

THE HYDRANT

**The Monthly Bulletin
for Intermountain
Therapy Animals
Members**

Volume 21/Number 10

OCTOBER 2021



Are you current with ITA?

Membership Dues:

Individual \$99

Family \$150

How to Pay:

Call the office with a credit card (801-272-3439), request a PayPal invoice, or send a check to PO Box 17201, SLC, UT 84117.

Update your Contact Information:

If your contact info remains the same, you can just make your payment.
If any of your contact info has changed, please let us know by responding to this email or you can use the membership renewal application on our website in the member's section.

If you are not planning on renewing your membership, please let us know so that we don't send more notices.

ITA Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm
(Fridays - CLOSED)



October Calendar

October 3 ~ Harmon's City Creek Employee Appreciation, 1 pm

October 7 ~ American Academy of Innovations presentation, 10 am

October 6, 13 and 20 ~ ITA TEAM TRAINING CLASSES - first since January 2020!

Thursday, October 7 ~ YouTube interview with Paws for Love

Tuesday, October 12 ~ ITA Board of Directors Meeting - 7 pm

Sunday, October 24 ~ NEW TEAM SCREENINGS, 9 am to 4 pm at ITA

October 25-30 ~ "Books & Dogs" - Joint fundraiser event with Salt Lake Friend of the Library

Friday, October 29 ~ HALLOWEEN TAILS, TREATS & TAKEOUT - the return of this delicious event (see page 5 for more details)



Service Opportunities ~

Have you checked out our site **ITAVOLUNTEERS.COM** yet? Even though we're experiencing some setbacks, there are still lots of things to do!

HINT: Use the "Live Chat" feature while you're on this site to get questions answered.

ITA Team Opportunities

Welcome! This website is just for ITA members in the local chapters to see all of the different events coming up and other opportunities to volunteer. Please use the tabs at the top to explore (see descriptions below if needed).

Event Requests - Opportunities we need volunteers to sign up for!
New Facility Waitlist - Facilities that do not have therapy teams and want to start a program.
Current Facilities Opportunities - Facilities in need of more teams.
R.E.A.D.® Program Waitlist - All libraries and schools that are requesting teams for a R.E.A.D.® program.
Just For You! - ITA events for you to participate in versus volunteering and continuing education classes.

Contact Info:

ITA Office: (801) 272-3439

Volunteer Services: VolunteerCoordinator@TherapyAnimals.org

Karen Burns [Co-Executive Director]: Karen@TherapyAnimals.org or (801) 450-6788

Current Facilities Opportunities

New Facility
Waitlist

R.E.A.D.
Program
Waitlist



NEW TEAMS

Welcome to ITA!

Margaret Mabee & Shiloh

(Ogden) Margaret and her beautiful Collie partner Shiloh recently moved to Ogden from back East where they worked together as a team for years with another therapy organization.



Ashlyn Burns & Olaf

(Idaho Falls) Brand new from our workshop in Idaho Falls in June.



Angela Spears & Shadow

(Idaho Falls) Brand new from our workshop in Idaho Falls in June.



Virginia Wright & Compass


Elizabeth Wright & Compass

(Idaho Falls) Brand new mom and daughter teams with an amazing cat!



EXCITEMENT ON THE HORIZON!

Featuring an
online auction
and a fun photo
contest!



October 25-30, 2021

PAWsomely
Perfect
Companions

**BOOKS
& DOGS**

A joint community event for **Friends** of The City Library & **INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS**

Back by
popular
demand!



Halloween Fun for Grown-Ups (DOGS invited too!)
Gourmet Curbside Service for You and Your Best Friends

**TAILS, TREATS &
TAKEOUT**

Friday evening, October 29th
5:30 to 7:30 pm • in ITA's parking lot at
4050 South 2700 East in Holladay

JOIN US FOR DINNER: \$110 for 2
More Info and Registration at
www.therapyanimals.org
or call 801.272.3439
Benefiting Intermountain Therapy Animals



DATES TO WATCH FOR TO JOIN IN THE FUN

OCTOBER

 **FUNDRAISER** 

"Easily Distracted by Books and Dogs" Shirt Sale
October 1st - October 22nd
Choose from multiple styles and colors!
Buy your shirt now!

Spooky Photo Contest
October 14th - October 28th
5 categories of costume contests you can enter
for a chance to win a prize!

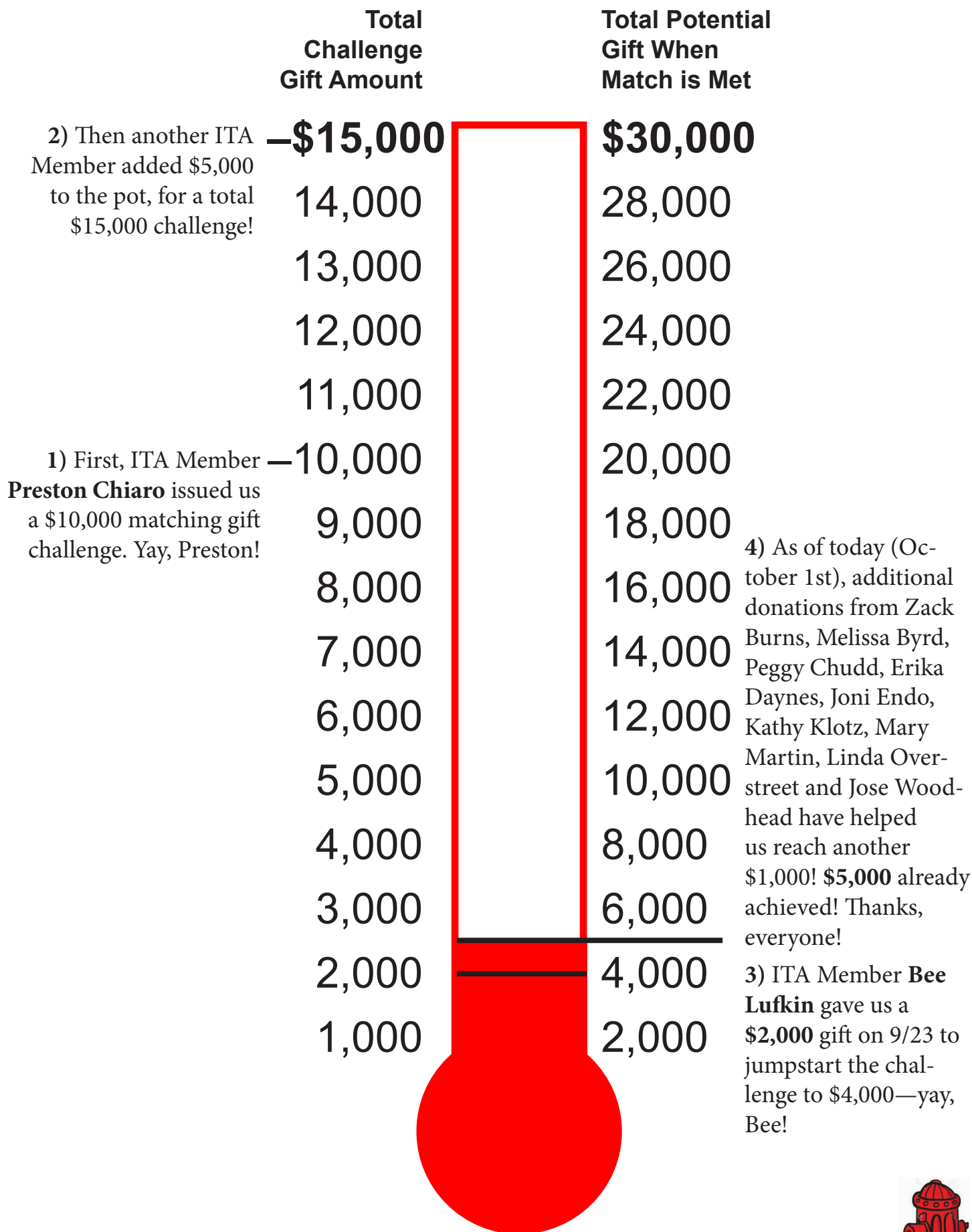
Online Auction
October 25th - October 30th
Lots of amazing auction items up for grabs!

Halloween Tails, Treats, and Takeout
October 29th
Drive through Charcuterie Board dinner and wine for 2!
Buy your tickets in advance! Open now!



**You are invited to Help ITA meet a
beautiful challenge! ----->**





LEAVING EARTH



Scout, partner of Mark Edwards

On Tuesday, September 28th, Scout chose his own time to leave, after a rapid decline with cancer, and with his family present. Scout was 12 years old, and enthusiastic til the very end. Mark & Scout have been an ITA team since February 2014.

RETIRING



Tess Glazier & Quinzy

(Helena) Tess & Quinzy joined ITA in June 2019, and they have decided it's time for Quinzy to hang up his bandana.

Thank You!

"As I think back over the many years of working with ITA therapy teams, I am just flooded with so many wonderful memories of all of the amazing work that you did. I know that animal-assisted therapy is so beneficial to patients and is an important part of therapy and healing for so many. I have witnessed so many amazing therapy moments over the years.

While I was ready to make the move to retirement, I will miss seeing the teams coming to see patients and am so grateful for the friendships I've developed over the years.

I wish you all the very best and hope to see you in the future!

Laura

This note is from Laura Joesten, who was the director of Recreational Therapy for the Primary Children's Residential Treatment Center for all the years that we have been visiting there (since 1994). She has understood and championed our work as well as anyone, ever. We will miss her! (-KK)



Dinner Out with the Dogs!



On Tuesday, September 28th we in Salt Lake got to do something that we haven't been able to do for way too long now: a dinner out with the dogs! We had 26 people, 14 dogs, and a wonderful time—even though we got pelted with rain for awhile. The staff at the Brickyard Bar was terrific, rallying quickly to bring out the heaters and the umbrellas and serve us despite the chaos. Their food is terrific, too—you should try it sometime, especially if you weren't able to join us that evening.

See more photos on the next page!



More from the Dinner Out



[ABOVE] Bob Tmsky and Anok had a lot of fun. Anok especially enjoyed getting a few laps of Bob's beverage!



COOL TWOSOMES: [ABOVE] Karin Kirchhoff's Dori and Charlie, and [BELOW] Jodi Andes' Cleo and Lili.



Former & New: Lynne Hanson, who spent many years on ITA's Board, talks with Steven Sellers, our newest ITA Board member, as their dogs Lola and Jewel check each other out.



ITA staff took advantage of the chance to get some contact comfort: [LEFT] Karen and Leslie Adams' Coco, and [RIGHT] Lilly with Bee Lufkin's Coach and Beth Wolfer's Edgar.



ITA Therapy Dogs at the Airport

When ITA was approached a few years back about taking our dogs to the Salt Lake City International Airport, we must admit to feeling a bit lukewarm about the invitation. Sure, airports are full of stresses, but most people traveling are not *ill*. When ITA consistently has more demand than teams to respond, should flying travelers really be a top priority?

We nevertheless agreed to participate. And like all programs, some people and some dogs like it better than others. Teams need to do a lot of walking long concourses, and endure lots of noise and chaos, not to mention running into untrained dogs who are traveling with their owners. But with all that, we have since had to eat our thoughts! The program is extravagantly popular and appreciated—and highly valuable to the travelers.

The Good News is Spreading

In September, travel writer Natalie Compton wrote a piece on this subject for the Washington Post. She called it, ***“Forget a Pre-Flight Drink. Pet an Airport Therapy Dog.”*** Here are some excerpts from her article:

An airport, generally speaking, is not a peaceful place. Stressed-out strangers rush

to take off their shoes at security, put on their shoes afterward and power-walk through terminal mazes to their gate.

And while heading to the airport can be an exciting time for travelers, “people are not

always traveling to go on vacation to Cancún,” says aid Cristina Alcivar, founder and editor of Vane Airport Media, a website dedicated to airport wellness. “There are people traveling for work. People are traveling because of mourning. People are breaking up ... People say goodbye forever inside of airports.”

That is more true than ever as people navigate travel during a global health crisis and with a dramatic increase of unruliness in the skies.

Sure, you could drown your travel anxieties at the airport bar or spend a fortune on an airport massage, ***but some airports have an even better option: airport therapy dogs.***

If you’re lucky enough to encounter one, airport therapy dogs can be just the thing to soothe those anxieties.

It turns out that bringing dogs to airports makes people really happy. Not guide dogs or emotional support dogs, but specifically airport therapy dogs.



Some of the ITA dogs who greet travelers as part of the Salt Lake City International Airport’s “Pilot Pups” program posed for a photo in September: Thibodeaux (partner of Judy Cooper), Sumo (Becky Butler), Ardi (Cindy Yorgason), Dresden (Susan Daynes), Nikki (Carol Prince) and Coach (Bee Lufkin).

(continued next page)



“They create a better experience for passengers,” Alcivar said. “They humanize your experience.”

Through her website and social media, Alcivar would like more people to know about the science that shows dogs can enhance your mood, and therapy dogs can calm you at places that tend to cause stress, such as hospitals, courts and airports.

Heidi Huebner developed the PUP program at LAX in 2013 and continues to manage it. She is now an expert on airport therapy dog programs and has helped 70 other airports launch theirs. Perhaps the most important information Huebner teaches is that ***not all dogs can become airport therapy dogs.***

“You can’t train a dog to have this type of temperament; they have to be born with it,” she said. “Their natural personality is a dog that’s very outgoing and loves people and doesn’t get scared by lots of activities and loud noises.”

Therapy dog programs are a growing trend for airports in the United States, but unfortunately for traveling dog lovers, they aren’t as prolific as Cinnabon or Starbucks. From Alcivar’s research, 87 airports in North America had programs before the pandemic hit. After suspending programs in 2020 because of safety concerns, airports are slowly reinstating therapy dog volunteers.

Tara Hoover, who heads the Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT) therapy dog program, PIT PAWS (Pups Alleviating Worry and Stress), has seen adults lie on the floor

for better petting access, and elderly fliers clamor for selfies with Juno, her certified therapy dog.

Volunteers like Tara and Juno can be a godsend for travelers with fear of flying.

“My very first day — I’ll never forget it — we sat with a passenger in tears,” Hoover said.

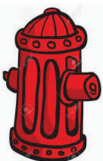
“She was so scared and nervous ... I sat with her for a while and she just sat there and was petting [Juno] just talking, trying to pass the time.” Passengers have told her that they didn’t have to take anxiety medicine such as Xanax before their flight because they were so soothed after spending time with Juno. The dogs are also a big hit with families — kids are overjoyed to pet a dog, and parents welcome the distraction.

The dogs can be just as therapeutic for airport staff, whether they are TSA agents or concession-stand cashiers.

“That comfort is important also for the employees. They really missed the dogs and they are happy to see them back,” Huebner said. “We have these little trading cards ... and the employees love collecting them.

At Denver International Airport (DEN), spokesperson Stacey Stegman says their therapy dog program is a positive contribution to the world that gives people unconditional love at a time when everyone needs it.

“We know that when you’re traveling, it’s busy, it’s stressful, and let’s add COVID into the mix which makes it even more crazy,” Stegman said. “When you see some of these animals, I would say take a moment, pause, feel a little bit of joy. It’s just going to make your trip that much better.”



One Classic Airport Encounter

ITA team **Preston Chiaro & Fred** had an unexpected experience on one of their airport visits—not one that anyone would hope to have, but a poignant example of how valuable our teams can be for the passengers:

“Fred and I had just arrived at the SLC airport when we were intercepted by a Southwest gate agent. She told us to head to Gate B12 as soon as possible, and then ran off herself. Not having any idea if what had just happened, Fred and I headed to Gate B12.

“When we arrived at the gate it was pandemonium—lots and lots of people crowded together, all talking excitedly about ... something. I couldn’t quite figure out what it was, but as

soon as the passengers saw the therapy animal, they crowded around—lots of them! Fred was in heaven—and I was trying to manage the crowd.

“About 15 minutes later, when the crowd had quieted down a little, I finally found out that these passengers had just taken off from Salt Lake City, but an engine caught on fire as the plane was climbing. The pilot immediately turned around, and managed to land safely.

Fred and I arrived at Gate B12 just as they were all getting off a plane with a burning engine. Needless to say, there were a few anxious people in the gate area; Fred made a big difference in helping them to calm down. ❤️



“Folks will know how large your soul is by the way you treat a dog.”

Charles F. Duran





**If you participate
in Microsoft Bing
Rewards, you can
designate support for
ITA at no cost to you!!**



InfiniteWags™

Another Valuable Offer for ITA Members and Friends!

A new and comprehensive pet shopping site, Infinite Wags, has asked to help ITA on their site. **YOU** get 10% off any purchase when you use the code below, and **WE** get a \$5 donation.

**\$5 GOES TO THIS CHARITY
WHEN YOU USE OUR
10% OFF DISCOUNT
CODE: THERAPYANIMALS**

SHOP NOW

 InfiniteWags.com



The Lighter Side



ITA MEMORIES



This ITA group shot was taken in the summer of 2013. It's the last time we've tried to capture our members en masse. We were live at Sugar House Park, but somehow the background looks like a fake backdrop.



In August of 2001, Salt Lake magazine named ITA's "Bark Avenue Parade" the best parade in town!

Here are Cindy & Lesley celebrating our brand new ITA awning in November of 2011. We needed it to help people find our door! If you've been by the office lately, you've noticed that there is a major building rehabilitation project in process—the first in at least 50 years.

