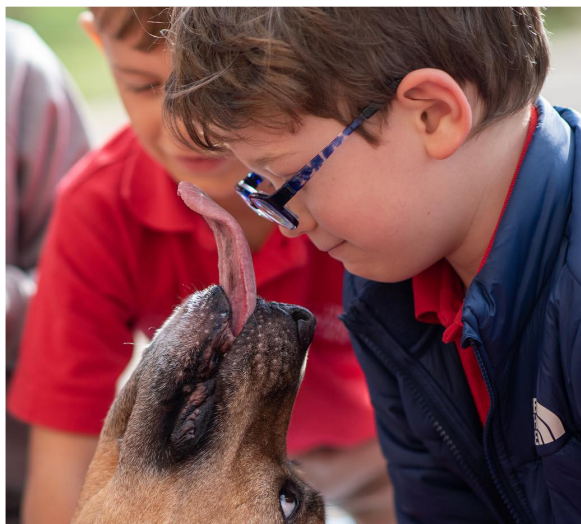


THE HYDRANT

The Monthly
Bulletin
for Members of
Intermountain
Therapy Animals

Volume 23/Number 2
February 2023



Are you current with ITA?

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

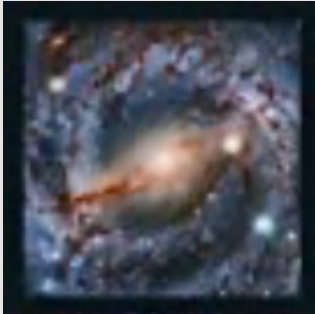
Membership Dues:

Individual \$99
Family \$150

How to Pay:

- Call the office with your credit card (801.272.3439)
 - Request a PayPal invoice
- Go to the MEMBER tab on our website, (therapyanimals.org); click on the red button that says "Pay Your Membership Dues"
- OR, just send a check to ITA at PO Box 17201, SLC, UT 84117.

If you are not planning to renew your membership, please let us know so that we don't continue to send you notices!



February

Thursday, February 2 ~ Liberty Elementary (Preschool) Community Helpers Presentation, 1:00-1:30 pm

Saturday, February 4 ~ Weber County Library, 11 am-1:00 pm

Sunday, February 5 ~ NEW TEAM SCREENINGS, 9 am - 1 pm

Tuesday, February 7 ~ DaVinci Elementary (6th grade) Presentation 1:30-3:00 pm

Tuesday, February 7 ~ ITA Board of Directors Meeting, 7 pm

Thursday, 2/9 ~ ITA Annual Volunteer Celebration, 6 pm

Tuesday, February 14 ~ Rowland Hall Beginning School (Preschool & Kindergarten) Super Helpers Presentation 11:00 am-12:00 noon

Wednesday, February 15 ~ Girl Scout Troop 1183, Road Home Outreach Presentation 7-8 pm



Service Opportunities ~

FACILITIES: We are back at 111! STILL WAITING: 44 more!

ITAVOLUNTEERS.COM

The list of possibilities grows by the day!

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



We are excited at the chance to party together again after the long hiatus, but we are *truly sorry* that all of our ITA members aren't close enough to SLC to join us for this fun evening!



NEW ITA TEAMS



**Dona Burkard
& Leo**
(Salt Lake)



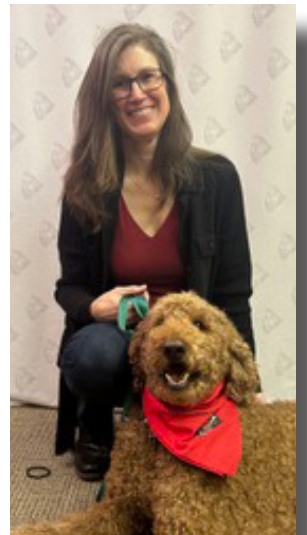
**Megan Gibbons
& Mike**
(Bozeman)



Griff tries out a bed visit.

Griff and his partner, Andrea Runberg, are a new Utah team as of November, but Griff (with Andrea, of course) got an individual volunteer orientation session because he had a respiratory infection and couldn't attend when they first joined.

Griff and Beth (our ITA Volunteer Coordinator) quite enjoyed sharing the hospital bed together!



OUT & ABOUT



Abby Hansen and her golden partner, Macho, are a relatively new team (since June 2022). The photo at left is a nurse with Macho at American Fork Hospital.

Abby says, "We've been volunteering at the American Fork Hospital (where no one can remember having had therapy dogs at before) and it is going so, so well. I knew from Rachael Beasley that people loved therapy dogs, but I didn't know that people would literally lose their minds when they see him coming. Today we visited the OR staff break room for the first time ever, and someone shrieked they were so excited. Patients love him too, but the hospital employees there act like he's Justin Bieber."

Abby is also a skilled photographer and she sent the shot below for Macho's trading cards. It's so stunning I thought you should all get a chance to see it.

- KK



What Would You Never Do?

Recently (September 2022) the *Whole Dog Journal* queried several well-known trainers in the dog world about “things they would never do with their dogs.” Here are excerpts of some of their responses:

1 – Leave my dogs home alone when there is a potentially disastrous condition nearby. “It took only one conversation with an owner whose dogs were home alone and killed in a wildfire to teach me this important lesson; the pain in her eyes haunts me to this day.”

2 – Sign up for a training class without researching the trainer and observing classes first. I read trainers’ websites carefully, looking for evidence of positive-training education and credentials. Send an email and ask specific questions.

3 – Let dogs play with other dogs while wearing collars or harnesses. All it takes is one dog playmate who likes to grab another by the collar. If a tooth gets stuck, both will freak out and it’s very difficult to separate them as they spin, roll, and scream in pain and panic. Let your dogs play naked!

4 – Give my dogs any of the following to chew: dried pigs ears, dried bones (the kind sold in pet supply stores), or most rawhide or so-called “collagen” products sold in pet supply stores. Dead animal parts of unknown age and unknown country-of-origin, processed with dog-knows-what chemicals? No thank you.

5 – Agree to have my dog vaccinated for anything I haven’t researched and planned for in advance. “I am not an anti-vaxxer. I want my dogs to have the utmost

protection that they need, but I don’t want to over-vaccinate or make automatic decisions, especially with senior dogs.”

6 – Deliberately scare my dog by disguising or altering my appearance.

7 – Attach my dog to a retractable leash. It would be like having a raccoon or a coyote on a leash, but they aren’t safe for humans, either.

8 – Turn my dog loose in a dog park without first observing the behaviors, actions and interactions of the dogs and the humans inside the park.

9 – Tease or make my dog uncomfortable for a laugh. This isn’t a new impulse for humans, but social media has put this impulse on steroids. “Scare your dog to see what they do.” The human world our dogs have landed in is confusing enough for them. It’s heartbreaking to watch the person the dog trusts most set them up to feel an intense, uncomfortable emotion like fear.

10 – Use a shock collar. I would never do anything involving the use of force, pain, or fear.

11 – Grab something from my dog’s mouth. Even if it’s rat poison or your grandmother’s diamond bracelet, you’re likely to get it back faster and with much less harm if you calmly ask the dog to trade rather than trying to grab it. Offer a high-value treat instead!

All these subjects can provoke dynamic conversations!

How about you? Have you thought about things you would never do to/with your own dogs? And your other companion animals?



Dogs in Paintings



Pencil drawing of Carol Baumann's Maggie (Bozeman chapter). It was a Christmas present from her husband John in 2021 and Carol says it captures Maggie's essence completely.



Please send more of YOURS!
to
kathy@therapyanimals.org



The Lighter Side

