



Fairfax Pets On Wheels Fall Update

October 2013

1st Place — “I’d rather be... supporting a young friend learning to walk!!” By Susan Laume (Tia)



8th Annual Pet Photo Contest

Photo Contest Theme: I’d/We’d Rather Be...

1st Place – “I’d rather be...supporting a young friend learning to walk!!” By Susan Laume (Tia)

See pages 8 & 9 for a full listing of Pet Photo Contest winners and visit www.fpow.org/photo to see pics of all of the winners!!

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State of FPOW 2012-2013

Fairfax Pets on Wheels, 26th year of “Helping to Lick Loneliness” began on a high note with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors declaring October 2012 as Fairfax Pets On Wheels month in Fairfax County.

During the year, more than 4,800 hours were provided to 14 facilities by more than 300 volunteer teams. FPOW also began a pilot program to visit the five adult day care facilities that are under the auspices of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging. These visits are conducted during the day in a group setting for the senior clients. More than 120 new volunteer teams have joined the program during 2012-2013.

FPOW’s United Way application was accepted for inclusion in the United Way of the National Capital Area Campaign – remember to designate #8097 when pledging. FPOW was also in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC; #51148) and the Combined Virginia Campaign (#8098). Fundraising through United Way and CFC is crucial to FPOW’s bottom line, and some of this giving has been impacted by the sequester.

Speakers’ Bureau members made presentations at numerous United Way fundraising events and to Shenandoah University’s Spirituality in Patient Care class. In addition, the Speakers’ Bureau manned information booths at the National Capital Cat Expo, the Reston Pet Fiesta, the Annandale Fall Festival, and Northern Virginia Community College’s Green Festival. New publicity shots

(Continued on page 2)

were taken to use on the informational presentation board that is used at these events. FPOW was featured in articles in Cat Fancy magazine and the SunGazette newspapers.

FPOW's 17th annual 3K Paws for a Cause dog walk was held in October 2012 and more than \$8,500 was raised for the program. There were more than 150 walkers and their pets in attendance despite the blustery conditions on walk day. The 18th annual walk was held on October 6, 2013 and details are in this issue.

FPOW submitted an application to Discovery Communications in order to benefit from its 3rd annual "Creating Change" 12-hour marathon to benefit nonprofits. FPOW's "wish" on its application was to have a public service announcement (PSA) created that would air on local television stations in order to recruit new volunteer teams to our program. A team from Discovery Communications taped the PSA and other footage at Iliff Nursing Center in November. The high-quality results can be seen on FPOW's website.

Footage shot by Discovery Communications is now being used to develop FPOW's new Orientation video. FPOW is working with Kris Higgins of GoodbyeFilms to create a video that will be shown to prospective volunteers at our monthly Orientation sessions. The video that is currently being used is more than 20 years old and is really showing its age.

Kim Wilkerson, Director, Facility Relations, and the facility liaisons worked on streamlining the on-site process and reviewing the paperwork distributed to the new volunteers. Many of these documents had not been updated in quite a while and needed to be reviewed for procedures that had changed over the years.

In June, FPOW had its annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at Frying Pan Park in Reston. Many thanks to Kathi Baker, Director, Volunteer Appreciation, and her team of helpers for making the event so special. In addition to Kathi, Robin Burkett of PawPrints Photography took great pho-

tographs for our FPOW pet trading cards and pet portraits, King Creole Catering provided yummy food, and FPOW's DJ Michael Galvin provided the music and master of ceremony services. Liz Bryer provided a rally course again this year for our canine volunteers who chose to participate.

At the event, FPOW recognized 19 volunteers for giving between 50 and 74 hours to the program (Bronze Award), two volunteers for giving between 75 and 99 hours to the program (Silver Award), and 17 volunteers for giving more than 100 hours to the program (Gold Award).

Five volunteer teams were recognized for receiving American Kennel Club Therapy Certification. Winners of the Latshaw Award for Excellence were Jeanine Goldberg and Carla Graham, with past winner Patty Kwapniewski receiving an honorable mention for her service to the Temperament Testing Committee.

The Shauna Award went to three special pet volunteers – Abby Baker, Teddy Benker, and Gretel Powell. Thanks to the Awards Committee – Pat Leader, Tracy Van Duston, and Joan Violante – for selecting the winners from many deserving nominees. Thanks again to everyone who had a part in making this event special for the 116 human volunteers and 47 pets who attended.

FPOW was nominated for the first annual Booker Willoughby Service Award given by the Virginia/Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Blacksburg, VA. The award recognizes the "intricate and special connection between animals and humans." The program was also nominated for Volunteer Fairfax's first annual recognition of volunteer groups that was presented at its annual volunteers' award breakfast. FPOW volunteers Ruth Benker and Kathi Baker were recognized by Volunteer Fairfax for their dedication to FPOW. Mt. Vernon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center recognized FPOW with a thank-you plaque for the program's work in the facility.

On September 4, Kathi Baker and Abby, Ruth Benker and Teddy, and Madelynn Arnold were

Thanks for the Memory

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

- In memory of Carrie, an English shepherd, who was beloved by Helen and Rob Carroll. From Kim and Mark Wilkerson.
- In honor of The Stille Family and Angel and in memory of Spunky. The donor wishes to say Thank You to them and to remain anonymous.
- In memory of Montana, a German shepherd who visited and brought happiness to hospitalized children. From Melissa Marshall.
- In memory of Chelsea, the much loved chocolate Lab who shared life with our cousin, Glenn

Daniels. Chelsea was 13-1/2 years old and leaves a huge hole in Glenn's heart. From Susie and Bob Duvall.

- In memory of Trooper, a German shepherd who was much loved and will be missed by his family, Allison, David, and Joanna Stover, along with his "brother" Romeo and his two cat friends, Latte and Toby. From Susan Colbert.
- In memory of Keith R. Reynolds who enjoyed pet therapy while hospitalized before he passed away. He loved animals and had many pets. Pet therapy brought him great joy and peace at this stressful time in his life. From Susan Reynolds, Suffolk, VA.

interviewed on Comcast 28's "Your Dog's Best Friend." Lloyd Aguero, the host, asked questions about pet therapy and how the pets in FPOW make a difference in the lives of the people they visit.

There are always so many people to thank for making FPOW successful with their devoted efforts. One group that deserves recognition is the staff of the FPOW office – Ruth Benker, John Bynum, Jill Davidson, and Carla Graham – for their dedication to the many tasks and all the paperwork that make our program happen. They are truly the backbone of FPOW.

The facility liaisons provide the critical link between our program and our facilities; each facility has its own set of challenges and circumstances that are unique in providing pet visitation to its residents. Our liaisons are always willing and able to do what it takes to offer our services to the residents and help our volunteers meet the challenges of visiting.

The Temperament Testing Committee members always have their hands full, making sure that every pet that becomes an FPOW volunteer has the ability to be an ambassador for our program. The testing team members have to be incredibly diplomatic when letting a potential volunteer know

that his/her darling pet is just not cut out to be an FPOW volunteer.

Also thanks go to the 2012 – 2013 Board of Directors, who helped me along in my first year as President of the Board. The Board was always willing to help with the many tasks involved in running a program with more than 300 volunteers both two- and four-legged. They also had to deal with policy and procedures that needed to be reviewed and that were a bit tedious. The Board was able to move FPOW forward and meet new challenges.

Thanks go to the staff of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging Volunteer Solutions and the Ombudsman Program. FPOW's partnership with the Agency has allowed FPOW volunteers to provide meaningful interactions with the residents of the 14 facilities and the day care centers we serve.

Finally, thanks go to you, our volunteers who make time in your busy lives to reach out to the residents. You are not always aware of the good that you are doing by taking that time and visiting with your pet. Fairfax Pets on Wheels is truly a wonderful way of sharing your pet's love with other people.



Submitted by Madelynn Arnold



Spotlight: Barbara Moskowitz

Barbara Moskowitz finds that being a volunteer for FPOW combines her love of greyhounds and

desire to advance greyhound education with her need to help others. She has also manned the FPOW booth at the National Capital Cat Show. She says that it is a privilege to volunteer for an organization that is run so well and with such good will.

Barbara was born in Brooklyn, New York, and raised by her maternal grandparents. This helps her feel completely at ease with the elderly. She moved to northern Virginia in 1983 with her husband Steve to further their careers with the federal government. The couple lives in Centreville with their two retired racing greyhounds, Millie and Airliner, and a Maine coon wannabee, Winkie. After

Barbara retired, she began to volunteer with Blue Ridge Greyhound Adoption and soon realized that Airliner would make a great therapy dog. Barbara found FPOW through an internet search and they have volunteered since 2009. Her son, Evan, is also certified as a FPOW volunteer.

Even though Barbara is experienced with visiting with the elderly, she had little or no experience interacting with Alzheimer's patients before starting to visit at Arden Court of Fair Oaks. She quickly learned that just to see the smiles on the residents' faces, a sudden brightening in their eyes, or the obvious pleasure some residents get from petting Airliner's warm, smooth fur is very gratifying. Barbara loves to answer the questions (usually the same one, "How old is he?") the residents ask over and over. Airliner and Barbara are a link to the outside world for many of these residents, and it's important for them to know that they have not been forgotten and still have worth. The visits are, very uplifting and help her keep life in perspective.

Airliner, for his part, loves all the attention and dutifully goes with Barbara from section to section in the facility to spread his love. The recreation room is his favorite, and is where he performs his best trick — standing patiently



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2013 Founder's Award Scholarship Winner: Crystal Bailey

Congratulations to Crystal Bailey, the 2013 scholarship winner!

Crystal is a graduate of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA with a BS in Psychology, and is currently working toward her Associate of Science degree in Veterinary Technology at Northern Virginia Community College in Sterling, VA. Crystal made the Dean's List both semesters last year in the Veterinary Technology program.

Crystal's resume includes experience working with both large and small animals plus an interest in wildlife. She volunteered with Spay Panama, a high-volume spay/neuter clinic for low-income families in both a town and a tribal village in the jungle in Central America. She is a member of the Wildlife Society, local and national Veterinary Technology Associations as a student, and the Pre-Vet Club at Virginia Tech.

and looking magnificent, all 96 pounds of him. He knows that he's flashy, being a white with red fawn ticked boy. Airliner says he doesn't mind when some of the residents say that he is so big he looks like a horse. Although sometimes Barbara tells dog-related jokes (usually the same ones each visit), Airliner is clearly the star. Occasionally, Barbara acts as his spokesperson and conveys messages from him to the residents. Some of the lesser-affected residents get a kick out of that. If she is lucky they'll open up and tell her a story about a pet they had. After their visit, Airliner grins from ear to ear, goes home, and takes a nap, something greyhounds are very good at. Airliner knows that "his people" are special and that he enriches their lives.



Submitted by Madelynn Arnold



When not in class, Crystal works at Loudon Cat Care in Leesburg, VA. Says her employer, Krista L. Wiechmann, DVM, "I find her motivation and self-direction to be wonderful." Dr. Wiechmann also says, "Crystal is very dedicated to the profession and to the animals in her care. Her undergraduate emphasis in psychology will help her with client interaction and all the various emotions that occur in day-to-day practice." Crystal received the Kim Wilkerson Founder's Scholarship at the FPOW Annual Meeting on September 9, 2013.

Cat Show Table a Big Success

National Capital Cat Show was back this year and



FPOW was there again recruiting cat volunteers. On September 7 & 8 the FPOW informational table was served by Jill Davidson, Pat Day, Kim Batchellor, Barbara



Moskovitz, Rob Carroll, Carol Chapin, Diane Frey, Pat Dutton, Tracy VanDuston, and Kim Wilkerson.

FPOW reached potential volunteers, spread the word about P4C, and saw lots of cats; many thanks to all our wonderful table workers. The show had 365 entered cats and had lots of visitors. Supportive visitors also donated more than \$77 to our little pink cat bank.

18th Annual Paws for a Cause Was a Picture Perfect Event!

A crowd of more than 165 walkers and their pets were on hand to stroll through the streets of Fairfax City on October 6, 2013. The weather was warm, and the day was gorgeous and sunny, and everyone had a fun time. Walkers received a sky-blue T-shirt to wear as they walked, and there were door prizes and cupcakes to enjoy once they had finished walking.

The event is FPOW's one fundraiser for the year, and this year it raised more than \$9,000 for the program. Many thanks to everyone who made the walk a great success. Visit www.fpow.org/events to view the day in photos.

Please remember to mark your calendar for next year's walk on Sunday, October 5, 2014.

Submitted by
Madelynn Arnold



SIT/STAY

Your Dog Is Not a Vacuum Cleaner

Well, my dog would be a vacuum cleaner if I let him. That boy will eat anything. Most of the time, though, I



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Dates to Remember

BOD Meeting: December 2, 2013,
7:00 p.m. Fairfax County Government
Center Pennino Building - Room 709

Newsletter Deadline: December 30,
2013

Deadline for volunteers to complete
background check applications:
December 30, 2013

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

Newsletter Deadline: March 30, 2014

watch him like a hawk. I monitor what he eats and how much. I provide a good, balanced diet, and I make sure he can't get to things that he shouldn't be eating. My goal is to keep him healthy and safe.

But the holidays can make that process difficult. For the last six to eight weeks of the year – and sometimes well into January – we party more, entertain more, and eat more than we do the rest of the year. Most of us worry about the effect of all that extra food and drink on our bodies. We also need to think about what a lot of extra food and treats will do to our dogs' bodies and to be extra vigilant about their diets.

We all know enough not to give our dogs alcohol or chocolate – but what about their favorite foods?

It's so easy. Faced with a mound of leftover turkey and a pair of pleading brown eyes, – well maybe I'll just

slip him a taste. Plus a little dressing. And a little cheese. Then after a holiday party – cocktail franks! More cheese! Christmas dinner here is always a big beef tenderloin. Quincy loves beef tenderloin. He also loves the almonds I put on the green beans. Oh, and some bacon from breakfast. And none of that is good for him, or for your dog, either.

I'm not opposed to giving my boy a special treat from time to time. And I especially like to give them when he's done something to earn them – a sit/stay, or a down/stay, for example. But as we come into the holidays, I begin to think carefully about exactly how often I do that, and about how much – and what – he's really eating. He doesn't appreciate this, of course. He'd much rather eat all of that leftover turkey. But I want to keep him here with me – safe and healthy – for a long time.



Submitted by Liz Breyer

8th Annual Pet Photo Contest

A special thank-you to our judges from West Financial! Visit www.fpow.org/photo for pictures of the winners.



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Photo Contest Theme: I'd/ We'd Rather Be...

1st Place – “I'd rather be...supporting a young friend learning to walk!!” Susan Laume's photo of Tia helping a young boy walking in a field to maintain his balance, and joined by a black lab friend. (See picture on page 1).

2nd Place – “I'd rather be...shopping in the pets store.” Jackie Brady's photo of Sami and Niki standing up in a shopping cart at Lowes.

3rd Place – “I'd rather be...in your chair than on the floor...hope that's OK!” Mimi Steinschneider's photo of Jax tightly curled up in a zebra-patterned office chair, that you'd think would be too small for him!

4th Place – “We'd rather be...literally, around you!” Jennifer Campbell's photo of Rudolf, Mathilda, and Winnie all peering through the French door, looking to come inside to join their owner.

Honorable Mentions:

1. “We'd rather be...going with you...” Mimi Steinschneider's photo of Rocky and Jax watching out the front door, presumably after their person has left home without them.

2. “I'd rather be...fighting over a steak.” Jackie Brady's photo of Niki and Sami tugging at opposite ends of the same toy.

3. “I'd rather be...hanging with friends!!” Susan Laume's photo of Tia with a large group of look-alike friends/members of her breed.

4. “I'd rather be...a party animal, what's up with that?!” Jennifer Campbell's photo of Gunther, Winnie, and Train all decked out in party gear.



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Luncheon Thanking Pet Evaluators & Facility Liaisons

The event was well attended and featured some great food. Discussions included the change of location for the pet evaluations, now being held at Powhatan Nursing Home on varying days, and the changing locations of the new volunteer orientations, new county requirements for back ground checks and driving record reviews, preparing volunteers for what to expect at the pet behavior assessments, feedback welcomed both directions, and development of a short description of each facility to aid the assistants at pet evaluations direct new volunteers thru the pipeline. This venue and format has been a successful way to encourage introductions and discussion between these two leadership groups within FPOW.

Submitted by Kim Wilkerson (pictured 3rd from left, in back, below)



Please Read: Important Information for All Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc. Volunteers

Dear Fairfax Pets On Wheels Volunteers:

Over the past few months, the FPOW Board of Directors and I have been working with the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging Volunteer Solutions Unit regarding new requirements that have been put in place by the State of Virginia for volunteers.

According to the Code, volunteers for Fairfax County must have background checks performed. **The County has given FPOW volunteers until the end of the year to complete this task.**

There are two places that volunteers can have fingerprints taken for the background checks.

The first is the Government Center located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 150, Fairfax, VA 703-324-4900. This office is open from 9:00 am to noon and from 1:00 & 3:30 pm.

The other location is at the South County Human Services Building at 8350 Richmond Highway, Ste. 407, Alexandria, 703-704-6075.

You must make an appointment and bring a completed copy of the Fairfax County Government Appointee Background Form and two forms of identification, including one with a picture. Visit www.fpow.org/volunteer for all of the forms.

In addition, the County's Risk Management office is requiring FPOW volunteers to have a driver's record check. This is due to the fact that the County provides FPOW volunteers with secondary insurance while volunteers are driving to and from our facilities.

Please fill out the form, found here: www.fpow.org/volunteer, have your signature witnessed, and mail it back to Trina Mayhan-Webb, Volunteer Solutions, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Suite 708, Fairfax, VA 22035.

I know that this is a major inconvenience for our volunteers. If you have any concerns regarding the background check and the driving record, please call the FPOW hotline at 703-324-5424 or contact the FPOW office at dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov

FPOW wants our volunteers to let us know about any problems they have with these new procedures in order to keep a record of these problems.

We will attempt to work with FAAA so that FPOW does not lose any of our valuable volunteers. FAAA might need to make other sessions available for FPOW volunteers to have the fingerprinting completed.

Madelynn Arnold, President
FPOW Board of Directors



Enjoy pictures from the 18th Annual Paws for a Cause 3K Walk.

Visit www.fpow.org/events for more pictures.

A special thanks to photographer, Kim Batchellor





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Fairfax Area Agency on Aging
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Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc., is a volunteer program working with the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, 12011 Government Center Parkway, #708, Fairfax, VA 22035-1104. FPOW Volunteer Hotline: (703) 324-5424. Visit www.fpow.org
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: December 30, 2013

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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 FAAA 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

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