



ITA - Back to Full Services!



INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS
ANNUAL REPORT

2022

INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS ~ 2022

INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS (ITA) is a 501(c)(3) Utah nonprofit, founded in 1993 (as The Good Shepherd Association) to bring animal resources to human needs. Our mission is to *enhance quality of life through the human-animal bond*.

2022 brought us into ITA's 30th year—and found us entirely back to full services after the devastation of the COVID pandemic. At last it was more like a typical year for ITA. In fact, after the hiatus we are now in more intense demand than ever ("on steroids," actually), with more than 140 programs and another 40+ facilities on our waiting list.

Here are some of the highlights:

- We reached a total of 169,158 clients, with hours served by our ITA volunteer teams totaling 14,538.
- We replaced our Donor View database system with a new one, Network for Good, for donations and events and a custom Filemaker package for our Volunteer records. We concluded that our many years of attempts to get all our complex information into one database was unrealistic and ineffective, and we are much happier and more efficient with the new systems!
- We were able to return to full training sessions for potential teams this year. We interviewed more than 100 potential teams in Salt Lake alone, and we held three training series in Salt Lake and one each in our chapters in Bozeman and Whitefish, Montana, and St. George, Utah. Additional internal trainings included 15 volunteer orientations, 4 R.E.A.D. trainings, 3 evaluator meetings and multiple Zooms with other chapter leaders.
- We continued with regular ZOOM meetings to stay in touch with our worldwide network of

R.E.A.D. instructors, as well as leaders of the 17 colleague organizations for whom we are the "mother ship." Some of our ITA board of directors' meetings were also still held via Zoom, as well as numerous community presentations, and even some R.E.A.D. sessions and remote visits with clients.



Nemo, partner of Amber Tuckness, inspires smiles all around at Cottonwood High School.

- We held our annual Volunteer Celebration live and in-person again, which was another success, this year featuring a pie competition.

- We held a Human-Animal Bond Symposium in conjunction with the Dept. of Anthrozoology at Carroll College in Helena, Montana, on September 10-11.

- We participated on April 30th when Salt Lake County Council declared that date to be National Therapy Animal Day.

- We revised and upgraded our entire process of team training and assessment, in line with the latest research and our long experience in this arena of putting humans and animals together for the benefit of both. Our goal was to help everyone realize that it's not just the animals who need to have particular skills and temperaments; it's also the humans—who have to be responsible

for the welfare of those animals while at the same time creating meaningful connections with each patient/client and being aware of the environment around them. We are pleased that we are getting ever better at helping humans realize that the animals are equal beings, with wisdom and sensibilities that often are more intuitive and effective than the humans' in these settings. Executive Director Kathy Klotz was also chosen to make a presentation called "Implementing Handler Team Assessments" to the Animal-Assisted Interactions International (AII) conference on September 30th.

- Distributed 420 brand new books to individual children in the Salt Lake Valley as part of our partnership with the KUED Adventure Pass program.
- Made 30 in-person presentations to community and educational groups, 45 single therapeutic community events, and 17 "de-stress-

ing" support events for medical staff personnel, and university and high school students.

- Our major fundraiser this year was "Dogtoberfest" on October 21st. It was less formal than most of our past gala events and attracted a much wider audience, who came for live music and entertainment by the group "Salzburger Echo," and lots of varieties of beer (and other beverages) and excellent food. It was extremely well-received by the attendees!
- Other fundraisers during the year included two animal portrait sessions with The Photo Box, a T-shirt campaign ("Healing Connections"), a jewelry event at the Kendra Scott shop, and Giving Tuesday in November.
- We held two continuing education events, one with our dog language expert, Catherine Cookson, and another for Assessing Horses for programs at the National Ability Center.



INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS

Dogtoberfest

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

Go to www.therapyanimals.org/events to purchase your tickets ~ or use this QR code:




Three grandchildren of ITA member Ellen Folke show off their Healing Connections t-shirts!

ON THE COVER:

In 2022 we were able to return to up-close visiting — which often meant "in bed" with our patient-clients! That's one of the special special benefits we offer that is always a big hit!

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

It has been, and continues to be, an honor serving as Intermountain Therapy Animals' Board President.

I am fully committed to facilitating the most remarkable 30-year journey of this exceptional organization.

My Australian Shepherd, Mickey, and I have enjoyed our first year as an ITA volunteer team. It has been exciting, enlightening, humbling and, most of all, gratifying beyond words. It continually amazes me how brilliant, empathic and sensitive our animal partners are in whatever situation they are placed. Mickey takes his "job" very seriously, as do I.

If you knew all the effort our little staff of six puts into qualifying, training and placing just one therapy team, and then multiplying that by 300+, you would understand how much our donors' investment in ITA pays off.

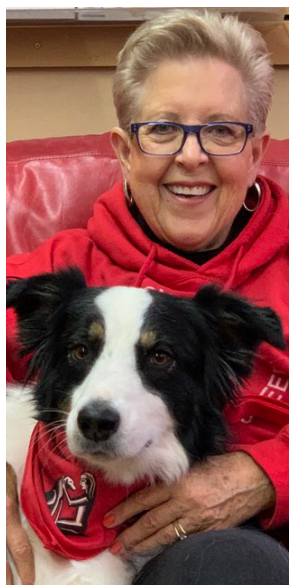
No matter what crises are going on in the world around us, individual people of all ages and socio-economic circumstances receive devastating diagnoses and injuries every day. Our teams are there to help them re-ignite their hope and enthusiasm for life, inspiring them to move forward on the tough path to healing. Our therapists have told us over and over, year after year, that the animals inspire cooperation, participation and progress that they cannot otherwise get from their patients. 2022 was especially impactful for us in seeing what good medicine our teams are for families and medical staff personnel, as well.

I have a passion for the work that all our teams have accomplished. And I am grateful beyond words for all of you who have continued to support us and our special medicine through these unpredictable times and singular circumstances. We could never have done it without you. We trust you know how hard we have worked to make every dollar count toward health and healing.

With sincere thanks and appreciation,

Jane L. Fischer
Jane L. Fischer

Chair, ITA Board of Directors



... AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past year, 2022, has found ITA not only back to full services, but doing it "on steroids," as the saying goes. By the end of the year our programs were back to more than 140 health care and educational facilities, and with more than 40 still on our waiting list.

There is no longer any doubt, at any level, about the efficacy and healing benefits of animals. Staff personnel at all facilities are still pressuring us most of all for visits, and we are so happy to be able to lighten their burdens by offering the chance to interact with our animals.

In our chosen endeavor, ITA remains on the front lines, always seeking to learn more and do even better for all parties who participate in our animal-assisted interactions — client, staff, family, handler and animal. We currently have 17 colleague organizations in 10 other states who use ITA's training and testing protocols.

Jane Goodall has said that "If we can take an animal as a true partner and learn from the animal, who will then learn from us — a back and forth relationship — it can lead in the future to all kinds of amazing and innovative ways of helping the world become a better place." We humans have always expected our animals to learn from us, but it's a more recent bit of enlightenment that they have much to teach us, as well, and we are committed to staying open in that process of discovery.

We remain permanently committed to staying personal, too, despite the relentless advance of the technologies that are disconnecting our society. We will always choose personal interaction over automation, even when that choice may seem "inefficient." We are also committed to being open and direct when dealing with issues and solving problems. We never fail to be dazzled by how quickly disagreements melt away when people speak to one another directly instead of speculating sideways. We have observed that this is another simple but powerful way that animals are great role models.

I am personally so proud of our very small and committed staff. They are all dazzlingly competent, creative and hard-working, and they produce more good with less resources than any group or organization I know.

We continue to recommend lots of furry, four-paw love—it's a comfort and a constant in our always-challenging world.

Thank you for continuing to help our dreams come true as we change lives, one encounter at a time,

Kathy Klotz
Kathy Klotz
Executive Director



Kathy Klotz, Executive Director,
with Skye and Tristan

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2021–2022

2021

Support

Grants and Donations	\$ 331,744	74.8%
Membership and Training	48,452	11.0%
R.E.A.D. Revenue	6,293	1.4%
Fundraising Events/Merch.	55,464	12.5%
In-Kind/Interest/Other	1,325	0.3%
	\$ 443,278	100%

Expenses

Total Program Services	\$ 344,927	85.5%
Fundraising	12,234	3.1%
Administration	46,153	11.4%
	\$ 403,314	100%

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

\$ 345,452

FUND BALANCES

\$ 169,086

OVERHEAD RATE

14.5%

2022

Support

Grants and Donations	\$ 291,084	66.1%
Membership and Training	46,161	10.5%
R.E.A.D. Revenue	11,622	2.6%
Fundraising Events/Merch.	91,473	20.8%
In-Kind/Interest/Other	251	0.1%
	\$ 440,591	100%

Expenses

Total Program Services	\$ 329,311	91.0%
Fundraising	10,857	3.0%
Administration	21,712	14.5%
	\$ 361,880	100%

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

\$ 245,130

FUND BALANCES

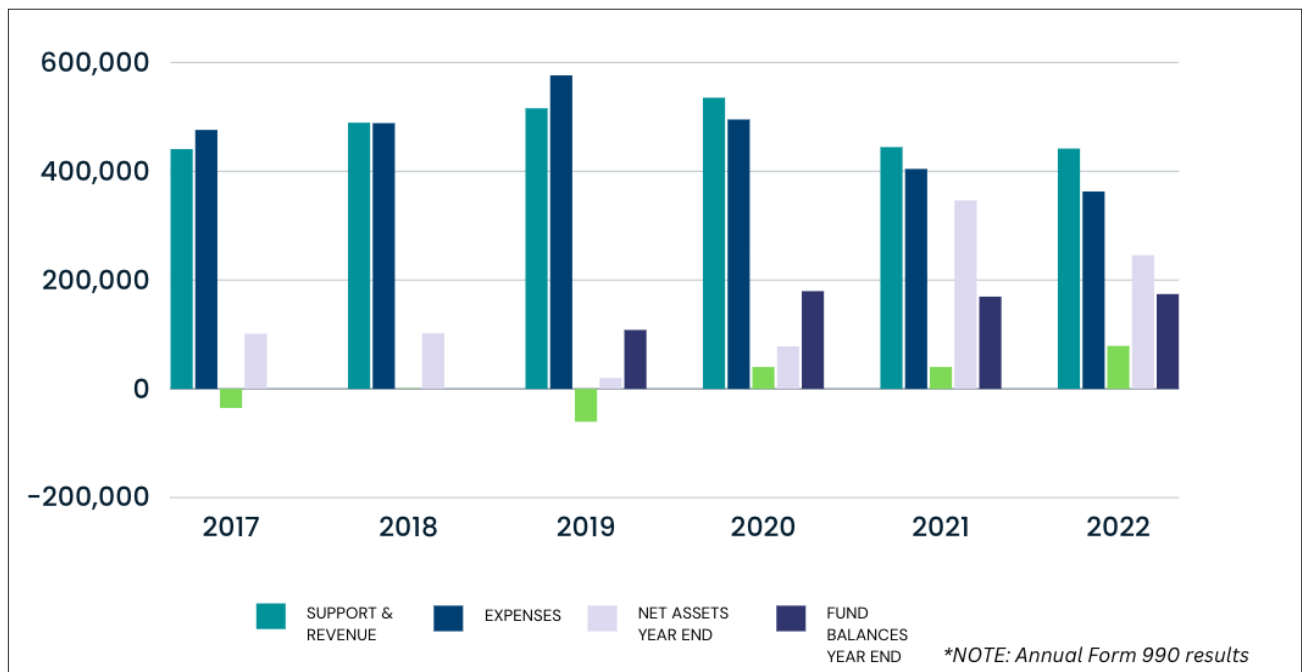
\$ 173,781

OVERHEAD RATE

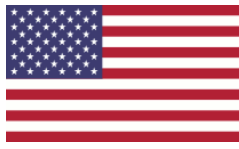
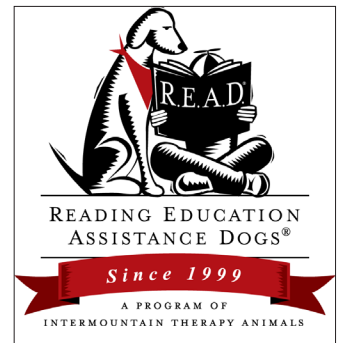
9%

(As reported on our 2021 and 2022 IRS Form 990s.)

SIX-YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2017–2022



READING EDUCATION ASSISTANCE DOGS®



24 Years — 27 Countries

These are all the countries and regions, in addition to the United States, where R.E.A.D. is currently flourishing:



Argentina



Croatia



Kazakhstan



Slovenia



Austria



Dominican Republic



Luxembourg



South Africa



Belgium



Finland



Mexico



Spain



Bosnia-Herzegovina



France



The Netherlands



Sweden



Canada



Germany



Norway



The United Kingdom



Chile



Iceland



Portugal



Wales



Colombia



Italy



Republic of China/Taiwan

Intermountain Therapy Animals' **animal-assisted education program, R.E.A.D.® (Reading Education Assistance Dogs®)**, introduced in December of 1999, continues to inspire children and gratify their parents and school and library personnel, across the U.S. and beyond.

The impact on children's education at all levels, due to the pandemic, has been huge and debilitating. We now know that the U.S. ranks 125th among the countries of the world for children's literacy. Our R.E.A.D. programs were among the last to be reinstated because schools faced such difficulties.

Nevertheless, by the end of 2022, the demand had built back up to historic highs. We have sold the R.E.A.D. training package to people all over the world, and registered more than 7,000 therapy teams to offer the program. Beyond the United States, there are 27 other countries (*see flags above*) where the program is flourishing. The R.E.A.D. manual has already been translated into Russian, Kazakh, Spanish and Portuguese.

Our trained, licensed network of R.E.A.D. program instructors now numbers 60, and we have 96 official R.E.A.D. affiliate groups in 35 states.

Competing theories about the optimal way to educate our children will no doubt continue to be discussed, because each individual's learning style is different. But one thing we know for sure, after 24 years, is that no matter what methods are used, having a dog by one's side makes the experience more motivating, more beneficial, more fun, and ultimately more successful.

We learned very early that the R.E.A.D. experience is about so much more than acquiring reading skills like fluency and comprehension. R.E.A.D. dogs help in many other significant ways, by relieving chronic stress, building confidence, improving class participation, and letting children fall in love with books and reading. R.E.A.D. will no doubt be ITA's legacy to the world of animal-assisted interactions.

Linda Tipton became a R.E.A.D. team in 2005—18 years ago—#541 of more than 7,000 now registered for the program. Her current partner is Jasper.

"Through all my years working with the teachers, in the last few the teachers have given me students with more difficult challenges in reading. Instead of spending 15 minutes with each student when I had 4, now I have just 2 students and we spend 30 minutes with each, every week.

"These two students had difficulties and the teacher was worried about them passing third grade. Working with them really helped their growth in reading and brought them more confidence.

"Jasper will be 12 in August and he still enjoys his school visits. The school goes out of their way to make sure we have a nice classroom or the library, so Jasper does not have to walk so far. His vet even told me how healthy he is based on his blood work. So we hope we will be able to continue because we love what we do! Jasper doesn't even mind being a book rest when needed. Here are their teacher's comment about their progress."

"Jose grew so much this year! His weekly visits with Jasper helped him with his confidence and his reading skills. His Lexile level increased almost 200 points! (100 points is a year's worth of growth.)"

"Abby loved her time with Jasper! Abby has a big family and is a twin, so I know she enjoyed her one-on-one time. She improved in reading fluency and comprehension this year, and her Lexile level soared 255 points!"



-Kim McSwain

Holiday Hill Elementary
Jacksonville, FL



“What is most noteworthy about having the children R.E.A.D. to the animals?”

(Program Evaluation Question)

"The children who were selected to read with the dogs couldn't wait to read! These children are not always self-motivated readers. Many avoid reading when asked to do so independently. With the R.E.A.D. program, children look forward to every minute of reading. They are motivated to read aloud for a purpose. Third graders used expression and 'entertained the dogs.' Thank you!

The kids can't wait to see them every time!"

Laurie Rice

Third Grade Teacher
Mayville Middle School
Mayville, WI



WE OFFERED OUR SUPPORTERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPONSOR INDIVIDUAL ITA TEAMS IN 2022. Those teams then began sending their sponsors monthly reports. Here are just a few examples of the experiences that our teams reported. ❤️

Bob Albrecht & Lily

We visited a little boy at Primary yesterday who was about 6 years old. When we came in the room he was whimpering because of being in pain. When he saw Lily he stopped and had a small look of hope and excitement in his eyes.

Lily got up on the bed with him and he petted her continually during our entire visit. His mother had to leave and go home, and he began to sob again, but I told him Lily was still here and would stay with him. I gave him one of Lily's trading cards and told him to hold it whenever he didn't feel good.

Eventually he closed his eyes and fell asleep, having relaxed while being with Lily. He was still holding her card.



Preston Chiaro, Fred & Rosie

My friends often ask me to describe the effect that a therapy dog has on clients who we visit. The simplest answer is that petting a dog just inevitably puts a smile on people's faces.

But "just a smile" is no small thing when people are needing to heal. We've had some encounters when a smile is a really powerful indicator of change.

The best example I can recall is when an entire family of five (mother, father, two daughters, and a son) was injured when their camper developed a gas leak overnight and exploded. All five family members were rushed to the University of Utah burn ICU for treatment. The worst injuries were to the youngest child, an 8-year-old girl, who had burns over 60% of her body. Fred was with me that day, and we stopped outside the little girl's room, where four nurses were huddled over this crying child to tend to her wounds. I asked if we should enter the room and the nurses immediately waved us around to her bedside.

As soon as she saw Fred she stopped crying, even as the nurses continued to work on her. Then, when she started petting him, she smiled and began talking to him. We stayed with her for about 20 minutes, and promised to visit her regularly as she continued to recover, which we did.

Fortunately, the care team at the hospital does an amazing job, and all five family members recovered from their injuries.

The research tells us that smiles and laughter are physiologically important for healing. And for that little girl, "just a smile" was priceless because it instantaneously changed her outlook and she stopped resisting her important treatment.



Carol Bruggers, M.D., Nellie & Finn

When we visit Primary Children's, there are so many people who want to meet Finn and Nellie, including patients and family members in inpatient rooms and outpatient clinics, nurses, doctors, environmental staff, and pharmacists, and countless people of all ages throughout the halls, all of whom are eager to pause from their respective jobs to say hello, pet the pup, and chat for a few minutes.

Last Friday, I realized that 2 hours had already gone by, and Finn was beginning to look a bit tired. However, as we headed for the stairs, two more staff requested a visit for a teenager who was just admitted and was quite anxious about his upcoming surgery. So, after we took a five-minute break and Finn got a couple of his favorite biscuits, he was rejuvenated. I knocked on the door and the doctor enthusiastically asked us to enter and emphasized the importance and perfect timing of Finn's visit.

Finn looked into this teenager's eyes and promptly jumped onto his bed, laid down beside him, and placed his head on his shoulder. This young man was immediately overcome with emotion, became speechless, smiled ear to ear, and then broke out in tears as he caressed Finn, who kept looking into his eyes. We stayed for about 20 minutes, and it was clear that his visit with Finn would help carry him through his upcoming challenge.



Biscuit & Stephanie Jacobs

[Quoting Biscuit:] "I love you," "it was love at first sight," "you are so loved," "you are so beautiful," "you always make my day," and "you are so special."

These are all the lovely words of affirmation that my friends at St. Joseph's Villa tell me when I visit. It makes me feel all warm and fuzzy on the inside.

I love spending time with my wise friends. I think when they pet me, it makes them feel all warm and fuzzy too.

My mom says there is no greater gift than to love and be loved.

I think I'm in the right line of work because it's all about love and I am really good at that!



(More on page 12)

BOARD AND STAFF 2022

Members of ITA's Board of Trustees serve minimum terms of at least two years, which may be extended by mutual agreement. In 2022, ten (10) board meetings were held on January 11, February 8, March 8 (all by Zoom), April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12 (annual business meeting), August 9, September 13, October 11 and November 8. In-person meetings were held at Intermountain Therapy Animals' offices at 4050 South 2700 East, in Holladay, Utah.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jane Lee Fischer
Board President
Owner, Pampered Pets of Utah

Becky Butler
Business Owner
ITA Team Volunteer

Susan Daynes
Business Owner
ITA Team Volunteer

Laura Joesten, TRS, CTRS
Recreational Therapist

Celesta Jones, CSW
Clinical Therapist

Jane Peterson, LCSW
Therapist, Solstice Residential Treatment Center

Steven Sellers, CPA
Chief Financial Officer, Prime Alliance Bank

Volunteer (non-voting) Board Representatives

Eileen Ambrose
Carol Prince
Beth Wolfer

CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Kathy Klotz
Karen Burns

STAFF

Lilly Beaman
International R.E.A.D. and Affiliate Organizations

Melissa Byrd
Office Manager

Beth Ott
Volunteer Coordinator

Laurel Romero
Bookkeeping and Special Projects

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Business Woman/Restauranteer

Katie Domann, DVM
Veterinarian
Animal Health and Nutrition

Karen F. Duncan, MSN, RN
Former Board Member; Community Volunteer

Mary Renck Jalongo, PhD
Professor of Early Childhood Education
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

James J. Lynch, PhD
LifeCareHealth Associates
Baltimore, Maryland

Stephanie Magid
Vice President, Goldman Sachs

Sandi Martin, RN, BSN, NCBF
ITA Member

Jeffrey N. Porter, DVM
Cottonwood Animal Hospital

ITA MEMBERSHIP STATUS 12/31/22




- Resignations
- Termination
- 36 Non-Renewals, including:
 - 13 Teams retired
 - 2 Handlers died
 - 19 Animals died
 - 2 Teams moved away
- 218 Renewals since 1/1/22
- 7 Handlers with new partners
- 55 New members in 2022
- 218 Total current teams

14,539 Approximate team hours served
169,158 Approximate number of clients



Fox News staff asked ITA teams to come in May because they were all more upset and strained than usual over current news events. The physiological de-stressing power of the dogs was immediately apparent to all in the studio, as well as the viewing audience.

ITA'S SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

	2021	2022
Facebook:		
 Intermountain Therapy Animals		
"Likes"	5,100	5,500
Followers	5,439	5,516
R.E.A.D.		
"Likes"	6,445	6,700
Followers	6,777	6,912
YouTube:		
 Subscribers	3,520	3,710
Views (just of "Caleb's Story")	9,600,000	9,600,000
Instagram:		
 ITA Followers	2,100	2,319
R.E.A.D. Followers	341	481



**INTERMOUNTAIN
THERAPY ANIMALS**

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Kirsten Nilsson & Pippi

Park City hosted the Sundance Film Festival in February. Apparently, this time of year is always busy at the hospital, too (skiing mishaps). Most all of the patient rooms were occupied during our visit. We'd already seen a lot of people and had come to the last door. I knocked softly and then let Pippi's little black nose poke through the curtain first. "Hello! Would you like a visit from a therapy dog?" The answer came quickly, "You've got to be kidding me! Is this for real?"

I pushed the curtain aside to see a lovely young woman in her hospital bed beaming at Pippi. She gleefully proclaimed, "This is the best thing that's ever happened to me!"

Pippi was equally thrilled. (Women who speak in high voices and rub her ears win her over quickly.) She snuggled right up and rolled over for a tummy rub. I chuckled, thinking, "This may be the best thing that's ever happened to Pippi, too!" Pippi settled in next to her, nudging for strokes and scratches every now and then. We talked for quite awhile. Turns out she'd come to Park City with a film crew for a Sundance project but ended up spending the week in the hospital with appendicitis instead.

Pippi had made everything so much better for her. As we were leaving, she asked, "Can you come again tomorrow?" Her enthusiasm was contagious. I blurted, "Sure!" And then wondered how I'd be able to work out my schedule for a quick visit the next day. But we figured it out and showed up to be greeted with the same infectious warmth and enthusiasm. Her dad was there this time. He'd flown in from New York. We had another nice visit.

I left feeling like maybe I was the person who'd gained the most. What a wonderful way to see the world—that having a visit from an energetic little therapy dog could be one of the best things that's ever happened to you.



INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS
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