

THE HYDRANT

The Monthly
Bulletin
for Members of
Intermountain
Therapy Animals

Volume 26 / Number 6
June 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



NEW TEAMS



**Carrie Matteson
& Rhett**
Eagle Mountain, UT
May 2026



Chaz Houpt & Gogi
Idaho Falls, ID
April 2026



**Carrie Matteson
& Royal**
Eagle Mountain, UT
May 2026



Nanako Bolton & Koa
Salt Lake City, UT
May 2026



**Shannon Whitmore
& Rhett**
Eagle Mountain, UT
May 2026



Erin McGillis & Rowen
Salt Lake City, UT
May 2026



**Shannon Whitmore
& Royal**
Eagle Mountain, UT
May 2026



**Suzanne Pierce Moore
& Lill**
Murray, UT
May 2026



Teresa Olsen & Daisy
Cottonwood Heights, UT
June 2026



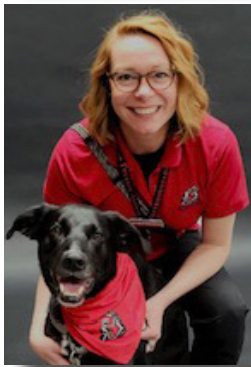
Earl Zagrodnik & Rose
Salt Lake City, UT
May 2026



HANDLERS WITH NEW RETURNING PARTNERS



Erika Daines & Ranger
Ogden, UT
May 2026



Stephanie Kuhl & Otis
Whitefish, MT
May 2026



Merrilee Anderson & Willie
St. George, UT
May 2026



Karen Keeley & Kodiak
Sandy, UT

May 2026

We are so pleased to welcome Karen back after a 10-year absence! She first joined ITA in November of 2007 with her Golden, Tele, and they worked together for almost 9 years until Tele needed to retire. We are honored!

LEAVING EARTH



Ivy, partner of Susan Robison
Whitefish, MT

Ivy passed away unexpectedly in her sleep on May 8th.

Susan says, "We had been managing her Cushings disease that had recently caused some kidney disfunction and high blood pressure, but I guess it was just her time.... Her tiny heart wore out, but she gave so much of it to me and all the patients and staff at the hospital and nursing homes and the kids at the library during her short 9 years. This is a tough one ... I will miss her sweet contented grunts, snugs and kisses, but I am so grateful for the time we shared together."



RETIRING TEAMS



Joan Brown & Charlie Harrisville, UT

Charlie is now 16, and has been a team with Joan for almost her whole life, since June of 2009 (15 years)!



Paul Vein & Zorro Payson, UT

Paul says, "It's been a wonderful adventure volunteering with Zorro, and he will be enjoying a much-deserved retirement." Paul & Zorro have been a team since May of 2022.

MOVING AWAY



Sam Lyons, DVM & Dr. Watson

Moving to Canada at the end of June due to her husband's work. They have been a great team during their brief time with ITA!

Can My Dog Have...

Go For It

Remember, your dog's diet should be primarily dog food. Even "people foods" that are okay for dogs to eat don't have everything they need for complete nutrition.

In Small Quantities

*Must be fully cooked

Avoid It

In addition to the big "no-no" foods, pups don't process fats, sugars, and other "people food" components the same way we do. Adding these to a dog's diet can cause obesity, organ failure, and worse.

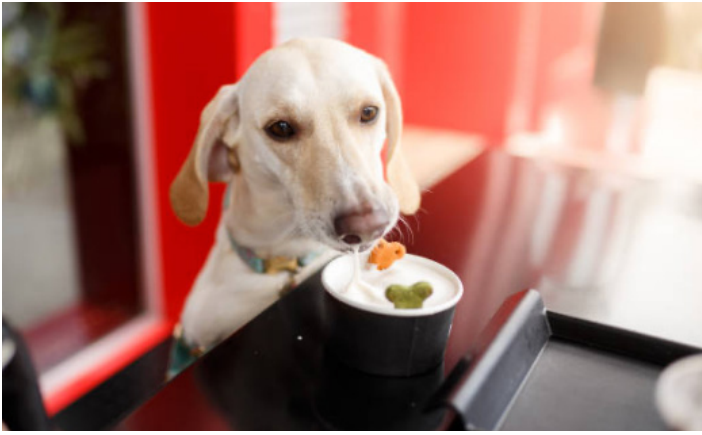
Toxic

It's hard to say no to puppy dog eyes, but sometimes a treat for you is toxic for your furry friend.

CREATED BY **Lemonly**

If you believe your dog has eaten something he shouldn't have, call your vet or the **Pet Poison Helpline (855-213-6688) immediately.**





Dogs are allowed on nearly 50 restaurant patios in Salt Lake County this summer, health officials say

The county Health Department sets rules for what dogs can do and humans must do on patio.

By KOLBIE PETERSON The Salt Lake Tribune

What goes together better than patios and warm weather? Patios and dogs, and the Salt Lake County Health Department has released its annual list of restaurants that have been approved to host dogs on their patios.

According to a 5/22 news release, the health department has given approval to 49 restaurants in the county to allow dogs in their outdoor dining areas for the 2026 patio season. Well-known dog havens like Fisher Brewing Company and Handlebar are among those on the list.

To view the complete list of restaurants that have received approval to welcome dogs onto their patios, go to saltlakecounty.gov/health/food-protection/dog-patio/.

In order to get approval, restaurants and other food-service establishments have to jump through a few hoops, including submitting a special processes safety plan (called a HACCP plan), pay an application fee (which covers the time it takes for staff to review the application and inspect the patio) and agree to a few rules, listed in the release:

- The establishment must post signs that let patrons know that dogs could be on the premises.
- The patio must have an outdoor entrance so dogs don't go through the interior dining area, and there

have to be self-closing doors between the patio and interior area.

- The patio must be cleaned with animal-safe chemicals at the beginning of each shift, or every six hours if the business doesn't have defined shifts.
- Any "accidents" must be cleaned and the area sanitized within five minutes.
- Wait staff and any other staffers who handle food may not touch any dog.
- Dogs must remain on-leash, and must have collars with their current license and rabies tag.
- Dogs may not be on tables or chairs.
- Dogs should be given water in a disposable container, but may not eat food, including dog food or treats.
- Dogs may not have contact with any dishes or utensils.

Permission to bring an animal onto a restaurant's patio only applies to dogs, not other animals, the release said. Also, the rules do not apply to qualifying ADA service dogs.

The health department's approval is good for only one patio season, the release said, and restaurants in good standing can renew their permission every year.

If your restaurant isn't on this list and you would like to apply, you still can, by calling the Food Protection Bureau at 385-468-3845.

Last season, by the end of the summer, the health department had approved 65 establishments.



APPRECIATION

From Missy Berkel on her experience as an ITA volunteer:

I just am so grateful to everyone for what you have given us through working with ITA.

As a retired nurse of 17 years, I was very burned out and frustrated with many people in my day to day life. You have restored my faith in people, that we can do good things for one another. I'm a happier person because of ITA. You all make me believe in myself and make me a better person.

*Thank you so, so much.
Missy Berkel (and Winston)*

“If I could be half the person my dog is, I'd be twice the human I am.”

Charles Yu

