



LOAL Board - Your Volunteer

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

Margaret Eggers - President
Bonnie Biggs - Vice-President
Susie Blake - Secretary
Keith Edleman - Membership
Janet Greber - Treasurer
Debbie LaChusa
Sue Subkow
Meredith Rose
Julie Hernandez
Rob Kelber
Lisa Thompson

Inside this Issue...

Regular Features:

Taking Care of Biz.....	2
New in 2019.....	3
Shop Online.....	4
Spread the Word.....	4
Trading Cards.....	5
Pet Panel.....	5

By the Numbers.....	6
Newest Chapters.....	6
Chapter Spotlight.....	7
Advanced Therapy Degrees.....	15
Rainbow Bridge.....	16
Thank You LOAL.....	18

Pawsitive Stories from:

California.....	11,14,17
Indiana.....	10,11
Mississippi.....	12
North Carolina.....	8,13,14
Pennsylvania.....	9
Washington.....	13



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2018



From the Board

Doing a good thing. A simple idea, a great idea! And that's really what Love on a Leash is all about. Helping our members do a good thing. Take a well trained, well behaved, happy, and loving animal, add in a willing human, some training, certification, and find a place where your pet is happy to provide a welcoming, warm visit that helps someone cope, someone persevere, someone learn, someone just feel better, or have a little relief from the challenges life brings. That's a Good Thing.

I think it's important, especially during the holidays, to remember that although what we do is really a simple thing, behind the scenes, there are many moving parts. So many people work and volunteer to keep our organization vital and growing, improve our processes, and provide that framework for all of us to do good things with our pets. I wanted to thank every one of our current and past Board members, with their daily attention to all it takes to make an organization run. And THANK YOU to volunteers Deb and Marty who are helping us handle all those phone calls and Linda and Martina, our hard working staff who handle the newsletter, admin, and membership paperwork. A special THANK YOU to all our Chapter Leaders who help keep things organized at the local level. And THANKS to each and every one of YOU and your animals, for all the Good Things that you do.

Warmest wishes from all of us to all of you – Margaret Eggers, President, LOAL



Wishing you all have a wonderful holiday season! From left to right, Keith and "Darby", Meredith and "Maddox", Janet and "Murphy", Margaret and "Daisy", Julie and Macaroni, Susie and "Duke", Bonnie and "Zuni, and Rob and "Tater. Sue and "Charlie" could not join us for lunch.



Taking Care of Business

Join the Board!

We are a dynamic group of volunteers. If you would like to share in the rewarding experience of serving on our Board of Directors, please send an email with the subject "LOAL Board" to info@loveonaleash.org or mail a letter to our PO BOX 4548, Oceanside, CA 92052, Attention LOAL President. Please include how long you've been a member, what kinds of visits you do, your chapter affiliation (if any), and a general description of your qualifications, interests and personal skill set. Strong organization and computer skills are very helpful. Familiarity or service on other non-profit Boards, similar organizations or professional dog training, is also greatly appreciated.

Logo and Visit Requirements

- ✱ Our official color is medium blue (#00548F).
- ✱ Your **membership card must be visible** (worn as a badge, on a lanyard, in a neck wallet, or on a retractable badge holder) during **all** visits. Your pet's ID must be carried and presented upon request. It is an honor to be identified with Love on a Leash. It sets you and your pet apart from other therapy organizations.

Newsletter Submissions

NEW

We love hearing from our teams! We all have heart-warming stories from our visits. They happen practically every day, but starting in 2019, here at the LOAL Newsletter, we believe it is important for us to focus on news we think benefits and improves the Love on a Leash experience for our entire membership! Therefore, if you have news that will help all of us become better therapy ambassadors (e.g. unique facility visits, questions about our guidelines, merchandise suggestions, or pet panel questions), we encourage you to send those in.

Feel free to continue sending in heart-warming photos and stories, however, please be aware that those will only be included when space permits.

If you are pressed for time or not a writer, try our handy [Google Forms](#). You may also email newsletter@loveonaleash.org directly. Articles should be no more than 400 words, and may be gently edited due to space constraints. Please be sure to obtain appropriate [photo release forms](#) whenever necessary.

Membership Updates

Conveniently log into your account online and keep your membership information up-to-date! If your pet has retired, or crossed the rainbow bridge, please let us know at info@loveonaleash.org. We do not inadvertently want to send you a renewal notice for a deceased pet. No internet? Please call us at (760) 740-2326 or snail mail us with your updates.

Pet Panel

Do you, or your therapy pet, have a question for our Pet Panel? Have you experienced something while on a visit and were not sure how to handle it? Ask our Pet Panel. We will respect your privacy and address your query with trainer-approved responses, and an easy-to-understand approach. Please email your questions to newsletter@loveonaleash.org with "Pet Panel Question" in the Subject line.



NEW IN 2019

Guidelines

Beginning in 2019, with your renewals, LOAL will be adding an **optional** "In Case of Emergency (ICE)" field to Member IDs. Although adding an emergency phone number will be optional, a recent incident prompted the Board to vote in favor of adding this new feature to our IDs. A few months ago, one of our members was visiting a senior facility, when she suffered a medical emergency. Although others knew the member very well, they realized no-one knew where she lived or how to reach her family. Thankfully, after some sleuthing and phone calls, family was reached and the member's therapy pet was reunited with its family. The process could have been much quicker and smoother, had emergency contact information been quickly available.



We believe an ICE number on our IDs would be useful in the event something happens to you while on a Love on a Leash visit, or while traveling to and from a visit. Most members minimize the number of items they carry on visits and should something happen to you, it would be helpful for those who come to your aid to be able to contact someone who is familiar with you and your pet, as quickly as possible. In those rare instances an ICE number may be needed, it will be easily found on our new ID cards, coming in 2019. **When your membership renewal arrives next year, please consider providing an ICE number to give you, and your pet, peace of mind.** 🐾

New ID Cards

We recently emailed our members that we are in the process of updating both our database system, and our ID cards. Over time, we will be changing the format of our ID cards, as well as adding a HUMAN photo to our member ID cards. Please be aware, since this will be a rolling introduction, your next ID card may NOT be in our new format yet. We will be phasing it in over the course of the next year.

Beginning in January, when you renew your Love on a Leash membership, we will be asking you to submit a photo of yourself (a headshot of YOU alone with a plain background, without your therapy pet).

If you renew online, our website will prompt you to upload a photo at that time.

If you renew by mail, we will ask you to email a photo of yourself to info@loveonaleash.org (similar to the process you used when you submitted your new membership application).



In addition, we have also allocated space on the new card for an "In Case of Emergency" (I.C.E.) contact telephone number. When you renew your membership, you will be given the option to add this number, and it will be printed on your new ID card. Having this I.C.E. number on your ID Card is not required, however as noted above, the Board feels that it could prove useful under certain circumstances.

Keep an eye out for further updates. We're working hard to continue to make improvements. 🐾



Shop Online for LOAL Gear

Step out in style on your visits with LOAL embroidered apparel and accessories. Log into your account <http://www.loveonaleash.org/Members/login.aspx>, click on "Order Merchandise" in the left margin, and then click on the EmbroidMe Love on a Leash store link in the box. If you live in the San Diego area, store owner, Anu, would love to welcome you personally! Please drop by! Here's what Board Vice President Bonnie Biggs had to say about a few of the items in store:



"LOVE the fanny pack with all the compartments for ID, treats, bookmarks or trading cards - even room for my keys!"



"The new fleece Love on a Leash blankets (50"x60") have come in handy for college and university events, where the pups can hang out and de-stress the students during finals! Also good for libraries, schools and outdoor events!"

"This new shirt is perfect for the cooler fall and winter weather!"



Spread the Word

LOAL is proud to offer printed brochures, and educational cards illustrating the differences between therapy, service, and emotional support animals. We provide these free of charge to our members. If you would like some of these to provide to prospective members, the facilities you visit, or for an upcoming event, please email us at assistant@loveonaleash.org.

Please include the quantity you would like, and let us know whether you would like brochures, therapy comparison cards, or both! 🐾





Fun Giveaways Adored by All Ages

Did you know Love on a Leash partnered with Creative Instinct, Inc. to offer Therapy Pet Trading Cards to our members nationwide?

The order process is very easy, and the cards are a very popular item, especially with our younger folks. Order details, prices, and instructions can all be found at the web link below:

<http://www.custom-tradingcards.com/LoveOnALeash/>



Ask Our Pet Panel



Dear Pet Panel,

My human loves to dress me up during this time of year. I don't mind playing dress-up for a little bit, but it can get super hot, super fast. Sometimes I trip on my costume, sometimes bits fall off, because the costumes are so fancy, and sometimes there's no room left to pet me! That makes me really uncomfortable and sometimes a little frustrated. How can I let my human know when I've had enough costume-play?

– Signed, Reindeer for a Day 🐾

Dear Reindeer,

Indeed, this time of year our humans enjoy getting into the spirit of the season by dressing us up. Although entertaining, it can be very taxing on our fur-covered bodies.

Communicating with your human is key. We suggest adopting a safe signal with your human. Perhaps a special look, or a paws up to show your discomfort. If you start panting because you're hot, your human should be able to read that as a sign of distress, too. Sometimes, dressing up only for a photo-op is the best best dress-up of all.

Happy Holidays and jingle those bells! 🛎️



By the Numbers

As of December 2018, we have grown to over 2,500 active members nationwide who volunteer with their pets on a regular basis. Thank you for bringing comfort and joy to those in need!

We have also grown to 76 chapters in 28 states, and are proud to boast members in 47 states (DE, RI, and SD are our final frontiers). **Paws up tip:** Save both time, paper, and a stamp. Renew your membership quickly and securely online!



Welcome to our Newest Chapters!

- ◆ Chattanooga, TN
- ◆ Howard County, IN
- ◆ Central Arizona, AZ
- ◆ Wabash Valley, IN



✍️ Chapter Spotlight: Capitol Area - MI ✍️

Eagle, MI – About one year ago, Love on a Leash welcomed the Capitol Area - MI chapter, and newly certified member **Cady Ness-Smith** knew immediately that she wanted to establish an LOAL chapter in her area. "There were many people interested in therapy dog work, but were looking for more support and supervision than other therapy pet organizations were offering their members. Many had been members of other therapy dog organizations in the past, as had I."

The chapter began with 4 teams back in October 2017. "Two of us were AKC CGC evaluators and two of us had experience with therapy pets from other organizations," Cady recalls, "I worked with facilities that I knew, to assist in the supervision of our teams. I also reached out to the LOAL chapter in eastern Michigan for support and suggestions as we went through the process."

Today, the chapter has grown to 39 teams, and interest continues to grow. Teams visit as large groups at community events, Michigan State University, and Lansing Community College. They also visit in smaller groups at assisted living rehab facilities, hospitals, schools, libraries, etc. Some teams also visit individually at established facilities, and the chapter has even responded to community crisis situations when called upon.

Cady volunteers to do community education programs to help promote LOAL at health fairs and other community events. "One of the things our chapter does is get home addresses of all members, so we can better market to facilities that are close to where teams live. Teams are more open to visiting on a regular basis, if it is convenient to get to a location and fits their lifestyle," Cady has observed. "We have teams that visit weekly, twice monthly, or even monthly. On the other hand, we have some teams that visit more than one facility weekly."

The chapter arranged an LOAL picnic in September, inviting the other two Michigan LOAL chapters and any teams that were not currently members of a chapter. The picnic was held in Fenton, MI; a central location. There were games for the dogs and handlers, and prizes to be won. The chapter plans to repeat the event next year.

Capitol Area currently has two cats working on supervised visits at this time. When asked if there are any unique teams in her chapter, Cady replied, "We have many unique teams: **Tasha** is a career changed Paws with a Cause service dog. **River** is a career changed Leader Dog candidate. **Farkle** is an AKC trick dog champion. **Cam** is an AKC Grand Champion and paints with his paws. **Toes** has several AKC therapy dog titles and has earned all three Dog Scout Therapy dog badges. **Lassie** is actually related to the famous TV and movie Lassie! Many of our teams are also involved in Dog Scouts, so are involved in community service projects, such as volunteering at shelters, fostering dogs, training dogs, and volunteering to teach and assist in dog training classes in the community. Two of our handlers volunteer for Paws with a Cause."

What is Cady's favorite aspect about volunteering for Love on a Leash? "Allowing others to enjoy the love and affection of our therapy pets. To see the joy and watch them interact with our pets is magic." Thank you Cady for your chapter's passion and dedication. 🐾



Group photo with 'Sparty' at Michigan State University where LOAL has logged more than 200 hours since October 2017. From L-R: Cady with Cam, Irma with Ella, and Elaine with Gus.



Schools Benefit from Therapy Visits

Coastal Carolina Chapter (North Carolina)

Excerpted in part from Jacksonville Daily News article

<https://www.jdnews.com/news/20180605/therapy-dogs-help-ease-test-stress-at-swansboro-middle>

June 5, 2018

Swansboro, NC – The voice of a Swansboro Middle School student rises from a group gathered around a visitor to campus and sums up the reason Kaia, a 2-year-old standard poodle, was there: 'This dog makes me happy.'

Kaia and **Thor**, a 4-year-old golden retriever, stopped by for the last day of end-of-grade testing at this middle school, and are two of four Love on a Leash therapy teams that have visited during the school's testing period. They have been invited to help ease the anxiety of students as they head into class.

The school's Admin team agrees that it seems to be working, "Their presence brings a smile to everyone's faces and that is what we want to see," Assistant Principal Tyndall observed. "Their morale is higher," added the school's occupational therapy assistant.

"Sometimes you can be having a bad day, but when you come to school and see her, it makes you feel better. She's so cute. She makes me happy," said sixth grader Erin, who stopped to pet Kaia.

Kaia's owner, **Brenda Wallace** (who became a LOAL member this past January), knows how testing can raise anxiety. "I'm a retired educator and I know the stress it can cause staff and students and this is something I was interested in doing."

Wallace greeted students along with Kaia, offering a 'Have a nice day' as students

strolled by with a wave or a pet on the head for Kaia.

"I've had kids tell me 'You made my day' or 'This is the best day ever.' They really seem to like the dogs being here," she said.

Other members of the chapter, Thor's owner **Donna Williams** (member since 2017), **Rosey Ward** (member since 2015) and her 7-year-old greyhound/lab mix, **Cali**, and **Carol Poe** (member since 2016) and her 4-year-old Australian Labradoodle, **Mocha**, have also visited Swansboro Middle during testing periods.

Increasingly, schools have been reaching out to pet therapy organizations, such as Love on a Leash, to ease stress during testing periods. Colleges began this trend a few years ago, but with schools focusing more and more on student social and emotional wellness, we are beginning to see an uptick in visit requests from both high schools and middle schools also. 🐾



A Swansboro Middle School 7th grader spends time with Thor. (Jannette Pippin/The Daily News)



Kaia whittles away the stress of Swansboro Middle School 6th graders. (Jannette Pippin/The Daily News)



Editor's Note: When one of our beloved therapy pets crosses the Rainbow Bridge, National LOAL mails a condolence card to their human partner. It is the least we can do to thank our valued members for their selfless service. Recently, after receiving such a card, member Claudia Wagner felt moved to respond. We share her story in this issue.

"Hello! I just received the beautiful, thoughtful card you sent me. Your personal touch means so much! Newton was a therapy dog for only a short time, but he made a very huge impact on our community. I would like to share that with you. Here is a local article I wrote about a year ago. I hope you can find the time to read it. Newton would love to help promote your organization. If you could have seen how proudly he pranced when he got his vest and ID card in the mail...his age dropped about five years!" — Claudia (member since 2017)

Giving Back

by Claudia Wagner - as featured in the Troy Pennysaver Plus (Pennsylvania)

October 18, 2017

Columbia X-Rds, PA – When people experience a tragic event and receive help from individuals or community, many give back in some way to show their appreciation.

But it's not just people who give back after experiencing a traumatic time in life – animals do, too. In our community there is a rescued dog that is now giving back.

Six years ago, **Newton**, a Chocolate Lab / Shar Pei, was one of 30 dogs and three cats rescued after being left abandoned in a second floor apartment in Jamestown, NY. No one knows how long the animals were there without human care.

After almost a year going from one shelter to another, Newton ended up at Animal Care Sanctuary (ACS) in East Smithfield. He was considered difficult to adopt because he had a loud rough sounding bark and usually barked when anyone came by the kennel to see the dogs.

But in February 2012, Newton was adopted and found his forever home. And after settling in, he proved himself to be a very quiet, calm and loving dog, only barking when someone came to the door – the perfect watchdog. But Newton was also a good companion and very quickly became part of the family. He especially loved to ride in the car.

Last spring, ACS offered a behavior class for dogs that focused on the types of training helpful in therapy pet work, such as with Love On A Leash (LOAL).

"ACS is so excited to have classes for therapy dogs and cats," said Joan Smith-Reese, ACS director. "The response from the community is overwhelming and we are anxious to share their love and compassion with those that are lonely, infirm or just in need of a hug by a furry friend."

Newton's owner thought that because he was such a calm, loving dog, he would be a perfect therapy dog.



Newton, as he was rescued from an apartment in Jamestown.



"Look at me," exclaimed Newton. "I'm a certified therapy dog now!"

[\[click to read the rest of Newton's story...\]](#)



Unexpected Family Reunions

South Central Indiana Chapter (Indiana)

October 31, 2018

Columbus, IN – Einstein is **Doug Bell's** 13-year-old GoldenDoodle. Doug, who has been an LOAL member for the past 6 years, had a poignant encounter last week. He adopted Einstein about 18 months ago from a family who could not keep him anymore. Einstein absolutely loves people and brings smiles to just about everyone he meets. He was born to be a therapy dog. About a year ago, he started making rounds at the hospital, its mental health clinic, and some nursing homes.

On this particular day, Doug and Einstein were on their regular visit to the hospital. Doug approached a group of people in the critical care waiting room. Seeing a few smiles, he asked if anyone was in need of some pet therapy. He heard one or two affirmative responses, so I continued, "This is Einstein."

"EINSTEIN!!" The whole group responded in unison. Doug wondered how they knew him? Surely they had not all met him on previous visits. A moment later he had the answer. Einstein's former owner, *Jerome**, had a brother who was in the critical care unit. This group of people were related to the brother, who was on a ventilator and his prognosis was grim. They were visiting in shifts, supporting each other between visits during this difficult time. When they saw Einstein, they were lifted to happier times of family get-togethers at Einstein's former home with *Jerome* and his wife *Addie**.

"Look! He remembers you! He was always such a good dog! He was always *Addie's* dog, wasn't he? Oh, we miss him! Look how handsome he is! He's going to give you a kiss!"

For 15 minutes they fawned all over him. He worked his way around to each of the eight people in the group, putting his head in their hands and gazing into their eyes.

Doug has stayed in touch with *Addie* since he adopted Einstein, sending her occasional photos and stories about their dog as a way to ease the pain he knew they felt when they gave him up. This time, the story reached them from family. It had to be a special solace for *Jerome* and *Addie* when the dog they raised had returned to help their family in a time of crisis.

It is stories like these that make Doug thankful for all the work that is done to allow Love on a Leash to exist and grow. It brings a lot of joy to people who are in difficult times. 💙



Einstein dressed for Halloween. He tries to trick or treat each year for his nursing homes and hospital.

**Names have been changed to respect privacy.*



Love Across the Miles 2,300 Miles to be Exact

North Central Indiana Chapter & Silicon Valley Chapter (California)

November 3, 2018

Sheridan, IN – It was a normal Sunday evening. Long-time member **Karen Naber** was finishing up dinner for her family when her phone rang. It was her Aunt Rosie. They always talk on Sunday evenings, but this time she was calling a bit earlier than normal. Karen answered cheerfully, but could immediately tell that her Aunt had been crying. She started, "Karen, something terrible has happened." A million thoughts started racing through Karen's mind as her Aunt continued. "Steve's son Zachary took his life last night." My heart sank. My cousin Steve's 14-year-old son had killed himself.

Fast forward 12 hours...Karen emailed Keith Edleman at National LOAL and asked him if there were any chapters near my cousin's community in California? Karen lives in Indiana, and has been a Love On A Leash member for 6 years. She instinctively knew that her cousin, her family, their friends, and school mates were going to need some Pet Therapy. Keith immediately wrote back and said he would reach out to our Silicon Valley Chapter in California and have them contact Karen.

Well, Karen believes they sent an angel in the form of **Lynne Richards**. Karen describes Lynne as "so kind, so compassionate, so dedicated to the task at hand. I was receiving therapy, and I was 2,300 miles away!" Karen and Lynne talked several times on the phone. Karen's cousin and his family were in shock and it was understandably taking them a long time to make decisions. Lynne and her chapter teammates were patient and ready when the time came. Lynne, her husband **Ed**, and their dog Madison, along with **Lisa Hirano** and her dog **Hana**, provided love and care to those attending the memorial service for Zachary.

Karen can't begin to thank these teams enough for what they did for her family and her. "This selfless act of kindness to strangers during one of the worst events of their lives is why I **LOVE** Love On A Leash. Lynne and I have become fast friends, and hopefully next summer they will stop by in their RV, and I will repay them with some Indiana hospitality."💕

Editor's Note: Lynne, Ed, Madison, Lisa, and Hana have been LOAL members since last year.



From L-R: Ed Richards, Lisa Hirano with Hana, and Lynne Richards with Madison.



To Comfort; To Enjoy

Comfort Creatures of NE Mississippi Chapter

Tupelo, MS – Nine-year LOAL veteran, **Jane Farmer**, exemplifies how diverse our visits can be – in one day! Back in October, she accompanied newly certified member **Jim Misset** and his 6-year old Doberman Pinscher Mix **Tip**, along with her 2-year-old blue merle **Truman**, to a children's grief workshop, and then manned a recruiting table at a Tupelo-Lee Humane Society fundraiser called Mead, Music and Mutts – a family-friendly event held at a local meadery. What fun! She may have even recruited some new members! 🐾



At left, Jim & Tip, and above, Jane & Truman, attend a grief workshop.



Jane & Truman, representing LOAL at Mead, Music & Mutts.



Honoring Our Veterans

Lake Havasu Chapter (Arizona)

Lake Havasu City, AZ – **Joy Koblosh**, member since 2017, sent in this snap of their chapter proudly participating the city's local Veterans Day Parade on November 11th!

They designed the float to represent each branch of our armed forces: ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, MARINE CORPS, and COAST GUARD, flying each service flag along with the American flag proudly standing high above the float. 🐾



Ever Popular Library Visits

Fayetteville Chapter (North Carolina)

Excerpted from The Fayetteville Observer

<https://www.fayobserver.com/entertainmentlife/20181017/love-on-leash-dogs-visit-library>

Hope Mills, NC – As part of October's "31 Days of Love" campaign geared toward raising awareness for shelter pets, the Hope Mills branch library invited four dogs from Love on a Leash. 🐾



Pickles

Nico

Sadie



Training-Paws

#Goals

Yakima Valley Chapter (Washington)



Meika, above, is a Bernese Mountain Dog, who recently earned her 3rd Advanced Therapy Degree! Her recently adopted little sister **Bärli**, at right, [pronounced bearly; it means little bear] has some big "paws" to fill, both literally and figuratively! 🐾



Felines Serving Our Community

San Diego Inland Chapter (California)

September 3, 2018

San Diego, CA – In conjunction with the San Diego Museum of Man's exhibit "Living With Animals", 13-year veteran member **Nancy Denen** and her therapy cat, **Lily**, were recently invited to speak about how cats serve our community. The Museum of Man is located at San Diego's beautiful and historic Balboa Park. Nancy teamed up with The Cat Café, where visitors interact with furry felines, to promote both Love on a Leash, and cat adoptions. It was the first presentation of its kind, and the event was so successful that the Museum has asked Nancy and Lily to return.

Lily is a rescued Turkish Van that had been abandoned. Nancy estimates that Lily is about 6 years old now. Lily has been a therapy cat for 4 years, and is following in Moorea's paw-prints. **Moorea**, Nancy's first therapy cat, was an LOAL volunteer for 12 years.

After the presentation, guests were invited to meet & pet Lily, and many said they were encouraged to leash-train their cats, so that they could do outside activities with them, too! 🐾



New Roots



Meet 5-year old **Cooper** of Camarillo, CA. When member **Nancy Bien** adopted him, she had no idea he sported a Mohawk. His up-do is quickly becoming a chapter favorite!



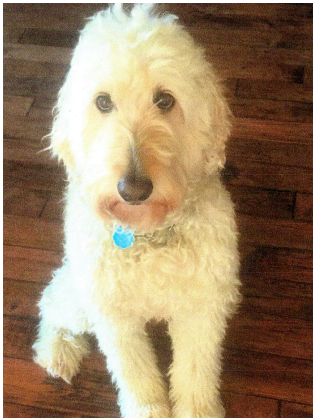
Long time member **Debbie LaChusa** recently moved to the Asheville, NC, area. We don't have members in that area so Debbie worked hard to establish her first LOAL visit location. We know she and **Hope** are happy to be "working" again!!



Recent Advanced Therapy Degree Recipients

Advanced Therapy Degrees (ThD) from Love on a Leash are available to teams that have passed the initial control and visit evaluations for membership and certification. There are a variety of specialty fields to choose from depending on where your team enjoys volunteering. Advanced Degrees require teamwork; this is a joint effort between you and your pet. If you are interested in learning more about this certification, please visit the [Love on a Leash website](http://www.loveonaleash.org), click on "Forms/Guides" and then select "Member Forms."

Children Reading Programs



Rosey (TX) - Aug '18



Sissey (CA) - Oct '18

Elderly Social Visits



Rascal (IN) - Oct '18

Dual Degree



Cali (NC) - Aug '18

- Veteran Therapy
- Children Reading Programs



Hospital Therapy



Magnus (SC) - Aug '18



Carmine (NY) - Nov '18

Elderly Hospice/ Critical Care



Meika (WA) - Oct '18



Congratulations!

Till We Meet Again...

Just as we welcome new members into the Love on a Leash family almost daily, we must also say "goodbye" to some of our most cherished friends. We mourn your loss, celebrate your life, and thank you for not only filling our lives with joy, but also sharing that love with others.

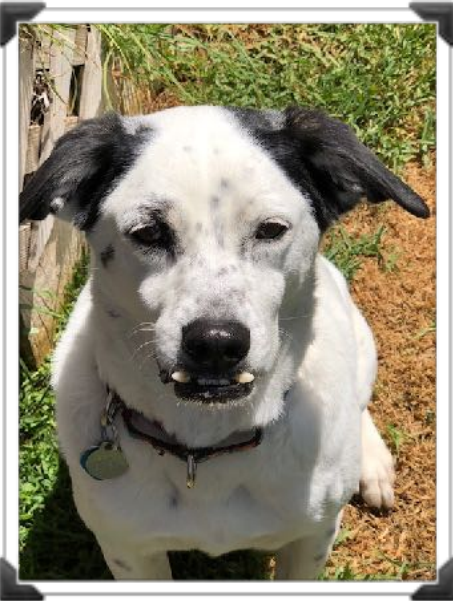
- 
- 
- Riley** (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel) member 2006~2018 - owner Brenda Price (MD)
 - Sangoma** (Labardor) member 2006~2018 - owner Shari Latta (CA)
 - Bentley** (Golden Retriever) member 2009~2018 - owners Chris & Mike Giulianotti (CA)
 - Suke** (Labrador Retriever) member 2009~2018 - owner Bonita Janz (WA)
 - Sparky** (Shih Tzu) member 2010~2018 - owner Lynne Aronen (CA)
 - Dok** (Australian Shepherd) member 2011~2018 - owner Connie Kelly (CA)
 - Hamlet** (Shetland Sheepdog) member 2011~2018 - owner Betty Letsche (MI)
 - Laverne** (Standard Poodle) member 2011~2018 - owner Robyn Davidoff (CA)
 - Trevar** (Scottish Terrier) member 2011~2012 - owner Dana Smith-Mansell (PA)
 - Fong** (Shar Pei) member 2012~2018 - owner Kari Schellie (IL)
 - Jillian** (Shetland Sheepdog) member 2012~2018 - owner Joyce Masseth (ND)
 - Ahna** (Golden Retriever) member 2013~2018 - owner Sharon Pitz (NC)
 - BreeAnna** (Irish Wolfhound) member 2013~2018 - owner Donna Stottlemeyer (TX)
 - Joey** (English Springer Spaniel) member 2013~2018 - owner Kim Woods (CA)
 - Kali** (Labrador Retriever) member 2013~2018 - owner Carolyn Gerhold (LA)
 - Coale** (Golden Retriever/Mixed) member 2014~2018 - owner Amy Sloan (TN)
 - Kit** (Golden Retriever) member 2014~2018 - owner Steven Zimmerman (SC)
 - Silo** (Scottie-Poo) member 2014~2018 - owner Amy Seeley (AZ)
 - Cali** (Greyhound/Lab Mix) member 2015~2018 - owner Rosemond Ward (NC)
 - Ghillie** (English Springer Spaniel) member 2015~2018 - owner Amy Rogers (TX)
 - Gracie** (Schnauzer Mix) member 2015~2018 - owners Peter & Robin Shedlosky (CA)
 - Moses** (Labradoodle) member 2015~2018 - owner Stephanie Deleidi (NE)
 - Stella** (Border Collie) member 2015~2018 - owner Tiffany Papaneri (NJ)
 - Sunshine** (Golden Retriever) member 2015~2018 - owner Lynda Molyneaux (NE)
 - Brandi** (Corgi) member 2016~2018 - owner Faith Pranno (NE)
 - Shelby** (Golden Retriever) member 2016~2018 - owner Jill Hubbell (TX)
 - Fritz** (German Shepherd) member 2017~2018 - owner Kathy Spilos (CA)
 - Naomi** (Saint Bernard) member 2017~2018 - owner June Ann Gardener (NY)
 - Scully** (Golden Retriever) member 2017~2018 - owner Sharon Pitz (NC)
 - Lela** (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel) member 2017~2018 - owner Joyce Bustrum (CA)
 - Newton** (Labrador Retriever/Shar Pei) member 2017~2018 - owner Claudia Wagner (PA)



Thankful for Jack – In Memoriam

Central Coast Chapter (California)

September 30, 2018



"Hello.

My name is Barbara Wissink. I recently had an encounter with Love On A Leash that profoundly touched my life. My Mother passed away at 6:13 AM this past Saturday. Several hours before she died two dogs came into her hospital room to comfort her, and us as well. One dog, named **Jack**, had an extra special impact on my Mom.

I suppose a bit of back ground information on my Mom would help to clarify this story. Mom had approximately 50 stray dogs she fed every day on her mail route. She carried large sacks of dog food and treats with her every single day. The stray dogs came to recognize the sound of her mail truck and they came daily to receive a meal from her loving hands. She was so touched by their plight that she was known to take a few dogs home with her. One time she spent over \$1,000 to help provide needed medical care for a starving little dog she found in an old tire along the road who needed to have an injured eye removed. She had that dog for years

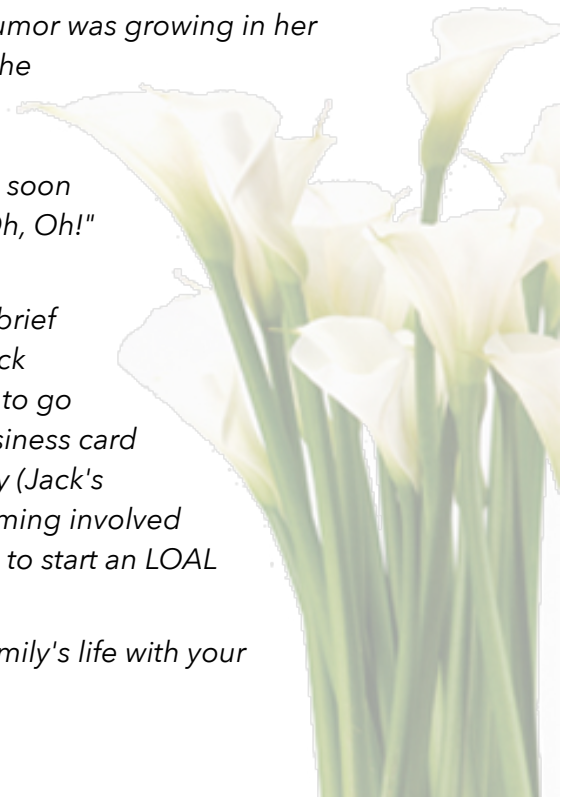
afterwards as a permanent member of the family. It was so fitting for God in His sovereignty to send her a fur covered angel to comfort her before she walked into eternity.

When Jack arrived in my Mom's room he immediately was placed on Mom's bed next to her. Then he tenderly placed his head on the exact spot where her cancerous tumor was growing in her abdomen and looked at her with kind loving eyes. It was almost as if he wanted to say, "If I could I'd soak up all your pain and take it away." He also placed his head on her heart and looked at her, occasionally licking her cheek. My Mom was not able to speak at this point, but as soon as Jack arrived and crawled up next to her, she kept repeating "Oh, Oh, Oh!" over and over.

It was a magical moment for all of us. I took pictures and recorded a brief video of the whole event which I will cherish for the rest of my life. Jack spent about 45 minutes lovingly encouraging my Mom and then had to go and encourage others who needed him. I was able to acquire his business card which I will use to send a thank you note and a large bag of duck jerky (Jack's favorite treat) to Jack and his owner, **Toni Perez**. Also, I plan on becoming involved with LOAL some day myself. I work for a local hospital and would like to start an LOAL chapter in my area.

Thanks for all you do. You and Jack have permanently touched my family's life with your kindness. I can't wait to pass this on and get this work going here!


Much love and thanks from Barbara" 

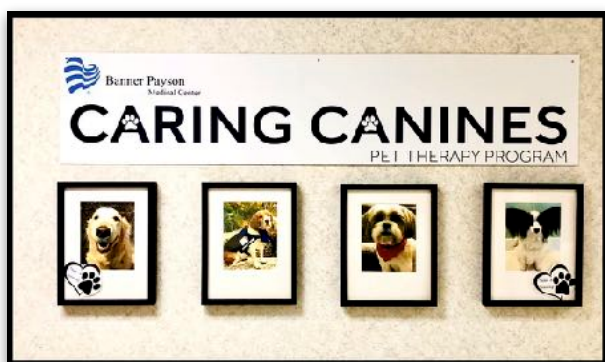


In Gratitude

Central Arizona Chapter

Payson, AZ – In our Summer issue, we ran a story about Banner Payson Medical Center introducing a new Caring Canine Program at their facility in March of this year. Member **Michael Colombo** recently sent us an update and excerpt from the center's volunteer newsletter.

"Living and visiting here in Payson really keeps us on our toes. In September, LOAL volunteers were honored with our teams being displayed on a prominent wall at the center. Their program, Caring Canines, are supplied solely by LOAL teams and Teams-In-Training. We are speechless being cared for and honored by Banner." 



October 1, 2018

"To All Members of the Board of LOAL... **Tricia Larrabee** here, in **Tucson, AZ**. I recently received a condolence card from all of you with some very nice words. It was a surprise to say the least, but very much appreciated. I am very proud and happy to be with a pet therapy org that would take the time to do such a thoughtful thing.

"I have been involved in Pet Therapy for over 20 yrs, and have been in other orgs leaving each in good standing.

"LOAL is not only the best, but it has the Biggest Heart, along with something not so common nowadays "Common Sense".

"Again Thank You all very much.

"Tricia Larrabee & the fur kids, Sir William, Jessie, James"

Editor's Note: Tricia has been a member of the LOAL family since 2011. Her husband, and LOAL member, David, recently passed away.

Oct 1, 2018
To All Members of the Board of LOAL
Margaret, Bonnie, Susie, Keith, Debbie, Sue,
Janet, Julie, Rob, Lisa, Meredith.
Tricia Larrabee here, in Tucson Ar. I recently
received a condolence card from all of you
with some very nice words. It was a surprise
to say the least, but very much appreciated.
I am very proud and happy to be with a
pet therapy org that would take the time
to do such a thoughtful thing.
I have been involved in Pet Therapy for
over 20 yrs, and have been in other orgs
leaving each in good standing.
LOAL is not only the best, but it has
the Biggest Heart, along with something
not so common nowadays "Common Sense"
Again Thank You all very much
Tricia Larrabee & the fur kids.
Sir William, Jessie, James
PS I would like to write a story for the
newsletter, and if I can keep it short and
make sense I will submit one.
Jessie Therapy Cat that crossed the line
from Therapy to Service Cat

Every now and then we receive a heartwarming reminder of how much our organization matters. Have you or your chapter received Thank You's from grateful folks. Share the LOVE! Send to newsletter@loveonaleash.org. 