

Read the latest CAP News!



Happy New Year to all!

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CAP News January, 2026



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President's and Vice President's Letter to the Membership

Happy New Year, dedicated members!

We are at the start of a momentous year for CAP! 2026 will be the 40th anniversary of our organization, and we plan to celebrate it in a big way. Our founding mothers'

visits with a dog-loving friend at The Terraces of Orleans was the impetus for our pet therapy program. When other residents at The Terraces expressed interest in dog visits, the idea of pet therapy program was born. From its humble beginnings, CAP has thrived and grown over the years. We now have over 100 certified therapy teams and volunteers who regularly make 7,500 visits to nursing homes, assisted living residences, schools, libraries, hospitals, and other community programs. In addition, CAP is represented at many special charitable events throughout the Cape, educating participants about CAP and the benefits of pet therapy. Stay tuned for more information about our anniversary festivities to come this summer. During these frigid, dark January days, think summer! Sunshine! Celebration! It just might get you through till spring.

The new year will also bring a new look to CAP. A fortuitous grant from Fleetwing Charitable Trust has enabled us to fund a project focused on rebranding CAP's logo and website which will be revealed in the months to come. We'll remain the same, essential CAP you know and love, but with an updated look and a website that is more current and interactive.

Our membership has increased in the past year, due to an increase in marketing efforts, our streamlined, effective training curriculum, and support for new members. We remain grateful to Waquoit Congregational Church for allowing us to use their space for training and other CAP activities.

CAP has also benefitted from generous charitable donations in 2025. This has allowed us to continue to support and expand the work of our non-profit, all

volunteer organization of which you are an important part. Thank you to our donors and for the effort, time and love all of our members contribute on behalf of CAP and the residents of Cape Cod.

Sincerely,
Mary Wills, CAP President
Michele Granger, CAP Vice-President

Children and Adult Specialty Program Visits



Theo and Cindy Sia and young friends are all smiles at Yarmouth Port Library

Children and Adult Specialty one-time events and monthly visits kept our teams busy bringing cold noses

and warm moments to Cape Codders of all ages and brightening the season everywhere they went.

If you are not a qualified Children and Adult Specialty Program Visits team member and would like to become one, you must have at least 6 visits at adult care facilities to apply. Learn more at companionanimalprogram.com/members/ for information about the requirements and program application. Contact [Susan](#) with any questions.



Cooper Heleen gets up close and personal to deliver comfort to a patient at Cape Cod Hospital

Visiting Updates



Not a creature was stirring at this cozy holiday visit

As you'll see from the many team photos in this newsletter, CAP did not take a break from our visits to nursing facilities and assisted living residences over the holidays. We donned our gay apparell and gussied up our canine partners to bring joy to residents all over the Cape. We greet the new year with renewed energy; eager for what's ahead.

Still Seeking Your Expertise

The **Upper Cape** continues its search for a **Visitation Coordinator**. This is a shared position. Kerry Walton will remain in her role providing behind the scenes clerical and technical support. The member assuming the new role will interview the contact person when a new site requests CAP visits and vet the venue for its suitability for our services. This individual will also be contacted if a Captain needs additional teams and

provide overall assistance. If a team wants to add a new site to their schedule, they will contact the Visitation Coordinator. If you are an organized, energetic person who enjoys working with others, this opportunity could be just right for you! Interested? Contact [Mary](#).

If you have questions about a specific visiting site, you can reach out to your Captain or to the Visitation Coordinators, [Kerry](#) Walton and [Mary](#) Wills, Upper Cape; [Ellen](#) Hewins, Lower Cape; and [Susan](#) Hunt, Children's and Adult Specialty Visits. They will answer any questions you have about CAP and the many monthly visits we have on our schedule.

If you've not already done so, please send a photo of your dog in CAP scarf to [Kerry](#) for your dog's "business card". She says photos with some background included work best. Questions? Email [Kerry](#).

Click on the link for a complete listing of adult visiting sites. www.companionanimalprogram.com/adult-visits.html and on The [Member Portal](#) for dates and times. Click on either [Ellen](#) (Lower Cape) or [Mary](#) or [Kerry](#) (Upper Cape) to check availability.

Watch your snail mail in February for our 2026 Membership Directory. Thanks to Kerry Walton for her tireless efforts in putting the directory together and sending it out to you.

Did you know?

All members are welcome to join any of CAP's committees. You do not need to be a board member in order to participate. A description of all committees can be found in your Membership Directory. So, take a look

and get in touch with [Mary](#) if you'd like to become involved with a committee.



Molly White shares a smile with a resident

CAP Training News



Good Geo!

CAP's Winter training classes start this month. Our Falmouth class is full, but spaces are available for our class in South Dennis at Tail Waggin' Dog Training Center, scheduled to begin on January 23rd at 10:30 AM.

Spring classes in Falmouth will begin on March 26th at 9:00 AM. If you know of someone who might be interested in either the spring class on the Upper Cape or the South Dennis class scheduled for January, encourage refer them to the Training and Testing Section of our website.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register for a class.

If a team does not possess the prerequisite AKC Good Citizens Certification (CGC), they have the option of taking a CGC course and test, or simply taking the test with one of our evaluators. If that option is preferred, we

will work with them to schedule an evaluation.
Contact [Mary](#) with any questions.

Congratulations to our five new teams who were recently certified! Welcome!

The Holidays Are Over, But the Memories Linger On



Barnstable Community Senior Center has a festive visit with CAP Teams



CAP brings some cheer to Seaview Adult Day Health in Mashpee



CAP teams rockin' around the Christmas tree at Cape Heritage in Sandwich



Sandy Claus and company at Transition Centers



A seasonal gathering of CAP teams as they wrap up their visit at Riverview School



A cozy get-together around the fireplace at Royal Cape Cod Rehabilitation Center in Bourne



CAP Teams bring some Ho! Ho! Ho! to Laurentide at Mashpee Commons



This officer has his arms full of Bandit Hunt, while Nelli Devine strikes a perfect pose at Teaticket School



A jolly gathering of CAP teams about to visit patients at Cape Cod Hospital



CAP visits Barnstable Innovation School in Hyannis



Thank you notes from the students at Barnstable Innovation School after their visit with CAP dogs



CAP teams take a break to celebrate a staff member's birthday at Falmouth Hospital



These teams even brought their own turkeys to a Thanksgiving visit at Latham Center



It'll be fun! they said. You'll look adorable! they said, but had they ever tried carrying a turkey around on THEIR backs?

Santa's Canine Helpers Were Out in Force this Season!



Maahi Mattioli goes for a dignified Santa Paws look



Sadie Renner sports her red stocking cap to celebrate the season



Madi Beasley may have had just about as much fun as she can stand

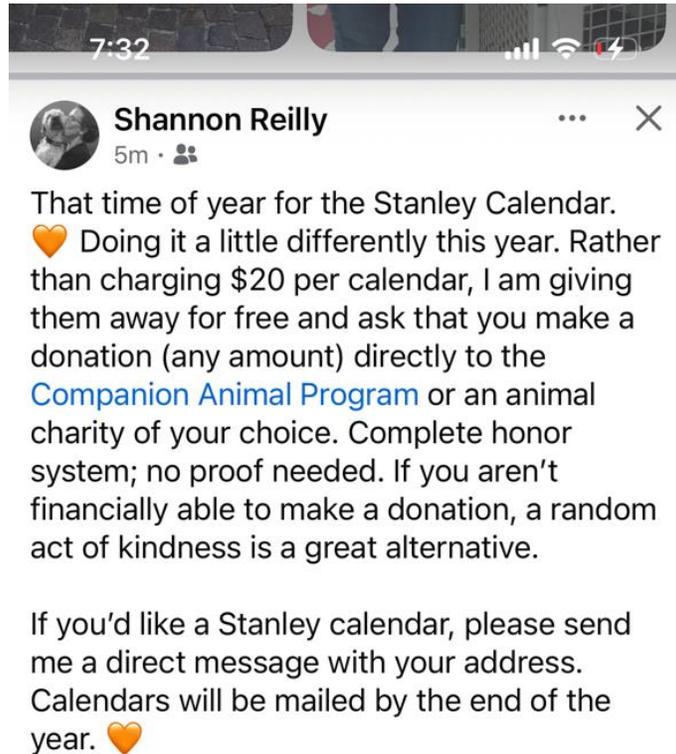


Brya Van Drimlen wonders if it's past time to remove her holiday headband (Pu-leeze?!)



Miss Murphy Watts arrives at Cape Cod Hospital in her own sleigh

A Generous Member Supports CAP in a Fun Way



CAP's "Giver of the Stars" Hands Off Her Title



Cathy Offinger,
CAP's esteemed
"Giver of the Stars",
steps down after 10
years of devoted
service in that role.
Thank you, Cathy!



Liuda Raponi (and
Milo) assume the post
in January. Welcome
Liuda!

All members are entitled to receive a star for their dog's scarf and a smaller version that can be added to their ID for each 25 visits completed. Click [here](#) to obtain a form to either scan and email to [Liuda Raponi](#), our new Giver of the Stars, or send to her via snail mail at: PO Box 3139, Pocasset, MA, 02559

New Year! New Teams! Welcome Aboard!



Dorene and Charlie
Goldstein



Deb and Mac
Merriam



Bette and Felix Bertini



Randi Moberg and
Sandy, Randi's
FOURTH CAP dog



Tammy and Maggie Gilbert



Deb with Loki Davidson

With heavy hearts we share the sad news that one of our canine team members, Loki Davidson, was taken away too soon. Loki only served as a CAP member for about a year, but he made a tremendous impact during that time. He brightened the day for everyone that he met and provided many people with love, cuddles, and most of all, comfort. Loki loved his work as a therapy dog and was always excited to "visit his friends", and give some affection wherever he went. He will surely be missed by his family and all CAP teams who had the pleasure of working with him and his handler, Deb.

**While the year is new, perhaps we should consider
this thought from our canine companions**



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Did you know that:

Half of CAP's income comes from membership?
The balance of our income comes from contributions & fundraising. Please help today. Give a gift in honor of or in memory of an animal lover or a favorite pet who has crossed the rainbow bridge.

The Companion Animal Program | P.O. Box 453 | Chatham, MA 02633 US

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