



NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

READY....SET.....2 new teams are ready to.... GO

Debbie & Porscha Continuing a Tradition

Tradition is defined as "The handing down of customs, information, etc., from generation to generation, especially by word & practice." Having been a CAAA social therapy team with several different dogs and visiting with residents for over 17 years, Debbie Zapusek certainly has established her own tradition of sharing and caring. She says, "I love to take one of my dogs somewhere and make someone happy. The response from people and my dog is so rewarding. Our visit can make their day or even their week."

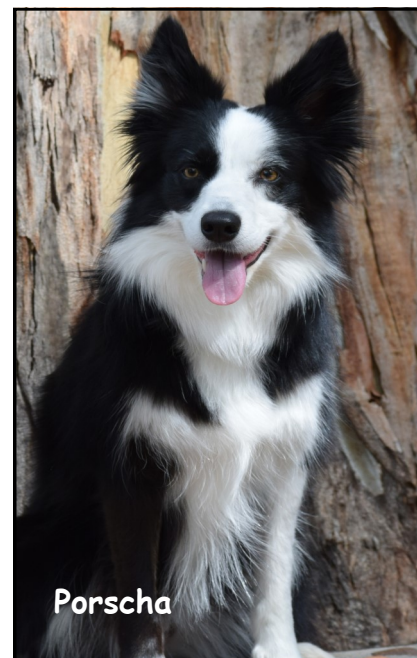
Debbie's CAAA tradition started with Laddie followed by Cheyenne, her current 13 years old Border Collie. With well over 200 visits to area facilities Cheyenne will be retiring this year and passing on the social therapy tradition to another one of Debbie's Border Collies, 5 year old Porscha.

She's already made a few visits in 2019 to Abounding Home Care with one of our long time members Rick Reid where she was evaluated and certified. Debbie and Porscha are now eagerly awaiting an assignment.

Working with dogs has been another tradition in Debbie's life; a family tradition. She explains "My family raised and trained poodles and also had a boarding and grooming business." Since she was 18 she's been a trainer holding classes and also judging dogs in their school shows prior to the dogs AKC trials. So it's not surprising that social therapy is far from the only training Debbie's dogs have had.

In addition to Cheyenne and Porscha there are two other dogs in the Zapusek family, 12 year old Reese and the youngest, 16 month old Chase, both Australian Shepherds. Besides being trained as service dogs, all four have been trained and compete in agility, trick training or herding. Cheyenne is a seven time agility champion with AKC, USDAA (US Dog Agility Assoc) and DOCNA (Dogs on Course in North America). Reese is in the top 10 of the nation for agility and a national champion in DOCNA. Porscha has an AKC Masters Agility title and has also earned her Trick Dog Elite Performer title. Debbie's youngest dog Chase comes from a strong herding background and is in the process of training for his Herding Dog Champion title.

And so the traditions continue..... carrying, sharing AND champions.



Porscha



A Social Pet Therapy Program

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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.



"A dog wags its tail
with its heart"

~ Author Unknown ~



VOL. 20 - NO. 03

Rene, Lady & The DEA Agent

Rene Chaillie had always planned that after retirement she and her Australian Shepherd Sophie would become a social therapy team. Unfortunately five months after retiring as a Legal Secretary in the County Prosecutor's Office her beloved Sophie passed away. So her plan was put on hold, but only until an encounter with a Drug Enforcement Agent (DEA) brought another Australian Shepherd named Lady into her life.



Rene and her husband Richard live on horse property in a rural part of Laveen. About a year and a half ago they were looking to buy another horse, saw an advertisement for one that looked promising and decided to take a ride to see it. While there they noticed a beautiful Australian Shepherd on the property as well. They found out the man selling the horse was a DEA agent and the dog had been confiscated during a drug bust. The suspect being apprehended at the time said it wasn't his dog and in colorful descriptive language left no doubt that he could care less about what happened to the animal. The agent didn't want to just leave the dog, so he took it with hopes of finding a good home for her. That day Rene and Richard got another horse and Lady got a loving forever home.

At that time, Lady was about four years old. Rene says "She seemed to have had some basic training because she walked well on a leash. It was clear from the start that she was a really smart dog. She got along well with our other two dogs, was very calm and loved being around people"; perfect traits for a good social therapy dog. So Rene doubled backed to her original plan of becoming a social therapy team.

She started by enrolling Lady in training classes where after completion she received her AKC Canine Good Citizen Award. Next it was on to graduating from the Social Therapy Class at Pet Smart and at last, finding a good organization to join.

Rene found several organizations through an internet search and says "CAAA just appealed to me, so I made the initial connection, filled out all the necessary forms and met with Rick Reid. I accompanied him and his Golden Jake on several of their visits to observe and experience first hand what social therapy was really like. Eventually we were evaluated and became certified."

Rene says "We're anxiously waiting to be assigned to a facility but totally understand why this can't happen now. When it does, we'll be ready". Although visiting facilities may be on "hold" for now, Lady is keeping up on her visiting skills. She always goes with Rene when she visits her 94 year old Father in his home.



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 Association of Arizona TIN-94-2908620
- **Intel** encourages all 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.



SO MANY YEARS - SO MANY GOOD DEEDS

We Say Good-Bye to Tawni McBee and Tom Palen

By President Pamela Peet

Tom began his CAAA journey in 2000.

After almost 20 years of pet therapy work and visiting Mi Casa Nursing Center for about that long (he began with Banner Desert Hospital), Tom has had several pet therapy dogs, including Jasper, Boone and Lark. CAAA has had teams at Mi Casa since 1986 and Tom's dedication to providing that human/animal bond with the residents over the years has been valuable beyond words.

In 2010, Jane Conrow wrote this wonderful note to Tom: "In recent months, I've been out to Mi Casa numerous times in my "other life" as a hospice volunteer. On each visit, residents and employees have mentioned you and Jasper and/or Boone. It's very clear that you have made a difference there and have touched many hearts, as you've gone about your visits over so many years. It's like I find a little trail of star dust (*instead of bread crumbs*) that you've left behind, as you and your dog make your way down the halls."

So, why did Tom decide to get into pet therapy work? Well, that decision came after Tom endured some very serious health issues and knew first-hand what it was like to be alone in a hospital.

So, along came Tom's first therapy dog - his beloved Jasper and with Jasper's wonderful disposition and love of people, he was perfect for pet therapy work! Then, after about 9 years, Jasper started slowing down and his other standard poodle Boone took over the visits. When Boone passed away, Tom wasn't sure if he would continue pet therapy work but along came Lark. Lark, who is a Silver Standard Poodle and is pure love, was clearly



Tawni & Boone

(Good-Bye - Continued on page 4)



Lark with Tom accepting his Volunteer of the Year Award

born to do pet therapy work. So because of Lark - Tom HAD to continue the job that suited her!!! With Tom's long-term dedication to pet therapy work, CAAA awarded him the 2016 Volunteer of the Year!

Tawni has also contributed so much to CAAA in other capacities, while Tom participated in the Pet Therapy Program. In 2013 Tawni wrote an article clarifying what is a Therapy Dog vs. a Service Dog vs. a Working Dog vs. a Companion Dog. She also helped write a critical organizational document for our new pet therapy teams evaluation examination. Tawni also assisted with our phone line for about 8 years, including following up on questions from the public. If we had a difficult dog question from someone, we could count on Tawni for an appropriate answer and follow up.

Tawni also provided agility equipment for our annual fall picnic for many years, which enabled other pet therapy dogs to participate

in an activity which they might not have otherwise. When CAAA needed volunteers to participate in community presentations and Blessings of the Animals, both Tom and Tawni would volunteer.

Clearly, Tom and Tawni have been incredible volunteers with their dedication to CAAA over these past 20 years and although we are sad to see them move out of state, we are so very grateful for their dedication and support of CAAA over these many years!

At "All Greatful Dogs", Tawni and Tom's holistic dog training center.



Keeping in Touch



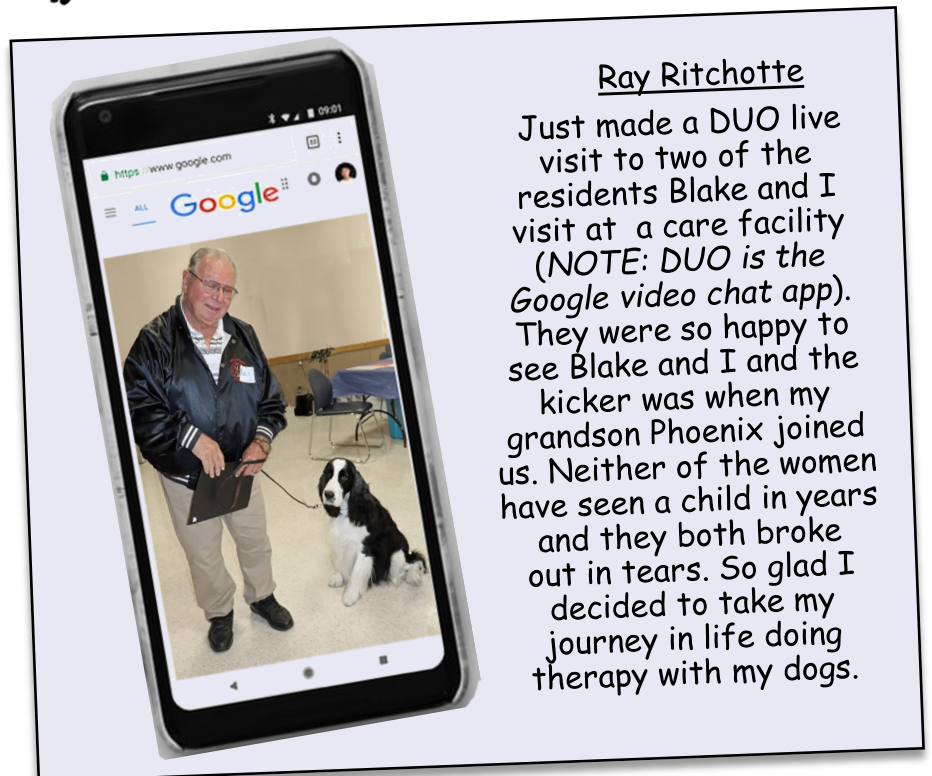
Let's keep in touch during this social distancing - stay at home time while all our therapy visits have been temporarily suspended. Let us know what you and your dog(s) have been doing to keep busy. You'll see in the rest of this edition what several of our teams have been up to and also a few "Stay at Home" tips.

Whether it be a picture, a story or just a few lines, send them to Pam at ppeet@cox.net We'll include them on Facebook and in future CAAA Newsletters.

(NOTE: If this email link does not work, cut/paste it into your email program)

What Have You Been Up to Lately?

With visiting on "hold" for now, here is what a few of our therapy teams have been doing.



A Few Tips As We Continue to "Stay at Home"

It can affect our pets too



Working From Home - Some have experienced nervous dogs as routines change due to working from home, so here is a tip from Top Dog Health: Dogs love routine and predictability, which make them feel safe and secure. But just like when you work out of an office, your work from home schedule can vary from day to day. There may be days when you're able to stop work early and days when you're toiling into the night - and it helps if your pup can roll with the punches. If you routinely take your dog for walks at 5pm and then one day you can't make it out till 6 or 7pm, it's going to be upsetting for them that you're not doing what they expect. Switching up walks and

playtime (while still ensuring you provide plenty of both) will keep your pup flexible and adaptable, making your work from home life easier in the long run.

Cabin Fever? - Cabin fever is a popular term for a common reaction to being isolated or confined for an extended period of time. It can include feelings of restlessness and sadness just to name a few. If you are experiencing cabin fever due to self-quarantine as a result of the recent pandemic, Google "Cabin Fever" to find out a few ideas on just how to cope. When you do, you'll find that simply talking about your feelings can help. The AKC publication *Family Dog* suggests that "There may be help lying at your feet or sitting next to you right now and is probably wagging his tail since you glanced in his direction. Dogs make good listeners; when we talk to them they usually look directly at us and appear to be paying close attention (NOTE: any dog owner knows they actually are)".



Russell & Jessie Talking it Over



Rick & April's Jake - While in quarantine, he's swimming and helped teach Friday how to swim.

Keep Your Dog Active - Remember, they need their activity. They don't understand what is going on, so we need to think about how we can make sure they're getting enough exercise. The backyard, a long hallway, or even a large family room can become a makeshift dog park. Mental enrichment is essential for keeping dogs occupied during quarantine. Things like playing games, using puzzle toys, and teaching your dog a new trick, will aid in keeping their mind active! With everyone at home it's also a great time for the entire family to get involved with training and playing. (This information was from The Human Society website. For the complete article with more suggestions go to <https://www.hsppr.org/springs/blog/keeping-your-dog-occupied-at-home-during-quarantine>

April Crow and Willow had made over 100 visits as a social therapy team with CAAA. You may recall from a previous article that Willow was approximately 9-10 years old when she was found running the streets of Yuma and picked up by the Humane Society there. She had extensive medical issues that required immediate attention before finding her forever home with April and Rick December of 2015. As CAAA members Willow and April visited three assisted living/nursing home facilities. They also volunteered with Hospice of the Valley and participated in a children's reading program at an elementary school. Following is an article that April was asked to write for Gabriel's Angels an organization they also volunteered with making pet therapy visits to at-risk children.

One Final Therapy Visit

By April Crow

One of the hardest decisions we have to make as parents of therapy pets is knowing when it is the right time to retire our pet. Whether due to age, illness or behavioral changes, that final therapy visit is inevitable. Willow and I had been faithfully going to Roadrunner Elementary School for the past 3 years and we thoroughly enjoyed visiting with our students. Willow had aged quite a bit over the past year and the kids knew she was getting older. We decided it was in Willow's best interest to retire mid-way through the school year and discontinue our visits with the children. Explaining this to the children turned out to be a harder task than I had anticipated.

Unfortunately, Willow's health rapidly declined and she was not able to attend our scheduled last visit. We went to the visit and explained to the kids that Willow was not feeling well enough to attend and say goodbye herself and how much she would miss seeing all of them. We had the children all write a note/draw a picture to put on a poster board that we could place by Willow's bed for her to look at while she was resting. One of my favorite students said he wrote a book for Willow and glued it to the middle of the poster board for her to see his note the best. I asked him if he wanted to tell me about his story and he responded with: "The first picture is of Willow playing with a ball when she is healthy. The second picture is Willow sleeping in her bed because she is getting older and sick." I asked him what the drawing on the third page is and he said "a pink rocket". I asked again making sure I heard correctly. He replied: "I prayed to God that when Willow goes to Heaven that she could go in a pink rocket because I know it is her favorite color. I just wish I had more years of my life to love her." These are the moments that take every bit of strength to hold back the tears you feel rushing. Not only because you are beyond sad that these visits are ceasing, but when it hits your heart that one little twelve-pound dog can make such a difference in the lives of these children.

Our last visit was on a Wednesday in January, and Willow peacefully passed away at home the following Saturday. Willow got to enjoy her wonderful poster and memories for three days. Thank you to Gabriel's Angels for allowing us to be a part of making a difference!



More A Few Lesser Known (But Very Interesting) Facts About Dogs



Dogs can get jealous - Although dogs experience things like jealousy and envy, their emotions are not as complex as the emotions we feel as humans. According to the American Kennel Club, dogs are sensitive to fairness (for example, everyone being rewarded for their efforts), but not equity (whether or not all of the rewards are equal).

Jedi & Gracie

The Labrador is the most popular breed of dog, in terms of ownership - According to the American Kennel Club the Lab has been the most popular canine in the US for 26 consecutive years. German shepherds and Golden Retrievers come in at second and third, respectively.



Jonesy

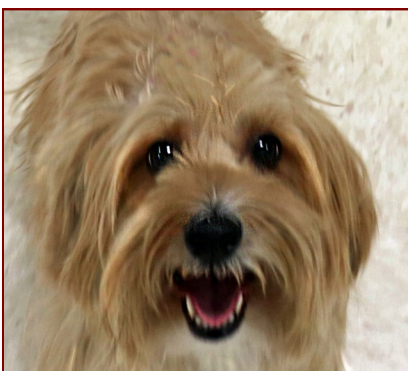
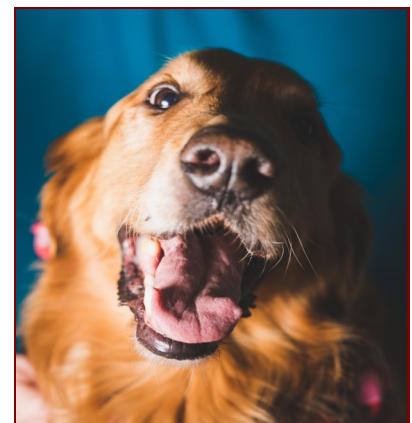


Dogs can see in the dark far better than humans - While dogs have fewer cones in their eyes which limits the range of colors they can see, they have more light-sensitive cells, or rods, toward the center of the retina. A larger pupil also lets in more light.

Buddy

A dog's nose is wet to help absorb scent chemicals
Wet noses help dogs regulate their body temperature and cool them down because they don't have normal sweat glands like people.

Jake



A dog's nose print is as unique as a human's fingerprint
It is widely believed that no two dogs have the same noseprint, and the Canadian Kennel Club has been accepting noseprints as proof of identity since 1938.

Summer

(Source - Buzzfeed - Animals 1/3/2020)

CAAA

BULLETIN BOARD

STAY
SAFE!

PET HOLIDAYS IN AUGUST

National Immunization Awareness Month

- August 1: DOGust Universal Birthday for Shelter Dogs
- August 2-8: International Assistance Dog Week
- August 8: International Cat Day
- August 10: Spoil Your Dog Day
- August 15: National Check the Chip Day
- August 17: National Black Cat Appreciation Day
- August 17: International Homeless Animals Day
- August 22: National Take Your Cat to the Vet Day
- August 26: National Dog Day
- August 28: Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day
- August 30: National Holistic Pet Day

DON'T FORGET WE
WANT TO HEAR FROM
YOU?

Share your stories from pet
therapy visits on Facebook.

facebook
update

f Search for people, places and things

CAAA
2020

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