

THE FUTURE of PAWS

FINDING MORE WAYS
TO **CHANGE LIVES**

2024 SUMMER NEWSLETTER



MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH EVERY UPDATE!

Join our mission to transform lives through the power of service dogs. By subscribing to our newsletter, you'll stay informed about our latest success stories, upcoming events, and how you can get involved. Each edition offers insights into our work, updates on our incredible teams, and opportunities to support our cause.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE](#)



A DOSE of RENLY

Would you believe a dog could help a doctor test how well a child with a disability walks in a straight line? Or serve as a fuzzy pillow to help soothe a patient receiving an injection? Or calm and comfort children during all-day medical testing sessions, which can be strange and overwhelming?

PAWS Facility Dog, RENLY, is doing this exact work!

Some PAWS Dogs are chosen to work as Assistance Dogs, allowing them to work for one person with a disability throughout their lives. However, some Dogs are better suited to

help lots of people. These Dogs, like RENLY, can become PAWS Facility Dogs through our Purposeful Placements (PurPI) program, giving them the opportunity to impact lives on a larger scale.

RENLY works with Dr. Shana Rush at Rush Pediatric Neuropsychology and Dr. A.J. Rush at his physical rehabilitation practice, which are connected by hidden hallways in the back. RENLY spends part of her day in both practices seeing patients with each doctor. “My favorite part of the day,” says Dr. Shana, “is hearing Dr. A.J. call RENLY over to meet a new patient and watch her go trotting off down the hallway.”

With Dr. A.J., RENLY helps corral young children, sometimes three at a time, so he can have the full attention of their parents while they discuss



“ Several patients told our staff they would only schedule an appointment on days when RENLY is in the office. ”

“RENLY has made much more of a difference for us than I could have ever predicted.”

medical treatment. She also lies on or next to patients who need injections. But one of her most important jobs for him is also her sneakiest:

Dr. A.J. sees children with disabilities, some of whom have difficulty walking and may need leg braces. When he needs to assess a child's walking gait, RENLY becomes the target for their stroll down the hallway, allowing Dr. A.J. to watch them walk.

If Dr. A.J. asks the children to walk up and down a hallway, they often walk differently than they typically do because they know they're being watched. Having RENLY there has completely changed the assessment. "Now, RENLY goes all the way down to the end of the hallway and sits down. Then, Dr. A.J. asks the child to take RENLY a treat for being such a good girl. The child walks all the way down there and back just to 'give her a treat' without realizing they're being evaluated." This tactic refocuses the child, so they don't change how they walk. It also has gone from a task that used to take multiple tries, or produce inaccurate results, to one that takes just a few short minutes.

RENLY also loves babies and toddlers. She's fascinated by them, and one of the best parts of her job is getting to be as close to them as possible. But as a big, sturdy Labrador Retriever, she towers over small children. So, her handler Dr. Shana taught RENLY how to crawl on her belly, creeping up to them and staying low so she doesn't scare their smallest patients.

RENLY's main job with Dr. Shana is to help kids feel calm and comfortable during their all-day testing sessions and at break time. Some kids like to snuggle on the breaks between sessions, while others like to jump around and help RENLY pop bacon-flavored bubbles.



One little boy wanted to help take RENLY for a walk on their break. "He talked my ear off during that walk," says Dr. Shana. "I learned more about him in that 15 minutes than I could have in half a day – just being 'out for a walk' put him at ease."

"RENLY has made much more of a difference for us than I could have ever predicted," says Dr. Shana. "I had no idea how many people were 'dog people'. At one point, RENLY had Thursdays off because she routinely works Saturdays, too. Several patients told our staff they would only schedule an appointment on days when RENLY is in the office."

“RENLY's our designated CMO— Chief Morale Officer—and truly lives up to that. She makes everyone smile.”

Dr. Shana estimates that between her and Dr. A.J.'s patients, RENLY helps over 1,000 people a year. By the time RENLY retires, Dr. Shana thinks RENLY will work with between 8,000-10,000 patients. "Dr. A.J. and I have pretty stressful jobs as we try to help people and solve mental or physical problems, sometimes for people in pain. Having RENLY here seems to bring the stress of all of that down. RENLY's our designated CMO— Chief Morale Officer—and truly lives up to that. She makes everyone smile."



CARING for THE FUTURE OF PAWS

PAWS has never had an opportunity to build a Veterinary Clinic specifically for our vet staff.

Our current clinic space is a group of offices and storage rooms in our Canine Education Center converted into a cramped surgical suite and post-surgery recovery room. The veterinary team has spent years finding creative solutions to make their current space work. But with our goal to double the number of dogs we place with Clients by 2030, it was time for an upgrade!

One of the key points of our Embrace the Journey Capital Campaign is to provide a purpose-built, dedicated Veterinary Clinic to enhance the already excellent care our PAWS Dogs receive. This renovated space will offer a streamlined layout to treat our furry patients more efficiently. A surgery room, recovery room, X-ray lab, and multiple exam spaces will offer technological upgrades that reflect the highest standards of modern veterinary care.

Best of all, the new Veterinary Clinic will be just down the hall from our Breeding area, creating a more convenient care experience for our youngest patients.

Every single puppy born into the PAWS Family will spend time at the PAWS Veterinary Clinic as they progress through their PAWS journey. Our Veterinary Clinic hosts over 3,200 appointments for PAWS Puppies and Dogs each year, for everything from routine wellness checkups to dental extractions. These appointments and procedures will be more comfortable for humans and dogs alike in our new Veterinary Clinic.

Right now, we are over 80% of the way toward our goal. Are you ready to build the future of PAWS with us? To learn more, visit www.pawswithacause.org/embrace-the-journey