

NEWSLETTER

The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care



Help for a Special Dog

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

Animal lovers know how upsetting it is when a beloved pet just isn't acting right. Earlier this summer Lucille Hamilton had that disturbing "something is wrong" feeling about Dune, her 8-year-old yellow Lab. She brought her four-legged companion to Eastham Veterinary Hospital, where a veterinarian discovered that Dune's heartbeat was accelerated.

To determine the cause of the Lab's accelerated heartbeat, the veterinarian recommended that Lucille bring Dune to Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists, the emergency and specialty veterinary hospital in Buzzards Bay. It's not quite the trip Lucille wanted to take from her home in Orleans...in the summer...but, as they say, you do what you gotta do.

An ultrasound showed a mass on Dune's adrenal gland, which was the cause of the rapid heartbeat. The good news was that the mass wasn't cancer.

Lucille brought Dune home, only to return for more tests. Yes, another round trip from one end of the Cape to the other. Dr. Tara Lampman recommended surgery to remove the adrenal gland. But before the operation, the doctor decided to do a CAT scan. Before the CAT scan, Lucille brought Dune home and was instructed to measure the dog's heartbeat for 24 hours.

For those of us who aren't vets or vet techs and are wondering how you



go about doing this, it's fairly simple. "You put your hand on the dog's chest for 15 seconds," Lucille explained, "and multiply by three." Amazingly, Dune's heart rate was around 80, considered normal for a dog.

"A CAT scan was done to confirm this, but everything had pretty much gone back to normal," said Lucille. "Dr. Lampman didn't feel the need to put Dune through this big operation, so we are in a holding pattern. I think there is a lesion on her adrenal gland, but for now Dune is pretty much back to herself. She sleeps a little more than usual, but otherwise she is fine. We're monitoring her and I count her heartbeats every couple of days."

Although relieved with Dune's return to normalcy, at least for now, Lucille was faced with mounting

veterinary bills. Fortunately, Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists is a Sampson Fund affiliated hospital, which meant she could apply to the fund for financial assistance.

"I knew about The Sampson Fund because my niece received help from them; I've also donated in the past. The Sampson Fund is a lifesaver. Dune's care cost quite a bit of money and they really came through. I am very grateful to them.

"I was so afraid I was going to lose Dune. She is a very special dog who loves everybody. I got her when she was seven weeks old and trained her as a puppy to help me. She gets the newspaper for me. If I drop my cane, she picks up it up and brings it over. She is always right by my side."



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

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Sampson Fund

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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:

Dear Friends,

It has been a wonderful summer for enjoying Cape Cod - and such fun to see old friends (both two-legged and four-legged ones) and meet new ones at several pet events throughout the Cape. We kicked off the summer in June with the annual Sampson Fund Day at Moby Dick's restaurant in Wellfleet. The Barry family (including their rescue Springer Spaniels) supported The Sampson Fund by donating a portion of the restaurant's sales for the day.

Thanks to professional groomer and long-time Sampson Fund supporter Randi Moberg, our July dog wash at VCA Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital was a huge success. We are grateful to our volunteers and the folks who brought their dirty dogs. Our next dog wash is Saturday, August 9, from 9 to noon.

Many thanks to Stephen Russell, head of the WHAT for Kids' program at the popular theatre in Wellfleet. To complement the pet-themed show that is being staged this summer, WHAT is selling plush cats and donating a portion of the proceeds to The Sampson Fund. We love creative ideas like this.

Patti Smith
President

The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care is grateful for the support of:

The Grace W. Allsop Foundation – The Zachary Fund

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The Kristen Elizabeth Davis Memorial Endowment Fund

The Thomas C. McGowan Fund For Animals through The Cape Cod Foundation

Join the Christopher S. Donner Society

The Society, begun in 2012, provides special recognition for those members who have included The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care in their long-term plans through bequests or other deferred-giving arrangements.

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.

Please contact us at sampsonfund@yahoo.com or visit our website at www.sampsonfund.org for a Christopher S. Donner Society membership form.

Members of the Christopher S. Donner Society:
Mr. Robert Bourgojn, Dr. & Mrs. Martin V. Haspel, Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Smith

Want To Volunteer?

There are lots of ways that you can help The Sampson Fund. To find out more, contact Danni at dannij240@comcast.net, 508-737-4431 or Nan at nanpoor@verizon.net, 508-432-0742.

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Dog Wash

Dogs of all sizes and breeds attended The Sampson Fund dog wash in July.



SAVE THE DATE!

Our fifth *Plants For Pets* Garden Event will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2015.

If you have garden items, tools, or plants to donate, contact event chairperson Irene Cooper at 508-430-6105 or irenecooper@comcast.net.

The Sampson Fund Wish List:

6' vinyl folding table
10' x 10' pop-up tent
for use at
Sampson Fund events

If you have a table or a tent to donate, please call us at 508-240 PETS or email us at sampsonfund@yahoo.com.



P.O. Box 1756
Orleans, MA 02653

Please detach and return to: **The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care, P.O. Box 1756, Orleans, MA 02653**

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The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your donation is tax deductible.