

Companions, Inc.



Paws for a Cause since 1986

The Tailwagger

October 2022

What's Happening with Companions Inc.?

October is a great time for Companions, Inc. whether it is rainy or snowy or just maybe sunny!

Our ANNUAL MEETING AND PARTY
will be held on Tuesday, October 25 at 7:00
pm at the Denali Center. Arrive at 6:30 to
get your refreshments, visit with friends
and pay your dues!
Meeting will start promptly at 7:00!

Please plan to wear your face mask (not the Halloween kind) but also feel free to dress up as much as you want, and your Companions dog is invited to come in or out of costume, too. There will be an annual costume contest in a fun variety of categories.

We have not held this party since 2019, so come prepared to greet old and new friends! Our visits are usually just individuals with dogs, so this is a fun chance to meet each other and for the dogs to do the all-important butt sniffing! *What other organization outright encourages THAT?!*
Your Companions dues, a low \$20 per year, are also due now and can be paid by cash, check or credit card at the meeting. You can also mail a check or pay by credit on our website.



Each year at the annual meeting, we honor our volunteers by the number of years they have been members, with or without a current pet. There is a special group that we have dubbed The All Stars because they were the founding members and got this wonderful nonprofit off the ground. Recently, Cathy Erland was in town for a visit, so Bobbi and Maria were able to capture a picture with a partial gathering of The All Stars.

L to R Front: Cathy Alden, Chelsea Walker, Linda Bruemmer;
Rear: Pam Brandt, Diana Lecorchik, Maria DeBaun, Cathy Erland, Melanie Hinzman, Bobbi Ross

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TRAINING TIPS!

Article Abstract: **Preparing Your Pet for Therapy Animal Work** (June 6, 2022 <https://petpartners.org/blog/preparing-your-pet-for-therapy-animal-work-2/>)

Are you interested in becoming a therapy animal team with your pet? Or are you already a therapy animal team and striving to be the best handler for your animal? Training is an ongoing process involving both members of the therapy animal team. Preparing your animal for therapy animal work can happen every moment you spend with your animal. "The most important aspect of a successful therapy animal is their temperament; but they'll also need some preparation for the kinds of experiences they'll have during therapy animal visits."

Pet Partners has put together a few preparation suggestions for aspiring therapy animal teams. Concepts covered include: socialization; consistency in handling; a trusting relationship; training tips; aptitude and interest considerations; and much more. For the full article, please go to www.petpartners.org and search "preparing your pet" or visit: <https://petpartners.org/blog/preparing-your-pet-for-therapy-animal-work-2/>



Remember, when you have completed at least six months of two visits per month to our other sites, you and your pet are welcome to add Fairbanks Memorial Hospital to your places to visit. But before that, you need to take the "zoom" class "Handling Skills for Safe Visits" which prepares you for therapy animal visits in the hospital setting.

**HANDLING SKILLS FOR SAFE VISITS
via Zoom, Wednesday, November 2
6:00-7:30 pm**

This is a FREE virtual mini workshop for current therapy animal handlers and people interested in becoming therapy animal

This is a scenario-based approach, you'll explore core handling skills and practice effective responses to a variety of situations that will ensure safe visits for you, your animal and your clients

**To register or for more information visit:
<https://petpartners.org/>**



Board Notes

by Pam Sprout, President

Hi fellow Companions and friends!

We are excited to announce that two or three folks contact us from our website each month wanting more information on how to join! They are passing their CGC tests, completing the FMH volunteer paperwork, and getting screened. We hope to have some new teams visiting our various visitation spots very soon!

We feel like word of mouth is our best advertising, so again we are asking **you** to tell everyone you know about the advantages of pet therapy and Companions in particular. We find ourselves telling people in line at the grocery store or post office, and they are interested!

We seem to be well known in Fairbanks, but **we still need to convince people to join.**

Another way you could help us is by telling everyone on staff at your own vets' office to spread the word. Tell them to look out for well behaved dogs and other pets and to encourage their owners to contact us. Although a lot of our members are retired people, visits can be done in the evenings and on weekends, so you can set your own schedule. All breeds and sizes are welcome, as long as their behavior is calm and they pass the screening.

We have Companions business cards, printed flyers, copies of an information sheet with tear-off tabs with our phone number to be hung at vets' offices or other places that deal with pets. If you would like copies of any of this so you can help us by posting them, please call our number! (907) 687-4247

The very best thing you can do is remember to make your visits at least two times per month, to the Denali Center, The Pioneer Home, the Senior Center at Shoppers Forum, and the hospital.

If you can visit more often, all the better.

Thank you!

From “Keep Your Pets Safe & Warm”

by Dr. Barbara Royal, DVM

Shortened walks may make pets lose muscle tone and conditioning. Provide options/creative ways to keep pets healthy in cold weather – we have a land treadmill and UWT here, or play games indoors – hide treats, fetch, walking over rolled up towels, on couch cushions on floor...

Coconut oil for dry flakey skin (1 tsp for a 20# dog, 1 tbsp for dogs >50# – even cats may like a little) and don’t overbathe in winter – use Murphy’s oil soap to keep skin oils intact. Joint supplements are more important in cold weather. Omegas and turmeric, even a little cinnamon for warming.

Make noise when you start your car (cats find car engines warm places to sleep at night) – honk the horn, bang the hood, check under your car!

More pets get lost in winter! Ice and snow can affect sense of smell/landmarks – pets can get lost more easily. Be sure you have a microchip and collar on your pet!

Use Pet-safe de-icers on your sidewalk and stairs. Try to use booties/musher’s wax on feet. If they are barefoot on sidewalks with street salt — wipe down paws after walks – salts can be toxic if they lick up too much.



Yes!

We would love to have some CATS, BUNNIES, or other gentle pets in our membership. People ask for their visits! If you know of a cat purr-fect for this or another animal contact us!



Run With a Friend

Thank you to all our members and their friends who showed up for this event!

Stay tuned for next year’s run AND games!





Friends who have crossed The Rainbow Bridge



Allison's dog Lady lived a long (but never long enough) happy life that included visiting with Companions, and she passed peacefully. Allison is going to stay with Companions, knowing there are many ways to help even if you no longer have a pet.



"From the gentleman at the bar."

Board Members

President

Pam Sprout [.pampace@mac.com](mailto:pampace@mac.com)

Vice President position vacant

Recording Secretary

Betsey Jacobs

Treasurer

Shirley Winther

Other Board Members

Maria DeBaun

Jamie Marschner

Bobbi Ross

Kate Lamal

Daisy Huang

Companions, Inc.

PO Box 73601

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

(907) 687-4247 call or text



Easy Peanut Butter and Bacon Dog Treats

(Recipe adapted from [Doggy Dessert Chef](#))

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 cup soy milk (can substitute regular milk)
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1/4 cup bacon bits

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. Combine all ingredients in large bowl until mixed. Knead the dough into a ball and then roll onto a floured surface until it is 1/4 inch thick. Slice into squares. Put the treats on a cookie sheet.
3. Bake the treats for 15-20 minutes or until slightly browned.
Cool before serving and refrigerate.

