



WINTER 2017

NEWSLETTER

The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care



Best Friends

By Olivia Miller

In 2005 Matt Bettis re-turned home to Washington State after serving in Iraq. He decided to adopt a year-old Border Collie/Golden Retriever mix from his aunt, whom he described as “kind of a hoarder.” Jack wasn’t house-broken and needed a lot of training. “He was a handful,” Matt said.

“I was working a summer job as a cowboy, riding horses and chasing cows. I tried to work Jack as a ‘cow dog’...until he got stabbed in the stomach by a bull. He didn’t know what he was doing, and I didn’t know what I was doing.”

Jack survived but his cow dog days were over. Matt started to train him. “I found that training Jack calmed me, even though I didn’t realize anything was wrong with me.” Matt was dealing with chronic back pain and eventually was diagnosed with a brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder. A doctor at the Walla Walla (WA) VA Hospital suggested Jack could be a service dog.

After getting the information about what was required, Matt and Jack got to work. “To



make sure he’d listen to me, I’d give him bacon and make him put it down, pick it up, put it down, pick it up.” Jack learned what was necessary and became a registered service dog...and Matt’s constant companion.

Matt moved to North Truro five years ago, where he lives with his wife Felicia. “Because Jack had been used to chasing cows, Felicia was afraid he’d be aggressive with her cats,” So Matt and Felicia kept Jack and the cats separated for a day but he turned out to be compatible with them. He’s been Felicia’s ‘baby’ ever since.

Two years ago Matt and Felicia went to a Fleetwood Mac concert in Boston. Although he and Jack usually went everywhere together, Matt knew that taking a dog to a rock concert would be too stressful and decided to board

him. “We told the kennel staff that Jack can play with other dogs and cats but when we came to get him, he was in isolation.” It turned out Jack had a fever. Matt and Felicia took him to NEVOG (now VCS New England) in Buzzards Bay. The news was not good. Jack had cancer.

“When Dr. Andy Abbo told us how much the treatment was going to cost, I wasn’t sure I could afford it. I’m living on my veteran’s pension. Dr. Abbo hooked us up with The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care, and we applied for financial assistance. The Sampson Fund has been paying for Jack’s treatments, and we’re able to pay for his pills.”

Jack, according to Matt, is doing great. “He’s very floppy and very happy. I am so grateful to The Sampson Fund. It saved my dog’s life. I really depend on him, and I can’t imagine what I’d do without him.

“Whenever I get stressed out, I think, ‘I have to take care of my dog.’ He’s my anchor. Jack has made me a more compassionate human being.”

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.



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

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THE 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,

I hope you have a new year that is filled with many joyous
times with your pets.

Even though there are a few months of winter ahead of us,
it's not too soon to be thinking of spring and our popular Plants
For Pets Garden Event. Please mark Saturday, May 20, from 9-1, on
your calendars. This year's event is going to be bigger and better
than ever at our new location...The Community Center in Harwich.
This is always a fun and successful event for The Sampson Fund.
However, it takes lots of volunteers to make it happen. If you could
spare a few hours on May 20 or some day earlier in the month,
please contact our volunteer coordinator Danni Jesudowich at
dannijesudowich@gmail.com or 774-801-2082.

Coming out mid 2017 will be a new Sampson Fund video.
Zygote Digital Films will produce a short video that can be used to
tell pet lovers about The Sampson Fund and its mission. I hope you
enjoy it.

Many thanks to all of you who gave so generously in response
to the end-of-the-year appeal. Your support makes it possible for
The Sampson Fund to help almost one hundred pets get emer-
gency or critical veterinary care each year.

Patti

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 Cape Cod Foundation

Join the Christopher S. Donner Society

The Society 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:

Anonymous

Mr. Robert Bourgoin

Ms. Ann Donner

Dr. & Mrs. Martin V. Haspel

Ms. Patti Smith

■ ■ ■



*We are grateful to Santa
Joel Rodman for stepping
in when Santa Jack Bakker
hurt his shoulder. Lots of
folks and their dogs...and
even a pony came to sup-
port The Sampson Fund at
our Pet Photos with Santa
event at VCA Pleasant Bay
Animal Hospital in East
Harwich.*



Remembering Our Pets

In memory of "Bentley" Wilde
James Avery

In memory of "Harry" and "Rosie"
Mary Anne and Marshall Farley

In memory of "Tucker Mucker
Pfeifer"
Cathy Scovel
Barbara and Jim Scalzi

In memory of "Sammy" and "Tess"
Mark and Mimi McManus

In memory of "Bella"
Joan LaBier

In memory of "Yogi," "Spanky" and
"Coco"
Brian and Susan Bernier

In memory of "Retton"
Judy and Jack Stetson

In memory of "Kobi"
Robin L. McGowan

In memory of "Sadie"
Susan Blake

In memory of "Scout"
Ginna Smyth

In memory of "Shea and Pepper
Cummings"
Patricia Scarnici

In memory of "Nell Walton"
Berit Schumacher

In memory of "Tilly" and "Spike"
Deborah Booth

In memory of "Archer"
Julia Schwartz-Leepe

In memory of "Blanche, Amber
and Annie Morris"
Lorie Morris

In memory of "Lucifer"
Sharon and Bill Fiedler