



P.O. Box 1756
Orleans, MA 02653

SAMPSON FUND

Summer Events

Thurs. June 17th "Sampson Fund Day" at Moby Dick's Restaurant, 3225 Rte. 6 (across from Gull Pond Rd.) Wellfleet. Support the Sampson Fund by dining at this very popular restaurant, for either lunch or dinner on Thursday, June 17.. The Barry family, owners of Moby Dick's, is donating a portion of the day's revenue to The Sampson Fund. Open 11:30 to 8:30. Check out the restaurant's website for menu and more information at www.mobydicksrestaurant.com.

Sat. June 19th 9 to 12 - Dog Wash at Paw Prints, Rte. 6, Eastham

Sat. June 26th Pet Themed Yard Sale at CARE, Theophilis Smith Rd. South Dennis

Sun. June 27th 11:30 to 3 - Sampson Fund Table at The Hounds at Highfield, Falmouth

Sat. July 17th 9 to 12 - Dog Wash at Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital, Rte. 137 & Queen Anne Rd. East Harwich

Fri. July 30th 10 to noon - Book signing to benefit The Sampson Fund at Brewster Book Store, Rte. 6A Brewster. People Who Write About Dogs: Susan Meddaugh, author of *"Martha Speaks"* series of children's books and PBS television show, Art Corriveau, author of *How I, Nicky Flynn, Finally Get a Life (and a Dog)* and Spencer Quinn, author of the *Chet and Bernie mysteries*.

Sat. Aug. 14th 9 to 12 - Dog Wash at Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital, Rte. 137 & Queen Anne Rd. East Harwich

SPRING 2010

NEWSLETTER

The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care



What a Difference a Dog Makes

by Olivia Miller, a writer
who loves animals

Over a year ago, Mimi Vanderberg and her husband divorced. It was a difficult time, particularly for the second of their three sons, Noah. "He was hit pretty hard by the divorce," Mimi said, "and he wanted to get a dog." Although they had a four-year old lab, Thor was really Mimi's dog. This would be Noah's dog. They visited local shelters but didn't find the right dog until Noah, 19, found a pit bull puppy online. "I was very reluctant about getting a pit bull," Mimi admitted, adding that she thought to herself, "I can't believe I'm saying okay."

Despite mom's reservations, six-month-old Dante joined the family's Harwich home in April 2009. He is "a very special little guy," according to Mimi. "I hate to say this but Dante is almost better than Thor, who is a gentle giant. Dante is an amazingly loyal, sweet, wonderful dog. He curls up every night in Noah's bed and has helped him get through troubled times."

Unfortunately, more troubled times lay ahead. Last Christmas they realized something was wrong with Dante. He wouldn't eat and was getting thin; he had lost his joy of life. They brought him to their veterinarian, who tested the dog but



was unable to find the problem. The next day, his condition worsened. The vet recommended they bring Dante to the Cape Animal Referral and Emergency Center (CARE) in South Dennis for further testing. In addition to worrying about the dog's condition, Mimi now faced a difficult financial situation.

"I'm a single mother of three sons living on a teacher's salary. I didn't know how I would pay for emergency care. But I knew I would either have to pay for the dog's treatment or pay for my son's well-being. So I said, 'Let's pay for the dog.'"

After running a full gamut of tests, CARE veterinarian Dr. Kristen Hennessy finally was able to pinpoint the problem – canine parvovirus, a serious and highly

contagious illness. "It made sense," said Mimi, recalling that there had been coyotes in her yard recently. Coyotes can carry parvo, which dogs can then pick up from the animals' feces. In addition, pit bulls are very susceptible to parvo.

Because Dante had a highly contagious virus, he was quarantined at CARE. According to Mimi, "Noah kept saying, 'They just have to save Dante.' Fortunately, after being treated with antibiotics, Dante began to recover quickly.

Mimi still had to deal with the issue of payment for emergency treatment. "I heard about The Sampson Fund from my vet and also when I was at CARE," she said. "I went on The Sampson Fund website to learn more about the organization."

Vicki Shaw, CARE's Hospital Director, helped the family with the Sampson Fund application process and the request for assistance was approved. "We understood that there were financial concerns," she said. "He was a beautiful dog and he was making such a difference in this family's life." The dog, Mimi said, "is back to being good old Dante, gathering sticks and bones as if nothing ever happened. If Dante had died, it would have been absolutely devastating. Dante is Noah's savior and his best friend."

Board of Trustees

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Sampson Fund Affiliated Hospitals

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Barnstable Animal Hospital - Hyannis

Brewster Veterinary Hospital -
Brewster

**Cape Animal Referral Emergency
(CARE) Center** - South Dennis

Cape Cod Animal Hospital - West
Barnstable

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

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:

I am proud to announce that we have two new members serving on The Sampson Fund board of trustees: Marty Haspel, active in the Marine Stranding Network and the Eastham Dog Owners, a participant at Cape Cod Kennel Club events, and a lover of Irish setters. And Nan Poor, who is returning to the board. Nan has extensive experience in fundraising events, including the Children's Center's Annual Gingerbread House Auction. Whether registering folks for bidding numbers or overseeing checkout, Nan is always calm even amidst chaos. For over a year now, Nan has joined fellow volunteer, Carol Barry, in writing The Sampson Fund notes of condolence to people who have lost beloved pets.

Sampson Fund membership renewals are due in June. In the spirit of being "green" and saving money, we are using this newsletter to include the renewal notice and will not be sending out a separate mailing. If you recall, we converted to annual membership a couple years ago. For those of you who joined after March 2010, you are considered renewed. For anyone else, your membership is up for renewal. For as little as \$25 you can be a member and continue to support our efforts to save dogs and cats on Cape Cod.

Due to casting issues, The Harwich Junior Theatre was forced to cancel its production of "Buddy Holly," so we in turn were unable to hold our fundraising event with the theatre that had been scheduled for May. However, we hope to collaborate with The Harwich Junior Theatre for another fundraising event in the future.

The Sampson Fund has a number of fundraising events planned for this summer. Check out our list of events and mark your calendars now. We kick off the season with "Sampson Fund Day" on Thursday, June 17, at Moby Dick's restaurant in Wellfleet. Enjoy wonderful food at this popular restaurant while helping us raise needed funds.

And we welcome new volunteers. If you want to join other pet-loving people and help out at an event, please contact us by email at sampsonfund@yahoo.com or leave us a message at 508-240-PETS.

A big thanks to CARE and the Sturgis School Surf Club, which helped raise almost \$1000 for The Sampson Fund at the Annual Polar Bear Plunge in March at West Dennis Beach.

Best wishes for a safe and fun-filled summer for you and your pets.

Patti Smith
President

SAMPSON FUND LAUDED FOR EXCELLENCE

Massachusetts Nonprofit Network announced that The Sampson Fund for Veterinary Care, Inc., has been nominated for a Nonprofit Excellence Award in the categories of Nonprofit Collaboration and Communications. These awards honor organizations making a difference in their community. At a State House gathering on June 14, Massachusetts will host its second Nonprofit Awareness Day to celebrate the work of nonprofits, recognize the winners of these awards, and raise public consciousness of their contributions.



Barks In The Park

By Christopher Donner, VMD

My wife and I flew the coop this winter, migrating to northern Florida in a mostly failed attempt to avoid cold weather. The spot we selected, Amelia Island, suffered its coldest winter in forty years. In fact, the day we arrived in January the high temperature was only two degrees more than the Cape's. For this I drove twelve hundred miles! As further penance for trying to escape the Cape, we unexpectedly acquired interim custody of a one and a half year old male Chihuahua, plus accompanying wardrobe, who was disappointed to discover the weather was not up to his warmth requirements.

One thing that really helped enliven our southern winter was a dog park that the citizens of the very pet-friendly Fernandina Beach community had recently built. Once we discovered the park, we quickly enrolled our foster Chihuahua, and the fun and learning began.

I have not been to other dog parks, but I think the Nassau Humane Society folks who created this one really did some thoughtful research and produced a great facility. It occupies about an acre and a half adjacent to their animal shelter and near the municipal airport, so any playful barking is not an issue. There are three fenced areas, the largest for the majority of dogs, those over twenty pounds. It has a dog-bone-shaped swimming pool and lots of space for running, ball retrieving and general messing around. Then, with a separate entrance, is an area for dogs under twenty pounds, as long as the big area is wide. It also has a water element, a sort of large garden pool with water recirculating down a flower-bordered waterfall. It is just the right depth and size for a small dog to have a refreshing dip. Finally, there is a smaller pen known as the "time-out" area. Dogs that are too rambunctious or excited can slow down here without disrupting the others. It is also a good place for owners to do training or for an arthritic older dog to get solitary, unmolested exercise. In all the areas there is a nice mix of shade and sun and each area has several benches for two-legged types. And, of course, lots of poop bag stations because owners must clean up any deposits, just one of a sensible list of dog park regulations. Hard-playing dogs do get dirty or wet or both, so there is a dog-bathing area just before the exit gate. There is always a watchful volunteer on duty, and other volunteers mow grassy areas and do routine maintenance of pool filters. The fee for unlimited use is thirty dollars a month.

Now, about the fun and learning. Our foster Chihuahua is perhaps eight pounds, about two of which are ears. He is short coated, looks small and is small. As a pup he did not have a lot of positive social experiences with other dogs, so he became a bit of a barker and growler when he encountered other dogs while being walked on leash. Strange men elicited the same response. The first few times we deposited him in the under-twenty-pound area he simply kept to himself or to us. Other dogs, especially an Italian Greyhound who seemed to have the self-appointed role of rec director, would try to get him to play, but he would have none of it. But by our fourth visit, for a brief moment he succumbed to a chase and be-chased episode. From that point on, just making the turn onto the dog park road was enough to get him excited. When we walked him toward the play area he would quiver and bark in anticipation. Dogs already in the park would run over to greet him. He had found friends and even initiated play. By the time we headed north, he had progressed to greeting newcomers to the park. When we leash walk him now, there is no sign of fear or aggression to other dogs and he is much more relaxed about interaction with strangers. He is a far better companion.

I have to admit I was a bit skeptical about dog parks. Perhaps that came from having sutured my share of dog-fight wounds and concerns about transmission of infectious diseases and parasites. In none of my visits to the park did I see serious aggression among small or large dogs. Sometimes youthful exuberance rankled a geriatric, but it was always resolved peacefully. Issues about transmission of disease and parasites are addressed by proof of vaccination and fecal test requirements. I now see dog parks as a positive community resource not only for the benefit of dogs, who obviously get immense joy from the opportunity to run and play off leash, but for their owners, who have the chance to make new friends while their dogs are playing. Plus, it is fun to observe dogs being happy, and for some of us there is the additional gift of a better-socialized pet. For an area like Cape Cod and The Islands dog parks would have all of the above benefits, but they can also provide a safe off-leash alternative to our beaches, almost all of which are closed to dogs, even on leashes, during the summer.

For further information, go to www.ameliaislanddogpark.com.