

The Doggy Digest

Paws & Play Facility Dog Program at Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital



The Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department

Issue 1 2021

Professor, Amos and Moby were busy in 2020!



OVER 2,000 PATIENT SESSIONS

On over 12 clinical units including:
Inpatient: Medical Surgical, Pediatric Intensive Care, Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care, Hematology/Oncology, Adult Intensive Care
Outpatient: Hematology/Oncology clinic, Metabolic clinic and General Pediatric clinic.

OVER 6,800 SESSIONS SUPPORTING STAFF, FACULTY AND TRAINEES

The pandemic was especially hard on our healthcare heroes, and our facility dog and handler teams were there to provide much needed support around resilience and well-being.



OVER 550 SESSIONS ADDRESSING PAIN AND ANXIETY DURING INVASIVE PROCEDURES

Which includes pain following surgical procedures and cancer and sickle cell-related pain. Procedures include line placements, blood draws, and drain and chest tube removals.



500 SESSIONS SUPPORTING PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Having a child with serious health complications or who may be hospitalized can be highly stressful for parents and caregivers. Our dogs and handlers provide love and comfort during extremely difficult moments.



140 SESSIONS WORKING WITH PHYSICAL THERAPY TO HELP PATIENTS MEET MOBILITY GOALS

Our dogs help patients feel brave when they are working towards goals such as sitting, walking, or using stairs for the first time after surgery. They also serve as motivation to help meet milestones for our younger patients.



OVER 50 "DOG TALK" SHOWS ON KIDZONE TV

KidZone TV, our closed circuit television channel, allows our patients to interact with our dogs in fun and playful ways- right from their hospital room!



February is Recreational Therapy Month!

Recreational Therapy is a field that uses recreation, play and leisure to address the needs of the individuals served. Recreational Therapists seek to treat individuals holistically, using the patient's interests and strengths as a guide, as well as teach skills through recreation participation that can then be used in life outside of the hospital. Integrating Animal Assisted Therapy into this work helps address goals of socialization, coping, encouraging movement and engaging in play. Leisurely sessions with Amos can be spent relaxing and snuggling. More active sessions can be spent playing or engaging in structured recreational activities- reading children's books about dogs, exploring veterinary toys and Amos stuffed animals or playing games such as "Paws & Play memory" or Amos Pictionary. Having sessions with Amos can help boost a patient's motivation to participate in a favorite activity, or to try something new!

Spreading Love at Sinai



Professor, Moby, and Amos celebrating Valentines Day at the hospital with a puppy parade and lots of cuddles!

Happy Holidays from Paws & Play

We hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year! Amos, Professor, and Moby enjoyed some extra time off and celebrations with their families. Professor worked on Christmas Day to help patients and families celebrate with Santa and his helpers by bringing toys to each patient's room to spread some holiday magic. Moby worked on New Year's Day to help patients and families ring in the new year by accompanying the coffee cart that went room to room for patients and families. Amos, Moby, and Professor are excited to see what 2021 has in store!



Spreading Gratitude to our Healthcare Heroes

Looking back on 2020, it was a year unlike any other and Amos, Professor, and Moby are so grateful for their dedicated, hardworking, and steadfast coworkers. All three dogs remained full time and onsite throughout the pandemic and we are proud of the work that they have done to help support our staff, who they love dearly. Amos, Professor, and Moby expanded their usual staff support by visiting with adult hospital staff, the staff in the tents in Central Park, and other campuses throughout the health system. Whether it was a quick hello, a belly rub, a break in the respite space, or some one on one time, Amos, Professor, and Moby are so thankful that they have so many amazing coworkers caring for our patients.



We are grateful to our partners!
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