

P E T P A L S

Animal-Assisted Therapies and Activities throughout the Cedar Valley

Spring 2023 Newsletter

Save the Date

Can you believe it? P.E.T. P.A.L.S. will be celebrating its 40th birthday this year. In celebration of this event, we will have our yearly Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Tuesday, October 3rd, at the Waterloo Center for the Arts. Everyone is excited and preparations are well underway so be sure to mark your calendar. Watch for details in our late summer newsletter.

Summer Happenings

Sturgis Falls

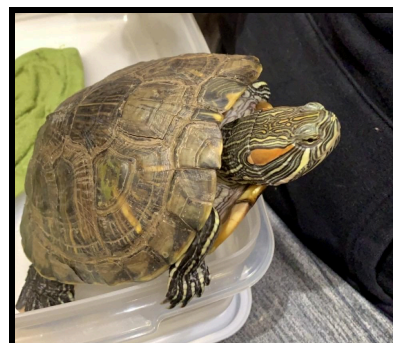
It's time for P.E.T. P.A.L.S. to have their annual booth at the Sturgis Falls Celebration which takes place on Sunday, June 25th, from 9:00-4:00. You will find us located on West Third Street right across from Overman Park. Get there early to take advantage of our popular dog treats and snuffle mats which sell out quickly. If you are not familiar with snuffle mats, it's a way to entertain your dog by hiding treats in small areas of a fleece mat. We will also have our popular catnip mice, pet toys, and cute bows and bowties, along with scrunchies and scarves. We also have some "people" items like tooth fairy pouches and handmade sashay scarves. If you struggle to open drink bottles, we will have mini grippers. (All items have been made by P.E.T. P.A.L.S. members as a festival requirement) Be sure to stop and say hello!

Summer Social

Our next social will be a picnic on July 13th starting at 5:30. It will take place at Angels Park at Meyer's Lake in Evansdale. If you have never been there, it's a wonderful place to visit. This will be a potluck so bring a dish to share. P.E.T. P.A.L.S. will provide table-service and drinks. Information will be sent out through the P.E.T. P.A.L.S. e-mail as a reminder. It's always fun to get together with friends and other members so be sure to mark your calendar. If for some reason you do not receive the e-mail, call the P.E.T. P.A.L.S. phone at 319-610-7379.

Sheldon's Debut Visit

Banner Knecht and his turtle Sheldon made their debut P.E.T. P.A.L.S. visit on Monday, March 7th, 2023. The student group Active Minds, asked us to visit the UNI campus as a mid-term de-stress event. Students enjoyed learning about Sheldon and the fact that turtles can feel through their shells when they are petted. Although turtles do not require vaccines or other tests, hand sanitizer is provided to be used by participants after handling the turtle.



A Warm Welcome to New Members:

- Robin Darland with Ruby
- Terese Evans with Pearl and Otto (rabbits)
- Elana Joram with Gracie
- Miranda Kracke with Winnie
- Steffi Mieke with Mulligan



UNI De-Stress Day

Last December, the UNI Library invited us once again, to help students “de-stress” during final exams. We really enjoy participating in this activity, but we think our pets enjoy it even more!

PetPals Social

On February 21st, 2023 P.E.T. P.A.L.S. had our first social event since before Covid shut everything down. We met at the Lava Lounge and enjoyed drinks, appetizers, and conversation with everyone who was able to attend. We had a great turnout, with approximately 15-20 people attending, and are already making plans for the next one. Stay tuned later this spring or early summer and join us!

Introducing Digital Newsletters

Would you rather receive this newsletter by email? If so, please contact our Newsletter Editor, Christine Hess at cne854@gmail.com. With the cost of postage and printing increasing digital newsletters help lessen the financial impact on P.E.T. P.A.L.S.

Donations

Due to increase in insurance, postage, and other expenses we are in need of donations to keep our organization running without having to charge yearly membership dues. These are tax deductible and a receipt can be sent upon request.

Please send donations to:

P.E.T. P.A.L.S.

PO BOX 373

Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Bob Schraeder's Memorial

We will be having two trees planted in memory of Bob Schraeder this spring. The City of Cedar Falls Parks Division or the Wapsie Pines Nursery will plant the trees (type to be decided on when the nursery opens) at Big Woods Lake where Bob liked to fish. There will be a plaque by the trees that reads:

In Memory of:
Robert J. "Bob" Schraeder
"A dog's best friend!"
Donated by P.E.T. P.A.L.S.

Bob loved visiting with his dog Mitzi and Sebastian. He was instrumental in starting the P.E.T. P.A.L.S. socials like we had in February. He was also a regular participant in one-time visits. He is and will be missed.

Condolences

Our sincere condolences go to the family of Pam Hammers who died on January 4, 2023. Besides being a great member of P.E.T. P.A.L.S. with her dog, Lakotah Su, Pam was an accomplished Martial Artist, earned certifications in Reiki and owned and operated Hammers Shiatsu Healing Clinic. Pam will be missed by all who knew both her healing nature and fighting spirit.



Our sincere sympathy goes out to new member, Pam Correll, in the loss of her dog, Kimmy, on March 26, 2023.

Mocha was the light of our lives! She was a P.E.T. P.A.L.S. Therapy dog for nine years. We adopted her from the Cedar Bend Humane Society on February 5th, 2014 when we thought she was approximately 3 years old. She had been dropped off pregnant with her 3rd litter weighing 53 pounds! She was a great mommy for 9/10 puppies when we met her. Her personality and demeanor was so gentle and loving that anyone who encountered her felt at ease and loved! She visited on one-time visits, New Aldeya, and most recently at the Cedar Valley Preschool and Childcare Center in Cedar Falls. Mocha was loved by all of the children and enjoyed being petted, walked, and hugged by the kids! Mocha's legacy will be forever remembered in our hearts and she is now playing across the rainbow bridge.

Arlene and Steve O'Kane



Porter, a large, 10-year-old “apricot” standard poodle and long-time P.E.T. P.A.L. lost his life after being hit by a car on a snowy night in late December. Porter was a “go-everywhere dog” that enjoyed trips to home stores, church picnics, farmers markets and anywhere else he was welcome. He scored parts in church pageants, once as a sheep and again as a camel. He was known as having a calm (and calming) countenance. Over the course of his P.E.T. P.A.L. career, Porter regularly visited several venues: New Aldaya, Quakerdale, Grin and Grow Child Development Center, and the UNI Rod Library (during finals week). We miss him every day.

Cliff Highnam, P.E.T. P.A.L.S. member since 2015



P.E.T. P.A.L.S. Visiting Sites – For information, call 319-610-7379

Active Minds Early Learning Center
Bickford Cottage
Cedar Falls Health Care Center
C.V. Preschool and Child Care Center
Denver Sunset Home
Friendship Village
Harmony House
La Porte City Nursing and Rehab
MercyOne Rehab
NewAldaya Lifescapes
Newel Post
Northstar Community Services

Northstar Head Injury
Northcrest Specialty Care
Peer Support Recovery- UnityPoint
Pillar of the Cedar Valley
Pinnacle Specialty Care
Promedica (formerly Manor Care)
Ravenwood Health Care
Reading Pals
The Rose
UnityPoint- Mental Health/Rehab
Waverly Health Center
Western Home Communities

P.E.T. P.A.L.S.
P.O. Box 373
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

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