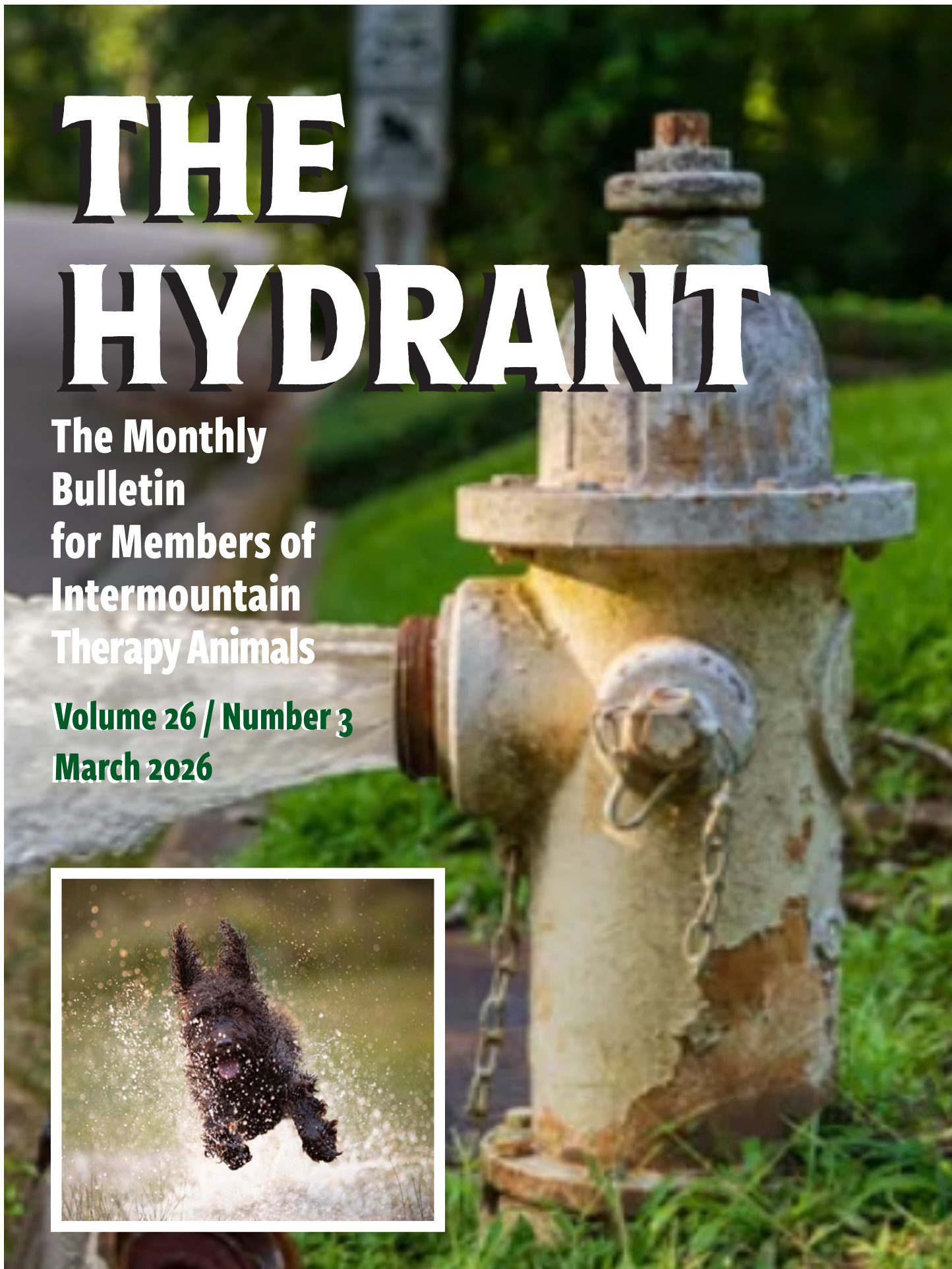


THE HYDRANT

The Monthly
Bulletin
for Members of
Intermountain
Therapy Animals

Volume 26 / Number 3
March 2026



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 Normal Office Hours:

Monday ~ Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm
(Fridays - CLOSED)



COMFORT, HOPE, HEALING AND LOVE - SINCE 1993
INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS



ITA Continuing Education

Enhancing our Partnerships

with **Ann Howie**, CCA, CCFT, ACSW

• Saturday, April 25, 12:30 to 4 pm

Working with the Dog You've Got

Our dogs aren't being difficult—they're being themselves. Every dog comes with a unique personality. Real partnership comes when we work with them rather than against them. This seminar invites you to rethink your dog's behavior – at home and at work – through the lens of your dog's personality traits. We can do better at understanding why our dogs react the way they do, and we can support them with empathy and intention. We will explore how working with your dog's inherent personality can transform the work we do with them in animal-assisted services and lead to greater job satisfaction for them. We can build trust, resilience, and connection in our work and home life by honoring who our dogs are at their core.

Walk away with tools that create cooperation without force and confidence without pressure.

• Sunday, April 26, 12:30 to 4 pm

Canine Enrichment through Physical and Mental Wellness

Our dogs work hard when working in animal-assisted services and when supporting us at home. In this seminar you will learn practical, science-based ways to support your dogs and keep them physically and mentally healthy as long as possible. A healthy dog is more than a wagging tail. Emotional balance, movement, and enrichment work together to support your dog's overall quality of life. Whether your dog is young, aging, energetic, or calm, your everyday choices affect your dog's brain, body, and behavior.

Walk away with tools to reduce stress, prevent injury, and help your dog thrive from the inside out.

Both sessions held at ITA's

The Family Dog

4048 South 2700 East, SLC 84124

Sessions are *free* for ITA members.

Bring friends for a small (\$10 each) contribution to ITA, payable in advance or at the door.

Please register by calling **801.272.3439** by **April 21, 2026**.

ITA has been collaborating with Ann in various ways for more than 30 years. Don't miss this chance to meet and learn from her in-person—her presentations never disappoint.

Ann R. Howie, CCA, CCFT, ACSW, has always been a pioneer at the very front edge of our work in animal-assisted services. She was the #1 licensed Pet Partner with Delta Society/Pet Partners®; she is the author of "A Therapy Animal's Bill of Rights" (in your training manual), the book *Teaming with Your Therapy Dog*, and the inspiration for converting our team test into a more flexible, reality-based instrument for assessing people and their animals for our important work.



VOLUNTEER CELEBRATIONS!

SLC/Northern Utah

As we've been doing for 29 consecutive years, we like to celebrate all our extraordinary ITA volunteers near Valentine's Day!

This year we had a "Pub Night" in SLC on February 12. We munched pub food: pretzels, sliders, wings and such, and played a fun and stimulating trivia competition—although once again we failed entirely to take pictures!

Six teams competed, and **The Barkers** were victorious by a hair, while **The Impawsibles** were voted the best team name.

A graphic with a yellow background and colorful stars and confetti. The text reads "Team Standings" in black. Below the title is a table with the following data:

| Rank | Team Name | Points |
|------|--------------------|--------|
| 1. | The Barkers | 29 |
| 2. | Snuggles | 28 |
| 3. | Calliope | 27 |
| 4. | The Mixed Breeds | 25 |
| 5. | The Impawsibles | 23 |
| 6. | Tails and Whiskers | 22 |



St. George/Southern Utah

Jim and Nicki Elsberry (and their dogs Tessa and Winnie) graciously hosted the group in their beautiful home and even made a whole array of gorgeous and scrumptious desserts.

