

# P E T P A L S

Animal-Assisted Therapies and Activities throughout the Cedar Valley

## Spring 2024 Newsletter

### Celebrating a Special Birthday

Hopefully, many of our P.E.T. P.A.L.S. members and friends were able to attend our 40th birthday celebration last October. It was such a special evening. In case you missed it, approximately 65 people enjoyed a meal at the Waterloo Center for the Arts. The room was decorated with our colors and special pet-related wooden favors that had been created for each person. Of course, there was birthday cake and ice cream to enjoy. This was followed by some time of reminiscing where we shared memories about some of our special former members. Rita Lynn even traveled from Minnesota to share some special memories and Cindy Ziegenhorn (a former board member, secretary, and treasurer) sent a letter to be read.



The highlight of the evening was having Linda Nebbe attend along with Tom Colvin the former director of the Black Hawk Humane Society. Linda and Tom, plus Bonnie Sines, were the founders of P.E.T. P.A.L.S. Tom, who is now the head of the Animal Rescue League in Des Moines, shared special memories of the early days when they worked to create this organization.

Our volunteer appreciation dinners are always special and a great way of thanking people for their support of our organization. We wish to thank everyone who contributed to the success of our birthday dinner. (As you know, a lot of time and work goes into the planning and organization.) So now, it's time to look forward to next year's dinner. Mark your calendar and save the date of October 7, 2024. Watch for details in the fall newsletter.

### Welcome New Members!

- Kathy Krieg with Opal
- Leonard (Butch) Hammer with Chloe
- Ellen Myers with Teddy Bear
- Deborah Thompson and John Finnegan with Ninja
- Courtney Harford with Bailee
- Michelle Heine with Murphy
- April Leadley with Jack
- Steve McFarlane with Murphy
- Kathy Olson with Annie
- Carrie Schaefer with Boone
- Lisa Solberg with Rosie
- Angela Townsend with Lulu

Here are some friendly reminders:

- Please be prompt in returning your yearly vet health checks.
- Everyone must have your "pet pack" with you each time you visit so you are prepared. This may include a water dish, treats, towel, brush, toy, paper towels.

### Pizza Ranch

Wednesday, April 10th we held a fundraiser at the Pizza Ranch in Cedar Falls. Volunteers bussed tables to raise funds for our organization. In the past, this has always been a rather successful event. This year, unfortunately it was not well attended. Hopefully in the future, the turnout will be better. Thank you to all volunteers who help make this event possible.



Have Questions? Contact us at (319) 236-3564 or at [PetPalsNews@gmail.com](mailto:PetPalsNews@gmail.com)  
Don't forget to visit us online at [petpalscedarvalley.org](http://petpalscedarvalley.org) or Facebook ([cedarvalleypetpals.org](https://www.facebook.com/cedarvalleypetpals.org))

## Pet Condolences

We extend our sympathy to board member and longtime volunteer, Sue Lund in honor of her pal, Beau and Abby Sue. Also, Brody Adair in honor of Murphy. Thank you for your years of service!

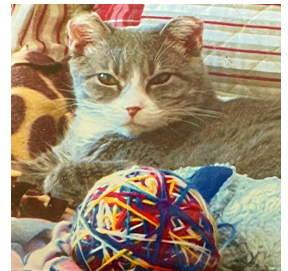
### Sue Lund in memory of Beau

It was January during the blizzard when it was time to say “good-bye” to Beau. His legs were no longer strong and he was not able to do the steps into the house. He was 3 weeks from his 15th birthday. He made a lot of people happy and they made him happy too! It was his job but he loved going on visits to Harmony House, Ravenwood, and Rosewood Estates, also various other places too. He loved his daily walks and especially the neighbor who gave him treats and he knew which ones they were! After retirement, people would ask about him and how he was doing. I would tell him this and I knew he understood. He visited for 11 years. He loved car rides, going for ice cream, and fishing with Jon and me. He had a wonderful life and he gave us a wonderful life too. I miss him so much.



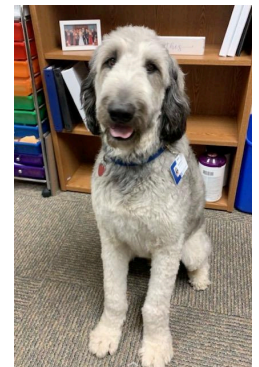
### Sue Lund in memory of Abby Sue

She made so many people happy in the short 6 years that she was mine. We visited Harmony House, Ravenwood, UNI, and various other places. She was 10 years old when I adopted her from Cedar Bend Humane Society. She was the “sweetest thing” very affectionate and cuddly. She had cancer and I miss her so much. She is now across the Rainbow Bridge with her brother Beau and my husband Jon.



### Brody Adair in memory of Murphy

Murphy came into our lives by luck and being completely naive to his breed. He was a Pyredoodle, part Great Pyrenees, part Poodle. I had no idea what he would turn into. From day one he blessed us with his calm and loving nature. At 7 months I was able to take him to Allen hospital with me to work so he could be comfortable in the setting. By a year old he was certified to come with me regularly. He loved going to “work”. He waited anxiously every morning to see if I would say the word that he could go. Patients and staff fell in love with his giant size and loving heart. Covid hit and he wasn’t allowed in the hospital. He looked longingly at his bag and wanted to return. Thankfully he was able to. His 5 years here were a blessing to our family and so many he touched through his visits at the hospital. He is missed by so many.



## P.E.T. P.A.L.S. Visiting Sites – For information, call 319-236-3564

- Active Minds Early Learning Center
- Bickford Cottage
- Cedar Falls Health Care Center
- C.V. Preschool & Child Care
- Denver Sunset Home
- Friendship Village
- Harmony House
- LaPorte City Nursing & 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
- Harmony Waterloo
- Ravenwood Health Care
- Reading Pals
- The Rose
- UnityPoint- Mental Health/Rehab
- Waverly Health Center
- Western Home Communities

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## Spring and Summer P.E.T. P.A.L.S. Activities

It's that time of year when P.E.T. P.A.L.S. has lots of activities. Here are a few that are scheduled:

### Sturgis Falls on Sunday, June 30th, from 9am-4pm

Our booth is located on West Third St. right across from Overman Park. We will again have lots of pet and human items available to purchase. The dog treats always sell out fast. Another popular item are the snuffle mats where you entertain your dog by hiding treats in small areas of a fleece mat. We'll have cute bows and bowties to dress up your little pets along with scrunchies and scarves. The catnip mice always sell out. Look also for people items such as scarves, gift card holders, wooden decor, plastic bag holders, coasters and small grippers. There should be something for everyone. Everything is made by our volunteers. If you have never volunteered to work at the booth, please consider it. You will have lots of fun and always see people out shopping that you have not seen for a while. Please help us out by offering to do a two-hour shift so that it is not left up to the same people all the time. If you are willing, please call Sue Lund at 319-233-3624.

### Summer Social

Since we missed having a spring social, we want to plan one for summer. On July 15th we will try again to have a picnic at Angel's Park on Meyer's Lake in Evansdale. If you remember, last year it was rained out but we aren't going to let that happen again. (Some of us stayed and ate once it stopped.) This is a wonderful place to explore if you have never been there. Also, there is a very nice shelter. Plan to come at 5:30 and we'll eat at 6pm for those who come after work. P.E.T. P.A.L.S. will provide table-service and drinks. This is a NO PETS event. We will send out a reminder email early in July. If for some reason you don't get this email, call the P.E.T. P.A.L.S. phone at 319-236-3564.

### Reading Pals

Summer always brings requests from libraries and preschools for our Reading Pals program. This is where children are given an opportunity to practice their fluency and expression by reading individually to a pet. Animals for this program must be calm and willing to sit or lie down near a child for three fifteen-minute time periods. If this sounds like something you would like to try, contact Jan Thompsen ([thompsej@q.com](mailto:thompsej@q.com)) Right now, we need volunteers for a preschool in July during some afternoons.

### De-Stress at UNI

In December of 2023, P.E.T. P.A.L.S., once again, helped students at UNI "de-stress" during Fall semester final exams! We will do this again in May 2024 during the Spring semester final exams. The students love seeing our animals and our pets enjoy all the attention they get!



## Donations

We have been very fortunate to receive various monetary gifts given to our organization. Some have been in honor of loved ones while others have come from those who recognize the work we do in the community. We would like to say thank you to our most recent donors for their generous gifts:

- Lois Staff in memory of Clover, Terry Page's cat
  - Dalila Amend
- Donations are always appreciated and may be sent to:*

P.E.T. P.A.L.S.  
P.O. BOX 373  
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613

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

**P.E.T. P.A.L.S Board of Directors Executive Committee**

<b>Chairperson</b>	Jan Thompsen	thompsen@q.com
<b>Education/Resource</b>	Linda Nebbe	dlnebbe@me.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Arlene Prather-O’Kane	arlene.pokane@gmail.com
<b>Records and One-time Visits</b>	Diane Hensley	catlady50703@yahoo.com
<b>Membership Coordinator</b>	Rachelle Yousefi	ryousefi@cfu.net
<b>Temperament Evaluation</b>	Sue Lund	(319) 233-3624
<b>Newsletter Editor and Secretary</b>	Christine Hess	cne854@gmail.com
<b>Communication Coordinator</b>	Terry Page	tmpage@webtv.net
<b>Webmaster</b>	Ryan Holzapfel	webmaster@petpalscedarvalley.org
<b>Additional Board Members</b>	Kathy Matthias Terry Hertges Linda Klarman Sue Schoon Jill Fisher	kathymatthias@yahoo.com beno08@aol.com lkfixit48@gmail.com sschoon715@gmail.com jfisher203@gmail.com