

## Inside this Issue...



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

Margaret Eggers - *President*  
Susie Blake - *Secretary/Membership*  
Janet Herron - *Treasurer*  
Sue Subkow  
Meredith Rose  
Julie Hernandez  
Katharine Harvester

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## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2020



## From the Board



**Stacey & Lemme window visit residents at Traceway Retirement Community in MS.**

**Pet therapy in the time of Covid-19...**What an unusual time we're living through right now. While we're fortunate for so many things as we survive these trying circumstances, we are all lucky to live with therapy pets. I know my pups are "working" overtime to make me laugh, reduce my stress and sense of isolation and remind me of what's most important. But it is heartbreaking that we are unable to share our pets with others needing these same benefits because of physical distancing and other necessary precautions. So what CAN we do? While many of us can't yet resume our regular personal visits, some folks have been able to safely do "window" visits for convalescent and resident homes.

Others have made little "visit" videos to share with some facilities. Our pets also really need stimulation and activities, so check with your favorite local trainer for ideas of puzzles, activities, and training exercises you can work on with your pet while staying at home. Many of the trainers who have worked with our members have Facebook or web pages where they have been posting ideas and training tips which provide our pets with mental stimulation, direct interaction, and a deeper bond with us. This will help ensure our pets will be ready to re-engage with folks on regular visits when the time comes. In the meantime, please stay safe, wash your paws!, and take care of each other. As my Granny used to say, "this too shall pass".

— Margaret Eggers, President, Love on a Leash®



**Outdoor visit with Shaylee in CA.**



# Taking Care of Business

## **Join the Board!**

We are a dynamic group of volunteers. If you would like to be considered for a position on our Board of Directors, and advance the organization's mission – no matter where you live – please send an email with the subject "Love on a Leash Board" to [info@loveonaleash.org](mailto:info@loveonaleash.org) or mail a letter to our PO BOX 4548, Oceanside, CA 92052, Attention: Love on a Leash 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. Wear blue on visits whenever you can!
- ✱ 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.

## **We Want to Hear From You!**

We all have heart-warming stories from our visits. We are witness to them every day. It is important, however, that our newsletter focus on support and advice that benefits, improves, and strengthens the Love on a Leash experience for all of us! Therefore, if you have ideas or lightbulb moments that you think will help all of us become better therapy ambassadors (e.g. unique facility visits or events, questions to clarify 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, but please understand 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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

Have you or your pet 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](mailto:newsletter@loveonaleash.org) with "Pet Panel Question" in the Subject line.



# GUIDELINES Spotlight



The Love on a Leash Guidelines are important to our organization on multiple levels, not the least of which is establishing consistent policies and messaging for our entire organization. We encourage our members to stay up-to-date on our guidelines, especially when there are revisions. <http://www.loveonaleash.org/Forms-Guides/> We will always notify our members when revisions are published, and the newsletter will endeavor to highlight those revisions in this section.

**It is important to remember that any Love on a Leash member who fails to comply with Member and Chapter Guidelines is subject to revocation of membership.** 💕

## Our Official Color is Medium Blue

Pets are highly encouraged to wear a Love on a Leash bandana or vest during visits. Members are not required to wear official Love on a Leash apparel, but are encouraged to wear blue, white, or neutral colored tops to avoid being mistaken for other pet therapy organizations. Official Love on a Leash apparel and accessories are available for purchase through the member's online account. Due to our trademark, members *may not* create additional apparel or merchandise without express approval from National Love on a Leash®.

**Wear your Love on a Leash® gear with pride!** 💕



## No Store or Mall visits for Teams in Training

The first few visits for a new team in training can be very overwhelming. Most pets go home and sleep the entire rest of the day. In addition, it is very important for supervisors to monitor how pets behave in a controlled environment. Acceptable team-in-training facilities include senior assisted living facilities, memory care facilities, rehab facilities, libraries and elementary schools for reading programs or special education visits. There are too many variables to contend with at farmers markets, festivals, fairs, malls, and pet friendly stores, so these venues are not considered appropriate for team-in-training supervised visits.

**Having a friendly disposition is only part of the equation.** 💕





# Shop Online for Love on a Leash® Gear

Step out in style during virtual or in-person visits with Love on a Leash 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, save on shipping, and say "hello" to store owner Anu! **The store is open**, and she loves meeting our members with their pets! Let us know if you have any favorite items, or wish we carried something more!



Introducing customizable **2-inch patches** for smaller pet vests and bandanas!



We are looking forward to resuming our visits when it's safe to do so, and have received lots of requests for face masks to help bring us one step closer to that day!



EmbroidMe created this short 35-second video to show their support for our members.



## Spread the Word

Love on a Leash is proud to offer printed brochures, and educational cards illustrating the differences between therapy, service, and emotional support animals. We provide these at no cost 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](mailto:assistant@loveonaleash.org).

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





# Love on a Leash® Video Corner



Love on a Leash Board member and Chapter Coordinator, Katharine Harvester, recently created a short (2:36 min) video for anyone planning to become a Love on a Leash member. Please share, like, and subscribe to our new Love on a Leash YouTube channel. More videos are in the works, and we would love to include as many Love on a Leash pets as possible, so **please send us photos of your pets on visits, decked out in Love on a Leash gear**, of course!



# Love on a Leash® Presentation



Love on a Leash created a PowerPoint slideshow (20 slides) for any informational presentations our members may be asked to give about Love on a Leash. One of the slides requires some customization to personalize the presentation. In addition, photos may be swapped out with the member's own, provided signed releases are obtained for any humans photographed. Contact Kelly at [assistant2@loveonaleash.org](mailto:assistant2@loveonaleash.org) to request a copy.





## Fun Giveaways Adored by All Ages

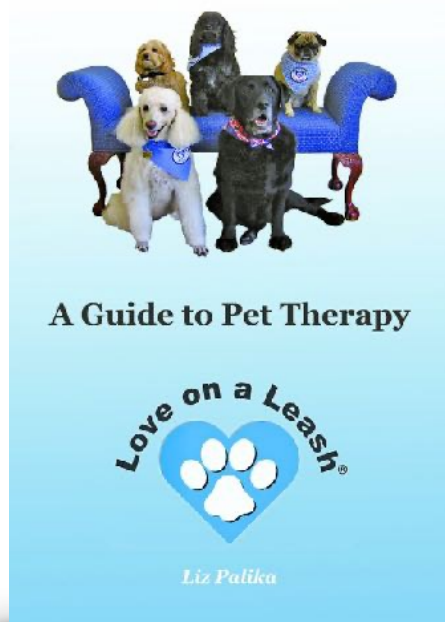
Did you know Love on a Leash partnered with Creative Instinct, Inc. to offer Therapy Pet Trading Cards to our members nationwide?

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/>

Love on a Leash Bookmarks are also a big hit with avid readers. Available as single or double-sided; minimum order: 25 pcs.

Contact Buddy at [Budrugby@yahoo.com](mailto:Budrugby@yahoo.com) to order.



## An Invaluable Read for Anyone Getting Involved in Pet-Provided Therapy

Written by our founder, Liz Palika, and chock-full of fundamental advice for anyone considering pet therapy, currently in training, or newly certified. It's a great gift, too! Available on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).





# By the Numbers

Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic has stymied many new members from completing their certifications, so our membership is currently holding at just over **2,550** active members in **47** states, with **74** chapters in **26** of those states. In August, we received our first ever inquiry from Alaska! We're looking forward to welcoming that cat team soon! Thank you for continuing to bring comfort and joy to those in need!

**Happy tails tip:** Save time, paper, and a stamp. Renew your membership [online](#)!



## Welcome to our Newest Chapters!

- ◆ South Side Chicago, IL
- ◆ Cape Fear, NC
- ◆ Bismarck, ND
- ◆ Gulf Breeze, FL



*Chapters are unique to Love on a Leash®. A chapter provides support, motivation, and social interaction for you and your pet. More teams mean a greater variety of pets, talents, and interests. One established visit and two or more certified pets are needed to start a chapter, plus the chapter leader has to have been a member of Love on a Leash for at least one year. Interested? Learn more on our website under [Chapters](#).*





## Ask Our Pet Panel



Dear Pet Panel,

Taking a bath and getting my claws trimmed is one of my least favorite activities. Is grooming really necessary before I go on a therapy visit?

– Signed, Muddy Paws🐾



Dear Muddy Paws,

We *completely* understand where you're coming from. We love to run around and play outside, too, and there's nothing like a good roll in the cool grass on a hot summer day, but it's important to remember that keeping ourselves groomed and tidy helps keep those we visit safe and healthy, especially our immunocompromised friends. (You have to admit though, isn't your fresh and fluffy fur after a bath the best feeling ever?!?) Keeping our claws trimmed and smooth also prevents accidental scratches, and allows us to put our best paw forward, especially when we're asked for a paw shake. Think about all those future hugs and smiles while you're taking a bath, and you'll be wrapped in a towel in no time!

– Your Pet Panel



*Have a question for our Pet Panel? There isn't a sticky situation they haven't addressed!*

*Send your pet's questions to [newsletter@loveonaleash.org](mailto:newsletter@loveonaleash.org).*



## Yay! We've been invited to visit again!



🛑 WAIT! 🛑 Yes, we've all really missed our visits, especially our pets, but you'll need to pay special attention to their behavior as you resume visits. We've all been social distancing and staying home a *lot*. Take your time getting back into the swing of things. Your pets may become overly excited or unusually agitated. Remember, animals are especially sensitive to stress. Everyone will be wearing a mask or face shield, there may be new cleaning protocols in place (new smells), plexiglass, lower elevator capacities, etc. Ease into your first few visits. Consider them like "training" visits and then assess your pet. Don't be afraid to bow out early if your pet (or you) needs more time to acclimate to this new "normal".

***Coonhound member Zuni celebrated Easter a little differently this year, reminding us to wear a mask, especially around vulnerable populations.***





## ✍️ Chapter Spotlight: Saint Louis ✍️

**Saint Louis, MO** – We love getting to know our members around the country, and what they are up to. For this issue, we asked one of our oldest chapters to share their story. **Karen Green** is our St. Louis' Chapter Leader.

**You became a Love on a Leash member in early 1997. Were you the chapter's first leader? How has the chapter changed over the years?**

*I only recently stepped in as chapter leader in June 2019, when Suebee Baxter Carr, our leader for over 20 years, began to plan her relocation to Phoenix AZ (where we hope she just might start a chapter!). I had served as treasurer for the previous 12 years before our account closed, and helped with numerous administrative tasks since our chapter's formation. Initially, our chapter's focus was on spreading joy and cheer through visitation, and doggie dancing! Yes, we had a canine drill team (long before the sport of freestyle was in vogue). We strutted our choreographed obedience skills to tunes such as St. Louis Blues, Singing in the Rain, and Boot Scootin' Boogie in a show-type setting and then would visit with residents. We met for weekly obedience and practices, completing group visits primarily in nursing homes most every weekend. Since then, our drill team has gone into retirement, even though one might see still some of the old timers tapping their toes when a familiar tune comes on (and we swear those dogs of long ago would recognize the tunes, perk up, ready to dance away!). These days, we participate in adopted facility visits at special education settings, health care facilities, hospice settings etc, group visits are completed at venues such as local libraries and elementary schools, universities, day camps, community events and police departments.*



**Do you remember how many teams joined your chapter at the outset? How many teams does your Chapter have now?**

*Initially our group was formed by approximately 6 teams (the majority of whom are still active members) who had met through an obedience class. One class member, familiar with Love on a Leash, suggested Love on a Leash in our search for a reputable pet therapy organization to join. Currently, our chapter has 61 members actively visiting.*

**Do your teams visit facilities as large groups, smaller groups of 2~3, or are the visits more individual?**

*We visit in all these combinations...what we refer to as adopted facilities may have groups from one to 10 teams, or even individually. Attendance at group visits vary according to the specific site and specific need, for example at University Stress Busters we try to ensure a minimum of 8 teams as sooo many pet hungry students always participate; for a our cherished hospice patients, the visits may be completed by a single team.*

**How do you schedule visits? Meetup? Email? Facebook? Group chat? Other?**

*For scheduling & communication among members, our chapter utilizes a combination of Google group (mostly through email) and an online scheduling calendar. Our online calendar is used primarily to schedule recurring, but not necessarily consistent group visits, such as library reading programs, university stress busters, cops 'n' canines, and special community events. Invitations are generated; members respond by accepting, declining, or listing their attendance as tentative. Visit Captains who manage adopted facility visits work with team members and facility staff to set a mutually convenient consistent schedule, such as bimonthly, monthly, weekly, etc. All visits (adopted facilities & group) as well as business meetings and special events are posted on a private online calendar (accessible to members only). We utilize our closed Facebook page only marginally, as only members can access due to confidentiality concerns (as well as the fact a number of teams do not use Facebook), so postings are very limited in nature.*

**What kind of facilities do you visit? Do you receive requests from facilities for visits or do you actively solicit facilities?**

*We are blessed to visit a wonderful variety of facilities and feel fortunate we can make great matches for our teams! Our Love on a Leash pooches & cats can be found in places including, but not limited to, hospitals, independent, assisted living and skilled care facilities, special education classrooms, elementary schools and library reading programs, urban police departments, hospice patients & their*



## ✍️ Chapter Spotlight ctd: Saint Louis ✍️

families, university stress busting, summer day camps, residential facilities for adults with cognitive differences, centers for homeless teens, Ronald McDonald Houses, and special community events. Generally, we receive requests for visits from staff who have worked with us in the past or heard of us through word of mouth.

### **Do any of your teams participate in any unique events, or visit any unique facilities?**

We have participated in the Metropolitan St. Louis Police Department Wellness Fairs, Suicide Prevention Walks, Mental Health Awareness Events, Responsible Pet Ownership Fairs, Muscular Dystrophy Walk / Runs, Disabilities Awareness Days.

### **Does your Chapter get-together socially outside of therapy visits? If so, what kind of get-togethers? How often?**

With the size of our chapter, it can be a challenge to find social venues to accommodate all! We have incorporated fun events like pot luck picnics at local parks and holiday gatherings at an exquisite clubhouse (thanks to a devoted member) along with our business meetings. We have participated in a few "Dinner & a Movie" outings for interested members! Many teams enjoy dining at pet friendly venues after visits, usually on a spur of the moment basis. We recently surveyed our members, and most indicated they are interested in "just for fun" outings and gathering sporadically throughout the year...suggestions have included movies, meals, train rides, day trips to local attractions such as The Gentle Barn MO (a farm rescue facility) and perhaps even a vineyard!!!

### **Do you have any Advanced Therapy Degree recipients in your Chapter?**

Shockingly at this point in time we do not! Likely we will be ensuring our members are made more aware of this opportunity and support them in this endeavor. One of our volunteers does track monthly totals for our members; currently 35 of our members have completed over 100 visits; 10 active members have completed over 500 visits; 4 members have completed over 1000 visits!

### **Do you have any unique teams in your chapter? (e.g. a team that always dresses up, a team that loves doing tricks, a team that does something unique when they're not volunteering, etc)**

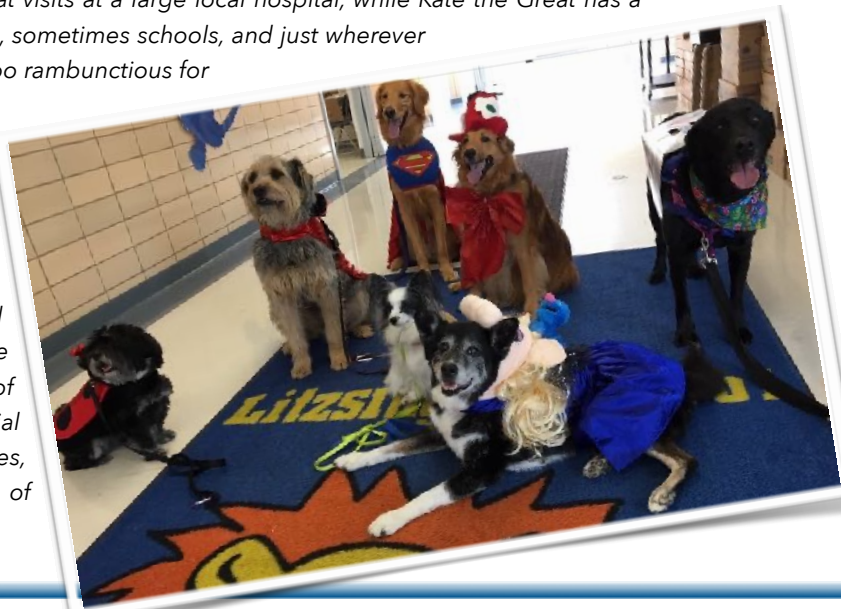
Having so many members, it would be difficult to highlight single teams as EACH brings a special uniqueness to our group. Lily salutes; Casey drives in a pink plastic car; Alfie operates a doggie treat machine, Claire, Zach, and Dion do more tricks than a circus troupe; Skylar imitates a yoyo; Belle is a candidate for Project Runway; Jade may not do tricks but her doggie lovin' heart could span sea to sea. We have members who are executives, nurses, social workers, retired, moms & dads...the list goes on and on. Some travel to exotic locations (or stay home to tend donkeys); are avid photographers; are accomplished pianists; are expert horsewomen; are lovingly growing their families; are skilled & creative party planners; who struggle with packed work schedules to fit in time for their Love on a Leash visits! We are blessed to have the special gifts each of our members bring!

### **Do you have any cats or rabbits in your Chapter?**

Our chapter is graced by two fabulous felines: Mickey the Cat visits at a large local hospital, while Kate the Great has a wide visitation circle: health care facilities, reading programs, sometimes schools, and just wherever her mom thinks will work. Some of the settings are just a bit too rambunctious for Kate's taste, but she always steals the show!!!

### **What's your favorite part about volunteering with Love on a Leash?**

Even after 20 years, I still feel the thrill of seeing the smiles generated when our pets are shared...it is as if I am the recipient of the joy generated when the animals visit. It is also a privilege to be a part of such an amazing group of men and women...all crazy dog lovers, all so generous with their time and talents, and always there to support one another in time of need. So many members pitch in to help train potential members, organize visits and events & new member inquiries, complete record keeping. There is an amazing feeling of fellowship among our chapter members! 🐾





# Necessity is the Mother of Invention

The events that transpired after the novel coronavirus pandemic reached our shores, caught us all by surprise. Within a month, the country was shutdown, and so, too, were our visits. Since many of our visits consisted of bringing joy and comfort to our most vulnerable populations, we all knew we could be in this for the long haul. At the same time, we were torn. These are the times when our visits are most needed!

Undeterred, it wasn't long before our members got creative, and their communities are so appreciative. Here, we share a few of their inspiring ideas.

## Window Visits

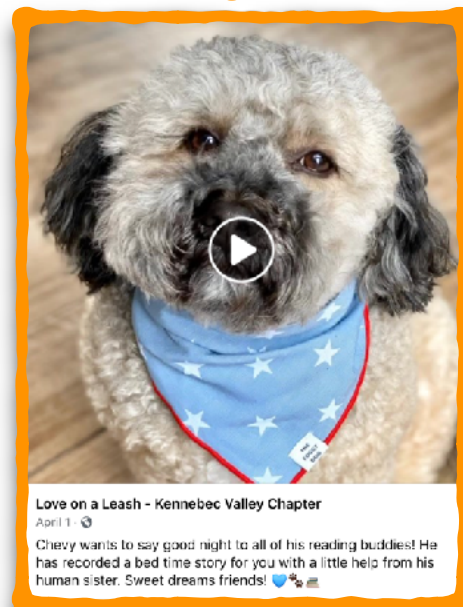


Northeast Mississippi chapter



Central AZ chapter

## Reading Stories



Love on a Leash - Kennebec Valley Chapter

April 1

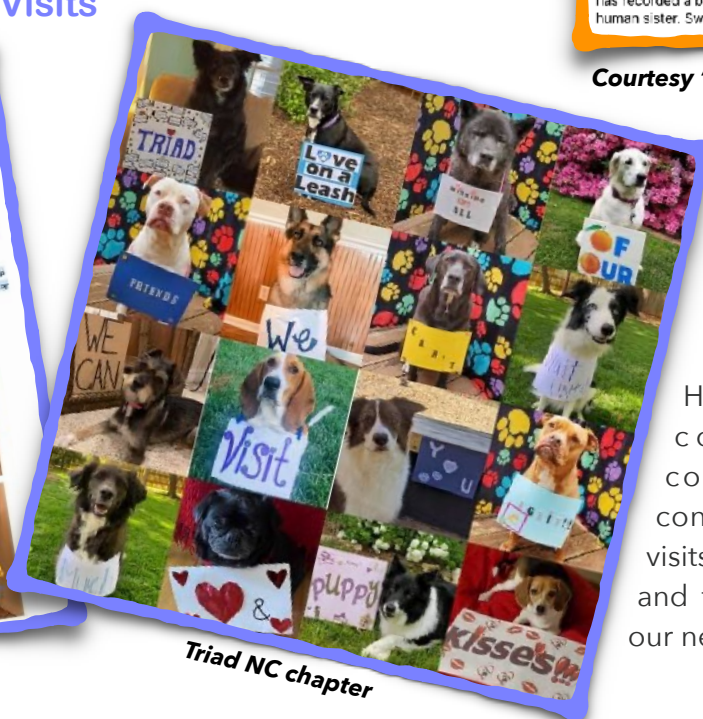
Chevy wants to say good night to all of his reading buddies! He has recorded a bad time story for you with a little help from his human sister. Sweet dreams friends! 🌙🐾

Courtesy "My Talking Pet" app

## Virtual Visits



Central AZ chapter



Triad NC chapter

How have you stayed connected to your community? Have you considered new types of visits? Send us your ideas, and they may be featured in our next issue!





# Home of Guiding Hands Visit

Submitted by Sue Subkow - San Diego Central chapter

May 28, 2020

**San Diego, CA** – San Diego's [Home of Guiding Hands](#) reached out to chapter leader Sue Subkow to see if a socially-distanced visit could be organized. Residents had been on lockdown for almost 3 months without visitors, and many didn't understand why.

Sue reached out to her teams, and was met with an overwhelmingly positive response. "Everybody was great!" Sue remarks, "We went to 3 different

houses in an hour-and-a-half. Nobody had an issue. Everyone wore masks. I encouraged people to use wipes between house visits. We just kind of went with the flow and everybody was tickled pink. They were just so thrilled to have guests there." 🐾



*Some of the residents were in open garages, while others were seated outside.*



## Visit with a US Attorney

Submitted by Maureen Borosky - Las Vegas chapter

Jul 29, 2020

**Las Vegas, NV** – "We were able to get to the US attorney's office this week and we had a really nice visit. They asked us to come back the following week. Everyone wore masks and they put us in a conference room and only let six people in at a time. They provided hand sanitizer and I brought wipes to wipe down Tex. The picture is of the US attorney for the Nevada district with Tex and member Edgar. The previous week the US attorney actually met with the president in the oval office!" 🐾



# Funeral Comfort

Submitted by Linda Bolen - St. Charles chapter

August 18, 2020

**St. Charles, MO** – “One of our members brought her dog, Max, to a funeral visitation. Max’s job was to sit with the deceased’s 9-year-old daughter during the eulogy. He did good.” 🐾



# Mother Nature's Wrath

Submitted by Kathy Mindel - Scenic City chapter

May 5, 2020

**Holly Hills area, TN** – “We had some terrible tornados in our area on Easter evening. This on top of the Covid-19, it was overwhelming for many. It looked like a war zone. When therapy dogs arrive at a disaster site something beautiful happens. Faces soften. People make eye contact. They SMILE. People reach out their hands and touch the furry, steady, loving therapy dog...and then their words come...When people’s hearts open up, they tell stories of flying things and breaking oaks and running for their basements. They share ‘where they were’ and ‘what they were thinking’ at the time. They talk about noise and silence and fear and gratitude. They cry, a little. They might laugh. They ALL talk about how grateful they are to be alive, and every single one of them mentions that ‘stuff can be replaced’. All the while they are petting and petting and stroking and cooing and cuddling a dog they do not know, but somehow love. And their hands never stop moving.” 🐾





# Advanced Therapy Degrees since our last issue

Advanced Therapy Degrees (ThD) from Love on a Leash are available to teams once they become certified members. There are a variety of specialty fields depending on where your team enjoys volunteering most. Advanced Degrees showcase dedication and 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."



## Hospital Therapy



**Astra** (NY) - Jan '19



**Casey** (AZ) - Oct '18



**Cody** (AZ) - Nov '18



**Kallie** (NY) - Nov '15



**Mr. Darcy** (WA) - Oct '18



**Ryker** (LA) -  
Mar '16 ~ Nov '19



**Sydney** (CA) - Apr '16



**Tovah Rae**  
(NY) - Apr '16

\*dates indicate member since

## Children: Reading Programs



**Benjamin** (CA) - Aug '17



**Olivia** (CA) - Apr '18



**Oreo** (IN) - Apr '18



**Teeba** (WA) - Jun '19

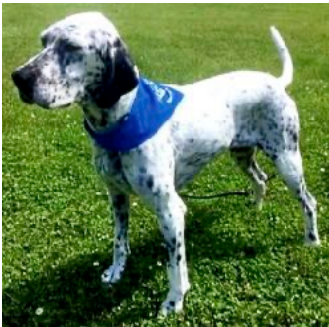


*Congratulations!*



# Advanced Therapy Degrees continued

## Dual Degrees



**Howdy (IN)** - Dec '16

- Children: Reading Programs
- Elderly: Social Visits



**NiRA (MT)** - Mar '12

- Court Dog Therapy
- Elderly: Social Visits

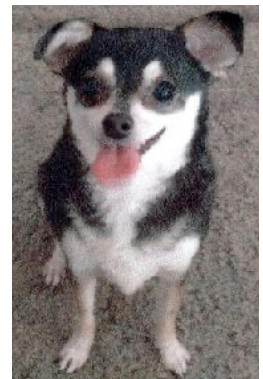


**Toby (KS)** - May '19

- Hospital Therapy
- Children: Reading Programs



## Juvenile Detention



**Dobby (KS)** - Nov '17

## Elderly Social Visits



**Agnes (ME)** - Dec '17



**Odin (TX)** - Dec '17



**Bueller (MS)** - Oct '19



**Maggie (NY)** - May '19

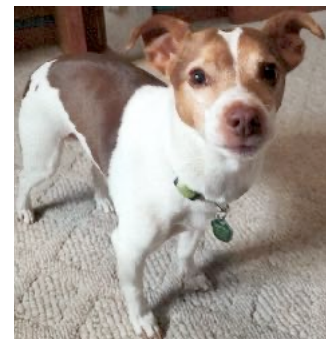


**Meeko (IL)** - Apr '15



**Adele (WA)** - May '19

## Special Education Visits



**Tucker (WI)** - Jan '18



**Murphy (MO)** - Sep '13



**Walter (IA)** - Sep '18

*\*dates indicate member since*



*Congratulations!*

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[www.loveonaleash.org](http://www.loveonaleash.org)  
P.O. Box 4548, Oceanside, CA 92052-4548



# Till We Meet Again...

Although the pandemic has curtailed applications from new members, the circle of life continues, and we sadly 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 your joie de vivre with others. **Years indicate service with Love on a Leash.**

**Abbey** (Lab Retriever Mix) '15~'19 (LA)  
**Abbie** (Lab Retriever) '14~'20 (AZ)  
**Abby** (Tabby Cat) '13~'18 (WI)  
**Abby** (Chow Chow) '13~'19 (MO)  
**Andre** (Golden Retriever) '17~'20 (IN)  
**Andre** (Standard Poodle) '18~'19 (CA)  
**Angel** (Am Bulldog Mix) '09~'19 (NH)  
**Annie** (Bichon Frisé) '14~'19 (CA)  
**Auggie** (Maltese) '11~'19 (CA)  
**Baby** (Lab Retriever Mix) '11~'20 (NC)  
**Baci** (Standard Poodle) '14~'20 (VA)  
**Baylor** (Coton de Tulear) '14~'19 (CA)  
**Bear** (Lab Retriever) '11~'19 (MO)  
**Bear** (Great Pyrenees) '15~'20 (NC)  
**Bea** (Bernese Mt Dog) '17~'20 (CA)  
**Benji** (All American) '13~'19 (CA)  
**Bentley** (Dalmatian) '14~'18 (WI)  
**Bertie** (Lab Retriever Mix) '14~'18 (LA)  
**Billy** (Italian Greyhound) '15~'19 (AZ)  
**Bingo** (Golden Retriever) '13~'19 (MS)  
**Bismarck** (Boxer) '11~'20 (CT)  
**Boo Boo Bear** (French Mastiff) '13~'20 (PA)  
**Boss Girl** (Great Pyrenees) '12~'18 (LA)  
**Bree** (Golden Retriever) '16~'17 (CA)  
**Buck** (Mini Poodle) '14~'20 (CA)  
**Cali** (Lab Retriever) '16~'19 (SC)  
**Carmine** (English Bulldog) '18~'20 (NY)  
**Charlie** (Goldendoodle) '12~'19 (KY)  
**Chase** (Port. Water Dog) '18~'20 (WI)  
**Chief** (Great Dane) '19~'20 (TX)  
**Chubby** (English Bulldog) '12~'19 (NY)  
**Cinnamon** (Chihuahua) '11~'19 (OH)  
**Clementine** (Labradoodle) '17~'19 (KY)  
**Coco** (Rottweiler) '16~'19 (IL)  
**Cooper** (Goldendoodle) '15~'19 (IN)  
**Cornelius** (Florida Whit Rabbit) '18~'20 (CA)  
**Cosmo** (Goldendoodle) '10~'20 (MO)  
**Dani** (Golden Retriever) '14~'19 (CA)  
**Denver** (Aussie Shepherd) '10~'19 (CA)  
**Dexter** (Labrador Retriever) '09~'19 (CA)  
**Dexter** (Wire Fox Terrier) '13~'19 (CA)  
**Dilly** (Golden Retriever) '18~'20 (NC)  
**Dixie** (Golden Retriever) '18~'19 (KY)  
**Donny** (Whippet) '09~'19 (CA)  
**Duke** (Golden Retriever) '17~'19 (CA)  
**Echo** (Aussie Shepherd Mix) '11~'20 (PA)  
**Einstein** (Goldendoodle) '17~'19 (IN)  
**Eleanor** (Pet Basset Griffon Vendéen) '16~'20 (NE)  
**Ellee** (English Mastiff) '18~'19 (WA)  
**Elsa** (Bouvier Des Flandres) Mar-Nov '19 (IN)

**Emma** (Lab Retriever Mix) '09~'19 (AL)  
**Flirt** (Cocker Spaniel) '13~'20 (CA)  
**Gabriel** (Shetland Sheepdog) '16~'19 (IN)  
**Ginger** (Wheaton Scottish Terrier) '09~'19 (CA)  
**Ginger** (Shih Tzu) '16~'19 (CA)  
**Gladys** (Irish Wolfhound) '16~'20 (IA)  
**Gracie** (Irish Jack Russell Terrier) '16~'19 (CO)  
**Gracie** (Golden Retriever) '17~'19 (IN)  
**Guss** (German Shepherd) '13~'20 (MO)  
**Hana** (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel) '16~'20 (IA)  
**Happy** (Yorkshire Terrier) '13~'20 (CA)  
**Hazzard** (Lab Retriever) '12~'19 (SC)  
**Henry** (Cockapoo) '12~'20 (CA)  
**Ice** (Shetland Sheepdog) '16~'19 (MA)  
**Indy** (Golden Retriever) '16~'17 (CA)  
**Jack** (Mixed) '14~'17 (MS)  
**Jonah** (Great Pyrenees) '08~'19 (CA)  
**Jonah** (Lab Retriever) '16~'20 (WA)  
**Joy** (Yorkshire Terrier) '13~'20 (CA)  
**Kadie** (Miniature Schnauzer) '06~'19 (MO)  
**Kate** (Torbie Cat) '16~'20 (MO)  
**Kelly** (Golden Retriever) '18~'20 (CA)  
**Kevin** (Dwarf Hotot Mix Rabbit) '19~'20 (CA)  
**Kingston** (Leonberger) '18~'19 (KY)  
**Kona** (Golden Retriever) '09~'19 (CA)  
**Kona Blue** (Toy Aussie Shepherd) '14~'19 (WA)  
**Kringle** (Golden Retriever) '16~'19 (IL)  
**Kuyu** (Rhodesian Ridgeback) '15~'19 (CA)  
**Kuzco** (Lab Retriever) '16~'20 (CA)  
**Lacy** (Yorkshire Terrier) '10~'19 (FL)  
**Leia** (Samoyed) '16~'20 (NE)  
**Leonardo** (Weimaraner) '14~'19 (NY)  
**Leroy Brown** (Lab Retriever) '17~'20 (NE)  
**Lexie** (Irish Terrier) '18~'19 (MI)  
**Lizzie** (Shih Apso Poo Mix) '13~'19 (IN)  
**Lola** (Golden Retriever) '13~'20 (CA)  
**Lorcan** (Golden Retriever) '16~'19 (NY)  
**Lucy** (Flat-Coated Retriever/Lab Mix) '15~'19 (CA)  
**Mabel** (Beagle) '17~'19 (WI)  
**Mackey** (Lab Retriever) '13~'20 (CO)  
**Maddie** (Chipin) '11~'20 (CA)  
**Maddux** (Golden Retriever) '10~'19 (CA)  
**Mannie** (Mini Aussie Shepherd) '15~'20 (TN)  
**Marley** (Great Dane) '14~'19 (TN)  
**Maya** (Golden Retriever) '16~'20 (KY)  
**Meggie** (Golden Retriever) '11~'19 (CA)  
**Mila** (Eng Cream Golden Retriever) '18~'19 (CA)  
**Missy** (Mixed) '17~'19 (KY)  
**Mohawk** (Cane Corso Mastiff) '17~'19 (CA)  
**Mollie** (Maltipoo) '13~'19 (CA)

**Moose** (Lab Retriever) '15~'19 (MA)  
**Mya** (Golden Retriever) '18~'19 (IN)  
**Myia** (American Bully) '15~'19 (NC)  
**Niko** (Pembroke Welsh Corgi) '18~'19 (CA)  
**Nivy** (Shetland Sheepdog) '14~'19 (NC)  
**Noah** (Rough Collie) '15~'19 (MD)  
**Nola** (Golden Retriever) '13~'19 (FL)  
**Nugget** (Chihuahua Mix) '12~'20 (CA)  
**Oakley** (Labradoodle) '15~'19 (NC)  
**Ole Man Ben** (Lab/Hound Mix) '17~'19 (NC)  
**Oliver** (Pembroke Welsh Corgi) '09~'19 (CA)  
**Oliver** (Cav King Charles Spaniel) '13~'19 (AZ)  
**Oliver** (Golden Retriever) '13~'20 (ME)  
**Otis** (Puggle) '11~'19 (CA)  
**Peaches** (English Bulldog) '19~'20 (CA)  
**Penny** (Golden Retriever) '13~'19 (CA)  
**Pepper** (Standard Poodle) '10~'19 (NC)  
**Pete** (Golden Retriever) '17~'20 (IN)  
**Pica Boo** (Golden Retriever) '15~'20 (CA)  
**Pierre** (Standard Poodle) '09~'20 (CA)  
**Pretty Girl** (Standard Poodle) '15~'19 (CA)  
**Prince** (Standard Poodle) '08~'19 (CA)  
**Prue** (Belgian Malinois) '14~'20 (AR)  
**Quigley** (German Shepherd) '12~'19 (WA)  
**Ranger** (Lab Retriever) '15~'18 (KY)  
**Razzle** (All American) '15~'19 (NC)  
**Reina** (Standard Poodle) '18~'19 (IN)  
**Remington** (Old English Sheepdog) '13~'20 (KY)  
**Riley** (Golden Retriever) '10~'19 (CA)  
**Riley** (Golden Retriever) '13~'19 (NC)  
**Rocco** (Yorkshire Terrier) '13~'19 (AZ)  
**Roxie** (Lab Retriever) '16~'19 (NY)  
**Roxie Rae** (Golden Retriever) '11~'19 (TX)  
**Rudy** (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel) '08~'17 (CA)  
**Rudy** (Wire-Haired Dachshund) '11~'20 (CA)  
**Ruger** (Doberman Pinscher) '16~'20 (KY)  
**Ruger** (Akita) '17~'20 (WA)  
**Ryker** (Lab Retriever) '16~'19 (LA)  
**Sadie** (Papillon) '11~'20 (CA)  
**Sadie** (Maltipoo) '18~'19 (MI)  
**Sam Rock** (Bernese Mt Dog Mix) '14~'19 (WA)  
**Sampson** (Golden Retriever) '11~'18 (NJ)  
**Sassy** (Lab Retriever) '13~'19 (NC)  
**Sedona** (Golden Retriever) '13~'19 (CA)  
**Shiloh** (Golden Retriever) '13~'18 (CA)  
**Smooch** (Aussie Labradoodle) '06~'19 (MS)  
**Sneakers** (Shih-Poo) '13~'16 (TX)  
**Sophie** (Dachshund) '12~'19 (NY)  
**Sophie** (Golden Retriever) '17~'19 (CA)  
**Sophie** (Aussie Shepherd) '17~'19 (KY)



# Till We Meet Again...

**Suzie Q** (Cairn Terrier Mix) '19~'20 (NY)

**Tahoe** (Great Dane) '10~'19 (WA)

**Tater** (Lab Retriever) '15~'20 (CA)

**Tazo** (Malamute) '09~'19 (CA)

**Teddie** (Puginese) '09~'20 (IN)

**Teddy** (Mini Poodle) '05~'19 (CA)

**Teddy** (Great Pyrenees) '12~'18 (CA)

**Teddy** (Aussie Retriever) '14~'19 (CA)

**Thor** (Siberian Husky) '17~'19 (NY)

**Tika** (Golden Retriever) '16~'20 (WA)

**Titan** (Golden Retriever) '11~'18 (WA)

**Trinity** (Chow Chow) '10~'19 (MO)

**Ursa** (Bouvier Des Flandres) '14~'20 (ME)

**Waggs** (Miniature Schnauzer) '19~'20 (KY)

**Webber** (Golden Retriever) '17~'19 (VA)

**Whitney** (Standard Poodle) '15~'20 (LA)

**Will** (Golden Retriever) '13~'20 (FL)

**Winston** (Great Weimar) '10~'20 (AZ)

**Winston** (Goldendoodle) '12~'19 (LA)

**Xena** (Yorkshire Terrier) '17~'19 (CA)

**Zodio** (Germ Shep Rottweiler Mix) '17~'19 (CA)

## Farewell to Beautiful Souls

Sometimes we must say goodbye to members that have had a huge impact in our local communities. Their untimely loss has been felt deeply, and they will be greatly missed. "Goodbyes are not forever, Goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean I'll miss you, Until we meet again."

**Deborah Van Gelder** was a Love on a Leash member from 2001 - 2019 with 6 Australian Shepherd therapy dogs and 1 Miniature Dachshund over the course her membership, and they all started with the letter "D". She established the Paws 4 Happiness chapter (now East Valley, encompassing the Redlands/Riverside area of CA) in 2004. Deborah sadly passed away last May from ALS complications. The following tributes were submitted by fellow member and good friend Dr. Joan Koerper, and current East Valley chapter leader, Cherry Bordelon.

"I met Deborah in the early 2000's while I was the principal of Redlands Adult School. Being a dog lover and owner, I hired her to teach dog obedience classes at the adult school which she did for several years. She was our chapter leader for over 15 years and introduced so many dog owners to pet therapy. We had a thriving chapter and through her connections and tenacity, we participated in library programs for children, children's fairs, health fairs, schools, and local parades where our group won awards for our floats. We visited people at many skilled nursing facilities, Alzheimer's facilities and hospitals, including a local mental health hospital. Her respect and love for our military veterans resulted in many of us volunteering at the local Veterans' Hospital for many years. Her legacy carries on as we continue to make pet therapy visits and enlarge our sphere of service in our community. She was our trainer and leader, and an inspiration to serve." – Cherry Bordelon

"Deborah was an outstanding dog educator/trainer, and person, who was responsible for educating and evaluating me as first a dog owner/partner, then both of my licensed service dogs, certified therapy dogs, and many other human/dog partners. Having her walk into my life, literally, at a Pet Smart, as my dog, Sage, was completely controlling me, was one of the best things that ever happened to me...and Sage!

We co-founded the original Read-to-Me group at the Highland Library in San Bernardino County, CA, in 2002. Seventeen years later, children still gather monthly at that location to read to, and learn about, dogs. Deborah was 100% dedicated to protecting and advocating for animals, and was always educating the public about their intelligence. She arranged for floats honoring service and therapy dogs in parades, and innumerable other events/activities that raised their profiles and acceptance in the community-at-large. Deb fought for the legal rights of people with disabilities to have service animals with them in public and workplaces. She inspired many to become Love on a Leash members.

Deborah embodied and demonstrated what Austrian Nobel Prize winner Konrad Lorenz wrote, "The bond with a true dog is as lasting as the ties of this earth will ever be," and "The fidelity of a dog is a precious gift demanding no less binding moral responsibilities than the friendship of a human being." I am eternally grateful for her presence in our lives and this world. She left us way to early, but gave us gifts of love, understanding, and commitment." – Dr. Joan Koerper

† May 2019




**Deborah and Denver.**





# In Gratitude

## Lake County Chapter

**Palatine, IL** – A few members from our Love on a Leash Lake County chapter were awarded Certificates of Appreciation by staff from the Northside Catholic Academy. Pictured left to right are Christie Wolf (who visits with her Bernedoodle, Dexter), Elaine Hardeman (who visits with her Goldendoodle, Dallas), and Janet Sieben (who visits with her Golden Retriever, Maple). Although our teams never visit for the recognition, they do appreciate being invited to visit and put smiles on so many faces. – *submitted by Marianne Guinee, former Lake County Chapter Leader and member since 2017* 



*Submitted by Linda Bolen, St. Charles (MO) Chapter Leader and member since 2010.*

Dear Linda,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for the amazing visit yesterday! For this being our first time participating in your program, we were very impressed and so excited! The kids and teachers had so much fun visiting with the dogs, and learning about them. The program that you provide to our community is such an important piece of bringing happiness and joy to those that may need it most! From visiting schools and allowing children to read to the dogs without feeling pressure, to visiting retirement communities and bringing smiles to their faces and love in their hearts, it is just an amazing program overall! Ruby, Maia, Bhreagha, and Neela did a fantastic job as well. The kids could not get enough of them, and frankly neither could the teachers! They were all so well-behaved and mild tempered, and the caretakers of the dogs did a wonderful job as well. They had great information to give to the children and kept it on their level, as well as being patient through the many questions and sharing their dogs with us. I truly cannot say enough wonderful things about the program and what you all do each and every day! We thank you very much for providing such a feel good experience to the children and faculty of our school! What you do makes a difference in the lives of all those you encounter and leaves them with a loving feeling and an impression to last a lifetime! Thank you again, and we look forward to having you all back out to our school again soon!

Warmest Regards,

Ashley Davis

Curriculum Director

The Goddard School (St. Charles, MO)

Every now and then we receive heartwarming reminders of how much our organization matters. Have you or your chapter received Recognition or Thank You's from grateful folks. Share the LOVE! Send to [newsletter@loveonaleash.org](mailto:newsletter@loveonaleash.org). 