

# General Membership Meeting

## Friday May 24th

**Our May meeting will be a short presentation and Therapy Dog evaluations done by Kathy Spilos and Linda Brooks from Love on a Leash.**

Meeting 6:30 PM at CPLC on Jordan Ave., Canoga Park

Appetizers, Snacks, Dessert Potluck, please bring something to share.

**RSVP to Monica Nolan at [nolanmilano@gmail.com](mailto:nolanmilano@gmail.com)**

Matisse

At our last Love on a Leash event we had several teams evaluated and three of them chose to continue on and become certified teams. Those three were Monica Nolan and Mikko, Shirley Miller and Smudge, and Marcia Siderow and Matisse.

“A Therapy Animal is a pet that is trained with its owner, as a team, to provide comfort and stress relief to others in a variety of situations.

A therapy pet can be any size, breed, color, shape, or gender. The most important factor is personality. A therapy pet should be even-tempered, good-natured and able to accept handling by other people. Primarily, the ideal therapy pet should enjoy being around people! First, therapy dogs must master the basic obedience skills. This means that they should be able to respond to the commands to sit, lie down, heel, remain in a down/stay, for two minutes, and come. Therapy dogs may have to do a variety of tasks for which additional training is needed, if for no other reason than to make sure accidents don't happen. For example, therapy dogs learn to respond to the command "leave it" so that they don't eat food or medicine that might be dropped on the floor of facilities.

Therapy dogs must be people dogs. This is achieved by exposing the dogs to all kinds of people : the elderly, or frail, children and adults. Regular visits to various places such as parks and shopping centers will allow your dog to get used to all kinds of people. Encourage people to pet your dog and explain what you are going to do with him. “ from Love on a Leash website. <http://www.loveonaleash.org/>

Mikko and Smudge with  
Love on a Leash group  
at CSUN

Mikko

