

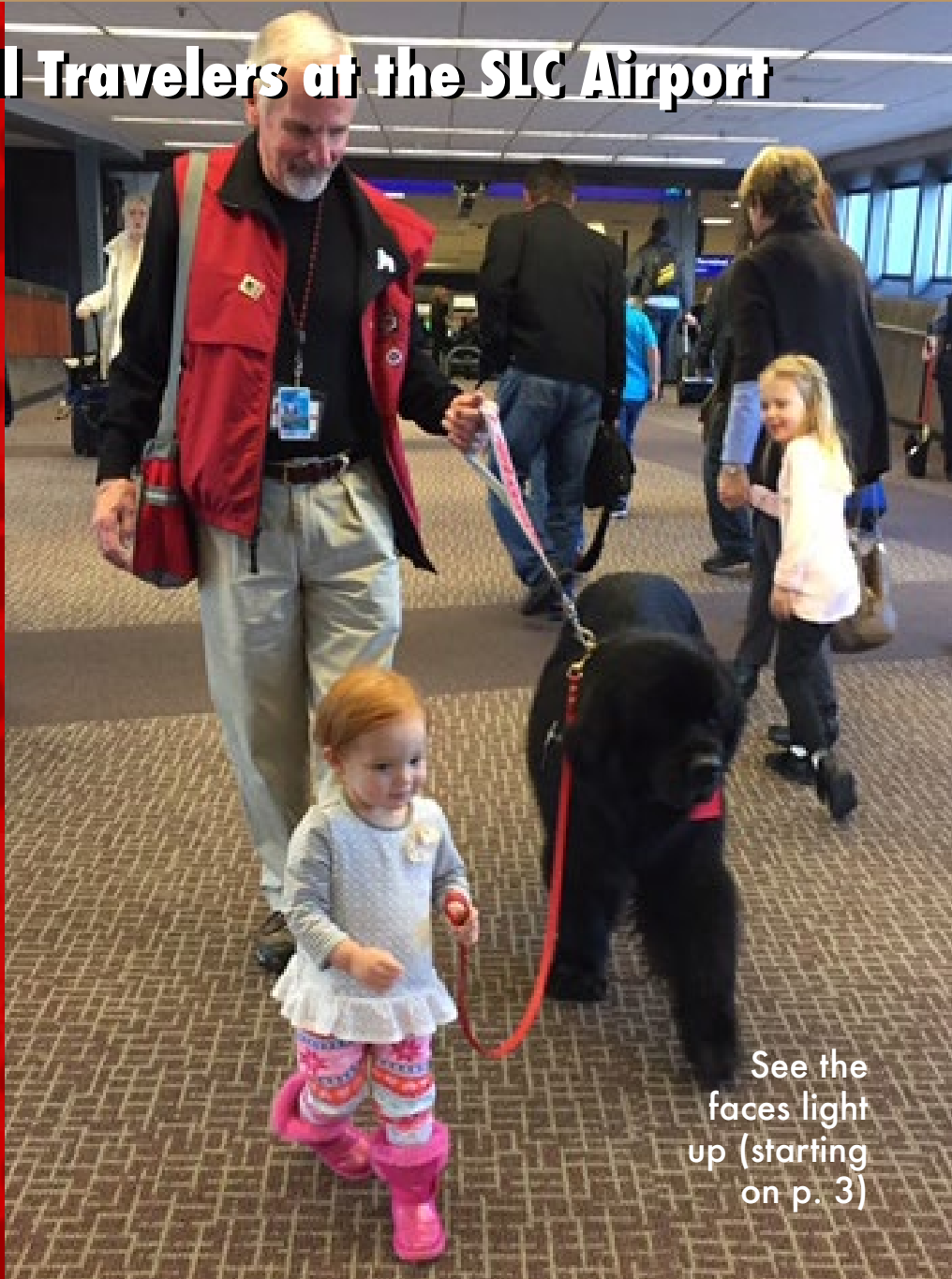
# ITA

SUMMER 2017  
VOLUME XXIII No. 1

# Views

INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS *Quarterly*

## ITA Teams Thrill Travelers at the SLC Airport



See the  
faces light  
up (starting  
on p. 3)



[therapyanimals.org](http://therapyanimals.org)

## Who are Intermountain Therapy Animals?

We are a human service organization, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, headquartered in Utah, that brings the gifts of animal companionship and interaction to people in need. Our mission is to **enhance quality of life through the human/animal bond**. Our volunteers (people and their own pets) make regular visits to those who are physically or developmentally disabled, emotionally or psychologically impaired, lonely or suffering from depression. All services are free of charge to both client and facility.

ITA therapy animals and their handlers are screened, trained, licensed and insured to participate in animal-assisted interactions (AAI), which range from casual and informal to rigorous, goal-driven aspects of formal therapies. Successful teams have completed both health and temperament screening and volunteer training.

Serving our communities since 1993, we are one of the largest groups of our kind in the United States, with more than 350 volunteer teams visiting at more than 150 hospitals, counseling centers, nursing facilities, detention homes, extended care centers, and schools. Chapters of ITA now thrive in Montana, Idaho, and Kentucky.

We are also the founders of Reading Education Assistance Dogs® (R.E.A.D.®), a literacy support program to foster in children the love of books and the reading environment. R.E.A.D. has spread throughout the United States and beyond since we launched it in 1999.

If you would like more information about us and our work, please contact Executive Director Kathy Klotz at 801-272-3439. We welcome all who want to lend a helping paw! ♥





**Intermountain Therapy Animals**  
**4050 South 2700 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84124**  
**(or) P.O. Box 17201, Salt Lake City, Utah 84117**  
**Tel 801-272-3439 • Fax 801-272-3470**  
**Email: ita@therapyanimals.org**  
**www.therapyanimals.org**

We're a  
**Favorite place**  
on Google



### ITA Staff

**Executive Director** : Kathy Klotz (H) 801-277-8271  
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**National R.E.A.D.® Coordinator** : Sue Lee  
**Administrative Services** : Melissa Byrd  
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**Montana (Helena) Coordinators** : CJ Puotinen/Adele Delp  
**Idaho Coordinator** : Connie Sharkey  
**Kentucky Coordinator** : Kay Miller



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 Find R.E.A.D. at:  
[www.facebook.com/ReadingEducationAssistanceDogs](http://www.facebook.com/ReadingEducationAssistanceDogs)

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## ITA Therapy Animals at the Salt Lake City

# Airport

**W**E ALL KNOW THAT AIRLINE TRAVEL IS A LOT MORE STRESSFUL THAN IT USED TO BE. Still, when we were first asked to bring ITA therapy dogs to the SLC International Airport, we were a bit reserved in our enthusiasm. After all, most travelers are not especially ill or lonely or in pain, right? It didn't take us long to realize, as the reports came back from our teams, that just as in hospitals, the sight of a dog at the airport is absolute joy for weary, stressed travelers. Just check out these faces.



(More about our ITA airport teams on the following pages ... )

## From ITA's Board Chair

*Dear Friends,*

I am honored to serve as ITA's Board President, and am fully committed to continuing the most remarkable, almost-24-year journey of Intermountain Therapy Animals.

Although I do not have a therapy animal of my own, my love for animals began at least 60 years ago and has never wavered. I adopted my 13-year-old Border Collie, Charlie, 11 years ago after he was found with bullets in his jaw and shoulder and another which still exists in his shoulder. He has been my greatest ambassador and has been by my side in my capacity as the owner of Pampered Pets of Utah, LLC.

I have a passion for the work that all of our teams accomplish on a daily basis. I can never sing enough praises for all they do and all the lives they have changed and enhanced through animal-assisted therapy. I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

No matter what crises are going on in the world around us, individual people of all ages and socio-economic circumstances receive devastating diagnoses and injuries

every day. Our teams are there to help them re-ignite their hope and enthusiasm for life, inspiring them to move forward on the tough path to healing. Our therapists tell us over and over, year after year, that the animals inspire cooperation, participation and progress that they cannot otherwise get from their patients. And we are good medicine for families and staff, as well.

ITA has grown to be one of the most successful organizations of our kind. But it's a constant challenge, as for all charities big and small, to keep providing these crucial services during these challenging economic times. If you believe in the power of the human-animal bond, we ask for your help to continue helping our patient/clients in over 150 healthcare facilities to heal. Please do all you can to make room for ITA in your budget and your heart. Investing in animal-assisted therapy is a guaranteed Return on Investment—it succeeds every time!

As Board President, I am hoping ITA can count on your support. We need



Jane and Charlie

you now more than ever, so that we can continue to serve thousands of people in our community every year!

With my most sincere thanks,

*Jane Fischer*  
ITA Board President

## Be a part of Intermountain Therapy Animals —With or Without Your Pet

**Yes!** I will help ITA teams continue to bless the lives of so many who need them. Here is my tax-deductible gift:

- \$25 Friend    \$50 Supporter    \$100 Partner    \$250 Advocate  
 \$500 Patron    \$1,000 Benefactor    \$5,000 The 4-Paw Circle

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ENCLOSED    CHARGE:    AMERICAN EXPRESS  

DISCOVER    MC    VISA

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ SECURITY CODE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to Intermountain Therapy Animals:

4050 SOUTH 2700 EAST, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84124 (or) PO BOX 17201, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84117

Your donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Thanks for your support!

You may be able to make your donation to ITA go twice as far. Check to see if your employer will match your contributions. **2x**



Intermountain Therapy Animals (#76194) participates in the Combined Federal Campaign, making it possible for all federal employees to donate to us through their workplace payroll deduction plans.

As always happens in our work, SLC airport staff get as much pleasure from our animals' visits as the travelers.



## About Both Ends of the Leash

### Diane Gunnell & Sasha South Jordan, Utah

Some seven years ago my husband, while delivering his mail route, saw a small brown dog limping down the road. He knew all the dogs that lived in the neighborhood, but he hadn't seen this one before. He stopped and called to her to see if he could check for a sliver in her foot. She limped in his direction but went right past, straight under his vehicle. He tried to coax her out with his sandwich, but eventually had to gently pull her out. She was dirty and smelly, obviously been lost or neglected for quite awhile. She had no license or identity chip. One of his customers was kind enough to take her and call animal control.

My husband called animal control when he got home to see how this dog was doing. He left a message, but no one called back. The next day I called, but no one returned my phone call, either. The next day, my day off, I went in person to animal control to check on her. As soon as she limped into the room, she laid down. My heart melted when I saw how cute she was. I thought about how much pain she must be in since she wouldn't even stand or sit. She was very sweet. I offered to pay if they would take her to

their veterinarian to see what could be done about her leg. The next day we got the results: she was probably about 3-½ months old and her leg was broken. The break was very bad, and probably already about 3 weeks old. The veterinarian said the leg would have to be amputated.

I asked if I could take her to another vet for a second opinion and, based on that, we decided to try surgery, thinking that because she was so young she could always have her leg amputated at a later time if it turned out that she would be better off without it.

Well, no surprise, we decided to adopt her and named her Sasha—and her leg never did grow in the right direction. But we don't regret saving it. She uses it for all kinds of things, even though it faces the wrong direction and she can't put normal weight on it.

When I retired I wanted to spend as much time with Sasha as possible. I also wanted to do some type of volunteer work, so when I heard about Intermountain Therapy Animals, I thought that volunteering for ITA would be a "win-win" for both Sasha and me.



It has been very rewarding. It makes me so happy to see Sasha's effect on the people she comes in contact with. And I like thinking that when other people see how valuable Sasha is, maybe they will be kinder and more appreciative of all dogs (or any pet). I'm proud to volunteer for ITA for many reasons. What I appreciate the most though, is that ITA says my first responsibility is my dog.

Sasha and I are currently regular volunteers at a rehabilitation, long-term and memory care facility. Because Sasha has a physical disability she rides in a wheelchair for her visits. That way, she is closer to eye level with her clients because most of them are also in a bed or a wheelchair. Sasha enjoys her ride throughout the facility—she is always eager to have me lift her into the chair.

One day, as we were nearing the end of our session and waiting for the elevator to go down, I heard a woman crying

*(Continued on p. 6)*

## **Diane Gunnell & Sasha** (Cont. from page 5)

out in pain. She was an older woman, standing about 15 feet down the hall from us. She had just lifted herself out of a wheelchair and was standing with a walker. She had obviously had some type of major surgery and was starting her recovery. Her physical therapist was encouraging her to walk, suggesting that she go slow and just take one step at a time, but the woman stayed rooted to the spot, insisting it was too painful.

On a whim, I called out to the woman. "Do you like dogs?" I asked.

The woman looked at Sasha and me and said, "Yes, I like dogs."

"Would you like to visit with my dog Sasha? We could walk with you," I said.

She looked at Sasha who was sitting in her own wheelchair. And Sasha looked at her with her irresistible big brown eyes.

"Sure, I'll visit with her dog," she said. And with that, this woman started walking toward us—no complaints about pain at all! I quickly pushed Sasha toward her and turned her chair around so that we could walk together. I asked the physical therapist how far they were planning to go.

"Just to the calendar on the wall, next to the elevator," she answered.

"Oh, we're here already," I said and we all stopped. I pushed Sasha in front of the woman so that she could pet Sasha and visit with her.

As soon as her visit with Sasha ended, the elevator door opened. Amazing timing, I thought. "Well, I guess it's time for us to go now. Thank you for visiting with us," I said. As I pushed Sasha into the elevator I glanced at the physical therapist. With a smile and a look of relief in her eyes she whispered, "Thank you."

It is these small but meaningful moments that make our visits so very worthwhile. ♥

—Diane Gunnell



## **Really?**

Wealthy dog owners can now spoil their furry best friends with \$215,000 designer doghouses modeled on imperial Roman manors and American colonial villas. The handcrafted "dog mansions" from British firm Hecate Verona boast marble columns and beechwood floors, automated treat dispensers, central heat and air conditioning, and conference call systems so owners can speak to and see their hounds whenever they want. "Why wouldn't a doghouse be as elegant and beautiful as its owner's?" said the company's creative designer.

When this news appeared in *The Week* magazine, it inspired the editors to hold a contest to come up with an advertising slogan, in 7 words or less, that the company could use to persuade dog owners to upgrade their accommodations. These were the winners:

- You'll wish you were in the doghouse
- From wags to riches
- Now Lassie will come home

What more is there to say? ♥

**E**ach of our 350+ ITA therapy teams is absolutely unique, since all the people and animals bring to their volunteer practice an endless kaleidoscope of ages, sizes, breeds, backgrounds and talents.

What about you and your companion animal? If you think you both might enjoy volunteering with ITA, providing animal-assisted interactions at one of the more than 150 facilities we visit:

- Call us to learn more: **801.272.3439**
- Or go to our website: **[www.therapyanimals.org/volunteer](http://www.therapyanimals.org/volunteer)**



The Snowball Express flights, sponsored by American Airlines, serve the children of our fallen military heroes.

All the hosts clearly enjoy donning holiday headgear—even the dignified airline pilots and the ITA therapy dogs!

### About Both Ends of the Leash

## Mary Martin & Ellie Bozeman, Montana

Nearly sixteen years ago, my family had the opportunity to care for my aging father who was experiencing chronic health issues accompanied by advancing memory loss. We found that our family dogs were always a source of companionship and calm in his increasingly confusing world.

Dad eventually needed the kind of 24-hour care that a local assisted-living facility had to offer. When our frequent visits included our dogs, Dad always seemed to draw more strength and comfort from those times. Even when he couldn't remember us as his family, he always appeared to enjoy a sense of calm when the dogs were around.

We lost dad in 2002, and I retired from teaching in 2004. We still had dogs in our home, and I began to ask, "How might I combine the love of my dogs and a desire to share my time with others who may be lonely, isolated, and in need of some animal companionship in their lives? Just as Dad enjoyed them!"

Early in 2005, a friend who was visiting with her dog with Intermountain Therapy Animals suggested I might consider the same opportunity. We have

always had Brittany Spaniels and Golden Retrievers in our family. However, we had lost both Dad and our Golden about the same time, and I never dreamed that one of our Brittannies might be settled enough to become a therapy dog.

However, "Skook" (which means "wild and carefree" in the Inuit language) was older, settled and, having been retired recently from the hunting field, needed a new job! So, together we began to train to earn the readiness to pass both the training and screening, and we became an ITA therapy team in the spring of 2006!

That love of service and the opportunity to work with a fun-filled pet therapy partner continues today with my current ITA partner, Ellie. She is a 9.5-year-old Golden Retriever and has been working with me over eight years. We visit elder care homes and participate in the R.E.A.D.® program with both the local library and one of our area elementary schools. She clearly enjoys the process



of "getting ready," seeing our ITA gear come out as we prepare to embark on one of those visits! She can't wait to jump into the car and seems to say, "Where are we heading today?" I usually say right back to her, "We are going to visit some people today who will feel better because you are a happy girl and so willing to share that with your bright eyes, perky ears, and happy tail!"

Intermountain Therapy Animals is truly an organization that helps to create rich and rewarding opportunities in both their pet therapy teams' lives AND in the lives of those we visit! Thank you for that gift! ♥

— Mary Martin

# ITA Therapy Animals at the SLC *Airport* (cont.)



ITA is privileged to be able to support Honor Flights, which are conducted by non-profit organizations dedicated to transporting as many United States Military veterans as possible to see the memorials to the respective war(s) they fought, in Washington, D.C., at no cost to the veterans.

Currently these organizations are focused on bringing veterans of World War II to the National World War II Memorial, and any veteran with a terminal illness to see the memorial of the war they fought in.

Organizers plan to “naturally transition” their programs to focus on veterans of the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and subsequent wars as the veterans of those wars get older.

Meanwhile, when the flights stop in Salt Lake City, our ITA dogs do their utmost to add another element of “special” to the occasion.





# BENNY'S EXPERIENCES AT THE AIRPORT

by his ITA partners, Lisa & Tim Miller

Benny loves volunteering at the SLC airport in their "Pilot Pups" program. We go every third Tuesday at 6pm. It is so much fun to see the travelers' eyes light up when they realize they are welcome to pet the dogs! We get a lot of questions. The most common ones are:

- What are they in training for?
- What do you do here?
- Why don't other airports have this??
- Last time we were here we got to visit with Jasper, how much fur does he have??!

We all have 'ASK TO PET ME, I'M HERE TO VISIT' tags for our leashes. Because Benny is always sniffing, a lot of people mistake him for a drug-sniffing dog on the job.

Many travelers take selfies with the dogs because they miss their own pets. Volunteering at the airport is different than a hospital or medical facility because we are more free to have conversations about their travels, where they're from, if the travel is business or pleasure, etc. We are also welcome to have photos taken.



The reasons for ITA evaluation requirements are clearly in evidence at the airport. The Pilot Pups often encounter other dogs who are traveling (it must be said: not all are as well-trained as therapy dogs); and then there is popcorn, chunks of hot dog, pretzel bites and other random delicious tidbits on the floor. Crowded petting is common. And being willing to undergo unusual situations? Being handled by a giant bee mascot is not something your average dog does every day! ♥

*(See direct quotes from Benny on the next page)*

[ED NOTE: Thanks to the Millers & Benny, and also to Raymond Gunn & Jasper, Cindy Yorgason & Axel and Susan Daynes & Diva for providing story input and photos for this feature.]



*W*hen the Snowball Express stopped in Salt Lake City on December 11, six teams went to greet the kids. Of course they loved seeing us. We got to go onto the airplane—which was fun but total chaos—kids in overhead bins, tinsel everywhere, even stuffed animals seat belted into their seats. One of the kids said, “Hey, I bet that little Beagle can fit in the bin!” So my dad Tim said, “Well, let’s see ...” The kids thought it was pretty funny. I bet I’m the only dog who ever viewed such a scene from the overhead bins!

## *Gifts to Honor & Remember*

### *In HONOR of . . .*

*Celebrating 10 years with R.E.A.D.*  
Linda Tipton & Jasper  
*BJ & Buddy's ITA Service*  
Jeannie Hermes  
*Peggy & Andy Chudd*  
Ellen Rohr  
*Colonel & Miley*  
Kathryn Waddell  
*Erika Daines & Flocki*  
Louise McFadden  
*Liz Dranow & the Doodles*  
Martin Presler-Marshall  
*Susan Evans*  
Lynn A. Whitman  
*Ane Gardner and her dogs*  
Marilyn Cook  
*Ivie, ITA partner of Cheri Simon*  
Joan Johnson  
*Merilee Kelley: Thanks for helping to get Red Rover qualified!*  
Bruce Chapin  
*Marilyn Lawson & Duffy*  
Traci Lawson  
*Ralph, Carey & Hannah Marshall*  
Martin Presler-Marshall  
*Jan Nemcik*  
Gertrude & Edwin Duncan  
*Carol Prince*  
Anne Moskovitz  
*Mika Ryan & Hank*  
Molly Rice  
*Thor Gollwitzer Scannell*  
Lawrence Gollwitzer

Anita Sjoblom  
Doris L. Itow  
*Linda Tipton & her R.E.A.D. dog, Jasper*  
Susan Pike  
*Sherry Underwood*  
Apogee Instruments  
*Lucy Lu Wood*  
Dayna Wood



### *In MEMORY of . . .*

*All of our passed Goldens (1 left)*  
Bruce Hanson  
*Ami*  
Elaine Ellis  
*Annabelle, ITA partner of Karen Duncan*  
Karen & Tom Duncan  
Frankie Gibbs  
*Auggie, companion of Melody Morgan & Family*  
Camille Pierce  
*Beorn, companion of Debbie Feder*  
Hilary Jacobs  
*Bob Gulliver, ITA partner of Jean Glaser*  
Tracie & Carlee Garritson  
*Robert Lynn Bonner, Sr.*  
Karin Jentzsch  
*Bouncy, companion of the Browning Family*  
Elaine Ellis  
*Bridget, my ITA partner*  
Virginia Harris  
*Grace & Fred Brown*  
The Brown Family Fund

*Caper, Siamese companion of Kathy Klotz*  
Ann Howie  
Kathy Klotz  
Sandi Martin  
*Sally Chambers*  
Julie & James Chambers  
Alice Crockett  
Rosalie Ferguson  
Caroline Filby  
Chaz Houpt  
Idaho Falls ITA colleagues  
Rojene & Kim Lemke  
Karen Pyron  
Kathleen Smolik  
Debbie & Bruce Wilcox  
*Chester, my ITA companion*  
Ellen Jesaitis  
*Connie Chichester*  
Pamela Metz  
*Jane Colin*  
Robyn & Dick Appel  
Karen & Paul Friedman  
Mark Nadelson  
Marcia Rachlin  
The Strohls and the Spillers  
*Norma Diz*  
Leslie Blackham  
Erika Daines  
Kathy Klotz  
Jamie McFarland  
*Louie Dreier*  
Jane Lee Fischer  
*Dwayne, companion of Jack Halsted*  
Frankie Gibbs

*Robert & Arlene Ellis*  
Mark Ellis  
*Jaden Endo*  
Joni Endo  
*Pat Gay & Rupert*  
Barbara & Thomas Albrecht  
Peggy Chudd  
Meg Leonard Cull  
Mary & Ron Gambolati  
Linda & Willard Hunt  
Rod Rougelot  
*Guido, bestest friend to Shauna*  
Elaine Ellis  
*Bruce Hanson*  
Neota Gewirtz  
*Jake, R.E.A.D. partner of Candy Anderson*  
Shirley May May  
*James Brown, my R.E.A.D. companion*  
Shirley May May  
*ITA member Shirley Josche*  
Kay Miller  
*Katie, our kitty who lived to age 25. She has been with us for fully half of our married life*  
Penny & Sands Brooke  
Jane Lee Fischer  
*Kayia, companion of Mary Dargen*  
Frankie Gibbs  
*Kermit, PWD companion of Sandi Martin*  
Kathy Klotz  
Sandi Martin  
Ella Nagy  
Elizabeth Shannon  
*Joan Larsen, dear friend*  
Pamela Berman Metz

Here I am with Tony. He works on the C concourse at a magazine shop. He also happens to be a canine and equine massage therapist. So I especially like it when we make C concourse our last stop!”

— Love, Benny ♥



*Squirty Lee*  
Jane Lee Fischer  
*Lily*  
Robert Casey  
*Lucy, R.E.A.D. dog of Pat Howes*  
Kathryn Lacana  
*Maggie, companion of Mr. & Mrs. Carl Ramnitz*  
Jane Lee Fischer  
*Maggie, companion of Ann Smyth*  
Hilary Jacobs  
*Mia, companion of Quilla Otto-Jacobs*  
Hilary Jacobs  
*Mr. Hobbes*  
Marilyn Cook  
*Oakley, companion of Julie & Devon Glenn*  
Elaine Ellis  
*Patience, my R.E.A.D. Dog*  
Larissa Devlin  
*Panda Bear*  
Sheila Gelman  
*Pepper & Cappi*  
Shari Ann Foulger  
*Phoebe, companion of Brandi Williams*  
Steven Glaser  
*Bob Rial*  
Jane & Dave Staplin  
*Rico, companion of Kim Smart*  
Judy Sophia Moreton  
*Ridge, therapy dog and companion*  
Jan Owens  
*Riley & Zoe*  
Michelle Kay  
*Rita, a beloved member of the Wood Family*  
Elaine Ellis

*Rockea & Brady*  
John & Lori Stockinger  
*Sasha Daugherty, Weimaraner Extraordinaire*  
Jeannine Heil  
*Harold Sorenson*  
Karin Jentsch  
*Cora Sullivan*  
Bonnie Bowen  
Calvin Hansen  
Anne Shifrer  
*Ed Swanson*  
Patricia Swanson  
*Tank, 4-legged friend of Michael & Kit Metz*  
Pamela Metz  
*Tinkerbelle, companion of the Sessions Family*  
Jane Lee Fischer  
*Tommy, companion of Judy Moreton*  
Elaine Ellis  
*Tony, companion of April & Gary Yetter*  
Jane Lee Fischer  
*Trucker, companion of Chris & Sarah Van Wagonner*  
Donna & Ralph Morelli  
*Tony White*  
Shirley May May  
*Vicky Whitney*  
Becky Roeder  
*Jan Wilson*  
Pamela & John Bermen  
*Matthew George Wright*

Karen Bona  
Dorothy Canada  
Marilyn Cranston  
Dini Droguett  
Joyce Gorrell  
Mary Harriman  
Inga Hoj  
Ruth & Gary Manville  
Carolyn & Steve Matts  
Val Moffett  
Linda Loyland Olson  
Esther Orr  
Ernest Poulson  
Michael Rodis  
Janice Ryan  
Richard Saville  
Carol Snowden  
Patricia Steele  
Barbara Sullivan  
Bob Tenney  
Lena Vietti  
*Zelda, R.E.A.D. partner of Sandi Martin*  
Kathy Klotz  
Sandi Martin  
Ella Nagy  
Elizabeth Shannon



*Gifts to Olivia's Legacy  
R.E.A.D Endowment Fund  
(Please see page 13.)*

*Thanks to Everyone  
Who Contributed to ITA for  
Love Utah Give Utah 2017*

Ashley Agrelius  
Sarah L. Bennett  
Victoria Bennett  
Sara Brozovsky  
Alexis Butler  
Becky Butler  
Maya Christopherson  
Peg Chudd  
Connie Crandall  
Cecelia Edmondson  
Mary Ann Ellis  
Ellen Folke  
Lori Gates  
Kim Goldsmith  
Cassidy K Hadlock  
Kathy Klotz  
Nicole Naffziger  
Teresa Oborn  
Patrick Park  
Chris Pellegrino  
Kimo Pokini  
Carol Prince  
Phyllis Reppucci  
Anita Sjoblom  
Andrea Timothy  
Julia Urbanek  
Seth Watson  
Beth Wolfer  
Dayna Wood



# Raymond Gunn & Jasper Salt Lake City, Utah

Over the past 16 years all of our Newfoundland dogs have volunteered with Intermountain Therapy Animals doing animal-assisted therapy. The environments they have been requested to go into have been as wide ranging as general hospital room visits, a burns ICU, children's pediatric intensive care, secure psychiatric units, rehab centers, hospice, civic organizations, scout troops, class rooms, and a university library during exam week. Each of our Newfs goes about the work with their own individual style and personality.

But last spring we took on an assignment in an environment completely new to us. My pal Jasper has become an airport therapy dog and every week, on Wednesday mornings, spends two hours traveling about the terminals and concourses of Salt Lake International, ambling up to staff he now recognizes, and greeting passengers. This is a new and expanding program at airports around the country.

His job is still the same as in those more traditional settings where therapy dogs work their magic: create joy, administer comfort, make people happy—and here maybe cause someone to slow down and take a deep breath. Jasper might slip right in beside a wheelchair on the move, sidle up to a traveler who would really appreciate a little unsolicited attention, but would never make the first move. He will lie down in the middle of a concourse to go nose-to-nose with wee ones tired of being restrained by parents (now happy to have a wee break from restraining). Without an ounce of shame he will wheel around in a gathering crowd trying for a good butt rub. He has caused strangers to strike up conversation among themselves. The encounters can be funny, they can be silly, and they can be richly rewarding for us: The anxious mother, en route with her son to a distant children's



hospital, trying not to add the seriously delayed flight to her list of concerns; the man who had lost his dog to old age only yesterday; the parent and young kids snow-bound for a second day; the wonder and excitement on the faces of people encountering a Newfoundland dog for the first time in their lives; the person with a therapy practice who said that she thinks what therapy dogs do is amazing.

It's all good on both ends of the lead.

My name is Raymond Gunn and I have been a member of the NCA Newfoundland Ambassador Committee since 2012. ♥

—Raymond Gunn



Jasper's airport business card

## A Traveler's Reaction to Jasper at SLC International Airport

(in an email to airport administrators)

April 2016

Wow, what a beautiful and astoundingly peaceful presence Jasper is — bringing him to the airport is stroke of genius, thank you.

He brought smiles and opened up the older folks' usual closed, business-like demeanor that we generally assume in busy public places, and the children just loved him — he seemed to be a conduit of sorts for their energy. Even though I'm an older guy, I couldn't resist kneeling down and stroking his back.

I noticed a few other dogs as I was in line to finally board a very delayed flight; they too were stunning.

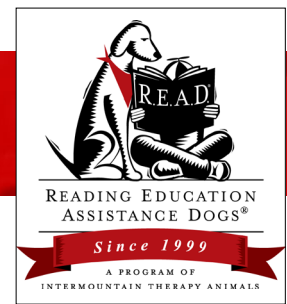
Jasper has that special aura that I'll remember, even though it wasn't more than a couple of minutes I spent watching his effect on nearly everyone who saw him, and felt it myself.

Sincerely,

Todd Strait  
Portland, OR

[ED NOTE: Jasper was chosen ITA's Therapy Dog of the Year in February 2017.]

# The R.E.A.D.® Program



## “What is most noteworthy about having the children R.E.A.D. to the animals?” (Program Evaluation Question)

“The children who were selected to read with the dogs couldn’t wait to read! These children are not always self-motivated readers. Many avoid reading when asked to do so independently. With the R.E.A.D. program, children look forward to *every minute* of reading. They are motivated to read aloud for a purpose. Third graders *used expression* and ‘entertained the dogs.’ Thank you! The kids can’t wait to see them every time!”

*Laurie Rice*  
Third Grade Teacher  
Mayville Middle School  
Mayville, WI



## “Dear R.E.A.D. Program”



Thank you for your support during our campaign to put together a project to row across the North Atlantic (<http://www.1000leagues.com>). During our fundraising, we promised that 20% of our proceeds would be directed to R.E.A.D. We raised \$5,000; a check for \$1,000 is enclosed as we promised.

Have a great 2017!

Sincerely,

*James Caple & Cindy Way*  
Alexandria, VA

## Some Tough Losses for Our R.E.A.D. Community

About this time last year, the R.E.A.D. program suffered two devastating blows. Our R.E.A.D. Education Manager Nancy Brooks, of Plymouth, Minnesota, succumbed



to cancer on May 31, 2016, and our R.E.A.D. National Coordinator, Sharry Buhanan-Decker of Salt Lake City, died on June 16, 2016 during the birth of her first baby. Their passion for R.E.A.D. will be felt for generations of children to come, and we are grateful for all they gave to us, and for all of you who gave to our R.E.A.D. “Olivia’s Legacy Endowment Fund” in their memories, to assure that R.E.A.D. will be blessing the lives of children far into the future.

AT LEFT: Nancy

AT RIGHT: Sharry

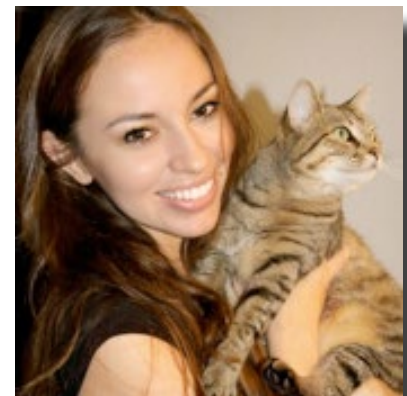
*Gifts to Olivia’s Legacy  
(R.E.A.D Endowment Fund)*

☞ *In memory of Nancy Brooks*

Allan’s Angels  
David Cahoy  
Cold Noses–Warm Hearts  
Sherrill Ferazza  
Nancy George–Michalson  
Ann Howie  
Alison Humphrey  
Kathy Klotz  
Cindy Knowlton  
Sandi Martin  
Shirley May May  
Patty Mitchell  
Marko Mrkonich  
Nephew Quoyle Book Club  
North Star Therapy Animals  
Maggi Payne  
Rim of the World Comfort Pets  
Merrily Shultz  
Helene Skopek-Krygier  
Tails of Joy  
Linda Carter Tipton  
Judy Urben  
Karen Urben

☞ *In memory of Sharry  
Buhanan–Decker*

Wendy Hoffer  
Rim of the World Comfort Pets  
*(Please note: Many, many additional gifts were given by our R.E.A.D. community, in Sharry’s memory, to the fund established for her husband Jared and surviving baby JJ.)*



# Appreciation

... FROM STUDENTS AT THE OT ASSISTANT CLASS AT SLCC:

You guys are amazing and what you do is so great! Thank you for sharing your passion and knowledge! Thanks for the wonderful time!

- Alejandra

You are wonderful advocates for animal therapy and volunteering.

- Jackie Buchanan

Thank you for showing us another opportunity for OT.

- Kristen

I absolutely loved your presentation. I can't stop thinking about Benno and about how much these therapy animals are blessings to others. Thank you so much!

- Lily R.

We loved having you here. Thank you for being so generous with your time and energy.

- Lauren

I really loved meeting Benno and realizing how wonderful and dynamic the energy between OT and therapy animals can be for treatment. I would love to use animals in my future treatments.

- BN

You three were wonderful!

- Mariann

Thank you so, so much for taking your time to come and teach us what you do. It is an amazing program and you make a huge difference in so many lives.

- Megan



Dear Ladies from ITA,

I can't thank you enough for coming to our pack meeting. We have been looking forward to your visit for a long time and it didn't disappoint!

Thank you for sharing this beautiful work you do for the community.

Sincerely,

Ashley Jansson



Dear ITA:

Thank you so much for coming to talk to our clients and coordinating volunteers. I am always surprised at what an impactful activity this is for our clients. The connection they have with the animals is amazing, and we really appreciate the volunteers taking time out of their day to come and see us.

Hopefully we can set up another session in the future.

Kimberlee Huaman, ssw

Unit Supervisor

Valley Behavioral Health/DBT Day Treatment



## 2 PAINLESS Ways to Help ITA



If you shop at Amazon, go to **Smile.Amazon**, choose

Intermountain Therapy Animals, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to us!



Shop at Smith's and they will donate a portion of your total purchase price to ITA, too. Use our code: **90277**

To ITA Team Jan Nemicik & Nova:

The dogs you brought to see me made the whole day better! This is so special to my soul. Thank you from my heart and thank you for the work you do for everyone here.

Patient at U of U Hospital



Our gift is in honor of Bob Gulliver (partner of Jean Glaser). Years ago, they brought my baby to life again by getting her to speak after two weeks in a drug-induced coma at Primary Children PICU.

Tracie & Carlee Garritson



### Things ITA Begs for . . .

- 8.5 x 11 white paper by the case, for copying and printing
- Flash drives
- Gift cards to office supply stores, Costco and Target
- "Forever" postage stamps
- Sponsors for our training workshops and manuals
- New children's picture books (for ages 4-8) for the R.E.A.D. program.



# Paws on the Patios

## Eating Out With Your Dog in Salt Lake County

[ED NOTE: With excerpts from article by Kathy Stephenson in *The Salt Lake Tribune*, June 15-19, 2017]

Currently, only 12 Salt Lake County restaurants can legally allow dogs on their outdoor patios.

This is of great interest to us at ITA because we have traditionally been taking our dogs out to dinner once a year since our inception almost 24 years ago.

The reason there are not more is likely due to “lack of awareness,” according to health department spokesman Nicholas Rupp. Some restaurants “allow dogs without the variance,” he said, which violates state and county health rules. Others “don’t know allowing dogs is even an option.”

The Salt Lake County Board of Health changed its food sanitation rules several years ago to allow dogs on outdoor patios if restaurants meet certain requirements.

Getting the variance made sense for Todd and Kristine Gardiner, co-owners of the three Taqueria 27 restaurants. Their restaurants are in mostly walkable or residential areas (see box at right).

“People like to take a walk and come down for dinner with their dogs,” Kristine Gardiner said. “It’s a great draw for us.”

Among the requirements that restaurants must follow:

- Post signs so patrons know that dogs may be on the premises.
- Have an outdoor entrance so dogs don’t go through interior dining areas.
- Clean the patio every six hours or whenever there is a shift change, using

animal-friendly products.

- Clean and sanitize “accidents” within 5 minutes.

Dog owners have responsibilities, too:

- Pets must remain on leash and have collars with current license and rabies tag.
- No dogs allowed on tables or chairs.



## 12 that Welcome Dogs

The twelve restaurants in Salt Lake County that currently meet health department requirements to have dogs on their outdoor patio are:

- California Pizza Kitchen » 6227 S. State St., Murray
- Campfire Lounge » 837 E. 2100 South, Salt Lake City
- Eggs in the City » 1675 E. 1300 South, Salt Lake City
- Fisher Brewing Co. » 320 W. 800 South, Salt Lake City
- Flatbread » 2121 S. McClelland St., Salt Lake City
- Log Haven » 6451 Millcreek Canyon Road, East Millcreek
- Pig and a Jelly Jar (2 locations) » 401 E. 900 South, Salt Lake City; 1968 E. Murray Holladay Road, Holladay
- Taqueria 27 (3 locations) » 149 E. 200 South, Salt Lake City; 1615 S. Foothill Blvd, Salt Lake City; and 4670 S. Holladay Blvd., Holladay
- Uinta Brewing Co. » 1722 S. Fremont Drive, SLC
- Wasatch Brew Pub » 2110 S. Highland Drive, SLC

- Dogs may not have contact with any dishes or utensils.

Restaurants can give pets water in disposable containers, but the animals may not eat food — including dog food or treats — while on the restaurant patio.

As the weather gets warmer, the depart-

ment

is trying to get the word out to restaurants and cafes with outdoor eating areas that they need to apply for a variance to allow dogs on the patio.

“We support businesses that make this choice,” added Jeff Oaks, the department’s food protection bureau manager, “and our goal is to ensure they do so with cleanliness and safety in mind.”

We at ITA are pleased to see that California Pizza Kitchen in Murray is on this list since we have gone there two times in the last couple of years. We do this in the spring or fall when the temperatures are appropriate, so stay tuned for the announcement of this year’s dinner event.

Meanwhile, we encourage all of our members and friends to take your dogs along when it’s legal to

do so and if your canine companion will enjoy it.

If you go, please thank those who are promoting appropriate dog-human relationships in public places! One day we hope America may catch up with Europe in this regard!

*“My dog is my sounding board, my confidante, my keeper of secrets, and my best friend.”*

— Kathleen O’Keefe

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Please patronize our ITA Sponsors!

And plan to join us on October 7<sup>th</sup>!



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