

Companions, Inc.



Paws for a Cause since 1986



The Tailwagger

October 2025

Fairbanks, Alaska

ANNUAL COMPANIONS, INC. MEMBERSHIP MEETING & COSTUME PARTY

TUESDAY OCT. 28 5:45 - 9:00 PM

McGown and Kiewit Rooms, first floor South end,
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital

NEW EVENT THIS YEAR DOGGY COSTUME PARADE THROUGH THE HOSPITAL !



Please arrive about 5:45, as the parade will start promptly at 6:00, so that we can fit in visits to all the areas that have requested us. This is NOT a time to make side visits, we must be in a group.

Dogs must all be on leashes for this parade. Dogs will be given treats at the various stations.

No costume for you or your dog? Don't worry, you can just wear your Companions bib and shirt and join us. Join us even if you have no dog! But please **wear a name tag** so we can all get to know each other!

After the parade, we will meet back in the McGown Room for individual employees to visit and get doggy love, aka pet therapy!

We will have delicious Great Harvest sandwiches and cookies, bring other treats if you want.

The Board of Directors will give an overview of this most successful year yet and we will elect board members. We will present awards to the Volunteer of the Year (most visits) and the Volunteer of the Year (above and beyond service) as well as the Business Partner of the Year. Every year Companions awards fund to local organizations promoting the cause of pet therapy and education. This year we will present two checks to outstanding local dog organizations. *In addition, we will donate \$500 to Bethel Friends of Canines (see p. 2)*

In the past two years we have more than doubled our membership numbers. Because of that, we have added many sites and have more waiting for approval. Please come celebrate YOU and YOUR DOGS!

This is our thank YOU party!

COMPANIONS WILL HELP WITH RESCUE EFFORTS FOLLOWING TYPHOON HALONG

Several of our members have reached out to ask if Companions is going to help in some way with the recovery efforts following Typhoon Halong. The Board of Directors has approved donating \$500 of the money we raised at PAD directly to Bethel Friends of Canines. They are trying as much as possible to reunite families and their pets. If families are in non-pet shelters, BFC will try to get them fostered nearby to enable visits. There are currently 15 of these evacuated and now at least temporary foster dogs now housed in Fairbanks. For fostering, contact local rescue nonprofits. All efforts will be made to reunite pets with their owners.

We will also have a donation jar at the annual meeting on the 28th, if you'd like to donate cash or a check to Bethel Friends of Canines, we will pass it along with our donation. Alternately, you can donate directly on their website, bethelfriendsofcanines.com



And speaking of money, remember your annual dues are due now. Regular membership is \$30 per year. You can pay at the meeting or online at the website. Thanks for staying current!

Welcome new Companions!!



Brenda Richard and her dogs
Polar and Bo



Lucy & Bob Andresen and
lovely (pregnant!) Peabody



Shana Edwin and her darling
Taffy

Do you have questions about where and when to do visits? Read on:

Q: I have a friend in the hospital. Can I just take my Companions dog to visit my friend?

A: IF you have made at least 2 visits per month to either the Denali Center or Pioneer Home, you can start visiting the hospital AFTER you follow this step: Call Tamara Stumpf at Volunteer Services (907) 459-5599 and tell her you have met the requirements and she will give you the information, AFTER which you can visit all the places allowed in FMH.

Q: I am taking my dog to the Denali Center or Pioneer Home twice a month, but I haven't been going for 6 months yet. But I'm seeing posts for other places that sound fun. Can I visit those places even if I haven't been a member for 6 months?

A: YES! These sites are for *everyone who is a current member to visit with their dog!* This is a great way for you to learn where your dog likes it best! Some are nearby, some further away. All will be advertised on our Signup.com page, so be sure to watch for emails about this. Some people sign up very quickly for their favorite sites! As always, dogs MUST wear their bibs, you must wear a bright blue Companions shirt and name tag. If the site needs swag, we will give it to you to distribute. Please advertise for us!

Companions, Inc. is becoming well known in Fairbanks, and we are adding visitation sites as we can. Before we can approve a site, the Board of Directors needs to research it to be sure it will be a good fit for our purpose of promoting human-animal companionship and the benefits of pet therapy. Sometimes these are one-of-a-kind visits, such as our recent invitation to be present at the UAF library for a dog mushing presentation, or when we are invited to present to the students at the Veterinary College at UAF. Others are monthly or on a regularly scheduled basis. Be sure to read your emails from Companions to know about these! Some fill up really quickly, and some are slower. It's your job to read this newsletter and our emails to know what's going on!!

So what are some of the other places we can visit regularly?

NOTE: You do NOT have to have been a member for 6 months to do these visits. Join in!

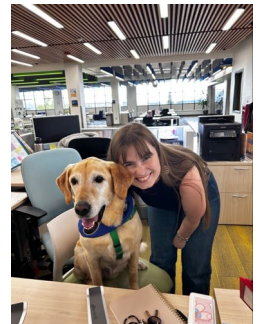
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER, UAF Rasmuson Library, 6th Floor

On average we go twice a month, on pre-established Wednesdays, between noon and 3pm.

Duration of visits they'd like (no more than 2 hours but *ALWAYS depends on dog's needs*): We do two shifts of 1.5 hours each, with 2 dogs at each shift.

This beautiful space combines academic advising, tutoring, the writing center, study areas, academic coaching, a study room for parents with small children, a space to practice presentations, and much more. Dogs will be in the open study area providing love and relieving stress.

Please note: Parking is not provided by the Student Success Center, but is typically available for a fee in the parking lot in front of Signers Hall, which is just in front of the Rasmuson Library.



PAWS FOR FINALS, at UAF, Rasmuson Library at UAF, 4th (main) floor lobby

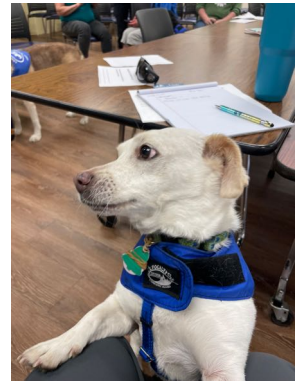
Companions members bring our dogs for two consecutive days the week before finals. We have found there are more students that week, with online finals a thing these days.

Companions sets up two-hour blocks for each dog from 1pm to 3pm, 3pm to 5pm, and 5pm to 7pm. Ideally we'd like to have three dogs for each 2 hour block. If your dog can only do one hour, do that. Maybe find another Companion to share your Time slot.

Look for email to Signup, or go to our Signup.com listings.

UAF labels the two parking places closest to the library for our Finals visits. *NOTE: The parking slots are NOT reserved for the SSC visits.*

[Contact person at the UAF Library is Wendy Frandsen. wfrandsen@alaska.edu, only for emergencies]



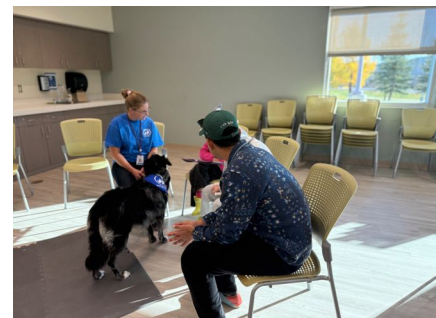
READ TO A DOG! North Pole Library, one scheduled Saturday per month, 1:00 - 3:00pm

We request three dogs for this, but if your dog can only do an hour, you can split a shift with a friend, or just let us know you can only do one hour. The dogs can easily exit through a side door in the multipurpose room where visits are held, if they need a break. As always, dogs wear bibs and leashes, you wear Companions blue shirt & a name tag!

The library sets up cozy mats and provides chairs for kids and families to visit and read to dogs. They provide a stack of books at various reading levels. If your dog likes to play with toys with other people, *feel free to bring their toys*. The kids love to see the dogs playing as well as listening! Yes, if your dog does tricks, they can show off here!

Although it is enjoyable to visit with other Companions, we ask that when families are there, you pay attention to your dog and the kids around them. Likewise, if your dog wants to play with the other dogs, maybe take them out for a few minutes before or after your visit!

The librarians are Stephanie and Rebecca, but Pam Sprout is contact person. Text (907) 590-9824 if any problems.



SENIOR CENTER LUNCH-TIME VISITS, Senior Center, 1424 Moore St.

Visits with seniors coming for lunch and social time

Companions visits happen **in the carpeted area** by the entrance to the dining room, chair provided for the human

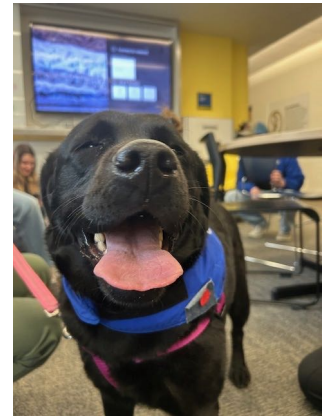
Visits are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30am-12:30 pm

Slots are on the Signup.com site, watch for new openings

As always, be sure your dog is on a 4-foot leash in this food service area, sorry no begging!!

Emergency Companions contact for this site is Joan McGlinchy.

Note: These photos are not from the Senior Center



VISITS WITH VETERANS

Fairbanks Vet Center, 1st floor, Alaska Club Bldg. 751 Old Richardson Hwy.

*Visits are not on a regular basis but rather on open houses and special events so **this is NOT a drop in visit site***

Next visit request is for their **Veterans day event on Friday, Nov 7th from noon to 3pm**

They would like 2 dogs from 12-1:30 and 2 different dogs from 1:30-3pm. Look for slots in Signup.com!

There is a main visiting room but there are other rooms in the main lobby area to walk around and visit in. Light finger food or sandwiches are often served but they have no problem with the pets being in that area.

Last time we sat and visited with Vets and guests in their main lobby as well as the main room where the tables and chairs are. As long as your dog is on leash, you can walk around with them or sit, as you prefer.

Emergency contact person for this site is Glenner.



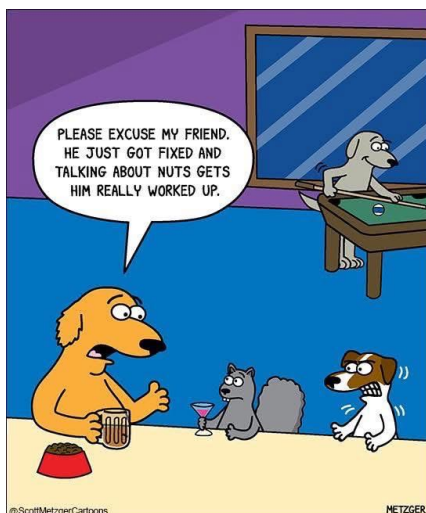
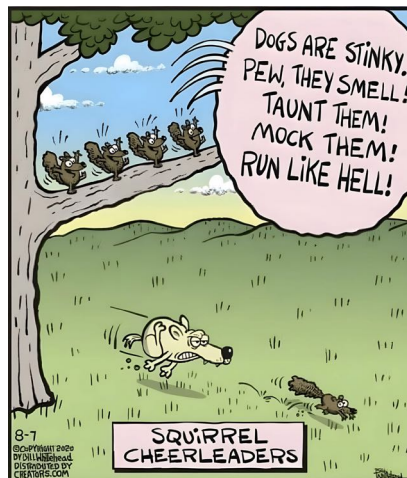
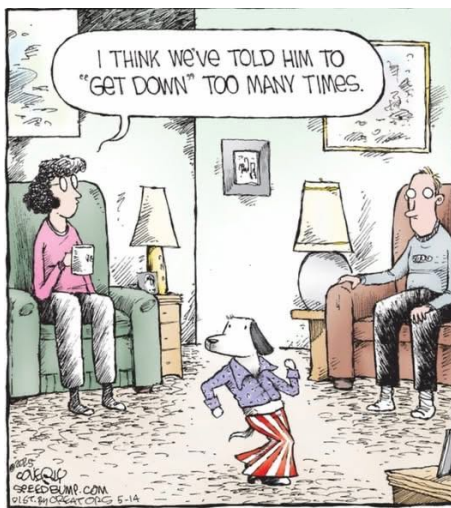
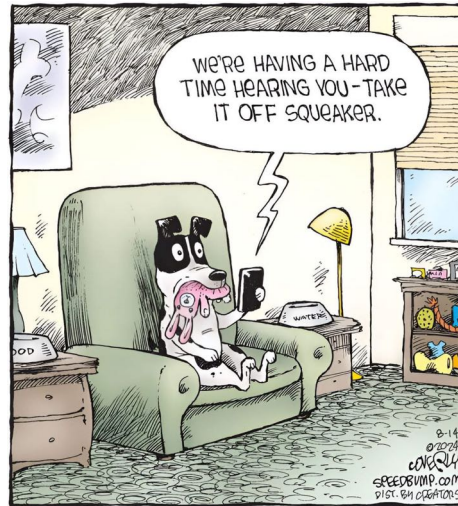
Our friend
who has crossed
The Rainbow
Bridge

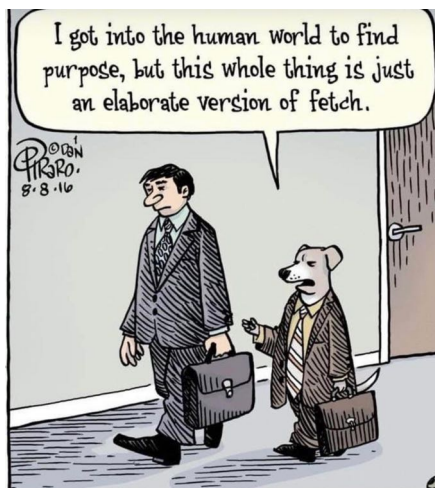


Fen,
beloved pet of Larry
King & Mary Sackinger
has gone to join his fellow
Companions

Several of you have commented on how much you enjoy the cartoons. I must admit, I enjoy finding and saving these, but they are piling up! So here you go, a couple of pages of cartoons that might remind you of someone you know!

-Pam





Board Members:

President Kate Lamal
katelamal@gmail.com
Text (907) 388-7102

Vice President Pam Sprout
Recording Secretary Jamie Marschner
Treasurer Shirley Winther

Other Board Members

Erin Parcher-Wartes Dave Stewart
Joan Mc Glinchy Daisy Huang
Maria Anderson



Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Volunteer Services,
Tamara Stumpf (907) 458-5599



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