



# NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024 🍁



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

Vince Cupo - President

Margaret Eggers - Vice President

Susie Blake - Secretary/Membership

Janet Herron - Treasurer

Sue Subkow - Chapters Coordinator

Beth Hulsart

Julie Hernandez

Deb Lee

Theresa Schwarz

Ana Cianciola

## Inside this Issue...

### Regular Features:

Taking Care of Biz .....[2](#)

Guidelines.....[3](#)

Shop Online.....[4](#)

Spread the Word.....[4](#)

Video .....[5](#)

Presentation .....[5](#)

Trading Cards .....[6](#)

Bookmarks.....[6](#)

Book .....[6](#)

By the Numbers .....[7](#)

Newest Chapters .....[7](#)

Pet Panel.....[8](#)

Phone Volunteers.....[8](#)

Advanced Therapy

Degrees.....[14-17](#)

Recognition Patches [18-19](#)

Rainbow Bridge .....[20-21](#)

In Memoriam .....[21](#)

In Gratitude .....[22](#)

### Featured Stories:

Chapter Spotlight.....[9-10](#)

New Board Member.....[11](#)

New Admin Asst.....[11](#)

Comfort/Trick Show .....[12](#)

Library Visit.....[13](#)

*\*In some browsers, page hyperlinks may only be active when newsletter downloaded.*

## From the Board

**We are thrilled to announce the relaunch of the Love on a Leash® quarterly newsletter!** After a brief hiatus, our beloved publication is returning to keep you informed, inspired and connected with all the incredible work you do with your Therapy Dogs, Therapy Cats and Therapy Rabbits.

As we resume our newsletter, we want to take a moment to extend our heartfelt gratitude to every one of you. Your unwavering commitment and dedication to your therapy animals are commendable and the backbone of our mission. You play a crucial role in spreading joy, comfort and healing to countless individuals you visit. Your tireless efforts and loving bonds with your furry four-legged companions make our Love on a Leash Organization so special.

We can't wait to share with you what we have in store for our upcoming issues. Get ready for some inspiring and informative content!

💙 **Heartwarming Success Stories:** Share and read about your therapy pets' positive impacts in communities nationwide.

💙 **Membership Guidelines:** Stay updated and informed with any changes or enhancements to the Love on a Leash Membership Guidelines.

💙 **Member Spotlights:** Meet fellow members and their amazing therapy animals. Discover the unique ways they are making a difference.

💙 **Upcoming Events and Announcements:** Stay informed on everything Love on a Leash and other opportunities to connect and learn.

We are so excited to embark on this new chapter with you and celebrate the wonderful contributions you and your therapy animals bring to the world. Your stories and experiences are the heart of our organization and we are committed to sharing them with everyone. We're here to support you every step of the way.

Again, thank you for your passion, dedication and the boundless love you bring to your work. Look for Love on a Leash® virtual events in the upcoming year! These events will be designed to keep you connected, engaged and inspired, no matter where you are.

With heartfelt appreciation,

— Vince Cupo, President, Love on a Leash®



# 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/>

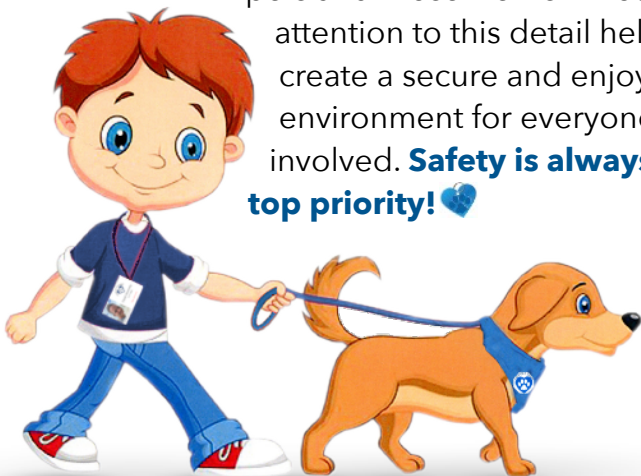
We will always notify our members when revisions are published and the newsletter will endeavor to highlight those revisions in this section.

**It is important to remember that any Love on a Leash® member who fails to comply with Membership Guidelines is subject to revocation of membership. 💙**

### Leash Rules for a Safe Visit

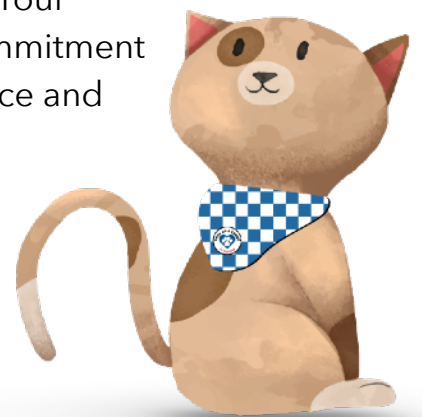
Friendly reminder: please remember to keep a firm hold of your **4-foot leash** throughout your visit, even while taking photos. This small step not only keeps you insurance compliant, it is crucial to ensure the safety and well-being of us, our

pets and those we visit. Your attention to this detail helps us create a secure and enjoyable environment for everyone involved. **Safety is always our top priority!** 💙



### Visit Etiquette

To keep our visits running smoothly and ensure everyone has a great experience, please remember to RSVP, arrive on time and stay for the whole visit. If something comes up and you need to cancel, letting your Visit Captain know as early as possible helps them make adjustments. Your punctuality and commitment make a big difference and we appreciate your help in keeping things organized and fun for everyone! 💙





# Shop Online for Love on a Leash® Gear

Step out in style your in-person visits with Love on a Leash embroidered apparel and accessories. Log into your account <https://www.loveonaleash.org/my-account/>, click on "Order Merchandise" in the left margin and then click on the Fully Promoted Love on a Leash® store link at the bottom of the page. If you live in the San Diego area, save on shipping and pop in to say "hello" to store owner Anu! **The store is open Mon-Fri**, and she loves meeting our members with their pets! Let us know if you have any favorite items or wish we carried something more!

*Our cinch backpack is perfect for therapy visits, combining style and practicality. Its sleek design and adjustable straps make it easy to carry your essentials while showcasing your support for our cause.*



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



*Keep your pet hydrated on the go with our water bowl! Featuring a non-slip base and our signature logo, it's perfect for keeping your furry friends refreshed during any outing.*



## 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 [assistant2@loveonaleash.org](mailto:assistant2@loveonaleash.org).

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







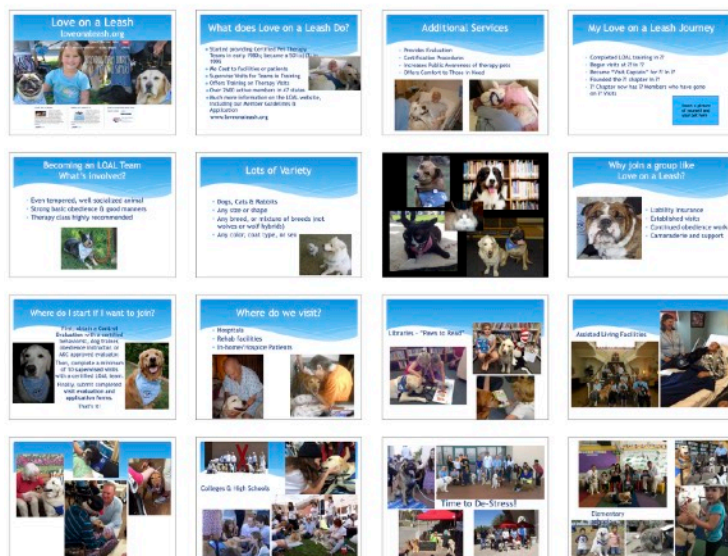
# Love on a Leash® Video Corner



Former Love on a Leash® Board member and Chapters Coordinator, Katharine Harvester, 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 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 photo releases are obtained. Download the presentation from the Helpful Documents page in the Member Area of our website.



# Fun Giveaways Adored by All Ages



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

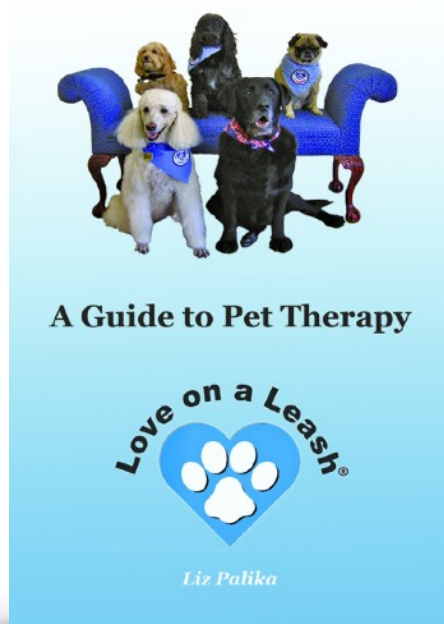
The order process is easy and the cards are very popular, especially with our younger fans.



Love on a Leash® bookmarks are also a big hit with our avid readers.

Available as single or double-sided;  
minimum order: 25 pcs.

**Log into your Member Account to order both the trading cards and bookmarks in the Order Merchandise section.**



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

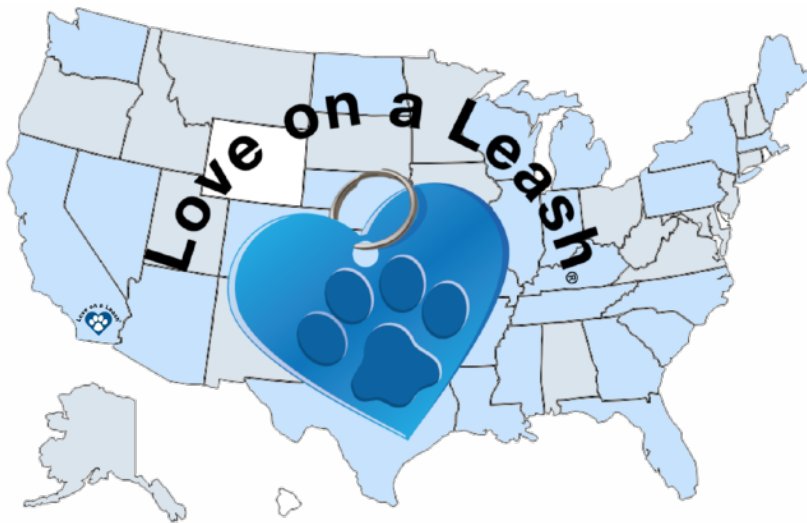
Written by our founder, Liz Palika, and chock-full of fundamental advice for anyone considering pet therapy, currently in training or newly certified. It's a great gift, too! Available directly from [Sunbelt Publications](https://www.sunbeltpublications.com) or [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).



# By the Numbers

As of September 2024, Love on a Leash® membership has gratefully recovered to pre-Pandemic levels. We once again have over **2,617** members in **46** states! Did you know that **81%** of our members belong to chapters? At this time we have **65** active chapters in **27** states. 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](#)!

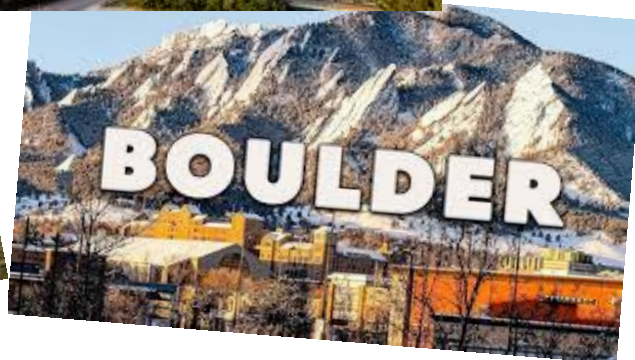


## Welcome to our Newest Chapters!

◆ Clearfield, PA

◆ Northern Colorado, CO

◆ Raleigh, NC



*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,

Treats are one of my favorite things! Why can't I have any while I'm at a visit?

– Signed, Pampered Pet 🐾

Dear Pampered Pet ,

Let's chat about a little detail that can make a big difference in pet therapy visits – treats! While treats are wonderful for rewarding our pets, they might not be the best choice during therapy sessions. Imagine this: your furry friend is there to spread joy and comfort, but if treats are involved, they might start focusing more on snacks than on snuggling and sharing those warm, fuzzy moments.

Plus, treats can introduce surprises, like allergies or unexpected behavior changes. We want our therapy visits to be as smooth and delightful as possible, so keeping the focus on genuine interaction ensures that both pets and the people they visit can fully enjoy the experience. So, let's keep those treats in the training jar and focus on the heartfelt connections that make therapy visits so special!

Paw-fully yours, 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).*



## ★ Join Our Phone Coverage Team! ★

We are excited to announce an opportunity for a dedicated member to join our Phone Coverage Team! We are looking for a volunteer to help cover our phone shift on Mondays.

As part of this team, you will play a vital role in ensuring that we are available to connect with current and future members and those who are interested in our services. This is a fantastic way to directly support our mission and make a positive impact on the lives of both people and pets.

If you are interested in contributing your time and a small part of your day to this important role, we would love to hear from you! Please email us at [assistant2@loveonaleash.org](mailto:assistant2@loveonaleash.org) for more details or to express your interest. Your involvement would not only enrich our organization but also strengthen the bonds within our community. 💙



Reggie (2015-2022)



# 👉 Chapter Spotlight: North San Diego County 👉

**Oceanside, CA** – Established in 2001, our North San Diego County Chapter is our oldest chapter and one of Love on a Leash's most dynamic. At the time, it was home to all San Diego County teams. It was not until 2006, after the chapter roster became very large, that San Diego Inland peeled off to form a new chapter focusing on East San Diego County and 2010 when San Diego Central spread its wings to form a new chapter focusing on South San Diego County. With a storied past and a vibrant present, this chapter continues to lead the way in pet therapy. We recently reached out to some of their dedicated leaders and members, and are thrilled to share their insights and stories with you.



**Susie and Beth : Leading with Passion** – As the chapter's current co-leaders, Susie and Beth play pivotal roles in guiding the North San Diego County Chapter. Their dedication and leadership are key to the chapter's ongoing success and growth. **Susie Blake** has brought a wealth of experience and energy to her role. As a 19-year Love on a Leash® veteran, Susie explains how the chapter accommodates a range of visit types, from one-on-one interactions to larger group events. They handle all types of visits based on the needs of the facility or event. Their use of Meetup for scheduling makes it easy for their 236 members to sign up and stay organized. Meetup is a fantastic tool for managing their diverse range of activities.

Susie also highlights the variety of events the chapter engages in, including health fairs and even attending funerals when requested. Participating in such diverse events shows how trusted and valued their therapy teams are in the community. Social gatherings are another opportunity for teams to get to know each other outside official visits. The chapter has enjoyed group walks at Oceanside Harbor and Batiquitos Lagoon. These outings are a great way for members to connect and enjoy each other's company.



**Beth Hulsart** provides a valuable perspective on the chapter's history and current activities. North San Diego County is the birthplace of what is now a national organization. It is incredible to see how they have grown over 23 years from a small passionate group of individuals into a large, active chapter with over 200 teams.

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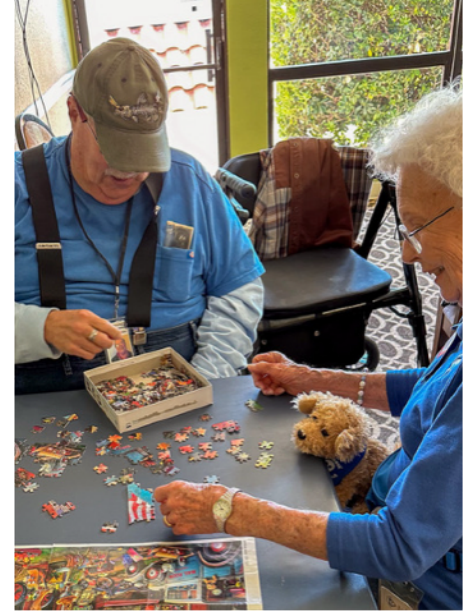


## 👉 Chapter Spotlight ctd: North County San Diego 👉

Beth meets with almost every new team in training and emphasizes the chapter's involvement in a variety of settings, including retirement communities, schools and special events like Legoland trips. Visits are tailored to fit the needs of each facility. Whether it's a large event at a college or a more intimate setting, they adapt their approach to make the most impact.

**Janet and Mary : Honoring Past Leadership** – **Janet Downer** and **Mary Gleisberg**, former leaders of the chapter, have both made significant contributions to the chapter's growth and success. Mary's decade of leadership (2011-2021) helped shape the chapter's expansion and impact all over North County. Although Janet only led the chapter for a brief 7 months, her 10 years of service have been a personal journey, "My reason for getting into doing it was for children with learning differences. So, you're going to see me gravitate to more schools to help kids' reading. I have a grandson who has dyslexia, so he's the reason I do therapy work. He had a therapy dog that would come to his school and it's the only thing that gave him confidence to learn to read."

Mary's contributions as chapter leader built on her predecessor, Gina Austin's previous decade of founding groundwork, ensuring the chapter's growth & success. Over 23 years, the members who committed to lead this historic chapter have been instrumental in preserving this strong foundation and ensuring it continues to thrive.



The North San Diego County Chapter also has some amazing long-term members who have taken on leadership roles and helped to grow the community that they are able to serve. One of these dedicated members is **Beverly Hodges** (pictured above), who has been a member since 2002, certifying first with her standard poodle, Molly, and later with her miniature poodle, Kiwi. When she lost Kiwi a few years ago, around the time she turned 90 years old, she concluded that it was not prudent to adopt another dog. Instead, Bev continues her weekly voluntary visits at Pacifica Vista and Laguna Estates with a plushie she named Kiwi.

She is not only an inspiration to new teams, but also to the seniors she visits and engages with a game of "Kiwi toss" to promote hand-eye coordination and puzzle time to encourage conversation. Bev is vibrant, always has a sparkle in her eye, and brings joy to every visit. 💙





# Welcome to our Newest Board Member!

Hi, My name is **Ana** and, along with my 6 year old frenchie **Dexter**, we have been volunteering with Love on a Leash® for two years. I found this wonderful organization on a hunt for a way to volunteer with my best boy. Dexter was already a fully trained medical-alert Service Dog for me and Love on a Leash® was one of the only animal therapy organizations that allowed a dog to be both. It did not take Dexter long to understand that wearing his Therapy Dog bandana meant he could spread love to others and that his Service Dog vest meant he only had one task... keep me safe.

I have been married to my best friend for 34 years and we have two grown children that are my whole heart. Dexter and I spend most of our time visiting the Marines at our local USMC base. These amazing young men and women have become another family to us and we are so honored to be able to lower their stress and make them smile. We also have ongoing visits to schools, women's shelters and teen centers within our own community. I have loved everything about volunteering with Love on a Leash® and I look forward to many more years ahead! 💙



## New Administrative Assistant



Hi! I am **Robbi**. I am so excited to introduce myself as the newest member of the National Love on a Leash® team! For the past year, I have had the wonderful experience of volunteering with Love on a Leash® with my two Pomeranians, **Kimchi** and **Noon**. It's been incredibly rewarding to see the joy and comfort we bring to those we visit, and it's been just as beneficial for me. Volunteering has added so much meaning to my life and I am grateful for the chance to contribute to such a great cause.

I am also a graphic design student, which I find really complements my creative side. My journey started in South Dakota, took me to Alaska where I completed my teaching degree, and eventually led me to sunny California in search of new adventures. I look forward to connecting with all of you and continuing to make a positive impact together! 💙



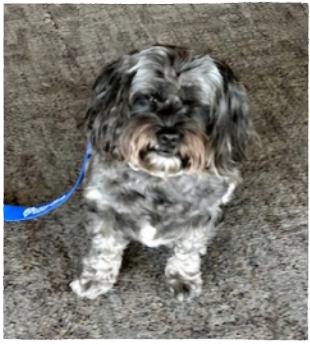
# Comfort in Grief

August 28th, 2024 **South Central Indiana**

In a heartwarming display of compassion, pet therapy teams **Ken G** and his dog **Clancy**, and **Marian K** and her dog **Bear** recently made a significant impact at a visit to a funeral home. This was a first-time experience for both dogs and they rose to the occasion beautifully.

Ken G shared that Clancy quickly became a comforting presence for the grieving family. "The family was really shaken after the sudden loss of their father," Ken said. "Clancy worked the room, bringing smiles and solace, and even the staff warmed up to him."

Marian K also noted how much the family, especially the kids, appreciated the dogs. "The teenage girls were particularly fond of Clancy," she mentioned. It is truly heartwarming how our therapy dogs, like Clancy and Bear, provide not only joy but also comfort during difficult times. Their gentle presence highlights the special bond between people and their furry friends, offering a bit of light in the midst of sorrow. 💙



## Reading and a Trick Show

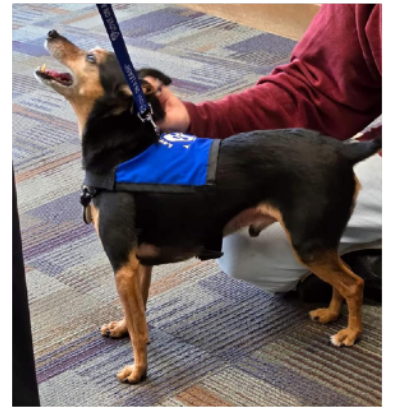
**Oliver** the Schnauzer and his owner, **Donna Burns**, are a vibrant therapy team spreading joy and laughter at reading events! With Oliver showcasing around 200 tricks – ranging from dribbling a basketball and skating on a board to his playful bunny hops – every appearance is a delightful spectacle. His standout tricks include a dramatic "play dead" routine and a charming Kleenex trick, where he wipes Donna's nose and tosses the tissue away with flair. Together, Donna and Oliver transform each event into a fun-filled, magical experience, combining their playful antics with a heartfelt mission to support reading and emotional well-being. 💙





# Howard County Chapter Library Visit

"We had an awesome visit at the library Saturday. There were 4 us which was really nice, and there were a good number of kids and adults who came to see the pets and a couple did some reading. Joining **Sugar** and me [**Annette**], were **Paula & Scooter**, **Katie & Honey**, and **Deborah & Toby**, who did their first official visit at the library, since becoming certified. The hour went by really fast, as we were kept busy with a rewarding visit. Deborah told me afterwards that she thought it was a lot of fun!"



A newly certified team, Deborah & Toby (above) loved their time at the library! "It was such a joy personally to me just to watch it all and see Toby enjoy it. I haven't smiled so much for that long in a long time. I loved it! We definitely will be going back. I think it was therapy for me."



After spending a year in a foster home Honey (above) was adopted by Katie! After lots of training and TLC from Katie, Honey has become an amazing therapy dog (who also loves pup cups)!

"This past visit, a little girl was enamored with her. She sat with us for about 30 minutes just talking to Honey...not really talking to me... just Honey," said Kathryn.



"It is a very enjoyable place to visit and the kids just LOVE seeing the animals. We had 3 dogs and a cat at our recent visit. The kids AND adults as well of them know some of our pets by name, and when they walk in, they call them by name! It is wonderful to know how much it means to them and how they look forward to the week we are there."

- Annette Shelly, Howard County chapter leader





# 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 how to earn this award, please log into your [Member Account](#) and navigate to Helpful Documents.



## ThD (c:rp)

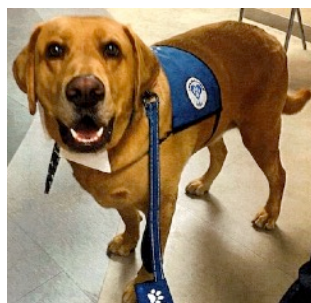
### Children: Reading Programs



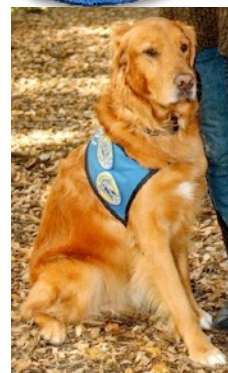
**Augustus (Gus)** (WA) - Feb '23



**Freya** (MO) - May '24



**JoBo** (MO) - Apr '24



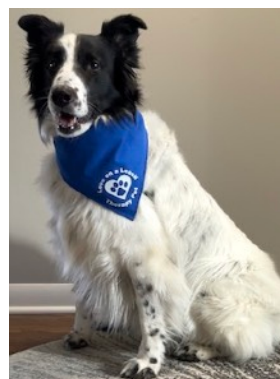
**Jesse James** (CA) - Jun '24



**Oliver** (WA) - Apr '21



**Rocky** (ND) - Sep '21



**Spirit** (IL) - Feb '24



**Zara** (MN) - Dec '22

## ThD (hcv)

### Hospice Care Visits



**Riggs** (WA) - Apr '24



**Tucker** (MI) - Apr '23

## ThD (vt)

### Veteran Therapy



**Ally** (WI) - Mar '22



**Greta** (CA) - Aug '22

*\*Unless indicated otherwise, all pets are active as of this publication; dates indicate when degree was earned.*



*Congratulations!*

Love on a Leash® - NEWSLETTER  
Fall 2024, Vol 3, Issue 2, Page 14 of 22  
[www.loveonaleash.org](http://www.loveonaleash.org)  
P.O. Box 4548, Oceanside, CA 92052-4548



# Advanced Therapy Degrees continued

ThD (e:sv)

Elderly: Social Visits



**Banner** (CA) - May '23



**Bella** (WA) - Aug '23



**Frankie** (WA) - Apr '21



**George** (WI) - Mar '24



**Harley** (CA) - Jul '23



**Michael** (WA) - Dec '23



**Mo** (NY) - Oct '20



**Mouse** (WA) - Jan '23



**Narwhal** (TN) - Feb '24



**Noon** (CA) - Apr '24



**PJ** (WA) - Sep '23



**Seca** (CA) - Nov '22



**Thumnus** (FL) - Sep '24

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Fall 2024, Vol 3. Issue 2, Page 15 of 22  
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# Advanced Therapy Degrees continued

ThD (ht)

## Hospital Therapy



**Dutch** (CA) - Feb '24



**Eros** (NY) - Mar '22



**Sky** (ND) - Dec '23



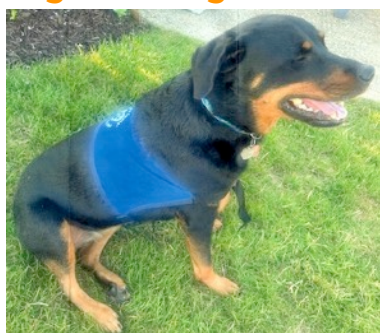
**Maia** (MO) - Sep '24



**Ellie** (NC) - Dec '23

ThD (tcs:sr)

## Teenagers/College Stress Relief



**Emma** (IN) - Sep '21



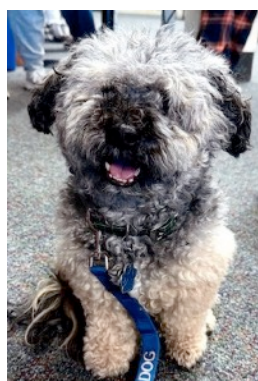
## 4 Degrees



**Winnie** ret. (WA) Aug '14 ~ Jun '24

- 1. ht (Jan '19)      2. c:rp (Jan '19)
- 3. hcv (Mar '19)    4. e:sv (Mar '19)

## 3 Degrees



**Chevy** (ME)

- 1. c:rp (Aug '22)
- 2. sev (Aug '22)
- 3. tcs:sr (Feb '24)



**Comet** (CA)

- 1. ht (Dec '23)
- 2. c:rp (Dec '23)
- 3. e:sv (Jun '24)



**Jake** (KS)

- 1. c:rp (Jul '24)
- 2. e:sv (Jul '24)
- 3. hcv (Jul '24)



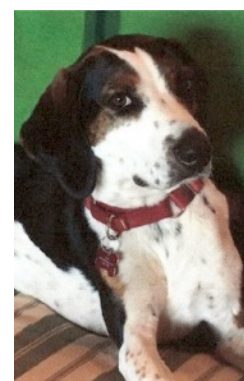
**Ray** (NY)

- 1. ht (Aug '22)
- 2. e:sv (Aug '22)
- 3. tcs:sr (Jul '24)



**Scarlett** (SC)

- 1. e:sv (Nov '22)
- 2. c:rp (Dec '23)
- 3. ht (Dec '23)



**Zuni** (CA)

- 1. c:rp (Jan '18)
- 2. e:sv (Mar '19)
- 3. tcs:sr (May '22)



Congratulations!

\*Unless indicated otherwise, all pets are active as of this publication; dates indicate when degree was earned.

Love on a Leash® - NEWSLETTER  
Fall 2024, Vol 3. Issue 2, Page 16 of 22  
[www.loveonaleash.org](http://www.loveonaleash.org)  
P.O. Box 4548, Oceanside, CA 92052-4548



# Advanced Therapy Degrees continued



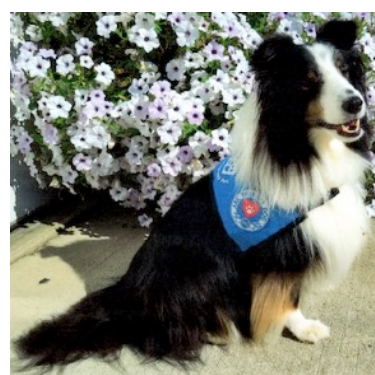
**Bärli (WA)**  
1. e:sv (Jan '24)  
2. hcv (Apr '24)



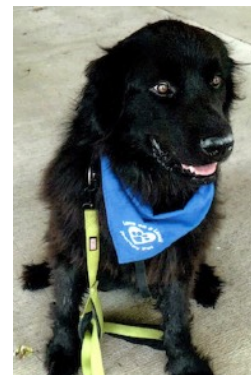
**Bueller ret. (MS)**  
1. e:sv (Jan '24)  
2. hcv (Apr '24)



**Cookie (SC)**  
1. ht (Aug '23)  
2. e:sv (Oct '23)



**Jet (WA)**  
1. ht (Jul '23)  
2. e:sv (Sep '23)



**Joy (TX)**  
1. e:sv (Jul '23)  
2. c:rp (Oct '23)



**Koda (KY)**  
1. e:sv (Mar '23)  
2. c:rp (Mar '23)



**Lincoln (KS)**  
1. c:rp (Sep '24)  
2. e:sv (Sep '24)



**Mac (IN)**  
1. cdt (Sep '22)  
2. vt (Jun '23)



**Promise (CA)**  
1. e:sv (Dec '22)  
2. c:rp (Dec '22)



**Sadie (KS)**  
1. e:sv (Dec '23)  
2. c:rp (Apr '24)



**Sasha (CA)**  
1. vt (May '22)  
2. e:sv (Jun '24)

*Congratulations!*

*\*Unless indicated otherwise, all pets are active as of this publication; dates indicate when degree was earned.*





# Sandi Stewart Therapy Pet Recognition

Sandi Stewart Therapy Pet Recognition patches from Love on a Leash® are available to teams once they become certified. Sandi Stewart served as a Love on a Leash® Board member, and ultimately penned documentation about therapy work with rabbits. Sandi left a lasting legacy with a generous bequest to Love on a Leash®. In 2022, we proudly introduced this program and these patches in her honor, recognizing our pets' selfless service bringing love and comfort to those in need in our communities. To learn more about how to earn this award, please log into your [Member Account](#) and navigate to Helpful Documents.



**Sara, Dan-O & Jerry (IN)**



**Doug & Doogie (IN)**



**Valencia reading to Jonah (CA)**



**Lily Lou & Pam (MO)**  
600 visits!



**Mary, Robert & Ray (NY)**



**Thumnus & Wayne (FL)**



**Pamela & Promise (CA)**



**Charlene & Ellie (NC)**



**Beverly & Winnie (WA)**  
600 visits!



**Dale & Bella (WA)**



**Bueller ret. & David (MS)**



**Lori & Comet (CA)**



**Wayne & Aslan (FL)**



**Wayne & Cookie (SC)**





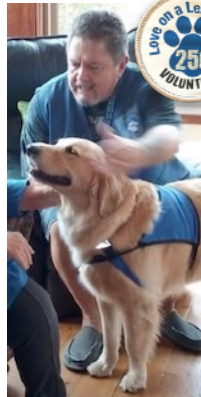
# Sandi Stewart Therapy Pet Recognition continued



Harley & Tina (CA)



Remy & Karen (CA)



Tessa & Greg (CA)



Barbara & Azzi (CA)



Kylo & Karen (CA)



Pam & Kate (CA)



Anastasia & Chevy (ME)



Lynda & Jake (KS)



Mindy & Jesse James (CA)



Leah & Lincoln (KS)



Cathy & Molly (IN)



Lee & Mouse (WA)



Justine & Ruthie (OR)



Peggy & PJ (WA)



Mary, Robert & Reggie ret. (NY)



Spirit & Sharon (IL)

*Congratulations on achieving these milestones!*



James & Tucker (MI)

*Happy Visiting!*





# Till We Meet Again...

As we go through the natural ebb and flow of life, we must inevitably say goodbye to some of our dearest friends. While it's hard to part with them, we take comfort in celebrating the wonderful life they led. We are so grateful for the joy they brought into our lives and for the way they shared their lively spirit with everyone around them. They will always be remembered fondly and missed dearly. Honoring the memory of those since our last Summer 2020 newsletter. **Years indicate service with Love on a Leash®.**

**Aggie** (Min Pin) '15-'21 (MO)  
**Aiko** (Alaskan Malamute) '15-'24 (CA)  
**Aja** (Tibetan Spaniel) '05-'20 (CA)  
**Annie** (Labrador Retriever) '16-'24 (CA)  
**Ashi** (Alaskan Malamute) '15-'24 (CA)  
**Athena Rose** (German Shepherd) '20-'21 (NJ)  
**Bailey** (Golden Retriever) '19-'22 (MS)  
**Bailey** (Cavalier King Charles Span) '12-'21 (MO)  
**Bailey** (Golden Retriever) '15-'21 (CA)  
**Bandit** (Border Heeler) '15-'22 (CA)  
**Barkley** (Cock-A-Tzu) '11-'21 (MO)  
**Barley** (Labrador Retriever) '15-'22 (CA)  
**Barney** (Dachshund Mix) '15-'24 (KY)  
**Bear** (Australian Shepherd) '14-'22 (CA)  
**Bella** (Labradoodle) '10-'20 (CA)  
**Bella** (Snorkie) '19-'24 (AZ)  
**Belle** (German Shepherd Dog) '17-'23 (CA)  
**Ben** (Portuguese Water Dog) '19-'21 (IN)  
**Bette** (Shetland Sheepdog) '16-'24 (CA)  
**Blue** (Golden Retriever) '15-'23 (CA)  
**Boogie Woogie** (Welsh Spring Span) '17-'20 (KY)  
**Bosley** (English Mastiff) '13-'21 (CA)  
**Brandi** (Hovawart) '11-'21 (MO)  
**Brandy** (Bulypit) '22-'24 (CA)  
**Brie** (Border Terrier) '18-'22 (WI)  
**Bub** (Chiweenie) '18-'23 (CA)  
**Bueller** (Morkie) '19-'23 (MS)  
**Buster** (Boxer) '20-'23 (NY)  
**Buster** (Shih Tzu) '23-'24 (IN)  
**Caelia** (German Shepherd Dog) '13-'23 (CA)  
**Caesar Augustus** (Golden Retriever) '15-'20 (KY)  
**Caleb** (Goldendoodle) '09-'22 (CA)  
**Callaway** (English Springer Spaniel) '21-'24 (MO)  
**Cami** (Doberman Pinscher) '19-'23 (CA)  
**Captain Fred** (Labrador Retriever) '15-'20 (NE)  
**Carrick** (Cairn Terrier) '11-'24 (MD)  
**Casey** (Belgian Sheepdog) '11-'22  
**Cashel** (Border Collie) '18-'24 (IL)  
**Cassie** (Golden Retriever) '11-'20 (CA)  
**Charlotte** (Golden Retriever) '19-'23 (SC)  
**Cheryl** (Golden Lab) '14-'24 (CA)  
**Christian** (Labrador Retriever) '13-'21 (NY)  
**Coastie** (Duck Tolling Retriever) '18-'23 (NC)  
**Comet** (Border Collie) '14-'21 (CO)  
**Copper** (Pembroke Welsh Corgi) '16-'21 (CA)  
**Cora** (Border Collie) '12-'24 (MO)  
**Crosby** (Golden Retriever) '16-'20 (CA)  
**Crystal** (Labrador Retriever) '11-'24 (CA)  
**Daisy** (Aussie Shep-Chihuahua mix) '15-'24 (CA)

**Daisy Schnebley** (Bichon Frisé) '14-'21 (NY)  
**Dancer** (Golden Retriever) '20-'21 (NC)  
**Dan-O** (Golden Retriever) '13-'23 (IN)  
**Darby** (Mini Rat Terrier) '13-'24 (CA)  
**Dayton** (Golden Retriever) '17-'22 (CA)  
**Desirae** (Pomeranian) '10-'23 (MO)  
**Dillon** (Labrador Retriever) '16-'23 (NE)  
**Dixie** (Dachshund) '17-'23 (NV)  
**Dolly** (Cockapoo mix) '20-'24 (CA)  
**Dominic** (American Pit Bull Terrier) '15-'23 (CA)  
**Dottie** (Cavalier King Charles Span) '14-'24 (CO)  
**Seamus** (Old English Sheepdog) '14-'23 (IL)  
**Duke** (Standard Poodle) '16-'21 (MO)  
**Duncan** (Labrador Retriever) '16-'22 (CA)  
**Eddie** (Miniature Schnauzer) '15-'20 (MO)  
**Eleanor** (Standard Poodle) '13-'23 (TX)  
**Ellie** (Mixed) '15-'23 (NC)  
**Elly Rae** (Cavalier King Charles Span) '17-'23 (AZ)  
**Elsa** (Boxer) '17-'21 (NY)  
**Ember** (Golden Retriever) '14-'20 (AR)  
**Emily** (Cavalier King Charles Span) '18-'24 (CA)  
**Emma** (Flat-Coated Retriever) '13-'22 (MO)  
**Emmy** (Golden Lab) '21-'23 (AZ)  
**Eva** (Portuguese Water Dog) '18-'24 (CA)  
**Evie** (Akita) '14-'21 (NC)  
**Faith** (Flat-Coated Retriever) '18-'22 (WA)  
**Finley** (Old English Sheepdog) '13-'21 (CA)  
**Frankie** (Golden Retriever) '15-'22 (ND)  
**Frazier** (Shih Tzu) '19-'20 (MO)  
**Frechdachs** (Doberman Pinscher) '19-'21 (NY)  
**Freya** (Newfoundland) '23-'24 (KY)  
**Furgus** (Goldendoodle) Jan-Mar '24 (WA)  
**Gertie** (All American Dog) '09-'21 (CA)  
**Gi Gi** (Samoyed) '15-'20 (IL)  
**Gina** (German Shepherd Dog) '22-'24 (CA)  
**Grace** (Basset Hound) '19-'24 (VA)  
**Gracie** (Saint Bernard) '15-'21 (NC)  
**Gretel** (Labrador Retriever mix) '15-'22 (NC)  
**Griffin** (Goldendoodle) '15-'23 (CA)  
**Gunner** (Norwegian Elkhound) '16-'23 (WA)  
**Gus** (Golden Lab) '17-'20 (NE)  
**Hana** (Mal-shi) '17-'24 (CA)  
**Happy** (Golden Retriever) '11-'20 (CA)  
**Harley** (Cockapoo) '16-'22 (CA)  
**Harley** (German Shepherd Dog) '16-'22 (MI)  
**Heidi** (Border Collie) '15-'23 (TX)  
**Henry** (Mini Wire-Haired Dachshund) '07-'21 (CA)  
**Holly** (Mini Poodle) '09-'21 (CA)  
**Holly** (Labrador Retriever mix) '14-'23 (CA)

**Honey Badger** (Maltese mix) '15-'20 (MO)  
**Houston** (Golden Retriever) '12-'22 (TN)  
**Hudson** (Golden Retriever) '16-'22 (CA)  
**Hunter** (Golden Lab) '11-'21 (MO)  
**Indy** (German Shepherd Dog) '16-'24 (CA)  
**Iris** (Labrador Retriever) '17-'23 (NY)  
**Jack** (Pugmatian) '14-'23 (CA)  
**Jade** (Collie-Gordon Setter mix) '09-'20 (MO)  
**JJ** (Shetland Sheepdog) '23-'24 (ND)  
**Johnnycake "Jett"** (Mini Schnauzer) '15-'21 (NY)  
**Joyce** (Labrador Retriever) '13-'23 (NY)  
**Kai** (American Bulldog mix) Feb-Nov '23 (WA)  
**Kali** (Pomeranian) '15-'24 (TN)  
**Kallie** (Keeshond) '15-'21 (NY)  
**Kasey** (Shetland Sheepdog) '18-'23 (UT)  
**Kashi** (Golden Lab) '14-'21 (CA)  
**Kenzie** (Border Terrier) '11-'22 (MO)  
**King Obi** (Great Pyrenees) '15-'21 (AR)  
**Kira** (Aussie mix) Feb-May '20 (AZ)  
**Kito** (Japanese Chin) '12-'20 (AZ)  
**Kobi** (Labrador Retriever) '17-'23 (IL)  
**Kodi** (German Shepherd mix) '14-'21 (CA)  
**Kozett** (Vizsla) '15-'19 (WI)  
**Kula** (Golden Retriever) Mar-Jul '23 (NC)  
**Kylie** (Labrador Retriever) '12-'22 (NC)  
**Laddie** (Yorkshire Terrier mix) '07-'20 (KY)  
**Lance** (Golden Retriever) '13-'24 (CA)  
**Lauren** (Golden Lab) '17-'21 (CA)  
**Leala** (All American Dog) '09-'21 (MS)  
**Lemme** (Mixed) '19-'22 (MS)  
**Lila** (Flat-Coated Retriever) '16-'21 (CA)  
**Lily Rose** (Golden Retriever) '13-'21 (CA)  
**Logan** (Rottweiler) '16-'20 (CA)  
**Lola** (Golden Retriever) '17-'24 (CA)  
**Louie** (French Bulldog) '16-'23 (CA)  
**Louis** (Goldendoodle) '18-'24 (MI)  
**Lucy** (Bagle Hound) '16-'21 (NE)  
**Lucy** (Beagle) '18-'24 (VA)  
**Luke** (Golden Retriever) '13-'21 (CA)  
**Mac** (Border Collie) '16-'24 (IN)  
**Macaroni** (Goldendoodle) '11-'22 (MO)  
**MacCoy (Mac)** (Irish Setter) '14-'16 (WI)  
**Maddie** (Maltese) '11-'20 (NC)  
**Maddie** (Labrador Retriever) '19-'21 (OK)  
**Maddie** (Golden Retriever) '14-'24 (CA)  
**Madison** (Australian Cattle Dog) '17-'21 (CA)  
**Maggie Moo** (Labrador Retriever mix) '14-'23 (IN)  
**Mara** (Bouvier Des Flandres) '16-'20 (CA)  
**Max** (Labrador Retriever mix) '19-'23 (KY)





# Till We Meet Again...

**Maxene** (Australian Shepherd) '13-'21 (AZ)  
**Maxwell** (Golden Retriever) '19-'24 (FL)  
**Meika** (Bernese Mountain Dog) '16-'22 (WA)  
**Mia** (Weimaraner) '18-'23 (MI)  
**Mikko** (Australian Shepherd) '19-'21 (CA)  
**Milagra** (Golden Retriever) '12-'20 (CA)  
**Milo** (Labrador Retriever) '11-'20 (CA)  
**Milo** (Golden Retriever) '14-'20 (IN)  
**Mimi** (Papillon) '14-'24 (WA)  
**Miranda** (Border Collie) '19-'22 (CA)  
**Miss Bella** (Pomeranian) '18-'22 (PA)  
**Missy** (Bich-Poo) '14-'24 (IN)  
**Mitzi** (Labrador Retriever) '19-'24 (CA)  
**Molly** (Standard Poodle) '13-'20 (MO)  
**Molly** (Rough Collie) '20-'24 (CA)  
**Mona** (Corsengi) '14-'20 (CA)  
**Morti** (Mini American Shepherd) '19-'21 (MO)  
**Mr. Bingley** (Cav King Charles Span) '14-'22 (PA)  
**Mr. Jake** (Golden Retriever) '18-'24 (MI)  
**Murphy** (Golden Retriever) '19-'23 (MI)  
**Murphy** (Golden Retriever) '12-'21 (IN)  
**My Girl Friday** (Shetland Sheepdog) '16-'22 (KY)  
**Nala** (Labrador Retriever) '16-'22 (CA)  
**Nala** (Pomeranian) '20-'24 (CA)  
**Natty** (Shepherd mix) '21-'23 (KS)  
**Neela** (Golden Retriever) '18-'22 (MO)  
**Nellie Sue** (Border Terrier) '18-'20 (AZ)  
**Oliver** (Rat Terrier) '08-'22 (KY)  
**Opal** (Mini Australian Shepherd) '16-'21 (MA)  
**Ora** (Golden Lab) '13-'23 (CA)  
**Oreo** (Dalmatian mix) '13-'23 (CA)  
**Orla** (Irish Golden) '19-'24 (CA)  
**Oscar** (Bernese Mountain Dog) '18-'23 (MI)  
**Panda** (Shetland Sheepdog) '20-'23 (MA)  
**Passion** (Border Collie) '17-'21 (TN)  
**Peanut** (Mini Bull Terrier) '18-'24 (NY)  
**Pearl** (Labrador Retriever) '16-'23 (MI)  
**Penelope** (Rat Terrier) '21-'22 (IA)  
**Penny** (English Labrador Retriever) '15-'21 (NE)

**Peppers** (French Bulldog) '19-'21 (NC)  
**Pepsi** (Labrador Retriever mix) '11-'21 (MO)  
**Petunia Grace** (Labrador Retriever) '13-'23 (MO)  
**Phantom** (Border Collie) '09-'19 (MO)  
**Phoebe** (Cairn Terrier) '15-'22 (KY)  
**Polly** (Alaskan Malamute) '19-'20 (CA)  
**Precious** (Standard Poodle) '11-'23 (CA)  
**Prince** (Welsh Corgi) '14-'20 (CA)  
**Puppet** (Samoyed) '19-'21 (MO)  
**Quincy** (Bernedoodle) '22-'23 (NY)  
**Ranger** (Labrador Retriever) '17-'24 (AZ)  
**Raylan** (Border Collie) '19-'23 (CA)  
**Reba** (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel) '18-'21 (LA)  
**Remy** (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel) '15-'24 (NY)  
**Rex** (German Shepherd) '11-'16 (TX)  
**Riley** (Siberian Husky mix) '19-'21 (TN)  
**Riley** (Labrador Retriever) '18-'21 (MO)  
**Riley Roux** (All American Dog) '17-'22 (LA)  
**Rocky** (Cockapoo) '08-'20 (AZ)  
**Rocky** (Labrador Retriever) '13-'22 (CA)  
**Rosie** (Golden Retriever) '20-'22 (NC)  
**Rosie** (Siberian Forest Cat) '14-'21 (FL)  
**Roxy** (Labrador Retriever) '17-'22 (LA)  
**Roxy Star** (Morkie) '09-'21 (UT)  
**Ruby Rose** (Toy Poodle) '13-'24 (LA)  
**Rudy** (Golden Retriever) '16-'21 (MO)  
**Ruger** (Labrador Retriever) '17-'19 (NH)  
**Ryder** (Golden Retriever) '18-'23 (MO)  
**Sadie Louise** (Eng Labrador) '09-'21 (MO)  
**Sam** (Weimaraner) '20-'24 (HI)  
**Sami** (Bernedoodle) '19-'23 (NE)  
**Sandy** (Golden Retriever mix) '19-'23 (VA)  
**Sasha Kay** (Maltese) '11-'21 (UT)  
**Sayde** (German Shepherd) '23-'24 (KY)  
**Scarlett** (Cavalier King Charles Span) '17-'23 (KS)  
**Scout** (Australian Cattle Dog) '19-'24 (KY)  
**Sherlock** (Standard Poodle) '19-'23 (NE)  
**Sherlock** (Goldendoodle) '16-'23 (LA)  
**Sherman** (Australian Cattle Dog mix) '14-'24 (IN)

**Skye** (Golden Retriever) '15-'24 (MD)  
**Skylar** (Labrador Retriever) '16-'23 (MO)  
**Snickers** (Boxador) '15-'22 (CA)  
**Snickers** (Rottweiler) '17-'21 (IA)  
**Soldier** (Newfoundland) '19-'23 (PA)  
**Sophie** (Cavalier King Charles Span) '18-'23 (KS)  
**Sparkle** (Maltese) '16-'20 (CA)  
**Spartan** (Labrador Retriever) '15-'22 (CA)  
**Speckles** (Rat Terrier) '06-'22 (KY)  
**Stevie** (Golden Retriever) '15-'24 (NE)  
**Stormy** (Border Collie) '13-'23 (AR)  
**Stryker** (Great Pyrenees mix) '22-'23 (CO)  
**Sweet Pea** (Shetland Sheepdog) '13-'22 (IN)  
**Tag** (McNab Shepherd mix) '17-'22 (KY)  
**Tandi** (Pit Bull) '20-'22 (NC)  
**Tara** (Shollie) '21-'24 (AR)  
**Tasha** (Labrador Retriever) '18-'23 (MI)  
**Taya** (English Labrador Retriever) '17-'21 (MA)  
**Teddy** (Cockapoo) '13-'20 (CA)  
**Tessa** (Golden Retriever) '16-'24 (CA)  
**Toes** (Smooth Collie) '17-'23 (MI)  
**Tootsie** (Golden Retriever) '19-'23 (CA)  
**Tori** (Rough Collie) '14-'24 (IN)  
**Trixie** (German Shepherd Lab mix) '09-'20 (CA)  
**Tucker** (Goldendoodle) '18-'23 (TN)  
**Tug** (Standard Poodle) '18-'23 (MO)  
**Tweedy** (Samoyed) '18-'20 (IL)  
**Tytan** (Doberman Pinscher) '17-'23 (KY)  
**Violet** (Siberian Husky) Apr-May '24 (CA)  
**Wesley** (Pointer mix) '17-'20 (AZ)  
**William** (Shetland Sheepdog) '13-'20 (CA)  
**Winston** (Border Collie) '15-'23 (AR)  
**Wolfie** (Pomchi) '14-'21 (NC)  
**Wyatt** (Labrador Retriever) '16-'21 (CA)  
**Wyatt** (Australian Cattle Dog) '17-'23 (CA)  
**Zach** (Papillon) '11-'24 (MO)  
**Zoey** (Standard Poodle) '15-'17 (IA)  
**Zoey Marie** (Border Collie) '16-'20 (MO)



## From our Heartland Chapter Shelly Smithely 1958 † 2024

**Van Buren, IN** - "For five wonderful years (2014-2019), **Shelly** volunteered with Love on a Leash® alongside her beloved papillon, **Peyton**. Their visits to elementary schools were filled with laughter, warmth and a genuine connection that inspired countless children to embrace reading and kindness. Shelly's radiant spirit and unwavering dedication to spreading joy will always be remembered. Though she is no longer with us, her impact on our community will forever resonate and we are grateful for the love she shared. Thank you, Shelly, for all that you gave. You are deeply missed." 💙



# In Gratitude & Remembrance

**Pamela Ryan 1960 † 2021** – Northern Adirondack Chapter

Pam's unwavering dedication to therapy dog work and her profound impact on the Northern Adirondack Love on a Leash® Chapter will forever be remembered with heartfelt appreciation. After a challenging journey marked by personal health struggles and the loss of her beloved Golden Retriever, Lola, Pam found renewed purpose in training her spirited dog, Sophie. With the support of her trainer, Mel Deler, Pam transformed her passion into a meaningful mission, ultimately leading to Sophie's certification as a therapy dog. Their visits to local schools and facilities brought joy and comfort to countless individuals.




In 2016, Pam's friend Suzee Zerrahn joined her in this journey, sharing the same vision of making a difference through therapy work. Together, they worked tirelessly to establish the Northern Adirondack Love on a Leash® Chapter, officially founded in March 2017. Pam's enthusiasm and leadership were instrumental in bringing this dream to fruition and she took great pride in seeing the chapter grow.



Under her nurturing stewardship, the chapter flourished, welcoming new members and expanding its reach throughout the community. By 2018, the chapter had grown to nine active certified therapy pairs, all dedicated to spreading love and comfort through their work. Pam's belief in the power of therapy dogs to heal and connect people will forever resonate within the hearts of those she inspired.

As we honor Pam's memory, we celebrate her incredible spirit and the lasting legacy she left behind. Her commitment to service and her love for Sophie have touched the lives of many, creating a ripple effect of kindness and compassion. We are grateful for the foundation she built and the example she set for us all.



In remembering Pam, let us continue her mission and ensure that her passion for therapy work lives on in our hearts and actions. Thank you, Pam, for everything – you are deeply missed, but your legacy continues to shine brightly through the lives you touched. 

Sometimes we must say goodbye to members that have left an indelible mark in our local communities. Their untimely loss reverberates deeply and they are greatly missed. "Goodbyes are not forever, Goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean I'll miss you, Until we meet again."

