



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025



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

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Margaret Eggers - Vice President

Susie Blake - Secretary/Membership

Janet Herron - Treasurer

Sue Subkow - Chapters Coordinator

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From the Board

Are you or have you ever considered becoming a Visit Captain or a Supervisor for new Teams in Training?

If so, this article is for you! Firstly, let me say how indispensable these two roles are and how much our organization appreciates certified teams who volunteer beyond their own visits to fill these very important roles. More likely than not, you are helping Teams in Training who are being exposed to pet therapy for the first time and they are looking to you for guidance.

Membership Guidelines

As much as we ask and hope that each team has read the entire Membership Guidelines, we know that most only give them a quick scan. However, this does not absolve each handler from their responsibility to fully understand and follow our Guidelines. Both the applications for Dogs and Cats or Rabbits contain an Owner/Handler Agreement that must be **initialed** (not checked) in order to certify successfully. Additionally, each year when you renew your certification, that same agreement must be acknowledged once again. There are three (3) bulleted points in the Owner/Handler Agreement that pertain to our Membership Guidelines.

💙 I agree that if I do not or cannot abide by Love on a Leash® policies, procedures, and guidelines (including any revisions), my membership may be terminated at the discretion of the Love on a Leash® Board of Directors.

💙 I have read and agree to abide by the Owner/Handler Agreement.

💙 I have read the Membership Guidelines (available on the Love on a Leash® website).

By helping ensure that a Team in Training is a good fit, you are also reinforcing our organization's policies and procedures. It is important that you are familiar with the Membership Guidelines so you can guide new teams effectively and help keep everyone on the same page. Any handler has the right to educate a team who is not following correct protocol. Our Membership Guidelines are there to keep us safe and protected.



[continued next page]



From The Board (continued)

Supervised Visits Log

We have a favor to ask all our supervisors. Please be sure to enter the information requested in each box of the Supervised Visit Log. There is an example at the top of the log table. Please be sure the dates are in chronological order. If a date is logged out of order or is illegible, the Membership Team has no choice but to send emails and make phone calls to find out why. If a visit is 60 minutes long, then write in 60m or 1 hr – do not enter a check mark. While most visits are 60 minutes, some may be shorter, so it's important to verify the length of each visit. Incomplete or difficult to read information unnecessarily slows down the application review process.

Location, location, location

The biggest issue we see with almost every application that arrives is the vagueness of the locations where the visits take place. The Supervised Visits Log asks for the name of the facility (e.g. Meadows Retirement Home). Entering abbreviations or partial titles, such as CBTS, BGC, or Ivey, puts our Membership Team in a difficult position, as they cannot deduce what type of supervised visit was logged. In addition, even when the entire name is listed, it may still be difficult to figure out the type of visit logged. For example, Laguna Estates is the full name of a facility some of our teams visit, but what type of facility is it? Instead teams or supervisors should write in – at least for one of the visits if they visit more than once – Laguna Estates Senior Living or Laguna Estates Hospice Care, etc.

Love on a Leash® has certified volunteers in almost every state visiting thousands of locations. If we can receive more precise and complete location details upfront, it will help speed up the entire approval process. The clearer the information provided, the faster we can process applications, and the more efficiently we can serve all our teams.

When location information is incomplete or unclear, it takes a significant amount of time to track down details and accurately document them in the applicant's log. That means emails and phone calls. These extra steps slow down the entire application review process not only for the application in question, but also for any other applications that are waiting to be reviewed.

We are very aware that there is not much room to write

comments, a full location name, and the type of supervised visit. Feel free to use the back of the page for additional notes, as suggested on the application. Some of our Visit Captains and supervisors are already doing

this and these few additional notes have been a tremendous help to a grateful Membership Team. Please endeavor to make the certification process smoother for those teams in training who are eagerly awaiting their Welcome Packets as you once did.

What's in a name?

One last request. Most of our supervisors already do this, but a reminder to please be sure to **print and sign** your names under the Supervisor's Name column. We have seen initials, printed names or signatures (which are largely illegible). Initials are never acceptable. By printing and signing your name, we are better equipped to quickly see who supervised each visit. It is important to remember that our applications are **legal documents**. Should an incident occur that results in a claim, the application would be subpoenaed as a legally binding document. We all hope this never happens, but it is the Membership Team's duty to make sure every application is completed correctly to prepare for that unlikely eventuality.

Small steps, big results

These extra little steps should only take an additional minute or two of your supervising time, but they will free up countless hours our Membership Team spends every week reviewing and approving applications.

Thank you again for your very important roles with Love on a Leash®. With sincere gratitude,
– Susie Blake, Membership Chair, 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 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 certified team, 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.

Pet Panel

Had an experience on a visit and not sure how to handle it? Ask our Pet Panel! We'll keep your privacy and provide trainer-approved advice in a simple, helpful way. Just email your question to newsletter@loveonaleash.org with "Pet Panel Question" in the subject line.

Logo and Visit Requirements

We're proud of our official color – medium blue – so please try to wear it during your visits! Please also make sure your ID card is visible at all times (on a badge, lanyard, neck wallet, or retractable holder). Don't forget to carry your pet's ID, too, and present it if asked. It's a privilege to represent Love on a Leash® and wearing our name helps set you and your pet apart as a pet therapy team from a recognized organization.

We Want to Hear From You!

We know that every day brings heartwarming moments and inspiring stories from our visits, and we're lucky to witness them all. However, for our newsletter to serve as a valuable resource for everyone, it's essential that we focus on content that helps support, improve, and strengthen the Love on a Leash® experience for all of us.

If you've had a unique experience, a lightbulb moment, or any ideas that could help us all become better pet therapy ambassadors, we want to hear from you!

Whether it's a creative approach to facility visits, advice on navigating our guidelines, suggestions for new merchandise, or even questions for our pet panel, your insights are invaluable.

We also welcome your heartwarming photos and stories – they're what make our community so special! However, please note that while we love sharing these moments, they will only be included in the newsletter when space allows.

If you're short on time or don't consider yourself a writer, don't worry! You can easily share your ideas through our convenient [Google Forms](#) or feel free to email your submissions directly to newsletter@loveonaleash.org. Articles should ideally be no more than 400 words and may be gently edited to fit our space limitations. Please remember to include appropriate photo release forms when necessary.

Membership Updates

Log into your account online anytime to update your personal details. If your pet has retired or passed away, let us know at info@loveonaleash.org so we don't send renewal notices for a pet who's no longer active. No internet? No problem—call us at (760) 740-2326 or mail in your updates.



NEW IN 2025

Treats

As part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining the highest standards in pet therapy, Love on a Leash® recently updated our Membership Guidelines concerning the use of treats. While we acknowledge that treats can be a great motivator during training and can enhance the joy of visits for some teams, this change aims to ensure that our visits remain focused on the pet-provided therapy we deliver during our volunteer work with our pets. Teams may kindly accept any treats offered, with the understanding that they will be saved for later, once the visit is over.

Why did we update this rule?

Over time, we have received multiple reports from our teams and the organizations we visit about unsafe or frustrating situations arising from the use of treats during therapy visits. We want to make it clear that this decision was not made lightly, but in response to genuine concerns raised by our community. Our goal is to prioritize the safety and well-being of our nearly 3,000 therapy teams and the thousands of visit locations we serve.



Key Reasons Behind the Change:

- ♥ **Treats can lead to competitive behavior among dogs**, potentially leading to unsafe situations such as dog fights or even accidents involving people.
- ♥ **Many dogs have sensitive stomachs, are on special diets, or have food allergies**, and using treats may exacerbate these issues.
- ♥ **Coaxing a dog out of their comfort zone with treats** may unintentionally cause fear or defensive behaviors, which is antithetical to the goals of a therapy visit.
- ♥ **Therapy dogs should not prioritize food-based rewards** for performing tricks or attending a visit. While pets can be trained to perform tricks without treats, the primary goal of pet therapy visits is to provide positive interactions and support through comfort rather than provide entertainment through treat-driven tricks.
- ♥ **Treats can shift the focus** from the people we are visiting to the handler and the dog's food. Attention should always be paid to the people receiving the visit, not food rewards.
- ♥ **Introducing treats can cause disinterest in visits** for our dogs who are food-driven. Some dogs will lose interest in their role as therapy pets when food is introduced as the primary motivator.

While we understand that this Guideline change may take some time to adjust to, especially for pets who enjoy performing tricks for treats, we are confident that with time and additional training, this updated Guideline will ensure our therapy teams remain safe, focus, and engaged in a way that best serves the pet-provided therapy our organization strives to deliver.

Thank you for your dedication to Love on a Leash® and your invaluable work with your pets. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we continue to improve our program and make every visit as positive and effective as possible! ♥



Shop for Love on a Leash® Gear



Our Love on a Leash® long-sleeved jackets for men and women are the perfect combination of style, comfort, and practicality! Crafted from a reliable soft shell, this jacket sheds wind and rain, making it an ideal choice for chilly weather or unpredictable conditions. It's a go-to basic that perfectly showcases unity; a fantastic way to show your Love on a Leash® pride. You can purchase them easily online through our [website](#) or in person at the Fully Promoted store in San Diego (5955 Mira Mesa Blvd, Suite J). Plus, the store is pet-friendly, so bring your therapy dog with you – Anu Kumar, the owner, loves to see our therapy



pets out and about! This jacket is not only functional; it's a perfect blend of form and function. 🐾



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 teams. If you would like some of these to provide to prospective teams in training, the facilities you visit, or for an upcoming event, please email us at assistant2@loveonaleash.org.

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



Fun Giveaways Adored by All Ages



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



💙 By the Numbers 💙

As of February 2025, Love on a Leash® has grown to **2,644** certified volunteer pet therapy teams in **46** states! Did you know that **81%** of our teams belong to chapters? At this time we have **67** active chapters in **27** states. Thank you for continuing to bring comfort and joy to those in need!



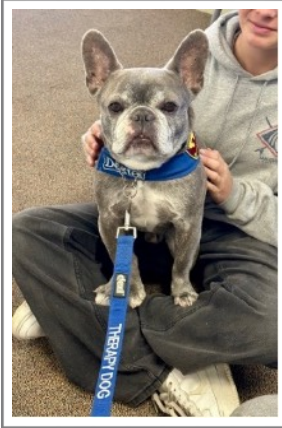
Welcome to our Newest Chapter!

South Orange County Chapter in California

Ana Cianciola + Dexter

As the South Orange County Chapter leader, I am so excited to now have a chapter in an area where there is such a huge need for pet therapy. We are hoping to grow our chapter roster quickly so we can attend to that need with this most genuine form of love.

A favorite South OC visit of Dexter's is to Ladera Ranch Middle School, where the kids earn time with the dogs for good behavior, improved grades or acts of kindness. It's a very busy visit, with many hands on the dogs, but it is so rewarding to see the kids' stress levels lower when they spend time with Dexter!



Vince Cupo + Greta

Greta and I really enjoy our South Orange County visits, especially those at SoCal Adolescent Wellness. For many of the teens, interacting with a gentle dog like Greta provides a much-needed break from their daily struggles.

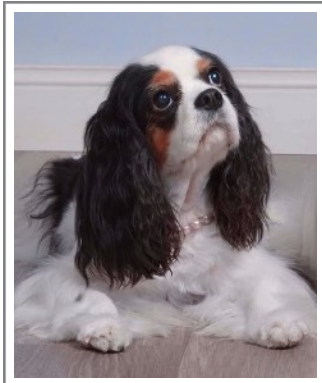
Greta's unconditional love provides comfort that words often cannot. Being a part of these teens' healing journey is an honor and Greta's positive impact on their mental health is truly inspiring.



Lisa Thompson + Mabel Grace

As a Love on a Leash® certified team since 2003, we have logged over one thousand visits in the San Diego area! Now living in Anaheim Hills, Mabel Grace and I are thrilled at the formation of the new South Orange County Chapter!

We look forward to establishing new regular visits for our teams in my surrounding communities.



Julie Abrahamson + Daisy

My golden retriever, Daisy, and I have so enjoyed being part of Love on a Leash® for 3 ½ years. Our favorite visit in South Orange County is at Capistrano Senior Living. We participate in monthly visits at their Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing units.

It warms our hearts to see how much the residents appreciate and look forward to our visits! 🐾



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 5 or more certified teams are needed to start a chapter, plus the chapter leader has to have been a certified Love on a Leash® team for at least one year. Interested? Learn more on our website under [Chapters](#).



Ask Our Pet Panel

Dear Pet Panel,

I'm a proud therapy dog with Love on a Leash®, and I absolutely love my weekly pet therapy visits! My human and I have been getting lots of positive feedback.

Recently, my human mentioned that I should be able to come to work with them one day a week to help calm down the stress at the office. I know a lot of other workplaces are starting to have pet therapy programs, so it seems like a good idea. We're both wondering: would my Love on a Leash® certification allow me to visit my human's office?

I heard some teams are certified to visit workplaces, and I'm eager to help spread more love there, too. Is there a way to make that happen with Love on a Leash®?

Paw-sitively Yours,
Toby the Therapy Dog



Dear Toby and your Human,

Thanks so much for reaching out with such a thoughtful question! It's heartwarming to know how much joy you and your human are bringing to others in the community and we certainly understand the appeal of having a therapy pet in the workplace.

Unfortunately, Love on a Leash® certified teams are not permitted to bring their pets to work with them under our current Guidelines. While we do offer certification and insurance that enables our teams to volunteer where we are invited, such as hospitals, schools, and nursing homes, the insurance coverage provided through Love on a Leash® does not extend to workplace environments.

Our organization is small, with fewer than 3,000 certified volunteer teams nationwide, and we focus specifically on pet therapy within the community, rather than workplace therapy programs. As such, we simply don't have the resources to certify teams for workplace visits.

That said, there are other organizations that offer specific programs and insurance for workplace pet therapy.


While we can't accommodate workplace therapy visits through Love on a Leash®, we encourage you to explore these options if your human feels strongly about having you there. We wish you all the best as you continue your great work in the community!

Warmly,
The 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.

Phone Volunteers Wanted

We're still looking for two friendly and reliable volunteers to help cover the Love on a Leash® phone line on Mondays and Fridays. This is a great opportunity to support our community and ensure that we're always available to assist our volunteer teams and potential new volunteers. If you're comfortable answering calls and would like to contribute in this way, we'd love to have you on board! It's a flexible and rewarding way to give back. If you're interested or want to learn more, please reach out to us at info@loveonaleash.org.

Thank you for helping us continue our mission to spread love and comfort through therapy animals! 



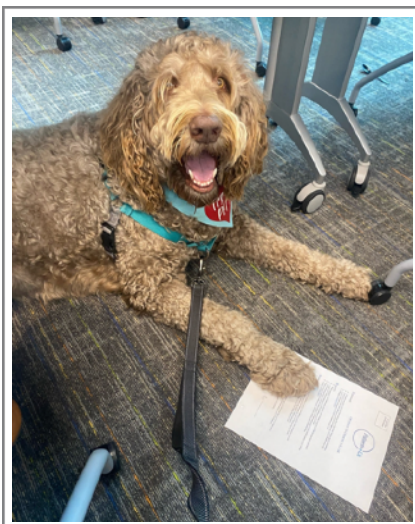
Reggie (2015-2022)



✍️ Chapter Spotlight: Fayetteville ✍️

Fayetteville, NC – We're excited to shine a spotlight on our Fayetteville Chapter, a vibrant and dedicated group of pet therapy teams who have been making a positive impact in their community. Led by **Jeanne Lythgoe**, the chapter has grown steadily since it was formed in 2012 by **Judy Adams** and **Penny Johnson**. A variety of teams visit local hospitals, schools, libraries, and more. Let's take a closer look at this dynamic chapter!

A Growing Chapter with Heart – Although Jeanne wasn't the first leader of the Fayetteville Chapter, she's been instrumental in its growth and development. The chapter itself was founded by a local certified team, who is still active and engaged with the group through their Facebook page. The chapter now boasts 10 certified teams, with 2 additional teams working toward completing their supervised visits.



Coordinating Visits with Ease – The Fayetteville Chapter is known for its flexible scheduling and personalized approach to visits. Most visits are done individually or in small groups of 2 or 3 dogs, as teams have varied schedules. To streamline the process, Jeanne uses a Google Calendar, which all teams can access, and communication is primarily done through a group text message.

Visits include regular monthly or weekly events, as well as special one-time opportunities. Facilities often reach out to the chapter for visits, but the team is proactive in seeking new places to visit, from nursing homes to schools and VA hospitals.

Unique Visits and Events – One of the most heartwarming aspects of the Fayetteville Chapter is their diverse range of visits. They're regularly found at local nursing homes, libraries for children's reading programs, and community hospitals. The chapter has even participated in a student research project, where students measured the effects of pet therapy by taking vital signs before and after visits – an experience they hope to follow up on soon!

Other unique visits include their work at an adult care center for people with disabilities, as well as the pediatric mental health and cancer treatment units at the local hospital. During stressful times, the chapter also visits local colleges, where students request pet therapy for stress relief during exams.

👉 Chapter Spotlight ctd: Fayetteville 👉

Teams with Heart –

Each team in Fayetteville brings something special to the table. Annie and her dog **Bella**



are known for their adorable outfits, often dressing Bella in cute little dresses during visits. Both Annie and Bella also volunteer with the USO on base, showing their love for both people and country.

Kim's dog **Dexter** and Carma's dog **Shiloh** are famous for their Halloween costumes, and Carma's team is unique in that they're also certified with the HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response group. Recently, they were deployed to help victims and workers affected by Hurricane Helene in North Carolina.

The chapter also includes **Scooter**, a deaf dog who follows hand signal commands, and **Ross**, who spends time with his handler, Chrissy, at events and even stays by her husband's side during cancer treatments. Sadly, Chrissy's husband passed away recently, but Ross was a comfort during the difficult times.



Other notable teams include Susan, who has two dogs, **Kasa** and **Schatzie**, and Jennifer, whose dog **Pickles** the Pug is the chapter's senior therapy pet at 11½ years old, but still enjoys volunteering. **Mozart**, a new addition to the chapter, helps Jessica, who works with soldiers at the local Army base. Lastly, there's **Fred**, who has epilepsy, and his handler Jeanne carries a backpack with supplies in case of a seizure, though thankfully Fred has never had one during a visit.

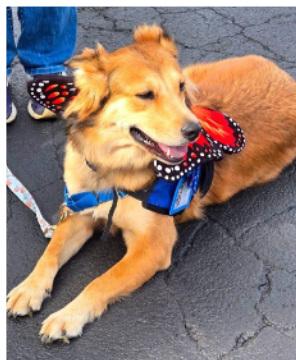
What Makes Fayetteville Special? – When asked about her favorite aspect of volunteering for Love on a Leash®, Jeanne sums it up perfectly: *"The joy brought to others."* This sentiment resonates throughout the chapter as they continue to bring comfort, joy, and love to people of all ages and backgrounds.

Looking Ahead – The Fayetteville Chapter continues to grow and evolve, with a strong team of dedicated handlers and dogs. They have no plans of slowing down anytime soon, as they're committed to spreading love and joy wherever they go. 🐾



🎃 Happy HOWLoween 🎃

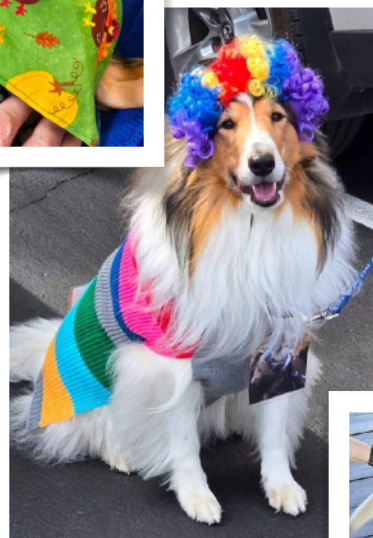
This past Halloween season, our Love on a Leash® teams embraced the spirit of fun and creativity by dressing up for HOWLoween! Whether it was a visit to a local school, a nursing home, or a community event, these festive costumes sparked smiles and brightened the day for everyone they encountered. We love seeing how our handlers and pets go above and beyond, showcasing their creativity while spreading happiness and comfort to those in need. Thank you to all the teams who participated – you truly made this HOWLoween one to remember! 🐾



Five teams visited the Bona Vista assisted living facility! Rainbow girl Sugar, Katie and her butterfly, Vicki and her itty bitsy spider, Lisa with her little blue butterfly, and Deborah with her handsome little guy in his festive fall bandana.



Finn the Chicken visited the Stratton School!



Scooter & Bella were two cute hot dogs!



Uma enjoyed hanging out with spooky friends at the Ventura Harbor's costume contest!



Hank the Dragon visited Sandy River Nursing Care Center!



Mochi the In-n-Out Server & Huli (Count Dracula) visited Westview High School!

🎃 More HOWLoween! 🎃



Lake Havasu teams visited the Prestige Assisted Living Facility of Halloween!

Jemma visited West Marion HCA dressed as an angel!



Ruby, Ernie, Melia and Joey visited the students at FZ-East High School!



The Temecula Valley chapter really got into the spirit of Halloween! Enjoy this short video featuring all their festive teams!



Vegas, Koda, Neo, Zoey, and Ivy visited their friends at SECU Family House!



San Diego Central chapter visited the VA Hospital in their Halloween costumes!

Great Puppy Giveaway

Rockwall-Royse City chapter, TX – Stephanie Longinotti, a dedicated certified volunteer in the Rockwall-Royse City chapter since 2021, and her Golden Retriever therapy dog, **Major**, recently wrapped up their first annual Great Puppy Giveaway at **Medical City Children's Hospitals in Dallas and Plano**. What began as a simple idea to bring some holiday cheer to children who were hospital-bound during the holidays quickly became a heartwarming success. Stephanie initially envisioned walking from room to room, distributing a few stuffed Golden Retrievers, but the outpouring of support exceeded all expectations. Thanks to the generosity of friends, neighbors, family, and even strangers, she ended up collecting over 175 brand new stuffed animals for the children!



During their visits to Medical City Children's Hospital in Dallas and Plano, Major brought joy and comfort to many children. One little girl even told Stephanie that Major was "better than Santa!" But the most memorable moment came when Major's gentle presence helped calm a child who had been crying non-stop. Seeing the child's tears transform into a smile was an unforgettable moment for both Stephanie and Major. "It was truly a remarkable experience," Stephanie shared. "I can't wait to do it all again next Christmas. My goal is to collect 225+ stuffed animals next year!"

A special thank you to Medical City Children's Hospital for allowing Stephanie and Major to share these beautiful moments, and to the parents who gave permission to use the attached photos. We look forward to another successful Great Puppy Giveaway next holiday season! 💙



⚓ All Aboard the USS Ronald Reagan ⚓

On a recent special visit, ten teams from the **San Diego Central Chapter** had the unique opportunity to bring joy to the crew of the USS Ronald Reagan, an aircraft carrier that had been operating out of San Diego for several months before heading back to its home port in Bremerton, Washington. The visit, which took place on board the ship the day before their departure, was an incredible experience for both the therapy teams and the sailors.

The teams, accompanied by their handlers, spent time interacting with the crew members, offering comfort and companionship. Many of the sailors had never had a chance to interact with therapy dogs, making the visit a memorable event. Therapy dogs are known to help reduce stress and bring comfort in high-pressure environments, and this was certainly true for the sailors aboard the



USS Ronald Reagan. The dogs brought smiles to faces, and the visit was a welcome break from their daily routine.

This event is a perfect example of how Love on a Leash® teams continue to serve and support not only local communities, but also our military personnel who dedicate themselves to keeping us safe. It was a meaningful day for all involved and the teams look forward to more opportunities to support the military in the future. Thank you to all the teams who made this visit a huge success!

To view a reel of this special visit, click [here](#). 🐾



Advanced Therapy Degree recipients (since our last issue)

Advanced Therapy Degrees (ThD) from Love on a Leash® are available to teams once they become certified teams. 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 (e:sv)

Elderly: Social Visits



Kylo (CA) - Dec '24

ThD (ht)

Hospital Therapy



LillaDu (NH) - Oct '24

ThD (c:rp)

Children: Reading Programs



Sugar (SC) - Dec '24

ThD (cr)

Crisis Response



Cora (CA) - Dec '24

Congratulations!



Wendy (WA) - Oct '24



JemmaAriel (FL) - Jan '25

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



Advanced Therapy Degrees continued

2 Degrees



Kimchi (CA)
1. e:sv (Oct '24)
2. ht (Dec '24)

3 Degrees



Rocky (ND)
1. c:rp (Sep '21)
2. ht (Jan '25)
3. sev (Jan '25)

4 Degrees



Scarlett (SC)
1. e:sv (Nov '22)
2. c:rp (Dec '23)
3. ht (Dec '23)
4. tcs:sr (Jan '25)



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.



Stephanie & Zara (MN)
600 visits!



Bonnie & Bärli (WA)



Wayne & Cookie (SC)



Lee & Michael (WA)

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



Congratulations!

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www.loveonaleash.org
P.O. Box 4548, Oceanside, CA 92052-4548

Sandi Stewart Therapy Pet Recognition continued



Mango & Cindi (CA)



Robbi & Kimchi (CA)



Robbi & Noon (CA)



Michelle & Sadie (KS)



Cora & Kate (CA)

*Congratulations on
achieving these milestones!*



Lily & Mary (IN)



Beverly Olson & Winnie

Central Washington Chapter
Certified since 2014

Volunteering with Winnie, my therapy dog of 9 years, has been an incredibly inspiring experience that has enriched my life in countless ways. Seeing the joy, comfort, and emotional support that Winnie can provide to people, especially those facing challenging circumstances, is very rewarding. Individuals are transformed by the unconditional love and connection that she brings to each interaction. It has deepened my understanding of empathy, compassion, and the power of the human-dog bonds.

Winnie and I make the most of each opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of others, to bring happiness and companionship where it is needed most. I come away from each visit with a sense of purpose and gratitude that comes from knowing we have positively impacted someone's day or provided a moment of respite and comfort. 🐾

Winnie was Beverly's first Love on a Leash® therapy pet, retiring in June 2024.
Beverly's 3rd therapy Sheltie, Jet, now proudly carries on Winnie's legacy.



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 Fall 2024 newsletter. **Years indicate service with Love on a Leash®.**

Annie (Golden Retriever) 2018-2024 (Kimball, MI)
Bella Moose (All American Dog) 2013-2022 (New Bern, NC)
Ben (Golden Retriever) 2015-2024 (La Jolla, CA)
Ben (West Highland White Terrier) 2016-2024 (Encinitas, CA)
Bueller (Morkie) 2019-2023 (Tupelo, MS)
Caleb (Golden Retriever) 2016-2024 (Cambria, CA)
Cammie (Golden Husky Lab Mix) 2013-2024 (Crestline, CA)
Charlotte (English Creme Golden) 2019-2023 (Georgetown, SC)
Claire (Papillon) 2012-2-24 (O'Fallon, MO)
Cleopatra (Havanese) 2014-2024 (Ooltewah, TN)
Cocoa (Shih Tzu) 2015-2025 (Chattanooga, TN)
Cooper (Bernese Mountain Dog) 2020-2024 (Vista, CA)
Cooper (Golden Retriever) 2022-2024 (Columbus, IN)
Cooper (Golden Retriever) 2016-2023 (Mandan, ND)
Cooper (Golden Retriever Mix) 2017-2024 (Papillion, NE)
Crystal (Cardigan Welsh Corgi) 2015-2024 (Venice, FL)
Diesel (Heeler Shepherd) 2016-2025 (Sheridan, IN)
Dixie (American Collie) 2020-2025 (Palm Desert, CA)
Dolly (Cockapoo) 2016-2025 (Westlake Village, CA)
Eclipse (Ragdoll Cat) 2018-2024 (Riverton, WY)
Gidget (Labrador Retriever) 2021-2023 (San Diego, CA)
Itsy Bitsy Baby (Pug Mix) 2019-2024 (Russiaville, IN)
Jack (Cav King Charles Spaniel) 2022-2024 (Chatsworth, CA)
Justice (Labrador Retriever) 2022-2024 (Santa Paula, CA)
Katie (Terrier Mix) 2013-2024 (Lexington, KY)
Killer (Border Terrier) 2011-2024 (Cedar City, UT)
Macy (Plott Hound Mix) 2016-2019 (Port Jefferson, NY)
Maple Rose (Golden Retriever) 2019-2024 (Indianapolis, IN)
Maverick (Shih Tzu) 2023-2024 (Columbus, IN)

Mimi (Papillon) 2014-2024 (Gig Harbor, WA)
Mitchell (Labrador Retriever) 2018-2024 (Port Huron, MI)
Odin (Irish Wolfhound) 2017-2024 (Massillon, OH)
Oz (Cane Corso) 2016-2024 (Yakima, WA)
Pam Grantz (handler) 2013-2024 (Ballwin, MO)
Papaw's Arlo, (German Shepherd) 2016-2024 (Nevada, TX)
Piper (English Creme Golden) 2017-2024 (Zionsville, IN)
Piper (Vizsla) 2018-2024 (Reno, NV)
Princess Buttpants (Chihuahua) 2019-2024 (Metairie, LA)
Rosebud (Dachshund) 2018-2024 (Allentown, PA)
Ruthie (Mixed) 2021-2023 (Jefferson Station, NY)
Sam (Bernese Mountain Dog) 2019-2024 (Benton, KS)
Sam (Goldendoodle) 2023-2025 (Omaha, NE)
Sammy (Labrador Retriever Mix) 2013-2024
Savvy (Golden Retriever) 2021-2024 (Rockwall, TX)
Scoop (Doberman Pinscher) 2015-2024 (Covington, LA)
Scooter (Domestic Short Hair Cat) 2017-2024 (Kokomo, IN)
Simone (Standard Poodle) 2017-2024 (Durham, NC)
Skyler (Labrador Retriever) 2015-2025 (Meadow Vista, CA)
Sparkle (Maltese) 2016-2024 (San Diego, CA)
Strider (Vizsla) 2023-2025 (Chattanooga, TN)
Tango (Labrador Retriever) 2021-2024 (St Louis, MO)
Thunder (Goldendoodle) 2013-2024 (Costa Mesa, CA)
Tiki (Samoyed) 2021-2024 (Raleigh, NC)
Tommy Dickey (handler) 2012-2024 (Oak View, CA)
Tonka (Leonberger) 2017-2024 (San Diego, CA)
Tori (Labrador Retriever) 2022-2024 (Kimball, MI)
Trevor (Golden Retriever) 2016-2025 (Carlsbad, CA)
Vinca (Rottweiler) 2017-2024 (Escondido, CA)





Donnamarie's Boy Jack – 4/8/2011 ~ 12/24 🌈

Jack visited with the Angeles Valley Foothill & Camarillo-Pleasant Valley chapters



Jack was a beloved Love on a Leash® therapy dog from 2022 to 2024, bringing joy and comfort to everyone he met. Jack quickly became a familiar face at various pet therapy visits, making a lasting impact wherever he went. Whether visiting hospitals, nursing homes, or participating in pet therapy events like the Pet Day on the Bay in San Diego, Jack's presence was unforgettable. He even had a chance to shine in an award-winning photographer's video, with his Captain Jack Sparrow costume becoming a standout feature in local advertising.

Jack's love for large dogs and people alike, especially his deep bond with his sister Annabelle, made him a true ambassador for Love on a Leash®.

Outside of therapy visits, Jack lived a full life with Donnamarie and sister Annabelle, enjoying everything from kayaking trips to cozy car rides. Though he lost his hearing unexpectedly, Jack adapted with remarkable resilience, continuing to bring joy to his family. Whether it was his adorable antics with leaves by the pool or his nightly snuggles on the pillow above Donnamarie's head, Jack was a constant source of love and comfort. His therapy journey may have been short, but the memories he created with his family and those he visited will never be forgotten. Jack was, and will always be, their little rockstar. 🐾



In Gratitude & Remembrance

Pam Grantz 1958 † 2024 – Team at Large


Pam Grantz, a beloved Love on a Leash® volunteer from 2013 to 2024, brought joy and comfort to countless lives. With her black Lab, Lilly, she brightened the halls of skilled nursing facilities, helped school-age children gain confidence while reading, and became a cherished friend to her fellow volunteers. They visited multiple facilities over the years, including Westview, where they made special connections with residents. Pam's thoughtful touch – such as delivering personalized holiday cards to residents – created lasting memories and brightened many lives.

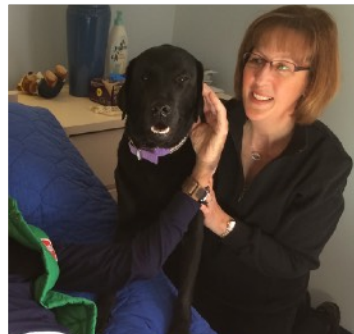
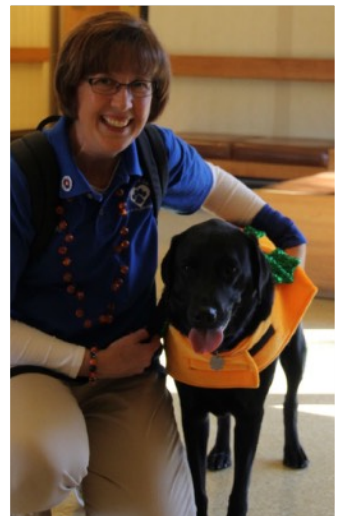
Pam's positive spirit, compassion, and generosity touched everyone she met, making her a true ambassador for Love on a Leash®. Pam's love for animals extended beyond her own dogs. She volunteered countless hours at the Humane Society and local shelters, always eager to help where needed.

Known for her calm, gentle demeanor, Pam had a unique ability to connect with both people and animals. It wasn't unusual for Pam and Lilly to take the extra time to follow their friends to rehab facilities or even attend a few funerals to say goodbye. Her selflessness and deep compassion made her presence invaluable, and her unwavering dedication will be deeply missed.

Pam's love and dedication will be deeply missed, but her legacy of kindness and service will continue to inspire all who knew her. As Pam would say, "If there are no dogs in heaven, I want to go where the dogs are."

Pam's spirit and love for others will never be forgotten. Her unwavering commitment to bringing joy to those in need, her selflessness, and her ability to make those around her feel special are qualities that will live on in the hearts of everyone she touched. Pam truly made the world a better place, and we are forever grateful for the time we had with her.

Pam's influence extended far beyond the therapy visits she made with Lilly. Her example of kindness, dedication, and unwavering positivity inspired all of us at Love on a Leash®. She was always ready to lend a hand, offer advice, and encourage others to volunteer, making every person she encountered feel like part of a larger, caring family. Pam's legacy is one of love – love for animals, love for people, and love for life. We will forever carry her memory in our hearts, and her spirit will live on through the work she so passionately shared with all of us. 



Sometimes we must say goodbye to handlers 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."