



NANCY PARKER

Thank you for 24 years of service to CAAA

On behalf of us all on the CAAA Board and Pet Therapy, we announce the resignation of our Vice President, Nancy Parker.

After 24 years of volunteer service, we will miss her unwavering support, leadership and skills over the years providing CGC testing and pet therapy evaluation knowledge, as a TDI evaluator. We were humbled by her commitment of managing the Margie Miller Program maintaining the focus of its mission. The gift of time is priceless and we greatly appreciated Nancy and her volunteer spirit.

Best Wishes

Pam, Sydni, Eileen, Mary Anne, Melanie, April and Rick

That’s not a typing error. Nancy has been on our CAAA Board for 24 years! And her involvement with therapy teams and dog training goes back even farther.

Before Nancy and her husband retired and moved to Arizona from Milwaukee in 1999, she was a dog trainer and instructor for ten years and also served on another Board of Directors The Milwaukee Dog Training, Club. But wait.....that’s not all.

Nancy has also been an evaluator for Therapy Dogs International. TDI is an all volunteer not for profit founded in 1976 with the mission to “Regulate, test and register therapy dogs and their volunteer handlers for the purpose of visiting nursing homes, hospitals and other institutions and wherever else therapy dogs are needed.” Today TDI has over 6500 registered therapy teams.

Nancy says when she first arrived in Arizona there were only two or three other TDI Evaluators between Phoenix and Tucson. So besides covering the Phoenix area she also traveled several times each month to Southern Arizona to certify therapy dogs. It was this association with TDI that brought her to our organization. Some of the dogs she was evaluating came from CAAA. One dog led to another and it wasn’t very





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.



Love is a four
legged word



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NANCY PARKER.....

long before she was invited to join – so she did! Her husband, Barry, also joined, was on the Board and served as Treasurer for several years.

When asked what it was that started such a long term involvement and commitment she answered with just one word, “Bandit”. Her little mixed breed pup was one of the smartest she ever came across and was so much fun to train Nancy just got involved in more and more things; agility, obedience and of course therapy dogs. As a team in Milwaukee, Nancy loved seeing all the joy Bandit brought to residents in the facilities they visited. After relocating to AZ she and Bandit continued their visits as members of CAAA.

In addition to previously serving as our Vice President, Nancy also was the administrator of the Margie Miller Memorial Fund. Named in honor of our first Secretary, this fund consists of all memorial donations made to CAAA. The funds are used to provide assistance with vet costs for the companion animals of low income elderly owners; 60 years and older.

This can include costs for office calls, euthanasia and cremation, and illness. Nancy screened all calls to determine if the person requesting assistance qualified financially and also what the needs of the animal were. She would then make arrangements with a vet to provide the needed services. She says it really makes you feel good to be able to help and adds, “So many people are alone and these animals are their constant companions. Many sacrifice what little they have to keep them. One lady I spoke with was on the same type of medication as her dog required. She couldn’t afford both so she was cutting her own meds in half to provide for her dog”. She adds “It’s really wonderful to be able to help these folks and I’m so thankful we can.”

Nancy has always liked to sew so when not involved with CAAA duties she enjoys sewing machine embroidery and attends meetings with several clubs.

She has two daughters who live near her and two rescue dogs who keep her days full and very happy.

Thanks Nancy for your many years of dedication to CAAA.



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.



To: Our Pet Therapy Teams
From: The CAAA Board

PRISONER REHABILITATION AND RE-ENTRY PROGRAM DONATION

In 2023, 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 will be used to offset costs incurred by our pet therapy teams.

So, once again this year with funds still available:

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 and our Treasurer Eileen will send you a check.

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



THIS YEARS ANNUAL EVENT

We were wondering your thoughts on changing up the Annual Event to having lunch at a restaurant vs. our usual meeting place at Hollis Park in Tempe.

In trying to stay mid-way to everyone, there is a place called Fate Brewing Company at 201 E Southern Ave, Suite 111 in Tempe that has a patio which can accommodate dogs.

As a Thank You and show of Appreciation for your on-going volunteer efforts for the year, we'd be covering lunch costs and wanted to know your preference:

**3/15 at the Park
OR
3/29 at the Restaurant**

Please let us know your preference as soon as possible, so we can decide on a venue and get a date on everyone's calendars!

Thank you for your quick response and thank you for another year of selfless contribution to brightening someone's day!

Your dedication as a volunteer is an inspiration to us all !!!



SWEET PUPPY "MO"

When to Switch from Puppy to Dog Food

Switching is important, but as to when? The answer depends on the breed and size of your dog. Because puppy food contains higher amounts of vitamins, minerals, protein, and fats to support muscle and bone development and overall health, once they stop growing, nutritional needs change.

Switching too late can cause your puppy to become overweight and even obese, which can increase the risk of a number of health problems as well as stressing joints. Switching too soon can also cause puppy health problems by depriving them of the crucial nutrients needed to grow and thrive.

Making the Switch to Adult Food

As a general rule, switching to adult food can be done when they are approximately 1 year old. However, this depends on your pet's breed, maturation rate, and size as an adult. A Great Dane may not reach its full adult size until 18 to 24 months and will need to continue to eat puppy food until it stops growing. By contrast, a Chihuahua may be fully grown at about 9 or 10 months.

Keep these guidelines in mind:

- **Small Dogs.** Small breeds that are under 25 pounds when fully grown may start adult dog food at 10 to 12 months.
- **Medium Dogs.** Medium-sized dogs usually begin eating adult dog food at 12 to 14 months. These breeds range from 25 to 50 pounds when fully grown.
- **Large Dogs.** Depending on its expected adult size, your large or giant breed dog may remain on puppy food for as long as two years. The recommendation is to feed large and giant breeds of puppy food specifically intended for larger breeds.

These recommendations are only guidelines. Your veterinarian can help you decide on the ideal time to change your dog's food and recommend foods that will meet your pet's new dietary needs. During your visit to the veterinary office, you'll also receive guidance on the ideal portion size to prevent obesity.

How to Introduce Adult Dog Food to Your Puppy

Sudden food changes can upset a puppy's stomach and cause diarrhea and vomiting. A gradual introduction is the key. Start by mixing a little adult dog food with your puppy's usual food.

- During the first day or two 10% to 20% of the total food
- Second or third day increase the amount of adult food to 30% to 40%
- Continue increasing the ratio of adult food until your puppy is only eating adult dog food.



Source for this article is Dr. Melanie Lowrance's Small Animal Housecalls newsletter. To read the entire article along with links to other sources visit her webpage at

smallanimalhousecalls.com

Over the Rainbow Bridge

BY JODI FERREIRA

This past August I unexpectedly lost Simon, my Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, who had been a therapy dog with CAAA for about 6 years. As most pet parents know, the loss of a fur-child can be devastating, but the pain was lessened by the fond memories I have of us visiting Assisted Living/Memory Care residents.



In my heart I knew Simon would want another pup to carry on his legacy. Thanks to fellow CAAA member and Cavalier King Charles Spaniel breeder, Shelly Fields, I welcomed Remi into my family shortly after Simon's passing. He is signed up for the AKC STAR puppy class, and as he progresses in age, will be attending subsequent classes to prepare him for his future job as my Pet Therapy partner. We are looking forward to a future together of giving back through pet therapy.



CAAA



BULLETIN BOARD

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart".
Elizabeth Andrew

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."
Sherry Anderson

"Volunteers wear working boots but leave a trail of angel footprints"
Terri Guillemets

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2025**

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