

PAWPRINTS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE **COMFORT** PROGRAM

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO DELTA SOCIETY COSTUME POLICY

Delta Society earlier this summer emailed a notice to all members of a policy change simply stating :

No Costumes Allowed

Policy changes with explanations are typically better received, so we approached Dianne Bell, Program Manager for the Pet Partners/Delta Society. The following background for the change is as follows:

RE: Policy Change for Pet Partners/ Delta Teams — Spring 2008

8/22/2008

While costumes look cute and make patients and staff smile, costumes pose additional risk for the animal, over-heating, inability to accurately read the stress and body language of the animal, the increased risk of having the costume get caught on equipment as well as patients who may pull on the costume, resulting in undue harm to both the animal and the patient, reduced tactile stimulation, reduces the opportunity for patients of all ages to see and understand the animals/specific breeds for who they are and the uniqueness that they offer to each visit.

Dianne M. Bell, Program Manager

FYI-Nail polish is considered a costume as well.

Your ComForT Advisory Board

Stephanie Perkins

comfortpet1@yahoo.com

Michele Shapley

mshapley@nettally.com

Gail Parker

parker@nettally.com

Chuck Mitchell

cmitchell90@comcast.net

Deborah Swilley

dswilley@cdbg.com

Vickie Hooks

hooksv4563@aol.com

Ed Fangmann

jandefangmann@netzero.com

Susan Wilson (susankayw@hotmail.com) will be an alternate

The regularly scheduled meeting of ComForT's Advisory Board will be the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Area Agency on Aging. All members are invited to attend.

To add anything to the Agenda, contact Stephanie Perkins at least 2 days prior to the meeting.

Reminder: To remain on ComForT's Active Volunteer list, you must give a minimum of 10 hours of service to the Com-ForT program during a 12 month period

Save The Date!

Yes, it may be a bit cold . . . but it's time to get out of the house with our pets and meet our ComForT friends.

Please join us for a ComForT Social . . . great fellowship and fun for all.

Date: Sunday, January 25, 2009

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: 1280 Turkey Roost Court

Directions 

Directions:

Head east on Mahan Drive toward Hawks Landing Drive

Turn right at Wadesboro Road (269 feet)

Turn left to stay on Wadesboro Road (1.3 miles)

Turn right at Baum Road/CR-1541 (0.5 mile)

Turn left at Turkey Roost Road (1.1 miles)

Turn left at Turkey Roost Court (0.2 mile)

Address: 1280 Turkey Roost Court

3rd house on the left with agility ring in front. Park anywhere on the grass.

Welcome our Newest ComForT Teams!

Nick and Wendy Adams with Jet
 Merle Barrett with Kali
 Rose Coster with Daisy
 Elizabeth Figarola with Buddy
 Lois Hellings with Mini
 Claude Hollett with Goldie
 Nancy Mattimore with Oscar
 Karen Rainey with Bruce
 Pete & Angie Romaneski with Toby
 Jan Sangaree with Mango
 Troye Stonich with Jesse
 Diane Unruh with Petey
 Mark Vollertsen with Jackson
 Cathy Welbon with Gabby

Dates set for ComForT's Spring 2009 Training Classes and Delta Society Evaluations

Please pencil these dates into your calendar. If you know someone who is interested in joining ComForT, let them know about our spring training schedule. Prospective volunteers interested in joining ComForT should contact ComForT's program coordinator, Stephanie Perkins at comfortpet1@yahoo.com or 671-6342.

We need human helpers to assist during our prescreening, training, and evaluating activities on the dates marked with a single asterisk below. If you are able to help, please ComForT's training coordinator, Gail Parker at parker@nettally.com or 893-5749.

Prescreening (by appointment only):

	Date		Time (TENTATIVE)
*	February 21	Saturday	9:00 am to noon
*	February 23	Monday evening	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
*	February 28	Saturday	9:00 am to noon

Monday evening Training Classes:

	Location	Date	Time	Topic
	AAANF	March 2 NO DOGS	7:00 pm, 1.5 hours NO DOGS	Orientation to class: pass out materials and make assignments—NO DOGS
	AAANF	March 9 NO DOGS	7:00 pm, 1.5 hours NO DOGS	Overview of ComForT programs—NO DOGS
	Smith-W	March 16	** 7:00 pm, 1 hour	Training for prospective new dogs
	Smith-W	March 23	** 7:00 pm, 1 hour	Training for prospective new dogs
	AAANF	March 30 NO DOGS	6:30-9:00 pm, 2.5 hours NO DOGS	ComForT and Delta Society policies/procedures. NO DOGS
*	Smith-W	April 6	** 7:00 pm, 1 hour	Training for prospective new dogs
*	Smith-W	April 13	** 7:00 pm, 1 hour	Training for prospective new dogs
*	Smith-W	April 20	** 7:00 pm, 1 hour	Training for prospective new dogs

** Tentative time. Depending on the number of dogs enrolled, we may split into groups that meet at different times (e.g. 6:00 and 7:00 pm). Exact times will be set after prescreening has been completed.

AAANF denotes the Area Agency on Aging for North Florida, Inc. located at 2414 Mahan Drive.

Smith-W denotes the Smith-Williams Community Center at 2295 Pasco Street, next to Walker Ford.

Formal Delta Society Evaluations (by appointment only):

	Date		Time (TENTATIVE)	Focus
*	April 4	Saturday	9:00 am to noon	For renewal evaluations
*	April 18	Saturday	9:00 am to noon	For renewal evaluations
*	April 25	Saturday	9:00 am to noon	For Spring class members
*	April 27	Monday Evening	6:00 pm to 9:00 pm	For Spring class members
*	May 2	Saturday	9:00 am to noon	For Spring class members

Note: although the spring class does not finish until April 20th, the earlier April dates have been added to accommodate current ComForT volunteers who will need to renew their registrations.

Special message for ComForT volunteers who need to RENEW in 2009:

Delta Society allows you to renew your registration as much as 6 months in advance of your expiration date and they will give you a new expiration date that will be 2 years from your current expiration date. For example, if your current registration expires at the end of June 2009 or Sept 2009, then you can do the evaluation in April 2009 and your new registration would expire at the end of June 2011 or Sept 2011 respectively.

It is very important that you check the EXPIRATION DATE on your Delta Society badge. If your expiration date is June 30, 2009 or September 30, 2009, then you should avail yourself of one of the April testing dates (preferably April 4th or 18th). Delta Society no longer grants extensions to expired registrations. Contact Gail Parker to schedule a testing appointment

SCHEDULE FOR GROUP VISITS**IMPORTANT NOTE!**

To sign up for a visit, please call Stephanie Perkins at 671-6342 (work), or 321-3787 (cell) or email at comfortpet1@yahoo.com

January 2009			
1/3/09	Saturday	Centre Pointe Health & Rehab	10:45 am
1/5/09	Monday	Alterra Clare Bridge	6:30 pm
1/10/09	Saturday	Harborchase	10:00 am
1/12/09	Monday	Cherry Laurel	1:30 pm
1/14/09	Wednesday	United Cerebral Palsy-Lifelinks	10:30am
1/15/09	Thursday	Elder Day Stay	10:30 am
1/16/09	Friday	Heritage Health Care	10:00 am
1/17/09	Saturday	Consulate Health Care	10:45 am
1/19/09	Monday	Alterra Clare Bridge	6:30 pm
1/23/09	Friday	Pyramid Inc.-W Tennessee St	9:30am
1/24/09	Saturday	Woodmont	10:00 am

February 2009			
2/2/09	Monday	Alterra Clare Bridge	6:30 pm
2/5/09	Thursday	St Augustine Plantation	10:00 am
2/7/09	Saturday	Westminster Oaks Parry Center	10:00 am
2/9/09	Monday	Cherry Laurel	1:30 pm
2/11/09	Wednesday	United Cerebral Palsy-Lifelinks	10:30 am
2/14/09	Saturday	Broadview	10:00 am
2/16/09	Monday	Alterra Clare Bridge	6:30pm
2/19/09	Thursday	Elder Day Stay	10:30 am
2/21/09	Saturday	TMH Rehab	10:00 am
2/27/09	Friday	Pyramid Inc.-W Tennessee St.	9:30am
2/28/09	Saturday	Woodmont	10:00am

March 2009			
3/2/09	Monday	Alterra Clare Bridge	6:30 pm
3/7/09	Saturday	Capital Health Care	10:00 am
3/9/09	Monday	Cherry Laurel	1:30 pm
3/11/09	Wednesday	United Cerebral Palsy-Lifelinks	10:30 am
3/14/09	Saturday	Westminster Oaks Health Care Center	10:00 am
3/16/09	Monday	Alterra Clare Bridge	6:30 pm
3/19/09	Thursday	Elder Day Stay	10:30 am
3/21/09	Saturday	Sterling House	10:00 am
3/23/09	Monday	TMH Adult Day Care	1:30 pm
3/27/09	Friday	Pyramid Inc.-W Tennessee St.	9:30am
3/28/09	Saturday	Woodmont	10:00 am

Some pictures of last year's social—May 18, 2008

To see all pictures from last year's gathering, check out these web sites:

<http://www.terryparker.shutterfly.com>

<http://picasaweb.google.com/Bobbiejo44/ComForTPartyMay18>



I WANT TO HELP ...

the ComForT Program by donating ____ \$10 ____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$100 or \$____
to support its many worthwhile activities.

Please make your check payable to the **Area Agency on Aging for North Florida, Inc.**
Fill out this box, clip, and mail it **with your check** to: Area Agency on Aging for North Florida, Inc.,
2414 Mahan Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32308.

Many Thanks for your tax-deductible donation!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

* If you are not already receiving this newsletter and would like to, please check here: _____

PAWPRINTS is a publication of the Area Agency on Aging for North Florida, Inc., a private non-profit organization funded in part through a grant by the State of Florida Department of Elder Affairs. The ComForT (Companions for Therapy) Program is sponsored by the Agency utilizing federal funds. **PAWPRINTS** is published quarterly for the purpose of informing ComForT volunteers, health care professionals and the general public about activities and benefits of the Program.

**To be added to our mailing list, or to make submissions for inclusion in future issues of PAWPRINTS, contact Stephanie Perkins at the Area Agency on Aging: 850-488-0055.*

Area Agency on Aging for North Florida, Inc.
2414 Mahan Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308