



Cookie the Cavalier

She may be a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, but there's nothing "cavalier" about Cookie when it comes to visiting at Ridgecrest Nursing Center in Phoenix. She visits all areas including the locked behavioral area, individual resident rooms and the common community room. Cookie and Hope Bennett have been seeing patients at this skilled nursing and rehab facility every week since April, 2016. Each visit generates happy faces and big smiles as most patients now know Cookie and recognize her when she enters their room.

Google the Cavalier breed and you'll see comments like "They are very affectionate, playful, extremely patient and eager to please. Not shy about socializing, they adapt quickly to almost any environment, require a lot of human interaction and are excellent lap dogs." This not only describes the breed, but also Cookie and her perfect traits for a social therapy dog.

This breed originated in the United Kingdom and is descended from the small Toy Spaniels seen in many 16th -17th century



paintings and first made popular by King Charles. The Cavaliers however were not developed and recognized until several centuries later when the first Cavalier club formed in 1928. In the years to follow the breed was once almost extinct. The Second World War caused a drastic setback when the vast majority of the breeding stock was destroyed because of food shortages and hardship. Following the war, just six dogs would survive as the new beginning from which

all present-day Cavaliers descent. The first recorded Cavalier living in the United States was brought from the United Kingdom in 1956. They were classified as a toy breed, were recognized by The Kennel Club in 1994 and the American Kennel Club in 1995.

Fast forward to 2014 when Hope got her first Cavalier, Baxter. Baxter was given to her by a friend because of all things, he snored. That friend's loss was Hope's gain as well as the Christian Care Center's where she and Baxter visited for three years and over 100 times. After she lost her beloved Baxter to cancer, Hope knew she would not be able to afford another Cavalier. She missed him so much that she contacted a



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.

*

"Once you have had a wonderful dog, a life without one, is a life diminished."

Dean Koontz

breeder and offered to volunteer at her kennel just to be around those wonderful Cavaliers again. That offer was the beginning of a unique fostering arrangement which resulted in Hope again having a Cavalier - Cookie. She fostered Cookie between litters and at the age of five when she was "retired", Cookie became all hers.

Hope says because of her previous experience with Baxter, she knew Cookie also had the same temperament that would make her a great social therapy dog. In their 50+ visits since, many of the residents of Ridgecrest will tell you the same thing. Besides the hugs and smiles, she brings back happy memories and conversations about their own dogs. One

resident in the behavioral center with very limited verbal communication greets them every time with a "Hi Hope, Hi Cookie" when they arrive.

The visiting future for those residents may turn out to be even better because Hope is fostering another Cavalier, Sindere, who she intends to certify through CAAA also. Just imagine how many faces will light up when they see two little happy, furry bundles scurrying down the hall or into their room for a two-time tail waggen' visit.



Hope and Cookie



Future CAAA social therapy dog Sindere and Cookie



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
- 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: rhowell30@mac.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.



Hello Maggie!

By Wil Williams

Some years ago when I retired for the first time, I began looking around for volunteer activities. I don't know if I was caught up in the thought process to "give back to my community" or I just wanted to do fun things.

Following some research, I ran across an organization called the Companion Animal Association of Arizona or CAAA. Their website told me they sponsor pet therapy visits to patients who are room, wheelchair, or bed-bound in various medical facilities around the Valley of the Sun. At that time we had a total of three unemployed Black Labs milling around the house so I decided to put one of them to work partnering with me as an official, certified pet therapy team.

Maggie turned out to be perfectly assembled to provide a happy face and a wet nose to folks in need of social interaction, so we began a three-year pet therapy team odyssey during which we travelled to a nursing home in north Phoenix weekly.

It was clear to me from the beginning that Maggie was destined for stardom and I was merely the guy who delivered her to her adoring fans. Upon arrival, we'd no sooner reach the lobby when shouts of "Maggie's here!" reverberated up and down the corridors.

One day, I complained that no one noticed me or knew who I was although I accompanied Ms. Maggie everywhere she went. I was immediately advised that, yes, folks did know who I was - I was the fellow who brought Maggie to the home. It's satisfying to understand one's legitimate role in life. I guess.

It was amazing to me soon after we began meeting patients how quickly they found treats to offer to Maggie as we visited and how quickly Maggie learned which rooms had treats to offer. Her pace quickened noticeably as we neared the rooms with gustatory potential.

Early on, I wondered if our pet therapy visits made a difference. But then I thought what it must be like as a patient. They're awakened each morning for breakfast and to take medications. They spend the morning snoozing or sitting in the common room. After lunch, they nap some more and maybe watch television. Dinner is served, then more time in the bed or wheelchair until bedtime. Tomorrow would follow the same script, as would the next day.

But one morning, a Black Lab (or some other breed of dog) enters the room and trots

over to see them. For a few precious minutes, they are the only person in that dog's eyes. They might forget the other 23 and a half hours of their day. For a while they laugh, smile and remember how Maggie reminds them of the dog they had, was it five years or 10 years ago? Yes, I think we - Maggie and I - made a difference. I saw it in the eyes and smiles of the people we came to call friends.

I also saw the glow in patients' eyes for days following the extraordinary visit of a fellow who periodically brought baby goats, miniature sheep and a chicken, who believe it or not, enjoyed entertaining anyone in a hospital gown.

While we were "in service," Hospice of the Valley started its own pet therapy program in Phoenix. I saw a photo of a miniature pony standing in someone's kitchen; three hundred pounds of therapy in one package!

CAAA is still going strong and providing valuable support to folks who don't ordinarily receive many guests. I'm thankful Maggie and I could be part of their team!

(NOTE: This article was one of Wil Williams' regular columns which appear in the Chino Valley Review.)



WELCOME RUDY & JEAN

Jean Burton and Rudy, an Australian Shepherd, are now visiting at Hawthorn Court in Awhatukee. Jean was our speaker at the last annual event in March and taught the Tricks class. When asked how their visits are going, Jean replied "Rudy is enjoying his visits at Hawthorne Court. He's getting to know some of the residents and certainly the routine of going there. It's interesting to see his response when I put on his visit "clothing" (special collar and leash, and CAAA bandana). He has done a few tricks for the residents but I plan to develop a little trick 'show' also."

THANK YOU *wendy*



In November of 2015, Wendy Rubicam accepted a board position with CAAA. As she has recently resigned, we wanted to thank her publicly for her personal contribution to the organization and for being a valuable member of the board. Her skills and passion enhanced CAAA's outreach to the community.

Just a few of Wendy's accomplishments included: the launching of our Facebook page, participation in the AZ Gives Day, doing research projects, writing newsletter articles, following up with membership as needed and working on other administrative tasks which required deadlines to meet specific goals.

CAAA would like to recognize Wendy for her dedication and commitment to the organization and wish her the best for her continued success.



Wendy with just a few of her CAAA friends who will miss her



ADA Guidelines for Service Animals

Service animals, emotional support animals and therapy animals may all provide a valuable service to their owners, but only one is covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Federal civil rights laws only govern the rights of a person requiring a **service animal**. As defined by these laws, a service animal is "Any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability."

This can get really complicated. One reason for confusion is that besides federal law, many states have a different definition of a service animal. And besides Federal and State laws there is the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) specific to air travel which includes service AND emotional support animals. Under ACAA animals such as pigs and monkeys may be considered service animals also. With non service animals airlines are free to adopt any policy they choose regarding the carriage of pets and other animals.

Did you know that the federal law applies to dogs with just one exception - no not cats, but miniature horses. Yes, horses. Reasonable modifications in policies must be made to allow individuals with disabilities to use miniature horses if they have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for individuals with disabilities.

Under Federal ADA, emotional support animals, comfort animals, and therapy dogs (that's us) are not service animals. An animal's work or tasks performed must be related to a person's disability. These animals do not meet this criteria. ADA guidelines warn that a note from a doctor that states a person needs to have the animal for comfort or emotional support does not turn that animal into a service animal.

Sill confused? The ADA provides on line a very detailed guide specific to service animals:

<https://adata.org/publication/service-animals-booklet>

It includes definitions, laws, enforcement, responsibilities and rights in employment, housing, transportation and education.

You can also visit our CAAA website where you'll find access to a publication written by one of our long time members, Tawni McBee, that is specific to this same topic..

<http://www.caaainc.org/caaa/documents/THERAPY%20DOG%20ARTICLE.pdf>

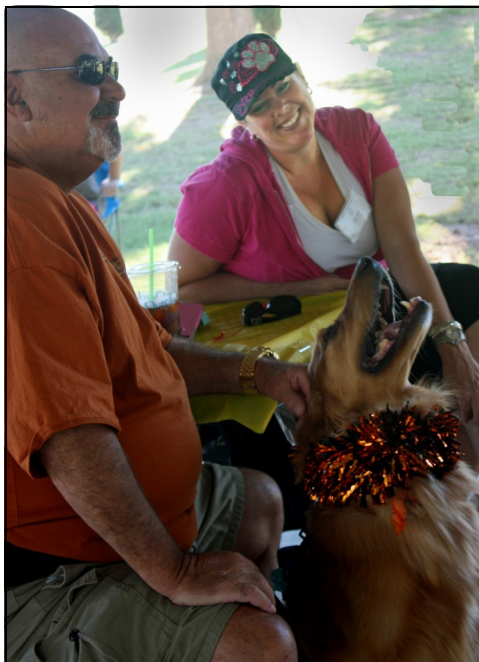
REMEMBER



THIS YEAR'S FALL PICNIC
WILL BE:

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 4, 2017**

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW IN FUTURE
EDITIONS OF THE CAAA NEWSLETTER AND
IN THE MAIL





CORNER

BY DR. MELANIE LOWRANCE

THE VET'S



Senior Pet: When to Call the Vet

The day my Labrador sat in front of her water bowl and drank twice what she used to drink I knew there was a problem. I cringed when I drew her blood and her blood sugar was 389! I confirmed what I already knew in my core, my 10 year old dog had developed type 1 diabetes. Increased water drinking is the most common sign of diabetes in dogs. I was able to intervene right away with insulin and she never suffered from this disease. I can't stress the importance of senior exams and paying attention to our pets as they age. Early intervention is always best. I wanted to share some of the most common signs associated with diseases in aging pets and when to call the veterinarian.



Overdrinking- This is an early warning sign for diabetes, Cushing's disease (adrenal gland problem), kidney disease, liver disease or even cancer

Increased Appetite- diabetes, hyperthyroidism (especially in cats), Cushing's disease

Decreased Appetite- anything from nausea,

oral pain, organ failure, cancer

Change in Breath- oral tumor, tooth root abscess, diabetes, kidney disease

Unexplained Weight Loss- heart disease, cancer, organ failure, Addison's disease

Unexplained Weight Gain- low thyroid, heart disease, inactivity from arthritis

Vision Problems- sudden cataracts in dogs may indicate diabetes and vision loss, glaucoma

Inactivity/Trouble getting up or down/Not jumping up anymore- Early signs of arthritis or spinal disease

Masses- Any new skin lump should be examined by a veterinarian. Masses in the abdomen can change the shape of the abdominal cavity, usually making it bigger.

Vomiting/Diarrhea especially if there is no change in diet or the pet doesn't want to eat and/or drink- these signs can be associated with everything from gastrointestinal diseases like food allergy to cancer or liver/kidney/diabetes

Coughing- lung masses, heart failure, infections like valley fever can happen at any age and cause cough.

Any change that is concerning to the owner should be discussed with a veterinarian. The above are just major guidelines that can be followed. When a pet reaches 8 years of age a veterinary exam

should be performed every 6 months. Early intervention and prevention is key to quality of life in pets and longevity. My Labrador is still doing well.

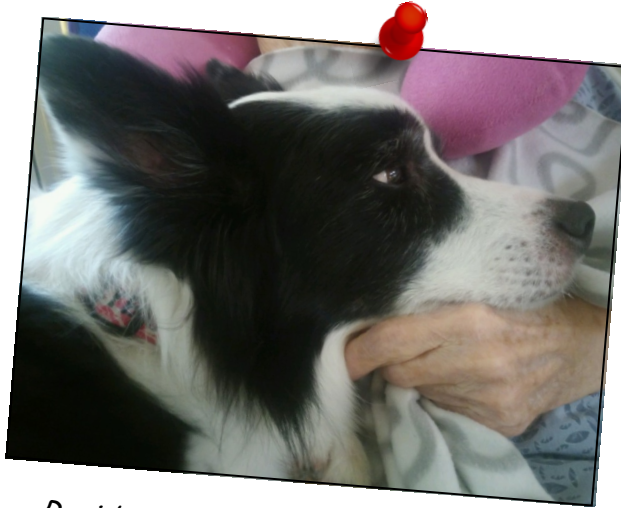
She sees her veterinarian every day!



*My therapy dog Daisy.
She is 9 yrs.*



BULLETIN BOARD



*Resident stress reliever.....Cheyenne
working at Abounding Home Care*

I have been studying the traits and dispositions of the so called "lower animals" and contrasting them with the traits and dispositions of man.

I find the result humiliating to me. – Mark Twain

LEARN TO LAUGH
AT YOURSELF.....
YOU'LL HAVE FREE
ENTERTAINMENT
THE REST OF YOUR
LIFE !



**DON'T FORGET WE WANT TO HEAR FROM
YOU?**

Share your stories from pet therapy visits on Facebook. If you have a story to share, please send it to Bella at:
bellapanchmatia@gmail.com

**CAAA
2017**

**OFFICERS
&
BOARD
MEMBERS**

PRESIDENT
PAMELA PEET

VICE PRESIDENT
NANCY PARKER

SECRETARY
SYDNI TALLERI

TREASURER
GEORGE MURNANE

BOARD MEMBERS
JANE CONROW
MELANIE LOWRANCE
BELLA PANCHMATIA
MARY ANNE REYMAN

ANY COMMENTS,
PICTURES,
SUGGESTIONS, OR
INPUT FOR FUTURE
NEWSLETTERS?
SEND THEM TO:

JACKIE AT
TRNGPTST@COX.NET