



NEWSLETTER for the Foundation for Pet Provided Therapy



LOAL Foundation Board Members

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

President: Margaret Eggers
Vice-President: Bonnie Biggs
Secretary: Susie Blake
Treasurer: Randy Willox
Membership Chair: Keith Edleman
Newsletter Editor: Sue Subkow
Board Members: Bev Hodges, Mary Lee Kendrick, Meredith Rose, Sheri Wachtstetter
Emeritus Board Members: Connie Kelly, Sue Matthews

A message from our President...

This is Margaret Eggers, President of Love on a Leash. I wanted to thank you all for your participation in our organization. I wanted to let you know that our all-volunteer Board has worked tremendously hard this year to make huge improvements to our organization and how we serve our members. Thanks for all the hard work you do as Love on a Leash. Your contributions and work are essential for the continued success of our organization and we are proud of the amazing work all of our members do.

Have you seen it?

We are proud to announce that our new, updated and revamped web site is up and running! The new site features lots of upated information for members, prospective members and facilities who may be interested in having teams come to visit. With the new web site we also have the ability for members to renew their membership online. Be sure to take a few moments to look and explore the new pages. There is even a page specifically for members to log in and up-date your contact information. Visit the new web site at www.loveonaleash.org





Did you know that you and your therapy animal can apply for an Advanced Therapy Degree from Love on a Leash, the Foundation for Pet Provided Therapy? Pets that have passed the initial control and visit evaluations for membership and certification are 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."

If your animal has already earned an Advanced Therapy Degree and you would like to order one of our new patches (pictured above) please send \$10 along with a copy of your advanced therapy degree certificate to: Love on a Leash, Advanced Therapy Degree, P.O. Box 4548, Oceanside, CA 92052-4548



In each news letter we will be shining a spotlight on some of our recent Advanced Therapy Degree recipients. In this edition we'll introduce you to three special animals - two dogs and a cat. You'll meet Ginger, a Labrador Retriever/Shepherd mix from Florida, you'll meet Kylie, a Labrador Retriever from North Carolina, and finally, you will meet Draven, a very special Domestic Short Hair cat from Pennsylvania.

In each newsletter we will also be highlighting our teams from all over the country who have gone above and beyond - helping to spread the benefits of pet provided therapy by going into the community and being exceptional representatives of Love on a Leash.

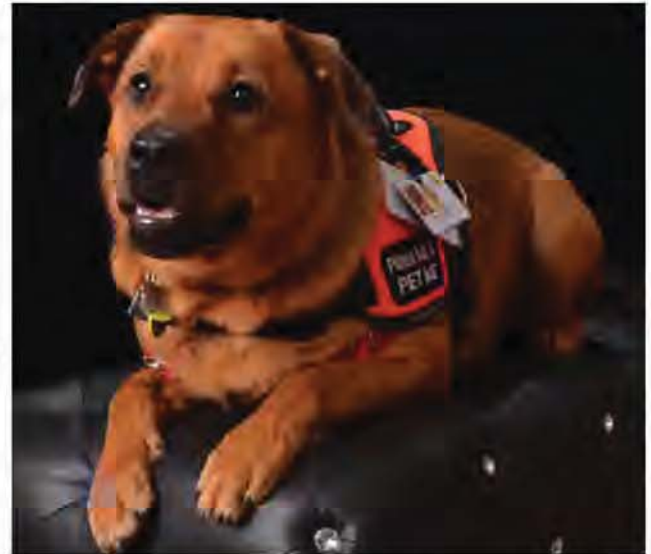
In addition to introducing you to special teams, we will also be introducing you to some of the many wonderful chapters we have across the country. If you have a special team you would like us to know about, or would like your chapter featured, please contact the editor at newsletter@loveonaleash.org and write "in the spotlight" in the subject line.



Say hello to Ginger!

Ginger is one of our most recent recipients of an Advanced Therapy Degree. Ginger was awarded her ThD (e:h) -meaning she and her owner specialize in visiting elders in hospice/critical care.

Ginger didn't start off her life as a pamper puppy, she was a rescue dog who started her career as a therapy pet shortly after being rescued. She is only 2 years old and started her therapy work in the Miami area in December 2013.



Ginger and her owner, Fred, have spent countless hours in basic obedience, advanced obedience, CGC training and testing and then specialized Therapy Dog training geared towards Hospice/Hospital environments, and Fred says it has been outstandingly rewarding for both of them. "I know that Ginger looks forward to the ward and the friendships she makes with each visit. It is especially pleasing when at the end of almost every visit we ask the resident 'Would you like us to visit again next week?' and we get a big 'Of course' or 'Oh yes' in return."

Fred and Ginger know that unfortunately with the reward of service in hospice work does come the inevitable sadness of losing friends, some of whom they have visited with weekly for several months prior to their passing. Fred is diligent in monitoring both the resident and Ginger to assure that neither is getting too tired from the visit.

In addition to her work with hospice patients, Ginger has also been busy assisting with a children's reading program at the Miami Beach Public Library and participating in the "Paws in the Court" program of the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida and for Miami-Dade Court, Juvenile Court Division.

Fred and Ginger plan on continuing their hospice therapy work as well as continuing to work with the children as long as both are able to do so. Fred mentioned that when he is out and about with Ginger he is often questioned by dog owners regarding therapy work and he says that he enthusiastically encouraged each and every one to investigate and consider doing pet assisted therapy in the future.





Kudos to Kylie!

Kylie, a Labrador Retriever, and her owner Emilie, from Bahama, North Carolina, recently earned their Advanced Therapy Degree in elderly hospice/critical care.

Kylie and Emilie participate in the "Pets at Duke Program" at Duke University Medical Center and one of their volunteer assignments is the Duke HomeCare and Hospice inpatient facility at Hock Family Pavilion. Kylie and Emilie have been involved in hospice work since "Pets at Duke" first offered the opportunity in 2011. They had already been working for nearly a year as a team in the hospital so

they were both quite comfortable with the hospital environment and with patients confined to beds. What Kylie has learned on-the-job is to recognize the patients who are near death, to be comfortable with that and to respond to them in a very specialized, gentle way. That's not something that can be taught, it was all Kylie.

These visits are often difficult but this team always comes away with the sense that something good has happened. Many of the patients Kylie and Emilie visit are considered nonresponsive or at least non-verbal. Kylie has found ways to connect with most of them and Emilie has observed their responses in small but meaningful ways - eased breathing, muscle relaxation, small movements, small smiles, opening of the eyes, attempts to move the lips and even tears. Kylie also seems to understand the extreme stresses on the caregivers and it makes a difference when they can get down on the floor and enjoy some concentrated doggy-love.

Kylie and Emilie continue to grow with the job they have taken on, learning ways to make Kylie more accessible to the patients and learning that sometimes the smallest things are the most meaningful. They treat each visit as a new experience to learn and grow as a team.





Meet Dashing Draven!

Draven was born on May 10, 2012 and adopted as a kitten from an animal rescue called Rainbow Animal Refuge (Butler/Lyndora, PA). In many ways, Draven was very much like any other kitten. He enjoyed playing with toys, he liked cat treats, and he would climb just about anything to explore his new home. But soon his new owners began to notice he had a quality their other 2 cats did not; "He enjoyed the company and attention of humans – any humans – a lot! He wasn't afraid or leery of strangers in our home, he tolerated car rides, and he even purred while at the vet's office! He was just a very calm, laid-back kitten."

That spring, his owners decided to enter Draven in a CFA cat show in the Household Pet division. They thought if he enjoyed the attention of friends visiting him in their home, he'd really like to meet new people at the cat show. As expected, whenever someone would walk by his cage and talk to him, he'd paw at them or roll onto his back or meow as if calling them over to rub his belly.

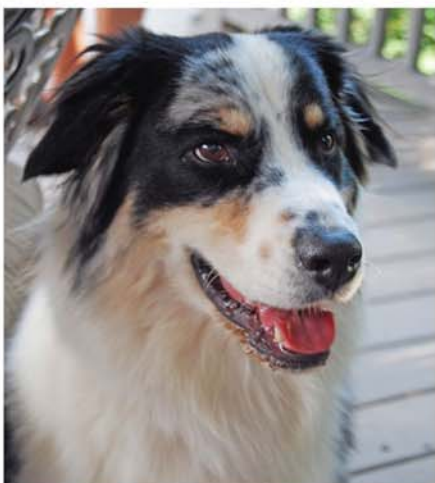
After the CFA cat show, Draven's owners began to research therapy animals. They found their way to the Foundation for Pet-Provided Therapy's website (<http://www.loveonaleash.org>) and discovered that cats could also be registered as Therapy Pets. Draven already had many of the desirable qualities for a Therapy Cat (the most important of which was his natural demeanor), so they downloaded the application and list of requirements to start working with him. Since LOAL requires cats to be at least one-year-old to start the application process, they had a couple months before Draven's first birthday to practice and see if he'd enjoy being a Therapy Cat.

They started by making sure he was up-to-date on his vaccinations/immunizations. They had their vet print a certificate stating he was current on all shots, parasite-free, and neutered. They would also take him to visit friends and relatives as well as other places animals were allowed such as pet stores and parks to get him used to traveling in the car, wearing a harness, and being in strange places around new people. None of these experiences seemed to faze him, so when he turned a year old, they began the official application process.

They went to the Assisted Living facility near their home every week and visited residents individually in their rooms. They also went to the local library a couple times to visit pre-schoolers during Story Time. After all his paperwork was done and his practice hours were logged, they submitted everything to LOAL and he received his certification on October 18, 2013. Draven recently earned his ThD (e:sv) - his Advanced Degree for his elderly social visits.

As a certified Therapy Cat, he continues to visit the Assisted Living Center and a hospital regularly, has been back to Story Time at the library, was invited to 2 different Girl Scout Troops' meetings, and has participated in several Fundraising Events.





Talk to Taco!

Meet Taco, our resident expert in all things pet therapy oriented. Taco's owner, Connie Kelly, has many years of experience not only with pet provided therapy, but also as a certified dog trainer. In each newsletter we will feature a "Talk to Taco" column answering your questions about unusual situations or problems you may have encountered while working as a therapy team. You (or your owner) can write to Taco and with the help of Connie he'll give guidance and suggestions. Share

your experiences with other LOAL teams and help others who may be experiencing the same thing. Email "Talk to Taco" c/o our editor at newsletter@loveonaleash.org. Be sure include "Talk to Taco" in the subject line.



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 (.jpg please, keep file size to maximum 200KB), and make sure that you have the permission of anyone in the photos to use their picture. Many residents do NOT wish their picture to be taken and certainly not published! Please be respectful. - The Editor



By the Numbers

Our organization has been growing by leaps and bounds. We now have over 1900 active members who volunteer with their pets on a regular basis. We have members in 46 states and even a member in Canada! We currently have 58 chapters in 21 states. While the majority of our members volunteer with their dogs, we do have approximately 120 cat teams and 20 rabbit teams.



Dressed for the occasion...

As we know, our therapy animals are not only loving and supportive creatures, they also tend to have quite the unique and fun-loving personality.

Our animals are great sports and willing to do the extra work it sometimes takes to get that all-important smile from someone they visit...even if it does mean playing dress-up every once in a while.

Here are just a few of our furry friends at work that don't mind a silly hat or some glasses to get the giggle. Whether it is bunny-ears, a Santa hat, or a Superman cape, our animal are all in when it comes to dressing 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 files size to no more than 300KB)



Shining the spotlight on our North Central Indiana Chapter



The North Central Indiana chapter of Love on a Leash is one of four chapters in the state. Our chapter was born in November of 2013 and has been going strong since. We currently have 51 teams in our chapter and continue to grow. We have one fantastic therapy cat in a sea of dogs. We encompass counties north of Indianapolis. Each month, we have approximately 25 visits scheduled at a variety of facilities.

Our therapy teams visit a variety of facilities such as skilled nursing, rehabilitation & transitional care, and hospice care. We visit with children at two local libraries as part of a reading program called "Paws & Read". We have several teams that visit an elementary school and a middle school during the week.

One of the biggest draws for many of our therapy teams are the de-stressing visits to universities. We visit various schools at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and Marian University during finals week to help students and staff de-stress. We have a program with the Juvenile Services Center of Hamilton County Sheriff's Department in which we visit with juveniles who have committed status offenses such as truancy, runaways, and incorrigibility. We are working on starting a program in the secure juvenile unit as well. We also have a couple pilot programs with a local children's bookstore and a high functioning autistic support group for children to help build their social skills. We strive toward having a variety of places to visit.

Our teams thoroughly enjoy what they do and always have stories to share. One story really hits home on why we do what we do. Several teams were visiting a facility when Jerry, his wife Sara, and their beautiful Golden Retriever Dan-O went into a room with Alzheimer's patients. There was a large man lying back in his oversized wheelchair. One could tell he had no connection to the world. Dan-O put his paws on the chair and licked the man gently on the face. The man then let out a giggle and showed signs of life just for a brief moment. Sometimes all it takes is the gentle touch of a dog.



Another story also involves Dan-O. Dan-O's handlers were talking to several people while visiting in a room. Dan-O started to sniff the pocket on a lady's sweater. Everyone started joking that Dan-O smelled food in her pocket. The lady said that she had nothing in her pocket...until she reached in her pocket. The next thing you know, she is pulling out a French fry! Needless to say everyone had quite a laugh and Dan-O got a French fry.

The North Central Indiana Chapter can be found online at www.loveonaleashnci.org or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LOALNCentralIN>.



Love on a Leash - 2104 Summary

Summary of Board activities - Although the regular Board meeting schedule is every two months, the Board has been meeting every month for the last year and a half to manage several major projects including the complete revision of the LOAL website, completely new database, new processing of membership applications and major updating of the National Guidelines.

Summary of update and clarifications to Guidelines:

The Guidelines Committee has been hard at work updating the Guidelines and II of our LOAL forms to improve information, clarify issues that have been brought to us and make sure the Guidelines and Forms are internally consistent, and more readable. The Guidelines Committee is still working on finalizing changes and updates, so keep an eye on the website for updated forms and Guidelines. Note that you are always responsible for using the MOST RECENT version of forms for applications, supervised visits, control evaluations, etc. Some notable changes include:

- ✓ **"Prong" or "Choke/Slip" collars are NOT allowed on visits.** The Board of Directors decided to make this change to our guidelines as prong and choke collars can promote a first response of apprehension from those we are visiting. Pet therapy is to reduce stress, create calm and provide a positive experience. Additionally, concern over a senior citizen in a care facility, a child in an elementary school or any other type of facility we visit catching their hand or fingers under the collar, thus puncturing the skin or possibly breaking a finger.

Fabric martingale collars and walking harnesses are other acceptable options you may use on your visits. Electronic collars are not allowed in addition to the Prong and Choke/Slip collars.

- ✓ **We have eliminated the "Associate" membership category.** This was confusion so we have replaced this with "Continuing Member." So any member already in good standing can continue to be a LOAL member after their pet has been retired or passed away. This allows people to continue to be connected as an LOAL member in between therapy animals, or after the individual no longer visits. This was always the actual definition of an "associate" member but there was often confusion with this classification because of the vagueness of the name.

- ✓ **Veterinarians are no longer allowed to administer the Control Evaluation for Dogs.** If you are having trouble finding a CGC or other qualified trainer to administer and sign your Control Evaluation, contact us at info@loveonaleash.org

- ✓ **For each Supervised Visit, there must be a signature of the person supervising,** and the person signing the Visit Evaluation must have been the supervisor on at least half of the supervised visits.

- ✓ **When attending your initial Supervised Visits, you should carry both your Control Evaluation AND your Supervised Visit Log with you.**

- ✓ **Visit Captains are responsible for checking to see that the each member is wearing their ID, and that their membership is current and not expired.**

Again, these are just the major changes so stay tuned for the finalized, updated Guidelines, and make sure you always have the most recent version of all forms. All forms have been recently updated and you can download the PDFs of these forms from the website.

- New Website went live! Includes "Members Only" page where members can renew their membership, update their information, and order a replacement vest or bandana.
- Completely NEW membership database and operational system. Our previous system was woefully hard to use, limited access to the database to only one person, and was fast becoming un-workable. This original system was put in place back in the mid-1990s, and has now been ported to a web-based database. This allows us to update faster, and answer membership questions directly. Members can also see and update their own personal information, and renew & pay online.
- We have hired a part-time membership secretary to handle mail, process applications, and mail out renewals and new-member packets. All of this work was previously done by a volunteer Board member who was Membership Secretary and other Board members. With increasing membership, this job became far too much work for one volunteer with a full time day job! So we have changed the Board position to Membership Chair, and our position of "Membership Secretary" is a non-board member, part-time paid position. This currently is Linda Schulte, a LOAL member since 1994.
- We are pleased to announce the new Advanced Degree Therapy Dog Patch – See the article in this newsletter!
- Trademark Protection – Several years ago the Board went through the legal process of trademarking the "Love on a Leash" name. We periodically need to deal with other organizations or commercial entities which are also using that name. If you know of any instances where "Love on a Leash" is being used, and it is NOT our organization, please send an email to the Board at info@loveonaleash.org, please put "LOAL usage" in the subject line.



Quite often our teams are featured in news articles, magazines, and even television stories. Here are just a couple for your enjoyment.

From "92131 Magazine" - (reprinted with permission)

For Linda Roth, and her dog, Happy, nothing is more rewarding than bringing smiles to the faces of people in need. According to Linda, she selected Happy as a puppy from a local breeder whose dogs are known to have good temperaments. From there, she and Happy began their journey with Love on a Leash, a San Diego organization that provides pet therapy in nursing homes, hospitals, and schools. "I joined Love on a Leash in 2009 because it was a group of people who love their dogs, as well as love bringing happiness to others in need of a connection. Love on a Leash really brightens the day for those we visit with our therapy dogs," explained Linda. She is now an assistant organizer for the group and encourages Scripps Ranch residents with dogs that display sweet dispositions and enjoy being with people to contact Love on a Leash at www.loveonaleash.org to find out how their dogs can become certified as pet therapy animals.



Staying active and outgoing is very important to Linda, and in addition to Love on a Leash, she is a part of several other volunteer endeavors. She is a team leader for the medical center of the Veteran's Association in La Jolla and is a member of the Scripps Ranch Women's Club. She also helps keep the 92131 community clean by volunteering to fill the "Mutts Mitts" dispensers at Lakeview Park, a service she has been performing for more than 10 years.

As a resident of Scripps Ranch for 15 years, Linda enjoys the family-oriented and tight-knit feel of the community. She and Happy have many friends and neighbors throughout 92131 and can often be found taking long walks, sipping coffee at Starbucks, and playing around at Lakeview Park. "We love the Symphony in the Park in the summertime, and Happy also loves having children at local schools read to her.



"I joined Love on a Leash in 2009 because it was a group of people who love their dogs, as well as love bringing happiness to others in need of a connection. Love on a Leash really brightens the day for those we visit with our therapy dogs," explained Linda.



Meet Nancy and Moorea

Recently one of our long-time cat teams was featured on a television show. The nationally syndicated show "The Doctors" wanted to do a story about the "Healing Power of Pets" so they turned to one of the best cat teams out there - our very own Nancy Denen and her partner Moorea.



Nancy is a retired teacher and is actually certified with both of her cats. Nancy and Moorea have been working together as a Love on a Leash team since 2005. That's quite the career for a kitty! Nancy is also certified with her other cat, Lily. Lily is new to the pet therapy world but is already quite a splash around the community. Nancy and her husband Mike are each certified with both Moorea and Lily and often enjoy visiting facilities together. They visit The Elizabeth Hospice, Interfaith Services Veteran Apts., CareMeridian, Remington Health Care, Redwood Terrace Health Care and Sharp Memorial Hospital.

If you would like to view the video of Nancy and Moorea on the job, please follow the link below.

<http://www.thedoctorstv.com/videos/healing-power-of-pets>





Love on a Leash – 2015 Board Members

by Margaret Eggers



I am pleased to give special mention to all our LOAL volunteer Board members. Through their hard work and dedication, and truly countless volunteer hours, we have successfully worked our way through the growing pains of a successful, National LOAL organization. We continue to work to improve our organization, communication with members, and therapy dog guidance. Note this is just list of our Board members and their general responsibilities. All Board members work together and help out on our various projects and improvements. To email a Board member directly, please email to them care of our main email, info@loveonaleash.org, or via snail mail to our PO Box.

List of Current Board Members:

Susie Blake – Board member since 2006, LOAL member since 2005. Currently Secretary, serves on the Guidelines Committee and previously served for years as Membership Secretary/Chair.

Bonnie Biggs – Board member since 2008. LOAL member since 2009. On Chapter Committee, currently Vice President. Handles email for the LOAL National email box.

Keith Edleman – Board member since 2014, LOAL member since 2013. Currently Membership Chair, Helps answer the LOAL National phone line.

Margaret Eggers – Board member since 2009. LOAL member since 2008. Currently President. Has also previously served as Newsletter Editor and Secretary.

Bev Hodges -- Board member since 2002. LOAL member since 2002. Helps answer the LOAL National phone line. Serves on Guidelines Committee.

Mary Lee Kendrick – Board member since 2002. LOAL member since 2001. Currently on Guidelines Committee.

Meredith Rose - Board member since 2012. LOAL member since 2010. Technology Committee.

Sue Subkow -- Board member since 2013. LOAL member since 2009. Guidelines Committee, Newsletter Editor. Helps answer the LOAL National phone line.

Sheri Wachtstetter -- Board member since 2003. LOAL member since 2003. Helps answer the LOAL National phone line.

Randy Willox – Board member since 2014. LOAL member since 2014. Currently Treasurer.

Emeritus Board Members:

Connie Kelly -- Board member since 2007. LOAL member since 2006. Chapters Committee, and formerly Secretary.

Sue Matthews -- Board member since 2005. LOAL member since 2001. Previous Insurance Coordinator, Advanced Therapy Degree Coordinator. Previously served for over 8 years as Treasurer.



A few final tid-bits and reminders...

Would you like to serve as a Board member?

If you are interested in volunteering as a LOAL Board member, please send an email with the subject "LOAL Board" to our info@loveonaleash.org address, or via snail mail to the LOAL P.O. Box. Include your qualifications, how long you've been a LOAL member, what kind of visits you do, your Chapter affiliation (if any), and a general description of your personal skill set. Previous experience serving on a non-profit foundation Board or similar organization is a big plus. Strong organization and computer skills are also preferred. While LOAL current Board members are from the general San Diego area, we would like to invite other members to apply. Typically, the Board meets every other month, which can be accomplished telephonically for members not able to be present. Please send your information, "Attn LOAL President Margaret Eggers."



The Guidelines Committee has been working hard to update our National Guidelines and all of our forms. Please take a few moments to read through

and note the changes. If you are a chapter leader and/or a visit captain, please be sure that all **new** teams in training going forward are using the most current application forms. Items have been updated on the Control Evaluations, as well as the Visit Evaluations, and several of the other forms. The most current forms are dated 12/21/14. Look for more updates to come soon.

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

Your membership must be renewed each year. You can find your membership expiration date on both your and your pet's ID cards. See the red arrows below for the location of the expiration date on your 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.

