



THE END OF AN ERA.....

by Rick Reid

We all know when we made the decision to do pet therapy work, that at some point our best friend or ourselves would no longer be able to continue the mission. I have been doing pet therapy with CAAA for over 30 years now and have had the honor of having five (5) therapy dogs over that time span. Each have had their own personalities and have enjoyed their work in bringing joy to those who may not be able to see another animal.

Jake came to me via Arizona Golden Retriever Connection (a rescue group for which I was a volunteer) back in 2011. Jake was a 7-month-old pup who was taken into rescue because the prior owner was unable to take care of him. He was being fostered by another family but one of their dogs didn't like Jake, so I was asked to foster him. I realized right away that Jake was special and he was in his forever home. He had a very soft personality and wasn't the crazy typical golden retriever puppy. I enrolled us both in basic obedience class and we graduated with Jake's Canine Good Citizen award 6 weeks later. In October of 2011 when Jake was one (1) year old, I certified him for pet therapy with Alliance of Therapy dogs and with CAAA and we starting visiting on a regular basis with both CAAA and Hospice of the Valley. When April joined our lives in 2015, she also got certified as a therapy team with Jake and did visits for CAAA, Hospice of the Valley, Gabriel's Angels and Pawsitive Friendships.

I often get the question of how many visits has Jake done. All I can say is way more than I can remember, as I never kept track of every single visit.



Rick, April and Jake



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.



"The road to my
heart is paved with
paw prints "

- Unknown -



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It is in the few hundreds and he has probably interfaced with several thousands of seniors, adults and children in many different facilities throughout the valley. He has also been asked to many special events to represent CAAA and Hospice of the Valley.

Jake is now 12 years old and is slowing down, just as I am. Jake still has the will to do pet therapy, however he is not real fond of car rides any longer and has developed severe arthritis and several cysts that tend to open up and ooze. So, I had to make the hard decision to retire Jake as of the end of 2022.

He will be remembered by all that he has touched over the years and I will miss taking him to his job!



*Rick with Jake just doin'
his job - bringing joy to
a few of the thousands
of people they visited.*



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 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.



BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S TREASURER POSITION

From Pam Peet

Lee Kroll volunteered in November of 2019 to become CAAA's new treasurer and we would like to acknowledge his contribution to the organization over these past few years. Lee produced timely and accurate accounting of CAAA's finances and provided his expert financial guidance, for which we are truly grateful. He and his family were always very supportive of CAAA and never hesitated to assist in other areas as needed. Lee and his family are wonderful caring people, and we are grateful they were an integral part of the CAAA organization. We wish Lee and his family all the best.

Now for an introduction to our new treasurer: Welcome Eileen Yurish! We are excited to have someone with Eileen's skills, experience and ideas and look forward to working with her for a very long time! Eileen was looking to add more volunteer time to her already busy schedule and since a few of us had crossed paths with Eileen in prior volunteer positions, we are honored to have her become an officer of our organization.

We have asked Eileen to share some history on her volunteering activities over the years, which we think is a perfect fit for our board and for the future of our organization. Please read and enjoy.

From Eileen Yurish

It is exciting to be part of CAAA and I look forward to getting involved with pet therapy again. The transition of responsibilities has been very smooth thanks to the support from Lee, Pam and Mary Anne.

Pet therapy has been part of my life for quite a while. While I don't have a therapy dog now, I previously visited with Gabriel's Angels and at Phoenix Children's Hospital. I have also been an Evaluator for Pet Partners and am currently completing their course to be an Instructor. In addition, I have volunteered and served on the Board for a Golden Retriever rescue.

I look forward to meeting all of you at the annual event in March.

FALL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC



Photos by Bernie Zapusek



*Our annual **Fall Volunteer Appreciation Picnic** was on Saturday, October 22nd at Hollis Park in Tempe. Members enjoyed a brunch of juice, coffee and muffins while sharing visiting experiences and hearing about any changes in procedures and rules during the past few years within their facilities.*









*Thanks to all who attended and
especially to the Board of Directors
for putting together another
enjoyable event.*



Meet our 3-person phone team who volunteer to check our voice mail system daily. The team consists of Nancy Parker, Ellen Bugza and Rene Chaillie. Nancy had been working as a team of '1' checking voice mail daily, so now our team of 3 divides the weekly coverage.

Checking voice mail daily is critical so we can respond promptly to requests. Even though it does not take much time, it is a relief to have a team in place who volunteers additional personal time for this important task. CAAA is grateful for our excellent dedicated phone team, as each call can be different and sometimes an emergency. Those in need could be very emotional about an urgent pet situation or a call can simply be requesting CAAA to assist at an event.

And talking about tasks, any group consisting of volunteers would probably say they do not have enough volunteers. May I just say some tasks may seem miniscule to make a difference, but this small daily task makes a huge difference to the organization and we are fortunate that our phone line has a team of dedicated volunteers like Nancy, Ellen and Rene.

All three volunteer for more than just checking the phone line. Nancy has been a member of CAAA since 2000, serves as our Vice President and also coordinates assistance for those who qualify for our Margie Miller Vet Assistance Helping Hand Fund. And both Rene and Ellen also volunteer as pet therapy teams with their dogs Lady and Jasmine, respectively.

CAAA is truly thankful for Nancy, Rene and Ellen !



Nancy & Darla



Ellen and Jasmine

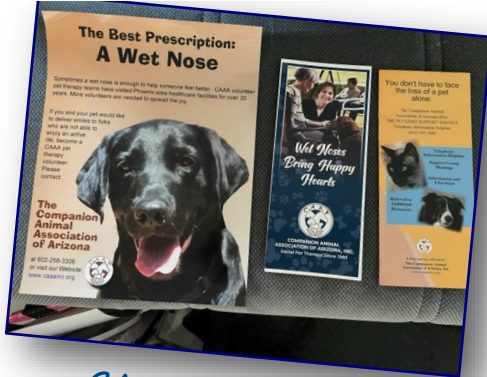


Rene and Lady



SPREADING THE WORD ALL ABOUT CAAA

by President Pam Peet



CAAA Handouts



In October, CAAA participated in a Mental Health and Wellness Information Fair sponsored by Paradise Valley Community College. A few of our pet therapy teams enjoyed the day interacting with the students and explaining the importance of pet therapy, especially as it relates to our focus on the elderly.

As most of you know, pet therapy has long been known to be beneficial for senior nursing home residents in a number of ways. Our teams are dedicated to help those in elder care to reduce loneliness and isolation and to provide the residents with some fun social interaction for the day.

Students were eager to learn about the benefits of becoming a pet therapy team and they expressed their gratitude for the work our organization provides those in need. And of course our pet therapy dogs received lots of attention, as we were able to spread the word about volunteering.

Everyone who stopped by received a token of appreciation in colorful organza bags which included pet emergency cards, a pet treat and our organization's information.

We are thankful for Rene & Lady and April & Darla for their participation, as well as Miss Taka who sat patiently in a pet stroller for the days' visitors.



Rene and Lady



April & Darla



Pam & Taka

CAAA

BULLETIN BOARD



Debbie's
Porscha and
Chase all ready
for the Holidays.



We had
100 Christmas
cards made with
Lady's photo on them for
the residents of the care
facility that we visit
every week so that they
can put it in their room
and see Lady every day.
Everyone loves it.

Rene

CAAA
2022

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