



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017



Fox Business host volunteers for Love on a Leash!

(Original article by Pam Kragen, reprinted with permission of the SD Union-Tribune)

When dog handlers from Love on a Leash show up at local jails, hospitals, hospice wards and dementia centers, the animals are always the center of attention. That's fine with newly certified pet handler Jamie Colby of La Jolla, who makes the rounds with her brother's golden retriever, Bailey, whenever she's not on the road for work. Since 2003, she has been a full-time anchor for Fox television.

Her job as host of the 3-year-old Fox Business series "Strange Inheritance" keeps her on the road nearly 300 days a year. But whenever she's in town, she spends a minimum of two days a week taking Bailey on her regular therapy rounds. She said it is inspiring to watch how the 2-year-old female golden retriever calms and uplifts the people she encounters. "I think I get more out of it than the patients or the residents or the children we visit," Colby said.



Colby, and her brother Jonathan, are among the 220 handlers in the San Diego Central chapter, which was started eight years ago by San Diego resident Sue Subkow. Subkow said chapter members take their dogs out up to six days a week to locations that include the VA, Sharp and Scripps hospitals, St. Paul's Senior Center, the ARC recreation center for developmentally disabled adults, the Ronald McDonald House, and many area senior homes. They also make "de-stressing" visits to college campuses including San Diego State, UC San Diego and Miramar College. On Tuesdays, they visit up to 40 inmates at the San Diego Central Jail.

The jail program is what brought the Colby siblings into Love on a Leash more than a year ago. After working as a criminal court judge in Florida, Jonathan Colby retired to La Jolla, where he'd attended UCSD years ago. After seeing the human trauma of the court system up close for so many years, he wanted to volunteer by taking a dog into local courthouses to help children and domestic abuse victims. Bailey underwent six months of training as a therapy animal before Colby purchased her and then Subkow certified Bailey for Love on a Leash visits. Now, Jonathan Colby and Subkow work together almost daily taking Bailey and one of Subkow's certified golden retrievers, Charlie, or Kona, to the jail, psychiatric and protective custody wards, hospice clinics, the VA hospital in San Diego and more.

Jamie Colby said she and her brother never had dogs growing up, but the more she heard about the work her brother was doing with Bailey, the more she dreamed of getting involved herself. The Colby siblings grew up in New York and, later, Miami, where she finished high school at 14, a university business degree by 19 and a law degree by 22. After working more than a decade as an entertainment and real estate lawyer (Johnny Carson was a longtime client), she moved back to New York City 20 years ago and transitioned into broadcast journalism. In 2002, she won a national Edward R. Murrow Award for her reporting from the World Trade Center towers on 9/11.

(continued on page 2)





In 2003, she joined Fox News as a news anchor and in 2015 launched the Fox Business series "Strange Inheritance," where she travels the country telling stories about people who inherit unusual, historical and sometimes priceless items.

With so much time on the road, Colby said she wanted to find a peaceful, beautiful city to rest in her limited time off, so she left New York last year for a place near the beach in La Jolla. One of the first things she did was call Subkow to get certified as Bailey's back-up handler.

Colby said her favorite therapy visits are at the VA hospital's Spinal Cord Injury Center and hospice centers (her father, Marty, the former general manager of local XETV network, passed away at the now-closed San Diego Hospice). She also finds the jail visits deeply moving. "The inmates we've met with sometimes get down on the floor and lay with Bailey. Being with her makes the inmates more passive," Colby said.

Subkow said that Colby likes to remain anonymous during her therapy visits so the focus can always be on Bailey's interactions with the clients.

"People don't know who Jamie is, she just goes in like anyone else and doesn't flaunt it. Some people say she looks familiar but she never admits to being a celebrity," Subkow said.

The Perfect Fit

Story Submission from Silicon Valley Love on a Leash

Our chapter received a call from Saratoga Retirement Center Medical Facility, notifying us one of their residents was close to passing and asked if we could make an unscheduled visit as soon as possible. The request went out to our members and two teams could visit that night, Leah with Wyatt her gentle 89 pound yellow Lab and Pat with her beautiful 15 pound, domestic short hair black cat, Hugo. Upon arrival, our teams found the resident, we'll call her "Mary", surrounded by her family in the room she shared with her roommate, we'll call her "Jane". They entered placing Wyatt in a chair next to Mary's bed and Hugo curled up in the bed right next to Mary's side.



Mary was weak, but took obvious comfort from the animals being there as did the rest of her family. With so many people on Mary's side of the room, it was very crowded and Mary didn't have the strength to reach over and pet Wyatt, however, Hugo was the perfect fit for Mary, curled purring softly next to her in bed. Leah decided to remove Wyatt for a bit to make room and as she was leaving saw Jane was very upset. Leah asked Jane if she would like a visit from Wyatt, and Jane eagerly accepted, so Leah put Wyatt in a chair for Jane to pet him. Jane asked if Wyatt could get on the bed with her, so Leah spread Wyatt's pet blanket on the bed next to Jane and Wyatt gently jumped up and lay down. Jane then turned on her side so she could lay with her arm around Wyatt holding him close in a hug. After a little while, most of Mary's family had to leave to take their children home, but one daughter stayed. For the next two hours on one side of the curtain, on one side of the room, was Mary with her daughter and Pat, and Hugo curled up purring softly next to Mary, and on the other side was Jane with her arms wrapped around Wyatt. Hugo was the perfect fit that night for Mary, soft and comforting, as she rested her hand on his warm body, and Wyatt was the perfect fit that night for Jane, big and strong giving her something to hold on to on a very difficult night. An 89 pound dog and a 15 pound cat both the perfect fit.



In this edition we shine the spotlight on two special members of our Rockwall/Royse City Chapter



Gigi and Jack Sukenik were Royse City/Rockwall's original members when the chapter began in 2012. They each certified with both of their boxers Buddy and Wilson and together spent the next 5 years bringing joy to many people. They spent countless hours visiting nursing homes and rehabilitation centers in Rockwall, Royse City and Rowlett, Texas. Buddy and Wilson were also both certified as Reading Education Assistance Dogs and represented Love on a Leash at Rowlett Public Library each month where children came in to read to them. Unfortunately, earlier this year both Buddy and Wilson began having severe health issues that led to their passing this spring just a month apart. Gigi and Jack have always been dependable and active members of our chapter and will continue to remain on our roster with the hopes of continuing someday with a new team.



From our Guidelines



When you are out on a visit with your Love on a Leash certified animal you are representing the entire organization. Quite often people may approach you with questions about what types of animals are accepted, and who can become certified. Here are a couple of quick reminders:

A Certified Therapy Team consists of one person and one therapy pet. Love on a Leash certifies dogs, cats and rabbits as therapy pets. All pets must be a minimum of one year old to begin the certification process. Love on a Leash accepts Rescued, Re-homed and Career Change pets. Love on a Leash does not accept wolf or coyote hybrids as our insurance does not cover them.

You may only handle one pet per visit even if you are certified with multiple pets. Anyone who will be handling the pet on visits must be certified with that pet. Responsibility for a pet may not be transferred, i.e. having another LOAL member or client control your pet.

A Rescue or Re-Home is generally defined as a previously homeless, lost or abandoned pet that comes into a home with little or no history. It is strongly recommended that you take a minimum of 6 months to bond with this pet and to get to know its reactions in various situations before beginning the process of becoming a certified therapy team.

Career change dogs are those who were bred to become a service animal and are disqualified for service work due to a medical condition or temperament incompatible with the strict requirements of service work. It is also strongly recommended that you take a minimum of 6 months to bond with this pet and get to know its reactions in various situations before beginning the process of becoming a certified therapy team.



Meet Tex - from our
Las Vegas Chapter!

He visits the high school special needs classes and his visits have been very productive. Tex and his handler Maureen also visit several nursing homes with hospice patients. Thanks Maureen and Tex!



By the numbers

Our organization continues to grow on a monthly basis. As of our June 2017 reports we now have approximately 2300 active members who volunteer with their pets on a regular basis.

We now have 69 chapters in 23 states. We have active members in 48 out of our 50 states! Members continue to get more comfortable with renewing their membership online, which helps to save time and paper!



Meet Peyton!



Peyton and his handler Shelly are with the Heartland Chapter in Indiana. Among other places, they visit Paddock View Residential Center where kids from the age of 12 to 16 are in a lock down facility. The kids love when Peyton and Shelly visit. Peyton enjoys the attention and the kids enjoy having him sit on their laps.

Contributions to the Newsletter

To contribute to our newsletter, you may email a story or article to newsletter@loveonaleash.org. Please note that the Editor will revise for length and content as dictated by available space, so be concise. Try not to exceed 300-400 words so we can include everything. If you would like to email photos to go with your article, please select one or two (NOT ten or twelve) photos and make sure that you have the permission of anyone in the photos to use their picture. Many patients or residents do NOT wish their picture to be taken and certainly not published! Please be respectful. - The Editor





Members from the newly formed Southshore Chapter in Louisiana enjoyed a pleasant afternoon visit at the Bonnabel Boat Launch near New Orleans. It was a windy day, Lake Pochatrain had plenty of white-caps and the launch was busy with people boating and fishing.

From left to right: Chris Menconi (founding member of the chapter) and Statler, Elaine Orr (founding member) and Waldorf, Annette Dugan newly evaluated member with Roux, Marie-Alice Rousselle their evaluator; and far right is Ninette Edmiston with her rescue dog Beauregard (Beaux for short) and his ears flapping in the wind.

It's always nice to get a "Thank You" submitted by Amy Sloan of the Music City Chapter. Our group visits an elementary classroom of special needs children located in a Nashville public school once a month. The staff and students really enjoy it! They use the dogs to motivate communication, fine motor skills, good behavior and all sorts of things. It is also extra special since they are the only room we see there! These are our end of year "goodbye" gifts until the fall.



Hot Asphalt Awareness

When the air temperature is this, asphalt has been measured at this.*

Air Temperature	Asphalt Temperature
77°	125°
86°	135°
87°	143°

*These temperature correlations represent worst scenario variables: direct sun, no wind, very low humidity, and high radiant energy.

At 125° F, skin destruction can occur in 60 seconds.
An egg can fry in 5 minutes at 131° F.

Data Source: Berens J. Thermal contact burns from streets and highways. Journal of the American Medical Association; 214 (11): 2025-2027.

It's summer time and that means it's HOT! Remember, our pets can get dehydrated quickly, so give them plenty of fresh, clean water when it's hot outdoors. Make sure your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun if you are on an outdoor visit, and be careful to not over-exercise them. Try to keep them indoors when it's extremely hot, and NEVER leave your pet in your car alone!



All dressed up and ready to go!

Submitted by Rose Marie Miller

Bella Moose is a member of the Coastal Carolina Love on a Leash Chapter. Bella is a rescue who was abandoned at 10 weeks of age and became part of our family at that time. She has been volunteering on the weekends at Carolina East hospital and local nursing homes since 2013. Bella started wearing her signature headpieces early on in visits because everyone thought she was a boy. She is a full figured girl at 110lbs. She wears something different every weekend which the staff and patients love. Her photos have been in the local newspaper and on TV numerous times...she is a Daddy's girl during the week but does not leave her Mom's side during the weekend because she knows she is going to go visiting. (See more of Bella Moose on our Dressed for the Occassion page.)



Off Duty Fun ~ Fun in the Sun!

Submitted by Lori Vreeke

When Schattzi and I are not visiting the assisted living homes, or being read to by the kids at the libraries, we both enjoy kayaking at the local harbor. Schattzi jumps in and out of the kayak, excited to see the sights. It's always fun seeing the harbor seals, sea birds and other dogs on kayaks and paddle boards.



Laura Gilbert and her pooch Kiva also enjoy kayaking and Kiva is shown here enjoying a lovely day in Carlsbad.



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P.O. Box 4548, Oceanside, CA 92052-4548

Moorea

Submitted by Mike and Nancy Denen

Moorea was a volunteer for 12 years with The San Diego Inland Chapter of Love on a Leash and The Elizabeth Hospice.

In 2004 The Elizabeth Hospice was starting a Pet Therapy volunteer program. Nancy contacted the national Love on a Leash organization and began their certification at Remington Healthcare. 12 years later LOAL teams continue at Remington Healthcare and have added visits to Remington Assisted Living facility.

In her 12 years, besides visiting at the Remington Club, Moorea also did pet therapy visits with Nancy or Mike at Belmont Village, The Arbors, Redwood Terrace, Care Meridian, Poway Healthcare, and Interfaith Veterans facilities, and the veterans' home in Chula Vista. In her last four years she would do visits twice a week to Sharp Memorial Hospital; Monday's with Mike and Thursday's with Nancy. Several times she went with other LOAL team to help University of San Diego students destress during finals week.



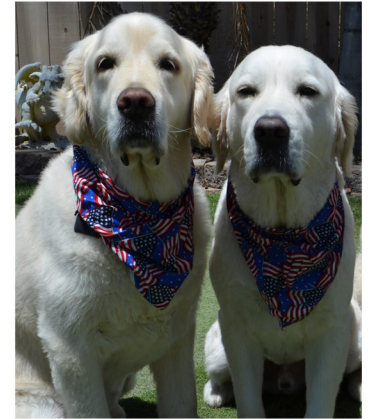
Moorea also was an ambassador for Love on a Leash by promoting pet therapy at the following events: Poway elementary schools, a Jewish youth evening event, Barnes and Noble read to kids which was also a fund raiser for LOAL, a hospice veterans' services fair, the Del Mar fair, and Sea World's Seniors Terrific Tuesday's (yes she got to see Shamu).

What was Moorea like during her visits? She was very trusting and ready for any type of visit. In group situations she would easily go from lap to lap. One on one with people in wheelchairs was fine. Her favorite was when someone was in their bed. She would snuggle up close and stay as long as the person desired.

Three special people come to mind to help you more understand Moorea's special touch. First, there was a man who was a hospice patient whose dying wish was to pet a cat. Moorea and Nancy visited him for over a year and celebrated his 93rd birthday. Second, there was a woman at Remington Healthcare who loved Moorea and said they would escape and become beach bums. Moorea knew her so well that she could even walk on her leash from the lobby, down the hall, to the woman's room, and jump up on her bed. Finally, there was a young woman who Moorea met at Sharp Memorial. She was battling cancer. Every time she would return to Sharp for another treatment, she would ask her mom to have Moorea come visit. She eventually lost her battle with cancer. Moorea's ashes will be spread with hers in a special place to their family and ours.

Because of her remarkable gifts, in 2010 Moorea was nominated for and inducted into the California Veterinary Medical Association California Animal Hall of Fame. Few cats have been awarded this distinguished honor. Moorea will be missed by all who knew her.

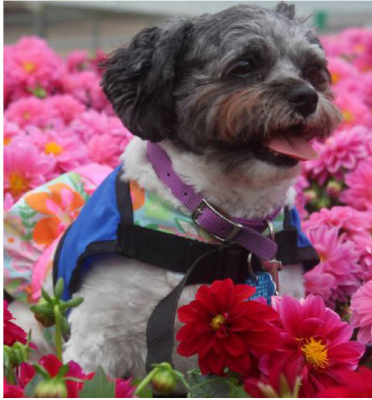




Dressed for the Occasion!
If you have a fun photo of your therapy animal dressed up for a special occasion or visit, we'd love to see it! Please send your photo to newsletter@loveonaleash.org and write "Dressed for the Occasion" in the subject line. (Please send .jpg version only and keep file size to no more than 300KB)



Shining the spotlight on some of our recent Advanced Therapy Degree Recipients



Char Pachniak's "Faith"
Advanced Degree for Teenagers:
Special Education



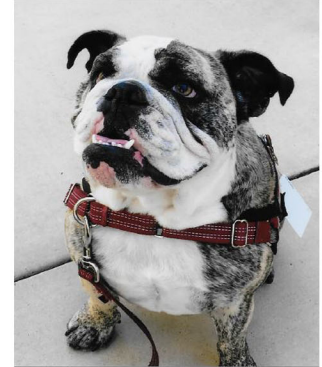
Barbara Tilke's "Jett"
Advanced Degree for Children:
Reading Programs



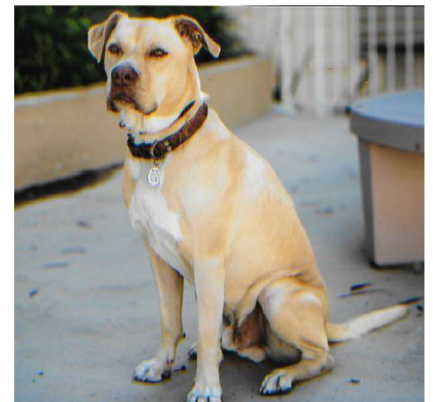
Shirley Johnson's "Prince Awesome Feisty"
Advanced Degree for Elderly:
Alzheimers/Dementia



Maureen Borosky's "Tex"
Advanced Degree for Teenagers:
Special Education



Margaret Graefen's "Sir Winston Pooh Bear"
Advanced Degree for Children:
Reading Programs

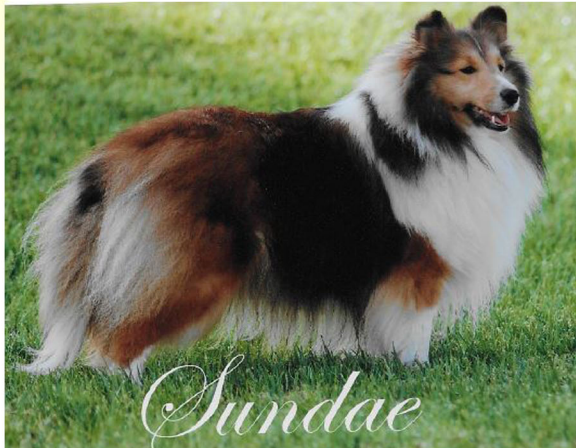


Courtney Sprigg's "Monkey"
Advanced Degree for Children:
Reading Programs

Did you know that you and your therapy animal can apply for an Advanced Therapy Degree from Love on a Leash? Pets that have passed the initial control and visit evaluations for membership and certification can be awarded the degree "Therapy Pet (ThD)." There are a number of different advanced degrees available depending upon your individual interests. Remember, advanced degrees require teamwork; this is a joint effort between you and your pet. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities, and wish to learn about the complete application process, please visit our web site (loveonaleash.org) - click on "Forms/Guides" and then select "Member Forms."



Advanced Therapy Degree Recipients continued...



Willa Gregory's "Sundae"
Advanced Degree for Children:
Reading Programs



Bonnie Riggles' "Piper"
Advanced Degree for Elderly:
Hospice



Hannah Daley's "Rockey"
Advanced Degree for Children:
Reading Programs



Will Gregory's "Sarah"
Advanced Degree for Children:
Reading Programs

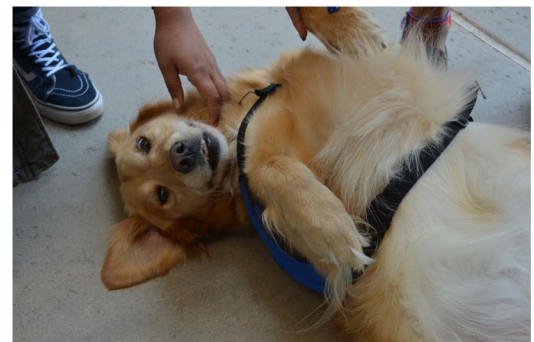
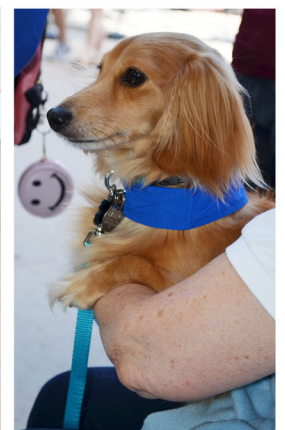


Do you do something fun and unique with your Therapy Animal when you aren't doing pet therapy visits? Why not share it with us? Send a photo and a short story (300-500 words) about what you do. Write "Off Duty Fun" in the subject line and send your submissions to newletter@loveonaleash.org





The San Diego County Fair took place this year from June 3rd through July 4th. This is the largest County Fair in the United States with over 1.6M visitors each year. LOAL had members from three local chapters participate in manning a booth for several days of the fair's run. We had thousands of people stop by for some furry TLC.



A few final tid-bits and reminders...



LOAL Foundation Board Members

Your VOLUNTEER LOAL Board members serve with enthusiasm, strive to improve our organization and continue to expand our national presence.

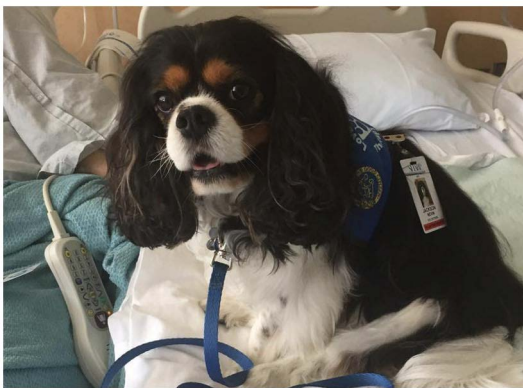
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Julie Hernandez, Lisa Thompson,
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Wachtstetter, Mary Lee Kendrick



Keep your stories and photo submissions coming! If you have a photo of your pet dressed for a special occasion please send it to Newsletter@loveonaleash.org and be sure to type "Dressed for the occasion" in the subject line. Remember that if you are submitting a story from another publication (newspaper or magazine, etc.) we must ask for permission to reprint it before it can be included in our newsletter.

If you are a Chapter Leader and would like to see your chapter featured in our next Newsletter please send a note to Newsletter@loveonaleash.org with the words "Feature us" in the subject line. The Editor will contact you with specific information needed.

Remember - it's YOUR responsibility to keep your membership up to date.



If you have a special photo you'd like to share of your pet on a therapy visit, please send it to newsletter@loveonaleash.org. Be sure to write "on the job" in the subject line of your email. Please submit only one or two photos of your animal. All submitted photos will be considered for publication, but not all are guaranteed to appear in the newsletter.

Your membership must be renewed each year. You can find your membership expiration date on both you and your pet's ID cards.

If you realize that your membership has expired, please do NOT visit any facilities until you have renewed **and** received your updated ID cards. **If your ID cards are expired, you are not covered by our insurance, and are ineligible to go on visits until you have your new ID cards in hand.**

Online renewal is now available. It is quick and easy. Simply log in to our national web site, click on the "members" tab at the top, sign in using the membership ID on your card (not your pet's) and follow the instructions.

Please renew early enough to allow ample time to receive your new cards before your expiration date.

