

# THE HYDRANT

The Monthly  
Bulletin  
for Members of  
Intermountain  
Therapy Animals

Volume 22/Number 9  
September 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*

## September

(Isn't it still too hot to be Fall?)

**Wednesday the 7th - St. Joseph Villa Assisted Living Center**

**Friday the 9th - ARUP Laboratories**

**Fri-Sat-Sun 9-10-11 - Human-Animal Bond Symposium with ITA and Carroll College in Helena, Montana**

**Tuesday the 13th - Joyce University (formerly Ameritech) presentation to OT Students**

**Tuesday the 13th - 7 pm, ITA Board of Directors Meeting**

**Wednesday the 14th - Park City Learning Center**

**Thursday the 15th - University of Utah Recreational Therapy Program Presentation**

**Sunday the 18th - Salt Lake Oasis Presentation**

**Monday the 19th - Life Care Center of Bountiful**

**Tuesday the 20th - Orchard Elementary: Prevent Child Abuse Presentation Debrief**

**Thursday the 22nd - Fall Team Training Workshop begins**

**Friday the 30th - All Abilities Discovery Program**



# Service Opportunities ~ **ITAVOLUNTEERS.COM**



Stop by the office anytime to claim your very own refrigerator magnet to remind you where to search for ITA service opportunities!



# MEET OUR NEW TEAMS

## Flathead Valley, MT



Gina Fernandez  
& Indie



Karen Nichols  
& Maggie



Ricardo Fernandez  
& Indie



Sarah Van Norden  
& Isabel



Lynne Hiatt  
& Darby

*Congratulations & Welcome to all of you!*



## Billings, MT



**Gena Grinestaff  
& Sparkle**

## Salt Lake City



**Audrey DuRoss  
& Hazel**

## Helena, MT



**Melanie Berlini  
& Ollie**



**Natalie Ficklin-Holliday  
& Micah**



**Betty Ellis  
& Caper**



**Jean Robinson  
& Edith**

*We (and our communities) sure need you!*



# We have a new Volunteer Coordinator!



## Beth Ott joins the ITA Staff!

*Finally*, after the loss of Sabrina and then the pandemic “hiatus,” we have a new person on our staff and we are thrilled!

Beth has long experience as a teacher and administrator at Rowland Hall and the perfect background and qualifications for our important role of VC. Stop by soon to meet her!

Beth says, “My life got even better when our dog, August, joined our family a few years ago. My family of four humans (myself, husband, two children), five chickens, one bird, and many fish is a loud, bustling, and dynamic household. August immediately began teaching us all patience, reminding us of the importance of balancing playtime with

rest time, sharing boundless joy with each of us, and is a great reminder to us to trust each other.

“I am thrilled to join my new-found passion for animals with my respect for and love of the therapeutic process. My introduction to Intermountain Therapy Animals came years ago when working with various ITA teams on the receiving end of their services in my prior positions as a recreational therapist and teacher. In my role as ITA’s Volunteer Coordinator, I am honored to support relationships, the human/animal connection, and the joy, growth and hope that transpires as a result of these magical interactions. When I am not at work, you will find me swimming, gardening, camping, reading, and trying to keep up with my energetic family!”

**Hazel**, partner of new SLC handler Audrey DuRoss, may have been ever so slightly bored at their new volunteer orientation session, but if so she was very polite and patient about it!



# PARTNERS LEAVING EARTH



## Lark, partner of Kathleen Hayden (Bozeman)

We have just been blindsided by another sudden and unexpected loss of a wonderful therapy dog. Kathleen Hayden lost her wonderful 8-year-old Golden Retriever, Lark, on Saturday, August 13th. Lark had an injury to the ligament in one of his back legs, and the antibiotics given to him unleashed an undiagnosed liver condition and he quickly spiraled into liver failure.

Kathleen and Lark have been an ITA team since late 2019 and have been active in the R.E.A.D. programs at Longfellow Elementary School and the Bozeman Public Library. They were just getting ready to start visiting the Cancer Center at Bozeman Health. In addition, Lark debuted as an excellent neutral dog at a recent team re-test event. Lark will be missed by all those he touched.

## Jackson, partner of Ali Barnes (Salt Lake)



And yet another painful loss this past month. Jackson joined ITA with his partner Ali in March of 2009, and left at the venerated age of 14 this past month. Still, it is always too soon. Ali says, “We said goodbye to our best friend and loyal companion, Jackson. I could write volumes about why I loved him. He was gentle and patient as he taught our granddaughter how to be around big dogs. When our adult kids moved home for awhile, he would wait on the landing at night until everyone made it home safely and was in bed. He ate all the Christmas treats once (and got *very*

*sick*)! Jackson was an ITA therapy dog for over 7 years at Primary RTC where he helped kids with emotional and behavioral issues. I can’t do him justice in a short little post. He was the best of dogs. I’ll miss him every day. I love this photo of him where he’s healthy and athletic.

That’s how he will always be in my mind and heart.”



# GET READY ...

There are  
**SO MANY**  
fun ways  
that you  
can help  
us throw a  
successful  
party!  
Check out  
the next  
page to  
find out  
how!



**Friday**  
**October 21, 2022**  
**6:00-9:00 pm**  
The Garden Place  
This is the Place Park  
Salt Lake City

**2022 ITA FUNDRAISER** ■ [therapyanimals.org](https://therapyanimals.org)





## Ways Our ITA Volunteers can Help:

- **Donate a gift card worth \$20 or more**

*to a universally desirable location or entity. We use these in our legendary surprise “Doggy Bags.”*

- **Volunteer on the night of the event**

*Benefits? Free food, a Dogtoberfest t-shirt and beer stein or wine glass*

- **Solicit for silent auction items**

*Ask of people and places that you patronize regularly and you’ll be delighted how many will say YES. Talk to the staff about things that are especially desirable.*

- **Participate in the “Sponsor a Team” project**

*What’s this?? Be one of the teams that inspire guests about ITA’s mission and work. More info coming soon!*

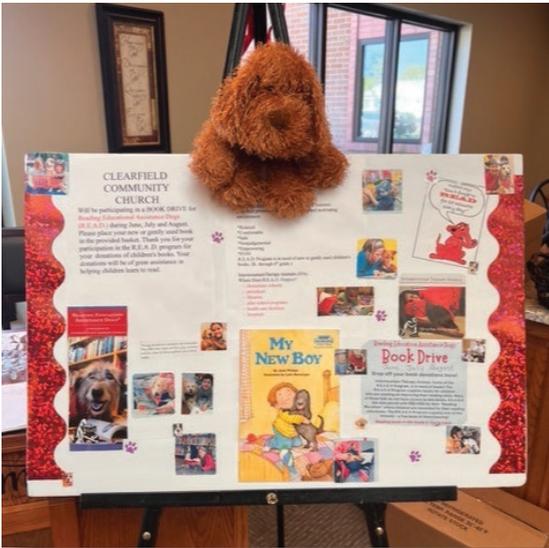
- **Come to the party as a paying guest, and**

- **Bring lots of your friends!**

*Coming with friends is the GUARANTEED way to have endless fun!*



# OUT & ABOUT



Longtime ITA supporting member **Sharon Woeppel** of Ogden inspired her friends and fellow members at the **Clearfield (Utah) Community Church** to donate books to ITA's R.E.A.D. program. They gave us more than 200! Sharon didn't want her picture taken, but we snapped **Tammy Riggs & Pilot**, one of the teams



who went along to thank them all on Sunday, August 28th. Their donation went a long way toward replenishing our supply of books to give our R.E.A.D.ers—**THANKS, Sharon and Friends!**



Thibodeaux, partner of Judy Cooper, offers a comforting kiss to a traveler at the Salt Lake airport who said, amidst tears, that she had just lost her own dog.



How many ITA Leaders does it take to get one proper badge photo?!?! **FOUR**, judging from this photo, taken in Flathead Valley, Montana when we were trying to get a photo of Lynne Hiatt and her partner Darby, who had just passed their team screening!



# Lots went on in August!

**RIGHT:** Deb Graber & Teddy, Jean Revord & Max, and Kelly Olson & Colt helped relieve stress for dental students at Roseman University on August 31st.



**BELOW:** Susan Daynes & Dresden, Stephanie Jacobs & Biscuit, and Becky Butler & Sumo melted lots of hearts being the highlights of Kathy's presentation at the Town Club on August 16th.



# Still more from August Happenings



**LEFT SIDE:** Biscuit, partner of Stephanie Jacobs, spreading the love at Primary Children's Hospital.

**RIGHT SIDE:** Jasper, partner of Ilene Nelson, Max, partner of Jean Revord, and Axle, partner of Charlyn Liechty, posing (and snuggling) at the Discover Employees Fair.



# Do You Believe Scientists, or Your Dog's Crying Eyes?

*Researchers disagree about whether your best friend tears up more when it is reunited with you, but agree that the wet eyes of a pup make you want to care for it.*

August brought us the surprising news from Japanese scientists that perhaps our dogs' eyes well up with tears of happiness when reunited with us after a period of absence. They don't do the same with unfamiliar humans.

**L**ike humans, dogs have tear ducts that well up with tears to keep their eyes clean and healthy. But tears in dogs, which tend not to fall as they do when humans cry, hadn't been linked with emotion before.

Takefumi Kikusui, a professor at the Laboratory of Human-Animal Interaction and Reciprocity at Azabu University in Japan, decided to investigate dog tears after watching one of his two standard poodles when she had puppies six years ago. He noticed that her eyes got teary as she nursed her puppies.

"We found that dogs shed tears associated with positive emotions," Kikusui, who co-authored the research that was published August 22 in the journal *Current Biology*, said in a news release.

"We also made the discovery of oxytocin as a possible mechanism underlying it," Kikusui said, referring to the hormone that in humans is sometimes called the love or maternal hormone.

To investigate the link, Kikusui and his team measured the amount of tears among 18 dogs with a standard test known as the Schirmer Tear Test. It involved a paper strip placed inside the eyelids of the dogs for a minute before and after they were reunited with their owners following five to seven hours of separation.

"Tear volume was evaluated by the length of the wet part on the STT. The baseline was about 22 mm, and the reunion with the owner increased by 10%," Kikusui explained.

With the help of 20 dogs, researchers then compared the amount of tears before and after reunions with their owners and people with whom the animals were familiar. Only the reunion with the owner increased the amount of tears.

To understand whether oxytocin played a role in producing the tears, a solution containing the hormone was applied to the surface of 22 dog' eyes. The amount of tears significantly increased after the oxytocin was applied, compared with a control solution.

Kikusui said it was possible humans would better care for dogs that got teary-eyed. His team showed 74 people pictures of dogs' faces with and without artificial tears in them and asked them to rank the animals. People gave more positive responses when they saw dogs with teary eyes.

Scientists who weren't part of the study aren't sure this conclusion is justified.

"If we accept the evidence of this paper, this is one of the most stunning discoveries in animal

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## Dogs' Crying Eyes (cont.)

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expression of emotions of all time,” said Clive Wynne, a canine behavior specialist at Arizona State University. But, he added, “it would take a lot to convince me.”

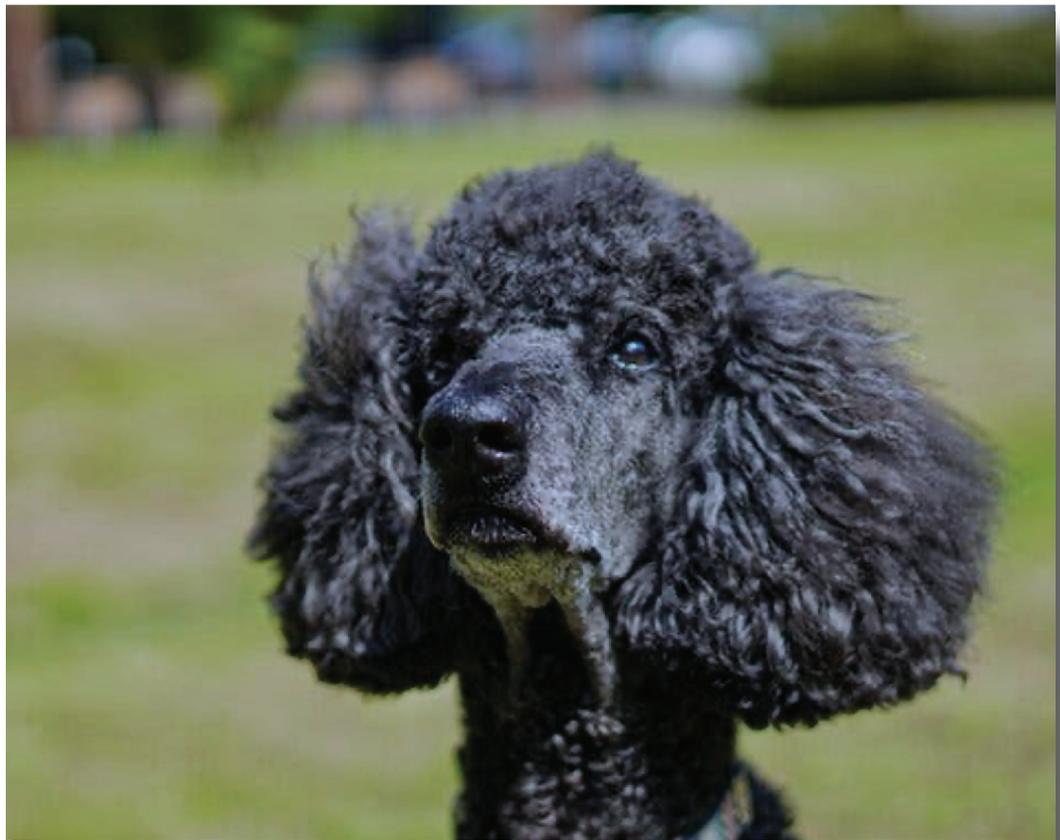
Skeptics were less concerned with another of the study’s findings — that humans more favorably rated pictures of dogs with artificial tears in their eyes than those without tears.

The study’s authors did not suggest that dogs weep with emotion the way humans do. But when dogs exhibit “watery, shiny eyes,” it “facilitates human caregiving,” said Kikusui.

Dr. Wynne was skeptical that the Schirmer’s test could prove a link between emotion and tear volume. If a dog is excited by reuniting with its owner, it might move around more, and the paper might rub against its eye more, leading to more tears. “So, I don’t buy it,” he said.

Dr. Kikusui, however, said the dogs’ eyes experienced the same amount of paper rubbing in the different experimental conditions.

When dogs exhibit “watery, shiny eyes,” it “facilitates human caregiving,” said Takefumi Kikusui, an animal behavior expert at Azabu University in Japan.



# Dogs in Paintings

*"I would rather see the portrait of a dog that I know, than all the allegorical paintings they can show me in the world."*

- Samuel Johnson



**"I Second This Thought ..."**



Kathy Klotz's late partner Foster (1990-2002) by Heidi (above) and Herb Hochman (right)



**Do you have any paintings of your own companions you'd like to share with your ITA colleagues? PLEASE SHOW US! Send to [kathy@therapyanimals.org](mailto:kathy@therapyanimals.org).**



# An ITA Memory

In bygone days, we used to have public training outings at various places—the airport, riding Trax, etc. Here we are after strolling Fashion Place circa 1999. There are a few familiar faces, if you squint and look closely!



# The Lighter Side

