

P E T P A L S

Animal-Assisted Therapies and Activities throughout the Cedar Valley

September 2020 Newsletter

Update on the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

After much deliberation, and a survey of members, we have decided to postpone the annual P.E.T. P.A.L.S. Volunteer Celebration Dinner until October 4, 2021.

We had very mixed feelings as to what we should do, but in the end, we decided to focus on the health and safety of our members and guests. We are hoping that there will be a large turnout next year and that life will be much better for everyone. In the meantime, the board is going to focus on ways to keep in touch periodically, which will be important in maintaining the mission of our organization. If people have ideas for doing so, please contact any board member.

As you enjoy this newsletter, please pay special attention to current ways that P.E.T. P.A.L.S. members are staying in touch with places they visit and perhaps it will trigger an idea for you. We know that our friends at various locations definitely miss our visits, so anything you can do would be greatly appreciated. Please stay healthy, safe, and happy.

Thank You from Suzzie Young's Family

After a long battle with cancer, Suzzie Young gained her wings on April 25, 2020. As you all know, she LOVED her fur babies and would do anything for them. Aggie never left her side and was always there. For two years, I am pretty sure Aggie thought the visitors were coming to see and pet her! Many of you took time out of your personal schedule to visit or call Suzzie, run her around, run Aggie around, bring food or even just sit for hours while she slept. You all brought so much peace and joy to her, and words will never be enough to express our gratitude to each and every one of you. The support from P.E.T. P.A.L.S. volunteers was outstanding. The Young family (including Aggie) would like to thank you all for everything!

- Nichole Wheelock, Suzzie's Daughter

Have Questions? Contact us at (319) 610-7379 or at PetPalsNews@gmail.com
Don't forget to visit us online at petpalscedarvalley.org

P.E.T. P.A.L.S. Pals During Covid

Our members have been finding creative ways to keep in touch with those they used to visit. Here are a few of their ideas to help us keep spreading the love.

Charlie & Anita

P.E.T. P.A.L.S. member, Anita Kabele and her dog, Charlie, are able to visit a family member at the "Chat Box." The Western Home Communities has provided these for residents and their families so they can visit in a safe manner outside the building. Individual residents sit in the 3-sided box behind the window and the families sit on the other side for a chat. What an innovative way to keep residents and their loved ones together during these difficult times!



Beau & Sue

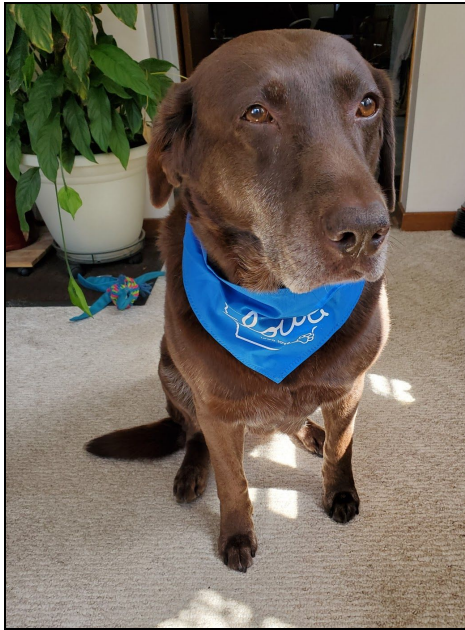
Beau and Sue have been writing and visiting the residents at Ravenwood by doing window visits. The activity director puts a sticker on residents' windows so we know which window to stop at. We've had lots of smiles and many people blew kisses. We have also been writing letters to some of the residents. It's always fun to get a card or letter from someone, especially during this time. In August, we started

Gus & Ashley

I contacted the coordinator at Friendship Village where I visit and asked if any of the residents could use a letter. They gave me a list of people who do not receive many visitors, calls, or mail. Now I send letters out with a picture of Gus in there for them. - Ashley Aneweer and Gus



making appointments to visit with one resident at a time outside. The resident sits on the patio and Beau and I are on the other side of the patio fence. We encourage you to find ways to visit at your facility even during this challenging time. Contact the activity director and see if there is something you can do. - Sue and Beau



Mocha & Arlene

I'm sure many if not most of us are "OVER" this COVID situation, particularly the isolation many, if not all, of us have felt over the past months!

For those whose visits have been halted, just keep giving all of your love to your pets at home. Fortunately, some of us can still make our visits to our P.E.T. P.A.L.S. sites. One of those sites has been the Cedar Valley Preschool and Childcare Center. Several of us visit with the children at the Preschool at least two times per month to give support and comfort to the children who returned to see their friends, including their furry friends.

Due to the circumstances with COVID, our P.E.T. P.A.L.S. volunteers have been visiting the children outside under the outdoor shelter to protect the volunteers and keep the school, kids, and staff as safe as possible. Despite COVID, this has been a WIN-WIN situation for all involved, being able to maintain some consistency and caring for the children at the Center and letting our pets and volunteers reap the joy of those visits with them! - Arlene Prather-O'Kane and Mocha

Pawsitively Thankful

Our donors help keep us going, and we'd like to say thanks.

- Joseph and Lola Kapaun
- Fryer Realty & Appraisal
- Nicole Wheelock
- Billy & Lisa Fryer
- Lea Olson
- Municipal Pipe in Hudson
- Hansen Family
- Dennis & Dawn Young
- William Heathershaw from Iowa Love Bandanas
- Ashley Ungs and Lincoln Savings Bank
- Lisa Jepsen in memory of Chloe
- Joyce Barbatti
- All those who gave memorials for Suzzie Young

Sympathy

We want to extend our sympathy to Barb Morrison on the loss of her dog, Lavinia.

Pizza Ranch Fundraiser

We are scheduled to have our usual Pizza Ranch fundraising night on Monday, Oct. 19 from 5-8 p.m. Due to changes required because of Covid, we will only need four people to volunteer for two, half-hour shifts. Our job will be to greet diners outside without pets (while wearing masks). We want to let them know about P.E.T. P.A.L.S and that all tips plus 7% of the sales will go to support our group. The Pizza Ranch staff will do all of the work clearing tables. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Sue Lund at (319) 233-3624.

Feature Your Pet's Photos On Our Website

Have you visited the P.E.T. P.A.L.S. website (petpalscedarvalley.org) recently? At the bottom of the Home page is a feature called "Some of Our Pets." Here is a chance for you to showcase your amazing pets. Just write a short bio and include a photo. Send items to Van at webmaster@petpalscedarvalley.org, and he will get them on the website.

Summer Reading Pals

Our volunteers were once again able to listen to children read as part of our Reading Pals program. The children at the Cedar Valley Preschool and Child Care Center had the opportunity to practice their fluency and expression as they read to some of our pets during the month of July. Volunteers wore masks, had their temperatures taken, and practiced social distancing as part of safety measures implemented by the preschool staff. In the pictures below, volunteer Beth Bobeldyk and her dog Gabby spend time outside listening to children read while pup, Cami, is all ears as she listens to her young friend read to her.



Puppy Mills: A Commentary by a Lifelong Pet Lover, Rita Lynn

An accepted definition of a puppy mill is “any breeding facility in which puppies are produced primarily for profit and which keeps so many dogs that the physical and psychological needs of the breeding dogs and puppies are not met sufficiently to provide a reasonably decent quality of life for all of the animals.” Conditions in puppy mills vary widely, from acceptable livestock accommodations to confinements that are no better than squalid.

The USDA is charged with maintaining standards for the care of dogs in puppy mills, but only require conditions adequate for the animals’ survival. Some states, including Iowa, add their own regulations. Early this year, Iowa animal welfare advocates helped facilitate the passage of an animal rights law that took effect in June. This most welcome law includes limitations on the number of animals that may be kept based on the size of the facility, specifies size requirements for individual cages, demands that dogs be seen by a veterinarian immediately when necessary, and stipulates that dogs be given at least two exercise periods per day. With regard to compliance, both the USDA and states have inspectors responsible for assuring that regulations are met. Unfortunately, because inspectors’ caseloads are often unmanageable, puppy mills that are licensed may be inspected as infrequently as every 2-3 years. Inspectors have also been known to be lax in reporting violations or to downgrade violations to a level at which a puppy mill is not cited. Consequently, a puppy mill with a license might not actually provide required minimal care. Left unseen are the many puppy mills operating in sheds and backyards without a license.

I recently adopted a dog that came from a puppy mill listed in 2019 as having 183 adult dogs and 129 puppies. Other facilities house up to thousands of animals. Needless to say, dogs in these situations get a minimum of care. Even in “good” puppy mills, and even with the new regulations in Iowa, neither the adult dogs nor the puppies have any kind of positive human interaction or socialization, and there are no standards for the quality of the dogs being bred. Breeding females are characteristically bred every heat cycle, and litters of four to six are expected. Females not meeting desired productivity are either sold or otherwise disposed of. The best maintained of these animals receive no more than basic veterinary care. Parasite infestation, eye and ear infections, and periodontal problems are common, as well as many other neglected medical diagnoses and care needs, even when minimal kennel standards are met. But despite the conditions in which they were produced and raised, the puppies are sold online and in pet shops, most often for \$1000 or more.

The numbers are revealing. According to the Humane Society of the United States in 2016, an estimated 10,000 puppy mills (both licensed and unlicensed) existed in the U.S. Licensed facilities alone held over 107,500 breeding females and produced over 1,000,000 puppies for the market that year. HSUS believed that the number of puppies produced in unlicensed operations would likely double that number. Considering that the ASPCA estimated 3.3 million dogs ended up in shelters annually between 2015 and 2018, and 670,000 of these shelter dogs were euthanized every year, it is easy to conclude that puppy mills are a factor in the problem of unwanted dogs.

As appalling as the argument seems to pet owners, breeders justify the lifelong confinement of their dogs by saying that the dogs have never experienced anything else. Some puppy mill dogs, however, are eventually sold to pet rescue organizations, which then attempt to rehabilitate them so they can live the rest of their lives as pets. In addition to the medical and physical problems mentioned above, studies by Franklin D. McMillan, DVM, demonstrate that puppy mill dogs exhibit a

number of specific psychological deficits. Many dogs, in spite of the efforts of patient and loving owners, retain at least some special needs for the rest of their lives. It is imperative that we, as animal lovers and advocates, adopt our pets at shelters or buy from reputable breeders, and that we strongly and openly urge others to do the same. Puppy mills are a lucrative business, but one that is clearly contributing to animal over-population. Beyond that, these commercial operations treat dogs as a commodity, and in doing so, inflict physical and psychological harm to dogs that have been bred over the centuries to be loyal and loving human companions.

Cedar Valley Preschool is Looking for Volunteers

If you are itching to make a visit with your dog or cat and have been unable to due to Covid Restrictions, you might be interested in visiting with your pet at the Cedar Valley Preschool and Childcare Center outside with the children once a month until it gets too cold to do so. The children always love Pet Pals and seeing new animals. If you are interested, contact Jon McNamee, Team Leader for more details at (319) 243-0515.

The address and phone number of the CVPCCC is:

Cedar Valley Preschool and Childcare Center
724 Lantz Ave.
North Cedar Falls, IA 50613
319-268-1944
Jamie Clancy, Director

P.E.T. P.A.L.S. VISITING SITES & TEAM LEADERS

CEDAR FALLS HEALTH CARE CENTER – Bob Schrader – (319) 231-9596

CEDAR VALLEY PRESCHOOL CHILD CARE – Day Visits – Jon McNamee – (319) 243-0515

DENVER SUNSET HOME – Tracy Wilson – (630) 865-3239

FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE – Ashley Aneweer – (319) 883-0287

HARMONY HOUSE – Sue Lund – (319) 233-3624

LA PORTE CITY NURSING & REHAB – For information (319) 610-7379

MANOR CARE – For information (319) 610-7379

MERCY ONE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & REHAB – Diane Hensley – (319) 236-3491

NEW ALDAYA LIFESCAPES – Rachelle Yousefi – (319) 277-7418

NEWEL POST – Day Visits – For information (319) 610-7379

NORTHSTAR COMMUNITY SERVICES – Terry Hertges – (319) 239-6865

NORTHSTAR HEAD INJURY – For information (319) 610-7379

NORTHCREST SPECIALTY CARE – For information (319) 610-7379

PILLAR OF THE CEDAR VALLEY – Jan Thompson – 234-8396

PINNACLE SPECIALTY CARE – For information (319) 610-7379

RAVENWOOD HEALTHCARE – Sue Lund – (319) 233-3624

READING PALS – Jan Thompson – (319) 234-8396

ROSEWOOD ESTATES – Sue Lund – (319) 233-3624

THE ROSE – Jan Thompson – (319) 234-8396

UNITY POINT - ALLEN MENTAL HEALTH/REHAB – Kathy Matthias – (319) 215-7080

WAVERLY HEALTH SERVICES – Sharon Moeller – (319) 483-5243

WESTERN HOME COMMUNITIES

MARTIN/DEERY SUITES – For information (319) 610-7379

STANARD CENTER – For information (319) 610-7379

THALMAN SQUARE – Rita Lynn – (319) 277-4212

THUESEN COTTAGE – For information (319) 610-7379

NATION COTTAGE – For information (319) 610-7379

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

P.O. Box 373

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