



MEET Gracie

THE GOLDEN RETRIEVER IN Red Slippers

Dorothy may have used her red slippers to *get* home, but Gracie uses hers to *visit* homes. And as a therapy dog she's visited a lot of them over the past five years: from hospice and assisted living facilities to a children's library. And now, the Golden Retriever who wears Red Slippers is a part of CAAA.

Gracie and Joni Cipollone became a CAAA therapy team in December, 2018 and currently visit at Brookdale Central Paradise Valley Assisted Living. Joni says that "Gracie absolutely loves being a therapy dog and looks forward to her visits with the residents of Brookdale. As we enter the drive she is at the car window getting all excited and ready to go. By coincidence we're visiting the same facility my Mother was in years ago."



Many times they visit with another team, long time member April Crow and her beloved 13 pound "Chiweenie" Willow. April and Joni have been friends for a while and it was April who got Joni interested in joining CAAA. With over 40 different outfits, Willow is the "fashion plate" of CAAA. It's not hard to imagine the smiles of the residents at Brookdale as they see walking into their rooms Gracie along with little Willow the wannabe Golden in her newest outfit.

When asked about a memorable visit Joni answered "One of my favorites was a few months ago when Gracie and I happened to walk into the dining room at Brookdale where about 35 residents were having a happy hour. Within minutes Gracie was the center of all attention and surrounded by everyone. She was the star and certainly in her heyday with all the hugs and attention she got that day".

(Gracie - Continued on page .2)



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.

★

"I love puppies but there is nothing like the sweet soul of an older dog."

~Author Unknown~

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Gracie is 10 years old. She came to live with Joni and her family after they picked her out from pictures provided by a breeder in Logan Utah. Joni and husband Woody started out the New Year of 2010 right when they picked her up on January 1st at Sky Harbor Airport. They already had Deeni, a Golden rescue, and from the day they brought her home the two of them became inseparable. Joni says, "She grew up with Deeni and when she passed away Gracie



missed her terribly and was actually depressed. We knew she needed another companion so a year and a half ago a Golden Retriever puppy became the newest member of our household. We named him Ray and who knows - Ray may be another therapy dog in the making".

Before joining CAAA Gracie and Joni made visits to private homes as members of a hospice organization. Joni recalls, "I'll never forget what happened during one of our visits. I was sitting on the couch in the patient's living room and Gracie was quietly sitting on the floor looking out the door at their pool where a few ducks were swimming. Without any warning she sprang up, bolted out the door and jumped in! Luckily the patient thought it was pretty funny and we were allowed to come back."



They have also made visits on behalf of hospice to a large campus with various levels of care. It was while walking from one building to another on hot sidewalks that Gracie first started wearing her red shoes. She and Joni also walked through many a hallways within the assisted living portion of the campus; Gracie at times in her red shoes with Joni close by in a pair of red sneakers.

Unfortunately all the stairs and walking within that large facility aggravated Gracie's previous ACL injury and she had to stop therapy visits there.

(Continued on page 3)

Today, with the occasional help of a brace and assuring visiting is only to smaller one level facilities, Gracie has been able to resume doing what she loves - therapy visits - and now it's with CAAA. Besides Brookdale this also includes Desert Broom Library in Cave Creek where Gracie and Joni are volunteers in a unique children's reading program "Sit, Stay, Read!". The program offers young beginning readers a friendly environment to practice their reading skills. Included are therapy dogs who, with their pressure-free set of ears are happy to listen to them. That, along with their calming presence, encourages the beginners to read even more.

So move over Dorothy, there's another star rising
Gracie - red shoes and all!

*Gracie and friends in the
"Sit, Stay, Read" Program*



PASS IT ON.....

....The CAAA Newsletter, that is.

Feel free to pass them on to anyone you think might be interested. How about your visiting site? It could serve as a good way to inform others of what our organization does as well as serve as a recruiting tool. Just print a copy out or email the website link:

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



Summer is our newest pet therapy dog. She and owner Leslie Burdar are visiting at Ridgecrest Healthcare in North East Phoenix.

CAAA Photo Gallery

A few of our CAAA Star's photo ID pictures. More will be included in future newsletters. All photos were taken by Rachel Mostofizadeh who donated her time. Visit her website at:

www.rachelelizphoto.com



ANGEL



LINCOLN



WILLOW



COOKIE

A Super Sweet Snuggler

That's how Lisa Healy describes her Shih Tzu therapy dog Tahoe. "He's just so sweet and mellow he's like a little cuddly puppy. When you pick him up he puts his head on your shoulder and snuggles around your neck." At Reflections Memory Care in Mesa where he and Lisa visit that's just what he does. "Whether he is curled up on a resident's lap or one asks that he sit on the edge of their bed. He just settles right in and snuggles right up."

Lisa and husband Marc got Tahoe from an Arizona breeder when he was just eight weeks old. Lisa has had dogs as a child but Tahoe is the first one since then and her first social therapy dog. She picked him out from the litter and Marc picked the name. Tahoe's now ten years old but still looks and acts like a snuggly puppy.

Lisa has a history of visiting care facilities. While in junior high and high school she volunteered visiting nursing homes. Then in the late 80s and early 90's when Lisa's Grandmother was in a memory care facility in Washington State she visited her regularly. She always enjoyed the visits with the patients but also spending that time with her Grandmother. So once sons Scot and Eric were off to college and she had more time she



decided to start visiting again - this time with Tahoe. After an on line search and checking into several organizations, she decided on CAAA. "That was about three years ago", says Lisa "and Tahoe still gets excited every time we get ready to go to Reflections. All I have to do is bring out his special visiting collar and leash and he knows exactly where we're going! Visiting a care facility again also brings back some special treasured memories with my Grandmother."

And what do the residents they visit at Reflections think of

Tahoe? They LOVE him! "He's quiet, attentive, never gets tired of the attention and he just can't seem to get close enough. Some residents have hearing loss and get a little mixed up so instead of calling him Tahoe, he's Taco. He's just as happy to see them no matter what name they call him by".

Google the breed Shih Tzu and you'll find the perfect description of Tahoe "This breed loves attention and are happiest perched on a lap basking in the adoration and affection of people. Shih Tzus are friendly with strangers as well and love to make new friends. They're extremely affectionate dogs and will repay any love given to them back a hundred times over."

That's Lisa's Tahoe alright, the Super Sweet Snuggling Shih Tzu.

(Tahoe Continued on page 6) —→

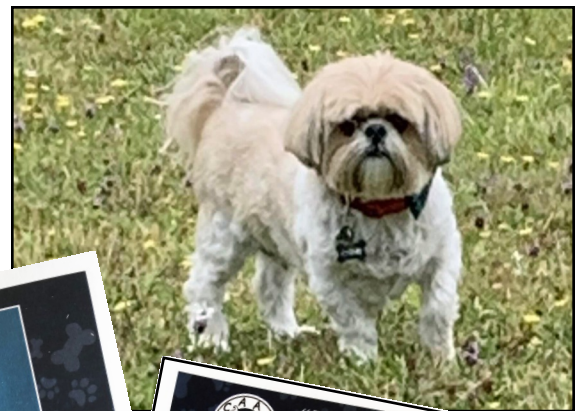


There are several ways you can help CAAA generate financial contributions by participating with our Community Partners.

- 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: 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.



*Tahoe at
Reflections Memory
Care*



"I volunteer for Companion Animal Association of AZ, Inc."	
Tahoe	
GENDER	DOB
Male	2009
FAVORITE FOOD	
Bananas, eggs	
FAVORITE SKILL	
Snuggling, tricks	
FAVORITE SPORT	
Walks, naps, playing	
FAVORITE TOY	
Squeaky toys	
OWNER	
Lisa	



CORNER

BY DR. MELANIE LOWRANCE

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THE VET'S



Tips for Social Gatherings with Dogs

Dogs have always been man's best friend and now more so than ever. We see pets in restaurants, home improvement stores, pet stores and social events (even ring bearers at weddings!). It's great to have our most loved companions with us more frequently, but we should also consider their safety and proper etiquette when bringing our dogs into our favorite establishments and social gatherings so that everyone has a great time.

1. **Make sure your dog is the right dog to bring to a social setting.** It is important to recognize the signs of anxiety, fear or aggression in your dog. Dogs that are not comfortable in these situations should not be placed in situations that make you, your pet and others feel uncomfortable. A veterinarian can help you determine if your pet is suitable for social situations.
2. **Keep your pet fully vaccinated and use flea/tick prevention.** If your dog frequents places with many animals, such as dog parks, then consider checking his stools for intestinal parasites several times a year instead of just yearly.
3. **Make sure the establishment accepts dogs prior to bringing your dog and follow their rules.** The county has strict rules for any place that serves food and it is important to follow their directions. Dogs are usually only allowed in outdoor patios.

It is important to have more humans than dogs when out in public. What if you have to go into the restaurant to use the restroom and you can't bring your pet with you? Having an additional hand will allow someone to hold your pet for you. Some places provide water bowls, but some do not and you should never allow your pet to eat or drink from restaurant dishes, so bring a portable water bowl and water for your dog.

4. **Practice proper manners and always be courteous to others around you.** Dogs should sit or lay quietly next to your chair at all times and stay on a short leash. They should not sit in your lap or on chairs where people sit, nor should they ride in shopping carts. They should not wander or disturb other dogs or patrons. Use a short leash (4 feet) to help prevent your dog from getting away from you.
5. **Exercise and allow your dog to relieve themselves prior to arrival.** Getting the energy out prior to arriving will help your dog to relax and enjoy sitting next to you. If your dog starts barking and acting unruly, leave. Other people may not be as understanding as dog owners are when a dog acts out.

A little pre-planning and attention to your dog can create a wonderful experience for you and your dog in all social situations.



CAAA

BULLETIN BOARD

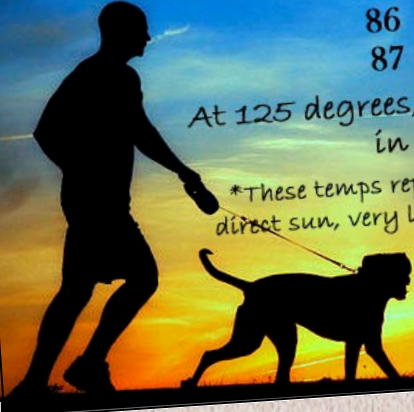
HOT ASPHALT AWARENESS

Air Temp	Asphalt Temp
77	125
86	135
87	143

At 125 degrees, skin destruction can occur in 60 seconds

*These temps represent worse case scenario variables: direct sun, very low humidity and high radiant energy

Source - JAMA:214 (11) 2025-2027



SIMON



JAKE

facebook
update



DON'T FORGET WE WANT
TO HEAR FROM YOU?

Share your stories from pet
therapy visits on Facebook.

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&
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