id=496147&source=prof_content.



Purr-Sonal Care
Cat Clinic

Visiting Schedule

If you would like to volunteer at a location, please contact the team leader listed below. Remember, you can visit more than one facility.

| Site | Contact | Phone |
|---|------------------|----------|
| CEDAR FALLS HEALTH CARE CENTER | Mavis Floss | 240-5800 |
| CEDAR VALLEY PRESCHOOL-CHILD CARE (day visit) | Jon McNamee | 243-0515 |
| COUNTRY VIEW | Jan Thompson | 234-8396 |
| COVENANT BEHAVIOR HEALTH & REHAB | Terry Hertges | 239-6865 |
| FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE | For information | 610-7379 |
| HARMONY HOUSE | Sue Lund | 233-3624 |
| La PORTE CITY NURSING & REHAB | For information | 610-7379 |
| MANOR CARE | Mavis Floss | 240-5800 |
| NEW ALDAYA LIFESCAPES | Rachelle Yousefi | 277-7418 |
| NEWEL POST (day visit) | Cheryl Gulden | 274-9077 |
| NORTHSTAR COMMUNITY SERVICES | Terry Hertges | 239-6865 |
| NORTHSTAR HEAD INJURY | Cheryl Gulden | 274-9077 |
| NORTHCREST SPECIALTY CARE | Susan Trower | 236-0659 |
| PINNACLE SPECIALTY CARE | Denise Sears | 415-8750 |
| RAVENWOOD HEALTH CARE | Sue Lund | 233-3624 |
| ROSEWOOD ESTATES | Sue Lund | 233-3624 |
| SARTORI SENIOR BEHAVIOR HEALTH | Terry Hertges | 239-6865 |
| THE ROSE | Jan Thompson | 234-8396 |
| UNITYPOINT-ALLEN MENTAL HEALTH/REHAB | Kathy Matthias | 235-7667 |
| WAVERLY HEALTH SERVICES | Bruce Coleman | 352-1315 |
| WESTERN HOME COMMUNITIES | | |
| STANARD CENTER | Jan Thompson | 234-8396 |
| THALMAN SQUARE | Rita Lynn | 277-4212 |
| SOUTH COTTAGE | Jan Thompson | 234-8396 |
| NATIONS COTTAGE | Jan Thompson | 234-8396 |
| YMCA | Deb Baker | 988-9853 |

*More P.E.T. P.A.L. visitors are needed at these locations. Please contact them today to learn how you and your pet can brighten residents' lives.

P.E.T. P.A.L.S.

P.O. Box 373

Cedar Falls, IA 50613

P.E.T. P.A.L.S. Board of Directors Executive Committee

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Chairperson | Jan Thompsen | (319) 234-8396 |
| Education/Resource | Linda Nebbe | (319) 277-1696 |
| Treasurer | Arlene Prather O'Kane | (319) 268-0417 |
| Secretary | Bette Nee-Williams | (401) 327-5365 |
| Records | Suzzie Young | (319) 830-6712 |
| Membership Coordinator | Rachelle Yousefi | (319) 277-7418 |
| Newsletter Editor | Marcy Seible | (319) 230-4565 |
| Webmaster | Denise Sears | |
| One-Time Visits | Deb Baker | |
| Evaluation | Mavis Floss Becky Carr | (319) 240-5800 |
| Public Relations | Sue Lund, Denise Sears, Marcy Seible | |
| Additional Board Member: | Terry Hertges | |