

# NEWSLETTER

## The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care



### ***Annie's Story***

**By Olivia Miller**

Joanne and Walter Bracken of Mashpee have had more than their share of difficulties. Over a decade ago Walter was diagnosed with lymphoma; he now has leukemia. Annie, their 12-year-old poodle, provides him with emotional support.

"I got Annie, a miniature poodle, for my husband when he got sick," Joanne explained. "She was seven weeks old. She truly is the best dog. I've never had to raise my voice with her. She's never on a leash. I call her 'an angel.' No matter what, dogs always love you."

Last year Annie became ill. "I was so worried about her. She wouldn't move. I had to carry her around the house," Joanne said.

Unhappy with the care Annie was receiving from their veterinarian, Joanne took her to Barnstable Animal Hospital in Hyannis. It turned out that she had severe periodontal problems, something that can affect small breeds. Despite Joanne's efforts to keep up with Annie's cleanings, the disease had progressed. It was so bad that Barnstable Animal Hospital veterinarian Dr. Robin Joly suspected mouth cancer. Fortunately, the biopsy came back negative.

Although Joanne was "ecstatic" that little Annie didn't have cancer, the situation was serious. The infection had moved into bone.

"Annie had several medical issues [including Cushing's disease], but her teeth were the biggest problem," Dr. Joly explained. "She had many abscessed teeth and a major infection. Her gums were just mush. You could see every root. We put her on



antibiotics to get the situation under control, but she needed surgery."

This presented a financial hardship for the Brackens. Due to his illness, Walter is unable to work and Joanne has a seasonal part-time job. "I would have begged in the street," she said, partially in jest. "I would not let anything happen to my dog." Barnstable Animal Hospital is affiliated with The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care. Dr. Joly told Joanne about the Fund and handed her an application. She applied and the Fund agreed to help.

Annie needed three periodontal surgeries over the course of a year. (Dr. Joly and fellow veterinarian Dr. Betsy Powers shared surgical duties.) The last operation occurred this past March. "Annie is not a young dog and

there aren't many teeth left, but we are doing everything we can for her," said Dr. Joly. "This is a special case. Annie is a lifeline for Joanne and her husband, and Joanne is determined to do what she can for her."

In addition to being determined, Joanne is extremely grateful – to Dr. Joly for telling her about the available assistance and to The Sampson Fund for providing financial support for one of the surgeries. "The Fund helped us so much and Annie is doing great. She takes four medications a day, but a week after surgery she was running up the stairs!

"I really appreciate what The Sampson Fund has done for us. I won't forget about this and hope someday to be in a position to give back."



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

## Board of Trustees

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## Sampson Fund Affiliated Hospitals

**Barnstable Animal Hospital** - Hyannis

**Brewster Veterinary Hospital** - Brewster

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

**Cape Cod Animal Hospital** - West Barnstable

**Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists** - Bourne

**Falmouth Animal Hospital** - North Falmouth

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**New England Veterinary Oncology Group**

**Oceanside Animal Hospital** - Sandwich

**VCA Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital** - East Harwich

**Vineyard Veterinary Clinic** - Edgartown

Veterinary Advisor: Lilan Hauser, DMV

### **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:

Our cover story tells of how The Sampson Fund helped 12-year-old Annie, and it reminds us how strong our relationships are with senior pets with whom we've shared years of companionship. I hope you enjoy the photos on the next page as we honor some of our local seniors.

The Sampson Fund is privileged to receive major grants from The Banfield Charitable Foundation and The Thomas C. McGowan Fund For Animals through The Cape Cod Foundation. This support enables us to continue helping dogs and cats of Cape Cod and the Islands who need critical veterinary care.

We are grateful to CARE (Cape Animal Referral and Emergency Center), which hosted a Polar Bear Plunge on a cold, wintry day in March, and Hearth 'n Kettle Restaurants for holding a fundraiser on April 11, donating to The Sampson Fund a percentage of its customers' food and beverage bills. Patti McGan again held a very successful benefit for The Sampson Fund and The Animal Rescue League at Sons of Erin Hall on April 14. And attendees had great fun at the first annual trivia night at The Lobster Trap, hosted by Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists on April 22.

It has been a busy spring and there's lots more coming up...

The third annual Plants For Pets Garden Event - Saturday, May 18, 10 to 2, at CARE in South Dennis

Book signing party with Dr. Nick Trout - Sunday, June 2, from 3 to 5, at the Orleans Inn

Sampson Fund Day - Friday, June 21, from noon to 8, at Moby Dick's in Wellfleet

Summer Dog Washes - Saturday, July 13, and Saturday, August 17, from 9 to noon at VCA Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital, East Harwich

We hope to see you at some (or maybe all) of these events.

And visit us at our table at The Animal Rescue League's Paws For Celebration - Saturday, June 22, from 11 to 3, at Nauset Regional Middle School, Orleans.

Sending wishes for a summer full of fun adventures for you and your pets.

Patti Smith  
President

**You  
could  
win an  
iPad!**

### **The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care RAFFLE**

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and can be purchased at all Sampson Fund spring and summer events and on our website at [www.sampsonfund.org](http://www.sampsonfund.org)

**Drawing is August 17.**

(You do not need to be present to win.)

### **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](mailto:sampsonfund@yahoo.com) or visit our website at [www.sampsonfund.org](http://www.sampsonfund.org) for a Christopher S. Donner membership form.

Members of the Christopher S. Donner Society:

Mr. Robert Bourgoïn, Dr. & Mrs. Martin V. Haspel, Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Smith

follow  
us on



If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail, either we do not have your email address or you have indicated a preference for a mailed copy. If you wish to have future copies of the newsletter sent electronically, please email your address to us at [sampsonfund@yahoo.com](mailto:sampsonfund@yahoo.com).

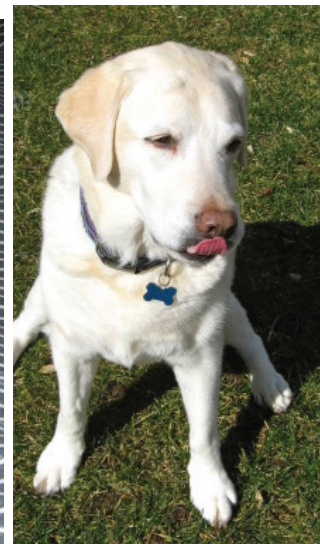




Scout (13)



Thelma (11)

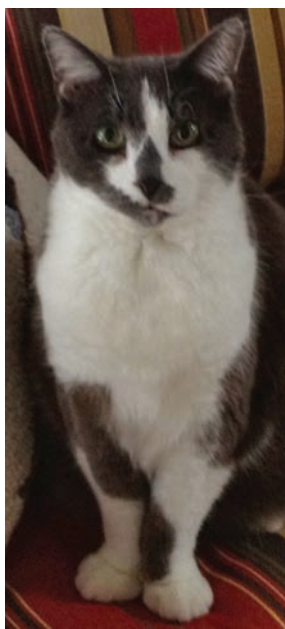


Kya (13)

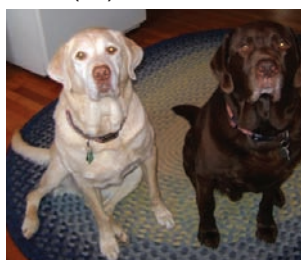
## Pets with Seniority



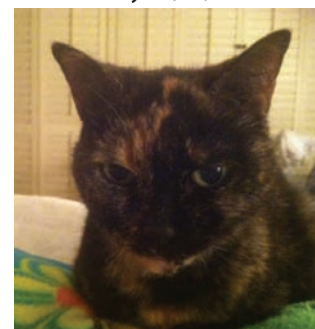
Pooh Bear (12)



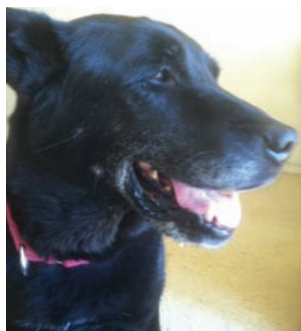
Neely (16)



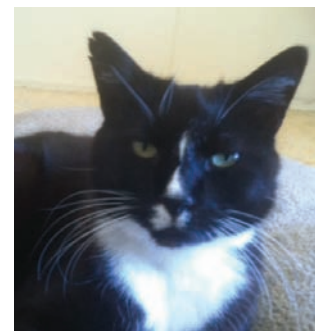
Milly & Tuck (13)



Annie (19)



Coca (14)



Blackjack (12)

## PLANTS FOR PETS GARDEN EVENT

to Benefit  
The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care



## Summer Dog Washes

Saturday, July 13 and  
Saturday, August 17  
9 to noon

Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital  
Route 137 & Queen Anne Road, East Harwich  
508-432-5500

## Celebrate Sampson Fund Day at

**Moby Dick's Restaurant**  
3225 Route 6  
Wellfleet

**Friday, June 21, 2013**

The Barry family,  
owners of Moby Dick's,  
will donate a portion of the day's  
revenue to The Sampson Fund. The  
restaurant is open for lunch and dinner.  
Visit [www.mobydicksrestaurant.com](http://www.mobydicksrestaurant.com)  
for the menu and more.



P.O. Box 1756, Orleans, MA 02653  
[www.sampsonfund.org](http://www.sampsonfund.org)  
508-240-PETS

*Join The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care  
as we celebrate the launch of*  
***"The Patron Saint of Lost Dogs"***  
***by Dr. Nick Trout,***  
***staff surgeon at Angell Animal Medical Center and***  
***New York Times best selling author.***

**Sunday, June 2, 2013  
3:00 - 5:00pm at**

**The Orleans Inn, Rte. 6A Orleans**

*"The Patron Saint of Lost Dogs"*  
as well as Dr. Trout's earlier books  
will be available for sale.

*Enjoy Wine or Beer and Hors D'oeuvres*

**Tickets \$25 each**

Available at The Brewster Book Store, on The Sampson Fund website  
[www.sampsonfund.org](http://www.sampsonfund.org) or by calling 508-240-PETS.



Photograph by Deborah Feingold