



# PALS PRESS

Newsletter of Calgary's Pet Access League Society



Summer 2000

## Visiting Safety

### Inside this issue:

Visiting Safety	1
Resident Pets	2
Non-PALS Animals	2
Interviews & Screening	2
Dog Agility Trial	2
PALS' Folks in the News	2
Pet Walk & Fun Day	3
PALS Pins	4
The Cat House	4
Volunteer Manual	4
Hull Stampede Breakfast	4
Volunteers Needed	4

### Dates to Remember

- \* Canada Day at Fort Calgary—July 1
- \* Hull Stampede Breakfast—July 11
- \* Bingo—July 18, Aug 27, Oct. 6
- \* Dog Agility Trial—Sept 2, 3 & 4
- \* Calgary Art Market—Nov 16 - 19

Visit safety is paramount. Situations can change rapidly and if you are not paying attention to your pet, or have allowed them beyond arms length, you may find yourself in unpleasant circumstances. It only takes a few seconds for an enjoyable visit to turn into a tragedy and very possibly the end of visiting. In addition, your inattention may force your pet to react in ways that you never thought possible and, as a result, you lose trust in your pet. The following policies are necessary to protect you, your pet, and the people we visit.

- All pets must be on a leash that is no longer than 4 feet and remain within arm's reach at all times.
- Properly fitted buckle/snap collars are recommended. For better control of large breed or "playful" dogs, a choke chain, Haltie, or Gentle Leader is permitted. Keep in mind that you should provide explanation when using a Haltie or Gentle Leader.
- Pinch Collars, Flexi Leads, and leashes over 6 feet long are not permitted. Volunteers who show up at a visit with any of these will be asked to leave.
- Harnesses for dogs under twenty (20) pounds are permitted. Do not use a harness on a medium or large breed dog as it only makes them able to pull better.
- Full body harnesses and leashes are mandatory for all non-canine pets. A carrier is recommended for transporting the animal to and from the facility. In addition, the carrier will give your pet a "safe haven" to escape to if it becomes tired or stressed.
- PALS pets are working animals. Their job is to interact with the residents. During visits, discourage even friendly en-

counters with other pets and try to keep their focus on human interaction. This is sometimes difficult during the first few visits; however, your pet will soon get the idea and quickly learn to enjoy the "work".

- You must be aware of your pet's activity at all times and must never allow someone else to remove your pet from your sight and control. Do not give your leash to anyone else to hold, especially a resident. If you visit with a resident who likes to hold the leash ensure that you actually maintain control of the pet by holding the leash below where the resident has grasped.
- If your pet has an accident inside the facility or on the facility grounds you are responsible for the clean-up. Dispose of all bio-waste in an appropriate container.
- Your pet must be clean and groomed for each visit, with nails clipped, sharp edges filed, teeth and ears should be clean. This does not have to be done by a professional groomer.
- As a safety measure, feeding pets during a visit is discouraged.
- And finally, PALS maintains a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY with respect to physical encounters that result in injury to animal or humans. It does not matter whether your pet is the instigator or victim, both animals will lose their right to visit.

On a closing note, it must be stressed that incidents are a direct result of human failure to control the pet. We become complacent, distracted, or careless and seconds later chaos ensues.

## Resident Pets

As the Eden Alternative gains momentum we expect to see an increase in the number of resident pets. Already, there have been a number of incidents generally involving their cats going after our dogs and, while we do ask that facilities that we know have resident pets to cooperate by locking them up during PALS visits, we should always understand that people forget.

There are two things that are really important to remember when dealing with resident animals: 1) You are in their ter-

ritory, and 2) You and your pet have everything to loose if there is an altercation. Therefore, ensure that your pet is under control and, if possible, go to a different area. This is particularly important if this is the first time you've seen the animal. Please bring any encounter you have to the attention of your team leader as he/she can talk to the facility staff and, if further action is warranted, bring it to the attention of the PALS office.

---

## Successful Interviews and Screenings

Our Spring 2000 intake was very successful and PALS gained many great new volunteers. A huge THANK YOU goes out to our interviewers and screeners who dedicated so much of their time and effort to help us through this process. We couldn't do it without you!

We will be conducting interviews throughout the summer. The two fall screenings are planned for the end of September and beginning of November.

---

## Dog Agility Trial

You don't want to miss this!!!

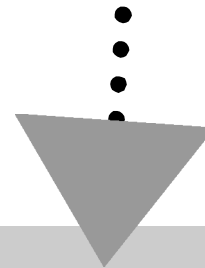
The Calgary Agility Association will be presenting its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Labour Day Weekend Dog Agility Trial on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, from 8 am to 5 pm on the Chestermere Lake Regional Community Association grounds.

Come and watch these dogs climb, jump, and crawl to fame over a series of exciting obstacle courses. Last year's event had 140 dogs from across Canada and the USA and over 500 spectators. Lots of action and great fun are guaranteed, and the best thing, there is NO gate charge!!

For more information on the agility trials, call 235-4085 or visit [www.calagaryagility.com](http://www.calagaryagility.com).

## Non-PALS Animals

Over the past several years many of the facilities in Calgary have started allowing families to bring the family pet for a visit. Most of these animals are simply family pets, NOT PALS pets. They may not be up-to-date on shots and like or even tolerate anyone who is not family. And, singularly the most important factor: they might be very aggressive or fearful of other animals. The point is you don't know so don't risk it unless you are willing to loose your visiting privileges if there is an altercation.



### **PALS' Folks are in the News!!**

Stella and Spice Perrott were awarded the Calgary VIP award during volunteer week at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Leadership Awards 2000 ceremony held April 13<sup>th</sup> at the Palisers Crystal Ballroom. The VIP award was given to Stella and Spice in recognition of many years of their outstanding contribution to PALS. PALS thanks you and salutes you both!

The June issue of Canadian Living Magazine has a wonderful article on pet therapy featuring the story of Sandi Burns, her son Jason Burns, and their collie Misty. Jason and Misty's story is testimony that pets can heal. The article reinforces what PALS stands for and reflects the belief that what we are doing at PALS does make a difference.

Kirin Leask is one of our youngest and perhaps one of our busiest volunteers. She has been recognized for her outstanding leadership at William Van Horne High School. Congratulations Kirin!

PALS Foothills Hospital team pets were photographed on site at the Foothills Hospital for an informative article on the Power of Pets. This was a good article on what PALS does and how pets help us recover from illness faster and relieve stress. (Published May 11<sup>th</sup>).

## PALS 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pet Walk & Fun Day

PALS 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pet Walk & Fun Day was a tremendous success. We raised almost \$5000.00. Good going everyone!

We had good weather, lots of PALS folks, PALS pets, PALS families, PALS friends and PALS sponsors to walk the walk, visit, meet new friends and have lots of fun.

The Calgary Agility Association gave an awesome demo and allowed everyone to try the equipment and see just how much fun it is. Thank you to all the agility folks and their fabulous pets.

A very big thanks to MIDAS Metering Services Ltd. ([www.midasmetering.com](http://www.midasmetering.com)) for their PALS donation. We all ate really well!

Tina and the YVC volunteers were a great help with absolutely everything. The kids carried water, greeted folks, helped with cooking, and everything was done with smiles on their faces. Thank you to these great kids.

The pet Olympics was a lot of fun. Anyone not participating in the doggie Olympics joined to form a new PALS choir, with Lori as the conductor. So far they only know one song, "Little doggie in the window". They haven't yet been able to sing it all the way through...but for musical mats it was great. It's amazing the talent in this organization!

Thank you to Katie and Grace. You were terrific judges & awards presenters.

Again this year, Chris Neil took photographs of our pets and donated all proceeds to PALS. Thank you Chris. Please see

our website in the near future as we will post some of these gorgeous shots.

Many Pet Planet folks walked the walk then headed to work – energized or tired I am not sure.

There are so many people to say thank you to: Katherine for lending registration her calculator, Pat who worked information all day long, Cheryl, Darcy, Mary Ann, Megan, Chris, Esther, Leola, Lori, Luba, Donna, Linda, Barbara, Sylvia, Natalie, Lynn, Sheryl, Paul, Bev, Jim and my family. If I have missed anyone I apologize.

A very special thanks to Sandra and Regula. You ladies are very special.

### **THANK YOU to the following sponsors for their support!**

MIDAS Metering Services Ltd, Sunnyside, Especially for Pets, Waltham's, Kane Veterinary Supplies, Sundance Animal Hospital, Chris Neil – Pet Photography, Totem, Namasco Ltd., Pet Planet, Calgary Agility Association, Pet Plan Insurance, OBP Promotions, Penny Kearns, New Vision Nutritionals, Canadian Tire, Rollover, A & B Sound, and Wheat Buckley and His Talking Horse Screenworks Inc.

Don't miss out. Join us next year!!

Barbara

---

## PALS Pins

Did you know that PALS has its very own pin? What a great way to show your support for the Pet Access League Society. A great item for your collection too! The pins are now only \$2 each. Stop by the office to pick one up or call us with your order. Volume discount negotiable!

## The Cat House has Moved

... and their new and improved location is at the Stadium Shopping Centre (corner of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Uxbridge Drive NW). PALS members receive 10% discount on products (food excluded). Make sure to show your PALS membership card.

## Volunteer Manual

The PALS office is in its final stages to issue a volunteer manual, which will be distributed to all PALS volunteers in September.

The handbook outlines the requirements and responsibilities of all those involved in PALS. It summarizes PALS policies and outlines the responsibilities of volunteer co-ordinators, team leaders, visiting volunteers and pets, and the facilities we visit. The manual also discusses topics such as fundraising, communicating with special needs persons, hints for visits, important don'ts, pet acceptance and behaviour, rescreening procedures, senior pets, medical conditions, and feline visitors.

We hope this manual will become a helpful tool and reference material for all PALS volunteers.

## Hull Stampede Breakfast Volunteers Needed

The Roper Hull Home is inviting all PALS volunteers, PALS pets, families, and friends to attend the Hull Stampede Breakfast on Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, between 8 am and noon at the Hull Campus, 2266 Woodpark Avenue SW.

Dress-up your pet and head on down to the Hull Campus for a great Stampede Breakfast.

Yahooo!!

If you would like to volunteer for a shift during one of these events, please call the office.

- Canada Day, Fort Calgary - July 1<sup>st</sup>
- Bingos - July 18<sup>th</sup>, Aug 27<sup>th</sup>, Oct 6<sup>th</sup>
- Dog Agility Trial, Chestermere - Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>
- Confederation Park Seniors - Aug 17<sup>th</sup>
- Calgary Art Market - Nov 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. Call Eileen Gavan @ 271-2507 to help at this fun event.



Charitable Registration #0790469-09

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Natalie Myers  
Vice President: Gus Van Heusden  
Treasurer: Jocelyn Trimble

### DIRECTORS

Lynn Dorsay  
Irene Phillips  
Millie Pratt  
Paul Rintoul  
Denise Ronsky  
Mike Rosser  
Sheryl van Otterloo

### VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Sandra Johnston

### PET ACCESS LEAGUE SOCIETY

3019 - 21 Street N.E.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2E 7T1

Telephone: 250-PALS (7257)  
Fax: 250-9273  
E-mail: [info@palspets.com](mailto:info@palspets.com)  
Website: [www.palspets.com](http://www.palspets.com)

Newsletter Editor: Mooréa Gray