



Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati





## *A Letter from our President*



Hello PPGC Members!

### **Let's talk about Sustainability.**

What were our challenges in our first 20 years and what are they now and in the future?

Being part of the first board of directors to develop a community partner here in Cincinnati, some of our challenges were expected and they remain a challenge today but some were unique for the time period. Our initial focus was on obtaining approvals to visit facilities which often took years. In 2004, there were few requests for animal therapy visits but in today's environment the requests have almost doubled every year after Covid!

The challenges today are recruiting new teams to meet the number of requested visits, managing all the visit requests and managing the paperwork associated with almost 170 members with over 200 animal therapy teams.

Our programs to develop new teams are successful, about 10% growth per year since 2021. However, we are taking a look at what works and what doesn't work.

**\*Our early findings are as expected: our biggest asset and the key to Growing & Promoting the Human-Animal Bond is YOU!!!**

**\*The initial contact to spark the interest in a pet owner wanting to become a therapy team comes from interacting or observing a therapy team.**

These positive interactions are dependent on your:

- Professionalism when volunteering by representing the Best of the Best in Animal Therapy.
- Promoting PPGC by handing out Trading Cards, Business cards, Flyers and Brochures with the PPGC contact information.
- Participating in PPGC Promotional events such as the "World's Largest Pet Walk" and "Proclamation Day".

Please continue to promote PPGC by taking the time to talk to potential handlers, by meeting the high standards for animal therapy and by giving out PPGC information.

*(Continued on next page)*







Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

## *A Letter from our President*



(continued)

### **Celebrating 20 years at our Luncheon**

I wish you all could have been there to celebrate our 20-year anniversary at our annual luncheon at Bethesda North. We had an excellent turnout of over 75 members. We shared some personal stories from our members who celebrated 20 years of volunteering.

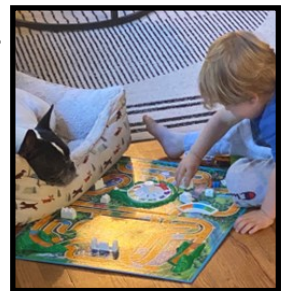
Congratulations to Amy Hudoba, Tracy Kinney, Betty McCord, Terri Ralenkotter, Kim Smith and myself. Ongoing, we will be giving out service year pins for 5, 10, 15, 20, etc. years of service and will continue the 20-year plaques.

Our guest speaker Tammy Wynn discussed the importance of self-care for caregivers and volunteers. For those not familiar with Tammy she was a member of PPGC and is known nationally for being the founder of Angel's Paws, one of the first pet hospice in the nation. She has developed a program to provide the medical needs for pets, as well as the emotional needs for pets and their families on their end-of-life journeys. Her advice on "taking care of yourself" was based on her personal journey with her health issues and the loss of her pet. Truly an inspirational story!



### **Side notes**

I am so happy to be joining the teams on their visits. Frankie and I are visiting the Fire Departments, the Coroner's Office and P&G. He also enjoys playing boardgames with our grandson.



Warm Regards,

***Marilyn Edwards***

***President, PPGC***





## Susan's Musings



### Grant Application Update

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we applied for an additional \$15,000 grant from the Good Shepherd Foundation. I am thrilled to report that we were awarded the grant as well as 2 grants from the Magnified Giving Program (\$1500 from the Boys & Girls Club of Kenton County; \$1000 from Conner Middle School in Kentucky). Outlined below are PPGC's plans for utilizing those funds.

### Workshops & Evaluations – No Charge

To support our effort to increase our membership to meet the tremendous need in our community, we will not be charging for workshops and evaluations beginning August 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. We hope this will further encourage those who are on the fence about joining PPGC due to costs. Please spread the word to friends, family, neighbors who may have expressed an interest in joining our pet therapy community.

### Website/Technology Update

Our technology support team led by Kathryn and Kurt Louis have done a fabulous job in developing the tools we use behind the scenes to track and communicate with our members. As you may know, our reliance on Google products for our email system and file sharing is not without its challenges.

The PPGC Board has authorized me to explore alternate suppliers as we look to update our website and consider other tools that are more conducive to maintaining our members database, communication tools and calendar functionality. The Good Shepherd Foundation Grant application was explicitly written to support our efforts to leverage information technology. This effort is expected to take several months to identify and evaluate different vendors.

### Recruiting

We have a goal of reaching 200 members by July 2025. Although we have had multiple information sessions this year, we have found many people sign up for the workshops because they either encountered a therapy team at a facility they were visiting or have a friend/neighbor who is a PPGC member.

So, our members are our best advertisement. In September we will be promoting both PPGC and the World's Largest Pet Walk (Sept. 28 at Blue Ash Summit Park). Consider how you can help engage potential members by spreading the word (see email from Trustee Trish Smith). If you need flyers or other PPGC information, please contact me. ([susan.steinhardt@tpgcpets.org](mailto:susan.steinhardt@tpgcpets.org); (513) 236-9860)







Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati



Pet Partners



## Join PPGC for the World's Largest Pet Walk



Saturday, September 28

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Summit Park

4335 Glendale Milford Rd, Blue Ash, Ohio



Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati will join Paws In the Park for a unique dog-focused event. Proceeds from the "Paws in the Park" event will go to United Pet Fund which supports countless shelters, rescues, and individuals struggling to care for their animals.

This event will attract over 4,000 people. There'll be something for everyone! Furry friends can participate in lure chasing, Frisbee demos, agility courses and a costume parade while humans can shop an array of independent vendors selling both pet-related and non-pet-related goods, fill up at the food truck station and more!

We will have a booth promoting Pet Therapy and will be participating in the World's Largest Pet Walk. Invite your family, friends, and coworkers! We'd love to have corporate teams! There is no fee to walk.

Click here to register: <https://p2p.onecause.com/wlpw/team/pet-partners-of-greatercincinnati>

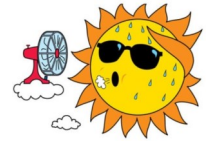
or enter the URL in your browser's address window.

Learn more about the World's Largest Pet Walk 2024 at <https://p2p.onecause.com/wlpw>

Questions? Contact Trish Smith, [trish.smith@tpgcpets.org](mailto:trish.smith@tpgcpets.org)



## Keep Your Dog Cool



*From [pets.webmd.com](http://pets.webmd.com)*

Summer can mean lots of fun outside with your dog. But when the temps soar, take steps to protect your pet. Whether you take them for a walk down the street, a ride in the car, or just out in the yard to play, the heat can be hard on them. Here's how to keep your furry best friend safe.

**Never leave your dog in the car.** No, not even if you think you'll only be a few minutes. Even when it isn't that hot outside, the temp can soar inside a closed car. On an 85-degree day, it can reach 102 F within 10 minutes. And that's with a window cracked. After 30 minutes, it could be up to 120. Leave your dog at home, or go places where they can come with you.

**Keep your house cool.** If Fido's home alone, make sure they can truly chill. Leave the air conditioner on, and close the drapes. If you don't have AC, open the windows and turn on a fan. You may want to see if a cooling vest or mat can help.

**Watch when you exercise.** Limit when and how much you do when it's hot and humid. Take walks in the cooler part of the day -- the early morning and evening. And carry enough water for both of you.

**Check the pavement.** Before you head out for a walk, touch the pavement. If it's too hot for your hand, it's too hot for your dog's paw pads. Walk on the grass and stay off the asphalt. You also might want to try booties for your dog so their paws don't burn.

**Offer plenty of water and shade.** Don't leave your pooch alone outside for long. And when they are there, make sure they have shade and lots of fresh, cool water. Add ice cubes when you can. Trees are better than doghouses for shade. They let air flow through. Doghouses can trap the heat and make it worse. Think about a kiddie pool or a sprinkler to help your pal cool off in the yard.

**Make cool treats.** Help your canine chill from the inside out. For puppy ice pops, make ice cubes with tasty treats inside. Or fill and freeze a chew toy to make a chilly snack.



*(Continued on next page)*





## Keep Your Dog Cool

*(continued)*

**Keep an eye on the humidity, too.** When the air is full of moisture, your dog may not be able to pant enough to cool themselves off. That can raise their temperature, which can lead to heatstroke. Stay inside, and limit exercise, too.

**Take care of at-risk dogs.** Be watchful if you have a snub-nosed pet like a pug or bulldog. Their smaller airways make it harder for them to release heat when they pant. It's also easy for old and overweight dogs, or those with heart and breathing problems, to get heatstroke.

**Groom your pet.** If your dog has long hair, get rid of any mats and tangles. It will help keep them cool. Don't shave or clip their coat before you talk to your vet or groomer. The extra fur that keeps them warm in winter may also keep them cool in summer.

**Visit your vet.** Keep his shots up to date, especially in summer. The parvovirus spreads in hot weather. And your dog probably spends more time outside, which means it's more likely they could come in contact with a critter that has rabies. Summer is high season for fleas, which spread many diseases, and mosquitoes, which carry heartworm. Get them on regular meds to prevent these pests.

**Watch for signs of overheating.** Your dog can't tell you when they don't feel well, so keep an eye out for heatstroke, which can have these symptoms:

- Heavy panting
- Heavy drooling
- Trouble breathing
- Rapid heartbeat
- Dark or red gums and tongue
- Dizziness
- Weakness
- Agitation

If you see any signs, get them to the vet right away.





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

## ANNUAL LUNCHEON

### JUNE 8, 2024

The luncheon was a rousing success and wonderful celebration of PPGC's 20th Anniversary.



For photos taken and compiled by Trish Smith, go to:

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAGHqNIYaeg/u1H6JkUaKlvYJqkICLoFQA/edit?utm\\_content=DAGHqNIYaeg&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link2&utm\\_source=sharebutton](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGHqNIYaeg/u1H6JkUaKlvYJqkICLoFQA/edit?utm_content=DAGHqNIYaeg&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton)

### ***Special thanks to the volunteers who helped:***

- Pamela Baird, Bethesda North
- Trish Smith, Karen Kennedy, Coordinators
- Debbie Bauer, Thank You Cards, Pins, Lanyards
- Marilyn Edwards, Everything, Plaques
- Susan Steinhardt, Everything
- Linda Hartmann & Arlene Miller, Memory Pillows
- Karen Spradlin, AV and Photo Slide Show
- Frank & Denise Sebastianelli, Set Up/Tear Down



Thanks to Tammy Wynn of Angel Paws for her informative presentation.









Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

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☆☆ **More New Members of PPGC** ☆☆  
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**Meet Gertie**  
Covington, KY



I am trained as a pharmacist and retired from the pharmaceutical industry. I got Gertie as a puppy from a breeder near Muncie, Indiana. She is 8 years old and loves playing with my grandkids and getting pets and belly rubs from friends and neighbors. Both of my daughters work for St Elizabeth. When I was thinking about volunteering, they suggested that Gertie and I look into the pet therapy program there. We are currently signed up to volunteer as a therapy pet team at St Elizabeth hospitals. We are also open to going to schools and nursing homes.

~ *Susan Carpenter*



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## Happiness At Home



Featuring our handlers, their family, friends, and pets when not “at work”

**Lora Wynn’s Mobius (Mobi) keeping cool in these hot summer days.**







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**National Therapy Animal Day  
4/30/24**

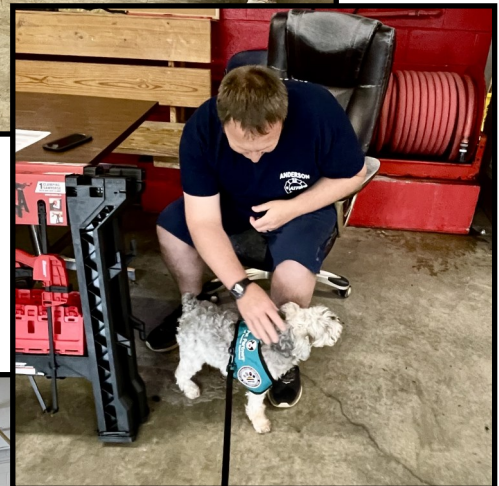
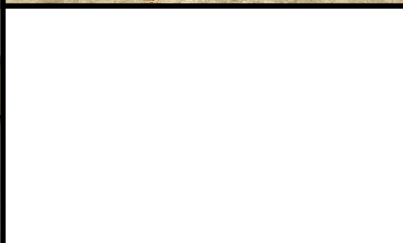






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## Anderson Township Fire Dept.



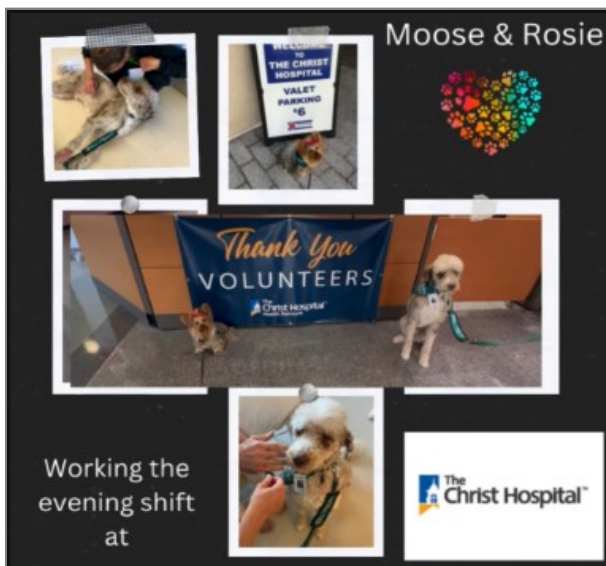




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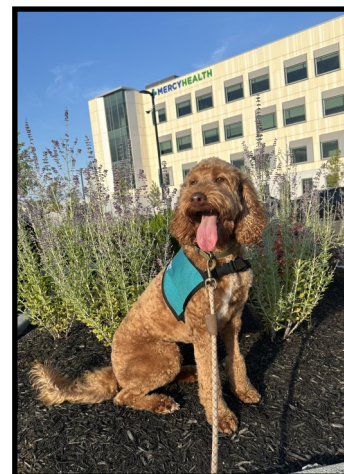
**Madigan at the end of school picnic culminating monthly school visits (Erin Donovan)**



**Moose & Roxie visiting the evening shift at Christ Hospital**



**Andrew & Max, Patti & Tucker, Mary, Trish & Rosie, Booker at Springer School**



**Madigan at Mercy Health (Erin Donovan)**







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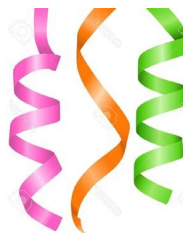
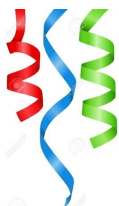


Graeter's Dog's Night Out



Karen & Elvis, and friends

Aspen loves that Pup Cup!



Lora & Mobi



Madigan



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**Elvis & Rosie at Montgomery 4th of July Parade**



**Elvis**







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# Eli's Summer



**Westchester  
Communication Center**



**Veteran's Appreciation Day**



**Christ Hospital**

~ Courtney Ladd







## Lebanon Fire Dept.

*No shortage of love from Roxie and Ava*







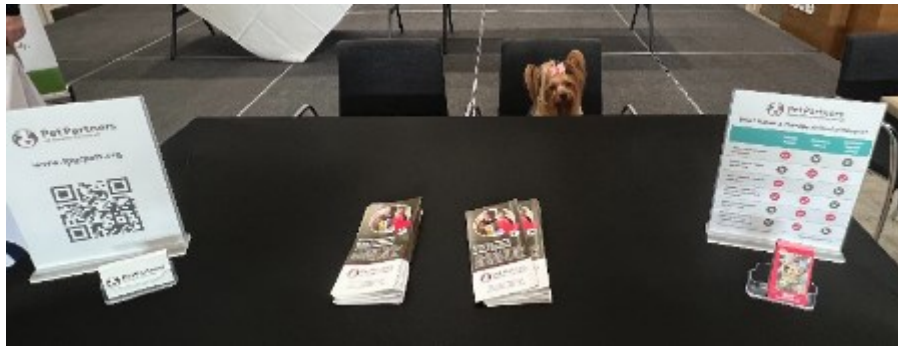
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## UC College of Law

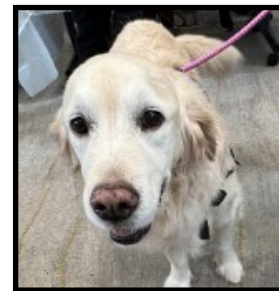
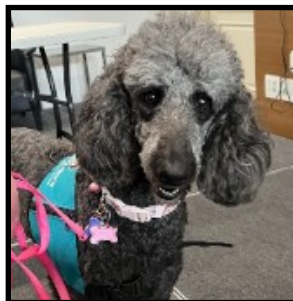


Penny & Rosie

## City of Montgomery Mental Health Fair



Rose manning the booth with Pumpkin, Gypsy, Lilly





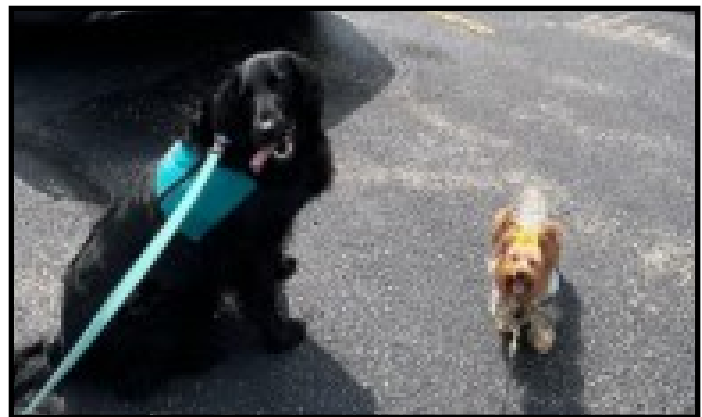
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**Trish & Rosie, Sharon &Ellan, LaVerne & Fava, Sarah & Moose  
at P&G Winton Hills**



**Trish & Rosie, Elizabeth & Ozzy  
at Bethesda North Hospital**



**Enzo & Rosie  
at St. Ursula's**







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**Hamilton County Crime Lab & Coroner**



**Erin & Lilah at Mariemont Dog's Night Out**



**Karen Kennedy with Elvis at the Easter Party at Bethesda North Hospital**







# Heroes Day at Campbell County





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## Retirement

After 12 years of service as a registered Therapy Dog, Roxie has retired. But she didn't enter retirement gleefully, finally able to cast off the oppression of work's demands and politics as I did. Rather, she was forced into retirement by her keeper, namely me.



She would very happily continue bringing a few moments of joy to the quiet, lonely, and challenging lives of people in retirement homes and their care givers. She would continue to teach children that reading is fun and full of surprises as they read stories to her. And she would still bring comfort and quiet understanding to emergency responders suffering the strains of their work.



But at age 13 Roxie is dealing with a few challenges of her own. As they beset her gradually, I make small accommodations for her, a little bit here, a little bit there. I told myself that she's doing fine, that she enjoys her visits so much, that of course she can continue making visits.

Our Pet Partners team registration is due for renewal in September, so I took her outside to practice on the tasks we must perform for our team evaluation. It was then that I was hit with the stark reality of her frailties and was forced to finally accept them. Her mobility issues prevented her from going into a sit. Her diminishing hearing made it difficult to give her commands, even with hand signals she already knew. The stubbornness and single mindedness that has been increasing with age (hmm, sound familiar?) precluded her from obeying simple commands like "heal", "come", or "stay".

I searched the internet for help with this decision. But I found no definitive studies, no guides, no checklist that could tell me either "yes, it's time to retire her" or "no, she can keep working." Pet Partners helps us get there with the team evaluations. But it is also largely a subjective decision guided by our love and knowledge of our pet who we cherish so much.

And so, Roxie's therapy dog days are done. After serving for three years in California and nine years in Ohio, with the last two years as a registered Animal Assisted Crisis Response (AACR) dog, she has brought over 400 hours of love and joy to people. We both wish it could be more. I don't know which of us is sadder to see this chapter end, Roxie or me. I suspect we're tied, but in different ways.

~ Sharon Newman





Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

Board President	Marilyn Edwards
Board Vice President	Heather Hauser
Board Secretary	Debbie Bauer
Board Treasurer	Louise Nathanson
Trustees	Deborah Newstrand
	Trish Smith
	Lora Wynn
Executive Director	Susan Steinhardt

### Editor's Note

To keep me distracted from the uncomfortable heat and humidity of summer, I am tending my first vegetable garden. What a thrill it is to pick ripe tomatoes, broccoli, onions, and eggplant in the backyard and eat it the same day!



Roxie is doing well as a recent retiree. She's her same cool, calm self. I, on the other hand, was very sad about it but am getting over it. I am so grateful that we were able to serve as an AACR team for two years. That, and all the other work we did, and that you all do, is some of the most satisfying and rewarding work we could do.

I plan to stay active in PPGC, including publishing our quarterly newsletter. See you around!

~Sharon Newman