



P.O. Box 1756  
Orleans, MA 02653

**The Sampson Fund  
for Veterinary Care  
Annual Meeting**  
Thursday, December 9 at 6:30  
Brewster Police Station  
Rte. 124, Brewster  
You are welcome to attend.

## Coming Up...

# PET PHOTOS WITH SANTA

**Saturday, December 4, 9-12 a.m.** at  
For The Love of the Breed,  
4018 Route 6A, East Brewster

**Saturday, December 11, 9-12 a.m.** at CARE  
79 Theophilus F. Smith Road,  
South Dennis

**Saturday, December 18, 9-12 a.m.** at  
Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital,  
Queen Anne Road and Rte. 137, East Harwich



**Friday, December 24  
10-12 a.m.** at  
Brewster Veterinary Clinic,  
56 Underpass Road, Brewster

\$15 per photo

We will be showing the new Sampson Fund video at each event. Also Sampson Fund hoodie sweatshirts, bandannas, hats, and long-sleeved t-shirts will be available for purchase. These make terrific gifts for all your pet-loving friends and relatives.

FALL 2010

# NEWSLETTER

## The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care



## SHOESTRING THEORY

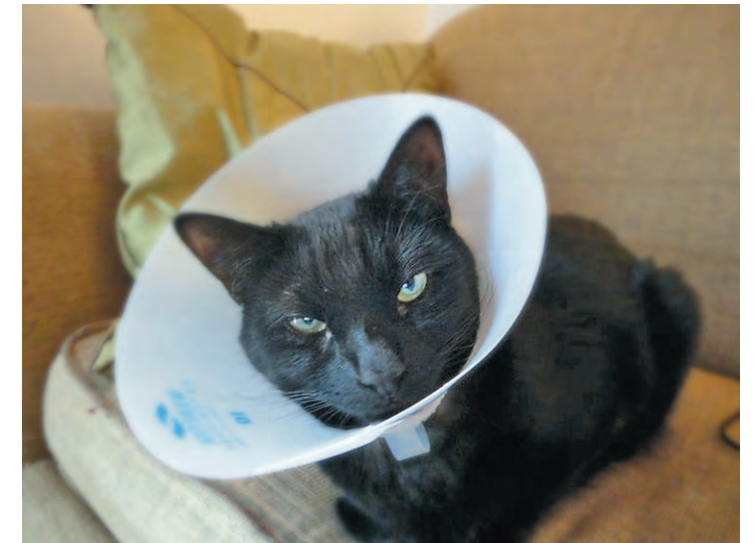
by Olivia Miller, a writer  
who loves animals

Marleigh, a one-and-a-half-year-old black cat, was in trouble. He had been vomiting a thin brown liquid for several days. Emily Renaud, Marleigh's owner, had been employed by Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital in Harwich for three years. From her work as a veterinary technician, she knew from the color and consistency of what she saw that something was very wrong. When she fed Marleigh, he would eat but immediately throw up. She suspected her young cat had ingested something that was causing his distress.

"Marleigh likes to chew on things so I was concerned that he had eaten something, but I had no idea what it could have been," said Emily, who lives in Yarmouth. "Then he threw up something that could have been part of a hair elastic or a piece of string. When that happened, I thought 'that's it' and figured he would be back to normal. But the next day he threw up a huge clump. So then I thought that was it. By the third day he still wasn't getting better. And he was starting to get wobbly and weak."

Emily brought Marleigh to Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital, where X-rays revealed that something was indeed stuck. Whatever it was was in his intestines, and it would have to be removed surgically, which would cost over \$1,000.

"There was no way we could afford it," said Emily, who had given birth to her first child a month earlier. "We were living on one income. It was bad timing. We would have had to put him to sleep, sad to say."



Because of her employment at Pleasant Bay, Emily was familiar with The Sampson Fund for Veterinary Care; she decided to apply for financial assistance to help with the cost of Marleigh's operation. "We were so lucky that The Sampson Fund was able to help. I'm really grateful, because otherwise we wouldn't have been able to do the surgery."

The mystery object was successfully removed although it was never identified. "It seemed to be some kind of string. We thought it might have been a shoelace, but none of our shoes are missing laces," she said. One thing they know for certain is that Marleigh is doing great. "He wouldn't stop purring when he got home. And he's like a different cat. He was always shy and would hide behind the couch. Now he's not so shy." He is also happily reunited with the family's other cat, Cassius.

"They are best friends," Emily said. "When Marleigh was so sick, Cassius would clean him."

Although the family may never know what Marleigh ate, they don't want him ingesting any other potentially dangerous objects. "He used to like to sleep in our closet and we had a little bed in there for him," Emily explained. "But not anymore. We now have a lock on the closet."



## Board of Trustees

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## Sampson Fund

### Affiliated Hospitals

**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](http://www.sampsonfund.org)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Friends:

*Happy Holidays.*

In this season when we ponder the things for which we are thankful, we usually think of home, family, good health, financial security, etc. I enthusiastically add to that list the joy from having a companion animal. My life is so much richer for having a dog. The media now reports that pets in a household lead to healthier and happier lives for their owners. We pet lovers have known that all along.

When you read Olivia Miller's story of Marleigh, the cat who swallowed a .....?, I hope you are reminded to watch your pets, as you entertain guests with food that is tasty to you but possibly toxic to animals. Also, a holiday decoration or plant ingested by a pet could mean an emergency trip to a veterinary hospital.

In December The Sampson Fund will be offering four opportunities for you to have your pet's photo taken with Santa. These events are always great fun. The schedule is on the back of the newsletter.

Also, The Sampson Fund will be participating in the Spectacle of Trees event in Hyannis. We are the only pet-related organization among the 18 nonprofits participating. Raffle tickets will be sold for a chance to win The Sampson Fund tree and the amazing gifts that go with it. More information is elsewhere in the newsletter.

2011 marks the 25th anniversary of the Sampson Fund. We will be planning a major event to honor this milestone. We hope you will join us in the celebration.

Patti Smith  
President

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED....

#### NO STRESS, JUST FUN AND LOTS OF DOGS!

Did you ever wonder how The Sampson Fund raises enough money to help so many animals each year?

In addition to what we receive in donations, memberships and grants, we work hard to let people know we exist. We do fundraisers almost every month of the year -- dog washes, pet photos, yard sales, micro-chipping clinics, auctions, events at supporting restaurants, and give talks to organizations all over the Cape.

But we need your help to accomplish our mission. If you have time to give us once in a while, we'd

love to add you to our volunteer ranks. You will receive emails listing upcoming events. If you can help us, great; if not, no pressure. This is absolutely the easiest group to volunteer for and knowing that you are helping to save the lives of cherished family pets and helping homeless animals to survive to find loving families is priceless.

Please join us by emailing me at [tracyplaut@msn.com](mailto:tracyplaut@msn.com) or by phoning me at 508-395-1482.

## THE MEASURE OF A DOG

It would make sense that a dog who had been abandoned twice would turn against humans.

Maggie was found as a puppy wandering the streets of Miami in the wake of a hurricane. Later in life she was found living in a car on Cape Cod, so physically compromised that recovery, much less adoption, seemed unlikely.

But Maggie not only put her trust in people once again, she approached each day with a happiness and love of life. She became a spokesdog for The Sampson Fund and participated in outreach events for many animal rights organizations.

Her story spread across the Cape with every outreach event she attended and, despite the pain she endured each day, she would roll over on her back and give a



wiggle and a smile that brightened everyone's day. Her goal in life seemed to be to make all people happy. She lived far longer than any of us expected and gave everything she had in that effort. It has been said that she finally found the life she had been searching for and didn't want to give it up.

Although our Magpie is no longer here to show us the way, to teach us the meaning of spirit, fortitude, love and compassion, she will always remain in the hearts of so many. Please follow her example and give all who pass your way a chance to shine. Even if it is difficult, the payoff is greater than you could ever dream.

In memory of Maggie Plaut. The strongest and most loving spirit I have ever known.

Tracy Plaut



The Brewster Book Store welcomed four "authors who write about dogs" at a Sampson Fund book signing in July.

### SUMMER EVENTS

Two major events this summer were Sampson Fund Day at Moby Dick's Restaurant and a book signing at Brewster Book Store. The Sampson Fund also held dog washes, a pet-themed yard sale and microchipping clinics and was represented at various



The Barry family, owners of Moby Dick's Restaurant in Wellfleet, helped us by sponsoring a "Sampson Fund Day" in June.

events on the Cape including Hounds at Highfield, Cape Cod Kennel Club - Cranberry Cluster, Pet Responsibility Day at Nauset Kennels, and Dogs Allowed at Mashpee Commons.

## JOIN IN THE JOY OF THE SEASON

The Sampson Fund will participate in the annual Spectacle of Trees held at the John F. Kennedy Museum in Hyannis during the first two weekends in December. Eighteen deserving and diversified Cape Cod nonprofit organizations will decorate a Christmas tree in a unique theme. Each tree and its accompanying gifts will be awarded to a lucky raffle winner. 100% of all proceeds each tree receives will be given directly to the organization that decorated it.

Our tree theme is "Tis the SEASON." Our tree will be decorated with beautiful pet-themed seashell ornaments, as well as miniature birdhouses painted by local artists.

We need your help! We are presently soliciting donations and sponsors for this event. We also need gifts to go under the tree, which can include gift certificates, art, trips, tickets to events, fun adventures or experiences, as well as fishing or golf packages.

For a chance to win this beautifully decorated tree and all the gifts under it, (including a kayak!), purchase your raffle tickets (\$10 each) at any of our events this fall and in early December.

For further information, to purchase raffle tickets or to make a donation for under the tree, please call Laurie at 508-778-5150.

### PLEASE THINK OF US IN YOUR YEAR-END GIVING

The Sampson Fund needs your support more than ever. In the first 9 months of this year we paid \$35,000 for critical veterinary care for Cape Cod dogs and cats. That is as much as we gave in all of 2009.