



Fairfax Pets On Wheels Spring Update

April 2014

Volunteer Spotlight: Elizabeth Matyseck

The Volunteer Spotlight is on Elizabeth Matyseck and her Doberman, Ruby. Ruby is a six year old Doberman. Ruby is a lover. She loves everyone and



thinks that everyone loves her and wants to pet her. She is not the brightest when it comes to doing tricks, but she sure knows how to make you pay attention to her when you aren't focusing on her. Ruby is a total goofball and wants to play all

the time, but if you are going to pet her, she will lay there for hours just taking it!

Elizabeth grew up in a small town in Vermont and moved to Virginia 18 years ago. Her family relocated here for career purposes and she has remained here. Elizabeth has worn many hats in her career including positions in a jewelry store, aviation, and attending dog training school. She is an animal lover and lives with her two dogs, a horse, and beta fish. She enjoys having bon fires with her friends, watching football, being outdoors, and cooking. She is currently training for several extreme obstacle course competitions, these competitions are for humans not pets.

Elizabeth "googled" on "volunteer opportunities

(Continued on page 2)

You're Invited! Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

When: Saturday, June 14, 2014
Noon – 3:00pm

Where: Frying Pan Park Pavilion

RSVP by June 6, 2014 by visiting www.tiny.cc/picnic2014

On the program:

- Latshaw & Shauna Awards
- Hours of Service Awards
- Canine activities

Guests welcome but only FPOW-approved pets.

Don't forget to bring your appetite and dress your pets in FPOW-approved attire (i.e., no flexi leads, chain leashes).



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for pets” and found Fairfax Pets On Wheels. She says that volunteering with FPOW gives her the fulfillment she needs to be happy with herself as a person. FPOW also allows her to use her Doberman to set a good example for the breed, which is important to Ruby and Elizabeth. The team visits at Arden Courts Fair Oaks, a facility for Alzheimer patients. Ruby LOVES visiting. She goes from resident to resident and soaks up every moment of attention. One of the teams’ favorite experiences thus far was a visit where one of the residents grabbed Ruby’s head and kissed it all over. The resident then told her about having dogs as a child and was smiling from ear to ear. When they left that day, the resident was still grinning.

Elizabeth has a special technique, since she feels that she is a very emotional person, and she takes a moment to take a deep breath during her visit and really immerse herself in the moment. It makes each visit special for her as she bonds with her dog as well as the residents. It helps to make each interaction really count and be meaningful.

Elizabeth also serves FPOW by administering the temperament tests for new volunteer teams. She

also believes that FPOW has a great team of leaders that prepare the volunteers for successful visits. She would like to help FPOW leadership in helping new volunteer recruits in the steps toward becoming a volunteer – follow-up after temperament testing and after the on-site visit, thus helping new volunteers become successful, long-term FPOW volunteers.

By Madelynn Arnold



Sit/Stay

Ready? Set? Visit!

Do you know how predictable you are? Your dog does. If you let them out, then give them a cookie, pick up your car keys and head for the door, they know they aren’t going anywhere—you’re going to work. But if you grab the leash, they know that they’re going along for whatever adventure awaits.

What about the cues for an FPOW visit? At my house, it looks like this: first Quincy has to get dressed—up on the grooming table for brushing and combing. Then I grab the leash—only one because his brother Sly isn’t coming. I leave the training treats at home, so he knows we’re not going to train or to a trial. And then into the car. If he doesn’t know by now where he’s going, he certainly knows when the car hits the speed bumps on Powhatan street. Of course he recognizes the building when we get there, and he also knows the collar and lead we use for visiting. I keep those in the car.

I bet you have your own rituals and procedures before a visit—and your dog

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knows them too. Maybe you say something (“ready to visit?”). Maybe you always visit at a specific day and time. Maybe you have a special collar and lead you only use for visiting. Maybe you take him to the park for a run to burn off some steam before the visit. Dogs are so attuned to us that they pick up on all of these cues. The next time you get ready to visit, pay attention to what your patterns are and how fast your dog figures it out—we’re going to visit!



Submitted by Liz Breyer

Photographers Needed!

FPOW is looking to recruit folks willing to take pictures of new volunteers for their FPOW badges at the monthly behavior evaluation tests. All you need is a camera! We will train!!

Canine Influenza

Canine Influenza Virus (CIV), subset H3N8, is a respiratory virus of the dog. It is believed that in 2003 the virus jumped species from the horse to Greyhound dogs at racing facilities. Since then the virus has spread rapidly due to two main factors: 1) CIV is highly contagious from dog to dog and 2) most dogs have no natural immunity to it because it is a relatively new virus.

When exposed about 80% of dogs will show mild clinical signs such as lethargy, low grade fever (102-104°F), mild dry non-productive cough, and a clear watery nasal discharge. The majority of these dogs will recover within 3-4 weeks without treatment. A small percentage of dogs will develop a secondary bacterial pneumonia as a result of the primary CIV infection. These patient will become severely ill and need immediate medical attention. Clinical signs include a severe fever (104-106°F), a severe cough, a thick green-yellow nasal discharge, an increased respiratory rate, anorexia, and severe lethargy. While the overall mortality rate for CIV is low at about 2-5%, patients with secondary bacterial pneumonia

Thanks for the Memory

■ In memory of Woody, a man my husband worked with for over 35 years. Woody had a great sense of humor. He adored his wife and cherished his family. He also had a tremendous faith and he accepted his fate as God’s will. His wife always said he was “the best part of her.” Woody was loved and he loved. From Leora Motley, a former FPOW Volunteer

■ In memory of Clyde, who participated in the Adult Day Care Center, and was visited by Ruth Benker and her dog, Teddy. While visiting the center one day, Ruth and Teddy learned

from his widow of the passing of their friend Clyde. She further said how much Clyde enjoyed the dogs and also giving Ruth a wrapped candy at each visit. From Leora Motley, a former FPOW Volunteer

■ In honor of Carmel, Binx, and Clyde, my beloved cats—JUST BECAUSE. From Tom Leibensperger

■ In memory of Duke, the Singing Dog at The Virginian. Duke, along with Terry Patton, brought years of enjoyment to the residents of The Virginian. From Your Friends at the Virginian

Visit www.fpow.org/tribute to make an online memorial or tribute donation.

are by far the most vulnerable. These patients are typically very young or old, immunosuppressed, or have some other predisposing factor making them more susceptible to the severe form of the disease than an otherwise healthy dog. The mortality rate associated with CIV is similar in many ways to human influenza virus.

With the mild form of CIV, only supportive care is needed while the virus runs its course. The more severe form, with a secondary bacterial pneumonia, requires intense treatment including hospitalization, IV antibiotics and fluids, and supplemental oxygen. Despite aggressive treatment, some dogs with the severe form will not survive. If your dog is showing any signs consistent with CIV take them in

Dates to Remember

BOD Meeting: June 2, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
Fairfax County Government Center
Pennino Building – Room 709

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic: June 14, 2014, 12:00/Noon – Frying Pan Park Pavilion, Herndon, VA

Newsletter Deadline: June 30, 2014

FPOW Founder Scholarship: application deadline July 31, 2014

BOD Meeting: September 8, 2014
7:00 p.m. – Location TBA

Annual Meeting: September 8, 2014
8:00 p.m. – Location TBA.

Newsletter Deadline: September 30, 2014

PAWS FOR A CAUSE 3K dog walk:
– October 5, 2014 – Weber’s Pet Supermarket, Fairfax, VA

If you have any question about CIV, please ask your regular veterinarian or feel free to call me.



Gregory Lawrence, DVM
Great Falls Animal Hospital
703-759-2330

Speakers’ Bureau Update

The FPOW Speakers’ Bureau has made several presentations in the new year. Kathi Baker with Abby and Bonnie Burnham and Cindy made a presentation on therapy dogs to a Girl Scout troop in Arlington in March. Ruth Benker and Teddy staffed an information booth at the Ventures in Volunteering event sponsored by the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging Volunteer Solutions. The Center for Pet Safety located in Reston will be releasing a new video about its organization. Featured in the video are Speakers’ Bureau volunteers Kathi Baker and Abby, Al Doehrig and Mia and Teddy Benker.

Do you belong to an organization that would like to learn more about therapy dogs and/or Fairfax Pets on Wheels? FPOW has a Speakers’ Bureau of trained, experienced volunteers willing to make presentations to organizations. If interested, contact FPOW at dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov. Put “Speakers’ Bureau Request” in the subject line.

for a physical exam with your veterinarian.

There is no specific treatment for the Canine Influenza virus itself, therefore vaccination becomes our best tool to combat this disease. The initial vaccination will need a booster after 3-4 weeks and then once per year thereafter. As with any vaccination, this does not guarantee that a dog cannot get CIV.

If a dog does contract CIV, the course of the disease is typically shorter and milder with a vaccinated patient versus an unvaccinated patient. For anyone concerned about the risk of CIV to their dogs, vaccination is recommended.

AKC Awards Therapy Dog Title

FPOW is pleased to announce Boo, visiting partner of David Martin, received AKC certification on February 14, 2014. Boo and David are pictured at right visiting a resident at Iliff.





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By Denise Elliott



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Please use the FPOW Hotline number for nonemergency calls if you are an FPOW volunteer or currently in the pipeline. Someone will either act on your message or return your call if more information is required.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT FPOW NEWSLETTER: June 30, 2014

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EDITORIAL POLICY

This is your newsletter. Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc., volunteers may contribute articles for publication. Articles will be reviewed by the editors. We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for publication. We cannot guarantee the return of documents or photos (if used). Because Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc., is under the sponsorship of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, the FPOW Newsletter must be approved by the FAAG prior to publication. Letters to the editor are welcome and encouraged. Letters must be signed, but if requested, your name will be withheld.

All correspondence should be directed to:

Fairfax Area Agency on Aging

Attention: FPOW Newsletter

12011 Government Center Parkway, #708

Fairfax, VA 22035-1104

(703) 324-5411

Email:

dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov



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