

PAL PROCLAMATION

People. Animals. Love Monthly Newsletter

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Purpose

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with updated information about what PAL has been doing throughout the year. We will give highlights of what happened in the month prior, and post dates for upcoming events. With your help, we will be able to share our accomplishments with thousands of individuals!

Quincy

by Richard D. Lieberman

My 2-year-old French poodle was the perfect dog to accompany me on visits to hospice patients. He was handsome, calm, and loved people. However, I wasn't sure if I would be able to deal emotionally with people who were about to die.

I soon learned that a hospice patient is one who has been diagnosed as terminally ill with a life expectancy of six months or less, and the patient has chosen to receive hospice care rather than curative care. What I didn't know was that many hospice patients have a lot of life and emotion left in them. I was about to learn.

After I completed two days of training at JSSA, I took Quincy to People Animals Love (PAL) for his training. He wasn't to become a true service dog but he had to learn to get along with other dogs and to be kind and gracious to patients in beds, walkers and wheelchairs. Quincy passed with flying colors and within a week we started our visits. We had just two patients at first but over the past three years, we have expanded our visits to about nine patients every Wednesday. And the experience was incredibly rewarding for Quincy, for me, and for the patients.

“Just as Quincy pranced in, one of the ladies looked at him and said ‘Is that Elizabeth Taylor’s dog?’” - a resident in reference to Quincy



Quincy and Richard pose as our Volunteers of the Month!

United Airways and PAL

During this past holiday season, PAL offered our services to stressed and frantic travelers. Travelling during the holidays can be a very unpleasant experience; long lines, cranky passengers, uncomfortable chairs will have you calling for home. With our PAL Pet Volunteers and their canine companions, travelers were given the opportunity to cuddle, laugh, and play with these compassionate, furry friends. This event was even featured in the Washington Post!



Rugi, Cinnamon, and Callie participate in the United PAWs program at Dulles Airport. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

PAL Club Happenings

After a lovely, unseasonably warm Winter Break, it's seems fitting that PAL starts school back up with this month's theme, Hot and Cold Changes! This month, students will learn about two extreme environments—the frozen Arctic tundra and the hot, dry desert—found on our earth as well as the types of animals that live there. In order to learn about how these animals have adapted to their extreme environments, our PAL scholar-scientists will conduct experiments that mimic the animals themselves, like using homemade “blubber gloves” to see how a polar bear's blubber keeps it insulated in the cold. When learning about the desert, students will find out how food chains and food webs work, using animals and plants found in the desert. The best activity of the month, however, is when PAL scholars make homemade ice cream - as the scholars will probably tell you!



Announcement

In case you haven't heard, the PAL Club Program has expanded to John Burroughs Elementary School, located in northeast D.C.! John Burroughs is a STEM School, in that their mission is similar to PAL's mission to promote creativity and enthusiasm about science, technology, engineering, and math. We are very excited to be sharing our love and belief in the human-animal bond to different corners of the city!

About Us

PAL is a non profit organization that leverages the power of the human-animal bond to provide for the Washington DC Metropolitan area. In our Pet Visit Program, wagging tails and wet noses ease the loneliness of the elderly and comfort the sick. Warm, gazing eyes help early readers feel comfortable reading out loud when dogs visit libraries. In our PAL Camp and PAL Club, hundreds of lower-income children deepen their natural connection to the amazing animal kingdom with a rich Animal Studies program that includes lessons, books, animal visits, field trips, animal care and assemblies. Learning and caring for animals allows for our most vulnerable youth to make social, emotional and academic gains. We even have a Bereavement Support line for those pet owners struggling to cope with the passing of their furry companion.

Upcoming Events

- January 16, 2016 PAL Orientation
Contact Jack Hillelsohn at jack@peopleanimalslove.org
- January 18, 2016 MLK Jr. Day
Office will be closed

