



Fairfax Pets On Wheels Spring Update

April 2009



Michiyo & Louie Vangellow

Louie, Louie

FPOW volunteer Michiyo Vangellow doesn't necessarily have to worry about bad hair days. It's her 7-year old labradoodle Louie who might have trouble taming the fur. "Without a doubt," Michiyo says, "the visitors love Louie's curls and bad hair days!"

Michiyo and Louie have been visiting Iliff Rehabilitation Center for three years. But they first began donating their time and attention in a different setting. "As a special education teacher, I was able to take him to school as a reader dog. The students loved to read to him. I then decided I needed to share the joy that he gives to me. I found out from a trainer that I could do this through FPOW."

Louie shares the Vangellow household pet duties with Scamper, a 16-



Louie

year old Maine Coon cat. Michiyo has had many pets over the years, including several golden retrievers.

"Louie has always been very silly and special," Michiyo says. And he always seems to know when he is about to go visiting. "He gets very excited to go to 'work,' standing at the door, wagging his tail and whining."

Michiyo will be in charge of this year's FPOW annual picnic in June. She is also currently serving on the board of directors as the Director of Volunteer Relations.

"Knowing that I can make someone's day by bringing in Louie is very rewarding for me," says Michiyo. "When you hear the elderly say that they look forward to the dog's visits all day long, you realize how blessed you are."

"And one day, we were visiting and from down the hall, I heard 'Bring that doodle down here!' Louie can create quite a stir at the center sometimes!"

By Julia Long

In This Issue

- 2 Barking Up the Long Tree
- 2 Venture in Volunteering
- 4 Visiting Tips
- 5 Dates to Remember
- 5 Did You See?

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another family moves in who doesn't like dogs? I can put up with someone occasionally yelling at my kids for disturbance of grass or premature trash matriculation but what if, when DC gets out as she occasionally does, the new people don't drop everything to bring her home? Because however else our neighbors have acted over the years, they have loyally treated our dog....well....better than they've ever treated us. And that's mostly okay with me.

They've loved on her. Picked up dog poop from their yard that, after careful DNA analysis, didn't turn out to be from either of their two dogs. And didn't complain. Much. And they've returned DC to us several times when she's gotten out. I'm pretty sure if

the same had been true of one of my kids, they'd still be featured on milk cartons.

“Barking Up the Long Tree”

Our neighbors are moving.

I have mixed feelings about this but in the end, I'm pretty sure I will miss them. The thing is, they are dog lovers. Ardent dog lovers. Fanatical dog lovers. They call roll at the meetings.

We haven't always been on the best of terms with the neighbors. They don't have children and acted at times, over the years, a tad offended by those of us who do. Offended as in, “This is our yard. Step onto it and you'd better have a good reason. Such as your own yard having just seceded from the Union. Or a big freakin' earthquake.” Or “Don't you DARE consider putting your trash out one second before 4:00 on Tuesday. We really have nothing better to do than kindly drag it back to your house if it's out at 3:58.” (P.S. They really did this. I know. I could have wept.)

Also, our neighbor once dropped off a package at our house. My husband, who works from home, answered the door in his bathrobe. Months later, during yet another fun “discussion” with them over something entirely unrelated, Neighbor Guy brought that up and turns out, his delicate sensibilities were offended by Mike's not being fully dressed upon answering the door. For crying out loud! At least Mike didn't wave the shotgun at him.

The reason I think I might miss them is that what if

So I say with mixed emotions, “Good-bye dog lover neighbors. Thank you for bringing DC home when she ran away. Thank you for petting her enthusiastically even while at the same time growling at the kid holding her leash. Hope you'll be happy wherever you end up.”

(And dear God please let their new neighbors have fifteen cats?)

By Julia Long



Venture in Volunteering

On Thursday, March 5, 2009, FPOW was represented at the Venture Into Volunteering event held at Chantilly Regional Library, Chantilly Virginia. Over 30 different Voluntary Organizations attended the event, and FPOW was represented by myself and my dog, Jasmine. Over 300 participants attended the event who were seeking community volunteering opportunities while currently still employed but getting close to retirement and those who have already retired.

Jasmine was the only pet at the event and she was the real attraction, luring pet loving people to the FPOW

Thanks for the Memory

- In honor of Alison Torrillo French and her pet Molly for the holiday season. Alison and Molly visit Illif Nursing Home. From her parents, Maude and Carl Torrillo, Commack, NY
- In memory of “Charlie” the kitty, beloved companion of Anne, “Patti”, “Sallie”, and “Violet” Sumser. Charlie lived more than nine lives, brought incredible joy to his family, and left this earth just short of his 19th birthday. From Debby, Ralph, PDQ, Max, and Diego Weinstein
- In memory of “Bandit William”, beloved 13 year old Yellow Labrador of Tina, Jeff, and Jesse Bonham. Bandit was a devoted and loving companion who will be missed by his family, especially brother “Harley” and sisters “Scooter” and “Tootie”. From Debby, Ralph, PDQ, Max, and Diego Weinstein.
- In memory of Mrs. Helen Young, a resident of The Virginian who passed away recently. She enjoyed our pet visits and we loved her stories about her life in Tazwell County, Virginia, where “Lassie” was filmed. We often found her with her “nose in a puzzle book”. Those puzzles kept her mind so sharp. We will miss her. From FPOW Virginian Volunteers.
- In memory of George P. Kelley, my sister, Nancy Schuhmann’s, friend. FPOW visits to Powhatan meant a lot to George, and brought such joy into his life—your work is truly a gift. From Lyn Huntley, Dallas, TX.
- In memory of Isabelle, beloved 15 year old canine companion of Bill Soble. Isabelle loved to go for rides with Bill, and when she developed arthritis, Bill made wooden steps for her to get into his big red truck. He also took her for water aerobic exercise to ease her arthritis. She will long remain in spirit for all who knew her. Linda Gargas, Centerville, VA
- In memory of Callie, devoted companion of James Hahn. She was a wonderful dog who often attended performances of James’ band, Brandy Stills Band. From Sally and Gary White, Herndon, VA
- In memory of Cow, beloved pet cat of Joanna Hunter of South Holland, IL. From Pat Harvey
- In memory of Duchess, beloved Border Terrier of our neighbors, Kathy and Brant Baber and Amy and Stan. We will think of Duchess living on through the joy the FPOW volunteers and their pets give to so many. From Lucia, Steve & Jamie Effros, Clifton, VA



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table. There was a lot of interest about our program and I was surprised so many people who approached with questions about how to volunteer, had already heard about our program in Fairfax County.

The two hour event was jammed with people interested in volunteer services offered by the various organizations. Refreshments were provided and available while representatives set up their exhibits.

Michael Frey, Chantilly District Supervisor attended the fair and was attracted to the FPOW table when he saw Jasmine lying comfortably in front of our table. He chatted with me about our program as he admired Jasmine and mentioned that his own dog was back at his office at the Fairfax Government Center.

Each fair participant received a bingo/survey card and was asked to have the bingo card signed by each representative after they visited our tables. They collected these bingo cards and they were used to award door prizes. Supervisor Frey presented the prizes, including a grand prize, a \$100.00 gift certificate.

This fair, held annually, was very well-planned and organized. It is one of the best-attended events in

the County. Jasmine was relieved of all the attention she was getting after her two hours of work and slept on the back seat of my truck all the way home. She was a real trooper. Jasmine was like a magnet, she drew people to her and FPOW.

By Dave Rybak



Visiting Tips

Put together a small photo album (6-10 photos) of your pet to share. Residents will enjoy seeing your pet's baby photos, or photos of when you first met, his favorite activities (besides FPOW), and photos that include your pet with your family members. These albums are great conversation starters.

-submitted by Kim Wilkerson

Share your visiting idea! Please e-mail your ideas to dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov - Attention: Newsletter Editors.



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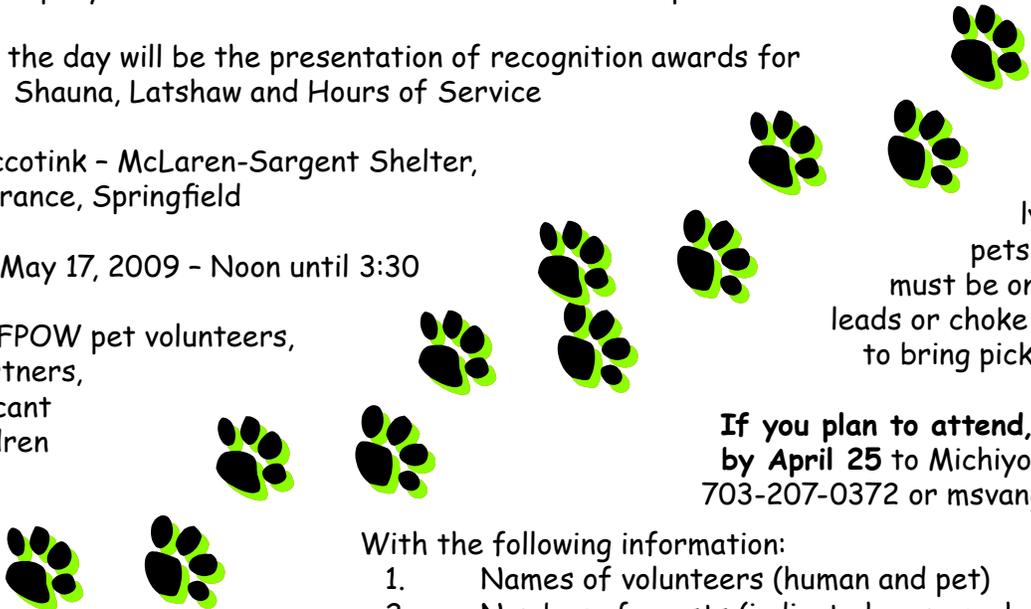
Pet Trading Cards, Pet Memo Pads, Pontoon Boat rides for 2 legged and 4 legged volunteers, tasty food, door prizes and the company of fellow volunteers and their wonderful pets

Highlights of the day will be the presentation of recognition awards for Shauna, Latshaw and Hours of Service

Where: Lake Accotink - McLaren-Sargent Shelter, Heming Ave Entrance, Springfield

When: Sunday, May 17, 2009 - Noon until 3:30

Who's Invited: FPOW pet volunteers, their human partners, spouses, Significant others and children



Important Reminder:
Only currently certified FPOW pets may attend and must be on leash. No flexi-leads or choke collars. Be sure to bring pick-up bags.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by April 25 to Michiyo Vangellow at: 703-207-0372 or msvangellow@cox.net

With the following information:

1. Names of volunteers (human and pet)
2. Number of guests (indicate how many humans & pets)
3. How many vegetarians are in your party

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Did You See?

Did you see Northern Virginia Dog magazine? Great article with FPOW and cute pix of Precious!

http://issuu.com/2hounds/docs/spring_09/21

Dates to remember

Annual Picnic Lake Accotink: May 17, 12:00 pm

BOD Mtg at Leewood: June 1, 7:00 pm

Newsletter Submission Deadline: June 30

BOD Mtg at Leewood: Sept. 14, 7:00 pm
Annual Mtg to follow, 8:00 pm

Paws For a Cause Fundraising Walk: October 4, 12:00 pm



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Merchandise	Price	Size	Color	Quantity	Total
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License Plate Frame	\$5	6 3/8" x 12 1/4"	Blue w/White Lettering		
Note Cards (8/pkg.)	\$5	N/A	2 ea 4 different designs		
Leads	\$12 \$15	1' x 5/8", 2' x 1/2" 2' x 3/4"	Leather		
Embroidered 3/4 Length Sleeve T-Shirt (Ladies Shirts)	\$30	XS, S, M, L, XL 2XL \$2 more 3XL \$4 more	White, Black, Red, Navy, Lt. Pink, Lt. Blue, Faded Blue, Lilac, Turquoise, & Banana		
Leashes-Embossed w/FPOW	\$10	Thin or Wide	Leather (6' w/ring to make 4')		
Sweatshirts	\$15	S, M, L, XL	Burgundy, Hunter Green		
Long Sleeve T-shirt	\$14	S, M, L, XL S, M, L	Blue, Red, Washed Denim, Crimson		
V-Neck Short Sleeve T-Shirt (Ladies Sizes)	\$14	S, M, L, XL 2XL \$2; 3XL \$4	Caribbean Blue, White, Black, Key Lime		
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Short Sleeve T-shirt	\$10	S, M, L, XL	Red		
Short Sleeve T-shirt	\$10	S, M, L, XL	Black		
Short Sleeve T-shirt	\$10	XL	Light Gray w/White letters		
Short Sleeve T-shirt	\$10	S, M, L, XL	White w/Black letters		
Short Sleeve T-shirt	\$10	S, M, L, XL	Blue Spruce		
Short Sleeve T-shirt	\$10	S, M, L, XL	Gray w/Black letters		
Short Sleeve T-shirt	\$10	S, M, L, XL	Indigo Blue		
Short Sleeve T-shirt	\$10	S, M, L, XL	Burgundy		
Short Sleeve T-shirt	\$10	S, M, L	Chestnut		
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Please use the FPOW Hotline number for non-emergency calls if you are a FPOW volunteer or one who is currently in the pipeline. Someone will either act upon your message or return your call if more information is required.

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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 FAAA prior to publication. In addition, 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:

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