



January 2026

The Pet-A-Pet Gazette

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



This year the
Pet-A-Pet Club is
celebrating
40 years of service!



Ruth Curry

It began with an amazing woman's dedication. Ruth Curry started it all back in 1985 by taking rescue animals awaiting adoption to visit a local nursing home. A year later, her wish to expand the group came true. Ruth gathered a few volunteers, and with donations from local businesses, she applied for a nonprofit status and Pet-A-Pet Club Inc. was formed! The Club continued to grow from a handful of facilities to over 70 in the Metro Detroit Area. Sadly, Ruth passed away in 2011. She was truly proud of this organization and is greatly missed. Ruth would be honored to know we are carrying on her legacy.

We would like to celebrate this milestone with our members, who have made this achievement possible. Maybe a picnic or other get-together (with or without dogs). If you're interested in participating, please send your ideas on what type of event you'd like to attend and location suggestions.

Happy New Year!

Thanks to everyone for all the great content submitted to this issue. Please send anything you'd like to share in the next newsletter (photos, memorials, etc.) to petapetnewsletter@gmail.com. The plan is to share another issue in May, so please keep sending!

Did You Know?

Your dog can earn AKC Therapy Dog titles by participating in Pet-A-Pet visits. See more information included in this issue.

Also: when you and your dog document 50 visits, you will receive a **Certificate of Achievement** and an embroidered Pet-A-Pet patch. Just notify your coordinator to let us know.

New Facebook Page

Check out our **new** Facebook page. Click on the icon below.



Please like, follow and share to promote our Club. Help us to reach potential new members and share information about our Club.

Big thanks to Susan Kaferle for setting it up for us.

We Appreciate You!

Thank you so much to our coordinators who have taken on facilities in east, north and west suburbs and to the members who will visit those facilities. The requests keep coming, and the waiting list is in this issue, in case anyone can add a location to their schedule. The website will be updated shortly to reflect the new locations.

Thanks for brightening someone's day!

Reading With Dogs

Reading to dogs is a heartwarming and effective way for children to build confidence in their reading skills while enjoying a unique and supportive environment. Calm, trained dogs make perfect, nonjudgmental listeners.

Please see info about the **PAWS for Reading** program at the Clinton-Macomb Library in this issue.

A Reading With Dogs event will take place in March in Garden City. If you would like to participate, please contact [Pat Glinski](#) 313-414-6336 for details.



Coordinators & Volunteers Needed

Let's brighten more days!

Please consider volunteering at another location or even becoming a coordinator at a facility of your own. There are many facilities in need of coordinators and volunteers. Requests come in regularly.

Do you have friends with friendly pets? Please tell them about the Pet-A-Pet Club.



If you are interested in coordinating visits with any of these locations, please contact Lisa or Dave Volker. See the Coordinator Corner for their contact information.

Mission Statement

The Pet-A-Pet Club, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the human-animal bond by sharing the many health benefits of time spent with animals. Our volunteers, and their well-behaved pets, visit individuals who may not otherwise have access to animal companionship — bringing comfort, joy and connection through gentle and affectionate interactions.



Waiting List

Facility Name	City
Crystal Creek Assisted Living	Canton
Clawson Senior Center	Clawson
Program of All-Inclusive Care for Elderly	Clinton Township
Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan	Detroit
John D. Dingell VA Medical Center	Detroit
Volunteers of America (homeless shelter)	Detroit
Henry Ford Health	Detroit
West Oaks Senior Care & Rehab Center	Detroit
American House	Grosse Pointe
George Washington Carver Academy	Highland Park
Provision Living at Livonia	Livonia
Oakmont Livonia Senior Community	Livonia
Woodhaven Retirement Community	Livonia
American House	Livonia
Martha T Berry Medical Care	Mount Clemens
StoryPoint Novi Senior Living	Novi
SKLD Plymouth	Plymouth
Serene Gardens	Rochester Hills
American House East 1	Roseville
Carriage Hill Assisted Living LLC	Shelby Township
PACE Southeast Michigan	Southfield
American House Southgate	Southgate
Pomeroy Skilled Nursing	Sterling Heights
Waltonwood at Lakeside	Sterling Heights

Coordinator Corner

Coordinators: Please contact your facilities and ask them to like, follow and share our new Facebook page. Here is a link:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61586993483171>

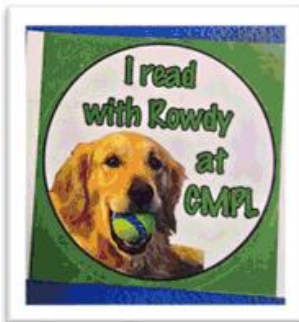
Lisa & David Volker, our co-Directors of Coordinators are available to help you with any questions or issues and provide coordinator packets as needed.

Contact [Lisa](#) (248-884-4201) or [David](#).

Registrations for the coming fiscal year are accepted any time from March 1st through June 30th. Please send your Coordinator form to Lyn Ehrman when you submit your members' registrations.

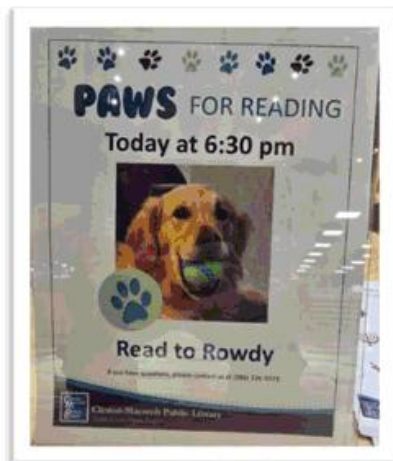
Thank you for your commitment to Pet-A-Pet!

PAWS for Reading



This program is for children with reading challenges. It helps them gain confidence in their skills by reading to a therapy dog. The program runs on the 2nd Monday of each month.

Mike, Sue and Rowdy had their first visit in December. There was a total of 12 kids that took turns reading a book to Rowdy.



Submitted by Susan Kaferle

PAWS for Reading

PAWS for Reading at the South Branch Winter 2026



Children of all ages can read to a Therapy Dog to practice their reading skills in an enjoyable and relaxed atmosphere.

No registration is required.

PAWs for Reading is at **6:30 pm** on the **second Monday** of each month on the following dates:

January 12 at 6:30 p.m. – **Bowser**

March 9 at 6:30 p.m. - **Rowdy**

February 9 at 6:30 p.m. – **Tessa**

April 13 at 6:30 p.m. – **Marvin**



Bowser



Tessa

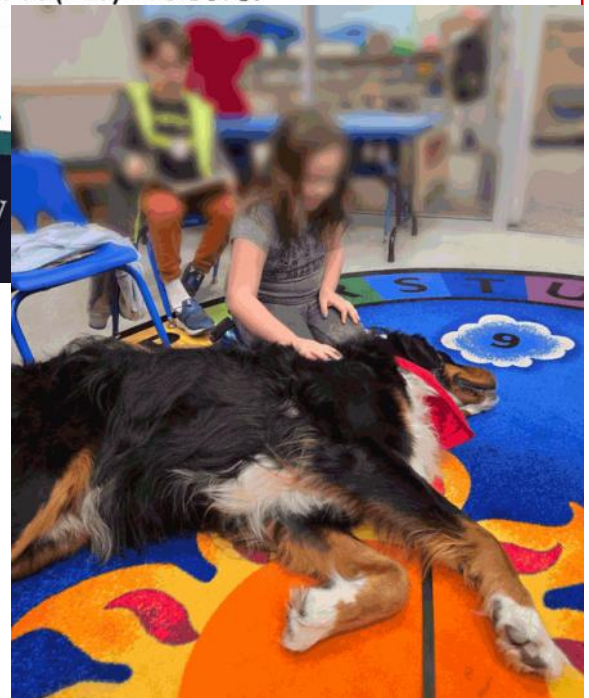


Rowdy



Marvin

If you have questions, please contact us at (586) 226-5073.



Our east side members are doing great things!

Diane Peers and Bowser had their first PAWS for Reading visit at the Clinton Macomb South Library on Monday, January 12th. Pat Southall and Tessa are scheduled for February, Susan Kaferle and Rowdy in March, and Lee Ann Bartley and Marvin in April.

At right: Bowser with one of the eight children who read to him

Volunteer Visits

Merry Christmas at Volante Senior Living



From left to right: Diane & Abby; Cindy & Hugo; Pat & Tessa; Sue & Koya; Filip & Moody; Natalie, LeeAnn & Bear



Deck the Halls with Therapy Pups

Pat with Tessa and
Diane with Abby
waiting to see
Volante residents



Submitted by Susan Kaferle

Volunteer Visits



Wilson (Kathy von Foerster) at Trinity Health Oakland Hospital visiting the ICU nurses' station and getting lots of love.



Licensed Therapist

S. M. K.

Volunteer Visits



Welcome to LeeAnn and Bear and her daughter Natalie !

Bear is a friendly, happy Shi-Poo, this team of three fit right in. We are so glad you joined!!



Spreading Christmas Cheer at The Village of East Harbor



We had a nice turnout for our December visit!

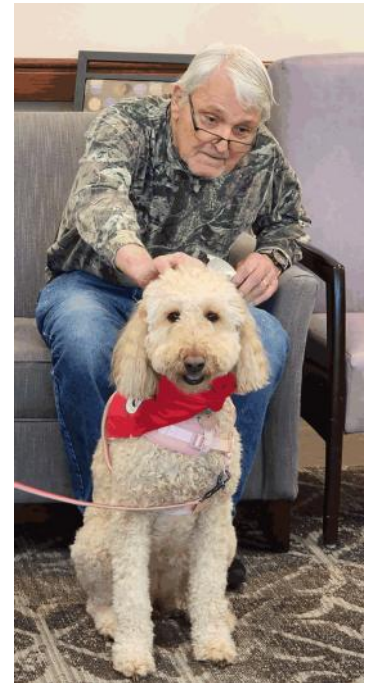
(L-R) Heidi, Jan & Duffy, Diane & Bowser, Sue & Rowdy, Cindy & Daisy, LeeAnn & Bear & Natalie

Coordinator: Heidi Hartson

Volunteer Visits

Our first visit to New Hope White Lake

Cindy Dombrowski with Piper, and Emily Perry with Riley brought holiday cheer to the residents.



Coordinator: Lauren Paul

Special Events

Shepherd's Gate Church in Shelby Twp. invited Pet A Pet Club for a special event Surviving the Holidays after loss. Our wonderful group showed up for a great cause and spread cheer to those needing it!



Cindy & Daisy



Cindy & Hugo



Tessa (Pat)



Sue & Rowdy



Diane & Abby



Rowdy, Tessa & Pat, Cindy & Hugo



Diane & Bowser

Special Events continued



Tessa (Pat)



(L to R) Diane & Abby, Pat & Tessa, Cindy & Hugo, Cindy & Daisy, Heidi, Sue & Rowdy, Diane & Bowser



Abby (Diane)

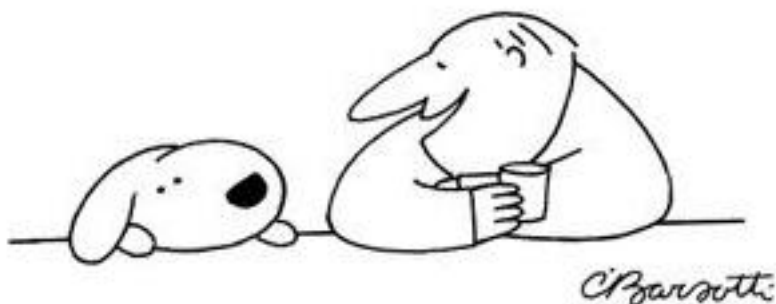


Daisy (Cindy)



Bowser (Diane)

Submitted by Coordinator: Heidi Hartson



"YOU'RE A GOOD LISTENER, I LIKE
A GOOD LISTENER."

Pet-A-Pet Flyers

While shopping for a Subaru, I met a couple of ladies, Samantha (she works there) and her mother with their sweet golden retrievers who were in the lounge. Of course, I asked if they might want to volunteer with Pet a Pet. Samantha knew about Pet a Pet and may join. She suggested that we put up a flyer because "Subaru owners are dog lovers!" If you would like a copy of this flyer showing your location- let us know!

Heidi Hartson

We are looking for more members !



If you have an obedience-trained, dog-friendly dog and an hour to visit with residents, let us know.

We have a great group of teams that visit several facilities in the New Baltimore & Chesterfield area.

There are so many requests coming in and we would love to have the Dog Power to share smiles & wagging tails!

Certification is not required.
All pets must pass an evaluation.
Check out our website:

www.petapet.org



Scan Code

Want to join Pet-A-Pet?

If so click to join now, and be a part of our fantastic team!

JOIN OUR TEAM

Serving Southeast Michigan

Find A Location Near You

AKC Therapy Dog Titles

Pet-A-Pet is approved as an organization whose members can apply for the AKC Therapy Dog title. The purpose of this program is to recognize AKC dogs and their owners who have given their time and helped people by volunteering as a therapy dog and owner team. The AKC Therapy Dog title (ThD) can be earned by dogs who have been certified by AKC recognized therapy dog organizations.

All dogs are eligible to earn the AKC Therapy Dog title, including purebreds and mixed breeds. To earn the AKC Therapy Dog title, dogs must be registered or listed with AKC and have a number in order to earn a title.

To earn the AKC Therapy Dog™ title, you and your dog must meet the following criteria:

1. The dog must be registered or listed with AKC.
2. Certified or registered by an AKC recognized national therapy dog organization.
3. Perform a minimum of 50 visits. (Novice title is available for 10 visits.)

Visits must be documented with time, date, location, and a signature of a staff person at the facility (e.g., school, hospital, etc.).

Volunteers are solely responsible for documentation of visits, registration with AKC and therapy organization and submission of application and fees to AKC.



The Pet-A-Pet Club does not provide certification for therapy dogs.

Therapy Dog Titles

AKC Therapy Dog Novice (THDN) Must have completed 10 visits.

AKC Therapy Dog (THD) Must have completed 50 visits.

AKC Therapy Dog Advanced (THDA) Must have completed 100 visits.

AKC Therapy Dog Excellent (THDX) Must have completed 200 visits.

AKC Therapy Dog Distinguished (THDD) Must have completed 400 visits.

For details on the program and requirements, please visit
www.akc.org/dogowner/training/therapy/index.cfm.

The AKC form to record your visits will be sent with this newsletter.

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.

Register your **Kroger Plus Card** account online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com and follow the instructions. The Pet-A-Pet Club's **NPO number** is **TX120**. 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 Club 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!
- Annual re-enrollment is automatic.

Please tell your family and friends how they can support the Pet-A-Pet Club.



Fun Ways to Keep Your Dog Entertained Indoors When It's Freezing Outside

Dogs have up to 300 million olfactory receptors compared to our relatively paltry six million. If inclement weather is keeping you indoors, these fun and easy scent-based games for dogs will keep your house-bound pup entertained!

Find the Food

This is a simple way to engage your dog's scenting prowess. It requires you to do nothing but place treats randomly around the home in the hopes that she will locate them by scent. Once she finds the first one (often by accident), she will quickly key into the possibility of finding others with her nose. Start by placing one or two treats down in full view, while she is out of the room. Then call her in. She will eat them happily and look for more. Repeat this process, but begin placing the treats in less obvious places; in a corner, just beneath a sofa or coffee table, or even partially beneath a doggie cushion. Place them while she is outside, or in another part of the home. Then simply let her find them on her own. You will soon see her scenting for them rather than looking for them. Vary placement and quantity; some days just hide one treat. Once she "gets it," vary the hidden item. Try hiding a food dispenser toy filled with treats. Hide a feather rubbed with cheese. Hide a frozen cube of meat or broth (on a plate of course!).

Pick the Hand

Here's a simple way to rev up your dog's nose. First, get some small tasty treats that will fit into your hand. A bit of turkey meat or cheese will work better than kibble because of the former's stronger aroma. Next, take one into your palm and make a loose, palm-down fist. Then, with your dog sitting in front of you, offer her that fist, and let her sniff. While doing so, say "Find it!" Once she has sniffed it, open your hand and offer the treat, saying, "Good find it!" Repeat this a few times. Then, add your other empty fist. Don't let her see which hand you place the treat

into. Next, move your closed hands back and forth, then offer up both to her, saying "Find it!" When she sniffs at the treat hand, say, "Good find it!" and open your hand to give her the treat. Repeat this, alternating the hand in which you place the treat. As you continue, wait until you can see her nose really "alert" on the treat hand before opening up. The idea is to teach her that the location of treat varies and can be found only by scenting it out. Once she gets it, add a friend's two fists into the mix, making it doubly hard for her.

Shell Game

This game builds upon the "Pick The Hand" game. Get four sturdy, coffee cup-sized containers that she cannot break or easily knock over. Avoid glass or paper; glass could break and paper is too flimsy. With your dog sitting and watching, place a treat underneath one cup then move it back and forth. Then say, "Find it!" When she sniffs at it, lift the cup and say, "Good find it!" as she eats the treat. If she knocks the cup over, that's fine. Next, add a second cup. Place the treat then move the cups back and forth a bit. Say, "Find it!" and let her sniff each cup. Wait until she sniffs the right one before praising and lifting the cup. Repeat until she reliably picks the right cup. Then add a third cup, and repeat until she gets it on the first try every time. At that point, you'll know that she's using her nose and not random choice.

Hide & Seek

Here's one that uses you as the treat. While your dog is distracted somewhere in the home, hide in a closet, under a bed, or somewhere she wouldn't normally expect you to be. Then just wait. She will inevitably begin searching for you. Once she finds you, praise and reward! If you are in a closet and you hear her sniff at the door, you'll know she's doing what dogs have done for centuries.

