

# Barking Up the Right Tree: Animal Assisted Therapy at the Library



**Health  
Concerns  
Committee**

*Reference and Adult Services Division of SCLA*



# Program Organizers

**Salvatore Filosa**, Port Jefferson Free Library

**Sally Stieglitz**, Adelphi University Libraries

**Jill Cloonan**, Longwood Public Library



# Program Presenters

**Kathleen Maxheimer**, Outreach Strategist  
(Retired), Stony Brook University Libraries

**Pamela Linden**, LMSW PhD, Clinical Associate  
Professor, Stony Brook University & Certified  
Veterinary Social Worker

**Cindy Amodio**, PRAAT Coordinator & Scheduler

**Hans**, Seasoned Animal Assisted Therapy Canine



# Let's get social!

**#longislandlibraryconference**  
**#hansololilc2017**

# Who Let the Dogs Out?











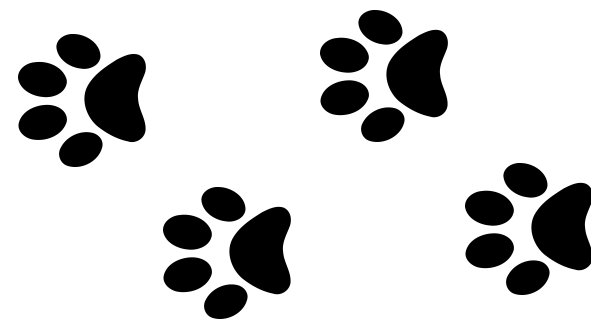
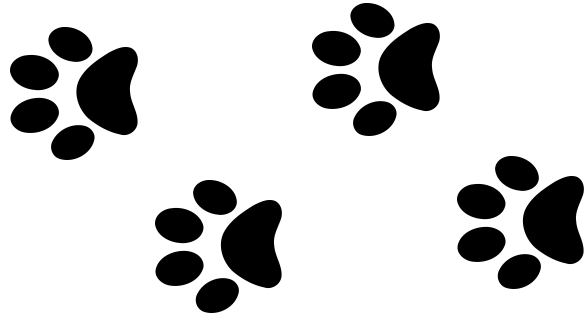








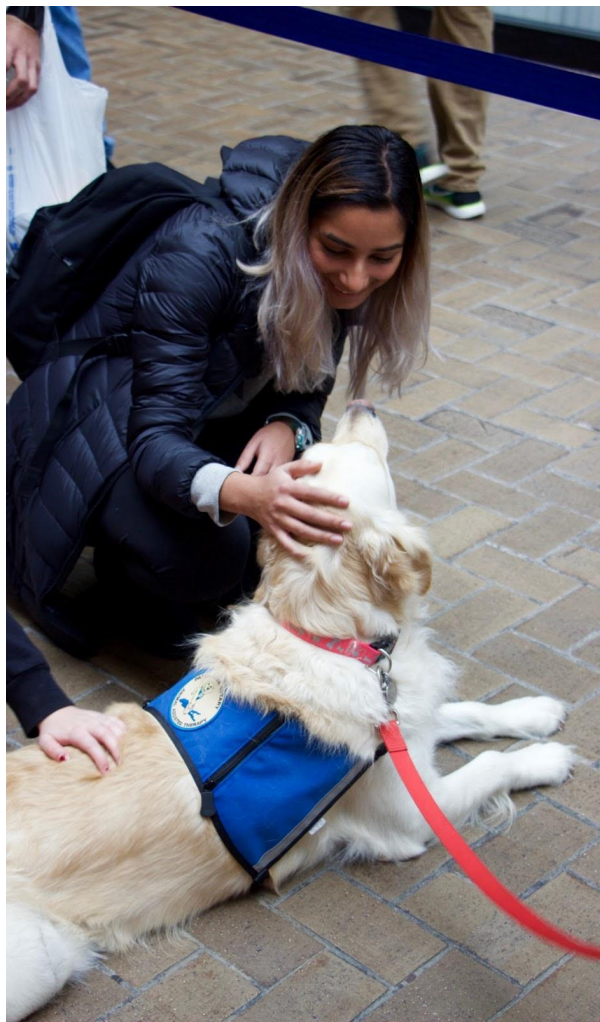




















# Pam



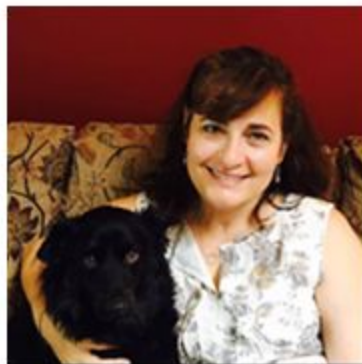
# Veterinary Social Work



POST-GRADUATE

**Veterinary Social Work**

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



**Pamela Linden, LMSW, PhD**

Certified Veterinary Social Worker

University of Tennessee College of Social Work

VSW Certificate #2017-01

Certified Pet Loss and Bereavement Counselor

# Prevalence and Market

**62% of US households have companion animals (APPA, 2011)**

- ❑ **39% dogs**
- ❑ **33% cats and others (birds, fish, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians)**

**45 billion US pet industry**

- ❑ **Food \$17.4b**
- ❑ **Supplies/OTC medicine: \$10.2b**
- ❑ **Veterinary care: \$12.2b**
- ❑ **Pet service, grooming and boarding: \$3.4b**

# The Retreat, York, England

Founded in 1792 by  
William Tuke, a  
Yorkshire Quaker

Opened in 1796





# Florence Nightingale and her owlet, Athena





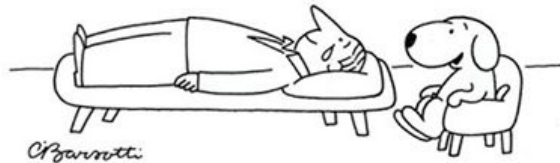




# Smoky, the War Dog



# Emotional Support Animal



*"Well, I think you're wonderful."*

The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act protect the right of people with disabilities to keep emotional support animals, even when a landlord's policy explicitly prohibits pets. Because emotional support and service animals are not "pets," but rather **are considered to be more like assistive aids** such as wheelchairs, the law will generally require the landlord to make an exception to its "no pet" policy so that a tenant with a disability can fully use and enjoy his or her dwelling.



# Service Animals

**Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.** Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. ***Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.***

- *Source: US Department of Justice (2010). [http://www.ada.gov/service\\_animals\\_2010.htm](http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm)*



Anyone who falsely claims their dog is a service dog now can be fined in Virginia

It is illegal to fit a dog with a harness or other signage “commonly used by a person with a disability” in order to represent the animal as a service dog.





# The Kinds of Service Animals

	Companion Animal	Therapy Animal (Comfort or co-therapist)	Emotional Support Animal	Assistance Dog
Handler	Multiple persons in the family	Usually one person	One person with disabilities	One person with disabilities
Main beneficiary	Caregivers of the animal	Various people receiving AAI	Handler	Handler
Training requirements in U.S.	No	No	No	Trained in tasks supporting the handlers disabilities
U.S. Public Access (U.S. DOJ, 2010, 2011)	No	No	No	Yes
US transportation access (U.S. DOT, 2008)	No	No	Yes	Yes
U.S. housing access (U.S. HUD, 2008)	No	No	Yes	Yes

# The Biology of the Human-Animal Bond

- Humans bond emotionally as we gaze into each other's eyes
- Oxytocin is the “love hormone”
- Nagasawa et al. found that gaze-mediated bonding exists between humans and dogs
- Mutual gazing increased oxytocin levels

“Human-dog interaction by dogs' human-like gazing behavior brought on social rewarding effects due to oxytocin release in both humans and dogs and followed the deepening of mutual relationships, which led to interspecies bonding”  
(Nagasawa, et al, 2015, v. 348, Issue 6232, pp. 333-336).

# Recommended Best Practices for Animal Assisted Activities in Libraries

- Provide a separate room for groups of reading teams
- Have librarian keep time and change to a new student every 15-20 minutes
- Provide adequate space with carpeted area, pillows or rugs for students to lean on with the dog
- Provide a chair for the handler
- Have students interact 1:1 with the dog or 2:1 if the students know one another
- Students should wait their turn outside of the reading room
- Communicate with the handler the number of patrons anticipated
- Reduce stress on the handler-dog team by separating the “waiting line” from the “interaction space”

# Recommended Best Practices for Animal Assisted Activities in Libraries

- Avoid having toys/play area for non-readers in same area as AAA
- Help children concentrate while reading by reducing distractions (other children or siblings, parents/guardians)
- Protect dog:child interaction time while reading
- Children should have a book picked out before their turn with the dog
- Help the children pick books on their reading level; have some books already picked out and within reach
- Have picture books available



Cindy

&

Hans





# Thank You

For Your Attention



We hope this presentation wasn't too RUFF.

# But first, let me take a Selfie

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