



P.O. Box 1756
Orleans, MA 02653

Join us...

Sunday, March 4, at noon for the fifth annual Polar Bear Plunge at West Dennis Beach. Call 508-398-7575 to register.

Sunday, April 29, from 2 to 6 for the third annual benefit for The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care and The Animal Rescue League of Boston/ Brewster Branch at Sons of Erin Hall, Route 28, West Yarmouth, sponsored by Paws n' Claws Pet Sitting. There will be a silent auction and raffle, music, hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Call 508-385-3638 for more information.

Saturday, May 19, from 10 to 2 for the second annual Plants For Pets Garden Event at CARE in South Dennis. Call 508-430-6105 to donate or for more information.

PLANTS FOR PETS GARDEN SALE

Save the date for our second annual Plants For Pets sale on May 19 from 10 to 2 at CARE, 79 Theophilus Smith Road in South Dennis, to raise money to continue the good work of The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care.

The sale will be unique in its offerings. As well as a wide variety of plants (including hundreds of heirloom and hybrid tomato plants), new and rehabbed tools and garden decor, we will offer on-site tool sharpening, a raffle of pet- and garden-related items, demonstrations and contests, musical entertainment and refreshments.

And that's where you come in. We need your donations of plants, gardening tools, and practical and decorative garden accessories. We also need volunteers before the sale to collect, identify and deliver donations and on the day of the sale to set up, work the sale, and clean up afterwards.

Please contact Patti Smith, president, pattismith100@capecod.net or 508-432-3927 or Irene Cooper, Plants For Pets committee chair irenecooper@comcast.net or 508-430-6105 for more information or to arrange for pickup of donations.

WINTER 2012

NEWSLETTER

The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care



Saving a Dog's Life...and a Family's Sanity

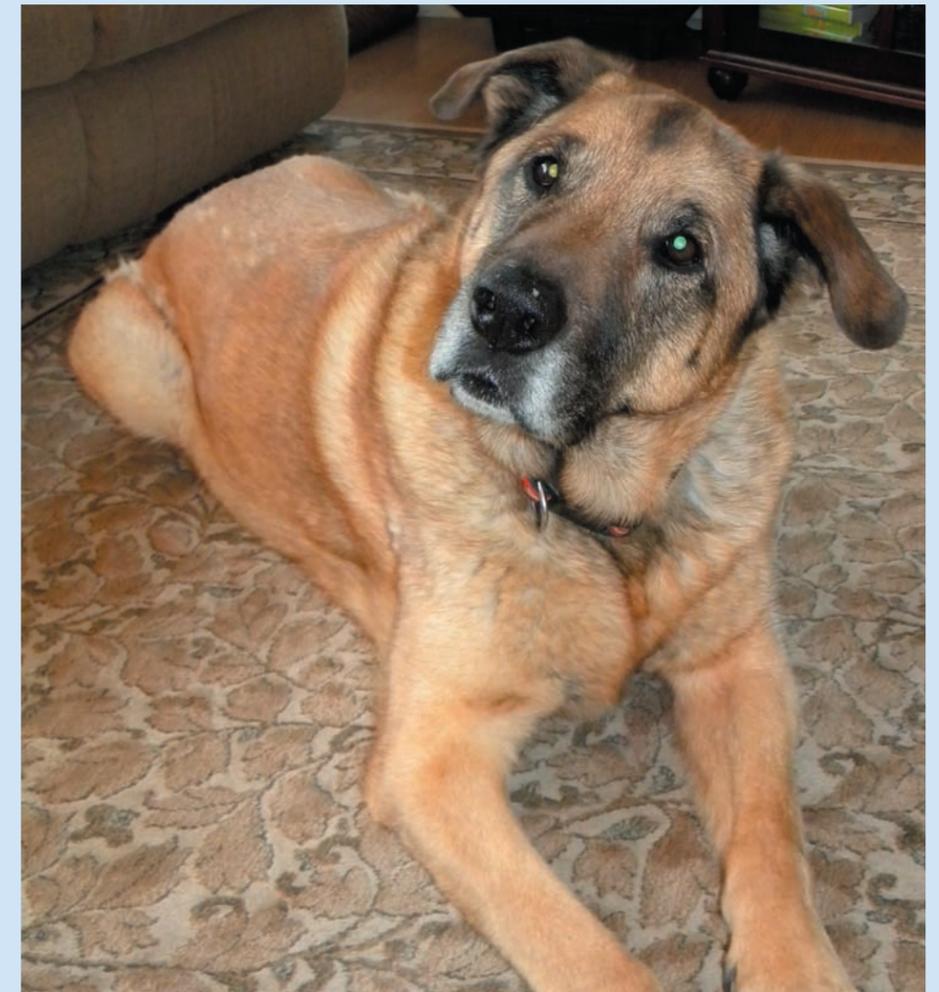
By Olivia Miller

Last year Nicole Galcenski noticed that her shepherd-lab mix, Gus, age 13, had started limping. The South Dennis resident brought him to her vet, where a polyp was discovered under his tail. The good news? The polyp was not cancerous. The bad news? It was positioned in such a way that it was blocking the dog's ability to eliminate. In other words, the polyp had to go or Gus would not be able to.

The doctor explained to Nicole that these kinds of polyps weren't uncommon in large dogs (Gus weighs about 78 pounds); in fact, it wouldn't be a serious problem if the polyp had been located elsewhere on the dog's body. But, unfortunately, this was a case of "location, location, location," and for obvious reasons the procedure needed to be done quickly.

To make matters worse, the timing was terrible. Nicole was then pregnant with her second child and she wasn't working. "With a baby on the way, my husband Tony and I couldn't afford to pay for the surgery," she said. "Our vet offered to reduce the price a little, but it was still too much for us. I called around to other vets, but no one was able to help."

Luckily, Nicole learned about The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care. "When I applied for help, I was told 'yes' right away," she recalled. "It was such a huge relief. Without the surgery, Gus would have died. And if we had to put him down, it would have been the hardest thing for me and my husband. I would have felt terrible knowing the growth was noncancerous and could be treated. I really wanted my unborn child to meet Gus. The Sampson Fund saved Gus and saved our sanity."



Although not their regular veterinary practice, Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital is affiliated with The Sampson Fund and performed the surgery last March. Gus, Nicole said, is doing great. Jaxson, the couple's second child, got to meet "Gussy-poo," the nickname four-year-old Gavin gave the family dog.

"I love him. The boys love him. Our cat Bijou loves him dearly and they even

sleep together. He was my pet before I had kids," Nicole added. "I got him from a no-kill shelter ten years ago. He is such a great dog. We are lucky to have him. There are little kids all over my house, and he is very good and patient with them.

"We are so thankful to the wonderful, fantastic Sampson Fund. It is a godsend."



P.O. Box 1756, Orleans, MA 02653
www.sampsonfund.org
508-240-7387

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Sampson Fund

Affiliated Hospitals

Barnstable Animal Hospital - Hyannis

Brewster Veterinary Hospital - Brewster

Cape Animal Referral Emergency Center (CARE) - South Dennis

Cape Cod Animal Hospital - West Barnstable

Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists - Bourne

Falmouth Animal Hospital - North Falmouth

Dr. Michelle Jasny - West Tisbury

Lower Cape Veterinary Services - Eastham

Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital - East Harwich

Vineyard Veterinary Clinic - Edgartown

Veterinary Advisor: Lilan Hauser, DMV

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:

Dear Friends:

We are past the coldest month of the year (January, in Massachusetts). And we've been fortunate on Cape Cod to have milder than usual temperatures. Hopefully, our pets have been able to enjoy more play time outdoors or curled up indoors basking in bright sunny spots.

We welcome Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists to The Sampson Fund family of affiliated hospitals. CCVS is a critical care emergency hospital located in Bourne.

If you want to "take the plunge," join us for the Polar Bear Plunge on Sunday, March 4, at noon at West Dennis Beach. CARE is sponsoring this annual event. You can take a dip in the water, or you can be part of the cheerleading group on the beach.

Sampson Fund supporter Patti McGan is hosting an event to benefit The Sampson Fund and The Animal Rescue League on Sunday, April 29 from 2 to 6 at Sons of Erin Hall in West Yarmouth. Join us for a fun-filled afternoon with music, a silent auction, raffles, and wonderful food.

Mark your calendars now for the Plants For Pets Garden Event on Saturday, May 19, from 10 to 2 at CARE in South Dennis. If you want to donate plants, tools, garden decor or items for the raffle, please contact event chairperson, Irene Cooper at 508-430-6105 or irenecooper@comcast.net.

Congratulations to Bette Drewes, who held the winning ticket in the raffle for the beautiful quilt created and donated by Kathryn Butterworth of Harwich. We are grateful to all the folks who purchased raffle tickets online or at our events this fall.

This holiday season brought generous donations from so many Sampson Fund supporters. We saw many friends when we gift wrapped for donations at Snow's as part of the Orleans store's charity gift-wrap program. Our annual pet photos with Santa events continue to be festive and fun times. Thanks to CARE, Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital, and Brewster Veterinary Hospital for hosting them and Joe Yukna, Ed McManus and Bill Kaser for being our Sampson Fund Santas. We are grateful to Catie Williams of WonderDogs & Friends, who donated funds raised at a raffle at her holiday party with pet-loving guests. And thanks to Rachel Kirchgessner who made a "dough-nation" in lieu of cookies.

And finally, we are truly honored by the organizations that have awarded grants to The Sampson Fund: The Banfield Charitable Trust, The Mary-Louise Eddy and Ruth N. Eddy Foundation, The Thomas C. McGowan Fund for Animals of The Cape Cod Foundation, The Carson Family Foundation and the Marian Craig Leers Charitable Trust. This support will enable us to continue to provide much-needed help for owners of dogs and cats on Cape Cod.

Patti Smith
President

We welcome Danni Jesudowich to The Sampson Fund Board of Trustees

Danni and her husband Alex moved to Brewster in 2001 from Milford, Connecticut, where they had lived for 17 years. She previously produced television commercials for advertising agencies in New York ... her last assignment as a freelance producer working predominantly on toy advertising. She is a graduate of The Ithaca College School of Communications (1978). She is now the business manager of Ryder & Wilcox Engineering and Surveying in Orleans.

Danni was terrified of dogs when she was a child until her father brought home a beagle/dobie mix named Max when she was 13 -- the rest is history! She's pretty much had a dog ever since. Danni and Alex spend their free time in a kayak, shooting sporting clays or gardening ... when Alex is not painting pet portraits using paint from the dump!

Rabies and Common Sense

The recent death of a Marstons Mills resident from rabies, the first confirmed case of human rabies in Massachusetts since 1935, has raised public concern about the disease. It might be useful to remind ourselves of some common sense precautions that can reduce the risk for humans and pets of contracting rabies.

Be very careful with wild and stray animals. The natural reservoir for rabies on the Cape has historically been bats. The Marstons Mills man was reportedly bitten by one late last fall. It is possible, since a bat's teeth are very small, that he was unaware of being bitten or of what bit him, and therefore did not seek treatment until it was too late for treatment to save him. Other wild mammals, particularly raccoons, skunks and foxes, and domestic mammals, such as cats, dogs, ferrets, cows and horses, can contract rabies and be a source of the disease for humans. So it just makes sense to assiduously avoid being scratched, bitten or otherwise coming in contact with the saliva of any animal that could conceivably have rabies.

Many times that goes against our instincts as "animal lovers." An elderly, good-hearted neighbor of mine has been feeding a stray cat. With the advent of cold weather the cat successfully wormed its way into her house. Recently, when she reached down to pet the cat, it bit her. Luckily, it did not run out the door and disappear and was instead available for ten days of quarantine and observation. Had it disappeared, since there was no known vaccination history, my neighbor would likely have had to endure a series of anti-rabies injections.

What if you or your pet is bitten or scratched by an animal? You should immediately wash the wound thoroughly with soapy water for about ten minutes. Not only will this reduce the risk of rabies, but it will also greatly reduce the chance of bacterial infection. If it's your pet that has been bitten, clean the wound only if you are sure you won't be bitten. Then wear rubber or vinyl gloves, and be careful

not to touch your eyes, mouth or nose because the rabies virus can cross mucous membranes. Immediately contact your local animal control officer and your doctor or veterinarian for further advice and treatment. Try to identify the biting animal and remember as much as you can about its behavior. If you can safely confine it until the animal control officer arrives, it will help clarify what procedures need to be taken next.

Keep your dogs and cats (and ferrets) vaccinated. Massachusetts law requires all cats and dogs to be vaccinated against rabies. And "all cats" includes cats that are kept indoors. Common sense says that if bats are the common reservoir of rabies, indoor cats by way of attics, chimneys and broken screens are still at risk. Puppies and kittens should have their initial rabies vaccination shortly after 12 weeks of age. A second vaccination should be given between 9 and 12 months later. To avoid unnecessary vaccinations, don't wait one day past a year. If the second rabies vaccination is given before a year has elapsed, it can, depending on the vaccine used, count for three years. Given past a year, it will need to be repeated yearly until the pet has had two vaccinations within nine months and a year. Only then is an every three-year schedule permitted.

Instruct your children to avoid wild or stray animals, even if the animals appear tame and especially if they seem sick. Seal up crawl spaces, attics, sheds and other spaces that attract shelter-seeking animals, and don't leave food or garbage where it will attract scavengers.

As long as there is a wildlife population on the Cape, there will be some risk to humans and pets of rabies, but using a little common sense can do much to minimize it.

For more information, consult a website or the Massachusetts Department of Health at (617) 983-6800.

Christopher S. Donner, VMD

The Christopher S. Donner Society

The Board of Trustees of The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care is pleased to announce the formation of the Christopher S. Donner Society. The Society provides special recognition for those members who have included the Sampson Fund in their long-term plans through bequests or other deferred-giving arrangements. By designating a gift for the Sampson Fund in your estate plans, you help to ensure the future of critical veterinary care for Cape Cod dogs and cats whose owners cannot bear its costs alone.

Christopher S. Donner, VMD, former director of Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital, founded The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care in 1986 and remains an active member of the Sampson Fund Board of Trustees. He lives in South Orleans with his wife, Ann, and the family dog, Whispers.

Please contact us at sampsonfund@yahoo.com for a confidential Christopher S. Donner Society membership form.

We welcome Dr. Lilan Hauser, DVM, as our Sampson Fund veterinary advisor

Dr. Hauser is chief of staff at Falmouth Animal Hospital. She received her undergraduate degree from Washington State University in 1990 and then attended Tufts University, earning her DVM in 1998. Prior to joining Falmouth Animal Hospital, Dr. Hauser practiced at Animal Emergency Care in Acton, Cushing Square Veterinary Clinic in Belmont, and New England Animal Medical Center in West Bridgewater.

In her free time Dr. Hauser enjoys kayaking, biking, CrossFit, Warrior and Spartan races, and traveling. She also loves spending time with her Landseer Newfoundland, Lulu, from the New England Newfie Rescue and her 3 cats - Bogart, Cleo, and Jack - all rescued from various clinics.