

# THE DisPPatch

DENVER PET PARTNERS



October 2015

## Team of the Month

Congratulations to Patt Bisant and Jake.

Jake, my Yellow Labrador Retriever, came to me on October 28, 2008 via the Pikes Peak Humane Society in Colorado Springs, CO. I saw his picture on a dog adoption internet site as I was searching for a replacement for my 15 year old Yellow Lab who had succumbed to complications from diabetes two weeks before.

After clicking on his picture, I learned he was 10 months old, un-neutered, and in quarantine for a severe case of kennel cough. The adoption went smoothly, and I immediately rushed him to Denver to be treated by my Vet. She told me his temperature was 106, and had I not adopted him that day, he probably would have died from pneumonia within two days. Fortunately, he quickly recovered, and returned to "puppy mode" with his unbridled enthusiasm, clumsiness, and endless energy.

Read more of this touching story [here](#) or email [Patt](#).



## A Special Message From Arnold Ray to DPP Members



Memorial Plans for Elizabeth "Betty" Ray:  
My family and I have planned a

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## From Our Chair

This has been an especially sad time for Denver Pet Partners with the illness and loss of dear friends and beloved canine partners. One of the things that has sustained me as I send you email notifications of these losses and write letters of condolence is the strong sense of support and family that I have received from so many of you and that you all share with one another. I am repeatedly struck by how many of you mention that sense of family as one of Denver Pet Partners' best characteristics. I feel honored and privileged to belong to such an caring organization.

Thank you all for making DPP such a special place.

*Carol Lynn*



memorial and celebration of Betty's life on Saturday, October 3rd, starting at 11:00 AM at Addenbrooke Park, located at 600 South Kipling Street (on the east side at Exposition Avenue, a bit south of Alameda) in Lakewood.

It will be a bit unique in that it will be dog-friendly so as to include our friends from Denver Pet Partners and their companion animals as well as Arne's "Chatfield dog park family". Please attend any or all of this remembrance and celebration for Betty.

#### **Memorial Fund:**

For those so inclined, I have established a memorial fund at Denver Pet Partners in Betty's honor. DPP has been the single organization that Betty and I have been most intimately involved with in recent years, and combines our love of animals with a caring purpose.

DPP has over 100 member teams visiting hospitals, hospice patients, nursing homes, mental health centers, and many other organizations and facilities, so actually multiples its gifts. Please visit the [DPP website](http://www.denverpetpartners.org/betty_ray_memorial.html).

If you want to remember Betty through a donation, please make checks payable to Denver Pet Partners (note that it is for the Betty Ray Memorial Fund) and mail to Denver Pet Partners, P.O. Box 271505, Littleton, CO 80127-1505. DPP has also set up a link where contributions can be made via Paypal or credit card at: [www.denverpetpartners.org/betty\\_ray\\_memorial.html](http://www.denverpetpartners.org/betty_ray_memorial.html)

#### **Betty's Illness and Death (in case you didn't know):**

Betty was diagnosed in July with a significant, malignant, inoperable, and aggressive brain tumor. Betty underwent exploratory surgery and consultations with her neurosurgeon and several oncologists. The conclusion was that neither chemo or radiation offered much positive potential and that the negative side effects would likely be substantial.

Betty concluded that she was "not afraid to die, but didn't want to be miserable." After that, Betty and I spent several very close and sacred weeks at home until she required more care and moved to Porter Hospice for a few days until her death on September 3rd. My prayers were answered in that Betty was safe, comfortable, and surrounded with love until her passing. It is a comfort to me that she did not suffer any significant physical or emotional distress.

I am deeply grateful for the wonderful support Betty and I received from family, neighbors, and many friends and for the kind care that I have received since Betty's death. I have posted more detailed reports at [caringbridge.org](http://caringbridge.org) under "elizabethray2".

Our dog, Bentley, has been a wonderful companion and comfort to

## **In Memory**

Our hearts go out to Joe Kurland, Karen Stalman, Thalia Peletis, and Nancy Lamb on the loss of their beloved partners. These precious companions of ours never live long enough and we are never prepared for when they need to leave us.

With love and sympathy, sleep sweetly dear Jake, Gideon, Seville, and Sammy.



## **2015 Membership Survey**

The Denver Pet Partners leadership team would very much like feedback from our members on how well DPP is meeting your needs. We want to make sure we are doing a good job of communicating DPP's mission and work to members, potential members, and our client organizations. As we reach out to recruit new member teams to meet the ever-growing need for our caring service, having this information is key.

As mentioned in a previous email from Carol Lynn, one of our board members will be contacting you within the next few weeks to get your survey input. They will reach out to you to schedule convenient times to call. Please click [here](#) if you would like to see the survey in advance to

me. Bentley and I are back visiting at Fort Logan and with our "Chatfield family".

*Arnold Ray*

## DU Learning Session

Tuesday, October 13, 6-9pm

# Institute for Human · Animal Connection



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

There is still time to RSVP for our next learning session at Craig Hall with Professor Philip Tedeschi and the GSSW students at the University of Denver's Institute for Human-Animal Connection:

**"Working in complex settings with children and adults with a wide range of trauma-disrupted histories"**

Agenda format to include formal academic learning session delivered by Philip, followed by breakout groups with students and faculty that will include role play and examples of specific methods for using AAT with vulnerable populations. This learning experience is highly recommended for teams working with at-risk individuals and in child welfare and family preservation settings. Registered therapy animals are welcome.

Please RSVP via Evite or by clicking [here](#).

## National Literacy Initiative

For the second year in a row, Denver Pet Partners was invited to the Colorado State Library/Colorado Department of Education in downtown Denver to participate in "Outside the Lines," a national literacy initiative that focuses on all the unexpected experiences happening in libraries today.

One hundred and twenty-five 2nd and 3rd graders from Cherry Creek's Holly Ridge Elementary read to eight of our teams: Laura

give you time to think about your answers (or to return the survey without taking time on the phone). Or feel free to fill out the survey and email it back to [carollynnt@denverpetpartners.org](mailto:carollynnt@denverpetpartners.org) or mail it in to DPP: P.O. Box 271505, Littleton, CO 80127.

We appreciate your help.

## HOLIDAY PARTY UPDATE

After very careful consideration and conversations with several new and long-time members, we have decided to change the timing of our Annual Volunteer Appreciation & Holiday Party.

As many of you know, DPP will be celebrating our 15th Anniversary in 2016. We thought a summer-time party would make for a great opportunity to celebrate this milestone and honor our founder, Diana McQuarrie. The holidays are already a busy time for most of us and a change will *hopefully* enable many members who have had to decline in the past to join us for this very special event. We have secured a beautiful facility in Golden that can accommodate 100+ people. They are flexible with dates, so we would welcome your feedback as we try to secure a date that would suit as many members and guests as possible.

If you have any questions, comments or if you would like to be part of the planning committee, please contact Mandy Bell by [email](#) or 303-523-2355.

## Save the Date

October 3: [Handler Training Course](#)

October 3: Memorial/Celebration for Betty Ray

October 13: [DU Learning Session](#)

October 17-18: [Team Evaluations](#)

Ackerman and Addie, Kimberly Burton and Riley, Margot and Jeet Hunjan and Dudley, Nazli Nomanbhoy and Olive, Jean Nichols and Doophous, Anne Przybyla and Molly, Allison Schovee and Abby, and Maryann Vogt and Fern. Children also made a dog puppet, and attended a special storytime on the lawn of the Capitol, with librarians from Denver Public Library, and a special guest reader, the Cat-in-the-Hat.



## Thoughts & Prayers

Long-time DPP member, **Laura French-Weathford** and her husband, Ed, need our support after Laura was diagnosed with a brain tumor just a few weeks ago. She is currently recovering from surgery at Swedish Medical Center and asks us for “the powerful prayers of Denver Pet Partners Teams”. She wanted to share how much she and Kona have loved being a part of our organization and has the highest hopes to return next year. Please join us and help make Laura’s wish to continue with DPP and the rest of her



## DPP LOGO-WEAR STORE OPENING SOON!

We are currently finalizing a storefront through Lands' End Business Outfitters with a large selection of t-shirts, polos, vests, fleeces, and other items. Members will be able to order items directly online. Stay tuned for more information.

In addition, new DPP vests can be ordered at anytime through our vendor Raspberry Fields, click [here](#). Contact [Marla Yetka](#) if you need more information.



Picture perfect models Laura Ackerman and Addie.

## Your Newsletter

What would you like to share with fellow DPP members? We are always looking for relevant news articles, personal experiences or photos.

Submit to [newsletter@denverpetpartners.org](mailto:newsletter@denverpetpartners.org)

## Contact Information

Not sure who to contact when you need help? Email [info@denverpetpartners.org](mailto:info@denverpetpartners.org) anytime and your message will be forwarded appropriately for response. Please allow 24-48 hours for reply.

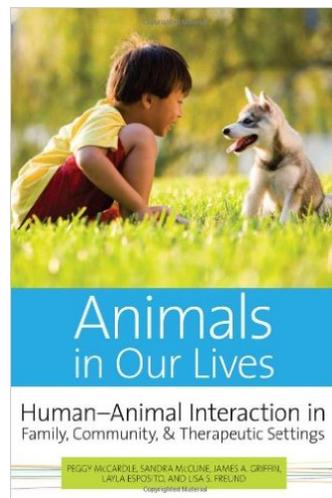
beautiful life come true.

Laura can be reached at: [apetspall@aol.com](mailto:apetspall@aol.com) or 9551 Bexley Drive, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126.

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## Book Recommendation

*Animals in Our Lives: Human-Animal Interaction in Family, Community, & Therapeutic Settings* by Peggy McCardle.



Buy from Amazon Smile [here](#).

### In AAI News

The Human Animal Bond Research Initiative (HABRI) announces results of first research project. This new study of Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI) in trauma treatment finds reduced depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic new study of animal stress. Read more [here](#).

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