



Dooley and Dooley meet up at the Cancer Seminar at Saint Joseph's Hospital!

For immediate release: Sarah Petermann 678.482.4413 spetermann@charter.net

Atlanta – Happy Tails Pet Therapy pets and their owners were invited to participate in the Cancer Survivor's Seminar on Saturday, April 20, 2013 at St. Joseph's Hospital. Happy Tails had an area where staff could come to learn more about us and patients could come and visit with the dogs in between presentations. The featured speakers were Barbara and Vince Dooley, both of whom have battled cancer. Pictured are Dooley Griffin (named after "you know who"), Vince Dooley and Rebecca Heitkam, Director of Oncology Services at St. Joe's.

Over 100 people attended the seminar and heard speakers and saw vendors who sold cancer related items. Several attendees recognized our dogs since they had been patients in the radiation and infusion areas where we visit regularly. Many thanked us for visiting while they were undergoing treatment and some plan to change their hospital schedules so they can be with our dogs when we visit.

Cancer is a personal affair with our owners and pets. We have 18 members on this team, 6 of whom have had cancer or family members who have had it. Dooley (the dog) in the picture was adopted as a rescue 3 years ago. He was diagnosed with cancer a year ago, has had surgery and is doing well. This is always a talking point with the patients. He is bilingual, knowing commands in Spanish and English, as his previous owners only spoke Spanish. The patients love this.

Happy Tails' volunteers & pets who attended the seminar were: Laurie Berkin and Roxie, Pat Johnston and Bentley, Sharon Donohue and CJ, Linda Kaplan and Ziggy, Dave Frew and Ranger, Mary McGinnis and Teddy, and Ellen Griffin and Dooley.

As metro Atlanta's oldest and largest nonprofit animal-assisted therapy (AAT) and animal-assisted activity (AAA) organization, Happy Tails serves people of all ages with physical, social, emotional and cognitive needs in a variety of settings. The interaction between humans and animals provides a positive, rewarding experience for clients, volunteers and their pets. The unconditional love and acceptance given by Happy Tails animals ease the pain of clients who miss their home, their family, or even a personal pet.