



Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.

Info from Fairfax Pets On Wheels

December 2021



In this issue

Report on the State of FPOW 2020-2021	1
Pet Spotlight: Linda Martin & Lulu	2
Let Us Spotlight Your Pet	2
COVID-19 Update	3

Fairfax Pets on Wheels has done a lot of spinning its wheels for the past year. As Covid-19 is most deadly for the elderly, we were not able to visit seniors and share the love and joy of our pets with them. We were optimistic that things could return to normal when a vaccine became available, but vaccine hesitancy, a new and more contagious variant, and the need for approval from both the county and facilities before vis-

iting again has delayed our progress. There have, however, been some accomplishments this year.

We greatly appreciate Wendy Mayer, who spent many hours turning a money-sinking, dull, unreadable website into one that is beautiful and informational, giving volunteers valuable and relevant information about FPOW. Also, Wendy and Barbara Kuckenbecker restarted the FPOW newsletter,

making it a fun and informative resource.

Cathy Perro took over running the online store. With increased traffic to the website, this could become a good source of revenue.

We were once again accepted for inclusion in the United Way of the National Capital Area campaign (designate #8907) and the Combined Federal Campaign (#51148). Fundraising through United Way and CFC is crucial to FPOW's bottom line and allows us to remain a successful program.

We let our volunteers know we were thinking about them by

Continued on Page 3

Wishing Everyone the Happiest of Holiday Seasons!



And remember: When you buy gifts at [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com), your purchase can generate donations to FPOW.

**All-volunteer Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.
connects pets with residents of long-term care facilities in Fairfax County.
Visit [fpow.org](https://www.fpow.org) or call (703) 324-5424**



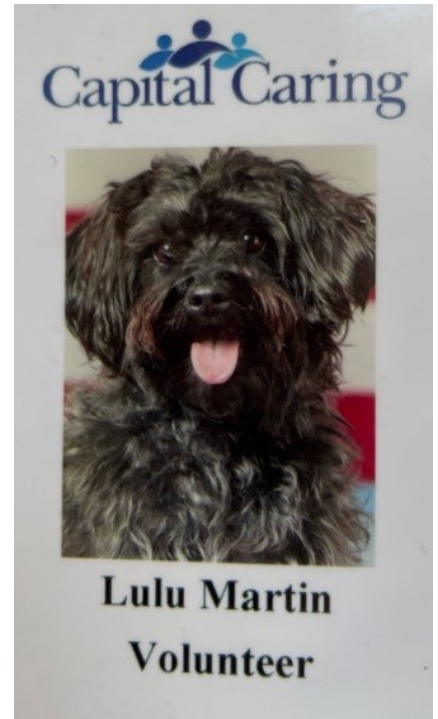
FPOW Pet Spotlight: Linda Martin and Lulu

In 2016, I started volunteering every Saturday as a patient and family care assistant at the Arlington inpatient unit of Capital Caring Hospice. When the hospice staff heard I had a therapy dog, they were eager for me to bring her in.

Lulu had received her American Kennel Club therapy dog certificate as a result of her years as an FPOW volunteer, and we did not have to go through any additional certification to visit hospice. So we developed a new weekly routine: After our Wednesday FPOW visit

at either the Annandale Healthcare Center or Goodwin House, we would visit the hospice inpatient unit.

Lulu often joins patients in their beds, eliciting happy memories for them of their own pets. She also has been a source of comfort to loved ones and hospice staff from doctors to custodians, all of whom face difficult circumstances. She even has her own identification badge, and when I work my Saturday shift without her, invariably I am asked, "Where is Lulu?"



We are both eager to resume our FPOW and hospice visits!

Let Us Spotlight YOUR Pet!



Do you have a story to share about your pet's life away from FPOW? If so, we'd love to feature it in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

Send your story with at least one photo to the email on the back of the newsletter. Then wait for your turn in the spotlight!

Report on the State of FPOW

continued from Page 1



sending facemasks and bags featuring the FPOW logo. We also kept them informed about our current status with two Zoom social events and, of course, through the improved website and newsletters.

Even though we were unable to visit seniors in person, Ruth Benker lead a monthly Zoom meeting, which is open to volunteers and seniors through the county's adult day health care centers. Ruth and Jeanine Goldberg met on Zoom with many of our facility partners to discuss and establish safety requirements for when we get the green light to visit again.

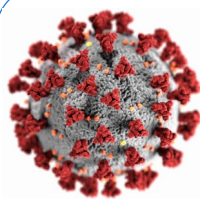
Toward the end of the year, we were able to send FPOW volunteer teams to bring smiles and comfort to the weary travelers repatriated from Afghanistan.

All of our board meetings, held quarterly, were via Zoom. We continued to accomplish administrative tasks both related to the pandemic and its effect on our organization and everyday normal maintenance to keep FPOW going, such as reviewing and updating our procedures and policies.

Although we had to cancel our summer picnics in 2020 and 2021, we are planning our 35th

anniversary celebration for September 2022. We have secured the venue and discussed next steps through our celebration committee.

In our 35th anniversary year we want to commemorate the accomplishments of all the wonderful volunteer teams that came before us, who brought joy and comfort to seniors since 1987. We will work hard to ensure our current and new teams uphold the same high standards as those who came before us, with perhaps an increased focus on health and wellness.



COVID-19 Update

Little by little, some COVID-19 restrictions are lifting. FPOW volunteers have returned in person to Sunrise-Reston, Vierra (Powhatan), and Iliff, while the county's adult day health care

centers are welcoming teams via Zoom. As more and more facilities open up for our visits, FPOW volunteers must be up to date with the county's COVID requirements. If you missed the December 3 deadline, you can still submit proof of vaccination

showing your name, date of birth, vaccine manufacturer, and date(s) of your vaccination via email to VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov. Alternatively, if you would prefer to bring your vaccine proof to the Volunteer Solutions office at Fairfax County Government Center, use the same email to schedule an in-person appointment.



Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.
Fairfax Area Agency on Aging
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connects pets with residents of long-term care facilities in Fairfax County.
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Designate #8907



Designate #51148

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).

Letters to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. Letters must be signed, but if requested, your name will be withheld.

Send all correspondence to:

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