

THE HYDRANT

The Monthly Bulletin
for Members of
Intermountain Therapy Animals

Volume 24 / Number 12
December 2024



Are you current with ITA?

Membership Dues:

Individual \$99
Family \$150

How to Pay:

Pay online at therapyanimals.org/ita-members-only/
OR 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 simply 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 (using the link above).

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

ITA December Office Hours:

Monday ~ Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm

CLOSED: December 25th through January 1st

Happiest of Holidays, Everyone!



BIG/GREAT NEWS!

Tera Nicolo-Smith (& Ellie)

We are delighted to tell you that we have a new Volunteer Coordinator (Tera started December 2nd). We are so pleased and excited to have her join our ITA staff. We invite you to stop in, say hi and get acquainted, but meanwhile here are her essential facts:

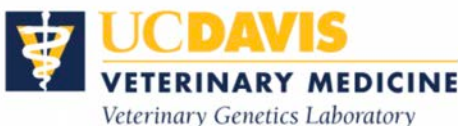
“If you have ever met me, you know I love dogs. I just can’t stop talking about them! When my friends and family heard I started a new job at Intermountain Therapy Animals, they all thought it was perfect for me. Although I studied Chemistry at the University of Utah, I have been working as a project manager for the past eight years. I have since earned a master’s in business administration from Westminster University and a master’s in nonprofit administration from Louisiana State University. I have volunteered with animal welfare organizations like the Humane Society of Utah, Best Friends Animal Society, and the ASPCA since 2018. I am excited to be working with ITA and turning my passion for animals and people into a career. When I am not working, I am hanging out with my husband and basset hound (Ellie), reading, crafting, taking some sort of class, or binge-watching reality TV.”



DNA TESTING? HERE’S A NEW, VALUABLE TWIST:

Our longtime consulting vet, Katie Domann, recently stopped by the ITA office with her little rescue dog, Olive. When we asked if she had done DNA testing on her to find out what breeds she was a combination of, she said no, because she didn’t care about what breeds Olive was. Instead, she had done a DNA test to determine what diseases Olive might be vulnerable to, which she feels is much more valuable information.

Katie suggests this link for pet owners to submit cheek swabs for DNA testing for this purpose. It appears to be very user friendly and is broken down by breed.



<https://vgl.ucdavis.edu/dna-tests/dog>

If any of you decide to do this, we’d love to hear from you about what you found out.

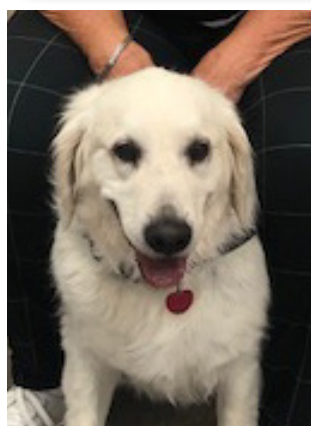


LEAVING EARTH



Lass, partner of Kim Goldsmith

(Alta, UT and Rye, NY) Sweet Lass was born on June 14, 2011 and left earth on November 3, 2024, after 13-1/2 wonderful years. Kim first joined ITA in February of 2011, and Lass joined her in March of 2016. They ended up volunteering both here in Utah and also with our affiliate, New York Therapy Animals, in Manhattan for several years, since the family lived in two places. We are so sorry.



Reggie, partner of Julie Stephenson

(St. George, UT) Reggie passed away suddenly on November 20th. A sudden and unexpected loss is always so shocking and hard to accept. We hope it helps our members to know they are surrounded by people who understand how painful the losses of our animal companions are. We send our best for peace and comfort to both Julie and Kim.



RETIRING



Susie Gonaver & Ande

(Whitefish, MT)

Members since July 2018.



Wendy Jeschke & Dusty

(Kalispell, MT)

Members since January 2023.



D'Artanian, partner of Kathy Lewis

(Kalispell, MT)

Members since January 2023.



Claire Fenech & Woody

(Salt Lake City, UT) Claire and her husband, Joe Poirier, joined in June of 2024, and Claire has decided to step back out of concern that Woody is going to get burned out with both her and her husband going to different places. Woody & Joe are going to several places on a regular basis.



NEW TEAMS!



Angie Burgess & Glitter
(Eagle Mountain, UT)



Mark Lund & Rafqa
Bozeman, MT



Gordon Fletcher & Blue
(Murray, UT)



**Kalie Mitchell
& Annie**
(Millcreek, UT)



Tami Flannery & Bubbles
(Bozeman, MT)



**Linda Nowlin
& Ludo**
(Salt Lake City, UT)



DeEtte Larsen & Blue
(Riverton, UT)



NEW TEAMS! (cont.)



Dave Thompson & Charley
(Salt Lake City, UT)



Angela Weinheimer & Murphy
(Billings, MT)

HANDLERS W/NEW PARTNERS



Jeannine Briggs & Teddy
(Sandy, UT) Teddy, an Aussiedoodle, is joining Penelope as a partner with Jeannine Briggs.



Gina Fernandez & Remi
(Kalispell, MT)

