

NEWSLETTER

The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care



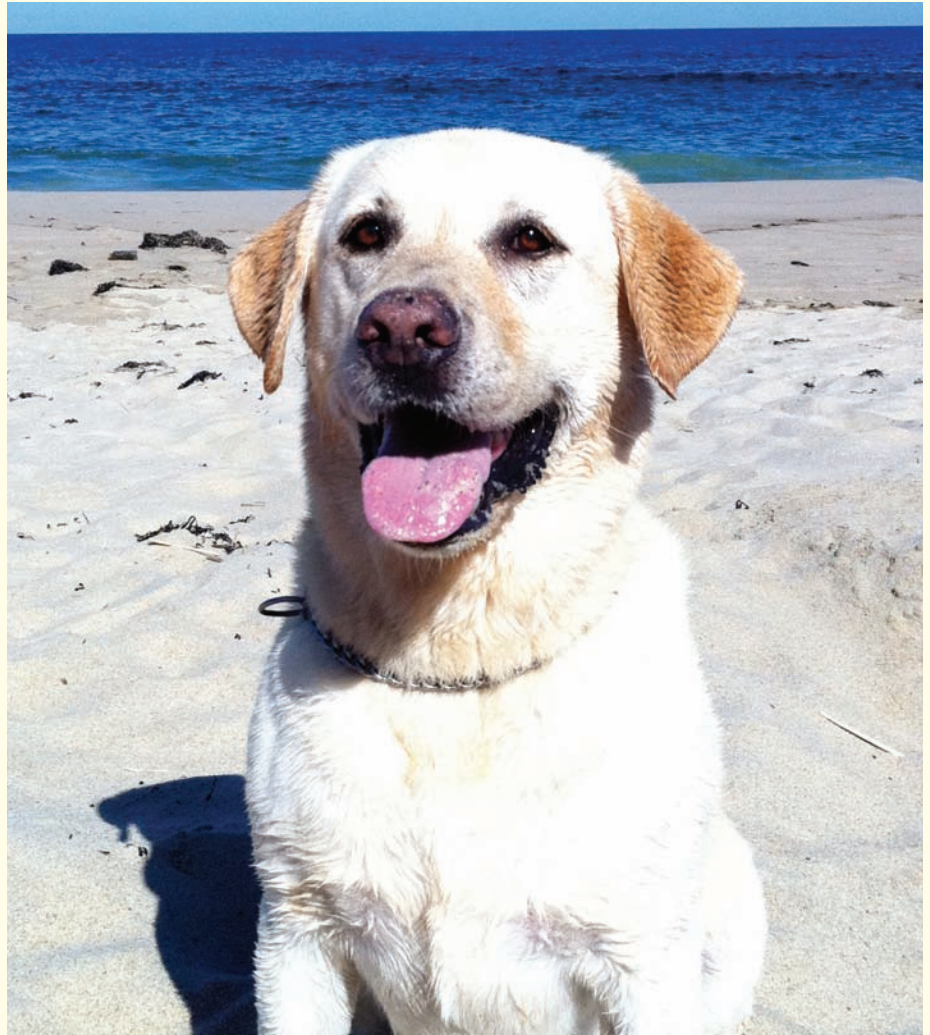
Barney's Happy Tale

December, for many of us, can be difficult. For Wellfleet resident Cindy Long, the end of 2012 delivered some special challenges. As the holidays approached, the divorced mother of two was recuperating from foot surgery. Then Barney, her 8-year-old yellow Lab, became gravely ill.

She described what happened. "I had gone out for a few hours. A neighbor up the hill left me a voice mail saying that Barney didn't look good and something was wrong. When I got home, he was passed out in the driveway. He couldn't walk. His eyes were glazed; one eye was looking in one direction, and the other was staring straight ahead. He looked like he was dying.

Panicked, Cindy called her veterinarian, Dr. Daniella Schutzensgel of Ark Angel Animal Hospital in South Wellfleet. Although it was after hours, Dr. Schutzensgel opened her clinic.

"We carried him inside in a blanket. Dani said he looked like he had been drugged. She took his vitals and did some blood work."



Earlier in the year there was a spate of dog poisonings in the area. Although the Cape Cod Times provided extensive coverage, the cases were never solved. The doctor suspected that Barney, too, may have been poisoned.

Test results ruled out the usual toxins: rat poison, antifreeze, alcohol, marijuana. Unable to diagnose the problem, Dr. Schutzensgel recommended that Cindy take Barney

to the Cape Animal Referral and Emergency Center (CARE) in South Dennis.

"At CARE they gave him IV fluids to flush out any potential poison and brought up his body temperature [he was hypothermic]. I said good-bye to him and left. Even though I was afraid he was dying, he looked a little better and wagged his tail. Whatever it was, it seemed to be wearing off."

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Sampson Fund

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Cape Animal Referral Emergency Center (CARE) - South Dennis

Cape Cod Animal Hospital - West

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VCA Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital -

East Harwich

Vineyard Veterinary Clinic - Edgartown

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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:

Spring and early summer were busy times for The Sampson Fund. We hope many gardens were beautifully enhanced by your purchases at the third annual Plants For Pets Garden Event held at CARE. Wonderful volunteers and generous attendees helped us raise over \$7,000.

Early June brought a book-signing celebration at The Orleans Inn. Dr. Nick Trout, staff surgeon at Angell Animal Medical Center and New York Times best-selling author, spoke about his new book, *The Patron Saint of Lost Dogs*. This is the second time Dr. Trout has appeared at a fundraiser for the benefit of The Sampson Fund. The Maas family, owners of The Orleans Inn, provided beverages, delicious food and a beautiful setting for the event.

Later in the month sunny skies graced The Sampson Fund Day at Moby Dick's restaurant in Wellfleet. Once again the Barry family, owners of Moby Dick's, donated a portion of the day's revenues to The Sampson Fund.

Our July dog wash at VCA Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital was great fun. Groomer and Sampson Fund volunteer Randi Moberg welcomed and washed dogs of various breeds, ages, shapes and sizes. The rest of us towel dried the pups and oohed and aahed at the results. We have one more dog wash on August 17 from 9 to noon, again at VCA Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital in East Harwich.

Enjoy this wonderful Cape Cod summer.

Patti Smith

President

Barney's Happy Tale

Continued from previous

Once home, Cindy became anxious. "Money is always tight in the winter. There is heating oil to pay for. It was Christmas time. I had my own surgery bills. I was worried about everything and didn't know what I was going to do."

However, Cindy did know about The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care. At 5 a.m. she got out of bed and composed an email to CARE, one of The Sampson Fund affiliated hospitals, asking if she would qualify for Sampson Fund help. "I poured my heart out," she said.

Within a week she was assured that she qualified for the Fund's assistance. "Just knowing I had help paying the veterinary expenses was a great relief."

Although the cause of Barney's illness was not determined, he rallied within a couple of days. Thanks to The Sampson Fund, Dr. Schutzengel, CARE, and Barney's irrepressible spirit, the story has a very happy ending.

"If I had taken him home that night because I couldn't pay for treatment, he might have survived," Cindy admitted, "but he might not have. It's a horrible choice. I've had Barney since he was 8 weeks old. He slept by my side when I was recovering from foot surgery. I can't imagine my life without him. Barney has touched so many people. He visits all the neighbors and has wormed his way into everyone's heart. I've taken him to Epoch Center in Brewster and watched people with Alzheimer's focus their eyes on him and become present when he's there. He is the greatest dog.

"I am so grateful to The Sampson Fund. It was a godsend to us."

follow
us on



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La Premiere Nuit Avec Madeleine

Sampson Fund Board member Christopher Donner and his wife Ann report that they have recently acquired a puppy. After months of diligently researching small breeds, Mrs. Donner located an experienced and respected breeder in Nomingue, Quebec. After completing a formidable questionnaire, they were relieved to be approved as potential owners and placed on a waiting list for a possible fall puppy. However, rather than wait until a puppy was ready to be picked up, the Donners decided to travel to Quebec during the summer to "meet the parents" of the future litter as well as the breeder. But, zut alors, a puppy suddenly became available when its prospective owner changed her mind.

So on short notice, leaving at 4:30 in the morning, the Donners sped toward Nomingue, which Donner reports "is three hours north of Montreal or about 100 meters south of the Arctic Circle." After a filling meal at the Maison du Spaghetti and refreshing sleep at Le Boise Du Lac Motel, the next morning they went for a successful initial introduction to the breeder and her family, the puppy and her parents: mother "Music" and father "Soprano" (named not for a high-pitched bark,



but for Tony Soprano of TV fame) and six or seven other extremely friendly canine relatives. After another night at Le Boise Du Lac, the Donners returned for a more intimate visit with the 2.3 pound, 9-week-old fur ball, then called Mademoiselle, to decide if they were a match made in dog heaven. According to Mrs. Donner, that took about 30 seconds. The purchase was completed with the signing of many official papers, a training CD, a plastic travel crate, a supply of the pup's food and a year's worth of the breeder's private stock

of maple syrup from the more than a thousand trees she and her husband tap. 10:30 on the Friday before July Fourth, the Donners headed south for the fourteen-hour, with widdle stops every two hours, return drive to Cape Cod.

Once home, the now bleary-eyed couple, having been assured the puppy was used to sleeping in a crate, placed her in a wire crate they set up complete with a cloth she had slept on in Nomingue. Donner volunteered to do puppy watch, placing the crate next to the bed to make sure they all had a quiet remainder of the night. Mais non, "there was no quiet" Donner reports. The puppy did not want to go to sleep in its crate. In fact, not wishing to give in to the considerable and persistent vocalization and bring the puppy onto the bed, Donner was forced to "sleep" on the edge of the bed with several fingers inserted into the crate. This little bit of human contact was enough to soothe her, but when Donner's fingers swelled because of their prolonged pendulous position and he was forced to elevate his arm, the ruckus would begin again. So cycles of hand down: puppy quiet, hand up: puppy noisy went on through the remainder of the long night. Part of the problem, Donner acknowledges, is that the puppy was raised in a French-speaking household and although Donner had four years of French, most of them were French One, and so there were some communication issues.

But what Donner discovered and what amazed him was that the cause of the unrest was the crate. The next night, when the pup was placed in the original plastic crate and not the wire one, even though they were both about the same size, she slept though without a peep. As Donner said, "who would have thunk the type of crate could make such a difference."

Now, after three weeks together, Donner says "we have all beautifully bonded and in spite of the language barrier, the puppy, now named Mademoiselle Madeleine or Maddie for short, is training us quite well and we are all sleeping through the night." The Donners are happily looking forward to the time when Maddie Donner can greet Sampson Fund members at various Fund events.

**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

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

The Sampson Fund

Wish List

In our attempts to be frugal, we hesitate to buy needed items if there's a way to have them donated. So, here's our list of items that we can use. If you have any of these and wish make a donation to The Sampson Fund, please contact Patti Smith at 508-432-3927 or pattismith100@capecod.net.

6' vinyl folding tables
to use at various
fundraising events

10' x 10' pop-up tents
to use primarily at the
Plants For Pets Garden Event

A large or extra large,
new or gently worn Santa suit
to use at our pet photo
sessions.



Summer Dog Wash

Saturday, August 17

9 to noon

Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital

Route 137 & Queen Anne Road, East Harwich

508-432-5500