

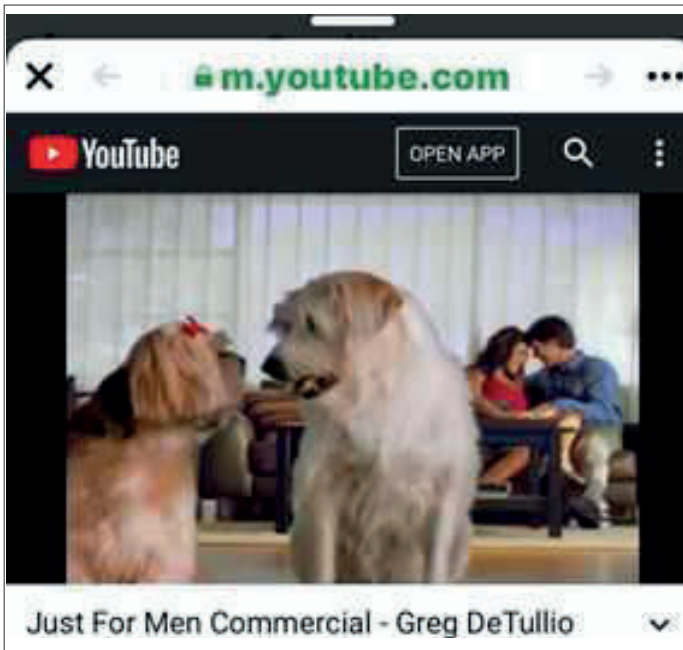
Therapy Dogs - Julia & Buttons

by *Dana Read*

My best friend for decades, Betty Chidley, was a woman of enormous love for the breed of Lhasas. And her love and exuberance of the breed did not stop at the conformation ring. She found new ways to share the wonders of our breed through therapy work.

Living in the populous Greater Miami area, there were a lot of opportunities to help others and help Betty did. She had two bitches in particular, Buttons and Julia, aka CH Tatlisu' Bon Appetite (Buttons) and CH Tatli Su Tarahuff My Fair Lady (Julia) who were both very talented in spreading love and good cheer. Both bitches were certified by Therapy Dog International. Many a morning Betty and I would be "shooting the breeze" on the phone when she would have to hang up to take one of the girls for a scheduled visit. She particularly loved taking Julia to an elementary school for "reading" visits – can you just imagine the fun of a child reading a story to a Lhasa with Betty's gentle nature helping out??? Betty's across the street neighbor and great friend Patty Fisher would take Buttons to hospitals to help with PT and OT. And Buttons, being a small girl who was an Irish import, was PERFECT for the job. Just as her name suggested, she was as cute as a button!

Julia also appeared in a Just For Men commercial.



Betty stayed with the therapy program until her final battle with cancer. I know the work gave both her and her dogs much joy and focus. God bless all who put forth the time and effort to help others in need of Lhasa cuddles and the positive energy encased in those small yet robust packages. Just goes to prove that a Lhasa's beauty is NOT just skin (or hair) deep!!!!

