



Rx:PETS



Rx:Pets Board Members:

President: Donna Conrad

Vice President: Diana Stockwell

Treasurer: Kathleen Sharkey

Secretary: Ginny Ammerman

R.E.A.D. Director: Katy Yoder

Redding Director: Beverly Nelson

Redding Director: Pam Valentine

Eureka Director: Jane Hansen

Prescription: Pets' Mission: To enhance the quality of life and health for the Northern California community by sharing the human animal bond through animal assisted activities.

Facility Spotlight:

Teams Wanted at Oakdale Heights

Cat Favero is the activities director at Oakdale Heights and recently became a Pet Partner® and member of Rx:Pets. After seeing how the clients at Oakdale Heights responded to her dog Callie (a Yellow Lab and McNab mix), she decided she wanted to join and recruit other Rx:Pets members to visit with her. Cat says that the clients at her facility absolutely love animals and love it when they visit. There are about sixty, mostly high functioning, residents at Oakdale heights. Currently, Jennifer Dollard and her dog Argus have been the only other regular visiting team. Because of the enthusiasm by the residents



Oakdale Heights is located in West Redding off of Quartz Hill Rd.

for more interactions with animals, Cat is hoping to increase that number. The visiting schedule is the second Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. They usually hold a Meet and Greet for between ten and fifteen people. Please give Cat a call if you would like to join her at 241-6047. She'd love it if you did. Oakdale Heights is located on the intersection of Quartz Hill and Benton. Cat also says that if you can't make the regular visiting schedule time, that you can always drop by for a room to room visit as long as you give her a call first.

Important Dates:

Upcoming Activities:

Healthfest:

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012

Riverfront Playhouse:

Thurs., June 7th, 2012, 2:30 pm

Quarterly Meetings:

Saturday, 1/28/2012, 9:00 am

Saturday, 5/5/2012, 9:00 am

Next Workshop Date:

Redding:

Tues. 2/7/2012, 6-8 pm,

Fri. 2/17/2012, 6-9 pm,

Sat. 2/18/2012, 9 am -5 pm

Coaching Sessions:

Sat. 3/10/2012, by apt.

Wed. 3/14/2012 by apt.

Evaluation Dates:

Redding:

Sat., Mar. 31, 2012 @ 9:00 am

Place: North Valley School

Eureka:

Dates: TBA

Place: Adult Health Services

Thank You North Valley School

A special thank you to North Valley School in south Redding for allowing us to use their gymnasium to conduct the Pet Partner® team evaluations. We have been using their facility for about ten years and they have always been very supportive of our efforts. Although just the thought of testing in that big gymnasium can make some of us break out in a cold sweat, we are most appreciative of their

generosity. Thank you NVS!

With that said, congratulations to our newest members who passed the test and coursework to become part of the Rx:Pets team. Welcome!! We hope that you have been partnered up with your mentor and have been able to start visiting. Please call your mentor if you have any questions. We are happy to have you on board.



You may recognize this mural from the NVS gymnasium.

Pet Partner® Spotlight: Ginny Ammerman & Zoe



Ginny and Zoe inseparable buddies and Pet Partners®.



Ginny Ammerman has been a member of Rx:Pets since 2000. She was part of the very first class and hasn't looked back. She has had three different dogs who have been involved in the program, all of them greyhounds. Her love of greyhounds came after learning that they put the dogs down who were no longer suited for racing. She wanted to step in and prevent that from happening. She adopted all three of her greyhounds through a greyhound rescue group. Two of her greyhounds have since passed away. After losing her last dog, her daughter gave her one of her Corgis (Foxy) to

help stave off the emptiness of being dogless. Foxy was a huge help, but Ginny continued to look to rescue another greyhound. A little over a year ago, Ginny got the call she was waiting for and adopted Zoe, an 8 year old (currently), fifty-five pound, white, female greyhound. Zoe was rescued from a racing facility in Oklahoma City and shipped to California, where Ginny picked her up in Vacaville. Since adopting Zoe, Ginny has watched her become a healthy, happy dog and a special member of the family. She's also worked on training Zoe so that she could become an Rx:Pets team member. The

most difficult part of her training was the "sit". It's a big effort for her to sit (and if you've ever seen a greyhound try to sit you understand), but she can do it. As a result Zoe passed the Rx:Pets test and is now an official Pet Partner®. Since passing, they have been visiting at Mercy Medical Center about once a month. Ginny says that the people they visit are amazed at the size of Zoe. Because she is so tall, she can be pet very easily by the side of the bed. Both the staff and the visitors all enjoy seeing Zoe trotting down the hall. It's quite a sight.

As a side note, Ginny also serves on the Rx:Pets board as the secretary.

Notable News:

Thank You Clare Gaston and Bev Nelson:

Thank you to Clare Gaston for her years of service on the Rx:Pets board. She recently retired as a Redding director, but will continue to support the organization in other ways. Thank you Clare for your dedication and hard work!

Also, welcome to Beverly Nelson who will be filling the director spot vacated by Clare. Thank you for stepping up Bev!

Quarterly Meeting:

Jan. 28, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. is the upcoming quarterly meeting. It will be held in the building on Continental Dr. Please try to attend.

In Memory:

Please take a moment to remember our very special canine and feline friends:

Susie Q. Murphy— Sep. 2011

Newsletter:

We are searching for a new person to take over the newsletter. If you are interested, please contact Katy Harkins at krharkins@gmail.com.

DONATIONS:

If you have made a donation to Rx: Pets in the past, we thank you! We are a non-profit organization and we rely solely on donations. If you would like to make a contribution please mail it to: Rx: Pets, P.O. Box 491501, Redding, CA 96049 Thank You!!!!

Redding Rotary Supports R.E.A.D.®

A very special thank you to the Redding Rotary for their generous donation to the Rx:Pets R.E.A.D.® program. Their support provides a huge boost to our teams and the children we service. It will allow us to continue to promote an enthusiasm for reading by purchasing books that are exciting and motivating. Thank you Redding Rotary for supporting the children of our community!

Our R.E.A.D.® teams will continue to read on the third Saturdays of every month from 12-2 p.m. at the Redding City Library. We have grown to 28 teams and are now servicing 8 schools, with several schools on the waiting list. If you are an Rx:Pets Team and interested in becoming a R.E.A.D.® team, please contact Katy Yoder at katey66@snowcrest.net or

246-3015. It requires reading an at-home study guide and taking a short test that Katy can guide you through. Katy says "The more teams, the merrier". Katy hopes to be able to increase the number of R.E.A.D.® teams and thus the number of children we reach. Go teams!!



Dorothy, Toto, and friend get excited about reading.

