



P.O. Box 1756  
Orleans, MA 02653

Winter 2024

# NEWSLETTER

## The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care



### Puppy Love

By Olivia H. Miller

Sometimes love happens when you may not be looking for it. That was the case for Gregory Lena, a landscaper who lives in West Yarmouth. As Greg tells the story, back in 2013 a puppy was found in a dumpster in Cleveland, Ohio. A woman brought the pup to the Cape with the intention of keeping her but her landlord said no. The woman posted on Facebook that she was going to bring the dog to a shelter. Greg saw the post and, in his words, “I swooped in to help.”

Greg drove to the woman’s house with every intention of fostering the puppy until he found her a home. But – I think you know where this is going – he fell in love with the little dog. Joining the legions of “foster failures,” Greg decided his new dog needed a new name. “She was Daisy Mae when I got her. A blizzard was coming, and Blizzy was close to Daisy so it was an easy change.”

And it was an easy entry into a new life for Blizzy, a Miniature Pinscher/terrier/beagle mix. Weighing in at about 20 pounds, she’s been a healthy girl other than a bout of pancreatitis. In November, however, Greg noticed that Blizzy was having dental issues; a few of her teeth had actually shattered. He took her to Veterinary Associates of Cape Cod (VACC) in South

Yarmouth, where she was diagnosed with periodontal disease, and required extensive dental work.

“I was naïve about how much it would cost,” Greg admitted. “I had my teeth cleaned for \$120 and thought, ‘Well, my mouth is ten times bigger...’ I just



didn’t know. The estimate was between \$3000-\$5000. I couldn’t believe it!

While discussing options with Kristin Cohan, VACC Practice Manager, Greg asked about the possibility of financial

help. Since VACC is a Sampson Fund for Veterinary Care affiliate member, she told Greg about the Fund and explained the paperwork he’d need to submit to determine if he qualified for financial assistance.

“Kristin was a sweetheart, so sympathetic and compassionate,” Greg recalled. “I applied to The Sampson Fund and got approved. I was so thankful, I actually shed some tears.”

Blizzy had surgery early in December, and four teeth were extracted. She had some tumors near her face and neck, which were also removed and fortunately were benign. “Blizzy is doing great,” Greg reported. She’s eating her kibble and I’m using enzymatic toothpaste for her.”

On January 3rd, Blizzy celebrated her 11th birthday with her two besties, Pepper and Gus (and their humans)! There were doggie gifts, fashionable party hats (for the dogs) and birthday cake made by Greg (for the dogs). Yes, a very good time was had by all!

“I am so grateful to The Sampson Fund,” Greg said, “and definitely plan to give back. Blizzy has been a therapy dog for me from the beginning. She is very sweet, smart and intuitive. She’s brought so much joy into my life.”

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

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

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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  
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### **The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care Mission Statement:**

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



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Dear Friends,

Happy New Year.

2024 marks the 38th year of The Sampson Fund. Over the past few years we have seen a tremendous increase in the need by pet owners for assistance in handling unexpected expenses for veterinary care. Thanks to the generosity of folks who love pets we have been able to fulfill our mission to provide financial assistance for veterinary care for critically ill or injured pets on Cape Cod and the Islands when owners cannot afford treatment. We look forward to continuing to help in this new year.

As you may have read in a recent issue of the Cape Cod Times, there's a new veterinarian on the Cape. Dr. Kyra Berg is a board-certified specialist in zoological medicine. She will be practicing with Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists at the Buzzards Bay location. The Sampson Fund expanded coverage to include exotic pets last year, so we are particularly happy to welcome Dr. Berg to care for the Cape's more unusual but still lovable pets.

Do you have one or two items that you think may have value? You can find out this spring. Eldred's Inc. will be hosting an appraisal day to benefit The Sampson Fund at the Rte. 6A auction gallery. Bring you item or items to the auction gallery on Rte. 6A in Dennis for a verbal appraisal by Eldred's experts. Date to be announced soon.

Why can't our dogs live longer? Scientists at the Dog Aging Project are studying the aging process in dogs with the goal of being able to extend the healthy lifespan of dogs. The effort was launched at the University of Washington and Texas A&M. You can learn more by going to dogagingproject.org. Let's hope some helpful findings will come out of this study.

Cape Cod winters can be a challenge with slushy or biting cold days. Hopefully you can hunker down indoors and enjoy more time with your pets.

Be well.

Patti

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

Agway of Cape Cod Charitable Foundation  
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The Thomas C. McGowan Fund For Animals through The Cape Cod Foundation  
The Wallaby Foundation

## Remembering Our Pets

<b>Max</b> Mary Ann Robbins	<b>Stella</b> Barbara Bradley
<b>Cooper</b> Nan Poor	<b>Lover</b> Mary Beth Fincke
<b>Tony</b> Susan Griffin	<b>Sweet Digger</b> Lisa Guyon
<b>Nikki, Ella and Atticus</b> Jane Zulkiewicz	<b>Rose</b> Marcy Woods and Rob Wadleigh
<b>Lola</b> Susan Griffin	<b>Chappy and Ally</b> Jacqueline Pierce
<b>Molly</b> Four Paws Tech Care	<b>Echo-the Bunny Man</b> Esther Werner
<b>Finn McCool</b> Judy Bartha	<b>Chester and Ike</b> Christy Laidlaw
<b>Abigail, Amanda, Phoebe, Samantha, Grace and Maggie</b> Anne Shields	<b>Irwin and all our dogs</b> Heather Brenzel
<b>Ralphie</b> Four Paws Tech Care	<b>Max from the WE Can Team</b> Lisa Guyon
<b>Samson and Daisy</b> Kelly Lynn Wright	<b>Sammy and Lily</b> Helene Gross
<b>Tilly</b> The Ballentine Family & Ghillie	<b>Gilda, Smoke, Gorgeous, Kay and EnRoute</b> Helen Barrett Chestnut
<b>All Our Scotties</b> Jan Carstanjen	<b>Radar, Toby and Muffin</b> Kelly Hall
<b>Yogi, Spanky, and Coco</b> Susan Bernier	<b>Emmitt</b> Maureen Parel
<b>Emmy</b> Ann Beckert	<b>Ringo</b> Mary Powers
<b>Max</b> Four Paws Tech Care	<b>Jimmy</b> Sally Stevens-Taylor
<b>Socks</b> Jerry Curcione	<b>All Our Pets</b> Lorie Morris
<b>Bauer McManus</b> Susan O'Connell	<b>Millie</b> Michael McCabe
<b>Macgyver</b> Four Paws Tech Care	<b>Tiger and 'Sulka</b> Joan Bernhard
<b>Lucy</b> Marcy Woods and Rob Wadleigh	<b>Jessie</b> Diane Martin
<b>Izzy</b> Four Paws Tech Care	Tedy the Golden Retriever Mike and Jan Golan
<b>Fred the Afghan</b> Mindy Richlen	<b>Tilly</b> Dorothy Vance-Booth



Bearded dragon "Gibbs" an exotic pet that has become popular in recent years. The Sampson Fund now covers critical veterinary care for exotics. Photo courtesy of Harwich Animal Control Officer, Jennifer Harrington.

## Do you have a backup plan for your pet?

Life comes with surprises and it's important to make sure our pets are safe if our routine changes due to a health crisis or another type of upheaval. The Sampson

Fund has guidelines on how to prepare for the "what if". You can find these by going to our website at [www.sampsonfund.org](http://www.sampsonfund.org). and clicking on Pet Care.