

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

Animal-Assisted Therapies and Activities throughout the Cedar Valley

April 2020 Newsletter

Celebrating PAW Power!

On October 14, 2019, P.E.T. P.A.L.S. celebrated its annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at the Waterloo Center for the Arts. Our theme was "Paw Power" since P.E.T. P.A.L.S. volunteers often experience the magic that four paws can bring to someone who needs extra love and attention.

A large committee of volunteers worked tirelessly to be sure that everything went smoothly, from setting up the room and gathering door prizes, to preparing food and planning the evening's program.

Several area businesses provided pet items to decorate tables and serve as favors. People were able to put everything into a pet toy box that was also donated. Thank you to Pet Supplies Plus, Pet Smart, Rustic Hollow, and the Cedar Bend Humane Society for all of these items!

We were very fortunate to have Dr. James Kenyon share his experiences in caring for sled dogs during the Iditarod trail race in Alaska. This is an annual long-distance dog sled race held in early March from Anchorage to Nome. Everyone was fascinated by the stories and pictures he shared.



P.E.T. P.A.L.S. values its volunteers and wants to celebrate the role they play in enriching the lives of so many in the Cedar Valley. We hope that people continue to look forward to attending this yearly event.

Please be sure to save the date for the next dinner which will be on October 19, 2020.

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

Fundraising Partnership



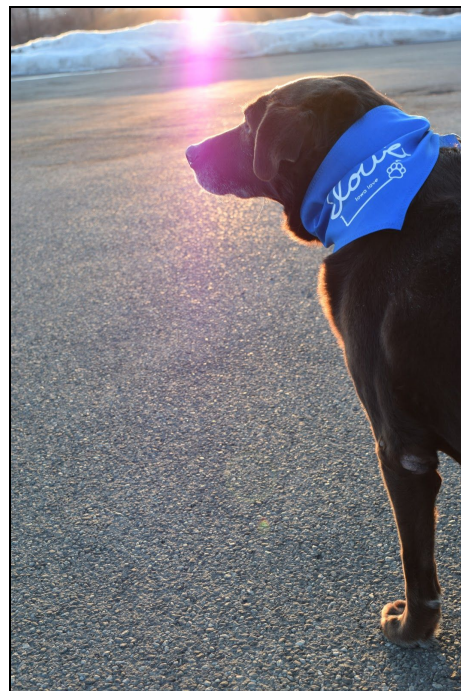
Are you wondering where the cute scarf came from in the accompanying photo? P.E.T. P.A.L.S. has accepted an opportunity to partner with a newly-established Iowa business to raise funds for our organization, and these adorable scarves are the result.

Iowa Love is a business started by William Heathershaw. On the sales tags for his items, he describes how his business got its name. While driving home for Christmas in 2018, he was greeted by the "Welcome to Iowa" signage. However, to him the words appeared to say, "Welcome to Love." That became the inspiration for his products, which started with shirts. He is from Waterloo and items are printed locally in Cedar Falls, and a portion of his profits are donated to Iowa-based nonprofits.

Some of us had a chance to meet with William to discuss a possible joint project. During our conversation, he shared how he had been thinking of creating pet scarves with the Iowa Love theme. As a result of our conversation, we

are in the process of helping produce scarves with the Iowa Love logo along with a small paw print. These will be modeled by P.E.T. P.A.L.S. animals on his website.

This fundraiser is off to a great start, but is only for a limited time (March 16-April 24). If you have not had a chance to purchase one yet, go to the Iowa Love website (www.iowalove.org) where you will find a link to order. Two area businesses will also carry the scarves during this time. They are Mountain Man Fruit and Nuts at 319 Main St. in Cedar Falls along with Here's What's Poppin' at 206 E. 4th St., Waterloo. William has been very generous in the amount that he will contribute to P.E.T. P.A.L.S. from this fundraiser. We thank him for all of his support and wish him well as his business continues to grow.



Tree Decorating Contest Winners!



Last December, Lincoln Savings Bank invited P.E.T. P.A.L.S. to participate in a tree decorating contest. This was being held in connection with an open house announcing their future home on the top three floors of the Waterloo Tech Works.

Four non-profit organizations were given a lighted tree to decorate along with funds to purchase decorations at Hobby Lobby. Kathy Matthias headed the project along with help from Sue Lund, Rachelle Yousefi, Terry Page, and Jan Thompson.

They decorated the tree with figures of dogs and cats along with various blue and white ornaments to coordinate with our organization's colors. Special ornaments were created with actual photos of our visits inside clear bulbs. The finishing touches had blue and white streamers down the tree with a stuffed kitten tucked into a large bow at the top.

It was an exciting evening as invited guests from the Cedar Valley arrived. When exiting the elevator, they viewed the trees and could vote for their favorite. At the end of the evening, P.E.T. P.A.L.S. had received the most votes and was the winner of \$500!

Once again, we were able to share about our organization and how we are of service to the community. Great job, volunteers!

Welcome New Members

- Connie Brunskill and her dog Molly
- Darlene Groothuis and her dog Tip Top
- Amy Henry and her dog Tessa
- Bobbi Lawless and her dog Journey
- Barbara Morrison and her dog Lavinia
- Lori Newbrough and her dog Togo

We also have some current members who brought in new pets for evaluation.

- Becky Carr and her dog Tomlin
- Jackie Nelson and her dog Oliver
- Denise and Rachael Sears and their dogs Dora and Roxie

De-Stress Days

Do you ever wonder who is having the most fun during “De-Stress” days at the UNI Library? If you guessed “everyone,” then you’re right! Here we were last December with some of our friends. We will be back at the library again during finals week in May.



Support P.E.T. P.A.L.S. at Stuff Etc.

Spring is here and with it comes time to do a little cleaning of our closets, pantries, garages, and sheds. As you begin your spring cleaning routine, please donate gently used items to the Stuff Etc. store in Waterloo. P.E.T. P.A.L.S. will receive 50% of the sale of each item. Items that sell well include furniture, household items, lamps, shoes, books, craft items, pet supplies, clothing, gardening, tools and much more.

When you drop off items in Waterloo, tell the staff it is a charity donation for P.E.T. P.A.L.S. Our account is #14713. No appointment is needed, and you can take up to two kitchen size trash bags full of items.

For a full list of what they need, go to the Stuff Etc. website online at <https://www.shopstuffetc.com/waterloo/>.

Remembering Fletch by Rita Lynn



When I saw his picture posted at Petco, I knew he was the kind of dog I was looking for. I soon found out, however, that as a ten-month-old puppy, Fletch was more than a handful. I had to learn that if I didn't keep him busy he would find something to do by himself, and his choices were almost always destructive.

Fortunately, as he matured, I learned how to teach him and keep him busy, and he became a trusted pet partner. His remarkable intelligence allowed him to master a long list of tricks as well as to learn things on his own.

For example, I never taught him to get his leash for walks or visits, but one day, after a visit with Otis, I inadvertently dropped the blue leash used for P.E.T. P.A.L.S. visits. Even when I saw it under the table several days later, I didn't take the time to pick it up. On the morning of Fletch's next visit, after I had put on my blue t-shirt and before I had said anything about "going to see his friends," Fletch went under the table and nudged the leash!

On visits, all I had to do was ask him, "Do you know any tricks?" and he would start doing a series of his favorites. His favorite "doggie joke," as I called them, was to steal a person's shoe and parade around with it until the owner begged him to give it back.

At home, he reminded me of what I was supposed to be doing at any given time, protected the house even down to the flies on the wall, and was the companion by my side or at my feet wherever I went. We were so attuned to each other that I didn't even realize he had grown quite deaf, until he stayed with a pet-sitter a few days and she noticed it. In my eyes, he was one very special dog.

Our good-bye last month came far too soon, as it always does, but I am so grateful for having had the privilege of sharing over twelve years with such a remarkable and faithful friend. I will rescue another dog and that dog will find its way into my heart, but Fletch, like all the rest of my pet family members, will never be replaced.

I thank all my wonderful P.E.T. P.A.L.S. friends for their support as I went through Fletch's last days. At times like these, I am fortunate to be included in a circle of people who love their pets enough to share them with others and who have experienced the great joys and deep sorrows that such love inevitably entails.

Upcoming Events

Sturgis Falls: June 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Stop by and visit our booth during the Arts and Crafts event. We always have fun items for sale with many related to pets. If you'd like to help us make things to sell, call Sue Lund (319) 233-3624.

Cedar Falls Wal-Mart: June 26-27 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will be collecting donations from shoppers. Watch for our volunteers along with a furry friend or two.

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 of your pet. Send items to Van at webmaster@petpalscedarvalley.org, and he will get them on the website.

Give Back With Amazon Smile

Remember to support P.E.T. P.A.L.S. when you shop online with Amazon.

1. Log in to your account.
2. Drop down to "your lists."
3. Click on Amazon Smile Charity lists.
4. Select Pet Pals-Pets in Education and Therapy People and Animals in Life Cedar Falls, IA.
5. Click Select.
6. Then going forward, whenever you purchase off Amazon, be sure to use the url:
smile.amazon.com

Sympathy

Rita Lynn, our long-time volunteer, had to say good-bye to her dog, Fletcher. He visited several places over the years, including the Cedar Falls Preschool and Child Care Center along with Thalman Square. People were amazed at the number of tricks he did to entertain them on visits.

P.E.T. P.A.L.S. also says good-bye to Pat Cook, a former active member who visited with her dogs, Kelsey and Lizzie. Our sympathies to her family.

Pawsitively Thankful

Thank you to Connie Brunskill and Janice Rogers for their donations to our organization.

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 Thompsen – 234-8396

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

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

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

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

THE ROSE – Jan Thompsen – (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

Cedar Falls, IA 50613

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Secretary	Terry Hertges	(319) 239-6865
Records	Deb Hudspeth	(319) 249-5113
Membership Coordinator	Rachelle Yousefi	(319) 277-7418
Temperament Evaluation	Sue Lund	(319) 233-3624
Newsletter Editor	Marcy Seible	m.k.seible@gmail.com
One-Time Visits	Diane Hensley	(319) 231-9578
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