



P.O. Box 1756  
Orleans, MA 02653

Summer 2020

# NEWSLETTER

## The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care



### A Cautionary Tale

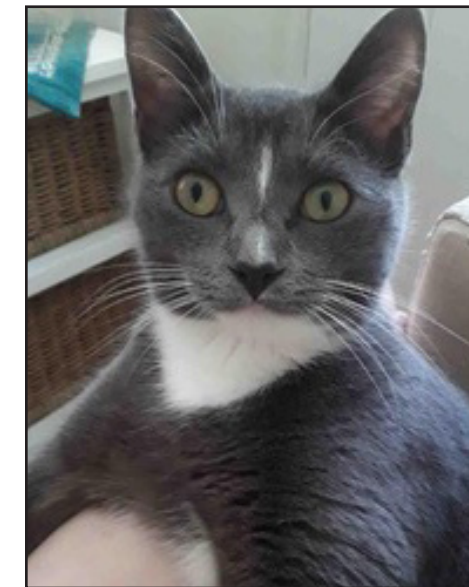
by Olivia H. Miller

Like many of us, maybe you've never heard of cats eating elastic hair ties. Or perhaps you have but think it's an amusing, playful thing some cats do. Well, think again.

"My cat, Stevie, had an obsession with hair ties," said Ryan Mills of West Harwich. "She loved them, and I thought it was super cute at first." Stevie, who Ryan adopted as a kitten about a year ago, played with the hair ties until Ryan and her boyfriend would take them away...or so they thought. Eventually, they discovered that she was "hoarding" the ties, stashing them under the couch and the mattress. Worse, it turned out, the five-pound grey-and-white tabby mix was not just saving them for future fun times; she was ingesting them, too.

When Stevie started vomiting hair ties, Ryan realized it was no longer just a cute obsession. "We found her 'stash,'" she said, "and we were horrified."

Ryan's cousin, a vet tech, suggested they bring Stevie to Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists in Dennis. They took her immediately. "We couldn't go in with her due to COVID. It was scary for us but must have been so fright-



ening for Stevie when these strangers with scary masks took her away."

X-rays showed nine elastic hair ties in the little cat's stomach. (She had previously vomited three others.) The ties had to be removed surgically but, due to coronavirus staffing issues, the procedure needed to take place at the CCVS Buzzards Bay practice. As is so often the case, the surgery was expensive. "It was such a shock for my boyfriend and me. We sat in the parking lot, both of us crying, wondering how we could pay for this. It was terrifying."

Happily, CCVS is an affiliate member of The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care. They told Ryan about

the fund and how to apply. "We were able to get in touch with the Sampson Fund," she said, "and they immediately agreed to pay for most of the surgery. It was so awesome!"

Stevie underwent successful surgery to remove the hair bands (and was spayed as well, a procedure Ryan had to postpone due to virus mitigation). Within a few days, Stevie Licks – a vocal cat appropriately named after Stevie Nicks – was back to her normal "sweet and feisty" self. And, in case you're curious, there are no more hair bands in the house.

"Stevie is my baby," said Ryan. "We don't know what we would have done. We are so thankful to the Sampson Fund."

Note: It is common for kittens and young cats to swallow odd things like hair ties or string, and can be a symptom of what is known as pica, the urge to eat non-food, inedible items. Pica may be caused by dietary deficiencies, environmental factors, medical issues or a genetic predisposition. Whatever the cause, owners need to be extremely careful about having things like hair ties, elastic bands, string or yarn around the house, especially if those are the cat's "toy" of choice.

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)*

Level of Donation: \$25\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_ \$250\_\_\_ 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

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### 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,

Pets bring us so much joy. We've always known that but it has proven particularly true during this time of home confinement. My elderly dog Boomer has kept me to a routine in this otherwise unscripted period. He relishes (I think) all the extra time of our companionship. I hope your pets have eased the difficulties of isolation for you as well.

Our Pet Wellness Fair scheduled for April 4 was cancelled but we hope to hold it in the spring of 2021. We'll keep you up to date.

We want you to know that Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists - Dennis, closed for a short while, is back open 24/7 for emergency veterinary care needs.

The staff at all our veterinary hospitals are doing amazing and often stressful work accommodating client needs during these challenging times. They are truly heroes.

Back in 2011 we included in our newsletter Dr. Donner's skunk rinse formula. As our pets spend more time outdoors this summer we thought it would be helpful to rerun the recipe for the magic mix on the next page. Hopefully you won't need it, but just in case...

Like all Cape Cod non-profit organizations that have had to cancel fund-raising events we are feeling financial stress. During these times of financial instability, requests for help for critical veterinary care has dramatically increased while donations have come in at a much slower pace than usual. However, we are grateful to those folks who have been able to donate. Some have even shared their stimulus money with us. Our mission is 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. We will continue to fulfill that mission to the best of our ability.

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 Sampson Fund is registered with Amazon Smile. When you make a purchase you can choose The Sampson Fund to receive a percentage of the purchase price.



**New Puppies**

Sampson Fund Trustees Lottie Austin and Brad and Laurie Pfeifer recently welcomed new puppies.

**Left:** Dory, Lottie Austin's Saint Bernard at 12 weeks.

**Right:** Sampson, the Pfeifer's Yellow Lab also at 12 weeks.



## Brewster Veterinary Hospital Staff Expecting

This photo was taken late February showing four staff members at Brewster Veterinary Hospital expecting babies. Interim report: Emily Murray, surgical nursing supervisor, delivered her third son in March. Shayna Giampietro, nursing supervisor, is waiting for TWIN girls any time now, Billie Starks, customer services representative manager, is expecting her son late July, and Bridget Howes, veterinary assistant is due mid-August.

### Remembering Our Pets

<b>"Sophie"</b> Kathleen Howard	<b>"Chester"</b> Ann Beckert
<b>"Ebony"</b> Pat Scarnici	<b>"Kasey Gittinger"</b> Laura, Tracy, Staci, Amanda and Angelina
<b>"Molly"</b> Kimberly Williams Jennifer Turner All Molly's Friends at Cape Cod 5 Trust and Asset Management	<b>"Muffin"</b> Jane C. Carter
<b>"Kali"</b> Patricia Debs	<b>"Brady"</b> Donna Capimmo "Cornflakes" Patricia Corcoran
<b>"Joey"</b> Katherine Curt	<b>"Kali"</b> Ann Beckert
<b>"Molly O'Neil"</b> Pat Scarnici	<b>"Samson"</b> Kelly Lynn Wright
<b>"Holly," "Chatham," "Pepper," and "Taffy"</b> Suzy Crawford	<b>"Sammy"</b> Olivia Miller and Ken Kevorkian
<b>"Sampson"</b> Helene Gross	

## Cats in the Suffragette Movement



2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the suffragette movement. Posters and advertising material often depicted cats. But this was not necessarily to promote women's right to vote. In fact it supported the opposite. According to Dr. Corey Wrenn, Director of Gender Studies at Monmouth University "the intent (of showing suffragists as cats) was to portray suffragists as silly, infantile, incompetent and ill-suited to political engagement". At the time cats were seen as domestic and feminine creatures, while dogs were seen as masculine. Hmm.

### Skunk Rinse Formula

from  
Christopher S. Donner, VMD

In a pail, mix:  
1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide  
1/4 cup baking soda  
2 teaspoons Dawn dishwashing liquid

Apply the mixture to your pet's coat from the collar back toward the tail. No need to wet the pet first.

Avoid getting the mixture near the eyes as the hydrogen peroxide solution can burn them.

Lather into the pet's coat and skin for about 5 minutes or until the smell starts to dissipate.

Rinse by tilting the pet's chin upward so the solution does not run down into the eyes.

Do a final and complete rinse.

You may need to repeat the entire process two or even three times.