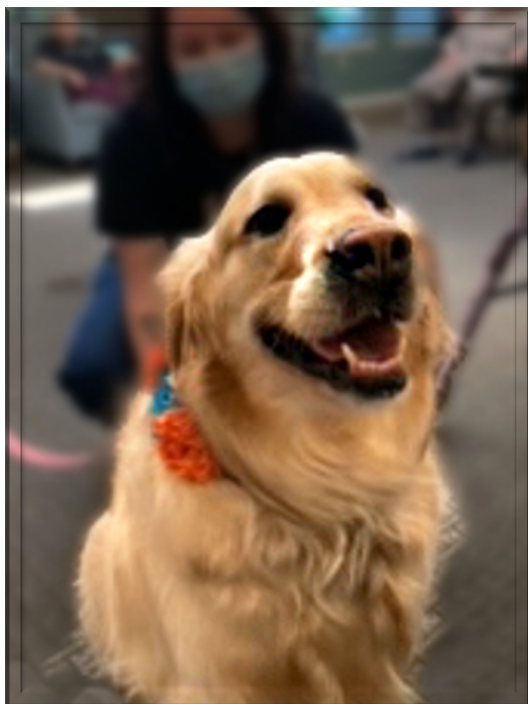




A VERY SPECIAL VISIT

BY ELLEN BUZGA



Ellen and her Golden Retriever Jasmine visit for Hospice of the Valley at Dobson House and since August 2021 also for CAAA at Parkland Memory Care in Chandler. You may remember the "Welcome" article in that month's newsletter with the headline "A Golden with a Special 6th Sense". In it Ellen described Jasmine as "Always just knowing when someone needs a little unspoken understanding and love." Below Ellen describes another example of just how true that statement is.



There is a special power between therapy dogs and some patients that is indescribable, and when we, as their fortunate handlers see that connection taking place, we just stand back and let it happen! I wanted to share a very heart-warming experience Jasmine and I had with one of the patients at Dobson House last week.

Every visit is gratifying. Every person we visit is special. But sometimes something happens that is an "OMG" moment and I get chills all over.

When Jasmine and I arrive at Dobson House, we go to the Nurses Station and ask them which patients' they feel would appreciate a visit from us. Not everyone cares for dogs, plus out of respect for their privacy or the stage of their illness, I value the nurses' input. I did that last Friday and there was a room the nurses didn't feel I should visit. However, as I was passing by that room, the patient's daughter came out in the hall and asked me if I would please come in. She said the family used to raise golden retrievers, and although her dad had been in a "very deep sleep" for several days, maybe he would sense Jasmine was there. As soon as we entered the room Jasmine seemed to focus on her dad. Jasmine looked at me, I said OK, and she went up to his bedside, and snuggled her nose under his hand. His daughter put his hand on Jasmine's head and started petting her head. Shortly, her father opened his eyes, started making happy noises, very slowly rolled toward Jasmine and started petting her. The family was cheering, crying and laughing. They were so happy and thanking Jasmine! They had all wanted to talk to their dad and their husband one more time! He petted Jasmine for a short time and continued to make happy noises. Then we left so he could be with his wife and children.

Continued on the next page →



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.



"No matter how little money and how few possessions you own, Having a dog makes you rich."

Louis Sabin



Vol. 23 - No. 06

A VERY SPECIAL VISIT

We went down to end the hall, I hugged Jasmine, and I cried like a baby. This is what "therapy" means. It's not just for the patients!!

When I returned to Dobson House the following week, I was getting Jasmine out of the car and the daughter of that patient was outside with a lot of family members. She came over to my car and told me her dad had just passed away a couple hours earlier but wanted to tell me that out of everything that happened in the past week, Jasmine was the highlight, and they were ever so grateful for her visit. The joy she brought to their family and especially to her dad was huge and they were all very appreciative for us being there!! This is why we volunteer; this is why visits are so important. It's not just for the patients, it for the wonderful families during their trying times too!



Ellen and Jasmine



Giving Back - Lifting Spirits

By President Pamela Peet

At our annual volunteer picnic on October 21st, we announced the receipt of unexpected donations from the AZ Department of Corrections Prisoner Rehabilitation and Re-entry programs at the Phoenix and Safford locations. When first received, we were bewildered about how we became the charity of choice and discovered that the state provides a list of approved charities for the group to choose from. CAAA is on the approved list! After researching our web site, the group members at both locations chose CAAA as a donation recipient because of the connection they felt to our mission and the work we do lifting spirits and creating happy moments for the elderly! Some of the donations will be used to offset costs incurred by our pet therapy teams. We will provide visiting therapy teams with gas cards and reimbursement for fecal tests required during the pet's annual exam.

We sent heartfelt thank you letters to both the Phoenix and Safford programs. Human spirits are lifted by both Giving Back and receiving!





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

- 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.



QUESTION ?

WHAT HAPPENS ON A PERFECT SUNNY SATURDAY IN OCTOBER AT TEMPE'S HOLLIS PARK THAT INVOLVES A BREAKFAST BRUNCH, SHARING OF EXPERIENCES, A FEW GAMES, MANY SMILES, VISITING WITH TWO AND FOUR LEGGED FRIENDS AND A LOT OF WAGGING TAILS?



ANSWER

THE 2023 CAAA FALL PICNIC!



Thank You so much!

For Another Great Fall Get Together

CAAA Board of Directors & Pet Therapy Committee



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PET THERAPY COMMITTEE
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PET THERAPY COMMITTEE
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NOT PICTURED

SECRETARY - SYDNI TALLERI

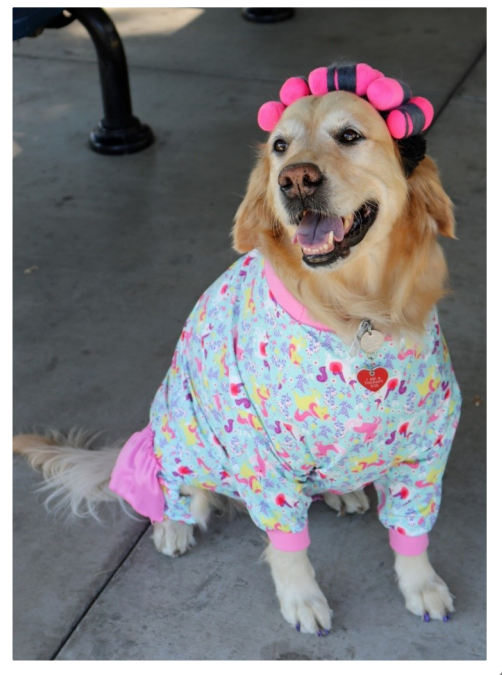
BOARD MEMBER - MELANIE LOWRANCE



DUNKING FOR HOT DOGS - LADY (ABOVE) AND PORSCHA (BELOW)



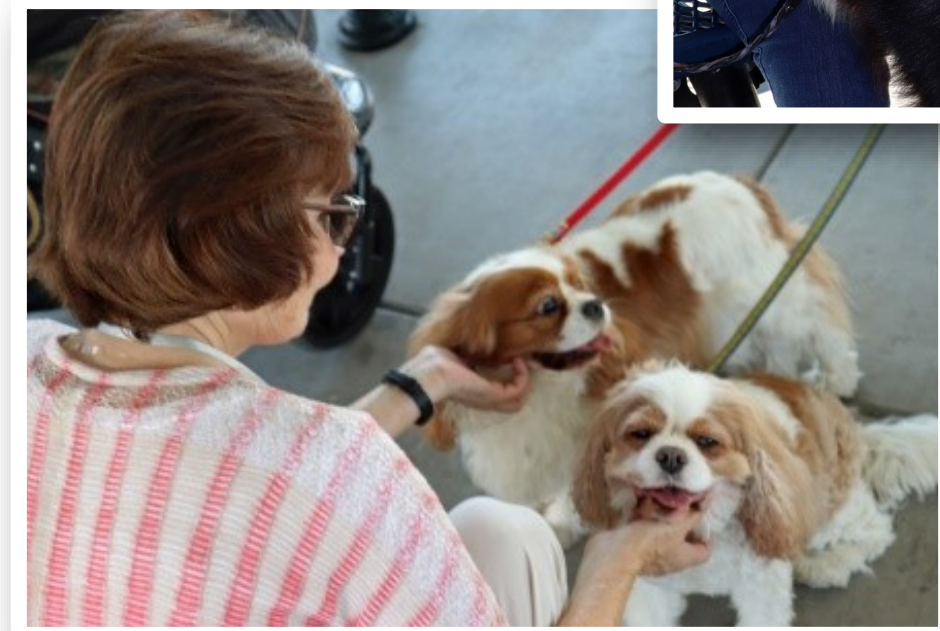
*COSTUME
WINNER
JASMINE
ALL READY
FOR HER
SPA DAY*



*GETTING
ACQUAINTED*

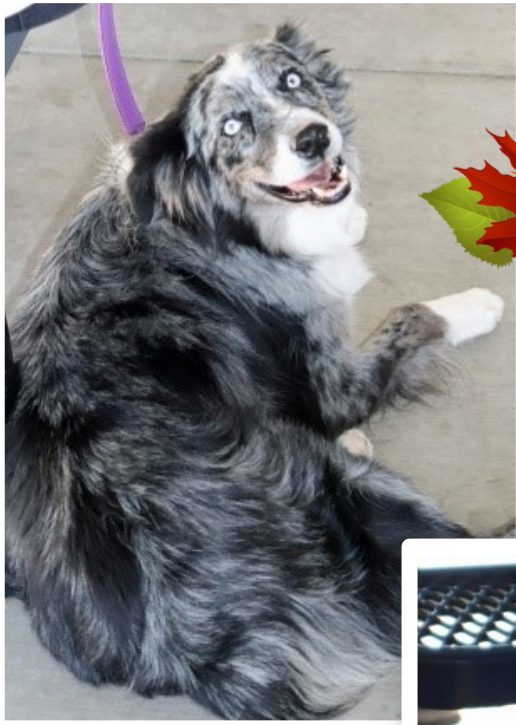


*BETTY
&
PORSCHA*

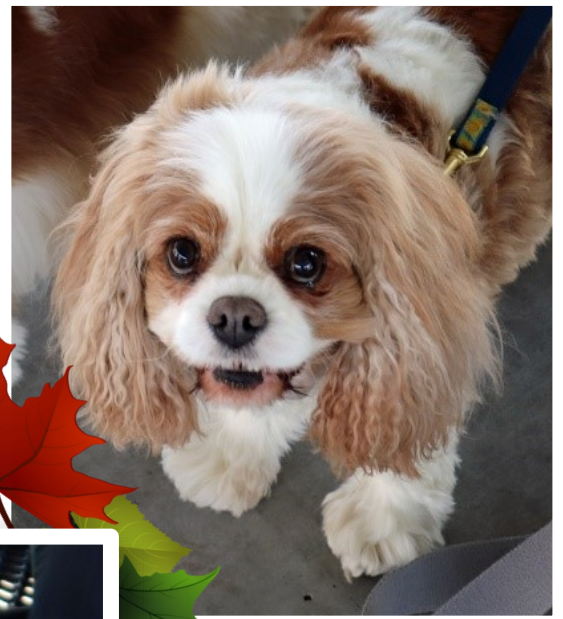


*EILEEN WITH
DARLA
AND
RACHAEL*





LADY



DARLA



MADISON



JANE AND TY



BLAKE



SHELLY AND PUPPET



"CAN I HAVE THIS PRIZE..... PLEASE?"



GETTING READY FOR 2024

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WILL BE MAILED OUT SOON WITH A REQUIRED RETURN DATE OF JANUARY 31, 2024

OUR FORMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT:

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

FOR OUR PET THERAPY TEAMS, PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR **2023** VISITATION LOG WITH YOUR RENEWAL FORMS

RECORD OF VISITATION LOG for the year _____

NAME: PHONO	Name of Facility Visited	Date of Visit	Duration of Visit	DOG'S NAME	Name of Facility Contact
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
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9					
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COMPANION ANIMAL ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA, INC.
 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ RENEWAL

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING/RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND CONTINUING YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Work: _____

If you and your pet are ready to become an active pet therapy team to visit one of our local facilities, check here to be contacted about entering market.

SEALED LETTERS SHOULD NOT BE OPENED/READ ARE NEEDED

To join or renew your membership in CAAA complete this form and attach your check payable to: Companion Animal Association of Arizona.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (Check One)
 Family (FAM) Organizational (ORG)
 Individual (IND) Disabled Student, or Senior Citizen (DIS)

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

I also wish to make a donation (in Memory or Honor of) _____ \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Your check is your receipt)

Send to: CAAA, P.O. Box 5006, Scottsdale, AZ 85261-5006

Visit our website at: www.caaainc.org
 or call at 480-226-1396

A Time For Gathering, Celebrating and Eating

The following information has been included in previous CAAA Holiday newsletters. It's always worth reminding everyone again.

Holidays are for celebrating, gathering and eating. As much as we love our traditional dishes it's not a good idea to include the family pets in holiday dinners. Following is a list from the Humane Society webpage of food to keep away from them:

- ◆ **Bones:** Bones easily splinter and can cause serious health problems (even death) for your pet.
- ◆ **Candy:** Particularly chocolate—which is toxic to dogs, cats and ferrets—and any candy containing the toxic sweetener Xylitol.
- ◆ **Citrus and pits:** Foods such as cherry pits and peach pits contain essential oils that have the ability to cause irritations and even central nervous system depression if a significant amount is ingested.
- ◆ **Coffee:** Grounds, beans and chocolate-covered espresso beans.
- ◆ **Eggs (raw)**
- ◆ **Grapes and raisins:** These can cause kidney problems.
- ◆ **Leaves and stems:** From vegetables like tomatoes.
- ◆ **Nuts**
- ◆ **Onions & Garlic**
- ◆ **Salt & Sugar**

Trash: Pets who engage in trash-digging can accidentally eat foods that are **potentially poisonous** to them. Keep trash hidden somewhere your pet can't access. *(NOTE: text in blue is a link to the Humane Society's listing of information of several other things including plants that may be poisonous to your pets)*

The PETA website adds to their list "Holiday Foods That Are Bad For Dogs":

- ◆ **Alcohol**
- ◆ **Caffeine**
- ◆ **Dairy (Milk and milk based products)**
- ◆ **Nuts and Nutmeg**
- ◆ **Yeast Dough**

So what should you share with them? Try cooked sweet potatoes (minus any additional ingredients), baked potatoes, pumpkin purée, cucumbers, carrots (steamed or raw), steamed green beans, bananas, unsweetened cranberries, and apples (not the seeds) are all good choices—and not just during the holidays. Tell them it's all delicious, they'll believe you and eat it all up!

Merry up and have the best Holidays ever!



CAAA

BULLETIN BOARD



Several of the pictures in this newsletter are Bernie Zapusek's. Thanks again for submitting them Bernie.

Speaking of..... Don't forget to send your Holiday pictures for the next newsletter to Jackie at:
redpath808@gmailcom



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2023**

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&
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REDPATH808@GMAIL.COM