



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2016



Summer is here
and it's getting

HOT HOT HOT!

As we know, the warm summer months can be uncomfortable and even dangerous, not only for us but for our furry friends as well. It's difficult enough to simply cope with rising temperatures, let alone thick humidity, but things really get tough when you are wearing a fur coat full time! Since so many of us are out and about with our animals on a daily basis, we thought it would be a good idea to share a few helpful tips to help keep you and your furry friends happy and comfortable.

According to the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association:

- ~Never leave your pets in a parked car- not even for a minute. Not even with the car running and air conditioner on. On a warm day, temperatures inside a vehicle can rise rapidly to dangerous levels. On an 85-degree day, the temperature inside a car with the windows opened slightly can reach 102 degrees within 10 minutes.
- ~Watch the humidity. It's important to remember that it's not just the ambient temperature but also the humidity that can affect your pet.
- ~Limit exercise on hot days. Take care when exercising your pet. Adjust intensity and duration of exercise in accordance with the temperature.
- ~Provide ample shade and water-any time your pet is outside, make sure he or she has protection from heat and sun and plenty of fresh, cold water. (Don't forget water for yourself!)
- ~Beware of hot streets and sidewalks. When in doubt, slip off a shoe and test the temperature with your own foot. You can also test the temperature with the back of your hand. If it's too hot for you, it's too hot for your animal to walk on.



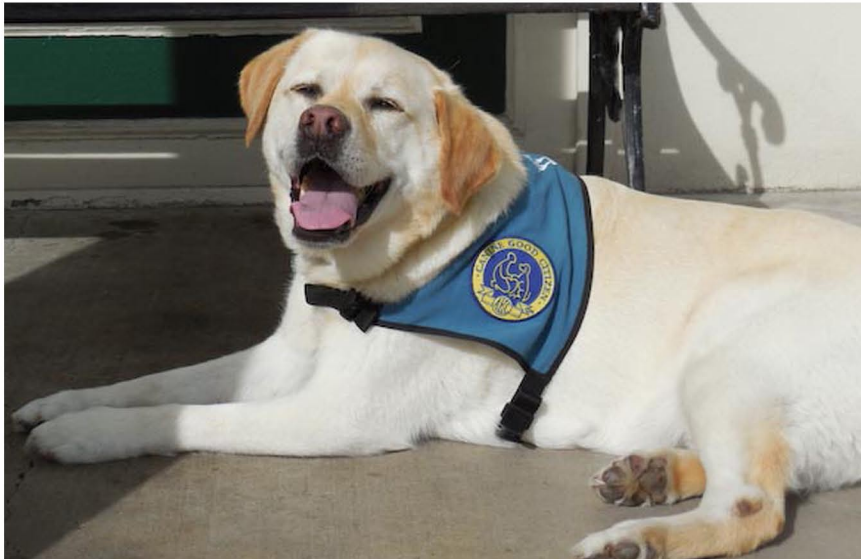
Honoring Archie ~ The first ever recipient of the LOAL Advanced Therapy Degree

By Janet Kinnon

Archie loved everyone and always had a big smile on his face, even though he was born with poor joints and underwent a number of surgeries. He lived to be 12 ½, which isn't bad for a boy who was only given a 5 year life expectancy!

Even though we didn't discover Love on a Leash until he was 7 years old, Archie certainly made up for lost time. We began our LOAL career by trying out a number of different visits (the local library, skilled nursing facilities, the VA, local colleges and universities) to see what we liked best. The patients at the VA used to look forward to his visits because, even though he had gimpy legs, he always had a big beaming smile on his face and gave them hope.

It soon became obvious that he excelled in the presence of the elderly so we joined the San Diego Hospice and visited their inpatient facility in Carlsbad each week as the 'Thursday dog', going from room to room, meeting patients, family members and staff. Occasionally, the doctor would ask us to sit with family members whilst she gave them news on their loved one. Archie didn't care that they hugged him and cried. He needed no extra training; he simply knew what to do. Sometimes he knew what was expected better than I did!



Archie had an uncanny 6th sense and his own quirky way of telling nursing staff if someone was going to pass away that day, even if there were no obvious signs. He was correct every time! He didn't try to run, he wasn't stressed, he just kept vigil and frequently gave the nurses goose-bumps. They knew it was almost time.

I entered a large photograph of Archie wearing his LOAL bandana (entitled 'Proud to be of Service') to the San Diego County fair photographic competition and received an honorable mention. I framed it and donated it to the hospice facility where it hung with pride of place for all to

see. Once when we were getting out of the car to begin our shift, a family member came up to us and asked if he was the hospice dog, as she had just seen his picture on the wall and wanted to say, "thank you for your service."

I feel privileged to have been able to witness firsthand the peace that he brought to people at the end of their life and also to the folks who care for them on a daily basis.

RIP Archie AThD.
2003-2015



In this edition we shine the spotlight on our Coastal Carolina Chapter

Submitted by Pat Rappaport

It seems like just yesterday that a group of Love on a Leash members in Coastal North Carolina, talked about getting together to form a chapter. Just 4 enthusiastic and energized teams started the Coastal Carolina Pet Provided Therapy- Love on a Leash Chapter in the spring of 2011. We were small but were already in 2 nursing homes, a hospital, a library, an elementary school and 2 military installations- not bad for a beginning.

Our chapter is located on the coast of North Carolina in the southern part of the state, inside the Outer Banks. It covers 4 counties- Carteret, Craven, Onslow and Pamlico. We have 37 registered members and 8 trainees so we will be boasting 45 members by the end of the summer. Our dogs range from the smallest, a Yorkie, up to the biggest, a Newfoundland. Some of our dogs are purebreds but we have many mixed breeds as well. A few of our dogs come from the New Leash on Life Program and were adopted by our handlers after they received their basic manners and behaviors from inmates.

We meet 3 times per year. Usually we will have a presenter at 1 or more of the meetings.



Two popular programs were Canine First Aid/ CPR and another was traveling with a Service Dog on a cruise ship. Opportunities for other get-together events occur at local holiday parades where we carry our banner with pride. In addition to these activities, you can always find some of our dogs and handlers at pet expos and military events. Since we are within close proximity to Camp Lejeune Marine Base and Cherry Point Air Marine Station, there is a lot of contact with both facilities. Every Thursday we have a team or 2 visiting the Wounded Warriors Battalion. The Marines expect us each week and really look forward to the dogs. We also attend the annual Gunny Claus Christmas event for Families with Exceptional Children.

Some of our popular spots are 2 county medical centers including cancer clinics. Many nursing homes are also on our list of visits. A Hospice House is a favorite of a few teams. Monthly visits to Domestic Violence programs help children when our dogs spend time with them while their moms are in support groups. We have about 8 certified teams who visit various county libraries and schools. The library schedule is either monthly or every few months depending on the demand. When we lost 2 very special Love on a Leash therapy dogs this year, a tree was planted on school grounds in their honor and all R.E.A.D. dogs in the program. Having a very active chapter is a wonderful experience. Our members are close and share ideas and venues constantly. We also have the opportunity to represent Love on a Leash at club meetings and present programs in the community.

For more details about our chapter you can reach us at support@coastalcarlinaloal.org



In each issue we focus on one section of the Love on a Leash Member Guideline. We want to make it easier for members to stay "brushed-up" on their responsibilities as LOAL volunteers and so all visits may run smoothly.

In this issue we are shining the spotlight on our Owner/Handler Agreement

Owner/Handler Agreement

As the therapy pet's handler, I understand and agree that:

- 🐾 I am responsible for all my pet's actions at all times, including but not limited to financial or physical injury.
- 🐾 I shall consider the safety of other people at all times.
- 🐾 I shall continue my pet's education, refreshing obedience commands, and teaching special commands.
- 🐾 My pet and I shall be clean, neatly groomed and healthy on each visit. My pet shall be parasite free and up to date on all state required vaccinations.
- 🐾 I will remember at all times that my pet and its actions as well as my behavior, actions, and attitude represent all therapy teams in the eyes of the public.
- 🐾 I agree to abide by all of Love on a Leash policies and procedures, including any revisions.
- 🐾 If at any time my pet can no longer do this work due to age, illness, disability or behavior problems, I will stop the work and will notify LOAL. Love on a Leash reserves the right to make a determination on whether my pet is suitable to continue on visits.
- 🐾 I agree that if I do not or cannot abide by Love on a Leash policies, procedures and guidelines (including any revisions), my membership may be terminated at the discretion of the LOAL Board of Directors.
- 🐾 I give Love on a Leash permission to use my photograph and the photograph of my pet for the purposes of education or promotion of Love on a Leash and its programs.



My name is "Easy" Pickins, and I've been a member of the "NOR CAL" LOAL group in Auburn, CA for three years now. Last year my mom, Karen, designed and knit some LOAL ornaments to give to members of my group for Christmas gifts. But, since it was so early in the year, she decided to enter them into the Gold Country Fair. Well, yahoo!! they won 1st Place

in their division! We were so proud to represent, not only for our group, but for the LOAL Therapy Organization in general and all the wonderful work they do! So, we thought we'd share a picture of them with everybody because we feel that we're all 1st Place winners!! ~ Love to you all, "Easy" Pickins, NOR CAL LOAL





By the Numbers

Each month our organization continues to grow. Our active membership now stands at just over 2200 members. Three new chapters were recently approved and we have members in 46 states. Members are getting more comfortable with renewing their membership online, and the ratio of online renewal to paper renewals is about 50/50.

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

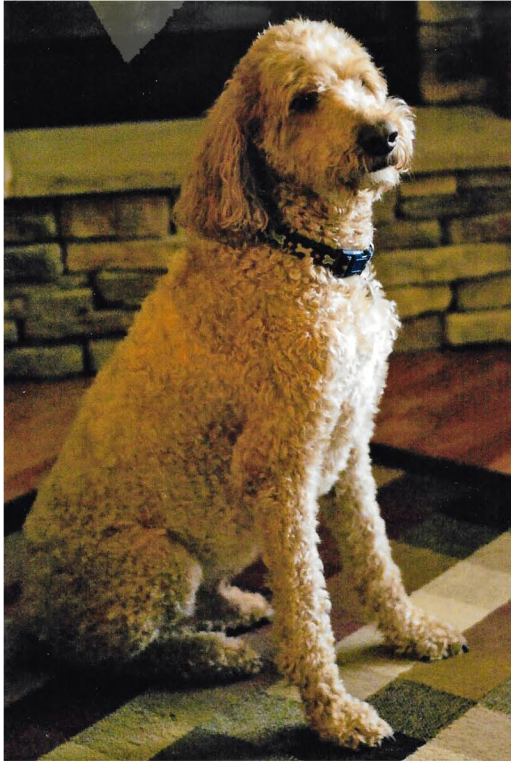


Media Hounds?

With the popularity of pet provided therapy growing by leaps and bounds, there has been a noticeable increase in media awareness of what we do. With incidents like the recent Orlando tragedy, the benefits of our pets bringing comfort to others is becoming front page news. What would you do if you were approached by someone from the media asking for more information about Love on a Leash or perhaps even asking for an on screen interview? Stay tuned for our next newsletter where we will have detailed guidelines about how to properly handle media inquiries.



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



Deb White's "Gunner"

Advanced Degree for Teenagers: Special Circumstances



Ron Tatlock's "Peaches"

Advanced Degree for social visits with the elderly



Debbie LaChusa's "Hope"

Advanced Degrees for Veteran Therapy and
Teenagers: Education



Mary Power's "Sarge"

Advanced Degree for social visits with the elderly

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."



Nancy Lawler's "Charlie"

Advanced Degree for Adults with Emotional & Physical Disabilities
and Children: Reading Programs





Is It Time To Retire?

It's a day that none of us look forward to, the day when we realize that our therapy pet is ready to retire. How will you know when your animal is no longer enjoying therapy visits? It may be because of age or illness or the animal simply doesn't enjoy working any longer. As the human at the end of the leash, it is important that the decision be made in a thoughtful and informed way.

Here are some questions to ask yourself.

- Is my pet still reliable in its behavior?
- Does my pet enjoy going to "work" and being with people?
- Does my pet still enjoy going for a car ride to get to our visit?
- Does my pet still enjoy being touched?
- Does my pet continue to understand commands and follow them?
- Does my pet have the physical energy to spend an hour or two working?
- Is my pet still happy to meet new people?
- Is my pet still comfortable around other animals?
- Is my pet becoming sensitive to new sounds and smells and unable to settle down?
- Is my pet exhibiting signs of stress when visiting?
- Has my pet's lessening senses made him or her feel shy or fearful?

Give serious thought to these questions and as long as you and your pet continue to express joy and comfort when working and exhibit the necessary skill and temperament level, age or physical limitation is no reason to retire.

Consider the environment your pet is working with and perhaps it is time for a change. A more sedate population than boisterous children perhaps may lengthen your pet's therapy career. Remember, every therapy pet must be watched carefully and if negative signs start to appear, the time has come to put the animals' and clients' welfare above all others and retire from active therapy work.

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www.glasbergen.com



"I have a diversified retirement portfolio: 40% in bones, 30% in squeaky toys and 30% in stuff I stole from the cat."

(Excerpts from "Should my therapy dog retire" by Sue Grundfest - The Examiner.com)



Love on a Leash - NEWSLETTER

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www.loveonaleash.org

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

The Key To Healing Is Sometimes A Warm Muzzle

reprinted with permission from an article in "The Fire Island Tide" by Dr. Cynthia Paulis

Twice a week, Sergio dons his blue vest with his photo ID attached and visits patients in both Nassau University Medical Center and South Nassau Communities Hospital; bringing joy to everyone he meets with his sweet-natured personality, soft brown eyes, and warm muzzle. Sergio is golden lab who was originally raised by Judy Carey of Massapequa as part of Canine Companions for Independence (CCI). She raised Sergio as a puppy when he was eight-weeks-old, and for 15 months taught him how to be a service dog. She has done this successfully in the past, raising a puppy who went on to help a child with cerebral palsy and autism. Meeting Sergio, Carey knew that this was a special dog that had a purpose in life, which was to help others. "He was so easy to train, and I almost thought he could understand English because he got everything so quickly. I thought 'this dog is going to be an excellent service dog.'" At the end of the 15 months, Carey turned Sergio over to CCI, where he underwent further training in doggie boot camp. Unfortunately, he failed and was released back to Carey, who adopted him as a pet. Carey was crestfallen, but not willing to give up. She took Sergio to Dog Ability in Hicksville to be trained as a therapy dog. He had to do ten supervised visits and pass a test before he could be certified as a therapy dog, and he passed with flying colors. "I knew that he really wanted to work, and he was so smart, I couldn't just let him sit around the house and become a pet. I knew he had bigger plans. He has been an absolutely amazing therapy dog.

He is calm, loving, and the people who see him and meet him, it changes them." At Dog Ability, the patients come to the center to meet the dogs. They range in age from children to adults and have various clinical issues, including autism, physical disabilities, and mental challenges. Carey felt Sergio could do more, and applied to have him become a therapy dog at hospitals. Nassau University Medical Center used to have a pet therapy program, but it was discontinued. They decided to start the program up again, and the timing could not have been more perfect. Sergio was accepted as the first therapy dog, and visits patients on the rehab floor. At South Nassau Communities Hospital, Sergio is one of several dogs who visit the patients regularly. Sergio has become quite a hit at the hospital, not only with the patients, but also with the staff. One staff member commented, "He just as much therapy for us as for the patients. We love seeing Sergio here, it's just brightens our day."

Carey and Sergio are always accompanied by a staff member who asks permission to bring the dog in before a visit takes place. The patients are thrilled to see the dog. On the day I went with them, we entered the room of a woman who had been sitting in the dark, crying. The staff had tipped us off that she had been very depressed. When she saw Sergio, she just lit up. As she continued to pet him, she told us about her own dog. "You have no idea how happy you just made me. This is just the best thing that could have happened to me today." She wiped away her tears and smiled brightly, kissing him on the nose. Later we saw her walking with a walker and an aide down the hallway, waving at us with a big smile. One woman allowed us to take a picture of her, as long as she wore her wig. Then she put her short, brown wig on Sergio, who patiently sat there with the wig on his head,



giving us all a good chuckle while people snapped pictures. Another woman was just enamored by Sergio, giving him a big kiss on his nose. He returned the favor. She laughed, "I'm going to start a rumor around here that I was just kissed by a male named Sergio." Carey is so happy with the work Sergio is doing and wants to go into more hospitals. "When people meet Sergio, there is a sense of calmness that comes over them when they are petting him.

Sometimes, when I even walk into the room with him, their whole facial expression changes and they become happy. For five minutes and however long I am in there, they have forgotten why they are in the hospital and are just focused on the dog. They just want to know about him and tell me about their dog. It is just so fulfilling for me to take him in there and make someone feel better. This is also therapy for me. It puts your own problems in perspective when you see what these people are going through, and to make a change for someone, make them happy, it is so fulfilling."



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)



A few final tid-bits and reminders...

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 you and your pet's ID cards. See the red arrows below for the location of the expiration date on your ID cards.



Specifically trained to perform tasks that mitigate a handler's disability.

Trained to bring comfort and joy to those in a hospital, school or other group care environments

Provides support and emotional comfort to a handler with a mental illness



Service Dog



Therapy Dog



Emotional Support Animal



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.

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, Debbie LaChusa,

Melissa Catania, Julie Hernandez

Emeritus Board Members: Connie Kelly, Sue

Matthews, Sheri Wachtstetter

