



NEWSLETTER

2020 virtual Reality
ANNUAL EVENT

Welcome to our first Annual Virtual Reality Event! As you know, this year's event that was scheduled to take place at the Pyle Center had to be cancelled. So this edition of the newsletter is taking a high-tech approach and presenting the event virtually (sort of).

As always, this year's celebration event is to thank each of you for your continued support. We'll be highlighting that support for the year 2019. Our president Pam Peet will open the event followed by the announcement of the 2019 Volunteer of the Year, a Special Thank You, recognition of Milestone Visits, Retired Teams and those therapy dogs we have loved and lost during 2019. We will also meet April Crow's Chiweenie Willow, and hear her heartwarming story.

Last but not least, you're reminded to stay safe and healthy as we all look forward to the time when we can go back out into our communities and again start our long awaited therapy visits.

So for now, put on your virtual reality headset (figuratively speaking of course) and let's start this year's annual event!

*Angel**Jessie**Blake*



**A Social Pet Therapy
Program**

**THE COMPANION
ANIMAL
ASSOCIATION OF
ARIZONA, INC.**

P.O. Box 5006

Scottsdale, AZ.

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Phone (602) 258-3306

<http://www.caaainc.org>

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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.

*

"Why does watching a
dog be a dog fill one
with happiness?"

~ Jonathan Safran Foer

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VOL. 20 - No. 02



Welcome to the celebration of our 2019
'virtual' annual event and CAAA's 36th
anniversary!

CAAA is very proud to have reached our 36th milestone due to our dedicated membership who either monetarily supports CAAA or who volunteer as pet therapy teams visiting residential elder care facilities.

For our pet therapy teams whose compassion is to bring smiles and kindness to those they visit, we have recognized your valuable visitation milestones later on in this newsletter.

There were changes in board membership this year. We end 2019 with a change in leadership of Pet Therapy team coordinator. Jane Conrow resigned from the position after almost 15 years in that role. She remains a member of CAAA having joined in 2000. She standardized our pet therapy program including our forms, processes, on-boarding and placement of our pet therapy volunteers, facility on-boarding and coordinating our volunteers for special events, as well as serving on the board. Jane's dedication for improving our pet therapy program will govern the new pet therapy committee for years to come. April Crow and Rick Reid so graciously volunteered to take over Jane's position and we are sincerely appreciative, as our pet therapy teams are the heart of our organization and it takes numerous volunteer hours to fulfill this role.

We also had change in our Treasurer position with the resignation of Diane Miller and are delighted to welcome our new Treasurer Lee Kroll. Our January newsletter welcomed Lee with an article about him and his family.

We'll begin our celebration with the announcement of our Volunteer of the Year. This years' award goes to Hope Bennett and Cookie ! We presented Hope with her award in a park where she lives surrounded by her special friends and neighbors. It was a delightful day, a beautiful park and we all kept our distance, as the world is a bit different right now. But, we were excited to meet up with Hope, Cookie and her friends to celebrate a very deserving award. Some special words follow on the next page highlighting Hope's journey with CAAA.

Next, we'll present a surprise award to one of our board members Dr. Melanie Lowrance! This will be followed by the milestone awards, pet therapy team retirees, and pet memorials.

Welcome and Thank You All!



Volunteer of the Year for 2019 HOPE BENNETT

A CAAA member since 2014, hundreds of visits and three social therapy dogs, sums up Hope Bennett's dedication to making a difference in patients' lives. She and her Cavalier King Charles Spaniels have walked through many corridors and into countless rooms where they're greeted by smiles and faces that brighten up as soon as they enter.

Hope and her first Cavalier, Baxter, visited at Christian Care Center for more than three years. After she lost her beloved Baxter, Hope contacted a breeder and began a unique fostering arrangement which resulted in Hope fostering another Cavalier between litters. That was Cookie and at the age of five when she was "retired", Cookie became all hers and her second therapy dog. Together they have made 174 visits to Ridgecrest Healthcare in Phoenix where they visit with residents in their rooms, common community areas and those in the locked behavioral wing who have limited outside interaction. Although sometimes challenging, these patients get the same friendly wagging tail and enthusiastic "Cookie Smile" as all the others.

Hope has recently certified her third therapy dog, Sindere, another Cavalier she had been fostering for several years. Sindere is also visiting at Ridgecrest and although deaf, is getting good at following Cookie's lead when it comes to interacting with patients; Ridgecrest's own Dynamic Duo!

Hope and her Cavaliers reside in a community where some neighbors live alone and are no longer able to have or care for a dog. Cookie and Sindere love riding in her golf cart so she often puts them both in and they ride through the community making several stops to visit those neighbors.

In addition to her hundreds of visits for CAAA, Hope has also been a great promoter of our organization. She has made visits with CAAA groups to other organizations and always tells others about her fantastic experience being a social therapy team. She has even recruited another successful team, Summer and Leslie.

For all of Hope's efforts, time and commitment to CAAA in making a positive difference in people's lives, she is our 2019 Volunteer of the Year.



*TOP PICTURE - SOCIAL DISTANCING
President Pam Peet (far left) presented Hope (far right) her award at her community park. Several of her neighbors were there to congratulate Hope.*

Picture by Peggy Ross - Thanks!



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.amazon.com/?ref=ast_hm)
- 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 Association 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.



A Special THANK YOU **Dr. Melanie & Daisy**

The CAAA Board recently gave special recognition to one of our board members Dr. Melanie Lowrance, DVM.

Dr. Melanie and border collie Daisy began their journey with CAAA in 2012. As a veterinarian, it takes a special kind of caring and passionate person to take time out of a busy work life to serve on a board and volunteer as a pet therapy team in hopes of making a positive difference in someone's day!



The enthusiasm and support in which Dr. Melanie has provided CAAA over the years has inspired all of us and we wanted to show our appreciation and acknowledgement, with this award.

Of course, if you asked Daisy, she'd say 'she' did all of the work, so Daisy's name appears front-and-center on the award.

Understanding the incredible value of the human/animal bond, Dr. Melanie and Daisy were honored for their years of dedicated visitations lighting up the lives and bringing smiles to all they visit.

With much gratitude,

The CAAA Board

2019

Welcome to Our New Teams



Leslie Burdar & Summer



Hope Bennett & Sindere



Deborah Zapusek & Porscha

2019 Team Milestone Recognition

*Teams With
Up to 25
Visits*

***Mary
Beardsley
&
Angel***



***Jodi
Ferreira
&
Simon***



Joni Cipollone & Gracie



***Bonnie
Trasamar
&
Tobie***



Diane Laubmeier & Jedi

2019 Team Milestone Recognition



57 Visits
Lisa Healy & Tahoe



52 Visits
Janet McClellan & Jonesy



80 Visits
Russell David & Jessie



48 Visits
Gail Peterson & Crystal

2019 Team Milestone Recognition



83 Visits - ***Rick Reid & Jake***



143 Visits - ***Tom Palen & Lark***



88 Visits
Jane Conrow & Ty

84 Visits - ***April Crow & Willow***



2019 Team Milestone Recognition



147 Visits - ***Cindy Rubicam & Buddy***



174 Visits
Hope Bennett & Cookie



183 Visits - ***Melanie Lowrance & Daisy***

2019 Team Milestone Recognition



238 Visits - **Jennifer Reese & Midnight**



189 Visits
Deborah Zapusek & Cheyenne



232 Visits - **Ray Ritchotte & Blake**

2019 Retired Teams

"We wish our retired teams all the best and we are grateful for their numerous volunteer hours and support of CAAA." - President Pam Peet

Indio & Chris and Jane Murray

The Murray's joined CAAA in 2015 and made over 60 visits with their precious golden retriever Indio.

Indio was getting up there in age and Chris felt it was time to retire Indio.

The Murray's were a sincere pleasure to have in our program and we will miss them dearly.



Rudy & Jean Burton

Jean and Rudy (her Australian Shepherd) were with our organization 2 short years, but Jean felt it was time to retire Rudy. We were privileged to have Jean on board, as she had 30 years of dog obedience training and was eager to assist CAAA when called upon.



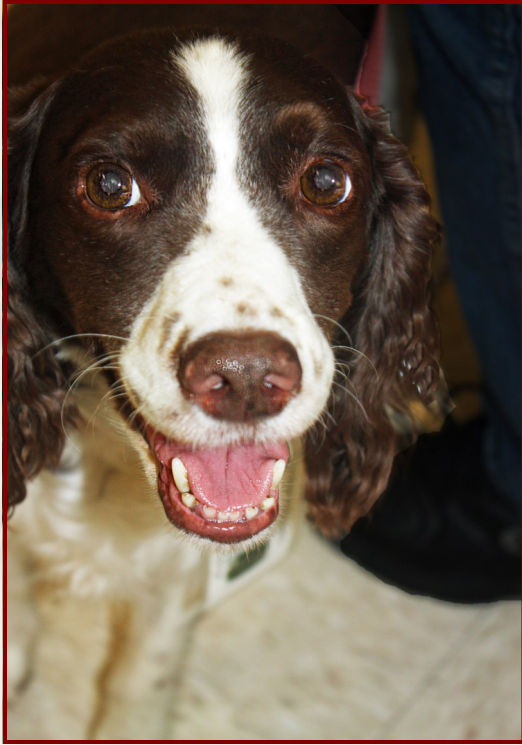
Robby & Joann Weschler

Joann has been visiting Friendship Village in Tempe with Robby her Shetland Sheepdog since 2011. They have made 275+ visits. At times Robby also performed tricks for the residents.



2019

Our Cherished Pets Who Have Crossed the Rainbow Bridge



Julie

Ray Ritchotte's Springer Spaniel



Chi Chi

Howell Family's Golden Retriever

"Someday the memories of those last days will fade and you'll think about your dog as it was in happy times, in all its butt-wiggling, people-loving, face-licking, cat-chasing, mischief-making glory"

~Author Unknown



Grant - Gretchen Murnane's Pug

WILLOW'S STORY

FROM STREET DOG TO THERAPY DOG EXTRAORDINAIRE



Willow was found running the streets of Yuma and was picked up by the Humane Society of Yuma. She was approximately 9-10 years old, had several mammary tumors and needed immediate medical attention. The wonderful people at HSOY got Willow through two difficult surgeries and on the road to recovery. A couple months later Willow was lucky enough to catch a ride on the Rescue Express and come up to a foster home in Phoenix. Well, sometimes an unexpected love comes into your life

and you are changed forever. It was truly fate that Willow came into my life. It was love at first sight for both of us and she was meant to be my little girl. On December 3, 2015, Willow had found her forever home the moment she got off the Rescue Express.



Life is full of surprises. Willow came into my life at a time when I wasn't even aware how much I needed her. This little rescue dog brought a happiness that I hadn't experienced in a long time and made my life complete. Many of us think we are doing a good deed when we rescue a pet, but truthfully, that pet is more than likely to rescue us in one way or another.

Everyone seemed to fall in love with Willow wherever we went. She always got so much attention and people were

just drawn to her sweet little face. I had never seen anyone or anything bring reactions to people like Willow did. She truly radiates happiness and couldn't help but make everyone around her smile. This gave me an idea. What better way to spread her happiness and give back to others than with doing therapy work. We became a registered pet therapy team and visited three assisted living/nursing home facilities, volunteered with Hospice of the Valley, Companion Animal Association of Arizona and Gabriel's Angels. We also participated in a children's reading program at an elementary school and Willow was a regular visitor at my office. Who would have ever guessed that this senior throw away street dog from Yuma would end up being a therapy dog extraordinaire and giving back to so many others in need.

Willow brought so much joy and happiness to my life and it was my greatest gift to be able to share her and give back to others. Four years, one month and twenty-two days was not enough time to spend with this wonderful little dog, but during that time, my life was forever changed and she gave my life a bigger purpose than I ever imagined. I didn't rescue Willow the day she got off the Rescue Express, she rescued me.

One of my favorite quotes is "Be the reason somebody smiles today" and Willow lived true to this every single day.



Just a Few Odds *N* Ends

With our "Shelter in Place" directive now in effect are you spending more time shopping on the Internet? If so, please remember Amazon is one of our community partners. When shopping at Amazon on line, use : **SMILE.AMAZON.COM** so a portion of your sale will be donated to CAAA.



Need a

"Stress Free Guaranteed to Make You Smile" Break?

Just click on the link below which should take you to a short slide show with a few faces you will probably recognize. If the link doesn't work for you, just cut/paste it in your browser.

<https://jsr1.smugmug.com/CAAA-Slide-Show/n-tcB3NT>



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SUBMIT YOUR 2020 RENEWAL FORMS AND 2019 VISITATION LOGS ARE NOW DUE

WE THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP AND ARE HOPEFUL THAT YOU WILL DECIDE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN ORDER FOR OUR PROGRAMS TO CONTINUE THEIR GREAT WORK.

BY NOW EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED A MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PACKET. OUR FORMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT:

<https://www.caaainc.org/forms.html>

FOR OUR PET THERAPY TEAMS, PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR **2019 VISIT LOG** WITH YOUR RENEWAL FORMS.

COMPANION ANIMALS ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA RECORD OF VISITATION LOG for the year _____				
NAME _____		DOG'S NAME _____		
PHONE _____	E-MAIL _____			
#	Name of Facility Visited	Date of Visit	Duration of Visit	Name of Facility Contact
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
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COMPANION ANIMAL ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA, INC.
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL
20____

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

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Home Phone _____ E-Mail _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If you and your pet are ready to become an active pet therapy team to visit one of our host facilities, check here to be contacted about getting started ☐

VOLUNTEERS - besides pet therapy teams- ARE NEEDED

If you would like to be contacted about participating, check here ☐

To join or renew your membership in CAAA complete this form and attach your check for the dues category you are supporting - payable to Companion Animal Association of Arizona

DUES CATEGORIES (Check One) ☐ Supporting (\$200) ☐ Organization (\$ 75)
☐ Family (\$ 40) ☐ Individual (\$ 25) ☐ Disabled, Student, or Senior Citizen (\$ 10)

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

\$ _____ 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 us at 602-258-3306

CAAA Form - General Membership Application/Renewal (Rev-02/03) JC

CAAA

BULLETIN BOARD



"Sinders' Puppies"
Sinders is Hope'Bennett's Cavalier



"Friday"
April Crow and Rick Reid's
new Cavalier

DON'T FORGET WE
WANT TO HEAR FROM
YOU?

Share your stories from pet
therapy visits on Facebook.

facebook
update



CAAA
2020

OFFICERS
&
BOARD
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PAMELA PEET

VICE PRESIDENT
NANCY PARKER

SECRETARY
SYDNI TALLERI

TREASURER
LEE KROLL

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ANY COMMENTS,
PICTURES,
SUGGESTIONS, OR
INPUT FOR FUTURE
NEWSLETTERS?

SEND THEM TO:

JACKIE AT

TRNGPTST@COX.NET