

THE HYDRANT

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

**Volume 22/Number 4
APRIL 2022**



Are you current with ITA?

ITA Office Hours:
Monday ~ Thursday, 9 am
to 5 pm
(Fridays - CLOSED)

Membership Dues:

Individual \$99

Family \$150

How to Pay:

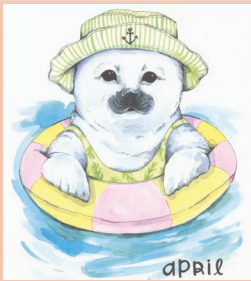
Call the office with a credit card (801-272-3439), request a PayPal invoice, or send a check to PO Box 17201, SLC, UT 84117.

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.



**from the 2022 "Animals in Swimsuits" Pinup calendar by Planet Wilderness*

April (lots of demand for us!)

Wednesday, April 6 ~ Kendra Scott jewelry fundraiser for ITA! (See page 6)

Thursday, April 7 ~ ITA presents at Utah State Court Employees Conference in Provo, 1-4 pm

Monday, April 11 ~ ITA Presentation to Salt Lake Community College Occupational Therapy Students

Tuesday, April 12 ~ ITA Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm

Tuesday, April 19 ~ Dog Language class with Catherine Cookson

Wednesday, April 20 ~ R.E.A.D. Training, 12 noon to 4 pm, ITA Office

Saturday & Sunday, April 23-24 ~ The Photo Box Spring Fundraiser for ITA

Thursday, April 28 ~ Continuing Education: Equine Therapy at the National Ability Center, 6 pm



Service Opportunities ~

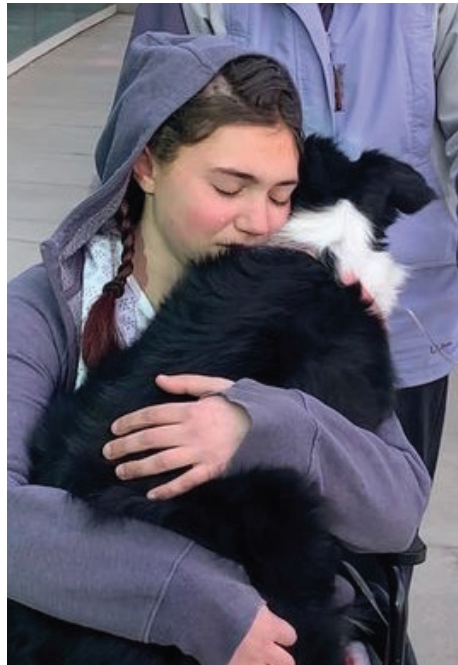
Our list of facilities is still growing, despite recent setbacks and suspensions. We could sure use more teams to participate! PLEASE go to:

ITAVOLUNTEERS.COM

Plenty of choices waiting for you and your partner!



Here is Rachel Sipos, visiting with Ava (and her partner Clarice Nelson) after her brain surgery just a few months ago. Note the border collie pillow on her bed. She was really missing her dog Lola but loving the visits with various ITA dogs during her hospital stay.



Rachel and Lola embrace at their first encounter when Rachel is just leaving the hospital.



Rachel had to defer her attendance at an earlier ITA workshop training because she had to return to the hospital with some complications, but she attended in the March series. Here are Rachel and her beloved Lola just after they passed their screening on March 27, 2022. Talk about a happy ending—and a wonderful new beginning!



RETIRING



Jackie Cameron & Ziggy

(Bozeman) Jackie says, “After much thought, Ziggy and I regretfully must bring our time at ITA to a close. Life and work circumstances bring about this decision, and we are saddened that we can’t commit the time to ITA that we once could.

“Ziggy and I have so enjoyed our time with everyone at ITA. The visits we have shared and the friends we have made are lifelong memories we will cherish. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of something so wonderful. We will always be huge supporters of ITA, their mission, and the lives they touch.

“Thank you ALL so very much for the dedication and love you put towards supporting your teams (both paws and people)!”

And our thanks to Jackie & Ziggy, as well. They have been an ITA team since November of 2013.



Elle Mae, partner of Carolyn Barnes

(Ogden) Carolyn and Sweet Elle Mae have been ITA partners since November of 2011, almost 11 years for this faithful team. So Carolyn has decided Elle Mae has earned a comfortable retirement.

NEW PARTNER

But Carolyn is not ready to retire, so on March 27th she tested with a darling new partner, Maggee Mae, who will be stepping into Elle’s four furry “shoes.”

Much gratitude to this amazing team, and a big welcome to Maggee Mae!



PARTNERS LEAVING EARTH

Milli, partner of Chaz Houpt

(Idaho Falls) Brave little Milli volunteered through-out her health decline, right up to the very end. Her partner Chaz sent the tribute at right, and said, “Wanted to extend our appreciation to all of you for allowing Milli to help extend the wonders ITA provides thru the Human-Animal Bond. Working with you-all over these past 9 years in providing care for your patients has been an unequalled experience, something we’ll always cherish. Please extend our gratitude to your fellow caring staff!”

Milli & Chaz have been an ITA team since June of 2012. Thank you both, and RIP Milli.



---singing at ETRMC....

MILLI #MA51311501--THDD, CGC

1/28/2006--3/10/2022

Awarded: AKC Distinguished Therapy Dog & AKC Silver Medallion
National HCA Frist Humanitarian Award nominee

As an ITA Therapy Dog, Milli participated in 1000s of Visitations
and Interventions at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center
and the Behavioral Health Center
for 9+ years where she earned her way into so many hearts
with both patients and caring staff.

---truly a great dog!!...

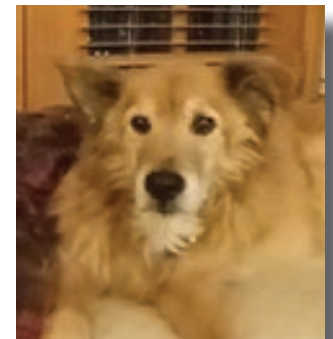


Sunny, partner of Laura Chynoweth

(Vernal, Utah) Laura's note: “I wanted to write and let you know that my sweet Sunny passed away March 28 at the age of 15. After getting R.E.A. D.-trained in early 2020, we had been looking forward to conducting some R.E.A.D visits at Uintah County Library after Sunny retired from making therapy visits to patients at the Uintah Care Center here in Vernal; However, COVID really put a damper on those plans.

“While I wish he were still here with me, the world is a better place because he was in it. Thanks to you and the rest of the ITA team for providing a way for me to share Sunny's kindness with so many people who needed it (even those who needed a VERY neutral dog for their ITA screenings). Very best, Laura”

Laura & Sunny have been an ITA team since February of 2016. They operated pretty much on their own down in Vernal and did a wonderful job. We will miss them. RIP Sunny.



Sunny in January 2022 on vacation at Snowbird with his family.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES to TREAT YOURSELF while HELPING ITA !!

*Kendra Scott +
Intermountain Therapy Animals*

APRIL 6TH

4:00 - 6:00 P.M.

50 S MAIN ST SUITE 271,
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84101

At checkout, you will let the cashier know you'd like to use the code to "give back" for ITA!

USE CODE:
GIVEBACK-BPBHN

If you can't join us for the in-store event, you can still join the event online from April 6th - April 7th! Use the code at checkout online.



Mother's day is around the corner! Reward yourself or an amazing mother out there with fine jewelry from Kendra Scott while also benefiting Intermountain Therapy Animals!

Intermountain Therapy Animals is partnering with Kendra Scott in their "Shop For Good" program. This means that 20% of any purchase using our code from April 6th-7th will be donated to Intermountain Therapy Animals!

ITA is partnering with Kendra Scott during their new collection drop! You will get first pick from their new collection of hand-made fine jewelry!



KENDRA SCOTT JEWELRY: Online nationally on April 6th and 7th, or in person at the City Creek store on Wednesday, April 6th from 4 to 6 pm. Perfect for Mother's Day, or to give yourself a well-deserved bit of indulgence.





The Photo Box Photography and Intermountain Therapy Animals are excited to announce the 2022 Spring Portrait event!

The Photo Box photography will be at 4050 South 2700 East in Salt Lake on April 23rd and April 24th!

Family portraits are also welcome!

For only a \$30.00 donation, you will receive a 10 minute portrait sitting and one 8X10 gift print on the spot. Many more prints are also available online at www.ThePhotoBox.com following your portrait sitting. Remember, 100% of the \$30.00 sitting fee is a donation to Intermountain Therapy Animals!

To reserve your spot contact Melissa Byrd at 801-272-3439 or scan the QR code www.therapyanimals.org

TPB

April 23rd and 24th
Save the Date!
www.ThePhotoBox.com

THE PHOTO BOX SPRING EVENT: At ITA/The Family Dog on Saturday and Sunday, April 23rd and 24th. Don't wait—appointments fill up fast!

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 pur-

chase 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



Remembrances & Reunions

Here are two fresh reminders that we are seldom aware of the powerful impact our beloved partners have on the people we meet. They will warm your hearts.



The first picture (above left) is when Kelsie first met Winston, partner of Bill Cutting, at Primary Children's. It was July 22, 2015, and Kelsie had just received the news that she had liver cancer. It's now almost 7 years later, and Kelsie is cancer free. She just got in touch with ITA, hoping there might be a chance she could see Winston again. As the fates would have it, Winston is still going strong, and he and Bill were coming to the office on Sunday, March 16th for a re-test. Kelsie came with her husband (in the background above) and had a joyous reunion with Winston & Bill.



March 13, 2022

Just wondered if St. Nick was still an ITA therapy dog with his owner Sharon.

I was in the hospital a few years ago and loved that dog. They were kind enough to let him into the area I was staying in. I have had his business card in my wallet since, so I was just curious.

Lindsey Dickey

Sharon Williams-Webb and her partner Nick. Nick passed away on February 27, 2020. They were ITA partners for more than 7 years. As you can imagine, Sharon was most pleased and touched to hear of Lindsey's inquiry about Nick. He was a very special boy.



Andrea & Bear: ITA Doggy's Comback Story

Bear The Magnificent



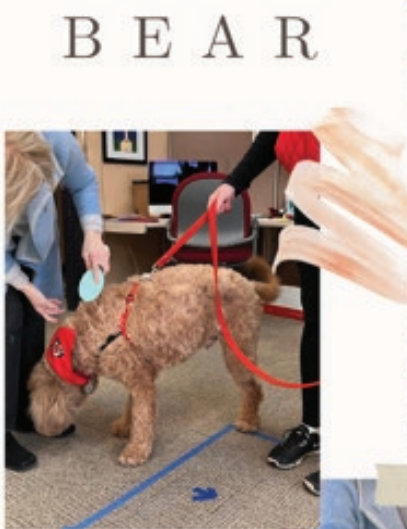
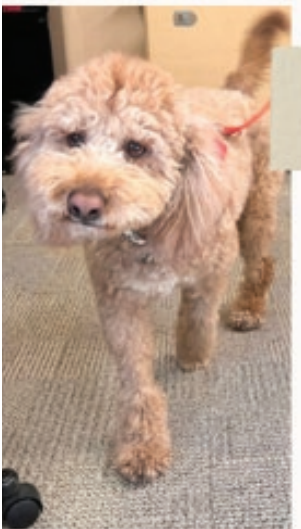
In October of 2021 at a routine vet visit, my Bear was diagnosed with cancer. This came as a huge shock because Bear is only seven years old and had no prior health issues. His doctors recommended he have surgery immediately to amputate his back leg.

The surgery was successfully performed in November, and what happened after that was truly remarkable. Bear kept his spirits high and didn't let his leg am-

putation and diagnosis slow him down. He was back working for ITA within three months of his amputation.

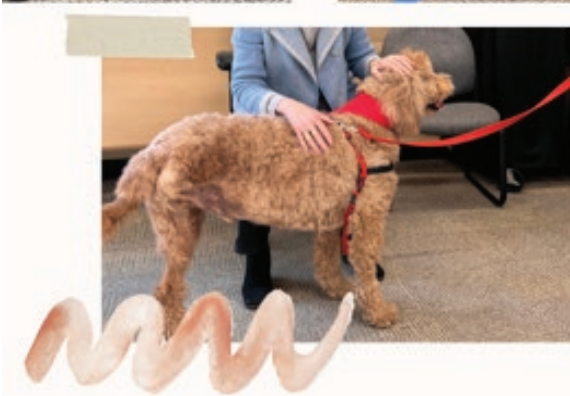
Defeating the odds, he has continued to be an inspiration to everyone he meets and works with. Nothing makes Bear happier than being back at work giving out his famous lean-in snuggles. As Bear's partner, I am so thankful to everyone at ITA and all of Bear's doctors for helping and supporting him. His vet says even though this is something no one should ever go through, she has learned so much about strength and resilience from Bear. Bear continues to grow stronger and will complete his chemotherapy in April.

– Andrea Storey



These photos are from the day Bear & Andrea came to the ITA office for their re-screening test on January 27th. Bear was so happy and engaged that we were all dazzled, and we all ended up smiling ear to ear.

– KK



OUT & ABOUT

We are doing more and more events and our partners, especially, are letting us know they are loving re-establishing connections! These are from Ensign Elementary and St. Francis Xavier schools, and the SLC Airport.



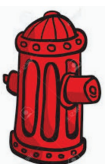
Mr. Bingley, Cavalier partner of Leslie Wasden.



Kingsley, new Golden partner of Susan Daynes, snuggles right in for petting at the SLC Airport, while Nikki, partner of Carol Prince, is getting her share off the edge of the photo!



Gus, new Unique Mix partner of Peggy Chudd, is totally happy being surrounded.





Three shots of Shiloh, Collie partner of Margaret Mabee of Ogden, on a recent visit to the Gardens. Shiloh is clearly ecstatic to be back at work!



We enjoyed 4 fun days with our R.E.A.D. leader from Mexico City, Maria Espinosa. She came to learn more about our basic therapy animal training and testing, since there is very little activity with therapy animals yet in her country. Here we are after our Sunday 3/27 day of screening brand new teams (from left): Maria, Nikol Mitchell, Karen Burns and Kathy Klotz.



What Does DOMINANCE Mean to Dogs? (And to You?)

Why we at ITA believe the “alpha” training concept is not appropriate.

We are delving into some serious subjects lately (such as last month’s discussion about hugging). That’s because one of our driving values at Intermountain Therapy Animals has always been to keep on learning, because when we know better, we can do better.

There has been much discussion in the last few years about the concept of “alpha” and how humans should apply it to make sure their dogs know they are the leaders.

Things like going through the door first, eating first, etc. ***But how valid is the whole concept of alpha for our companion dogs?*** The knowledge has advanced a lot, and this is a good time to consider what it may mean for us and our therapy dogs, who we aim and claim to treat as partners, not servants or pieces of equipment.

We all want our dogs to love us because we offer them a very satisfying and rewarding relationship, not to obey because they are afraid of the consequences if they do not comply with our orders.

I recently read an article by Clive D. L. Wynne, a professor of psychology at Arizona State University, where he directs the Canine Science Collaboratory. I liked his most recent book, *Dog is Love: Why and How Your Dogs Loves You*, and thought he had some good things to say about dominance in this recent article:



What does dominance mean to you? It is a complicated concept, after all. Are your thoughts drawn toward the likes of Mistress

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Marley, an online dominatrix whose followers send her financial tributes in exchange for receiving verbal abuse? Or do you think of LeBron James’s overwhelming skills on the basketball court? Perhaps you recall a particularly overweening teacher, older sibling or coercive boss. Whatever direction your thoughts may take, dominance is a potent concept to many people.

This is a problem for scientists like me who study animal behavior. That’s because we use the word in

a very technical sense. To an animal behavior scientist, dominance is the quality that helps an animal receive, within its group, preferential access to resources—which could be food, shelter, mates (in both the biological and Australian senses) or anything else the animal needs. Domi-

nance may be established by force, but it is typically sustained by *painless signals* that convey an individual’s superior or inferior status: a flash of the rump, a lick to the mouth, a roll onto the back.

Most, but not all, social animals experience social hierarchies; lionesses, for example, live in egalitarian groups without social distinctions. Fearsomeness and dominance are distinct concepts.

This confusion between the lay and technical uses of “dominance” might not matter if the two sides of life—the colloquial and the scientific—never met. But I study the behavior of dogs in human society, and there the confusion involving the term leads to real suffering for dogs and their people. Several of the most high-profile dog trainers active today, for example, would have you believe that you and your canine best friend are locked in battle for domination of your domicile. Television’s “Dog



Dominance and Our Dogs (cont.)

Whisperer,” Cesar Millan, insists that owners must always eat before their pooches. The same cannot be said for some of the techniques recommended in one of the most popular dog training books of modern times, *How to Be Your Dog's Best Friend*, by the Monks of New Skete (members of a monastic community in Cambridge, New York, who breed German Shepherds). The monks' idea of friendship includes convincing a recalcitrant canine that you are the boss by hitting the dog under the chin hard enough to elicit a yelp and jerking a seated dog off the ground by grabbing him by the scruff of the neck.

For years, animal behavior professionals have been up in arms about the use of a confused version of dominance to advocate painful and ineffective forms of training. The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior, the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists and the Association of Professional Dog Trainers, among others, have taken public positions critical of trainers who use punitive approaches that claim to be drawn from theories of dominance. In some cases, these organizations insist that the idea of dominance in human-dog relations is based on outdated views of social organization among wolves.

These learned societies are on the side of the angels, but there's a problem: Research shows that dogs do, in fact, experience dominance. They are highly sensitive to hierarchical social relation-

ships—more so even than wolves. Still, that doesn't mean the harsh animal trainers are right: Dogs may respond to dominance cues, but that's not an excuse for cruel, physically punishing behavior.



What might these dogs be communicating??



I recently reviewed all the scientific studies I could find on dominance in wolves and dogs, and the evidence that dogs respect dominance was clear. One simple but compelling study out of Austria, published in 2015, involved wolves and dogs raised outdoors in large enclosures. The researchers offered pairs of animals a bone large enough to be shared, but small enough to be monopolized by a dominant individual if he or she wanted to. The wolf pairs gnawed happily on opposite ends of the bone. The dogs, on the other hand, never shared: The dominant one kept the juicy bone all to himself.

Thirty years ago, researchers in Germany raised a mixed group of wolf pups and poodles in an outdoor enclosure. Even though the wolves rapidly grew to be larger and stronger than their poodle steps-

iblings, it was the dogs who dominated the much more easygoing wolves.

Wolves work together because they have to: They live in family groups that must cooperate if they are to bring down large prey. Most of their prey contains much more meat than one animal could

(continued next page)



eat. Thus, sharing and cooperation are the bywords of wolf life.

Dogs on the other hand, when not in human

homes, live in fluid groups and primarily scavenge on human refuse. Out on a dump pile, there's little motivation to cooperate. A dog doesn't need help pulling the remains out of a KFC box, and there usually isn't enough chicken in there to share, either. Consequently, dogs don't typically have an instinct to collaborate.

Researchers in the Netherlands carefully observed the interactions of a group of dogs and rated the level of social hierarchy that the canines experienced on a scale from 1 (completely despotic) through 4 (egalitarian). The dogs came in around 2—a fairly steep social hierarchy, similar to what is found in macaques (notably contentious animals).

It doesn't automatically follow that, because dogs experience dominance in interactions with their own kind, they also recognize a social hierarchy in their relations with us. But a moment's thought shows that, in fact, they must. Who has the collar around their neck, and who holds the free end of the leash? Who enjoys the filet and who chews the bone? Dogs cannot even carry out toileting functions without negotiating access to a suitable spot to pee and poop. Humans have total control over the

resources that are important to dogs—a key component of the definition of dominance in animal behaviour.

“So long as you are the one with the big brain and the opposable thumb, who can operate the can opener and unlock the front door, *you have no need to demonstrate your status with shock collars and other tortuous instruments*—and doing so would not make your dog any more likely to look up to you. Everything about the world in which our dogs live—their utter dependence on human beings—signals to them that it is the human who is in the dominant position. No violence is needed; the circumstances already shout out everything about dominance that could possibly be said.”

Not only that, but dogs also manifest toward humans some of the behaviors that signal submission. Subordinate dogs lower their posture and lick the mouths of individuals—dog or human—whose preeminence they recognize. Submissive dogs also pass their head under the chin of dogs to whom they are paying their respects. This may match a dog's experience of being stroked on the head by a human. No wonder that no less an authority than Charles Darwin (whose life with dogs was only once interrupted—when he went around the world on a ship named the Beagle) endorsed the view that “a dog looks on his master as on a god.”

Dogs live in a human-dominated world. And that's just fine with them.

What does dogs' exquisite sensitivity to social hierarchy imply for how we live with them? Do we need to act like a dominatrix or a macho TV trainer—never missing a chance to whip our dogs into line—as claimed by some who pay allegiance to the notion of “dominance?” Surely not.

Dogs living outside human control may use force to es-

tablish their social hierarchies, but so long as you are the one with the big brain and the opposable thumb, who can operate the can opener and unlock the front door, *you have no need to demonstrate*



Dominance and Our Dogs (cont.)

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Reading your cues, your dog understands who is at the head of the team and looks to you for leadership. It is your intelligence and your dexterity that make you the “alpha”—not whether you smack your dog or eat dinner first. This is the fundamental insight from which to draw lessons for governing your dog’s behavior: You should use your smarts to show your dog the way to a peaceful and happy interspecies household. That may not be as sexy as some other forms of domination, but it’s what you both need.



It seems that with alpha training models, whenever a person asks a dog to do something and the dog does not comply, the person assumes the dog is “blowing him off.” Which creates tension and conflict!

There are so many other things to consider: Does my dog actually understand what I’m asking? Have I completed the learning cycle for this particular behavior? Am I asking him to sit in a spot his nose finds undesirable? Is the dog not feeling well and I haven’t seen the signs of that? Is there another dog nearby, complicating his social view of the situation?

Another problem with the alpha model is that it tends to shift responsibility from us (the humans), where it belongs, and onto the dog.

Our ITA dog language consultant, Catherine Cookson, has lots to say on this subject, beginning with the fact that the popular notion of dominance doesn’t help us understand our dogs, or deepen our relationships with them. Rather, it gets in the way of understanding our dogs.



We know how essential relationships are between humans for growth and change. It certainly then holds true that our relationships with our dogs are just as important. Both humans and dogs are social animals, and our relationships are im-

portant to the survival of both the species and also for each individual.

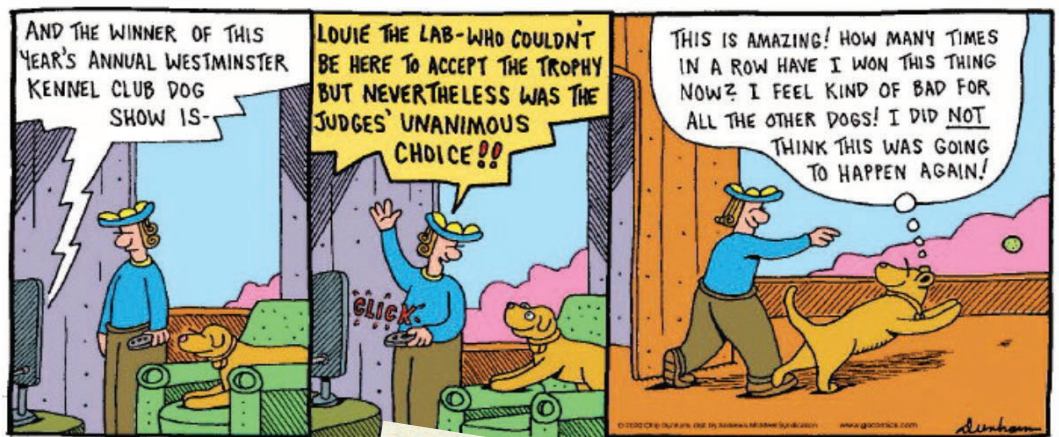
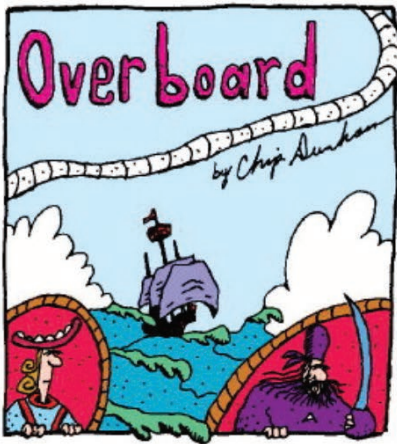
We want to make sure our relationship-building leaves room for our animal’s opinions and preferences, and a lot more fine-tuning than just simple obedience.

There’s a lot to think about here, so we will delve a little deeper next month. ❤️

– Kathy Klotz



The Lighter Side



The therapy dog after I share all my problems

