



P.O. Box 1756
Orleans, MA 02653

WINTER 2010

NEWSLETTER

The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care



Good As Gold(ie)!

**By Olivia Miller,
a writer who loves animals**

Goldie, a 13-year-old male Persian, had spent his whole life in a cage. Goldie and more than a dozen other cats, including his "cage-mate" Stormy, belonged to a breeder who had become too sick to properly care for them. Last October the breeder asked cat owner and animal lover Eileen Grande of Harwich if she would feed the cats for 3 days while he went out of town.

By the time she realized the breeder was not coming back "3 days had turned into 37," Eileen recalled. All the cats were eventually placed in homes except for Goldie, who was slated to live in a garage.

"It was heated, but there was no way I would let him live in that garage," Eileen said. "I knew I had to go get that cat." Goldie had a serious problem. Due to an earlier infection, one of his eyes had been removed. Although the eye socket had been sewn closed, the procedure hadn't been done correctly and the edges had separated. "The wound was oozing," Eileen explained. "At first I had a hard time looking at him. He had no fur, the inside of his ears was black, he was sleeping in his litter box. It was awful."

Despite his physical condition, Goldie was six pounds of pure love. "He was starving for affection. He'd



put his little paw on my cheek and give me Eskimo kisses." Amazingly, all the cats were friendly. "They weren't abused," she said, "just not well cared for."

Eileen knew Goldie would need surgery but worried that it might be too much at his age. She sought the counsel of a veterinarian she could trust, Dr. James Coleman of Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital in East Harwich.

"I wanted an honest opinion," she said. "I asked Dr. Coleman if 13 was too old and he said, 'I've seen cats live up to 25 years.'" Eileen decided to give Goldie a chance, but she didn't know how she would pay for the treatment. Goldie also needed to be neutered. She shared her dilemma with Dr. Coleman, who told her about The Sampson Fund. She applied. "They approved my application the next day," she said.

"I felt sorry for the cat," Dr. Coleman recalled. "He was loving and affectionate, but he looked terrible. The previous surgery didn't heal, and he had this chronic oozing open wound. Ms. Grande was a very concerned owner and it was a tough situation financially, so I suggested The Sampson Fund. I was happy to be able to help." Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital has a close history with the Fund. Founder and past president, Dr. Christopher Donner (now retired from the hospital), was instrumental in establishing The Sampson Fund in 1987; Dr. Donner had, in fact, hired Dr. Coleman in 1986.

"I never would have been able to come up with the money for Goldie's surgery," said Eileen, a gymnastics coach and owner of Creative Face Painting. "I'm so grateful to The Sampson Fund."

"I was nervous about how Goldie would do, but he was a trooper. He wore one of those lampshades for four weeks and kept trying to get up next to my face. He's so loveable and has such a nice personality."

Despite his many challenges, Goldie is thriving and has gained four pounds since coming to live with Eileen.

"Everyone loves Goldie," Eileen said proudly. "He's the best cat I've ever had. It just goes to show you can't judge a book by its cover."

The Sampson Fund for Veterinary Care is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Checks should be made payable to: **The Sampson Fund for Veterinary Care**

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SAMPSON FUND MISSION STATEMENT

To provide financial assistance for the rehabilitative veterinary treatment of critically ill or injured dogs and cats whose caregivers cannot afford treatment or who are found without known caregivers, thereby offering an alternative to euthanasia and preserving the unique emotional, social and beneficial bonds that tie animals and humans together.

For further information about the Sampson Fund, please visit our website at www.sampsonfund.org

Message from the President:

In 2009 The Sampson Fund was able to contribute \$35,000 for critical veterinary care for 72 dogs and cats on Cape Cod and the Islands. We were also able to establish The Sampson Fund for Veterinary Care Endowment, thanks to bequests from the estates of June A. Zenke and Helen H. Davenport. We thank the generous donors and volunteers who made this possible. In a time when many budgets are stretched, this is particularly rewarding. We are grateful to the Anslow and Davenport families, who designated The Sampson Fund as the recipient of memorial gifts. Attendees at The Sampson Fund birdhouse auction in the spring, dog washes in the summer, and pet photo sessions with Santa at holiday time supported our efforts as well. We will be hosting some new fundraising events in 2010 including "The Sampson Fund Goes Retro" at Harwich Junior Theatre for the musical production of "Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story" on May 15th.

As an all-volunteer organization, we value all those who devote precious time to serve on committees and offer their skills and energy to help us fulfill our mission of providing financial assistance for critical care for dogs and cats on Cape Cod and the Islands. If you would like to join our volunteers, please let us know by leaving a message at 508-240-PETS or sampsonfund.org.

I have occupied the president's position for a couple of months now. I follow two people who have been vitally important to The Sampson Fund: Christopher Donner, VMD, our founder and past president, who had the vision of The Sampson Fund 24 years ago and still serves on our board; and Joan Goffi, DVM, who for years has worked tirelessly to expand the programs and scope of The Sampson Fund. I will do my best to follow their lead.

Sincerely,

Patti Smith,
President

Pet Owners Learn About The Sampson Fund

Trustee Tracy Plaut recently made a presentation about The Sampson Fund to the newly formed pet owners group of the Nauset Newcomers. There were 20 members and 10 dogs at the event held at Cape Cod Dog in Eastham.

Holiday Happenings

Almost \$1500 was raised at our Pet Photos with Santa events. Many thanks to Carol Barry, Brewster Veterinary Hospital, Marina Brock, Bruce Brown, CARE, Irene Cooper, Anne Corrigan, Barbara Anne Foley, For The Love of The Breed, Joan Goffi, Ed McManus, Randi Moberg, Tracy Plaut, Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital, and Patti Smith.

Special Note:

The Grief Support Center of Hospice & Palliative Care of Cape Cod is holding a Pet Loss Workshop on April 28 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church, 61 Canal Road, Orleans. To register or for additional information, call 508-957-0284.

The Sampson Fund Collects for Lower Cape Outreach Council's Pet Pantry

Janice Perrin, Human Services Director of the Lower Cape Outreach Council, and Lottie Austin, Vice-President of The Sampson Fund for Veterinary Care, sorted through food for the Council's pet pantry. The food was collected for the pet pantry at The Sampson Fund's Pet Photo with Santa events.

Canine Separation Anxiety

By Christopher Donner, VMD

When the cat's away, the mice will play, is the old rhyme. When the owners are away, what does the family dog do? If he cries and carries on, and especially if he destroys the house, he may have what veterinarians term Canine Separation Anxiety. By definition, Separation Anxiety is the severe distress an individual may suffer when separated from group members. Canine is to make it clear that we are discussing the dog's anxiety when separated from his owner and not the owner's anxiety when separated from the dog. But, believe me, sometimes it's hard to tell who has more anxiety.

There are 63 million owned dogs in the United States, and it is estimated that 14 to 17% of them have some degree of separation anxiety. So that is roughly 10 million dogs with, as psychologists like to say, "issues." It is easy to trivialize this topic, but separation anxiety often has serious consequences. Beyond the emotional distress dogs may endure is the risk of injury. Some dogs will severely lacerate themselves breaking through windows. And the owners may have to weather multiple stresses: concern for the dog, severe property damage (sometimes it appears as

if a tornado has gone through the house), angry neighbors and, if they rent, possible eviction. Sadly, many dogs with separation anxiety are relinquished to shelters, where the chance of placement is slim. Very few shelters will place a dog with destructive behavior, and many of these dogs are euthanized.

The classic signs of Canine Separation Anxiety are some combination of property destruction, elimination/house-soiling, crying/barking, pacing, panting and salivation. Sometimes the signs are subtler, perhaps withdrawal from social interaction or loss of appetite. None of these behaviors is specific to separation anxiety. For instance, a dog who fears thunderstorms may exhibit all of the above, or a bored dog may chew up a rug or a door. Veterinarians can help sort this out and suggest appropriate therapy. Depending upon an assessment of the dog's anxiety and the owner's capabilities, treatment probably will include one or more of the following:

Education aimed at modifying the owner's interaction with the dog to minimize anxiety. Simply making sure the dog is getting enough exercise is one example. Keeping departures from and arrivals to the house as quiet and low key as



possible is

another.

Instruction in behavior modification techniques, such as understanding what stimulates the anxiety and then attempting to desensitize for those triggers.

Medication - yes, that's right - there are at least two FDA-approved drugs for Canine Separation Anxiety.

Diligent owners can generally expect behavior modification techniques alone to provide significant improvement after 12 weeks of effort in about 75% of cases. However, studies show that when medication is given concurrently with behavior modification, improvement may happen significantly faster.

Some puppies may exhibit separation anxiety at an early age, even while they are part of a litter. When removed from the litter, they become noticeably more agitated than their littermates do. Other dogs acquire this problem later, sometimes due to training errors. Not all causes can be recognized.

My advice is if you think a puppy is unusually agitated when left alone, quickly consult with your veterinarian.

This is a problem you definitely want to solve before the behaviors become habitual.

Some of the material for this article was adapted from an American Animal Hospital Association web seminar given by Jacqui Neilson, DVM, DACVB (a veterinary behaviorist).

Upcoming Events to Benefit The Sampson Fund:

Polar Bear Plunge - Sunday, March 7, at noon on West Dennis Beach.

Hosted by CARE. All funds raised will go to The Sampson Fund. For additional information or to sign up to "plunge," call CARE at 508-398-7575.

The Sampson Fund Goes Retro! - Saturday, May 15, at 8:00 p.m. at Harwich Junior Theatre, West Harwich.

Support The

Sampson Fund and enjoy a musical performance of "Buddy" about Buddy Holly, the young man from Lubbock, Texas, who quickly became the world's top recording artist only to die in a plane crash in 1959. The show features such timeless hits as "Peggy Sue," "That'll Be The Day," "Maybe Baby," "True Love Ways," Ritchie Valens' "La Bamba," and the Big Bopper's "Chantilly Lace." Tickets will be available soon.