



PALS PRESS

Newsletter of Calgary's Pet Access League Society

"Pets Helping People"

Spring 2007

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Dates to Remember:

- * Volunteer Week
April 15-21
- * Screenings April 15
- * AGM / Team Leaders
May 5



IF Only.....

All PALS volunteers have a number of things in common. We all dearly love our pets. We all dearly miss our pets that are no longer with us. And, like it or not, we're all going to be old some day (some of us sooner than others). So let's take a look at what our lives might be like when we are living in a care facility.

Being life-long pet lovers, we would be eagerly waiting for the time when the pets come to visit. We'd work hard to get our old bones moving and to wheelchair our way down to the common area to sit with 20 other people and wait for the PALS visit. When the PALS pets arrived and there were only two pets, we would be a little disappointed, but we would sit patiently waiting for our turn to feel once again the soft fur or warm tongue of a loving pet. But we'd probably only get two minutes with the pets. We would be so grateful for that time with the pets, but when they left, we'd have to make our way back to our room and wait for two more weeks before there would be another opportunity to cuddle with a pet.

Next time, a number of us might decide that it was easier to stay in our rooms and watch a little TV instead. After all it takes a great deal of effort to get to the room where the pets are ... too much effort for a mere two minutes of cuddling. But on that night all six of the pets on the team show up and visit with two or three residents. The volunteers would probably go home thinking that they had wasted their time coming out to visit with only two or three people. If only our old bones had known that we could count on six volunteers coming with their pets.

If only...

AGM

The PALS Annual General Meeting is being held at the Kahanoff Centre on May 5th, 2007. This is an excellent time to meet the PALS Directors and office staff.

For more information, please go to page three of this newsletter.

Many Thanks to the Shell Community Service Fund

Thanks to a \$1000.00 grant from the Shell Canada Community Fund, PALS will be able to purchase a new desk for Joan. Yes she gets to give up her old metal desk AND the microwavable rice bag that keeps her arm warm as she books interviews and screenings and returns numerous emails. As an added bonus she gets to have a keyboard drawer. Her old desk will replace the space-wasting monolith that is currently in the main screening area.



These funds were awarded to recognize and support the volunteer efforts of Shell employee Larry Best. Larry, his wife Maureen and their dog Rielly have visited the seniors at the Bethany Care Centre since 2000. They also visit at the new Children's Hospital.

PALS would like to thank Shell for its continued support. Also thank you Larry, Maureen and Reilly for taking the time to volunteer.

Story PALS

The last book for this session of Story Pals was closed on March 3 and everyone had to agree that the program again was an unmitigated success. During this particular session four libraries participated so kids at Fish Creek, Village Square, Thornhill and Central libraries all had an opportunity to work with some very special Canine Literacy Coaches. The dogs for their part, listened intently, wagged their approval and made the act of reading a fun time even for kids who have literacy challenges

During this session City TV did a piece on Story PALS for their Your City program. If you'd like to see the clip, please go to http://www.citytv.com/calgary/yourcity_40241.aspx

This program will take a break over the spring and summer months but will be back in full swing at the end of September. If you would like to take part in the next session please contact the PALS office.

In closing I'd like to say a special thanks to the PALS volunteers and their pets for their commitment and help in making this such a successful program.

You were great!

Did You Forget Something?

Like paying your membership perhaps?

If so just give the PALS office a call and give us your Visa or MasterCard number. Or just pop a cheque in the mail.

Dues are \$20 for single and \$30 for family.
Thanks.

Volunteer Week April 15 to 21

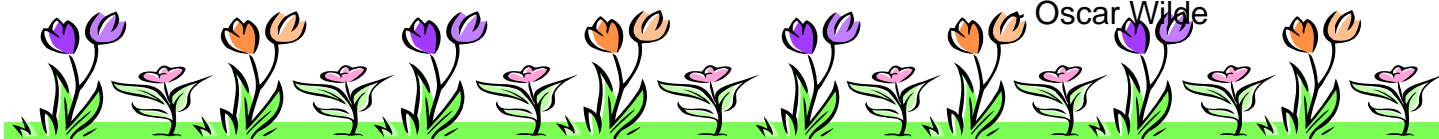
Those who can, do

Those who can do more, volunteer.

~Unknown

The smallest act of kindness is worth more
than the grandest intention.

Oscar Wilde



PALS Pet Access League Society
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday, May 5, 2007

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of the Pet Access League Society will be held in Room #201 at the Kahanoff Centre, (200, 1202 Centre Street SE, Calgary) on Saturday May 5th, 2007 from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm, for the purposes as detailed in the following agenda. Members who are unable to attend are encouraged to make their views known on agenda items by completing the proxy form below and submitting it by fax (250-9273) or mail to the PALS office prior to the AGM.

Dated at Calgary, Alberta, March 12th, 2007

By Order of the Board of Directors

Complimentary parking will be available in the Kahanoff lot directly behind the building.

INVITATION

All PALS volunteers are invited to attend the AGM. However, only members in good standing are allowed to vote or enter into any discussion that arises.

At the AGM, every person who at the time of the meeting is entered on the records of the Society as a *Member in Good Standing* shall be entitled to vote by attending such meeting in person, or by proxy. By-law 10.07

If an eligible member is unable to attend, he/she may send their proxy (clip-out or photocopy proxy below) to the PALS office.

Written proxies will be accepted at the AGM. Any person holding proxies must present them as evidence, to the recording clerk, prior to the official commencement of the meeting. By-law 10.08.

At least 20 members must be present at the meeting to constitute a quorum. We hope to see all of you there. It's a great opportunity to meet other PALS people.

PROXIES CAN BE SUBMITTED TO THE PALS OFFICE OR BROUGHT TO THE AGM.

AGENDA

(Please note that this agenda is your only copy, please bring it with you.)

1. Call to order.
2. Approval of agenda.
3. Approval of minutes of 2006 AGM.
4. Approval of financial statement and budget.
5. Election of new directors.
6. Adjournment.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following Director will let his name stand for re-election at the AGM: Mark Whiteman

Jim Heaton, Brian Jack, Kristi Kasper, Joan Lister, Sharron Winter and Angie Young are into the second year of their terms. Treasurer, Paul Klaassen and Veterinary Director, Dr. Irene Phillips are retiring from the BOD.

The nomination of a new Director must be submitted by two PALS members in good standing and an acceptance letter by the nominee must be received at the PALS office by April 30th, 2007. If you have any questions, please contact the PALS office.

PALS PROXY FORM

I, _____, PALS Member,
hereby appoint _____, PALS Member,
as my proxy, to vote for me on my behalf at the
PALS Annual General Meeting, to be held on Saturday, May 5, 2007

Signature

Date

The next PALS screening is scheduled for April 15, 2007. We have a few spots left so; if you wish to have another pet screened, please contact Joan at the PALS office. PLEASE NOTE: Spaces are limited so we will NOT be able to screen your pet unless you have booked an appointment. Application forms for additional pets can be completed on our website at <http://www.palspets.com/volunteer.htm>



Team Leaders Meeting

Team Leaders mark your calendar for May 5th, 2007. Please note that due to booking changes at the Kahanoff Centre, the meeting will begin at noon and end at 3:30 pm. A short AGM will follow the Team Leaders' meeting and I hope that you'll be able to stay for that. This year we will finish discussing Team Leader roles and responsibilities and start (and hopefully finish) work on facility roles and responsibilities. In April I will send each of you a summary of last year's discussions along with a detailed agenda for this year's meeting.

I hope that everyone can make it. Last year's meeting was really enjoyable and I look forward to another fun and informative session this year.

Regards, Sandra

Office Volunteer Needed

The PALS office urgently requires a part-time office volunteer to help with some of the administrative tasks. Duties would include helping with the intake of new volunteers, reference checking, maintaining filing systems, preparing visit schedules and assisting with other administrative duties as required. This is not a "busywork position" and will require a volunteer with computer skills.

If you have weekday availability and could give PALS one morning or afternoon of your time per week, please contact Sandra at the PALS office.



Newsletter

Are you a person who likes to write? Would you be interested in injecting a little or a lot of new energy and ideas into the PALS Newsletter? We have a volunteer that does an amazing job editing and doing the layout but I really feel it is time to retire our in-house writer.

My writers block seems to kick in whenever I even contemplate writing yet another newsletter so, after 12 years of doing it, I'm ready for a successor to step forward and four times a year write articles that are informative, humorous and of interest to the PALS volunteers.

If you are interested in this position, please contact Sandra at the PALS office.



Charitable Registration # 10781 1879 RR0001

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 President: Angie Young
 Vice President: Brian Jack
 Treasurer: Paul Klaassen

DIRECTORS
 Jim Heaton
 Kristi Kasper
 Joan Lister
 Dr. Irene Phillips
 Mark Whiteman
 Sharron Winter

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
 Sandra Johnston

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 Joan Andersen

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