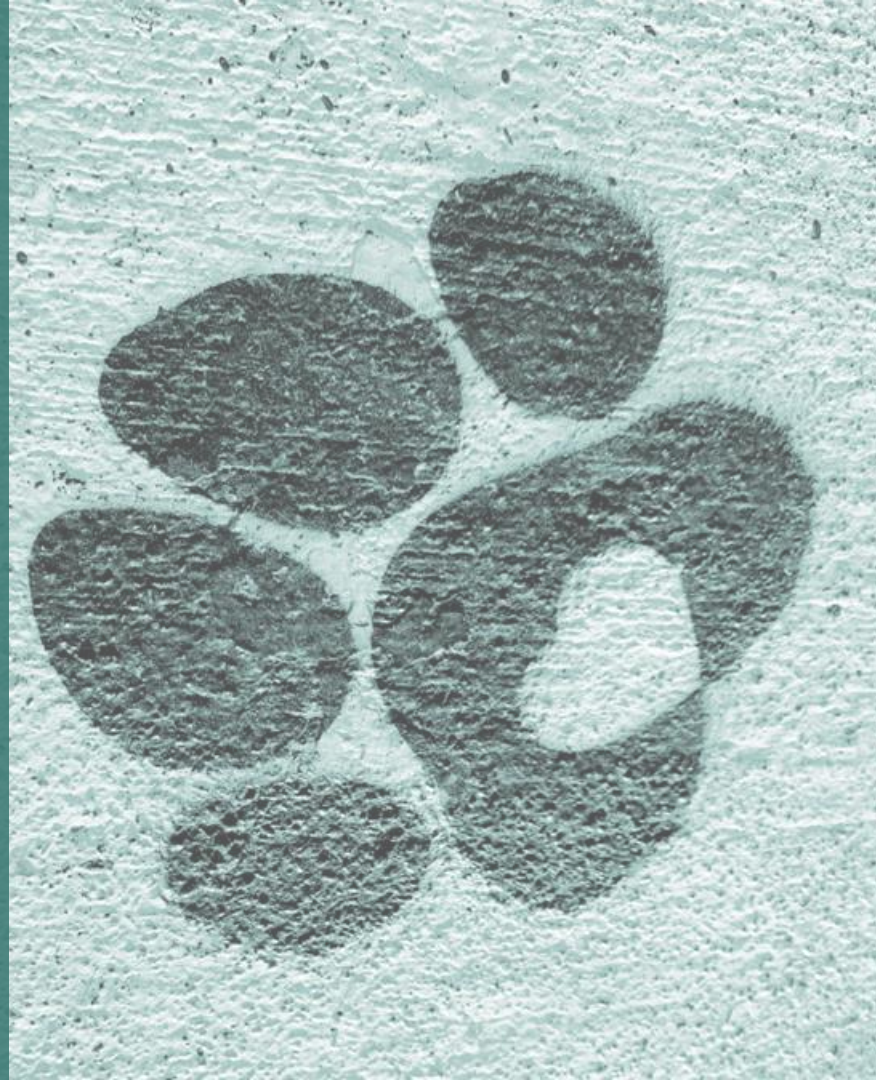
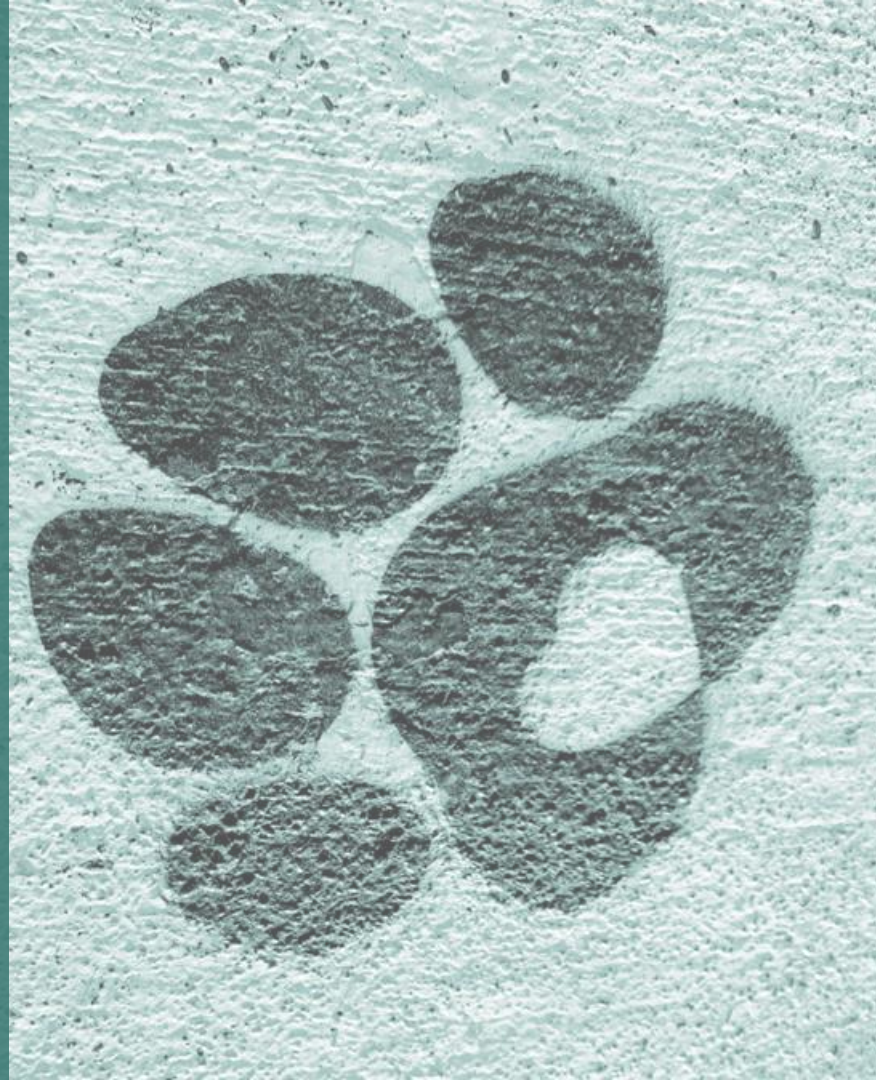
Welcome!

Benvenuti
A Tutti
E A Tutti!

¡Buenos Días!



Education is Going to the (Therapy) Dogs!



Research Question

Definitions

Pakuna

Methods

Setting

Procedures

Findings

Summary

Limitations

Future Directions

Representative Publications

Research Question:

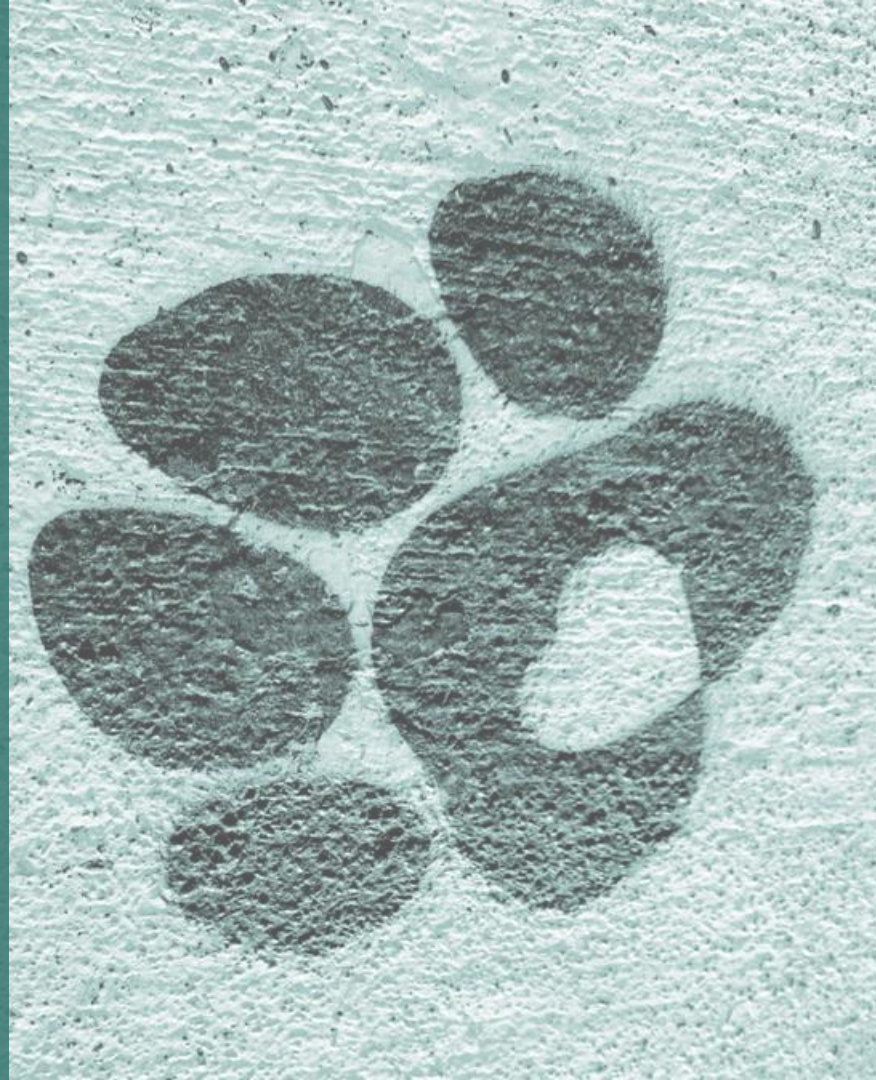
Can a therapy dog help to shift

funds of identity and knowledge

to increase second grade

sight word acquisition scores on a

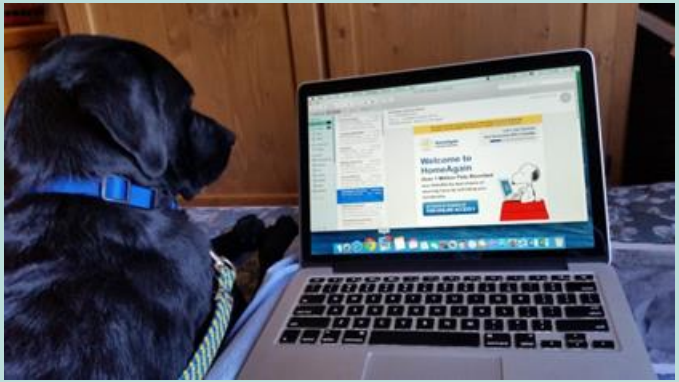
standardized reading assessment?



Sight Words:

Frequently encountered while reading

Crucial in fluency and comprehension

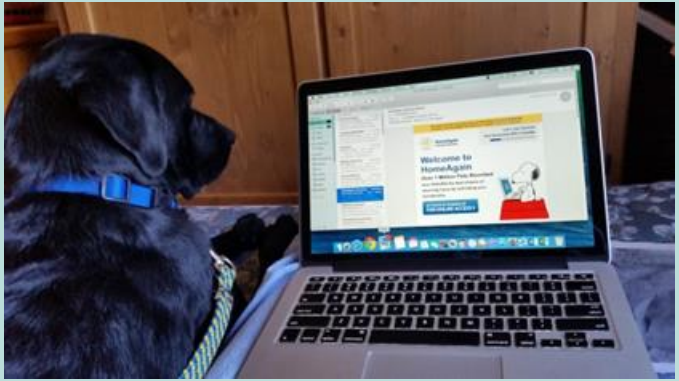


Examples: always, around, because, been, before, best, both, buy...

Funds of Identity:

Labels describing oneself

May or may not be self-determined

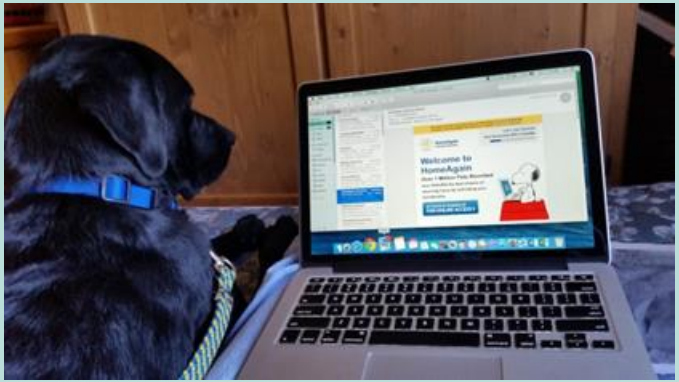


Examples: ethnicity, age, ability, immigration status, occupation…?

Funds of Knowledge:

Stores of information, easily accessed

Cultural, Social, Experiential, Academic...



Examples: religion, friendships, camping skills, sight words...?

PAKUNA

Certified

6-year-old

therapy dog

registered with

the Alliance

of Therapy Dogs

In excellent

health and

insured for

$5,000,000.00

Alliance of Therapy Dogs

sharing smiles and joy™

Woolington Agency LLC 1557 South Street Wheatland, WY USA 82201 Office: 307.322.9129 Fax: 307.322.2426

SETTING

***Title I elementary school**

Southwest USA

Most students spoke Spanish

*Title I schools: High percentage of students receiving free and reduced price breakfast and lunch, commonly located in low-income neighborhoods

PROCEDURES

Randomly assigned conditions

Year-long experience

Permission slips and IRB approval

DRA administered pre and post

Children learn… Can Pakuna learn?

Perhaps, if YOU teach him!

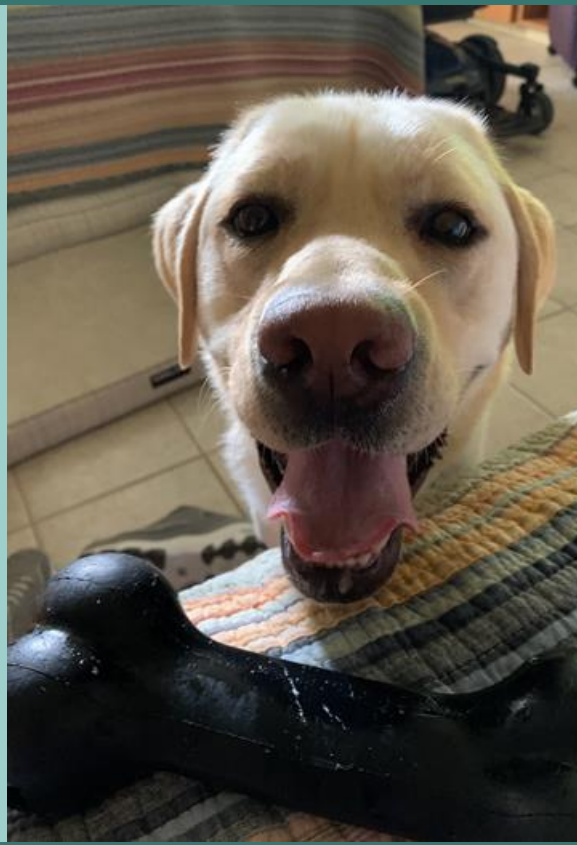
PAKUNA'S LESSONS

We can...

Spell the
letter to him.

Tell Pakuna
the word means.

Make a sentence for
he can know the words.



How It Works

Activating Funds of Identity

Students became TEACHERS	Flash cards	Sight words
Students strategized *how* to teach Pakuna	Everyone saw the same flash cards	Children explained the words for Pakuna

Students as Teachers

“Best” Strategies

Spell and tell	Define	Use in context
“B-E-S-T” spells “best”, Pakuna.	“Best” means more good to anyone.”	“You are my best friend, Pakuna.”

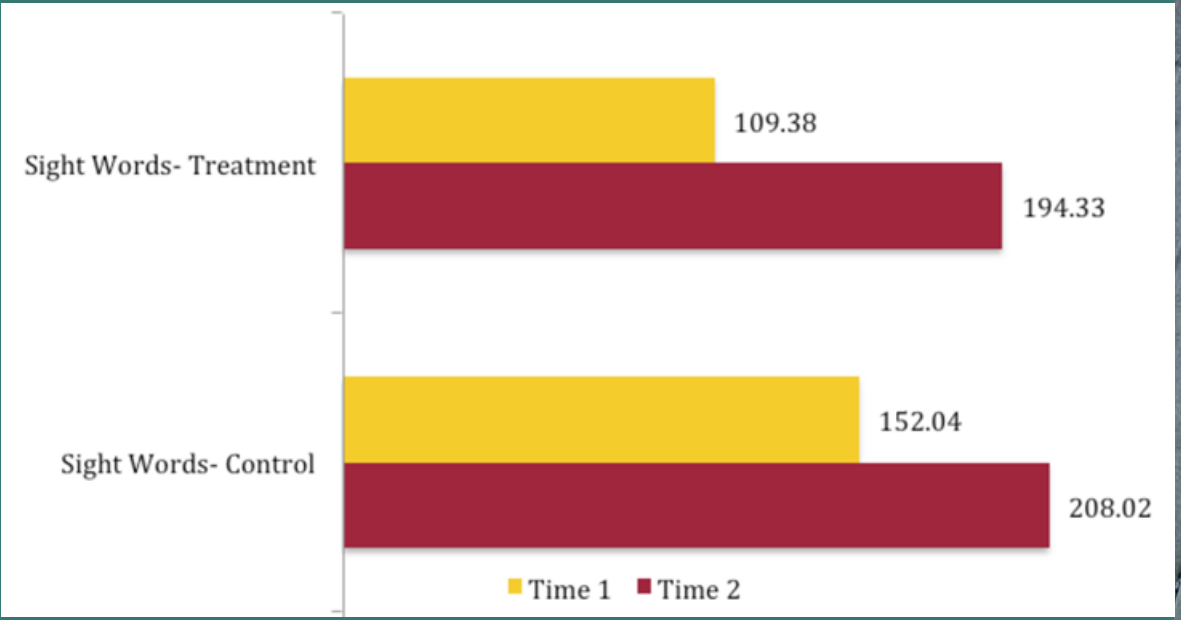
Why It Works

Activating Funds of Knowledge

Teach	Interpret	Evaluate	Reflect
Try a strategy	Check Pakuna's behavior	Does Pakuna understand or need help?	Keep or modify the strategy

RESULTS

Second Grade Sight Word Scores by Condition



ALL children improved their sight word scores

SUMMARY

Children became teachers
(shifting funds of identity)

Pakuna became the student

Young teachers engaged Pakuna
(tapping funds of knowledge)

*Explaining words

*Using the words in sentences

Sight word scores improved significantly more

LIMITATIONS

Acknowledging Areas for Improvement…

Quantitative design

Relatively small sample size n=60

Only one marker of identity

All data from one site

Restricted generalizability

Did not address fluency or comprehension

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Researchers should...

Use Mixed Methods

Recruit more students

Include more markers of diversity

Gather data from multiple sites

Increase generalizability

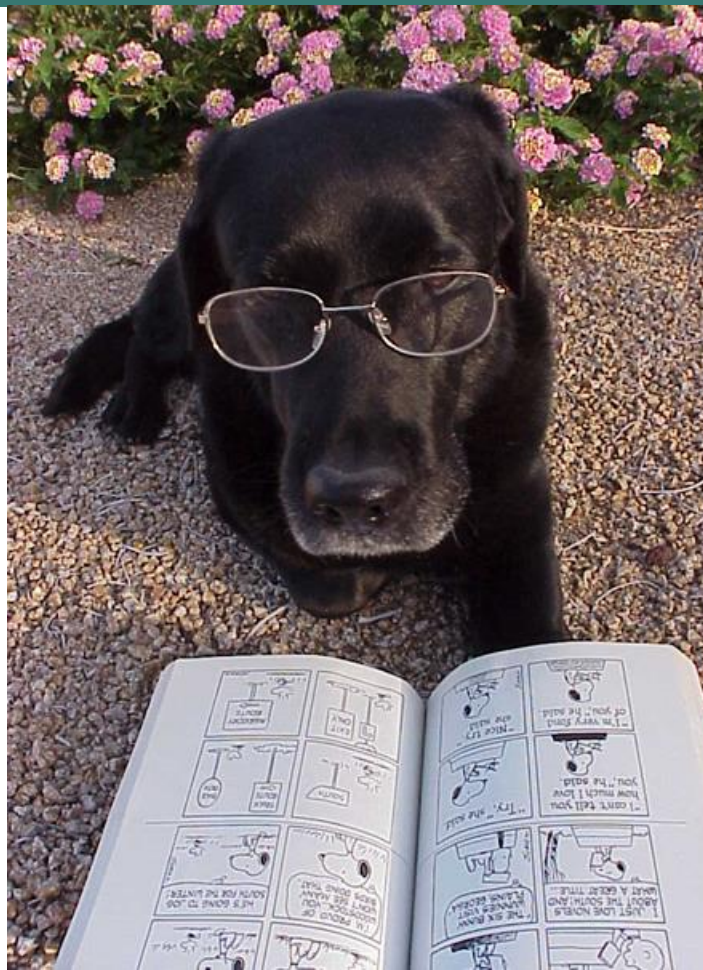
Address fluency and comprehension

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

Hlava, T. (2021). Chapter in Edited Volume: "Career Paths in Human-Animal Interaction for Social and Behavioral Scientists" *Kids and Dogs, Sounds Easy, Right?*

Hlava, T. (2022) Chapter in Edited Volume: "The Gifts We Receive from Animals – Stories to Warm the Heart" *I Can Listen Like Indy*.

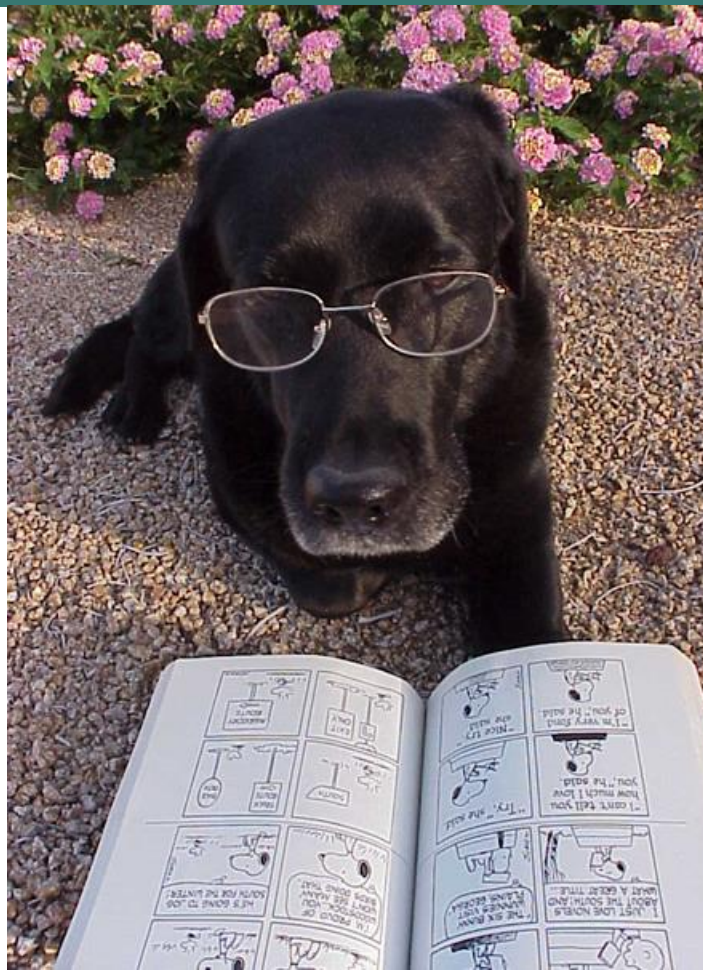
Hlava, T. (2023). Chapter in Edited Volume: "Animal Assisted Interventions - Recognizing and Mitigating Potential Welfare Challenges" *A Forward Thinking Plan for Animal Welfare in HAI (Human Animal Interactions).*



REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

Moore, E. G. J., Hlava, T., Garcia, S. & Brem, S. K. (2013). Ever try teaching a dog to read? Implicit theories of reading ability. *Anthrozoös*, *26*(3), 381–93. https://doi.org/10.2752/175303713X13697429463637.

Hlava, T. (2023). Cultivating cultural capital with a therapy dog in a third-grade classroom. *International Journal of Social Pedagogy*, 12(*1*): 13. DOI: https://doi.org/10.14324/111.444.ijsp.2023.v12.x.013.



Our Team:

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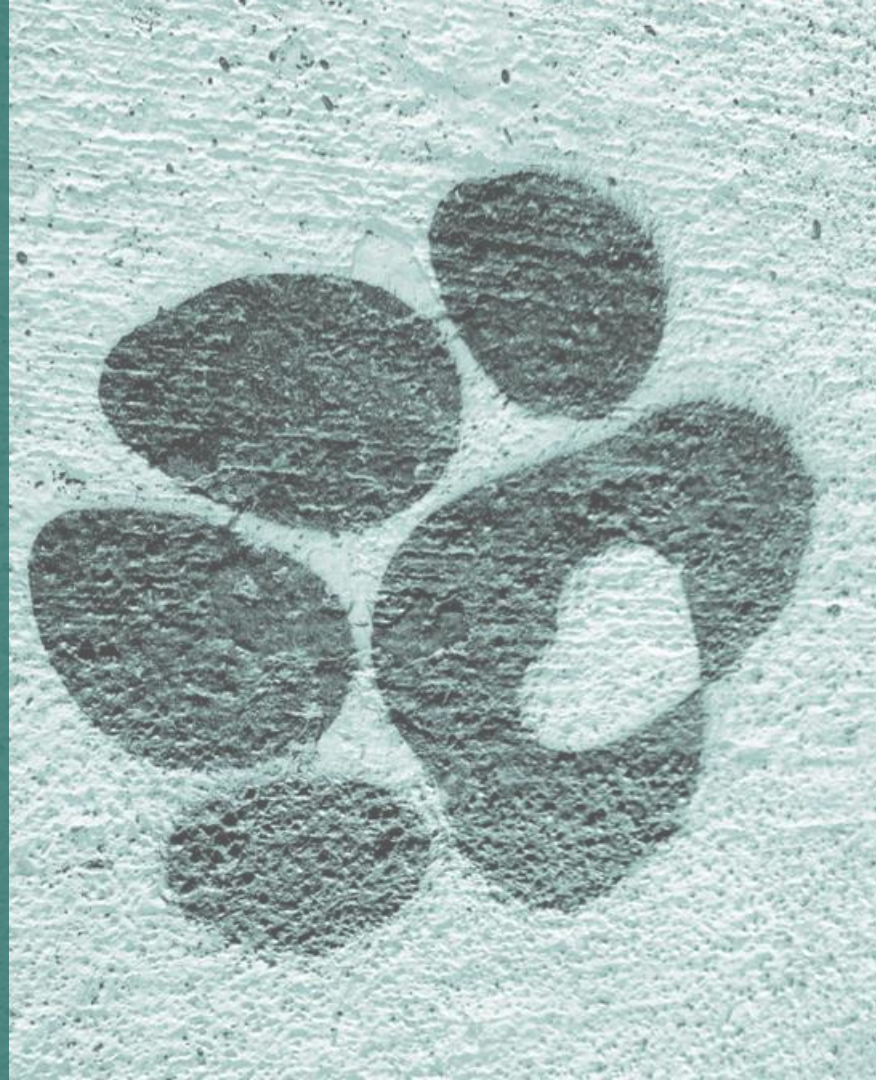

Thank you so much!

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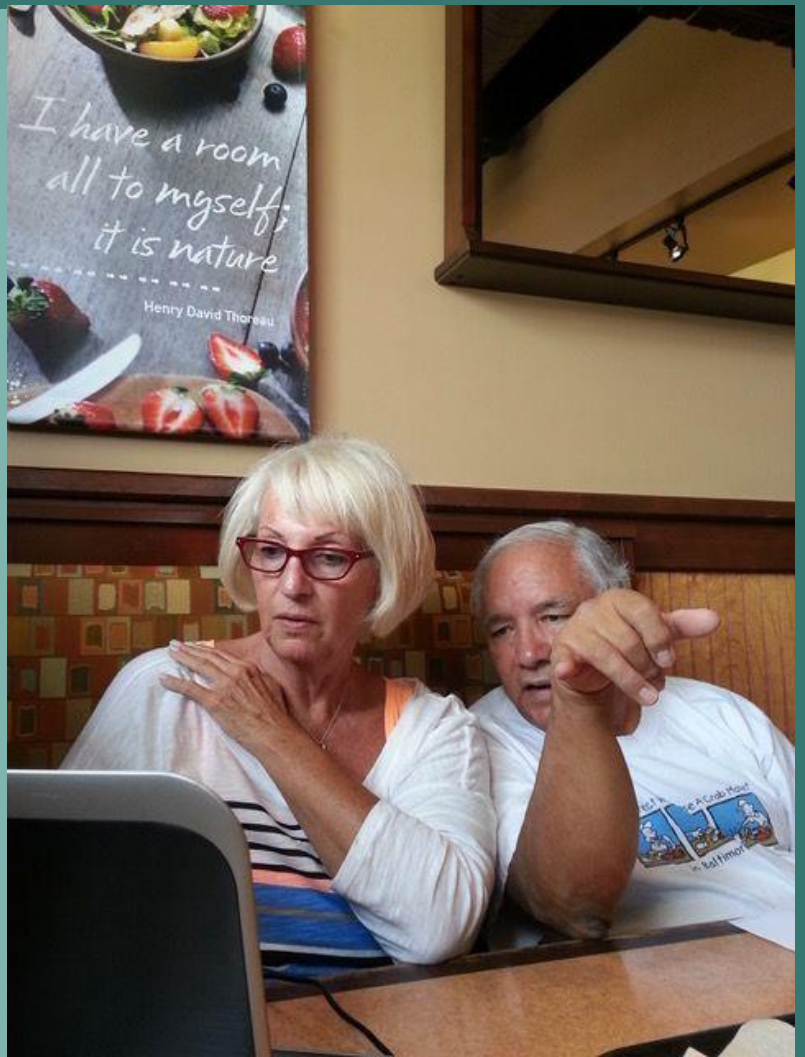


Pakuna Calvano Hlava

was also played by:

Copper D. Hlava

Shay B. Hlava

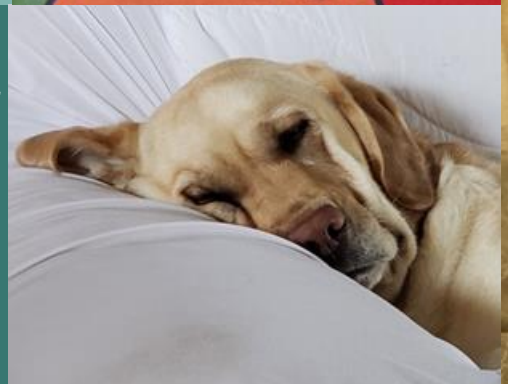
Montreux G. Hlava

Special Thanks to:

Dr. Beth Blue Swadener

Dr. Elsie G. J. Moore

Dr. Nancy Murbach



Thank you so much!

Grazie mille!

¡Un millón de gracias!

Questions? Domande? ¿Preguntas?