



Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.

# Info from Fairfax Pets On Wheels

June 2021



## The Newsletter Has a New Look!

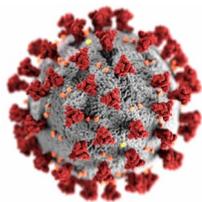
Now, when you open the newsletter or visit [fpow.org](http://fpow.org), the coordinated graphics and colors will say "This is FPOW!"

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Beginning with this issue, we shine the spotlight on some of FPOW's therapy teams

## COVID-19 Update



It was exciting to see the news that CDC guidelines now permit nursing homes to welcome visitors. That is great news for resi-

and how they use their talents and interests when they're not visiting residents.

Many of our volunteer teams are active in sports. Some participate in obedience and other types of training and competitions. Others bring peace and warmth to those in hospice.

dents and their families throughout the country.

FPOW has heard from a number of our facilities that their coronavirus policies are easing a bit. However, as a program of Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, we will not be

## FPOW Pet Spotlights



Denise Kloeppe and Sport

We hope to highlight more therapy teams in future issues. Find out how your pet can be in the Spotlight on Page 3.

able to resume regular visits until we get authorization from Fairfax County. FPOW's facility liaisons and Board of Directors also will review visiting protocols with each of our facilities. Visit [fpow.org](http://fpow.org) for all the latest updates.

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



## Denise Kloeppel and Sport



Not only is Sport a beloved FPOW volunteer at Dulles Health and Rehab Center, Herndon Senior Center, and Reston Sunrise, he is my best friend and my biggest supporter. During the pandemic,

Sport and I have been walking about three miles a day, and we get to the beach once a month, where he loves to play fetch. During the week, we train for agility competitions where Sport has won a few ribbons.

Sport has also been providing support and comfort for me throughout my treatments for breast cancer. He seems to know instinctively what I need. For example, when I am

feeling out of sorts, he nudges me to go for walk. The fresh air is energizing, and walking helps with my morale and fitness. And each morning, he trots down the stairs and jumps into the chair with me before the day begins.

Sport deeply misses his friends and all the attention he gets at the facilities we visit. But like all of us, he adapted to a new normal, providing joy and happiness wherever he can.

## Is Your Pet Ready to Visit Again?

Here are a few easy, fun ideas to keep your pet mentally and physically ready to get back to the work it loves.

- With some COVID restrictions being lifted for family gatherings, make sure to include your pets. Get them used to being around people in a safe setting.
- Use snuffle mats and puzzle toys—such as frozen treats in a Kong—to challenge your dog and make it search for the reward.
- Play with your pet—with and without toys—to keep it engaged and interested.
- Excite your cat with a laser pointer to keep it agile and in shape.
- Go for walks, but not just the same old route. New sights and smells keep a dog's senses stimulated. And *you* get the benefit of a change of scenery!





# Liz Breyer and Marvin

Four years ago, when it was time to get a new puppy, I was looking for a special dog. In addition to volunteering for FPOW, this new pup would ultimately compete in AKC and Rally obedience trials. So my dog had to be smart, trainable, with a strong work ethic and a temperament that matched mine. And, importantly, he had to be calm enough to visit the elderly and be able to connect with them. It was a pretty tall order.

Enter Marvin.

Marvin loves to do stuff. Almost anything. He loves to play catch or tug. He loves to go on walks. He loves to cuddle. He loves to play with older Uncle Sly. He is fascinated by the cat (who is not fascinated by him.) And he loves to learn new things.

A big part of Marvin's life is training and competition. He started training when I brought him home at 10 weeks old.

Not just the usual potty training and walking politely on lead, but also heeling, recalls, group stays, competition retrieving (very different from playing catch with a tennis ball), jumping, and scent discrimination. And that is just the tip of the iceberg.

In obedience competition, dogs are scored on how perfectly they perform tasks. In Rally obedience, the dog performs different exercises at multiple stations set by the judge. Every course is different with increasing levels of difficulty. And Marvin loves it all.

Pre-covid, Marvin's typical week involved obedience lessons and classes, training at different facilities around the area



and participating in trials when he had mastered a particular level. We have been fortunate to keep up our training—although in a more limited way—for the past year, but are looking forward to the time when we can go back to a full schedule of training, competing and, of course, visiting for FPOW.

## 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!



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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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