



P.O. Box 1756
Orleans, MA 02653

NOVEMBER 2009

NEWSLETTER

The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care



Trooper's Story

by Olivia Miller,
a writer who loves animals.

Last winter was challenging for Jerry Tobin. The West Yarmouth man was struggling with his finances and was in poor health. Then his beloved companion, Trooper, a pit bull/basset hound mix that Jerry had rescued from an abusive situation, required veterinary care. Knowing that treatment would cost money he simply didn't have, Jerry was forced to make a difficult and drastic decision. He brought Trooper to the Cape Animal Referral and Emergency Center (CARE) in South Dennis, MA, and asked that Trooper be euthanized.

"I didn't think I could care for him," Jerry recalled. "I didn't know what else to do."

"The owner was distressed, at the end of the line," said William Kaser, DVM, the emergency room veterinarian on duty at the time. "I was told that a man had brought in a dog to be put to sleep. Unfortunately, we get a lot of those," he continued. "The owner didn't have the money to care for the dog and wanted to make the best decision for him."

Jerry said that when he rescued Trooper in 2001, he noticed that the dog had a small growth on his back. A neighborhood kid told him Trooper had been shot with a BB gun; a BB had lodged under the dog's skin. A vet examined the growth and told Jerry it was okay not to remove it. Doing what dogs do, eventually Trooper chewed at the growth and the BB fell out. The area became infected and required medical attention, which is when Jerry went to CARE.

Although the area was bleeding, Dr. Kaser was not overly alarmed. "It is not a big deal in our business," he said. "Trooper was a nice dog, and I could see the bond between him

and his owner. I didn't feel good about euthanizing this dog. I said to Jerry, 'Why don't we see if we can find someone to help?' So we kept Trooper at CARE and made some calls."

"The guy was trying to do the right thing," Dr. Kaser explained, "but he was having a tough time. Afterwards he said he couldn't believe that he talked about doing this to the dog."

In fact, the next day Jerry had second thoughts. He called CARE, hoping Trooper was still alive. Fortunately, he was!

"I was not thinking straight," said Jerry. "I was really sick. But when I called back, someone at CARE said there are people who can help and told me about The Sampson Fund. I said, 'I'm all for anything you can do.'"

Jerry applied to The Sampson Fund for Veterinary Care, which agreed to help him and Trooper. The Fund was able to donate a little more than half the cost to surgically remove the benign tumor from Trooper's back. Dr. Kaser called this a rewarding case. "Sometimes you put down four or five dogs a day, which is really hard. But we saved a dog's life. On my end, it's nice to have a resource like The Sampson Fund for these special cases and for people in desperate situations. Trooper is a great dog and his owner really wanted to do the right thing. It's good to be able to help and preserve their relationship."

Trooper, now 13, is healthy and happy, according to Jerry. "He's got it good. In fact, he's got it better than I do...he's certainly got a more comfortable bed!"

"He's the best dog you could ever imagine," Jerry continued. "He's a lover and a great companion. He's smart and friendly to everyone. He loves kids, loves people. I am so grateful for this help. It was awesome."



Checks should be made payable to: **The Sampson Fund for Veterinary Care**
The Sampson Fund for Veterinary Care is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Type of Membership: _____ Member (\$25) _____ Sponsor (\$50) _____ Patron (\$100) _____ Group (\$250) _____ Other

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The Sampson Fund MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

The Sampson Fund for Veterinary Care provides financial assistance for critical veterinary care for dogs and cats on Cape Cod and the Islands.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Creation of *The Sampson Fund for Veterinary Care Endowment*

We are thrilled to announce that the bequest of a long-time member has enabled us to establish an endowment fund to provide financial assistance to qualifying owners of sick or injured companion animals in need of critical veterinary care.

New Sampson Fund Affiliated Hospital

We welcome the Cape Cod Animal Hospital in West Barnstable, which has joined our nine other Sampson Fund affiliated hospitals.

Fundraising

We will not hold the Birdhouse Auction next year, but we will host other special events in the spring and summer. More information to come.



Sampson Wear

We have Sampson Fund T-shirts and hats for sale. Look for them on our website at www.sampsonfund.org. They make great gifts for all occasions!

Sampson Fund Companion Animal Alert Cards

To ensure that your companion animal is cared for in an emergency, we have printed Companion Animal Alert Cards for you to fill in with information about your pet and who should be contacted in the event you are unable to provide care. You may want one in your wallet and one in a prominent spot in your home. These Companion Animal Alert Cards are available free at all Sampson Fund events, by calling 508-240-7387, or by emailing pattismith100@capecod.net.



Your Email Address

We would like to keep you informed of Sampson Fund events and news through email. If you would like to be included in these emails, please send your email address to irenecooper@comcast.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Annual Meeting



Thursday, December 3, at 6:30 p.m. at the Brewster Police Station, Route 124.

Everyone is welcome. This is a great opportunity to learn more about The Sampson Fund.

Pet Photos with Santa

Saturday, December 5 from 9-12 at CARE, 9 Theophilus Smith Road, South Dennis.

Saturday, December 12 from 9-12 at Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital, Queen Anne Road and Route 137, East Harwich.

Saturday, December 19 from 9-12 at For The Love of the Breed, 4018 Route 6A, East Brewster.

Thursday, December 24 from 10-12 at Brewster Veterinary Clinic, 56 Underpass Road.



Photos are \$15 each

All dogs must be leashed and up to date on rabies vaccinations. All cats must be in carriers.

Bring your donations of pet food for the Lower Cape Outreach Pet Pantry.

SUMMER FUN

Sampson Fund Dog Washes!



Thanks...

to all the volunteers who helped us at our fundraising events throughout the year. We are truly thankful for your commitment to our mission of helping dogs and cats on Cape Cod.