

Woman, Cat Help Others through Therapy

今回は、女性と猫と一緒にセラピー活動をしているという心温まる記事です。病院や学校を訪れるセラピー動物には、人と出会っても緊張せず、その時間を楽しめる力が求められます。記事に出てくる「tolerate」は「我慢する、受け入れる」という意味で、tolerate stress（ストレスに耐える）や tolerate noise（騒音に耐える）のように使われます。人も動物もお互いを受け入れることで安心感が生まれ、心が落ち着くことがありますよね。あなたは動物と過ごすとき、どんなふうに気持ち楽になったり元気をもらったりしますか？講師と話してみましょう。



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

Every day Juanita Mengel, a 67-year-old woman from the state of Ohio, wakes up and puts on her manufactured leg. The device is called a prosthetic.

Then, Mengel does the same for Lola-Pearl, her colorful five-year-old cat. Lola-Pearl is missing her back left leg.

Mengel has many cats. Most of them have disabilities. But Lola-Pearl is special. She is a therapy cat. And, she and Mengel are partners of a kind. They are among 200 therapy cat teams registered in the United States by the nonprofit group, Pet Partners.

The group helps humans and pets alike by setting them up into teams to provide animal-assisted intervention. The teams visit hospitals, nursing homes and schools and assist those in need.

Taylor Chastain Griffin is national director of animal-assisted interventions at Pet Partners. She said, "A therapy animal is an animal who's been assessed based on their ability to meet new people and not just [tolerate](#) the interaction, but actively enjoy it."

Chastain Griffin is a researcher who studies the effects of therapy cats. She said there needs to be more research done in cat therapy. She said that there is a lot of research on other therapy animals like dogs, and many people are surprised to learn that cats can be therapy animals too.

"They go into a setting and people are like, 'Whoa, there's a cat on a leash. What's happening? It kind of inspires people to connect in a way we haven't traditionally heard talked about in other therapy animal interventions,'" Chastain Griffin said.

Besides dogs and cats, Pet Partners registers seven other species as therapy animals, including horses, rabbits, rats, guinea pigs, birds, mini pigs, and llamas and alpacas.

Mengel said Lola-Pearl showed signs that she would make a good therapy cat soon after the animal joined her family. Mengel took her new cat to a meeting for [amputees](#).

"She was so good with people I just knew she would be a good therapy cat. People really were attracted to her, too," Mengel said.

Recently people who attended a support group for amputees were able to meet Lola-Pearl. They petted her as she woke up from a rest. On the side of the cat carrier she rode in was a sign: "Therapy Cat" it read.

Mengel was a traveling nurse when she was in a car accident that almost killed her. One of her legs could not be saved.

Later, she connected with a friend in the state of Missouri who had a severely injured kitten. Her legs were twisted together. An animal medical specialist worked to repair the damage but, in the end, they had to remove one of the baby cat's legs.

That kitten was Lola-Pearl.

Mengel took Lola-Pearl as her cat after talking with her friend. Despite the difficulties Mengel has faced, she is thankful for Lola-Pearl and their work together.

"It's a really rewarding experience," she said, "I get just as much out of it as the people that I visit."

Patrick Orsagos reported this story for the Associated Press. Faith Pirlo adapted it for VOA Learning English.

2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. manufacture (v.) to make by hand or in a factory

This table was manufactured over a hundred years ago in Boston.

2. disability (n.) a condition that stops you from living a normal life

There have been some improvements in recent years, but It is still not easy for people with disabilities to get around in public places.

3. intervention (n.) help or assistance

Medical intervention can be very expensive.

4. tolerate (v.) to put up with; to accept

I don't enjoy crowded spaces, but I can tolerate them.

5. amputee (n.) a person who has lost a part of their body, such as a hand or a leg

These days, amputees have better options thanks to modern technology.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What is a therapy cat?
2. What abilities or characteristics should a therapy cat have?
3. Who is Juanita Mengel, and how did she get Lola-Pearl?
4. How do animals affect people in a positive way? What do they give us?
5. Are there therapy animals in your country? If so, discuss what kinds they are and what they do. If not, do you think there should be therapy animals there?