

PAWS to Consider...

Healing Pet Therapy Services

Winter 2016, Volume 44



PAWSPrints

Dog Lessons for People

Run and play daily!

Always drink plenty of water.

Follow your instincts

Keep digging 'til you find what you want.

Accept all of life's treats with gratitude.

Love unconditionally.

Someone was pretty smart when they put the above “life lessons” (more inside this issue) together and then sold the ideas on posters and plaques. If you read them, several will resonate with you and you'll be saying – “That's so true!” or “I should remember to live by this one!” or “Yup! Got it!”

Perhaps the most powerful of all is “love unconditionally.” I personally don't agree that a dog's or cat's love is unconditional. I do believe that they are forgiving, and their memories of late dinners and walks that go by too fast is short while their memories of kindnesses and plenty of petting is long and lasting.

So while I don't believe in totally unconditional love from a pet, I do believe that they are non-discriminating lovers, forgiving companions, and positive energy sharers through and through.

Watch your pet. Does it check out the person's clothing or skin color before allowing itself to be adored? Does it sidle away from someone you might sidle away from if you weren't visiting with the assistance and support of your pet? Would you make the effort to stop in a corridor and talk to everyone you meet – if it weren't for the fact that your pet is leaning toward each person looking for love and wanting to give love? Would you even talk to some of the people you visit if you weren't DOING pet therapy?

In my growing job as your executive director, I find myself having more meetings and going more places without the companionship of Sundance. I find myself missing his company in the car; but even more, I find it harder to engage people in hallways and lobbies – because it's only ME, a person, instead of US, a therapy team. We laugh about dogs being chic magnets, but it's true. Our pets attract the looks and smiles and so many (amazing, life-affirming, positive) interactions we humans would not get if we were alone. Having a pup at the end of the leash or carrying a cat on our shoulder brings people toward us – allowing us to give those lovely individualized therapeutic visits PAWS is so proud of, but also allowing us to receive the attention and good vibes we get when we're sharing our pets.

Dog Lessons for People? Someone had a great idea putting those simple, yet profound thoughts together.

Simple, yet profound – kind of the way pet therapy is. I like to call pet therapy elegantly simple – easy, inexpensive, yet so full of power and impact. It's something precious that reaches all the way into the heart. As does PAWS!

Lynne Robinson, Executive Director



Special Feature for PAWS members – from Rob Brand

The Tax Man Cometh...What's a Pet Owner to Do?

Tips & Strategies for Pet Owners at Tax Time

By Rob Brand, EA

With all the merriment of the holidays, few people are thinking of taxes at this time of the year. Sorry to ruin the images of world peace and snowmen, but as they say – there are two things you can count on in life – death and taxes. I add the love of a dog to that list. As a PAWS supporter and a tax professional, I thought I would share some important tax related information with the PAWS community.

We all know the cost of owning pets is a luxury – a [medium-sized dog can cost over \\$1500 in its first year](#) – so it would be nice to claim pets as dependents, but the IRS isn't quite *that* pet-friendly yet... Although, there are some common pet-related deductions that the IRS does allow:

- [Owning Service, Assistance or "Guide" Animals](#) (falls under medical expenses) – therapy animals are tough to prove unless their therapy 'task' is acceptable under the ADA
- [Owning Guard Dogs or Pest-Control Animals](#) (cost of food and upkeep)
- [Work-related Relocation/Moves for Your Pet](#) (if the move is a work-related relocation of 50+ miles)
- [Pets Who Generate Income for their Owners' Business](#) (like [legitimate breeders](#))
- [Fostering an Animal through an Animal Shelter](#) (some costs of foster care are deductible)
- [Pets who are Beneficiaries of Pet Trusts](#) (depending on the state)

Here are a few deductions that PAWS for People therapy teams can claim on their taxes, depending on whether or not you itemize your taxes:

- **Mileage related to your PAWS Placement or Events** (be sure to track the miles diligently!)
- **Donations to PAWS** (even purchases of PAWS wear count!)

Documentation is the key – so be sure to save everything and document! The more 'paper trail' that exists, the better in the IRS' opinion.

And to end on an interesting note, some states are working hard to support their pet-owning citizens.

1. [Florida Exempts Therapeutic Veterinary Diets](#) – Foods prescribed by and only available from a veterinarian are tax exempt.
2. [New York City Shelter Pet Adoption Credit](#) – A bill has been introduced recently that would give NYC residents a tax break (\$100 per pet up to 3) for adopting a homeless pet from a New York shelter.
3. [Michigan's HAPPY Act for Tax Refunds for Qualified Pet Care Costs](#) – While it never passed, Michigan Senator McCotter introduced a bill in 2009 to give his state's pet owners up to \$3,500 a year in tax refunds for "qualified pet care" costs.

Have questions? Give me a call! The conversation is always free.

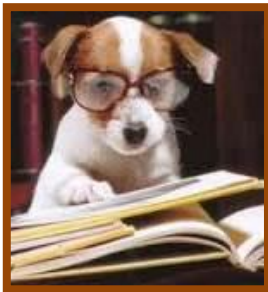
Rob Brand is owner and President of Comprehensive Business Services (CBS) – a business consulting firm specializing in tax and accounting services, including personal and business tax returns, entity formations, financial statements, payroll and bookkeeping – and many more. Rob is also an Enrolled Agent (EA), which is the highest IRS credential one can hold. Rob also is the husband of PAWS Team Member, Jenni, and father of Junior Member, Jamie, two chocolate labs (Beau is a PAWS dog), and two cats. Pet owners and lovers are especially welcome as clients of CBS, but please come with pictures and stories – we love to hear them!

Additional Sources & Further Reading:

<http://www.dailyfinance.com/2015/02/06/pets-tax-deductions/>

Here are a few
important events
to put on your calendar for 2016

PAWS for People's Annual Conference
Pup-Purr-I - A little something for all animal lovers!



Saturday, February 20th - 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Nemours/A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children

Keynote Speaker: Dr. James A. Serpell
Dir. of the Center for the Interaction of Animals & Society
School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania
20 workshops to choose from, lunch, snacks, and vendors

Look for registration information in your mailbox this month!

Easter Bone Hunt

Saturday, March 19th - 1:00 PM
Skyline United Methodist Church



WE 
VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Appreciation Celebration
Saturday, April 23rd -- 11:30 AM

Wag-n-Walk

Saturday, October 22nd -- 9:00 AM
Delcastle Recreation Center



Jingle Bell Brunch

Saturday, December 3rd -- 11:30 AM

New Therapy Teams

Janine Anderson & Duffy (Cava-poo)
Olivia Anderson & Duffy (Cava-poo)
Richard Bailey & Macy (Plott Hound Mix)
Eli Brignac & Remy (Chocolate Lab)
Erica Brignac & Remy (Chocolate Lab)
Mary Lou Callahan & Benson (Goldendoodle)
Elyce Cardonick & Westley (Cavachon)
Jennifer Cheng & Tofu (Brussels Griffon)
Dorcus Claussen & Daisy (Min. Schnauzer)
Jennifer Colantuono & Scooter (Lab)
Amy DiSabella & Leia (Golden Retriever)
Anecia Delduco & Prince (German Shepherd)
Andrew Donohue & Zoey (Golden Retriever)
Carol Doohan & Shaggy (Goldendoodle)
Sophie Drossman & Kita (Lab/Golden mix)
Christy Duda & Bruce (American Bulldog)
Beth Emmons & Giselle (Standard Poodle)
Trish Fronczkowski & Buster (American Staffordshire Terrier mix)
Ed Fronczkowski & Buster (Am. Staff. Terrier)
Diane Gilman & Tucker (Terrier mix)
Tracy Haldeman & Jake (Lab)
Molly Hayes & Emma (Lab)
Tracy Hughes & Baxter (Min. Schnauzer)
Rhonda James & Sienna (Golden Doodle)
Suzette Jirak & Calypso (Yorkie)
Cate Kastriner & Wilma (German Shepherd)
Philip Keats & Candace (Yellow lab)
Tammy Lawrence-Daley & Remington (Shiloh Shepherd)
Diane Lazzeri & Candy (Poodle)
Ashley Levine & Karma Marie (Pitbull/Terrier)
Amy Love & Henry (Beagle/Basset)
Jennifer Malik & Macy (Plott Hound Mix)
Mary Ann Noel & Maggie (Golden Retriever)
Maria Norman & Sam (Golden Retriever)
Ruth Pryor & Gavin (Lab)
Michelle Rauh & Moto (Dom. Short Hair)
Cynthia Savage & Tobey (Shetland Sheepdog)
Guy Sheffler & Josie (Vizsla)
Holly Sullivan & Gracie (Golden Retriever)
Susan Warren & Oliver (Goldendoodle)

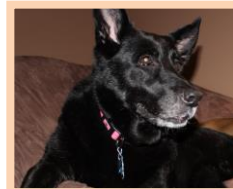
NEW DOG - CURRENT MEMBER

Piper – Karen Kohler
Scout – Laurie Napolin
Sylvie – Janice Baldwin Hench
Xarya – Susan Greenholt
Zoe – Alan Burkhard

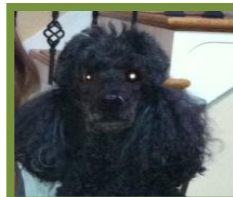
In loving memory of...



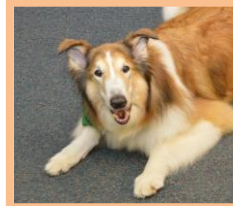
Sammy Madden, one of PAWS' sweetest Golden Retrievers, started visiting with Jen in November of 2009 and were popular regulars at Nurses and Kids and Camden's Cooper University Hospital.



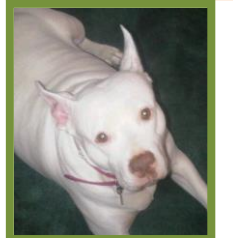
Dixie Macknis, a coal black Lab/Shepherd mix, started visiting at Avon Grove Charter School and Downes Elementary in September of 2013 with owner Kim Macknis.



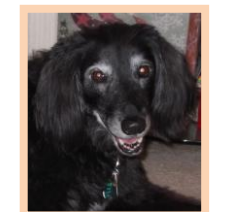
Kimi Rafferty a jet black standard Poodle, started visiting in November of 2011 reading with lots of kids at Linden Hill Elementary.



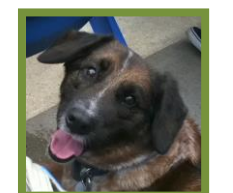
J-J Jackson, Kate's once service dog turned therapy dog visited Wellington, Garnet Valley School, and deStress/community events.



Dolly Farrell, a loving and gentle pit mix named after Dolly Parton, and her owner Alexis, were champion NJ therapy visitors, participating at Cardinal Village and PAWS in the Workplace.



Sadie Birney joined PAWS in November of 2011 with her beloved owner Katie. They loved their therapy visits and often volunteered extra time by helping with community events.



Camiel Kraman, an Australian Shepherd Mix, brought joy to many people, especially kids at the Ronald McDonald House, with owner Pilar.



No new staff to welcome this time. We do want to take this opportunity to say thanks to Kevin Drexler who worked with PAWS as Creative Designer for about 6 months. Thanks to him, we have a lot of good design work and our marvelous new LOGO.

Four things you can't recover:
The **STONE** after the throw.
The **WORD** after it's said.
The **OCCASION** after it's missed.
The **TIME** after it's gone.

Master's Certification – fall grads



Congratulations to our teams who have completed their Master's Certification. Master's is the highest level of certification PAWS offers. Bravo!

Sarah Baker and Rosie
Carey Gerres and Kilo
Becca Roehmer and Echo
Sherri Kearns and Piper
Kathy King and Chief
Diane Peralta and Flacco
Lisa Robinson and Nelli
Lynne Robinson and Lacie
Sheryl Taylor and Winston
Bill Sudell And Skipper
Tammy Tatoian and Tilly

♥ Julie O.M.

It has been an exciting few months as the Office Manager at PAWS for People! Between learning everything PAWS to meeting teams and attending events, I'm in awe of what this organization does.

It amazes me every day when I see the magic that our staff and teams accomplish. With new happenings on the horizon, I can't wait to see what's in store for all of us in 2016!

~ Julie Haytas, Office Manager



Our pets can teach us so many wonderful things about how to live the life we have been given.

Throughout this newsletter, look for LIFE LESSONS picture and find some of our pets' suggestions.

Enjoy the simple pleasure of a walk.

Unleashing PAWS Magic

Unleashing PAWS Magic

2016 will bring many exciting program/site additions to PAWS as we begin our expansion to provide quality pet therapy services to a broader area. Some of the sites slated to open in January are two sites in Philadelphia (*Fishtown Community Library* and *Haven Behavioral Hospital*) and some additional libraries in Pennsylvania (*Swarthmore* and *Haverford*). In Delaware, we are adding *St. Francis Hospital*, *Delaware School for the Deaf*, *Springer Middle School* and hopefully *St. Mary Magdelene School* and *KSI Industries* in Milford. We will also be opening *Darlington Library* and will resume visits at *Union Hospital* in Maryland. PAWS plans to meet with some additional sites in January, so look for new opportunities as they become available. We are proud to be providing a variety of visiting options for all of our valued pet therapy volunteers!



Along with more visiting opportunities, PAWS is continuing to invite all of you to enhance your visiting skills through our **PAWS University classes**. Please note our schedule for the first quarter of 2016:

January 7 (Thursday) – **PAWS for Reading**
January 11 (Monday) – **Creative Connections**
January 20 (Wednesday) – **Nemours Prep**
February 10 & 24 (Wednesday) – **PS PAWS**
March 9 & 23 (Wednesday) – **Thinking**

Outside the Box

These trainings are required for you to participate in related programs. All classes are held at the PAWS office in the evening and you may read more about them and register online at PAWSforPeople.org. 2016 is looking bright and merry indeed!

~ Stephanie Barry, Associate Director

TRAINING --- DOG --- TRAINING!

Welcome to Susan Greenholt - our new LEAD dog trainer. Susan comes from Greenwood Dog Training School and has been a PAWS member forever. In fact, Susan was one of the creators of our STEX test.

The dog training classes are being scheduled after the printing of this newsletter, so please check the website to see what classes Susan is offering and their times.

.....



Be loyal, faithful, and quick to forgive.

.....

IN THE NEWS

Two of our PAWS pups made it into the news lately, and if there were others that we don't know about, please contact me and I'll put you in this article for the next issue!

Congrats to Andy Spedden and Guinness, winners of the Companion Dog award from the DVMA/PAWS for People Hero Awards held in November.

And a big WOW to Chase and Ed Martin who starred in the Merrick Dog Food commercial and because those folks loved Chase's work so much, they created a 30 second "feature film" focusing on Chase as a therapy dog. Check out our website if you haven't These great little videos yet.

.....

ADVANCED TRAINING

Saturday, January 16th

Kent/Sussex Co., DE

Time and place to be announced

Saturday, January 30th

9:00-1:00 – Christiana Care

Newark, Rm 1100 off Main Lobby



Racine's Report

January 1st marks my one-year as Volunteer Coordinator with PAWS. Within that time I have received so much support from all of our volunteers, interns, and fellow staff members, and I cannot thank everyone enough.



The PAWS volunteers never cease to amaze me with their willingness to help out whenever needed, fulfill special requests, and visit multiple sites regardless of all that's going on in their lives.

Please reach out to me if ever you'd like to change sites, make a schedule change, if you'd like a shadow visit, or if you have any questions at all. I am happy to help and feel so lucky to work with such inspiring people every day. Thank you for all that you do!

~ Racine Boyle, Volunteer Coordinator

.....

I have heard about LOVE, but it is my DOG that has clearly defined the word

The Power of a Pet Visit

I just wanted to let you know about some feedback I have heard lately about what people say when they are researching therapy organizations online. These are from the intake interviews I do.

PAWS for People has received the top comments over any other organization. I have heard that PAWS for People is very organized, we are covered by a great insurance policy, we are very thorough in our testing and training, and we have very friendly, helpful, and encouraging representatives and staff. The website is very easy to navigate and has plenty of useful information. Last, but not least, when they look at photos of events on the website, they say that our therapy teams look happy and satisfied.

I thought you'd like to know that.

Marilyn Huebner and Molly Bear, of course!



With a Little Help from our Friends

Thanks to our many friends, 2015 has been an incredible year with PAWS changing more lives than ever before!

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all our volunteers who tirelessly work to bring pet therapy to people in need, along with our hundreds of supporters, sponsors, partners and donors who passionately believe in pet therapy and help fund our mission.

We truly appreciate and are very grateful for...

- *So many people's precious gifts of time and talents... the energy, commitment, and continuous support of our friends is incredible!*

Thanks to 404 active teams, life-changing team visits happen every day at our 141 partnering sites. More than 800 folks volunteering over 2,850 hours to bring PAWS to 150-plus community events are ensuring that many more people are learning about us every day!

- *Everyone who shared new fundraising ideas & opened doors to invite PAWS into their workplace to share pet therapy!*

Perhaps your employer also welcomes presentations, provides employee grants or matches your volunteer hours with a donation – please ask so we can benefit from these wonderful opportunities.

- *Every person who generously supported PAWS ~ foundations and grant funders, our 2 partnerships, 45 sponsors, and the hundreds of event participants and individual donors. You are indeed Life-Changers!*

All our donors help keep PAWS training, placing, and supporting more and more teams to fulfill increasing visit requests. Whether donating through United Way, your company giving plan, PAWS Appeals, or making special gifts in honor, memory, or just because... we thank you! PAWS was deeply touched when a beloved team member passed this spring and lovingly made a special bequest to help PAWS sustain its life-changing work. There are so many ways to help!

We hope that you'll continue to support PAWS in 2016 as we continue working to provide more visits to more people in need of the many amazing benefits of pet therapy ~ **Thank You for Changing Lives!**

~ Rosemarie LeNoir, Development Director

The Power of a Pet Visit

Hi, Lynne,

It was so wonderful to back to visiting again. Scout was a little wired at first but soon calmed down and was a perfect companion. He sat to be petted and put his face in laps and was more than I expected. I am so glad to be a part of PAWS again. After Christmas we will try for the advanced level. He did well with hugs and even got a hug from behind and did fine with both. Marilyn was a nice companion to have along and a great support when I almost walked out the door when Scout was a little wired. Thanks for all your encouragement to come back.

See you soon, Laurie



Sometimes it is best to sit close and listen.

ENGAGING EXPERIENCES



It seems only fitting that I am writing this article from Barnes & Noble. What a wonderful partnership we have formed with them this year! I am so grateful for all of the volunteers that have come out to support the variety of community events and fundraisers that we have held in 2015. Here are a few incredible statistics:

In 2015, we have participated in 158 community events and 23 fundraisers! Your support of these events has been nothing short of amazing. There were over 1,200 volunteer shifts totaling over 5,000 hours of volunteer time. Most exciting to me is the fact that these shifts were filled by over 350 different volunteers! What an incredible outpouring of support.

The dedication and passion of PAWS' volunteers is tremendous. I hope that you will continue to join in the fun at community events in 2016 and share any ideas that you have for new opportunities for PAWS.

Thank you for all that you do to support the important mission of PAWS for People. Your spirit of giving and caring is making the world a better place one volunteer hour at a time! Happy New Year!

~ Clarice Ritchie, Community Engagement Coord.



Our tax ID # is 76-0780197

DE code is #11602

PA is #48807

Cecil County # - write us in, please.

Donations happily accepted.

SECC contribution campaign # 71031

If you planted hope in a hopeless heart,
If someone's burden was lighter
because you did your part.
If you caused a laugh
that chased some tears away.
If tonight your name is named
when someone kneels to pray,
Then your day has been well spent.

The Healing Effects of Music

Sound and music are such huge parts of our daily lives. Music has an effect on domesticated animals as well. Through entrainment, which is the body's physiological response to rhythms, music has been discovered to both calm down and improve growth in animals. Classical music helps cows produce more milk. Piano music is a successful calming mechanism for dogs because it reduces behaviors of anxiety. Today, people are using classical music to help calm down their furry friends AND themselves.

A Round of APPLAWS THANK YOU

We have many people & groups to thank for helping us:



- everyone who helped get the Jingle Bell Brunch together and also thanks to those who attended.
- Nancy Shurkoff and Janice Baldwin-Hench who have agreed to (help) create THE BOOK – a book about PAWS teams and the whole concept of pet therapy
- those generous folks who like to remain anonymous while they give of their time and their money to support PAWS and help it grow.



Avoid biting when a growl will do.

Pet Care Corner



Winter Fitness Tips for You and Your Dog

Winter is here and with it comes seemingly endless months of frigid weather. Even though there may be less time spent outdoors, it's important to make sure that you and your dog stay fit.

You may find that your dog enjoys playing in the snow, but make sure that the play session is brief, as your dog will get tired more quickly.

One outdoor activity that may be fun for you and your pet is to buy a "rescue" toy and hide it in the snow for your pet to find it.

If the weather is too severe for outdoor play sessions, you can always exercise with your dog doing "partnership exercises." A great example of an indoor, partnership exercise is to have your dog run at a low speed on the treadmill, just make sure he/she is well supervised the entire time!

Hillside
HEATING & COOLING
HillsideHVAC.com

Our HVAC services will help keep your paws cozy all year!

DAILY HEATING OIL, AND DIESEL FUEL DELIVERIES

OFFERS MAINTENANCE ON HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING, HEAT PUMPS & HYBRID SYSTEMS

FREE ESTIMATES ON NEW OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT

You Oughta Be in Pictures! PAWS 2016 Calendar

Thanks to everyone who participated in the calendar photos shoots in 2015. Your photos turned out great and the quality of our 2016 calendar is impressive. Thanks also to Stephanie Callaghan and Lawren Durham for the terrific photos AND Wendy Lewis for arranging the shoots and creating a gorgeous calendar.



Keep digging until you find what you want!

Training Training Training



As the PAWS training coordinator, I would like to share with you some Good news and some Better news. I am very proud to be celebrating my six month anniversary with PAWS. It has been my pleasure to work

with Lynne and the other staff members during my time of training. I must say that I find myself still struggling with our computer system. On the other hand, I have experienced pure joy working with our volunteers and having the opportunity to train and guide our new therapy teams.

In June of this year, PAWS revamped our “Train the Trainer Training.” Upon completion of this intensive training, PAWS’ volunteers will be prepared to lead Orientation/STEX and Training sessions, working with other Lead trainers and assistants. It has been a goal of PAWS to provide training to new therapy teams in locations in areas that are requesting PAWS visits. Our “TTT” program will provide the assistant trainers needed to prepare additional PAWS therapy teams to meet our growing new site requests.

At this time, we have 8 PAWS members actively participating in the “Train the Trainer Training” program. Congratulations to Sarah Baker who has successfully completed all the requirements and is now an official PAWS’ Lead Trainer.

We have two “TTT” training sessions scheduled:

Thursday, February 4 at the PAWS office @ 5:30pm

Thursday, March 10 in the Salisbury area @ 5:30pm

Feel free to call for more info. We are available to offer additional training to meet your needs.

~ Pat Walp, Training Coordinator

RESEARCH...

wę’re writing a book!

PAWS has funding to create a book about our teams and the impact of pet therapy on our community. If you think you have a good story that needs to be told (about you as a therapy team rather than about a particular visit), let Lynne know. Our writers are ready.

The Power of a Pet Visit

Racine,

Thanks for coming out to Rick’s farm last week in order to re-certify Chip, that was another valuable and new experience for my individuals. I also wanted to thank you, Rick (Altemus), and the PAWS organization, for providing such a positive opportunity. Rick and Chip in particular have been able to break down social barriers that usually exist between my students and the community. Having a disability can be extremely isolating and lonely. Through PAWS, our individuals have been able to interact with an increased variety of community members, who are not paid to socialize with them. Just wanted to take a little bit of extra time to say thanks and happy holidays.

John Zimmerman, AdvoServ

Move over Oscars!

American Humane Associations’ 2015 PAWSCARS honored the top animal stars in film and tv. Here are a few of the winners:

Best Puppy Under Pressure


Wolfie, costar of *The Interview*

Best Chase Sequence – Nicki and King – German Shepherd costars with Cameron Diaz and Janson Segal in *Sex Tape*

Best Young Animal Performers – T, Puppies, and Ice – lead performers in James Gandolfini’s final film *The Drop*.

Animal Wellness – fall, 2015

Have a Furry Happy 2016!

 **PAWS for People**
P.O. Box 9955
Newark, DE 19714-5055
302-351-5622
Forwarding Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 223
Newark, DE

Healing Pet Therapy since 2005!

**Pet-Assisted Visitation
Volunteer Services, Inc.**

PO Box 9955, Newark, DE 19714
302-351-5622

www.PAWSforPeople.org

E-mail: PAWSinfo@PAWSforPeople.org

Lynne Robinson, Executive Director

A nonprofit, volunteer organization
serving DE, MD, PA, and NJ,
our mission is to lovingly provide elders,
children, and folks with disabilities
individualized, therapeutic visits
with a gentle, affectionate pet.

PAWS Board of Directors

Jenni Brand	Jeanne Kasey
Sharron Cirillo	Lynne Robinson
Michele Cooper	Sue Ruff
Luann D'Agostino	Bill Sudell
Samantha Dill	LeDee Wakefield
Bob Hackett	

**PAWS Annual Conference
Pup-Purr-i
a little bit of everything
for pet lovers**

February 20th, 2016 – details inside

In this issue

 **PAWS UNIVERSITY**

**Upcoming Events
Fascinating Facts about PAWS**