



# USA THERAPY DOGS, INC.

Serving with Compassion and Pride

## VICE PRESIDENT POSITION

All the nominees have been submitted for the Vice President position. In the month of February President, Jarod Boyles, will contact each one of the nominees to see if they accept the nomination or not. Once the nominees have declined or accepted, members will be notified by email who the nominees are and voting will take place the first week of March. All voting will take place on the USA Therapy Dogs website. The new Vice President will be announced at the USA TD All members meeting in March.

The current Vice President, Diane Noblett is willing to work with the new VP until June 1, 2015.

## ALL MEMBERS MEETING

**DATE:** MARCH 15, 2015  
**TIME:** 3:00 PM TO 5:00 PM  
**PLACE:** MD's Sports Tavern & Grill  
 3040 N. State Rd.  
 Davison, MI



## REQUESTS FOR THERAPY DOGS

There are many requests for therapy dog teams this year, if you are interested in visiting one of the following facilities please contact the person noted.

### **STONE GATE—LAPEER**

Every other Monday—10 am to 11 am  
 Next visit November 10th  
 Contact Diane Noblett at: [dmnoblett@charter.net](mailto:dmnoblett@charter.net)

### **HEAD START LAPEER OR IMLAY CITY**

Contact Diane Noblett at: [dmnoblett@charter.net](mailto:dmnoblett@charter.net)  
 Wednesday 10-11 am or 1-2 pm session  
 Thursday 10-11 am or 1-2 pm session  
 Runs through May 2015

### **CENTRAL ELEMENTARY—DAVISON**

Reading Program  
 Contact Ann Bruno—text 810-240-5024  
 Days and Times vary

### **ANDERSON ELEMENTARY**

Contact: Dawn Davis, 810-591-5860  
 5290 Leroy  
 Grand Blanc, MI 48439

## USA THERAPY DOGS, INC. AND McLAREN HOSPICE

USA Therapy Dogs is now partnering with McLaren Hospice. If Handler/Therapy dog teams would like to get involved with this wonderful program please contact Matthew Meeuwse from McLaren Hospice for the details.

[Matthew.Meeuwse@mcclaren.org](mailto:Matthew.Meeuwse@mcclaren.org)  
(810) 496-8757

### PHOTO OF YOUR THERAPY DOG ON A BASEBALL CARD

**Photo Factory**—makes baseball type cards with your therapy dog's picture on it. The children at the schools love them and so do the seniors in nursing homes and assistant living homes.

[www.photofactoryusa.com/](http://www.photofactoryusa.com/)

[www.customsportscards.com](http://www.customsportscards.com) Also does postcards and baseball cards with your dog's information on it...they have given discounts to therapy dogs in the past, ask before placing your order.



Our beloved dogs become our confidants, our safety blankets, our protectors and our companions. They do not judge us, criticize us or make us feel incompetent. They love us no matter what we look like, smell like, feel like, they don't care how much money we make or don't make. We are heroes in their eyes. They are always happy to see us no matter what the circumstances. When they are gone we have a wonderful beautiful lasting memory of their love and loyalty, their "specialness". They help us to stay focused and to carry on even though our hearts are breaking. The pain and grief will pass to some degree, in time, but the memories will live forever.....

Diane

#### ***In Memory of our USA THERAPY DOGS who are no longer with us:***

***Pearl***, Handler: Ken Hershberber, Graduate Fall 2010 Class (passed away July 2012)

***Brody***, Handler: Chis Hope, Graduate Spring 2012 Class (Stolen January 2013)

***Walter, Jr.*** Handler: Zac Childs, Graduate Fall 2010 Class (passed away December 2012)

***Cinnamon***, Handler: Shannon Seamons, Graduate Spring 2011 Class (passed away 2013)

***Daisy***, Handler: Diana Binder, Graduate Fall 2010 Class (passed away December 2013)

***Magnum***, Handler: Mike Binder, Graduate Fall 2010 Class (passed away March 2014)

***Brook***, Handler: Bethany Thompson, Graduate Spring 2012 class (passed away November 2014)

**SUGGESTIONS OF PLACES TO VISIT:  
(MEMBERS ARE CURRENTLY VISITING)**

**Cranberry Park Memory Care**  
1346 W. Vienna Rd  
Clio, MI  
contact Sharon Vessells 810-640-7783

**Stonegate Health Campus**  
DeMille Rd.  
Lapeer, MI  
Contact: Sue Bogan, Life Enrichment Director  
810-245-9300

**Brookdale Senior Living**  
Sterling House of Davison  
432 East Clark Street  
Davison, MI 48423  
Contact: Keri Achenbach- Life Enrichment  
Coordinator -Phone: (810)658-7100

**Lapeer County Medical Care (also known as  
SUNCREST)**  
1455 Suncrest Dr, Lapeer, MI 48446  
Contact USA TD members who visit there  
Tuesday evenings:  
Jill and Ray Burke: Ray's cell 845-2605 & Jill  
441-9464.

**McLaren Hospice – Facilities all over the state  
of Michigan, therapy dog teams will be placed  
closest to their homes**  
Contact: Matthew Meeuwse (810) 496-8757  
Matthew.Meeuwse@mclaren.org

**Hands of Hope Child Care Center, it is part of  
Grace Centers of Hope**  
Pontiac, MI  
Jodi Slonga, Director  
email: jslongo@gracecentersofhope.com  
248-334-2187 ext. 1301

**During School Season – September through  
June**

**Central Elementary – Reading Program**  
Davison, MI  
Contact: Ann Bruno, Coordinator for Reading  
Program 810-240-5024

**Gates Elementary**  
2359 S Irish Rd  
Davison, MI 48423  
Contact: Julie Allen for more information 810-  
265-4276



**CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
AFTER SCHOOL READING PROGRAM**

Handlers/Therapy Dogs are encouraged to join the after school reading program at Central Elementary School, 600 S. State Rd. (M15), Davison, MI  
Central Elementary School Reading program information:  
Starts Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 3:35 pm to 4:35 pm  
Every Tuesday for 4 weeks  
Please call or text Ann Bruno at 810-240-5024 to sign up.





## TOP 10 WINTER SKIN AND PAW CARE TIPS

Information taken from: ASCPA online

Exposure to winter's dry, cold air and chilly rain, sleet and snow can cause chapped paws and itchy, flaking skin, but these aren't the only discomforts pets can suffer. Winter walks can become downright dangerous if chemicals from ice-melting agents are licked off of bare paws.

Says Dr. Louise Murray, Vice President of the ASPCA Animal Hospital, "During the winter, products used as de-icers on sidewalks and other areas can lead to trouble for our animal companions, potentially causing problems ranging from sore feet to internal toxicity. Pet parents should take precautions to minimize their furry friends' exposure to such agents."

To help prevent cold weather dangers from affecting your pet's paws and skin, please heed the following advice from our experts:

- Repeatedly coming out of the cold into the dry heat can cause itchy, flaking skin. Keep your home humidified and towel dry your pet as soon as he comes inside, paying special attention to his feet and in between the toes.
- Trim long-haired dogs to minimize the clinging of ice balls, salt crystals and de-icing chemicals that can dry on the skin. (Don't neglect the hair between the toes!)
- Bring a towel on long walks to clean off stinging, irritated paws. After each walk, wash and dry your pet's feet to remove ice, salt and chemicals—and check for cracks in paw pads or redness between the toes.
- Bathe your pets as little as possible during cold spells. Washing too often can remove essential oils and increase the chance of developing dry, flaky skin. If your pooch must be bathed, ask your vet to recommend a moisturizing shampoo and/or rinse.
- Dressing your pet in a sweater or coat will help to retain body heat and prevent skin from getting dry.
- Booties help minimize contact with painful salt crystals, poisonous anti-freeze and chemical ice-melting agents. They can also help prevent sand and salt from getting lodged in between bare toes, causing irritation. Use pet-friendly ice melts whenever possible.
- Massaging petroleum jelly into paw pads before going outside helps to protect from salt and chemical agents. And moisturizing after a good toweling off helps to heal chapped paws.
- Brushing your pet regularly not only gets rid of dead hair, but also stimulates blood circulation, improving the skin's overall condition.
- Pets burn extra energy by trying to stay warm in wintertime, sometimes causing dehydration. Feeding your pet a little bit more during the cold weather and making sure she has plenty of water to drink will help to keep her well-hydrated, and her skin less dry.
- Remember, if the weather's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your pet. Animal companions should remain indoors as much as possible during the winter months and never be left alone in vehicles when the mercury drops.

If you spot wounds or redness on your pet's feet, please contact your veterinarian immediately.



**USA THERAPY DOGS, INC.  
STAFF MEMBERS**

**President:** Jarod Boyles  
**Vice President:** Diane Noblett  
**Secretary:** Kathy Fridline  
**Treasurer:** Brenda Begley  
**Lead Trainer:** Daphne Stover  
**Lead Medical Officer:** Ann Bruno  
**Events Coordinating Team:** Diane Sills  
**Communications Coordinator:** Diane Noblett  
**Fundraiser Coordinator:** VACANT



**Assistant Trainers:**  
 Nancy Hall  
 Mark Harries  
 Beth Harries  
 Alice Malkowyck  
 Mike Binder  
 Greg Palmer  
 Julie Allen  
 Anisa Gordon  
 Ann Bruno



**(810) 412-4700**  
**Delmar Childs, DVM**  
<http://www.childsvetclinic.com>



[www.westwindsaints.com](http://www.westwindsaints.com)



**WISH LIST**

The following items are needed for USA TD. If you can donate any of these much needed items please call Jarod Boyles 810-569-2506 to arrange for pick up.

**POOH HAPPENS**  
**"Pet Waste Removal"**



248-462-4948

**Light weight banquette tables**  
 2 - 8 foot  
 1 - card table— only light weight  
 4 - light weight canvas tailgating type fold up chairs

**Overhead projector** to attach to lap top computer.

**Shelving** made from wire—for storage unit

**Lap Top Computer** or external hard drive

**Gift Certificate** to Staples or office store for office supplies.

**Donations for Raffles/Auctions for Fundraisers** ongoing need.

**Member Diane Sills will now be USA TD Events Coordinator starting January 2015. Thank you Diane for stepping up!**

Just a reminder: The USA TD Veterinary Authorization form is the only form that will be acceptable for annual renewal. As you update your 2015 veterinary records and county dog license make sure that you keep your originals and make copies to send in with your annual USA Therapy Dog Renewal. The USA TD vet authorization form is downloadable from the website. Go to the forms tab at [usatherapydogs.org](http://usatherapydogs.org). Please take a copy to your veterinarian's office to be filled out, signed, stamped and dated. USA TD annual renewal is June 30, 2015. You will receive a reminder prior to the renewal date.