



December 2016

The Pet-A-Pet Gazette



A Publication of The Pet-A-Pet Club, Inc.



President's Message

Author Dean Koontz said, "Petting, scratching and cuddling a dog could be as soothing to the mind and heart as deep meditation and almost as good for the soul as prayer." But I think you all knew that! To be kind to others, to brighten someone's day, you all are generous in time, conversation, tail wags, and "kisses". Give your four legged friends an extra helping of love for all the work they do! The humans are usually in the shadows, nameless to the patients. Lilian Jackson Braun, author of cat mysteries, says it best: "People who really appreciate animals always asked their names."

Thank you from the rest of the Pet-A-Pet team.
Remember to ask a friend with a pet to visit with you, and join the "team".
Happy Holidays and a Wonderful 2017!

Pat Glinski

New Newsletter Team

Amber Riley is taking on the position of newsletter editor beginning with the April issue. See page 2 for submission information. This issue was edited by Lauren Paul, who will continue to advise. **Sherry Paolucci** will continue the post-printing duties of folding, labeling and mailing.

Thank you for your help to keep our printed newsletter!!!

www.petapet.org

If you haven't yet, please visit our newly revised website!

Huge thanks to **Rob Ehrman** of 42mg.com for his team's work and for generously hosting our site!

Memorial Donations

Received from

Gail Bliss
Joan Williams

In Memory of

Calli, companion of Cathy Totzkay
Lois, her mother

Welcome New Members!

Susan Bastin and "Zoe"
Michelle Boerman and "Izzy"
Teresa Bossow and "Maggie Mae"
Jill Bowden and "Olga"
Kate Connor and "Mr. Miller"
Pam Henderson and "We G"
Judy & Frank Herrick and "Tipper"
Maria LaCombe and "
Stella" and "Torque"
Ralph & Marla Marx and "Bailey"
"Clyde" joins Judy Merrifield

Patrick Demers &
Elizabeth Nellis and "Bobby"
Ashley & Jen Parker and
Karen Monroe with "Tater Tot"
Avis Perrin and "Chico"
"Primrose" joins
Morgan Reynolds
Jane & Dorothy Sewel
and "Abbey"
Tammy Valencia and "Studley"

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Board of Directors & Committee Chairs through June 30, 2017

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Director of Coordinators

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Newsletter Information

The Pet-A-Pet Gazette is published three times per year in April, August and December. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: March 15, 2017

SUBMISSIONS

Send clear, sharp, good-contrast photos for best printing results. Please use highest resolution possible when taking digital photos. When scanning, use at least 300 dpi and **save as jpeg** file 100% of size (in inches) or as close as possible.

Digital submissions: bookbug85@hotmail.com

For questions, contact
Amber Riley

**Release Form must be signed
and submitted with all photos.**

All persons shown in the photo sign the release form.

Members have signed release on registration forms.

Contributions

**To make a donation
or memorial contribution:**

1. Make check payable to Pet-A-Pet Club Inc. (Please do not send cash.)
2. Add the name of the person or pet being remembered; specify honor or memory
3. Add the name & address of the person to whom the acknowledgement will be sent.
4. Add your own name and address
5. Mail to:

PET-A-PET CLUB INC.

PO BOX 530356

LIVONIA MI 48153-0356

An acknowledgment will be sent
to the honoree or family.

The Pet-A-Pet Club is a
509(a)(2) non-profit corporation
under the umbrella of 501(c)(3).
All donations are tax-deductible.

Please Join Kroger Community Rewards

Kroger Community Rewards is a free program that lets the Pet-A-Pet Club earn needed money each quarter based on registered customers' purchases. We could earn much more with your help.

Please join or renew your Kroger account. All members must renew after April 1st of each year.

With your **Kroger Plus Card** register your account online account at Kroger.com. Just go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com) and follow the instructions. The Pet-A-Pet Club's NPO number is **83032**. Those without internet may call 1-877-745-7444 to sign up. Then just use your Kroger Plus card (or enter your alternate ID) each time you shop.

Please consider these **benefits:**

- Pet-A-Pet earns donations based on all purchases (even gift cards).
- You earn gasoline discounts at Kroger and Shell stations.
- It's easy and costs you nothing!



Please tell your family and friends how they can help the Pet-A-Pet Club when shopping at Kroger.

Coordinator Notes

Need Insurance Certificates?

Is your facility requesting a certificate showing that Pet-A-Pet carries liability insurance?

If so, please contact our treasurer, Alan Hitsky, at ahitsky@gmail.com. Alan will send you a simple form for you to fill out and forward to our insurance agency. They generally respond within 24 hours to any request.

Please note: We currently renew our insurance policy in December. The certificate will only show that a policy is in force until December.

Pet-A-Pet Club policy is that only scheduled group visits are covered under our insurance.

- **Please fill out and submit the Coordinator/Facility form annually**, when sending renewals. Send all coordinator forms, registration forms and dues to Lyn Ehrman.
- **Remind your volunteers** to notify Lyn of any change of address or contact information.
- If you need **additional registration forms**, contact **Lauren Paul**.
- **Pet scarves should be ordered from Cathy Totzkay** for new volunteers. **Pets are to wear their scarves on visits and handlers should wear a Pet-A-Pet button** (Cathy has these also) if they don't have a club shirt.
- **Please review your facility listings** (pp. 6-7) and notify **Amber Riley** of any corrections, additions or deletions for the next newsletter.
- If you notice any errors on the **web site** schedule, please contact **Lauren Paul**.

Note from Pat: If you are a coordinator that is lucky enough to have "too many" volunteers, **PLEASE don't send a potential new member away!**

- Not all your volunteers show up every visit, you may need them.
- The new handler may choose to move to a group that needs teams, you don't know.
- When you "retire" as coordinator, they might be the one that steps up and carries on. You don't know.
- Do NOT turn a new handing team away, we have places asking us to come, we don't have enough people to fill requests.
- **Welcome new teams** - you may not need them, but Pet-A-Pet sure does!

**Thank you for your service
in the Pet-A-Pet Club.
We couldn't do it without you!**

Coordinators Needed!

We have many requests from facilities that want visits from Pet-A-Pet volunteers.

If you are an active volunteer near any of these facilities, **please consider coordinating**.

Requirements for a volunteer to become a coordinator:

1. Reference from volunteer's current coordinator
2. Must have attended minimum of 6 visitations
3. Must be a member in good standing for at least 6 months
4. Must have paperwork orientation by referring coordinator or Coordinator Director
5. There should be a minimum of two pet & handler teams to start visits at a new facility.

If you are able to help, please contact Lyn Ehrman (see page 2).

See Visitation Schedule for facilities needing more volunteers.

FACILITIES REQUESTING VISITS
Alternative Services, Inc. of Michigan, DeWitt Developmental Disability
Blue Water Choices, Marine City Developmental Disability
Detroit Center City Community Mental Health Center
Glacier Hills Assisted Living, Ann Arbor
Grand Court of Novi Assisted Living
Heatherwood Retirement, Southfield
Lutheran Home of Livonia
Magnolia by the Lakes, Keego Harbor Senior Community
Maple Manor Rehab Center, Novi
Manor of Southgate Skilled Nursing & Rehab
McAuley Center, Farmington Hills
Notting Hill of West Bloomfield Nursing & Rehab
Oakridge Manor Nursing & Rehab, Ferndale
Park Place Heritage Village, Warren
Passion & Caring Home for Elderly, Detroit
Regency at Canton, Canton
Regency at Bluffs Park, Ann Arbor
Sanctuary at Villa Marie, Livonia Senior Living Community
St Anne's Convalescent Center, Detroit
St Joseph Hospital, Pontiac
Stonecrest Center-Adolescent Unit, Detroit
Troy Public Library Read to a Dog Program
Village of Peace Manor, Clinton Township
The Village of Redford Senior Care
The Village of Westland Senior Living Community
Waltonwood at Cherry Hill, Canton
West Oaks Senior Care & Rehab, Southfield
White Pine Nursing Facility, Howell

Rainbow Bridge



In Loving Memory of Duncan

Duncan came to me as a foster 4 years ago and he decided to stay. He always got so excited when he saw his Pet-A-Pet bandana because he knew he was going to see all of his friends at American House II in Livonia. He loved letting the residents fuss over him! And they were always so surprised to find out he was deaf. I miss him so much!

Linda Polancih



In Loving Memory of Mickey

Our little Mickey went to Heaven on September 30th. He was a sweet little boy that loved everyone. He enjoyed being with all the other dogs. He will be missed by many.

Ellie Nawrocki



Drawing by
Ellie Nawrocki



"Once you have had a wonderful dog, a life without one is diminished."

Dean Koontz

Rainbow Bridge

In Loving Memory of Calli 2005-2016



Our sweet Calli left us for the Rainbow Bridge on August 12, 2016, after serving the Pet-A-Pet community that she loved as a therapy dog for ten years.

Calli started her visits at five months old in Northville with the children of Old Village School and Hillside Middle School, then visited Ann Arbor’s Sunrise Assisted Living and Glacier Hills, Willowbrook Rehab in Brighton, Medilodge in Howell, Waltonwood of Novi, Caretel Inns of Brighton, Independence Village in Brighton and Milford Park Place.

She has left a village of people who loved her and appreciated the joy and good humor she shared with everyone she met. But, no one misses her more than her loving family.

Godspeed, Miss Calli. You have left huge paw prints on the hearts of everyone who were fortunate enough to have met you.

-Cathy and Jim Totzkay

In Loving Memory of Bruno

Happy, friendly Bruno was a Pet-A-Pet volunteer for several years with his mom, Debbie Linn, visiting West Wind Nursing Home and Westlake Health Center. Bruno loved to meet everyone and both staff and residents enjoyed his sweet, playful personality.

Bruno lived to almost 16 years old... a long life for a big boy... but never long enough. He is sadly missed.

Lauren Paul, coordinator & friend



We Have a Secret

We have a secret, you and I,
That no one else shall know,
For who, but I can see you lie,
Each night, in fireglow?
And who but I can reach my hand
Before we go to bed,
And feel the living warmth of you
And touch your silken head?
And only I walk woodland paths,
And see, ahead of me,
Your small form racing with the wind,
So young again, and free.
And only I can see you swim
In every brook I pass...
And, when I call, no one but I
Can see the bending grass.

-- by Beulah Fenderson Smith



Ann Arbor

Glacier Hills Assisted Living *
1st Tuesday 10:30 AM
Coordinator needed

Auburn Hills

Auburn Hills Community Ctr
Last Wednesday 12:30 PM
Pat McNulty 248-931-5171

Bloomfield Hills

HHCR-Bloomfield *
1st Wednesday 10:30 AM
Cathy Baker 248-528-8010
Volunteers needed

Brighton

Caretel Inns of Brighton
Every Monday 2:00 PM
Cathy Totzkay, 810-229-5219

Willowbrook Rehab
Every Thursday 2:00 PM
Jennifer Brent, 317-459-6496

Chesterfield

Village of East Harbor
2nd Friday 9:30 AM
Mary Jackson, 810-468-2935

Clinton Township

Clinton Macomb Library
South Branch "Paws For Reading"
2nd and/or 4th Monday 6:30 PM
Mary Jackson, 586-468-2935

Villa Bella
Every other Tuesday, 10:00 AM
Marie Mooty, 586-719-6427

Commerce Township

Westlake Health Campus
3rd Saturday 10:00 AM
Lauren Paul, 248-684-2460

Dearborn

Oakwood Commons
Skilled Nursing & Rehab *
1st & 3rd Wednesday 6:30 PM
(Sept-June)
Pat Glinski, 313-278-4428

Dearborn (cont'd)

Beaumont Oakwood - Main *
Beaumont Hospital
1st & 3rd Wednesday 9:00 AM
Lisa Jacques 313-292-4052

Detroit/Redford

Villa at Great Lakes Crossing
7 Mile & Telegraph
3rd Saturday 9:30 AM
Carol Bartley, 248-356-8456
Volunteers needed

Rehabilitation Institute of MI *
1st Friday 10:00 AM
Lori Clinton, 313-533-0222

Farmington/Farm. Hills

Gill School
(Farmington Community Schools)
3rd Wednesday 1:00 PM
Judy Kirkeby, 313-278-4670

Mediloge of Farmington
1st Wednesday 10:30 AM
Lori Clinton, 313-533-0222

Garden City

Garden City Hospital Rehab
2nd & 4th Thursday 3:30 PM
Mary Bogush, 248-589-0689 / 248-250-4277

Lake Orion

Lake Orion Nursing Center
Last Wednesday 10:30 AM
Susan Doane 248-877-7122

Livonia

American House II
2nd Saturday 9:30 AM
Pat Sheplow, 734-427-8661

Camelot Convalescent Center
2nd Saturday 10:00 AM (Sept-May)
Debbie McDermott, 734-427-3791

Lutheran Home of Livonia
2nd & 4th Mondays 10:30 AM
Rose Stachowski, 734-306-3015

Manoogian Manor
1st & Last Wednesday 1:30 PM
Rose Stachowski, 734-306-3015

Livonia (cont'd)

Marywood Nursing Care Center
1st Friday 10:00 AM
3rd Saturday 10:00 AM
Betsy Conway, 734-525-9623

Woodhaven Retirement Community
1st and 3rd Saturdays 10:00 AM
Laurie Patterson, 734-953-0438

Milford

Mediloge of Milford
1st & 3rd Monday 10:00 AM

Riverside Retirement Home
1st Wednesday 10:00 AM

West Hickory Haven Nursing Home
2nd Tuesday 9:30 AM

For all Milford locations contact:
Lauren Paul, 248-684-2460

Northville

Addington Place
2nd & 4th Monday 2:00 PM
Betsy Conway, 734-525-9623

Old Village/Cooke School
2nd Tuesday 10:00 AM
Mandy & Ron ZumBrunnen, 248-348-3465

Novi

Manor of Novi
1st & 2nd Saturday 10:00 AM
Sharron Disbro, 734-449-8339

Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks
3rd Tuesday 2:00 PM
Cathy Totzkay, 810-229-5219

Whitehall Healthcare Center
3rd Saturday 10:00 AM
Susan Durance, 248-349-3913

Plymouth

Heartland Plymouth Court
2nd Tuesday 6:30 PM
4th Wednesday 6:30 PM
Lyn Ehrman, 734-748-7298

Pontiac

Grovecrest Supportive Care
1st Monday 10:00 AM
Coordinator Needed

Pet-A-Pet Visitation Schedule

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Pontiac (cont'd)

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital
3rd Saturday 10:30 AM
Cattrina Farrugia, 248-343-2235

3rd Thursday 6:30 PM
2nd & 4th Monday 2:00 PM
Liz Raeside, 248-670-3217
Additional volunteers needed

4th Tuesday 6:30 PM
Larry Gatzmyer, 248-618-1118

Rochester & Rochester Hills

Steps Program
Rochester Community Schools
3rd Tuesday 1:50 PM

Stoney Creek High School Autism & CI
4th Monday 12:30 PM

Wings Program (Special Needs)
Adams High School
2nd Thursday 9:30 AM

All of these facilities visit Sept-May
Call for schedule
Susan Doane, 248-877-7122

Waltonwood at University
2nd Wednesday 10:00 AM
Liz Raeside, 248-670-3217

Waltonwood at Main
3rd Wednesday 6:30 PM
Sheila Cook 248-651-7542
Sheila.cook@gm.com

Romulus

Special Tree Neuro Care
1st Wednesday, 6:00 PM
Christopher McCollum 734-323-4290
Volunteers needed

Saint Clair Shores

Shorepoint Nursing Care Center
1st Thursday 6:30 PM
Bernadine Hernden, 586-293-5262

Southfield

Lahser Hills Care Center
3rd Saturday 2:00 PM
Alan Hitsky, 248-540-4834

Southfield (cont'd)

Providence Hospital - Rehab
1st Tuesday 11:00 AM
3rd Sunday 4:00 PM
Karen Zylman, 248-661-0116 or
bzylman@twmi.rr.com

Sterling Heights

Waltonwood at Lakeside
3rd Wednesday 10:00 AM
Elaine Chiappetta, 586-247-5324

Harbor Chase of Sterling Heights
3rd Wednesday 11:00 AM
Elaine Chiappetta, 586-247-5324

American House (15 Mile Rd)
Every Other Monday 3:45 PM
Debbie Matika, 586-909-5083

Taylor

Beaumont Heritage Rehab *
2nd & 4th Tuesday 6:00 PM
Lisa Jacques, 313-299-4052

Troy

Troy Center for Transition
1st Friday 10:00 AM
Susan Doane, 248-877-7122

Warren

Arbor Inn
2nd Thursday 7:00 PM
Bernadine Hernden, 586-293-5262

Park Place Heritage Village
1st Thursday 1:30 PM
Coordinator Needed

St. John Macomb
3rd Thursday 6:30 PM
Karen Kline 586-202-5108

Wayne

Advantage Living Center - Wayne
1st & 3rd Thursday 10:30 AM
3rd Saturday 10:30 AM
Judy Kirkeby, 313-278-4670

Transitional Health
4th Saturday 10:00 AM
Judy Kirkeby, 313-278-4670

West Bloomfield

American House
2nd Saturday 11:00 AM
Lisa Kennedy, 248-321-7467

Westland

Four Chaplains
1st & 3rd Thursday 10:00 AM
Lorna Johnson, 734-425-1681

White Lake

Sanctuary at White Lake
4th Tuesday 10:00 AM
Lauren Paul, 248-684-2460
248-867-1488

Ypsilanti

**Superior Woods Healthcare
Assisted Living**
2nd Saturday 10:00 AM
Heather Wilhelm, 716-880-4523
Additional volunteers needed

Volunteers Needed

If you had an extra hour of time each month, what would you do with that hour? How about brightening someone's day?

Please consider volunteering at another facility or even adding a facility of your own and becoming a coordinator. There are many facilities in need of volunteers.

Just think of how many more smiles you could provide in only an hour!



* TB test may be required (for humans).

Some facilities require background checks on volunteers.

Contact coordinator for additional information.

Special Events

Pet-A-Pet volunteers were out far and wide this season, bringing smiles and having fun while spreading the word about what we do.

Bark for Life

Livonia - October 1st

A big thank you to Alana Knoppow & Sammi for coming out and helping!
from Sherry Paolucci

Guardians for Animals Expo Madison Heights -October 15 & 16

Volunteers on Saturday were Laurel Marshall, Karen Kline with Rodie, Carol Peterson with Molly and Cathy Baker; on Sunday Lisa Jacques with Leelan, Lauren Paul with Shayde, Pat Glinski with Coney, Cari Cook with Casey and Linda & Joe Ferry with Mya. Everyone enjoys this fun event.

Below: Cari Cook participates with Bailey in the "Mummy Wrapping" contest.



South University Final Exam Stress Relief Novi - September 20



L-R: Shayde (Lauren Paul), Casey (Cari Cook), Casey (Sherry Paolucci) and Leelan (Lisa Jacques).

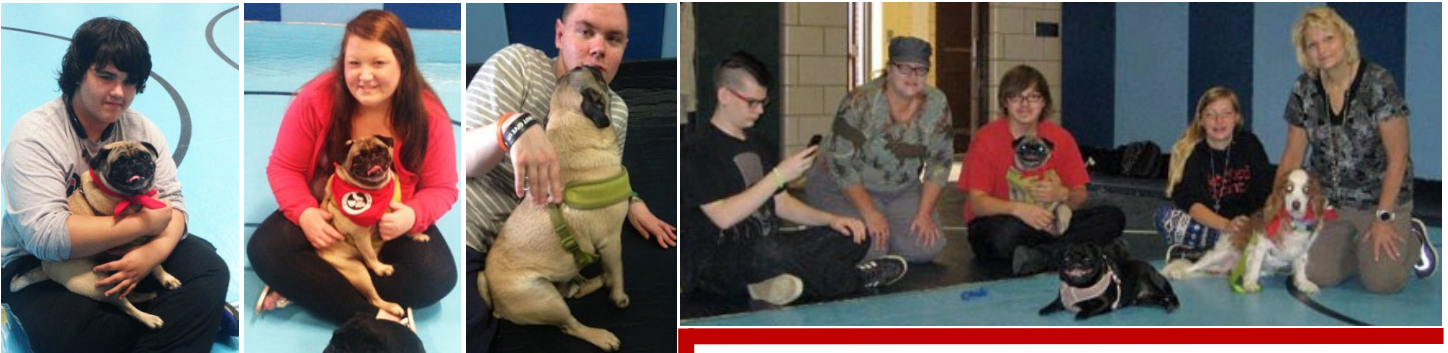


Special Events

Durant School - Waterford

If you were to ask Casey, Ricky & Lucy what they thought about their volunteering visits to Durant High School, I think they would say they have been T-E-R-R-W-O-O-F-I-C! Sherry Paolucci (Casey's mom) has been coordinating our visits at Durant HS in Waterford, MI. So far, we've made four visits to hang out with the kids from 9:00 -10:30 a.m. Even the principal comes down to participate and enjoy a few minutes of dog therapy and ask the kids how they are doing. To say our time spent with these awesome kids is special is an understatement. Ricky loves to climb into the boys' and girls' laps for a good hug, hang out and maybe get a "selfie" taken and Lucy makes them laugh with her wiggling tail and funny antics. She's more of a drive by visitor than a snuggler. Casey enjoys his visits as well, providing quiet and calmness amongst the pug energy. Each student that came down to the gym for our visits has been able to spend 20 minutes with the dogs and left with a smile on their face and we hope that it has brightened their day!

AGNES M. SEEFRIED



Happy Birthday Daphne!

Jean Hellekjaer's poodle mix Daphne turned 7 on November 1st. We celebrated her birthday at the Inpatient Rehab Unit at Providence in Southfield. The patients, family members and additional staff that were present sang a round of "Happy Birthday" to Daphne! Jean brought in an adorable birthday cake for the pups and they were each given their own portion, just right for their size. (Meaning the delicate little Daphne received a delicate sized portion of her own birthday cake! LOL)

Karen Zylman, Coordinator

L to R: Barbara Dursum with her Golden, Scout; Jean Hellekjaer with Daphne (the birthday dog!) on her lap and her Chow mix, Quincy; Sally Barnett with her Golden, Buttercup and Pam Henderson with her Shih Tzu, We G.



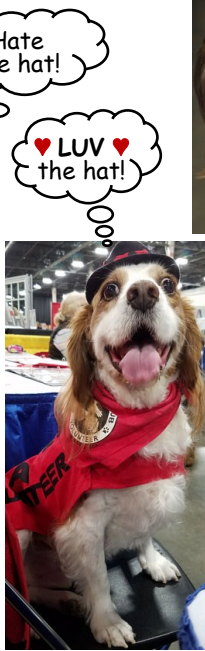
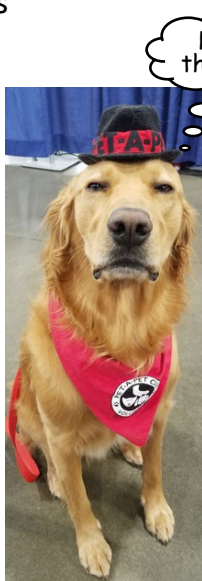
Daphne's cake

Novi Pet Expo

Thank you to everyone who helped out at this year's Novi Pet Expo. It sure was a blast as we had over 30 new potential volunteers sign up. I know there was a little confusion about getting in, but we figured it out! As I am still new to this whole event planning thing, I am still trying to figure everything out and get everything situated in my head, as well as where to put everything into our new house.

Once again, thank you all so much for putting up with all my emails and thank you to the volunteers who came out and promoted our group! At least we didn't have snow this year!

Cari Cook
Special Events



Being cute is exhausting.



Pet-A-Pet Club, Inc. Order Form



Sport shirts: 65% Cotton/35% Polyester, **T-shirts and Sweatshirts:** 50% Cotton/50% Polyester
All apparel items have embroidered logo. Sizes (in inches) are garment measurements.

ITEM / STYLE										PRICE
T-shirt, Unisex Colors: Black, Red, Sand	SIZE		S	M	L	XL		2XL	3XL	\$15.00
T-shirt, Ladies' Colors: Black, Red	SIZE Chest		S 36	M 40	L 41	XL 44		2XL 47	3XL 50	\$15.00
Short Sleeve Sport Shirt, Men's Colors: Black, Red, Stone	SIZE Chest	XS 39	S 42	M 44	L 48	XL 52		2XL 55	3XL 58	\$24.00
Short Sleeve Sport Shirt, Ladies' Colors: Black, Red, Stone	SIZE Bust	XS (2) 32-34	S (4/6) 35-36	M (8/10) 37-37	L (12/14) 39-41	XL (16/18) 42-44	XXL (20/22) 45-47	3X (24/26) 48-51	4X (28/30) 52-55	\$24.00
Long Sleeve Sport Shirt, Men's Colors: Black, Red, Stone	SIZE Chest	XS 39	S 42	M 44	L 48	XL 52		2XL 55	3XL 58	\$29.00
Long Sleeve Sport Shirt, Ladies' Colors: Black, Red (No Stone)	SIZE Bust	XS (2) 32-34	S (4/6) 35-36	M (8/10) 37-38	L (12/14) 39-41	XL (16/18) 42-44	XXL (20/22) 45-47	3X (24/26) 48-51	4X (28/30) 52-55	\$29.00
Sweatshirt (Unisex) Colors: Black, Red, Sand (no 3XL Sand)	SIZE		S	M	L	XL		2XL	3XL	\$24.00
Cap (One Size) Black, Khaki, Red, Stone	<i>Silkscreened logo</i>									\$15.00
Tote Bag Colors: Black, Red, Stone										\$15.00
Collapsible Pet Travel Bowl (Red only)										\$ 5.00

Orders are placed on the 1st of each even-numbered month.

**Send order form with check, payable to Pet-A-Pet Club, Inc., to:
 Cathy Totzkay • 11311 Casa Loma • Brighton, MI 48114-9000 • 810-229-5219**

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone number: (____) _____ Coordinator: _____

QUANTITY	ITEM/STYLE	COLOR	SIZE	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
				SUBTOTAL	
PLEASE ADD: \$4 for 1st item + \$3 for 2nd + \$1 for each additional item (for bowls only, postage is \$2.00)				SHIPPING	
				TOTAL	

Prices valid through 4/30/17 These prices supersede all previous order forms.



PET-A-PET CLUB, INC.

PO BOX 530356
LIVONIA MI 48153-0356

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Livonia, Michigan
Permit # 01263

MISSION STATEMENT

The Pet-A-Pet Club, Inc. is a non-profit organization. Members of the Pet-A-Pet Club commit themselves to encouraging the human-animal bond by educating the public regarding the health benefits of exposure to animals. We will do so by exposing those individuals who are least likely to have benefit of contact with pets to animals that best express the most positive attributes of living, affectionate and entertaining creatures.



Say "No" to Retractable Leashes

Retractable (aka "flexi") leashes pose a physical danger to both the walker and the dog, and encourage unwanted behaviors. Most vets can tell horror stories about everything from rope burns to amputations of paws due to animals and people getting tangled in retractables. It's also potentially dangerous to others since the canine on the retractable can quickly rush another dog and potentially start a fight. Pulling a dog away from something using a retractable is very difficult and takes a lot of time. Many people are injured from tripping over the leash.



As far as training is concerned, these products actually teach dogs to pull. Dogs have what is called an "opposition reflex," meaning their natural reflex to tension on the leash is to pull against it. They also tend to have more severe reactions to creatures (squirrels, humans, other dogs, etc.) when they feel that they are being pulled back.



Retractable leashes have constant tension on them, so that opposition reflex is constantly engaged. Dogs walked on retractable leads develop the habit of constantly pulling against pressure, whether the retractable is being used or not. Unfortunately, retraining those reactions is not as simple as using a regular leash. It can take months or years of training to teach a dog to walk calmly on a leash once the opposition reflex has been conditioned.

My recommendation is to use a sturdy four to six foot leash for regular walks. For open areas where dogs can roam around a bit more, a long-leash (from ten to fifty feet) works well. The key is to maintain control of your dog so you can respond to any situation quickly and easily.

Lisa Collins, CPDT-KSA, is the owner of Collins Canine dog training in Chicago. She is experienced in both obedience and behavioral issues and focuses on positive reinforcement.

Source: Tails Pet Magazine

Note: The use of retractable leashes is against Pet-A-Pet Policy.

Casey's Tips

Hey Everyone!

Did you know that salt can hurt our pads?



When traveling to a visit, or anywhere else, take along an extra towel to wipe our feet, after we get inside. That salt used to melt ice can hurt us!

Also, with the holidays coming, please make sure that food is out of reach of wondering eyes and paws! You don't want us eating something, then going to the emergency vet. Something so little can cost a lot.

Thanks for reading,
Casey the Peke-a-Poo