



## Welcome Madison

### The Irish Miniature Yellow Lab



Yes, there is such a breed as a Miniature Labrador. They're smaller in size (about 50 lbs), but have the same qualities as their full size counterparts; friendly, energetic, love being with their people and make an excellent pet for families with lots of children and activity. As for the Irish part, read on.....

Gougane Barra in County Cork Ireland is a fantastic area with a mirror-like lake embedded in a beautiful hilly landscape. The Internet describes it as the ideal place if you are looking for some of Ireland's most breathtaking scenic countryside to visit. This is where Sara Cowan with her husband and daughter Molly - who had been promised a puppy - in 2013 located a reputable breeder and opened their home and hearts to Madison. Irish and English were both spoken in the area and Sara joked with Molly that they would only speak to their new pup in Irish. They didn't, which turned out to be a good idea because they all relocated to the U.S. in 2017 where Sara started working for Intel in Chandler.

In early 2020 as the COVID pandemic was starting to rapidly spread, Sara, in her role as a Project Manager with Intel, was working with a Respirator Manufacturer to double their output. As Sara became more knowledgeable of the situation and the pandemic continued into 2021, she read that approximately 50% of the residents in nursing care homes in the U.S. were sedated. She found this to be a heart breaking statistic so once facilities started opening up again she began to search for a way to help. Her answer was to become a social therapy team with Madison.

After reading about CAAA online, Sara filled out the necessary paperwork to get started and she and Madison met up in a park with April from our Pet Therapy Committee along with her dog Darla. "The paperwork was easy to understand and also to complete and during that initial evaluation April was great", says Sara "She answered all my questions, thoroughly explained the program and set up visiting meetings for me with Ray Ritchotte (Ray is a long-time member and supporter of CAAA). I went twice with him and his dog Blake to visit facilities. I am so grateful for the time and effort he spent with me; he basically took me under his wing and after seeing his dedication and the resident's joy, who wouldn't want to join this organization with such caring people and purpose?" On January 2<sup>nd</sup> Sara and Madison became our newest social therapy team.

(Continued on page 2)



## A Social Pet Therapy Program

THE COMPANION ANIMAL ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA, INC.

P.O. Box 5006  
Scottsdale, AZ.

85261- 5006

Phone (602)  
258-3306

<http://www.caaainc.org>



### OUR MISSION

To enhance the quality of lives of people by promoting the Human/Companion Animal Bond and to provide support when the bond is broken.



"You can always tell about somebody by the way they put their hands on an animal"  
~Betty White~



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## Madison (continued) .....

They are visiting at Parkland Memory Care in Chandler where Sara believes Kristy the Event Organizer is great to work with; "She loves dogs and is well aware of their positive effect on her residents". Madison was a big hit from the beginning when she showed up in her red Christmas bandana, smiley dog face and her constantly wagging tail. Sara's opinion, "I have to admit, she looked adorable. She's really the perfect size. When she sits next to anyone it's a short reach to pat her head; and residents love to do that. On our first visit they were in the activity room eating cake where Madison had a great time. Besides all the attention she got, there were crumbs everywhere and she thought she was in heaven! I bring my own treats and put them on the floor telling Madison to 'stay'. Then one of the residents tells her 'go ahead' and she'll jump up and go for it. It's a way to get them more involved and everyone loves it. These visits have been a great experience for all of us".

It sounds like the residents of Parkland are experiencing the Luck of the Irish all wrapped up in a Miniature Yellow Lab.

Sources for this article:

<https://www.dogloversdigest.com/miniature-labradors/>

<https://www.cork-guide.ie/gouganebarra/gouganebarra.html>



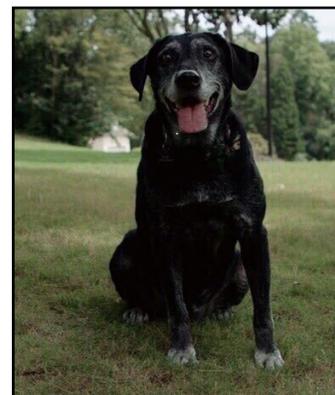
## AMERICAN HUMANE HERO DOGS

We finish up our series this month on the 2020 Hero Dogs. The 2021 winners were just announced and will be included in upcoming issues.



Olive is the 2020 **Therapy Hero Dog of the Year**. She was homeless in the street of LA before being found and rescued. After extensive training, Olive was sent to Missouri to be united with her forever family, ready to live her purpose as a certified therapy dog assisting scores of children facing the daunting task of appearing or testifying in court. Read Olive's complete story → [OLIVE](#)

Blue II P491 won the 2020 **Military Dog of the Year**. She served our country for ten years and completed over 300 missions in just one of her deployments in Afghanistan. During those years of service Blu was responsible for finding IED's and saving the lives of untold number of our service men and women. Read her story and how her first handler searched for over five years before finding her and bringing her to his home after her retirement in 2018. → [BLU](#)



[BLU](#)



There are several ways you can help CAAA generate financial contributions by participating with our Community Partners.

- When shopping at **Amazon** on line, use : [SMILE.AMAZON.COM](https://www.smile.amazon.com)
- When you enroll your **Fry's** VIP card in their Community Rewards Program
- Any real estate transactions with **Richard Howell, North & Co. Real Estate**. Email: richard@northandco.com
- **Making United Way Agency** Pledges using code: Companion Animal Assoc of Arizona TIN-94-2908620
- **Intel** encourages employees to pursue their passion to volunteer. The Intel Foundation matches the time they volunteer with a cash grant through the Intel Involved Matching Grant Program. CAAA is eligible to receive these cash grants.



# Therapy Dog Supreme

## *Blake's on His Way.....*



The American Kennel Club (AKC) Therapy Dog is a program with the purpose of "Recognizing AKC dogs and their owners who have given their time and helped people by volunteering as a therapy dog and owner team visiting facilities in their communities." Titles are based on therapy work performed by

dogs through accepted organizations and measured by the number of therapy visits they make.

This program started several years ago with five levels of title recognition; starting with 10 visits to earn the AKC Therapy Dog Novice (THDN) title up to 400 visits to earn the AKC Therapy Dog Distinguished (THDD) title. On December 1<sup>st</sup> of last year the AKC added a new level and title, AKC Therapy Dog Supreme. It is now available for dogs who have completed 600 therapy visits.

CAAA is an AKC recognized Therapy Dog Organization. One of our teams Ray Ritchotte and Blake received a Level 5 Therapy Dog Distinguished title in October of 2019. Since then, Blake's visits have been sharply curtailed due to COVID. He and Ray have still been able to make some and Blake's currently at a total of 460. Ray says "COVID may have prolonged his chances of getting that next title until fall or early spring of next year. But we still continue to visit several facilities every chance we can get. Blake is 8 years old now and still enjoying his visits as much as when he first got certified and started when he was only 11 months old".



*Blake with his Therapy Dog Excellent Award he earned in 2017 after 200 visits*

(Source - [AKC Therapy Dog – American Kennel Club](https://www.akc.org/therapy-dog/) )



**MARCH 26, 2022**

# **CAAA ANNUAL EVENT**

**10 AM - NOON**

We are so excited to let you know we have a special guest for our 2022 Annual Event who will provide a demonstration and discussion on Scent Work Training for Dogs! The presentation will be provided by Aleks Woodroffe of Release Canine LLC

**ALL TEAMS – new teams and retired teams – are invited.  
Come on out and enjoy !!!**

It's a fun activity to learn which can be done even inside the house:

- ◆ *Dogs experience much of the world around them through their sense of smell*
- ◆ *Scent games allow dogs to channel their love of sniffing while also enriching their minds*
- ◆ *Nose-based games are a great way to keep your dog mentally stimulated indoors*

And who knows, maybe some of our therapy dogs are yet undiscovered sniffers just waiting to be discovered!

## **EVENT DETAILS**

*Where: This will be at our regular outdoor venue (vs. the Pyle Center): Hollis Park in Tempe, 3421 S. Kenneth Place, Tempe 85282  
(Dorsey Lane & Malibu)*

*Lunch: Enjoy a boxed lunch provided by CAAA*

*Who Can Attend: New Teams and Retired Teams - Bring your retired or active therapy pet(s) and family!*

*RSVP by email to: [ppeet@cox.net](mailto:ppeet@cox.net) by March 12th*



To learn more about Scent Work Training for Dogs and Aleks, visit the website [WWW.RELEASECANINE.COM](http://WWW.RELEASECANINE.COM)

# Over the Rainbow Bridge

15 years ago a little 3 ½ month old Border Collie, dirty and full of ticks, was turned into the animal shelter where Debbie Zapusek was volunteering. That's how Cheyenne came into Debbie's life. She left to find the rainbow bridge on January 17<sup>th</sup>. But oh what a life she had during her time with Debbie!

A dog trainer for years, Debbie realized that Cheyenne was a high energy dog and would be happiest with a job to do. That turned out to be agility training and competition. The result:



American Kennel Club:

- \* CGC/Masters Agility Champion x 4 (MACH4)
- \* Preferred Agility Champion (PACH)

United States Dog Agility Association:

- \* Agility Dog Champion (ADCH)

Dogs on Course in North America:

- \* Masters Excellent Champion (MEX)



Cheyenne excelled in other areas besides agility. Debbie says, " She was also a Certified Therapy Dog with CAAA, and my Mom's service dog who had Alzheimer's. She worked with me in my grooming/boarding business all her life as a greeter where all my customers loved and adored her. She was a gentle alpha dog and puppy raiser and truly that one in a million dog everyone hopes they get."

Once Cheyenne got to that Rainbow Bridge, who knows .....  
She very well may have jumped over it! .



## HAVE YOU SUBMITTED YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM FOR 2022?

RENEWALS CAN STILL BE SUBMITTED

OUR FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT:

[HTTPS://WWW.CAAAINC.ORG/FORMS.HTML](https://www.caaainc.org/forms.html)

FOR OUR PET THERAPY TEAMS, PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR 2021 VISITATION LOG WITH YOUR RENEWAL FORMS



## A Visit With \* Darling Darla \* \* \*



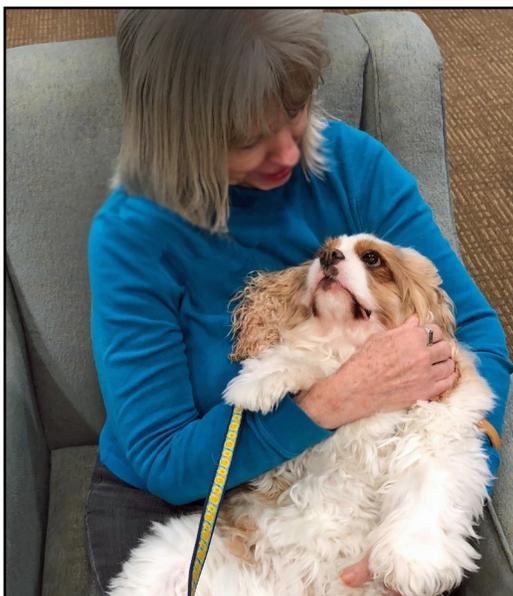
April Crow and her new Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Darla, became a recent therapy team of CAAA back in the summer of 2021. They have been visiting Brookdale Central Paradise Valley twice a month. April is no stranger at Brookdale as she had been visiting there for years with her previous dog, Willow. Between Willow passing away and the pandemic, she hadn't been there for 18 months so everyone was excited to see her back and meet Darla. Darla is a 7 year-old retired show dog so she walked into Brookdale with such confidence on her first visit and strutted her stuff. Several of the residents say Darla walks like a model.



April and Darla visit the memory care section of Brookdale so every week is like starting all over again with the delight. One elderly lady, who rarely leaves her room, is always excited to come out to the main living area when Darla arrives. Darla absolutely loves her and just lights up when she sees her come out to visit. They visit the main area and then go to the activity room. Oftentimes the residents are playing games and catching up on current events so Darla will plop down on her little blanket on the table and they pass her back and forth. The residents sometimes argue over who has pet her the most, or who has gotten to spend the most time with her and sound just like 5 year-olds.

One of the residents enjoys rocking Darla and singing her a lullaby like a baby, and Darla watches her and enjoys every minute of it (even though she is completely deaf!). Everyone admires Darla's long thick ears and love to kiss the top of her head. The number one comment they get is "Darla is just Darling", so now she is known there as "Darling Darla". When you look at her precious face and sweet disposition it is obvious where she gets the name.

April says being back at Brookdale with Darla has filled such a void in her life. Darla has helped heal her broken heart from losing Willow and they truly enjoy their new job together. Darla is an absolute joy and April, and her husband Rick, are beyond grateful that she came into their lives.



One of April's favorite quotes (by Hillary Clinton) is "Do all the good you can, for all the people you can, in all the ways you can, for as long as you can." She and Darla are going to live up this motto and are on their journey of making a difference in as many lives as they can.



CAAA

BULLETIN BOARD



From Gail:  
Happy New Year! Ms Crystal and I  
love Christmas. Here she is all  
ready for Santa to come. We spent  
Christmas on an island  
called Parksville in British  
Columbia. It was a White  
Christmas!



CAAA  
2022

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&  
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NEWSLETTERS?

SEND THEM TO:  
JACKIE AT

[REDPATH808@GMAIL.COM](mailto:REDPATH808@GMAIL.COM)