



Fairfax Pets On Wheels Summer Update

July 2012



25-Year Celebration at Frying Pan Farm Park

On June 3, 2012, after days of heavy rain, storms, and winds, the sun shone brightly and the sky was a clear azure blue. The temperature was not too hot and not too cold—just perfect.

It seemed that Nature itself was smiling upon FPOW as its 142 members and guests along with 70 special animals gathered at Frying Pan Farm Park to celebrate twenty-five wonderful years of service.

FPOW received help from Volunteer



Fairfax in the form of four terrific volunteers for the day—Leslie and Mike Dyre, Edward Valerio, and Mary Anne Vogel. These folks helped set up the pavilion and worked at registration tables.

As each FPOW member arrived and registered, a Volunteer Fairfax volunteer presented him or her

(Continued on Page 2)



Entries MUST include:

- Your name
- Pet's name
- Phone number
- Photo captions welcomed, but not required.

Enter as many different photos as you like, but please send each in a separate email.

Winners will be announced on 9/10/12 at the Annual Meeting and showcased on the FPOW website at www.fpow.org.

7th Annual Pet Photo Contest

Share with us your favorite photos featuring your pet. No professional photography please.

Theme: **Innocent Until Proven Guilty**

Prizes: Four gift certificate prize levels and four honorable mentions.

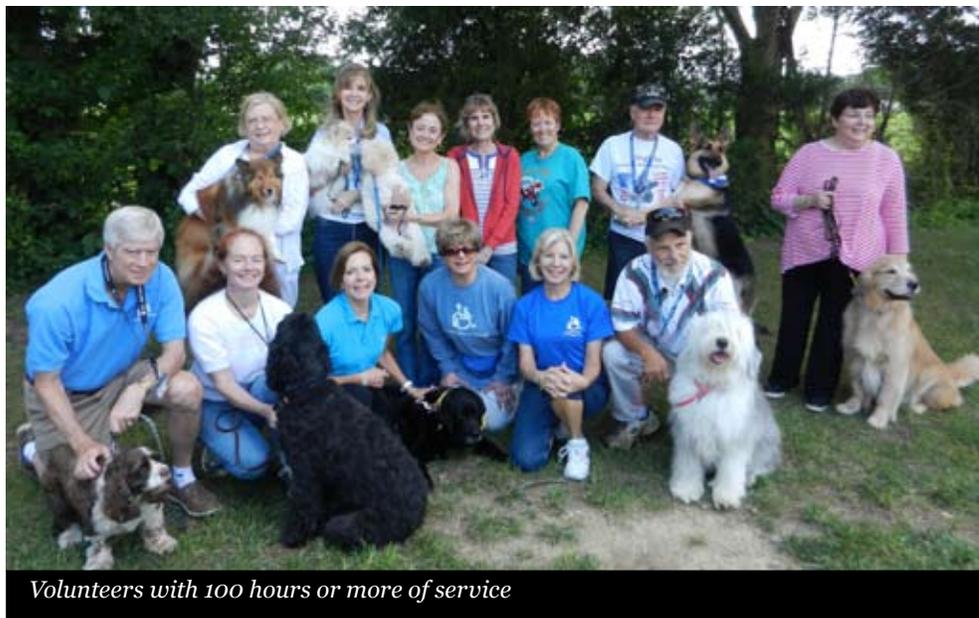
Deadline: 8/30/12

Send your pet photos to: fpowphotocontest@cox.net. (Note: One email per photo entry please.)

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with a blue T-shirt and a blue visor, each commemorating in bold letters and numerals this special anniversary.



Not to be left out, each dog (and one cat) received a “goody bag” containing a ball, treats, and a furry toy.

Likewise, upon arrival, each human volunteer signed up for a family (or individual) portrait and the customary doggie or kitty trading card photos to be taken in an indoor studio throughout the day. Robin Burkett of Paw Prints Photography added the portraits in honor of the organization’s twenty-five year celebration.

Soon after registration, all present were greeted by the organization’s President, Tracy Van Duston, who ac-



knowledged certain guests, including Ruth Regan from Fairfax Area on Aging and Leslie Dyre, Mike Dyre, and Edward Valerio from Volunteer Fairfax. Tracy also in-

troduced Natalie Ruybal and Chelsea Brown, Recreation Director and Assistant Administrator, respectively, from Mount Vernon Nursing Center. Natalie and Chelsea then presented a plaque to FPOW from Mount Vernon. Next, Liz Breyer read a list of AKC Therapy Dog title recipients, including Liz Breyer’s Quincy, Lori Caplan’s Lizzie, Jeanine Goldberg’s Rusty, Cheryl Pendell’s Evette, Kathi Baker’s Abby, Sheila Consaul’s Portia, and Pat Leader’s Lucy.

As all socialized and enjoyed visiting with old friends and making new ones, they were able to enjoy listening to the happy music provided by

DJ Michael Galvin. Some of the canine volunteers were taken by their families to participate in the rally course set up by Liz Breyer. Other doggies tested their skills at the agility course set up by Patty Kwapniewski. Some even splashed around in their own little swimming pool.



Throughout the day the dogs could be seen as they enjoyed these events just for them. Also throughout the day, numbers and names were called for volunteers and guests to claim their door prizes.

It wasn’t too long after everyone was enjoying their friends and the beautiful day that the aroma of the sumptuous “All American Menu” prepared by King Creole of Great Falls was simply too much to resist. Soon lines began to form at the serving tables. All (except the

doggies and kitty, of course) dined on this delicious cuisine, which included barbecue, fried chicken, potato salad, cold slaw, macaroni and cheese, shrimp, various cheeses, and vanilla and chocolate cupcakes.

Never to be neglected, the canine and feline volunteers had their own bowls of treats on each picnic table. There was plenty for all. No one should have left this celebration with an empty stomach!



25 and 20 year volunteers

Those with one hundred-plus hours of service are Sabine Arndt, Madelynn Arnold, Kathi Baker, Ruth Benker, Liz Breyer, Brian Bryson, Bonnie Burnham, John Byrum, Jill Davidson, Alvin Doehring, Carla Graham, Patty Kwapniewski, Pat Leader, Laurie Stone, Charles Viall, and Deborah Zelten.

Next Tracy and Jill called forth individually those volunteers receiving

“Length of Service Awards.”

As all continued to enjoy the lovely party, Tracy Van Duston, assisted by Jill Davidson, began the presentation of the “Hours of Service” award certificates. After each recipient was called individually, a group photo in each hour category was taken by Kim Wilkerson.



10 year volunteers

Those who achieved fifty to seventy-four hours of service are Diane Bente, Carol Chapin, Mariann Durante, Pat Dutton, Jeanine Goldberg, Alfred Iagnemmo, Stecia Lansdell, David Martin, Timothy Miller, Judith Mitnick, Pauline Narcavage, Sharon Rankin, Mandy Saunders, Christine Stout, Robert Strahan, Joan Violante, and Kim Wilkerson.

Those with seventy-five to ninety nine hours of service are Lori Caplan, Norbert Dee, Janet Iagnemmo, Peggy Little, and Terry Patton.



5 year volunteers

Those receiving certificates for five-plus years of volunteerism with FPOW are the following: Dan Aloisi, Rebecca Aloisi, Karen Beekman, Emily Bender, Jack Bender, Liz Breyer, Brian Bryson, Paula

Burger, Andy Burnham, Bonnie Burnham, John Byrum, Carol Chapin, Shiela Consaul, Norbert Dee, Desiree Di Mauro, Mariann Durante, Diane Frey, Carla Graham, Joan Hession, Candia Hudson, Janet Iagnemmo,

Cecile Johnston, Patty Kwapniewski, Colleen Nassetta, Maren Ok, Laurie Stone, Noah Thompson, Sammy Thompson, Willow Thompson, Joan Violante, and Neely Willett.

Those who received pins and certificates for ten-plus years of service are Sabine Arndt, Kathi Baker, Katherine Brooks, Jennifer Campbell, Jill Davidson, Pat Dutton,



15 year volunteers

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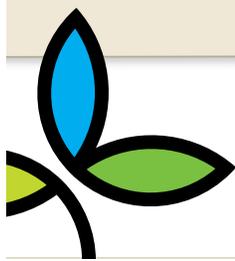
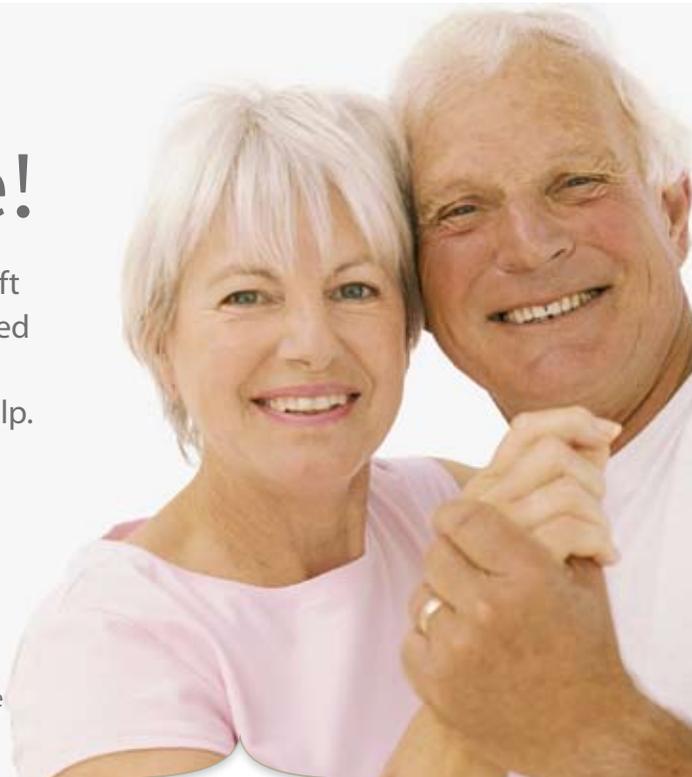
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Pauline Narcavage, Cheryl Pendell, David Rybak, Mary Savitsky, Tracy Van Duston, Martha VanLandingham, and Joan Wilson.

Volunteers receiving pins and certificates for fifteen-plus years of service are Denise Elliott, Barbara Harding, Judith Mitnick, Brenda Pitts, and Deborah Zelten.



AKC Pet Therapy Title Holders: Kathi Baker & Abbi, Pat Leader & Lucy, Liz Breyer & Quincy

The “Length of Service Awards” section of the program concluded with the presentation by Tracy Van Duston and

Bonnie Burnham of very special gift awards to those volunteers who have achieved twenty to twenty-five years of service as volunteers with FPOW. Each individual received a sterling silver pendant with the FPOW logo and its own silver chain.

This pendant was designed and created by the artisans at Aspen Jewelry Design in Herndon and was presented to thank and to honor each volunteer for long and valued contributions to the organization. The recipients of this award are as follows: Madelynn Arnold, Susie Duvall, and Kim Wilkerson (twenty-five years of service) and Ruth Benker, Diane Bente, Margaret Linn, and Barbara Witucki (twenty-plus years of service).

The official program culminated with the announcement and presentation by Susie Duvall of the Shauna and Latshaw Awards. The Shauna Award was established in honor of a very special Irish setter of the same name. This year’s recipient is Lolly, Jill Davidson’s wonderful Pomeranian volunteer. The award certificate was accepted by Lolly and her “mom,” Jill.



At right, Natalie Ruybal and Chelsea Brown, Recreation Director and Assistant Administrator, from Mount Vernon Nursing Center present volunteers a thank-you plaque.

The Latshaw Award was established to honor outstanding FPOW volunteer Mary Latshaw; 2012 had three nominations – Kathi Baker, Liz Breyer, and Tracy Van Duston. This year’s Latshaw Award winner is Tracy Van Duston whose dedication as President for the past four years has led the organization into its twenty-fifth year.

Tracy graciously accepted this award and then concluded the program with congratulations to all award winners and a thank-you to all the many people who assisted and supported her throughout her tenure in office. She also thanked all who have helped to make

possible so many successful years and events, including this wonderful picnic.

Alas, all good things must come to an end. Even though the FPOW twenty-five-year commemorative banner and the red, white, and blue tablecloths and balloons are gone, and the volunteers have left the pavilion and park, the memories of this day live on in the hearts of everyone who was able to attend.

Special thanks go to picnic organizer Kathi Baker, who also thanks her FPOW helpers, including Ruth Benker, Jill Davidson, Joan Violante, Carla Graham, Brian Bryson, Madelynn Arnold, Bonnie Burnham, Andy Burnham, Liz Breyer, Nikki Di Palma, Patty Kwapniewski, Pat Leader, Judy Mitnick, Laurie Stone, Tracy Van Duston, David Folcomer, Kim Wilkerson, Hannah Wilkerson, Dan Baker, and Debbie Zelten.

Also, a very special thank-you goes from everyone to Kim Wilkerson, FPOW’s founder, whose vision, dedication, and diligence for more than twenty-five years have made this wonderful organization possible!



Submitted by Bonnie Mayo Burnham



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Mary Latshaw Award Winner – Tracy Van Duston

Tracy started volunteering with FPOW in 2002 with her dog, Princess, where they were regulars at Powhatan Nursing Home. She soon answered the call for leaders for the Board of Directors, where she served as Secretary, then Vice President, and for the last four years, as President. With her current dog, Precious, she is a visitor at The Virginian.

In addition, as a member of the Speakers' Bureau, Tracy has presented at numerous United Way events and new-volunteer orientations. Additionally, she participated in filmings done by the Korean Broadcasting System on volunteer-



Tracy Van Duston and Susie Duwall

ism in the United States and an American University graduate student's thesis project on therapy animals. She, along with Precious, was one of the FPOW speakers on the Majestic Mo'mints Radio Hour and podcast last September.

Tracy was instrumental in creating the "Founders Award," a scholarship award for worthy students who pursue animal studies, making the world a better place through celebration of the human-animal bond. This special award was a way of honoring the founder of FPOW, Kim Wilkerson.

Tracy has provided the leadership needed to lead FPOW, all while working full-time. For all

her contributions to the program during her ten years with FPOW, we honor Tracy with our highest award: the 2012 Mary Latshaw Award.

Shauna 2012 Winner – Lolly Davidson

Lolly Davidson is an FPOW pet of six pounds of pure panache. If you have seen the public service announcement for FPOW done by Ms. Loretta Swit, you would recognize Lolly as the demure, sweet faced pooch who everyone thinks is just adorable when they



Shauna Winner Lolly Davidson



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Dates to Remember

Photo Contest Deadline: August 30, 2012, See Page 1 for more information

BOD Meeting: September 10, 2012, 7:00pm – Leewood Nursing Home, Annandale

Annual Meeting: September 10, 2012, 8:00pm – Leewood Nursing Home, Annandale

PAWS FOR A CAUSE 3K Dog Walk: October 7, 2012 – Weber’s Pet Supermarket, Fairfax

BOD Meeting: December 3, 2012, 8:00pm – Leewood Nursing Home, Annandale

meet her. If you haven’t seen her there, perhaps you have seen her in the three-minute video that Fairfax County did on FPOW five years ago – you see her in that clip being loved on by residents as she also manages to steal the camera with her charm, her expressive ears, and her adorable tail that just exudes style.

Lolly not only visits residents in the nursing home, but she also accompanies her mom, Jill Davidson, on Speakers’ Bureau events, as well as works in the FPOW office, where other Fairfax County employees come looking for her to enjoy a bit of her company.

If you have not seen her extraordinary trick – “Ten and Twirl” – you MUST ask her to perform it. She is quite the scene stealer, as she jumps with joy giving “ten” to her human partner and then twirling around, generally to the screams and laughter of everyone watching her perform.

Lolly is what a therapy dog should be – loving, adorable, joyful, and just plain fun to be around. For her years

of putting smiles on the faces of residents, staff, family members, county employees, and fellow volunteers and joy in their hearts, she is honored by FPOW and receives the 2012 Shauna Award.

Margie Linn has Volunteering in Her Blood

In addition to volunteering with FPOW, Margie volunteers with the Kennedy Center and the Washington Opera and serves on the board of the Chado Urasenke Tankokai Washington DC Association, whose purpose is to spread the “Way of Tea” in the DC area.

Margie has been a FPOW volunteer for twenty years at Virginia Hospital Center’s Psychiatric Unit. She first learned of POW at the Old Dominion Kennel Club dog show. She was especially attracted to the opportunity to work in a hospital setting with animals because her nephew, who passed away from leukemia at the age of ten, was comforted by visits from his pet cat.



Margie Linn with Bonnie

Over the past twenty years, Margie has had three dogs. When she first started volunteering, she brought her West Highland White Terrier (Westie), Muffin, who won the Shauna Award for her outstanding personality as a visiting

“Doctor of Smiles.” Three years later, Mr. MacDuff, her adopted Scottie, joined the pack. Finally, Margie adopted Bonnie, a Westie, who was then four years old.

Bonnie is a couch potato who likes to watch TV when she’s not outside hunting squirrels and chipmunks. She



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also likes to terrorize Margie's koi when they are trying to eat their food. She loves ice cream and is able to discern when Margie is opening the freezer and taking out ice cream (Bonnie comes running into the kitchen!) or something else.

Westies are known to demand to be the center of attention and Bonnie is no different, which makes her a wonderful FPOW companion.

Margie says that the secret to being a great FPOW volunteer is allowing your best friend to take center stage and take the lead, helping to forge relationships with the patients.

Bonnie is also an escape artist. Once when Margie and Bonnie were moving from the break room to the hallway, Bonnie followed a patient into the main part of the unit. Tara, the recreational therapist, couldn't catch her, so Margie had to tempt her with a piece of cheese to lure her back to the hallway. The patients laughed long and hard at these antics because that area was supposed to be a "locked" area. Not so for Bonnie!

Margie and Bonnie have enjoyed their many visits at Virginia Hospital Center's Psychiatric Unit and look forward to volunteering more time with FPOW once Margie retires. Thanks to Margie, Bonnie and all the other volunteers who take time out of their busy lives to give back to the community!



Submitted by
Pamela Huffman

Volunteers Honored at Volunteer Fairfax Ceremony

On Friday, April 27, Kathi Baker, Director of Volunteer Appreciation and Facility Liaison at Cameron Glen and Sunrise-Reston, and Ruth Benker, Director of Communications and Facility Liaison at Iliff Nursing and Rehab, were honored at

the Volunteer Fairfax 20th Anniversary 2012 Volunteer Service Awards breakfast at The Waterford in Springfield.

Tracy Van Duston, President of FPOW, also in attendance, had



Kathi Baker and Ruth Benker

submitted their names for the Benchmark 250 hours, the category for volunteers who have donated at least 250 hours to their program during the year.

RALLY ON!

Small dogs! Tall dogs! Red dogs! Yellow dogs! Black dogs! They all tried their paws at the Rally course at the picnic.



Designed like a rally car race, a Rally course consists of a series of stations. At each station the dog and handler team does an exercise. It might be something as simple as a “sit.” Or it might be more complex, like a “call front, finish.”



The best part of Rally is that it is designed to be a team exercise; it promotes dogs and handlers working together. Handlers on a Rally course can encourage and praise their dogs.

The goal is to have fun.

And our FPOW dogs sure had fun — weaving, circling, turning, and jumping. And just having tons of fun. Want to learn more about Rally?

Check out <http://tiny.cc/akrally>.

Liz Breyer
Director, Volunteer Education



Photographers Needed

We are looking for folks to help take photos for badges at our monthly pet team behavior assessments. All you need is a digital camera. We will train.

If interested, send email to dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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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. 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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Attention: FPOW Newsletter

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