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

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Inside this Issue...

Feature Stories from:

Mississippi.....	p.2
Arizona.....	p.3
Michigan.....	p.5
Nevada.....	p.7
Tennessee.....	p.8
California.....	p.9

Regular Features:

Chapter Spotlight.....	p.13	From the Board.....	p.18
Advanced Therapy Degrees.....	p.14	Shop Online.....	p.19
Thank You LOAL.....	p.15	Spread the Word.....	p.19
Pet Panel.....	p.16	Taking Care of Biz...	p.20
Rainbow Bridge.....	p.17		



NEWSLETTER


Summer 2018



Guidelines – What is an incident?

In our last issue, we asked Visit Captains to fill out Incident Reports as soon as possible after an incident occurs – no matter how big or small. As Love on a Leash grows, the potential for unexpected incidents also grows, so in this issue, we're looking at what defines an "incident".

An incident can be a wide range of things. **Examples may include**, but are not limited to, a therapy pet barks or hisses and startles a patient, who stumbles or falls. A therapy pet growls or lunges at another pet or person. A therapy pet accidentally bumps or scratches a person while visiting or doing a paws-up on the side of a bed or wheelchair. A therapy pet shows aggression toward another therapy pet or resident animal.

In any instance, **if you have any doubt, fill out an Incident Report**. The report will be evaluated by the National Board of Directors for Love on a Leash. The Board reserves the right to take any appropriate measures as needed including, but not limited to, termination of membership. 



Therapy dog brings furry dimension to NMMC Rehab Institute

by Michaela Gibson Morris - Daily Journal, MS, reprinted with permission

March 22, 2018

Tupelo, MS – Charlie's coat is golden instead of white, but he's helping patients at North Mississippi Medical Center's Rehabilitation Institute.

The 10-year-old golden retriever and his owner Tricia Goldman are volunteering to help patients recovering from strokes, injuries and illness at the Rehab Institute once a week. Adding animals to therapy isn't just a pleasant distraction for patients, said Dr. David Richmond, the institute's medical director.

"It helps their mood and improves their participation in therapy" even when Charlie isn't around, Richmond said. "It's been shown to improve functional outcomes, especially after stroke."

Jack Balty, a former Tupelo resident who now lives in Nacogdoches, Texas, has appreciated the time with Charlie as he works to recover from a stroke he suffered three weeks ago.

"Charlie can make anybody go faster," Balty said. "These dogs are all heart, and they're smart."

Animal-assisted therapy is driven by specific goals and tasks for the patient, said occupational therapy assistant Terry Kendrick, who is also a Love on a Leash volunteer. For example, the therapists might encourage stroke patients to use a weakened arm to pet Charlie to strengthen the limb. Animal-assisted activities are more focused on recreation and visitation. For patients who choose to opt in for the animal-assisted sessions, it's often a welcome break from the routine.

"They don't think of it as therapy," Kendrick said. "They just think of it as loving on a dog."

Charlie started training as a therapy dog as a puppy and re-certifies every year, Goldman said. They both are registered with Love on a Leash, the local chapter of Comfort Creatures. The joy Charlie brings to people dealing with difficult circumstances is really gratifying, Goldman said.

"I can't change their situation," Goldman said. "But I can change 15 minutes."

Charlie has been working with Rehab Institute patients for the past month, but the staff spent about a year creating the policies and procedures to incorporate therapy animals, said Jenni Rogers, clinical coordinator for the Rehab Institute. Charlie has become quite popular on the unit, where patients come for intensive rehabilitation therapy.

"Their morale is higher," said occupational therapy assistant Stefanie Melton. 🐾



Jack gives Charlie a farewell hug.
(Thomas Wells/Daily Journal)



Jack Balty, center, walks with Charlie as part of his therapy. (Thomas Wells/Daily Journal)



Patients Feeling Doggone Good

Banner introduces pet therapy

by Pia Wyers - Payson Roundup, AZ, reprinted with permission

March 23, 2018

Payson, AZ – Dogs are good medicine. Especially, Shiloh the Beagle, along with her handler, Payson resident Michael Colombo, who are certified pet therapy providers. Banner Payson Medical Center launched their new Caring Canine Program last week.

Shiloh, complete with her official pet therapy jacket, ID badge and pink nail polish has only been on the job at Banner for a week but is already a celebrity and source of comfort and joy for staff and for patients going through difficult health situations.

The program was initiated by hospital C.E.O. Lance Porter, and brought to fruition by newly hired Jennifer Lawless, Volunteer/Activities Coordinator, who joined the hospital last August. The program allows for certified pet therapy dogs and their handlers to participate in the life and healing of the hospital's patients and staff.

Porter said "We've wanted to do this program for a long time and it's a blessing to have Michael and Shiloh here for the program."

Human Resources Director Loren Wise said "It's amazing what Shiloh has done with the patients and the employees." Lawless added "Even on her first shift last week I got feedback from the nurses that they were talking about Shiloh's visit two days later."

Lawless, who has prior experience running a pet therapy program in the Valley, said "When I took Michael around to complete a required check list to see how the dog interacts with patients, one of the staff members asked if we would visit a little girl in an Emergency Room cubicle. Her mother and sister were with her and gave permission. The girl was so excited to see Shiloh and her mother started crying, saying that this was the best thing that's happened to them. Her kids have to receive ongoing medical care and seeing the dog made such a difference to their ER visit."

Animal-Assisted Therapy has proven results for both mental and physical health. Interacting with animals promotes the release of serotonin, prolactin and oxytocin, hormones that contribute to elevating mood. Animals can relieve anxiety, promote relaxation, comfort and companionship, and be a supportive presence particularly in a medical environment.

Physical effects are also noted, for example, lowered blood pressure, improved cardiovascular health, and stabilized breathing in those experiencing anxiety.

The development of Pet Therapy is attributed to Elaine Smith who initiated a program in 1976 after observing positive outcomes in patients visited by a chaplain and his Golden Retriever.

It's important to note that the only animals permitted inside medical establishments are fully trained pet therapy animals or Americans with Disabilities Act trained and authorized service animals.



Shiloh's official Christmas card photo. Her dresses are handmade at a pet boutique in New York. She also has bandanas and sweaters. (Michael Colombo)



Colombo adopted Shiloh from Rancho Coastal Humane Society when she was one and a half years old. She is certified by the 'Love on a Leash' program, based in Oceanside, CA with chapters nationwide. The program trains both the animal and the person. The animal must be at least one year old to begin the certification process. All therapy teams are volunteers.

According to the Love on a Leash website, "A Therapy Pet's sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support to those we visit. While they do provide a valuable service, they do not qualify as service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act. A therapy pet does not have the same legal rights as an assistance or service animal."



Shiloh's owner, Michael Colombo, with Banner staff and Shiloh (Pia Wyer/Roundup)

"Service Animals are defined as animals that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. The work or task an animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability."

"The dog must undergo comprehensive behavioral training and be evaluated by a Certified Behaviorist, Certified Dog Trainer, Certified Obedience Instructor or AKC approved Canine Good Citizen Evaluator. This evaluation is to be completed before the dog goes on supervised visits. At least ten hours of supervised visits are required." 🐾

Editor's Note & Update: Special thanks to LOAL member Michael Colombo for sharing this great article. Since March, Michael reports, "Our first trained team are just waiting for their cards and vest! Four new prospective teams are going through approval to volunteer at the hospital and have already passed their evaluation. This has brought a spurt of adrenalin to me being a vital part of our community; a chapter being transplanted from San Diego soon to be LOAL Central Arizona Chapter." An inspiration to all our teams around the country! Thank you Michael!



Lance Porter, Banner Payson Medical Center CEO, with Shiloh (Pia Wyer/Roundup)



By the Numbers

As of July 2018, we have grown to over 2,400 active members nationwide who volunteer with their pets on a regular basis.

We presently have 75 chapters in 47 states (DE, RI, and SD are our final frontiers). Don't forget to renew your membership online, to save both time, paper, and a stamp!



Therapy Dogs Help People Cope with Tragedy After Jo-Ann Fabrics Shooting

by Dana Whyte - WLNS News, MI, Nexstar Broadcasting, Inc, reprinted with permission

April 1, 2018



From L-R: Ripley, Riley, Cam, Zoe, and Farkle.

Lansing Township, MI – Therapy dogs are helping out workers and customers who were inside the Jo-Ann Fabrics store on Monday, when a man shot and killed his ex-girlfriend before turning the gun on himself. These special dogs are offering comfort to help people cope with tragedy. Cady Ness-Smith from Love on a Leash believes there's nothing quite like the love of a furry friend.

"It doesn't matter how bad your day is," said Ness-Smith. "I don't know why but it brings a smile to my face and makes me feel good."

That's why when tragedy struck at Jo-Ann Fabrics on Monday, Ness-Smith reached out to the store's management to lend a helping hand.

"He thought it was a really great idea to have the therapy dogs here for them because it is a really difficult time, especially those employees who were here the day of the incident," said Ness-Smith. End Violent Encounters, also known as EVE, is a non-profit organization that helps men and women who have been affected by domestic abuse and violence. Executive Director Erin Roberts says groups like Love on a Leash are needed to help heal communities in tough times.

"I'm glad to see that there are other groups reaching out to bridge this time of grief," said Roberts. Roberts says the best way to fight domestic violence is to look for warning signs.

"Being aware of the patterns of course of control in a relationship is really one of the biggest education pieces we can do with the community," said Roberts. Some of these patterns include power control, such as harming someone's self-esteem or making them feel like they have nowhere else to turn.

"We're just ready to support anybody that may need a place to seek counseling or support," said Roberts. But with the help of these therapy dogs, working through a hard situation gets easier one sniff at a time.

"I didn't expect the reaction that we've gotten, but I'm very pleased and it makes what we do worthwhile," said Ness-Smith. 🐾

Editor's Note: Cady has been an LOAL member since December, 2017.

Click below to watch the news segment.



Pacific Trails Wellness Days

by Karen Billings - Del Mar Times, CA, reprinted with permission

April 4, 2018

Carmel Valley, CA – Pacific Trails Middle School students were instructed to leave their backpacks and work at home on March 26 for the school's Wellness Day, a special day that focuses on students' physical, social, intellectual and emotional wellness.

This year the school hosted speaker Houston Kraft who spoke about the impact of character, kindness, leadership and compassion.

With assistance from Canyon Crest Academy students and Pacific Trails staff, students participated in fun and meaningful activities. They got a chance to paint the wall around the new campus building under construction, play team-building games, enjoy an ice cream social and get a mood boost from therapy dogs. 🐾



Pacific Trails students with a therapy dog from Love on a Leash. (Karen Billings/Del Mar Times)



#skills

May 12, 2018

San Diego, CA – Kalani is known as the SurFUR Girl around the University of California San Diego (UCSD) campus. She has been doing a dog surfing demo for about 8 years at an event called 'Meet the Beach' hosted by the UCSD Recreation Department for all entering Freshman and transfer students, during the 2nd weekend of Fall Quarter. It provides a chance for the students to meet their new peers in the UCSD community and have a last summer fling with a



wide variety of beach activities, entertainment, and free lunch. "I've had students tell me they come to this event just to watch two dogs ride the waves on their surfboards," Kalani's owner, Andra Lew says, referring to the popular Surfing Dogs Exhibition. When these students come to visit the dogs during a weekly Pet Therapy session, they always ask "Is this the surfing dog"? 🐾



Tex the Red Heeler Featured in High School Newspaper

April 15, 2018

Henderson, NV – Tex, a 4-year old red heeler mix, and his human Maureen Anderson-Borosky have become a regular fixture around Liberty High School. In fact, Tex was recently featured in that school's newspaper.

Tex and his family moved to Henderson, NV, from San Diego, CA, about 3 years ago. Henderson is Nevada's second largest city after Las Vegas, and is located a mere 16 miles southeast of Vegas. Liberty High School is one of Henderson's 9 high schools, and is where Jacob Borosky, Maureen's 17-year old son, attends.

Tex was originally certified as an LOAL therapy dog with San Diego Central's Chapter. Now he belongs to the Las Vegas Love on a Leash Chapter, and visits Liberty High once every couple of weeks or so, primarily to socialize with the school's special education students. Because all the students at Liberty are excited when Tex arrives on campus, he has also been asked to visit other classrooms, and the campus library.

"Many students who hang with Tex on a regular basis pass out bookmarks with facts about Tex as an icebreaker in order to spark conversation with others and aid the development of interaction. This helps the shy kids

people." writes Jean Hernandez, the article's author.

"So, not only does Tex promote socializing, he is big on providing happiness to students." Jean continues.

Jean writes that Liberty High School's administrative team has seen a marked improvement in the school's autistic students since Tex's arrival.

"They tend to avoid eye contact and keep to themselves, but they have gone beyond their comfort zones since Tex showed up.

Jean concludes, "Overall, the program is making an improvement in the school by fostering positive relationships between special and regular education students. Some students who are reserved have broken out of their shells, all because of a little spotted dog." 💙

The kids from Liberty High's autistic class with the Vice Principal's Secretary holding Tex.



Special thanks to Maureen for sending in this story. Maureen and Tex have been a certified LOAL therapy team since 2014.



Vice Principal Goroff and Tex.

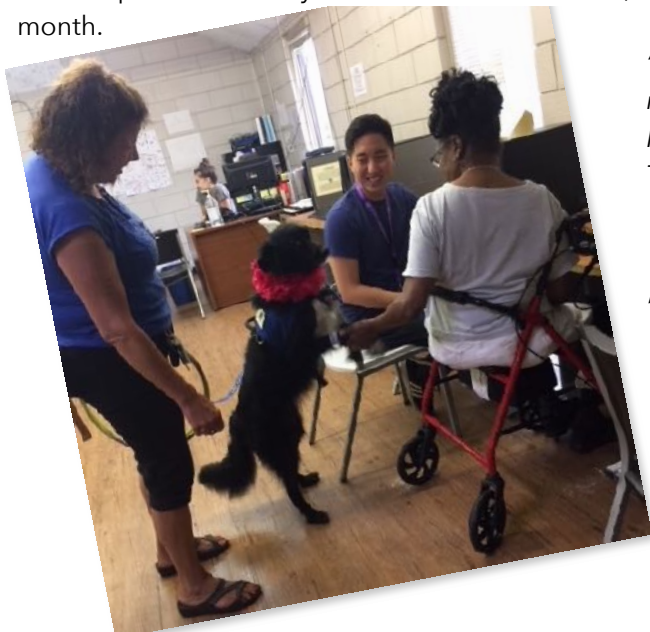


Therapy Dogs Tune into Love in Music City

submitted by Amy Sloan - Music City Love on a Leash Chapter (TN) leader & member since 2014

April 26, 2018

Nashville, TN – Music City Love on a Leash chapter teams visited Park Center, a day center for adults with mental illness and substance abuse disorders, located in downtown Nashville, for the first time at the end of April. The center provides services to more than 500 people per month through six programs, ranging from recovery services to housing and employment. After their visit, activity director Lindsey Herren asked Park City members about their experiences interacting with the dogs. She shared their feedback with chapter leader Amy Sloan. Since that first visit, LOAL teams have been visiting once a month.



"It was fun petting them. They were really friendly, helping, and loving. It made me feel good to see them. They were funny." **Danny C.**

"Seeing the dogs was good. They made me feel comfortable and more confident. I'd love for them to come back." **John B.**

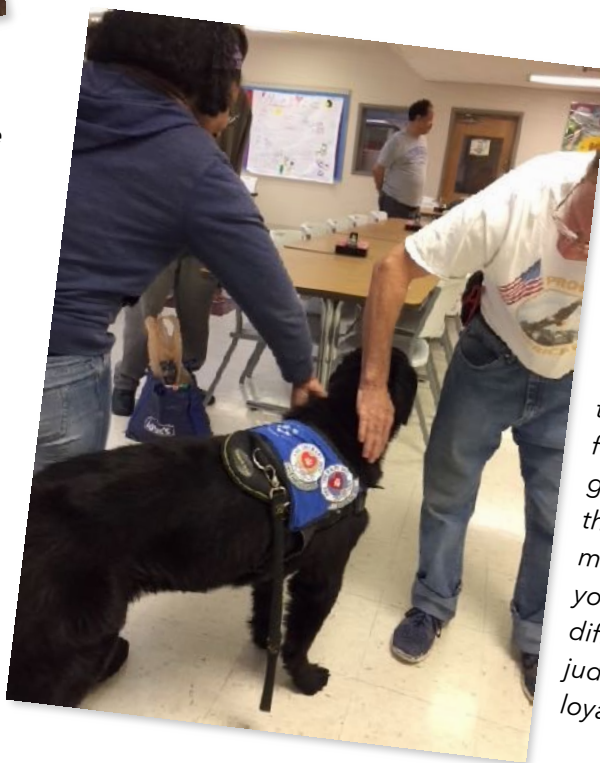


"They were nice and so pretty." **Bobbie**

"I think that they are remarkable dogs, and they have a lot of uplifting attitudes. They really made me happy, and one of the more important things about them is that they helped make a lot of other people happy as well. I hope that they change the world forever, because I think that we all need something like that. I think the dogs have the power to make people feel welcome and accepted, like it's all good and there's no need to have worries on your mind."

John Z.

"The dogs were very relaxing, very friendly. They do their job, and they are trained for people. They made me feel loved." **Dolores**



"The dogs were very sweet and adorable. It was therapeutic to interact with them." **Heather**

"It was relaxing, and the dogs made me feel wanted. I could go on and on about them. They don't get mad at you or look at you like you're different. They don't judge you. They are loyal." **Danny A.**



Making Connections and Touching Hearts

submitted by Andra Lew - San Diego Central Chapter (CA) member since 2007

May 12, 2018

San Diego, CA – Love on a Leash Pet Provided Therapy is more than just visiting a facility with our dogs. For an elder care residential community, it's about establishing relationships with residents of elder care, skilled nursing, and Alzheimer's memory care, and for schools, it's about making connections with students from middle school, thru high school and college.

The visits we undertake on a regular basis create emotional support bonds, touching the hearts of those we visit. Andra and her golden retriever, Kalani, have visited Brookdale Senior Living in Carmel Valley, CA, for the past 9 years, along with several teams who consistently come each month. It took a while, but now there are 6 to 8 residents who not only look forward to our visits, but they remember and love our dogs. During our visits, we have come to know these special people, how they have lived their lives, and what they have accomplished. One lady was a milliner in Brooklyn, NY, another trained cutting horses. Cutting is a western-style equestrian competition in which a horse and rider work as a team before judges to demonstrate the horse's athleticism and ability to handle cattle during a 2-1/2 minute performance, called a "run."



LOAL teams have been visiting UCSD for 9 years.



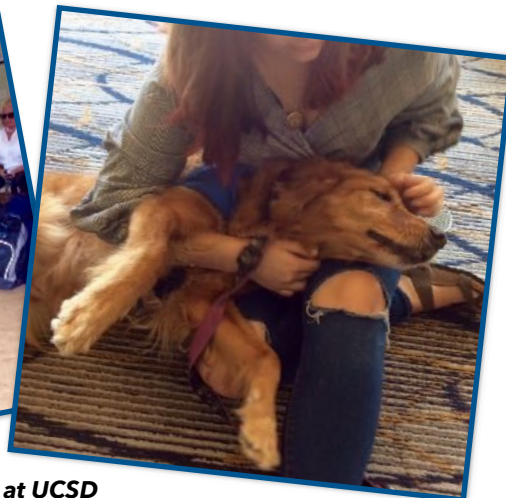
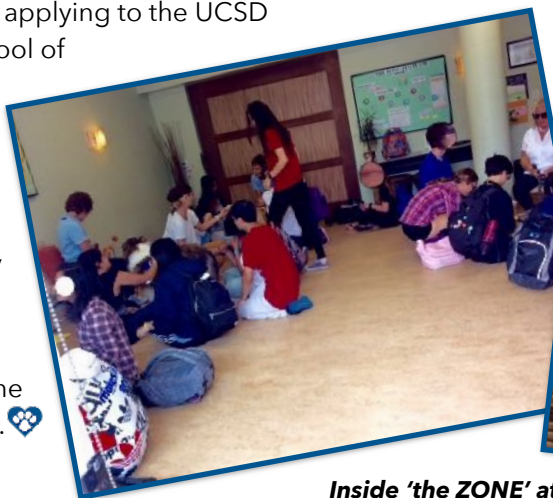
Brookdale Senior Living

Medicine. Their connection developed after they found out they shared similar backgrounds.

It is clear that Love on a Leash is making connections and touching the hearts and lives of everyone we visit. 💙

Teams have been visiting the students at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) for the past 9 years, and there are regular students who not only know the names of their favorite Pet Therapy fluffies, but they schedule their classes around Love on a Leash's weekly visits, so that they are guaranteed time to relax, hug, and visit with their special fur baby. Kalani loves holding 'paws' and snuggling with the students. The ZONE writes the names of the fluffies who will be coming to visit each week on a white board placed at the door of the ZONE.

Several of our teams, who have known students since their freshman year, just graduated! We talk with the students about how their studies and their lives are going. One Pet Therapy Team even wrote a letter of recommendation for a student who is graduating and applying to the UCSD School of



Inside 'the ZONE' at UCSD



The San Diego County Fair

An Annual Pilgrimage

submitted by Susie Blake - San Diego North County Chapter (CA) member since 2005

July 10, 2018

Del Mar, CA – This year's annual San Diego County Fair was held from June 1st to July 4th. Love on a Leash members from three local San Diego County Chapters came together to host a booth at the Fair on June 10th and 13th. This was our 5th year in a row that we were invited to host a booth, and many teams return each year to participate. We had four teams rotate out every two hours so the dogs would not get too tired. There were so many people, smells, and distractions, but our dogs stepped up and really seemed to enjoy the event.

We were a favorite amongst both the staff and the fair-goers. Some even said we were the best attraction at the fair! We had a few staff members come by every two hours just to meet the new teams. Three staff members in particular, who worked the Pig Races, came by both days to meet all the dogs and pose for pictures.

We represented Love on a Leash well, and encourage all our chapters to actively seek out opportunities to host booths at their local fairs if able to. We had many inquire how to become involved. We also had three poster boards on a table to help educate the public on dog safety.

Next year, we are going to try to enlist volunteers for three days to accommodate all the interest. It is one of the more "fun" events to do because of all the different interactions. This year's Fair theme was "How Sweet It Is!" and it most certainly was! 🐾



Over 1.5
million
visitors!





**53,600
bags of
kettle
corn sold**



For Katie, Love Truly is Blind

Submitted by Jeri Jennings - Pleasant Valley Chapter (CA) member since 2013

July 12, 2018

Camarillo, CA – Katie, a long-haired Dalmatian, and Love on a Leash therapy pet since 2013, lost her eyesight, suddenly, in April, 2018. She was diagnosed with Primary Glaucoma, and no restoration of her sight was possible.

"It really knocked her for a loop at first. I mean – she just woke up blind!" remarked her human Jeri. Blindness, however, did not slow Katie down for long. Following a medical procedure to relieve the pressure and pain of Glaucoma, Katie is again making visits, along with either her brother, Becket, or her sister, Tika.

She has even returned to her scheduled visits with patients and staff at St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital, in Camarillo, CA. ❤️

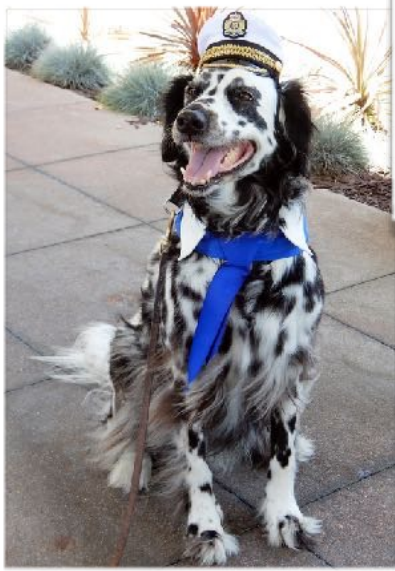
Way to be an
inspiration to
us all Katie!



Chief Petty Officer Katie



**Katie &
Becket -
July 4th**



Captain Becket



Katie with her sister Tika



👉Chapter Spotlight👉

Ojai, CA – In the last year, the Ojai Valley Love on a Leash chapter has been added to the LOAL family. Lindsey Boubel and her 5 year old Basset Hound, George, were certified with the help of LOAL's Poinsettia Pet Therapy Chapter in Ventura, CA, and had only been a member a few months, when Membership Chair, Keith Edleman, reached out to her and the other Ojai teams asking if they had ever considered forming a chapter. "I didn't even know that there were other Love on a Leash members in Ojai." Lindsey remarked, "so we just did it! I became the leader by default, and I'm learning as I go!"

The chapter started with 4 teams and 2 in training. Since last year, those two teams in training have become certified, and they have added one more team. At this time, there are no cat or rabbit teams in the Ojai Valley chapter, but the dog teams are all "unique!" exclaims Lindsey. "We have two sisters (humans) who's corgi's are brothers (litter-mates).

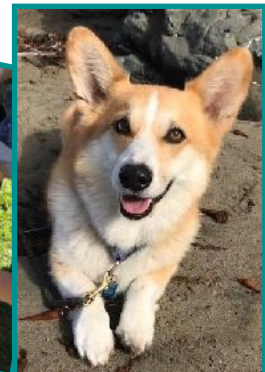
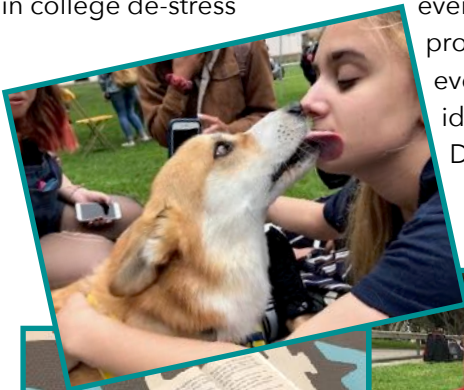
Both of the teams are great at tricks, impressing us with their hoop jumping and tunnel diving."

The chapter schedules their visits mostly through email and texting, visiting in small groups of 2 or 3, and individually.

"Our regular visits consist of an elderly care program and a program for adults with developmental disabilities. We also participate in Paws for Reading at two of our local libraries. The library contacted us to get started with the Paws for Reading program, and we have had some requests for visits at schools and other one-off events. Some of our teams have participated in college de-stress events, too!" Lindsey explains. Although the teams have come together to plan and meet prospective new members, they have not yet gathered together for a chapter-only social event with their pups, but Lindsey thinks "a get together with everyone sounds like a great idea!" So far, none of the Ojai Valley chapter's teams have earned Advanced Therapy Degrees, but judging on how active this new chapter is, we are sure those are not far off.



George and the corgis, or as we like to call them, the "Low Rider Club."



visit. There's no hard day that can't at least be improved by a warm nose and wagging tail." We could not agree more! 🐾



Recent Advanced Therapy Degree Recipients

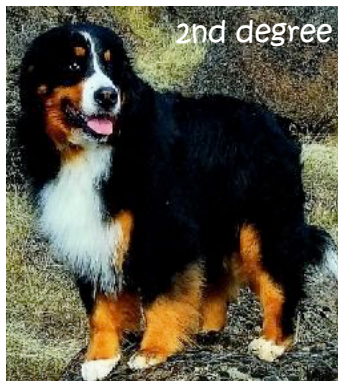
Advanced Therapy Degrees (ThD) from Love on a Leash are available to teams that have passed the initial control and visit evaluations for membership and certification. There are a variety of specialty fields to choose from depending on where your team enjoys volunteering. Advanced Degrees require teamwork; 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



Chia (IL) - May '18



Meika (WA) - Jul '18



Teddy (CA) - May '18

Young Adults Wellness

Dual Degree



Macey (IN) - May '18
- Elderly Social Visits
- Teenagers Stress Relief

Elderly Social Visits



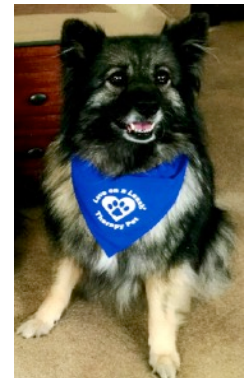
Korki (WA) - Apr '18



Linkin (CA) - May '18



Reggie (NY) - May '18



Kallie (NY) - May '18

Hospital Therapy



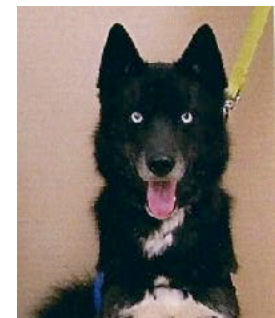
Tripp (KY) - Apr '18



Savanna (KS) - May '18



Tsar (NY) - Jun '18




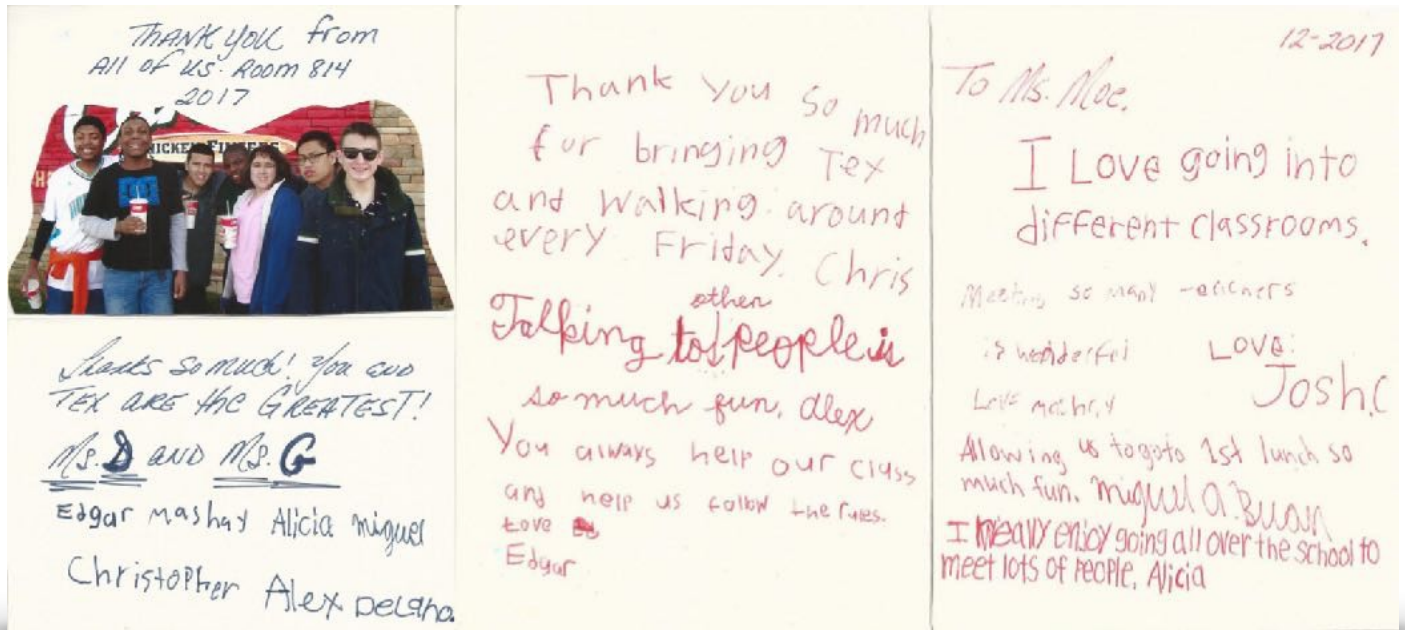
Thor (NY) - Jun '18



Congratulations!

Thank You LOAL!

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



Thank you card received from students at Liberty High School in Henderson, NV.



Welcome to our Newest Chapter!


◆ Capitol Area - MI



HOT ASPHALT AWARENESS

Outside Temperature		Asphalt Temperature
77 Degrees		125 Degrees
86 Degrees	=	135 Degrees
87 Degrees		143 Degrees

Test the heat of the asphalt by firmly pressing your hand on it for 7 seconds. If it is too HOT for you, it's too hot for your pet!







Ask Our Pet Panel



Dear Pet Panel,

My human brings me to work, because her workplace allows it, and I LOVE going, because everyone is always happy to see me! Should I be wearing my Love on a Leash vest when people come and visit me and cuddle with me, so that they know I'm a therapy pet?

- Signed, Happy to be with my human all day 🐾



Dear Happy,

We get this question A LOT. If you are certified with Love on a Leash you are *only allowed* to wear your LOAL gear when you are **volunteering**, because that's the only time you will be covered by LOAL insurance. Counselors, therapists, and teachers often ask this question, and we *totally* understand how our furry cuddles can help students and clients 💖, but if your human's school or company lets you come to work with your human, then they need to know they won't be covered under LOAL insurance if something goes wrong. Thanks for asking this important question!

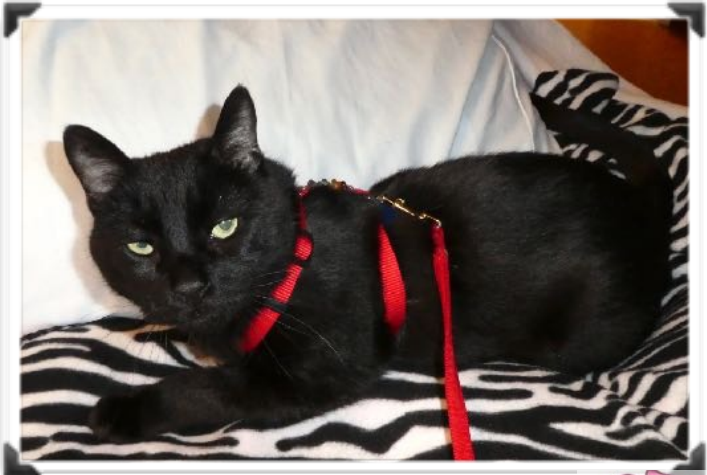


From our Guidelines: All therapy teams are volunteers. Love on a Leash is not affiliated with any for-profit entities, therefore, Love on a Leash trademarks or apparel may not be utilized during any activity that involves any payment of any kind. If you, as a handler of a therapy pet, are at work or working in any capacity, then the Love on a Leash trademarks and apparel must be removed from the pet until the therapy team's activity is clearly volunteer only.

Have a question for our Pet Panel? Please email newsletter@loveonaleash.org



Happy Milestone Birthday!



Therapy cat Dog of Amherst, VA, turned **20** on May 15. He was first certified when he was 11. He is amazingly healthy and still loves his "job". He was briefly retired by his human, Terri, last year, but he was having none of that! "Every time I would prepare my other therapy cat, Baxter, for visits, he would insist that it was his turn so he's back to cuddling with hospice patients once a week."

Happy Birthday Dog!



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.

- 
- 
- Bing** (Wire Fox Terrier) member 2009~2017 - owner Rick Schmude (IL)
 - Phoenix** (Wire Fox Terrier) member 2009~2017 - owner Rick Schmude (IL)
 - Bear** (Belgian Shepherd/Chow Mix) member 2011~2017 - owner Carolyn Wunder (CA)
 - Eli** (Corgi Mix) member 2017~2017 - owner Cathy Zych (CA)
 - Louie** (German Shepherd) member 2007~2018 - owner Ann Elwood (CA)
 - Danny** (Australian Shepherd) member 2008~2018 - owner Walt Hanlon (CA)
 - Ximen** (Golden Retriever) member 2008~2018 - owner Arleen Stryshak (NC)
 - Zack** (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel) member 2008~2018 - owner Peggy Larkin (CA)
 - Boomer** (Labrador Retriever) member 2009~2018 - owner Karen Neola (CA)
 - Max** (Bernese Mountain Dog) member 2010~2018 - owner Arleen Stryshak (NC)
 - BK** (Lhasa Apso) member 2011~2018 - owner Sarah Gould (NC)
 - Hank** (Golden Retriever) member 2011~2018 - owner Mindy Levine (CA)
 - Jessi Jo Ann** (Labrador Retriever) member 2011~2018 - owner Laura Kartheiser (IL)
 - Skooter** (Bichon Frise) member 2011~2018 - owner Sandy Zielinski (CA)
 - Summit** (Golden Labrador) member 2011~2018 - owner Annette Warren (CA)
 - Oscar** (Golden Retriever) member 2012~2018 - owner Pam McCann (MI)
 - Piper** (Bernese Mountain Dog) member 2012~2018 - owner Bonnie Riggle (WA)
 - Bear** (Newfoundland) member 2013~2018 - owner Hether & Michael James (IN)
 - Lacey** (Boston Terrier) member 2013~2018 - owner Nancy Thompson (MO)
 - Digger** (Australian Cattle Dog) member 2014~2018 - owner Robyn Berg (AZ)
 - Fire Opal** (Bernese Mountain Dog) member 2014~2018 - owner Pam Burgess (NE)
 - Rusty** (Australian Shepherd) member 2014~2018 - owner Walt Hanlon (CA)
 - Sophie** (Bull Mastiff) member 2014~2018 - owner Louise Toutant (CA)
 - Knight** (Labrador Retriever) member 2016~2018 - owner Karen Neola (CA)
 - Gracie** (Great Dane Mix) member 2017~2018 - owner Janeth Kim (CA)
 - Kate** (Lab/Border Collie) member 2017~2018 - owner Rebecca Bean (NH)
 - Spirit** (Great Dane) member 2017~2018 - owner Michael Kenny (MA)



From the Board

Hello Members! I hope you are all enjoying a wonderful Summer, staying cool, dry, and safe wherever you may be!

I wanted to talk briefly about our "continuing member" option. Simply, this is where a member's current therapy pet partner has been retired or passed away, but the member would like to stay connected to LOAL. This keeps you up to date on LOAL messages and newsletters during the time when you may not have an animal partner to do therapy visits with. I, myself, took advantage of this option when I lost my first therapy dog, Weston, before I found and became certified with little Daisy. This is a hard time for any of us, but "continuing" your membership while you find another pet partner for your therapy team allows you to stay connected during this time, and also stay connected to your chapter members. You can still participate with other chapter activities that may be going on, as well as offer to help supervise new members going through their certification visits. If you decide you want to continue to pursue pet therapy, but your animal partner is retired or passed away, please consider this option. When your membership renewal is due, simply indicate that you are only renewing yourself, and not the pet. When you find a new therapy pet teammate, you can simply certify with the new pet.

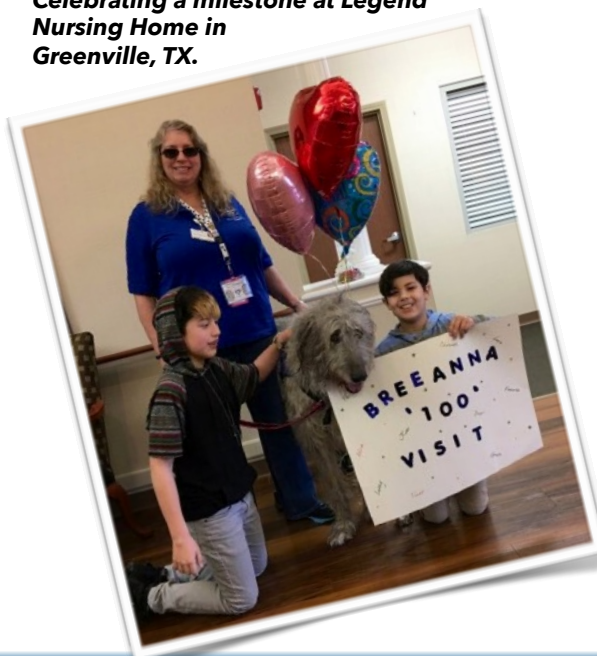


Margaret Eggers, President, LOAL



Snapshots of L♥ve

Celebrating a milestone at Legend Nursing Home in Greenville, TX.



Never too young for a paw shake. Remington meets a fan at the Los Angeles Ronald McDonald House.



Dottie helps reduce stress at 1 of 4 "Dog Therapy Days" hosted by the University of California Santa Barbara.



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, you are welcome to visit the store in person. The store owner, Anu, loves to meet Love on a Leash members! Here's what Board member Debbie LaChusa has to say about just two of the items in the store:



"The Cross Body Bag is really nice - it has tons of pockets and is made out of a nice, heavy duty nylon. I think our members will love it...I do, and I didn't even think I wanted one!"

"The new women's polo is a lightweight, breathable Sportek fabric; very nice shirt. I am very pleased with the quality."



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! 🐾



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).
- ✱ The words **Love on a Leash** must be part of the chapter's name.
- ✱ Our official logo is a **paw print within a heart** with **Love on a Leash written at the top**. Your chapter name may be included at the bottom of the logo.
- ✱ 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 as it sets you and your pet apart from other therapy organizations.

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 don't inadvertently want to send you a renewal notice for that pet if that is the case. No internet? No problem! Feel free to call us at (760) 740-2326 or snail mail us with any updates also!

Newsletter Submissions

We love hearing from our teams! Share your unique visits, off-duty fun, dress-up occasions, shout-outs, rewarding therapy visit experiences, and pet panel questions with fellow members around the country. Pressed for time or not a writer, no worries! We'll do the writing for you. Our handy [Google Forms](#) make submitting a breeze. Feel free to also email your story and photo(s) to newsletter@loveonaleash.org. Articles should be about 300~400 words, and may be gently edited due to space constraints. Please be sure to obtain appropriate [photo release forms](#) when necessary.

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.

