



FEBRUARY - MARCH  
2024



# NEWSLETTER ANNUAL EVENT EDITION



## 2024 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

*Our Phone Team - Ellen Buzga, Nancy Parker & Rene Chaillie*

BY PRESIDENT PAMELA PEET

Nancy, Ellen and Rene came together as our 'phone team' in March 2022 alternating days of the week checking our phone message line. Prior to forming this team Nancy had been sole support for many years checking our phone line every single day. Their volunteer role behind the scenes provides a critical service for our organization. Although we may not receive many calls, here are two examples of calls we received from people desperate for help. One call was from someone looking for emergency pet medical care and another from a social worker looking for someone to foster a patient's animal while they were in the hospital. We provide referrals and guidance to assist individuals in navigating their needs even though the requests for help may not be within the mission of CAAA.

Our phone team plays a crucial role in our organization's ability to serve our community, and we are sincerely thankful for their commitment. Nancy, Rene and Ellen's generosity of time and effort does not go unnoticed, and we are incredibly fortunate to have them as volunteers for CAAA.

Since 2007, with the passing of our then treasurer John Suardini, we decided to create a volunteer of the year award to honor his volunteer service with CAAA. This year we are excited to announce our phone team of Nancy, Rene and Ellen is receiving the 2024 John Suardini Volunteer of the Year award!



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.



"Dogs are even more than our best friends - they can be our teachers sharing lessons that stay in our hearts forever."

*Author unknown*



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# MARCH 30, 2024

# CAAA ANNUAL EVENT



# CAAA ANNUAL EVENT .....



*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.



Thank you bags were passed out at the Annual Event on March 30th. Included was a CAAA Pet Therapy dog tag !



## Giving Back .....

*An Update 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!

The donations are being used to offset costs incurred by our pet therapy teams. We will provide visiting therapy teams reimbursement for fecal tests required during the pet's annual exam. Simply email the invoice to [ppeet@cox.net](mailto:ppeet@cox.net) and our Treasurer Eileen will send you a check.

We sent heartfelt thank you letters to both the Phoenix and Safford programs.

# Advances in Canine Medicine

*Following is a recap of Board Member Dr. Lowrance's presentation at this year's Annual Event*

## Monoclonal Antibody Treatments

Monoclonal antibody treatments for humans have been around since the 80's. Every species is different with antibodies and it has taken a while for these treatments to be available for animals. Now available, they are only given by injection by a veterinarian. Current continuing research in the field of monoclonal antibody treatments is concentrating on allergies, dermatological conditions, kidney disease, heart disease, and cancer.

*Dr. Melanie and son Matthew*



## Valley Fever Vaccine Information

Valley fever is a fungal disease that makes dog very sick with coughing, fever, limping, and seizures. 6-10% of dogs in Pima, Pinal, Maricopa county will become sick with valley fever at a cost to pet owners over \$60 million. The average person spends thousands a year treating this disease. It affects any part of the body that large doses of antifungals sometimes can't stop it. A vaccine is not available and is still in the USDA approval procedure (and has been for a while although still not available). Once on the market it should be cost effective, minimal adverse effects and will be considered a routine annual vaccine.

## Sniffer Dogs

Dr. Melanie also discussed a research article in the new One Health section of the American Journal of Veterinary Medicine this year about sniffer dogs. One Health is a new concept to advance and benefit all species. It is defined a collaborative, multisectoral, transdisciplinary approach working at the local, regional, nation and global levels with the goal of achieving optimal health outcome recognizing the inter connection between people, animals, plants their shared environment.

The article was about dogs trained to sniff the Covid 19 virus. They trained two dogs that were high drive, food motivated, and friendly with people and used covid 19 samples to train them over the course of a few months. The dogs were leashed and allowed to sniff known positive and negative people based on PCR. They were 4-6 feet away. The result - 94-96% accuracy in 5-10 seconds.

Scent was variable based on age of the person. Scent in adults for most variants lasted about 10 days from onset of symptoms, and in kids 2-3 days. Children clear infection much faster than adults. Dogs were able to detect scent 2-3 days prior to symptomatic or positive test. They were able to detect scent in a dried week-old rapid test cassette as well as unwashed clothing from symptomatic people. Scent lingers. There was a common odor of all variants. Once trained to sniff, every 4 to 6 weeks dogs can be trained to detect new scents of interest. Deployed of these dogs is much more rapid than development of new tests. Dogs are very much underutilized in public health. Maybe one day there will be a lab in your doctor's office in which a sample may be sniffed to help you or your dog's diagnosis.



# Milestone Team Visits Thank You

## New Teams

April Crow & Rachael  
5 visits



Joni Cipollone & David  
with Woody - 5 visits



Not Pictured:  
Shelly Fields  
&  
Puppet

## Up to 25 Visits

Deb Zapusek & Porscha  
14 visits



Not Pictured:  
Hope Bennett  
&  
Sophie  
10 visits

Gretchen Murnane & McKee  
9 visits



## 25+ Visits

April Crow & Darla  
42 Visits



## 50+ Visits

Ellen Buzga & Jasmine



Not Pictured:

Christina Summers & Wyatt 27 Visits  
Jodi Ferreira & Simon 30 Visits

Not Pictured:

Sara Cowan & Madison 71 Visits

## 125+ Visits

Rene Chaillie & Lady 143 Visits



## 150+ Visits

Jane Conrow & Ty 155 Visits



# 200+ Visits

Not Pictured: Jennifer Reese & Midnight 347 Visits

Ray Ritchotte & Blake  
348 Visits



## Speaking of Blake.....



Ray Ritchotte received a letter of confirmation from AKC that Blake is the first and the only English Springer Spaniel to be awarded the "Therapy Dog Supreme Title" and is now in the AKC record book. That's as "Supreme" as it gets - It's the highest category for therapy dogs; they must complete at least 600 visits.

Throughout the past 10 years Ray and Blake have also made visits with Alliance of Therapy Dogs, Pawsitive Friendship and Gabriel's Angels. Adding up visits with all organizations, the number is 667 total. "I only have an estimate on the total number of people we have visited" says Ray "but a rough figure including Banner Desert Medical from 2016 and 2017 were he and I did one thousand seven hundred and sixty five patient visits, I would estimate close to 9 thousand or more men, women and children since March of 2014."

Congratulations on such an outstanding achievement!

## CAAA ANNUAL EVENT . . . . .





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*(LEFT TO RIGHT)* EILEEN YURISH - TREASURER, NANCY PARKER - VICE PRESIDENT, PAMELA PEET - PRESIDENT, MELANIE LOWRANCE - BOARD MEMBER, MARY ANNE REYMAN - BOARD MEMBER, SYDNI TALLERI - SECRETARY



# PET THERAPY COMMITTEE

RICK REED & APRIL CROW (DARLA & RACHAEL)

*thank you*  
 For Another  
 Great Annual  
 Event





# CAAA

BULLETIN BOARD



**Did you Know?**  
 April 27 is National Little Pampered Dog Day?

**DID YOU KNOW**  
 APRIL IS....



**National Pet Month**  
 APRIL-MAY

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
 There are 360 globally recognized breeds of dogs.

**CAAA  
2023**

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

SEND THEM TO:  
JACKIE AT

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