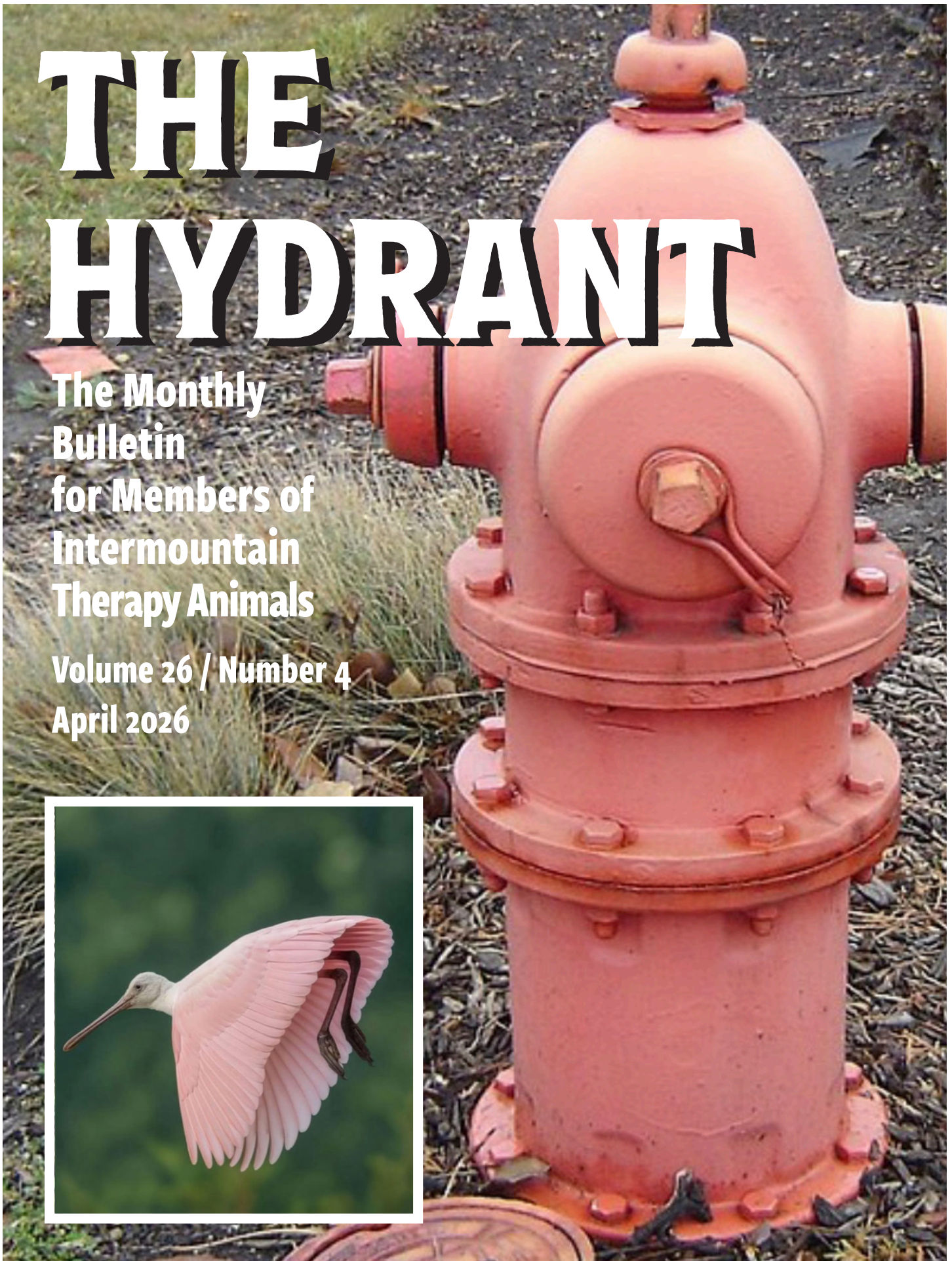


# THE HYDRANT

The Monthly  
Bulletin  
for Members of  
Intermountain  
Therapy Animals

Volume 26 / Number 4  
April 2026



# Are you current with ITA?

## Membership Dues:

Individual \$99  
Family \$150

## How to Pay:

Pay online at [therapyanimals.org/ita-members-only/](http://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.



# MEMBER NEWS

## *Karin Ohlin & Boots - Helena, Montana Chapter*



Just wanted to share an amazing honor that our dog Boots has been given.

Our local animal shelter, Lewis and Clark Humane Society (LCHS) had their annual big fundraising event Spaghetti dinner recently. *Boots was the guest of honor* and spent the evening enjoying the love and attention from a big room of animal lovers and was honored as part of their theme.

We adopted Boots from LCHS 2016. Their theme for this year was “The Ripple Effect: A Single Act of Kindness Creates Waves” and Boots is really the living proof of that.

We also volunteer for LCHS where we foster dogs, and Boots’ 2nd job (being a therapy dog is No 1) to help our foster dogs to decompress and heal from physical and/or mental trauma. He is amazing in creating this calm safe environment and has helped so many foster dogs to get ready for their forever family. He is also an amazing therapy dog and goes above and beyond for the ITA Helena chapter as our neutral dog and assisting with training and mentoring new teams.

We are so grateful that he is in our lives, and we are extremely proud of everything he does.

— Karin

“I can attest to how wonderful Boots is at his job. He has even shared his therapy dog skills with my dog in a stressful situation. So he is our chapter’s therapist for our dogs too!”

— Wendy Sesselman



# TRANSITIONS

## New Teams



**Beth West & Jack**  
St. George, UT  
March 2026



**Suzanne Pierce-Moore & Lil**  
SLC, UT  
March 2026

## Handlers with New Partners



**Rachael Beasley & Jigsaw**  
Lehi, UT

Rachael & Brett have been with ITA since 2003, and Jigsaw is their 5th Newfie ITA partner!



**Brett Beasley & Jigsaw**  
Lehi, UT



**Jean Robinson & D'Artagnan**  
Salt Lake City, UT

Jean lost her partner Edith awhile ago, and is now back with her Portie, D'Artagnan! Jean started at ITA with Edith in August of 2022.

*(More on next page)*



# TRANSITIONS (cont.)

## Retiring



### **Ilene Nelson, Gypsy & Jasper** Clearfield, UT

Ilene and her delightful King Cavaliers are retiring as of the end of March, 2026, after 4 years of service with ITA, due to Ilene's health challenges.



### **Judy Cooper & Thibodeaux** Sandy, UT

Judy is also facing increasing health issues. She and Thibodeaux have been members since March 2020. Judy says, "I'll miss ITA so much. This is not an easy decision for me but my body says I need to do this. I'll remember so many good things but especially our time with Robert. He loved Thibodeaux so much that sometimes I had to hold back his exuberance. I was so surprised that Thibodeaux and I were named honorary pall bearers at his funeral. He loved her so much. Thanks for the good times."



### **Terri Davis & Princess** Roy, UT

Princess has been one of Terri's amazing kitty partners since March of 2012, and certainly deserves a happy retirement after 14 years of service. Terri first joined ITA 27 years ago (January 1999) and has been our true Cat Whisperer with her many feline partners. We will miss her!



### **Lily Berman & Lulu** Park City, UT

Lily has been an ITA team for two years, and is now off to college at Vanderbilt University. Have a great time, Lily!



### **Charlotte Dickson & Bonnie** Bozeman, MT

Charlotte & Bonnie have been a team for 3 years but must retire due to time limitations.

