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## HRI Dogs: Therapy Work Paco

In the spirit of this happy season of giving we would like to introduce Mary Richling who is Chairperson of HRI's Intake Committee. She did Therapy work for nine years with her sweet dog Paco. Therapy is a career well suited to Havanese. They have a sensitive, friendly nature and beautiful silky hair.

Here is Paco's story.

Paco made a difference. Paco passed the requirements to become a registered therapy dog shortly before his second birthday. He and Mary became therapy pet partners in the Delta Society which later became Pet Partners. Paco delighted in his visits. He knew as soon as he got his vest on, it was time to work.



Paco in his vest

Dogs have such an amazing aptitude for lowering stress! Paco loved to visit the harried staff at busy hospitals. He especially enjoyed older folks with memory issues, many who no longer communicated with people, but remembered "Good boy!" and would pet his soft fur over and over. One of the places Mary and Paco visited regularly was a rehab center for drug, alcohol,

and emotional disorders. Paco was nonjudgmental and asked only for a belly rub in payment for helping a teen realize that the dog thought they was worthy.

Pet Partners requires a reevaluation for both the dog and human partner every two years. What is required: A dog with good manners, responsive to basic commands, comfortable with people and possible stressful situations. Passing the Canine Good Citizen program is a great start. Your dog should enjoy their therapy work and as a team, it should be rewarding for both of you, your clients, and their staff.

The AKC recognizes the value of therapy dogs and awards titles based on experience; Novice Therapy Dog, Therapy Dog Advanced, Therapy Dog Excellent, and Therapy Dog Distinguished which requires over 400 visits. Paco earned his Therapy Dog Distinguished title for making over 500 visits in the nine years he and Mary were Pet Partners.



Mary and Paco

Paco got to walk in the Therapy Dog Parade at a couple of HCA National Specialty Shows and earned pretty ribbons. He enjoyed performing simple tricks that brought smiles to folks lonely or in pain and he had a keen sense of who needed his therapy the most. Paco headed to the Rainbow Bridge earlier this summer. He truly made a difference in his 13 ½ Years.



Mary and Paco in the Therapy Dog parade

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## Interested In Therapy Work with your Havanese?

AKC has a listing of all their accredited Therapy Dog organizations. You can go to their site and choose the one you like. Beware, there are others who are not legitimate, there is always someone who will fake it to make money! It is vital to have instruction, insurance, appropriate locations to visit, and the sponsorship of a good organization.

AKC says, since the 1980's, there have been significant advances in the field of animal-assisted therapy and the use of therapy dogs. Organized therapy dog groups provide educational material to volunteers, screen both volunteers and dogs, and provide liability insurance for when the dog and handler are volunteering in a therapy setting.

Therapy dog certification organizations are the experts in this field. It is their dedication that has organized and advanced the work of therapy dogs and their efforts should be acknowledged and appreciated.

The following certification organizations are recognized by the AKC. A dog must be certified by one of these organizations to be eligible to receive the AKC Therapy Dog title. See their list on the AKC website.

[AKC Therapy Dog Distinctions](#)

Pet Partners (formerly Delta Society) has many branches nationally. This is the group Mary Richling worked with in Arizona, as well as some other HRI volunteers in other parts of the country.

[Pet Partners Website](#)

Here is a book you may enjoy: *A Dog Walks Into A Nursing Home* by Sue Halpern

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## Service dogs, Therapy Dogs, and Emotional Support Dogs What's The Difference?

- Service dogs are specially trained to focus on one person with a disability. These dogs are highly trained, 24/7, involved in lifelong roles.
- Therapy dogs accompany their owners to hospitals, schools, etc to aid in children's reading programs, cheer up seniors, and other activities always with the owner
- Emotional Support animals are for the owners' comfort in stressful situations. The following chart will show their differences.



	<b>Service Dogs</b> individually trained to perform specific tasks and to work with people with disabilities. The work of the service dog must be directly related to the handler's disability.	<b>Therapy Dogs</b> with their human teammate volunteer work in clinical settings, such as hospitals, mental health institutions, hospices, schools, and nursing homes, where they provide comfort, affection, and even love.	<b>Emotional Support Dogs</b> are companion animals that ease anxiety, depression, some phobias, and loneliness. Dogs that simply provide emotional comfort do not qualify as service animals.
ADA covered? Rights to bring animal into public establishments	YES	NO	NO
Needs to tolerate a wide variety of experiences, environments, and people	YES	YES	NO
May live with their owners, even if "No Pets" policy is in place	YES	NO	Fair Housing mandates reasonable accommodations.
May fly with their owners on an airplane	YES	NO	Airlines are not required to allow.
Specifically trained to assist just one person	YES	NO	NO
Provide emotional support and comfort to many people	NO	YES	NO

# Thanks To Those Who Supported Our Giving Tuesday Campaign!

# GI ING TUESDAY

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## News From HRI Introducing Intake

It is a pleasure to introduce Mary Richling again, who heads an important HRI committee, Intake. Her team works 24/7 to answer queries and assess whether dogs are candidates for HRI. This can be an emotional and draining responsibility having to help someone turn over their Havanese. Acceptance into HRI involves many conversations and sometimes suggestions that help an owner work through problems to enable them to keep their dog.

Each committee member is in charge of manning the Intake email account on their given day of the week. This Intake volunteer stays with their contact until a resolution is found. This correspondence often takes days or even weeks. This communication ensures as much information about the dog is disclosed. Breed ID confirmation, vet records, and surrender forms are also expected during the intake process. Once this information is compiled there is a vote by the entire Intake Committee on whether to vote a dog into HRI.

Once a dog has been voted into HRI the next step in the process is notifying other HRI Committees, The Dog Management Team and the dog's State Contact, of a new arrival. Keep your eyes out for next month's HRI Committee introduction for what happens next!

Intake work is most important and the starting point of a dog's journey through HRI. Intake volunteers require a vast amount of talent from needing to be a good listener to being well organized. These talents help a new dog start off on the right foot for the next HRI committee.

Mary and her team do fabulous work while enduring an emotionally draining job.

Thank you to Mary Richling, Debbie Andres, Pat Potter, Mary Salomon, Char Renslow, Diana Brooks and Shekeyse Jones

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# Holiday Preparations



AKC suggests: No matter the age of your dog, ensure there is nothing dangerous for them to get into. That includes holiday plants (Poinsettias, Holly, Mistletoe, Pine, Amaryllis) and foods that are toxic to dogs, like chocolate. Don't leave anything where your dog can sneak a bite, also, watch where you place decorations. A curious dog can be injured if they try to chew or swallow them. Consider buying your dog something special like a new toy or some bully sticks. It's fun to let them participate in holiday gift-giving, but it will also help them form positive associations with the hustle and bustle of the holidays. And if you think you might need baby gates or an exercise pen to keep your dog out of a certain area, get these barricades in place in advance so your dog can get used to them.

Consider your dog's needs and avoid adding undue stress during this hectic time. It may be a lot of work but preparing your home and your dog for the holiday season will help ensure everybody enjoys this special time of year. Your dog will thank you for it.

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What type of presents do you give your dog for the holiday season?

Toys

Select

Treats

Select

The practical like beds and leashes?

Select

All The Above (Lucky Dog!)

Select

### **CONTACT INFORMATION LINKS**

Do not "reply" to this bulletin  
Choose an appropriate contact below.  
Click to request assistance for a [dog needing rescue](#).  
Click to complete [adoption application](#)  
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