



Winter 2020

NEWSLETTER

The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care



A Thanksgiving Blessing

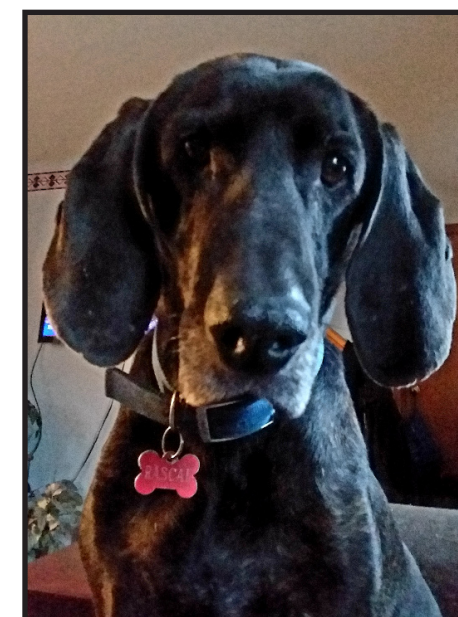
by Olivia H. Miller

Heidi Thatcher rescued Rascal, an 11-yr-old Plott Hound, when he was two and a half. At the time, he was living in New Hampshire and had no training. “He came with the name Rascal and it fit! He was a nightmare, a crazy dog. His eyes were twirling in different directions,” Heidi said with a laugh. “I knew I could work with him and it took two years, but now he’s an awesome dog.”

Rascal was a healthy, happy dog, living the good life in Heidi’s Hatchville home with an older Boxer “brother,” two cats, a couple of goats and some chickens. The day before Thanksgiving, Heidi fed the dogs and gave them marrow bones with peanut butter to gnaw on. Everything seemed normal.

“Rascal went out to pee,” she recalled, “but he didn’t come back in and was just standing in the yard. I realized his stomach looked weird, like it was blown up. He went down on his front legs, groaning and gagging.”

Heidi knew what it was - canine bloat, gastric dilation-volvulus



(GVD), a condition in which the animal’s stomach fills with gas and expands, putting pressure on other internal organs; in some cases, the stomach can twist (torsion). It is extremely painful and often fatal. Rascal had two things in his favor: Heidi recognized the symptoms because her brother’s dog once had the condition; and, luckily, she was home when it happened because time is critical.

Her veterinarian was closed so she brought Rascal to a practice in nearby Mashpee. The veterinarian did as much as he could but told Heidi she would need to take Rascal to

Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists in Buzzards Bay for emergency surgery. The surgery was expensive, which was compounded by the fact that late November is the slow season for Heidi’s work as a landscape gardener. She had no choice but to use money she had set aside to get through the winter.

“If I couldn’t afford to pay for the surgery, Rascal would have to be put down. This was fixable. I had to get the surgery done, and I’d worry about the money later.”

Fortunately, a friend of Heidi’s told her about The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care. Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists is an member, so they contacted The Sampson Fund, Heidi applied for financial assistance and was accepted.

Rascal’s surgery was successful and he’s doing great. “Luckily, I had already bought the turkey...otherwise, we would’ve been having spaghetti for Thanksgiving,” Heidi joked. “You do what you have to and I knew that somehow I’d manage but I really cannot thank The Sampson Fund enough.”

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

The Sampson Fund DONATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email address: _____

(Your email address will be used only for communications from The Sampson Fund)

Type of Membership: ___Member (\$25) ___Sponsor (\$50) ___Patron (\$100) ___Group (\$300) ___Other

☐ My check (payable to The Sampson Fund) is enclosed: \$ _____

☐ Please charge my contribution \$ _____ to: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

Account# _____ Exp. Date _____ 3-digit code _____

Name as appears on card _____ Signature _____

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

Board of Trustees

President: Patti Smith
Vice-President: Lottie Austin
Treasurer: Brad Pfeifer
Recording Secretary: Laurie Pfeifer
Corresponding Secretary: Lisa Skojec
Past Presidents: Christopher S. Donner, VMD, and Joan Goffi, DVM
Trustees-at-Large: Robert Carroll, Christopher S. Donner, VMD, Danni Jesudowich, William Kaser, DVM,

The Sampson Fund
Affiliated Hospitals

Barnstable Animal Hospital - Hyannis
Brewster Veterinary Hospital - Brewster
Cape Cod Animal Hospital - West Barnstable
Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists - Bourne
Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists - Dennis
Falmouth Animal Hospital - North Falmouth
Leach Animal Hospital - Mashpee
Lower Cape Veterinary Services - Eastham
Veterinary Cancer Specialists of New England
Oceanside Animal Hospital - Sandwich
VCA Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital - East Harwich
Veterinary Associates of Cape Cod - South Yarmouth
Vineyard Veterinary Clinic - Edgartown

Veterinary Advisor: Lilan Hauser, DMV

The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care Mission Statement:

To provide financial assistance for veterinary care for critically ill or injured dogs and cats on Cape Cod and the Islands when owners cannot afford treatment.

Follow Us on Facebook

Dear Friends,

May your new year and new decade be joyful.

Many events throughout the year will celebrate the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims, first in Provincetown and then in Plymouth. Journals tell us that in addition to the brave humans that embarked on this dangerous endeavor there were two dogs, an English Mastiff and an English Springer Spaniel. They were brought to the new territory for protection and hunting but perhaps more importantly for companionship. I get that.

We hope you will show your support for Nero’s bill, sponsored by state rep, Will Crocker. The bill would allow a K9 partner injured in the line of duty to be given emergency treatment by trained officers and be transported to a veterinary hospital. The current state law prohibits working animals from being treated at the scene or transported by emergency personnel. When Yarmouth’s Sergeant Sean Gannon was killed in the horrific shooting in 2018, his K9 partner, Nero, was also shot and injured. Because of the existing law, Nero was unable to be given treatment for almost four hours. You can have a voice in getting this bill get passed by letting your representative know how important it is to you. Contact information is elsewhere in the newsletter.

We are happy to welcome Leach Animal Hospital in Mashpee to the group of Sampson Fund affiliated hospitals. This practice dates back to 1933 when Dr. Jonathan Leach’s father began the practice as the first veterinarian on Cape Cod.

If you like bourbon, you will want to attend the “Small Batch Bourbon and Bites” event at SunBird Restaurant in Orleans on March 5. Town Center Wine & Spirits of North Eastham along with SunBird Restaurant will donate proceeds from the raffle of a bottle of a very special bourbon and sales during the event. Call 508-255-3660 for more information and to purchase tickets to the event.

The Sampson Fund will host the Cape’s first Pet Wellness Fair on Saturday, April 4 at the Harwich Community Center. Staff from some of our veterinary hospitals will be there to talk with you about proper pet care and new treatments for keeping our pets happy and healthy. You will meet folks from the pet-related non-profit community and shop at exhibitors’ booths for pet products and services. There will be talks by special guests, demonstrations, contests and much more. You will learn a lot, get some freebies and have fun just being with pet loving friends. Many thanks to our sponsors, Agway of Cape Cod, Brewster Veterinary Hospital, Veterinary Associates of Cape Cod, Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists, Cape Cod Five, Sandcastle Doggie Playcare, PetSafe and a few friends of The Sampson Fund for making this event possible. We hope to see you there.

Patti

The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care is grateful for the support of:

The Grace W. Allsop Foundation - The Zachary Fund
Joan Bentinck-Smith Charitable Foundation
The Bryce Family Foundation
Caithness Foundation
The Cortez Family Charitable Fund
Marian Craig Leers Charitable Trust
The Mary-Louise Eddy and Ruth N. Eddy Foundation
The Katz Family Foundation
The Kristen Elizabeth Davis Memorial Endowment Fund
The Thomas C. McGowan Fund For Animals through
The Cape Cod Foundation

Pet Wellness Fair

Saturday, April 4 10am-2pm

Harwich Community Center 100 Oak Street

Free Admission

Chat with Pet Health Care Professionals & Businesses

Shop Awesome Pet Products & Services

Connect with Pet Related Non-Profit Organizations

Meet interesting guests including NY Times bestselling author Spencer Quinn of the “Chet & Bernie” mysteries

Bid on VERY Special Silent Auction Items

To Benefit

Fun and informative for adults & kids!

Made Possible by the Generous Support from (to date)

Agway of Cape Cod
Brewster Veterinary Hospital
Veterinary Associates of Cape Cod
Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists

Cape Cod Five
Sandcastle Doggie Playcare
Special friends of
The Sampson Fund

Remembering Our Pets	“MOLLY” Anne Spaulding
“ZOE DEVANEY” Tony and Lynn Felix	“RETTON” Judy and Jack Stetson
“NALA AND COCOA” Lindsay Danielle Hirt	“BLANCHE, AMBER, AND ANNIE MORRIS” Lorie B. Morris
“MAGGIE, GRACIE, AMANDA PHOEBE, SAMANTHA AND ABIGAIL” Anne Penelope Shields	“GUS” Chickery J. Kasouf
“ANNIE” Carol Rowley	“WRANGLER” Melissa Marchand
“TUCKER” Ann Beckert	“ROSIE” Ann Beckert
“MOLLY” Heather Brenzel	“RIPPLE” Lucy Hersey
“LARKSPUR” Susan Engle	“FITSUM AND CHICO” Beth Lewis
“SPARKY” Bryan Faherty	“BABY” Dawn M. Ulrich
“DUTCH” Anne Spaulding	“RINGO” Mary J. Powers
“MAGIC” Susan Engle	“BENTLEY” Joyce Lane

NERO’S BILL

We need to get Nero’s Bill moving by writing letters, sending emails, and making phone calls to the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. We need as many people as possible to reach out to Senate Chair Cindy Friedman and House Vice-Chair Daniel Cullinane and ask that they report the bill favorably out of Committee. Here is their contact info:

Senator Cindy Friedman
State House Room 413-D
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133
Cindy.Friedman@masenate.gov
617-722-1432

Representative Daniel Cullinane
State House Room 236
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133
Daniel.Cullinane@mahouse.gov
617-722-2430

Small Batch Bourbon and Bites at SunBird Restaurant

Hosted by SunBird Restaurant and Town Center Wine & Spirits of North Eastham

Thursday, March 5, 6-8 pm.

Cost: \$40 per person in advance (call Town Center Wine & Spirits at 508-255-3660 to make reservations and arrange for payment)

Special raffle of the rare Kentucky Owl Confiscated Bourbon (\$150/bottle). Tickets are \$5 each (You can purchase as many as you want.) Also there will be a sale of small batch bourbon with one day special pricing at the event. All profits from the raffle and sale will be donated to The Sampson Fund.