



P.O. Box 1756  
Orleans, MA 02653

Winter 2025

# NEWSLETTER

## The Sampson Fund For Veterinary Care



### Having a Ball

By Olivia H. Miller

2025 did not start well for Colleen Burke's family. After having dinner with her parents on New Year's Day, the Sandwich resident and her three children returned home to find that Shep, one of their two dogs, had passed. The 5-pound Pomeranian who was only 8, had battled Lyme disease and had a mild heart murmur but his death was a shock and terribly sad... not just for the family but also for Blue, their 90-pound American Bully, who lost his little buddy.

Two weeks later Colleen took Blue for a walk. It was his 3rd birthday and surprise, there was a ball on the ground! A little smaller than a tennis ball, Blue grabbed it. "I told him to drop it," Colleen said, "but then he grabbed a stick. I said, 'Where's the ball?' and he gave me this look like, 'I don't know what you're talking about!'"

Colleen checked Blue's mouth but couldn't find the ball. She brought him inside and he started acting weird, pawing at his mouth. "He wasn't choking. I knew he definitely swallowed the ball and something was wrong." She brought Blue to Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists (CCVS) in Buzzards Bay. Initially they found a splinter from the stick in Blue's mouth. "The splinter made him paw

at his mouth and that's what made me realize something was wrong."

They first tried to induce vomiting but nothing came up. An X-Ray showed the ball was in Blue's stomach, which the doctor believed was too big to



pass. They decided go in with a scope and pull the ball out, but no luck. Blue would need surgery.

"The vet had told me that surgical foreign body removal would be upwards of \$8,000. I'm a single mother and there's no way I could afford that. I broke down. We had just lost little Shep. I couldn't believe this was happening. There's no way I can leave

him like that. I was beside myself."

CCVS is an affiliate member of The Sampson Fund for Veterinary Care. Dr. Sarah McManis, Emergency & Critical Care Resident, told Colleen about The Sampson Fund and how the fund could assist financially. "She said, 'I'll work on my end, while you work on your end.'" Colleen applied and was accepted. Blue had surgery and the ball was removed.

"I picked him up and he acted like nothing had happened. The hardest part was keeping him quiet for two weeks while he healed," Colleen added. "We all slept in the living room together because he couldn't do the stairs. We cuddled with him and kept him calm.

"He's back to his normal goofball, snuggle bug self and doing great. The kids are beyond happy. The Sampson Fund was a lifesaver, not only for Blue but for the whole family. It took away the crushing weight that I wasn't going to be able to save him over a ball.

"He's happy, healthy and loves our family. The kids would've been devastated if we lost him. My six-year-old daughter says that Blue's not really a dog, he's a human trapped in a dog's body."

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

## Board of Trustees

President: Patti Smith  
Treasurer: Brad Pfeifer  
Recording Secretary: Laurie Pfeifer  
Past Presidents: Christopher S. Donner, VMD,  
and Joan Goffi, DVM  
Trustees-at-Large: Robert Carroll,  
Donelle Denery, Christopher S. Donner, VMD,  
Lisa Guyon, 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  
**Deer Run Veterinary Services** - East Falmouth  
**Falmouth Animal Hospital** - North  
Falmouth  
**Leach Animal Hospital** - Mashpee  
**Lower Cape Veterinary Services** -  
Eastham  
**Oceanside Animal Hospital** - Sandwich  
**VCA Hyannis Animal Hospital** - West Yarmouth  
**VCA Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital** -  
East Harwich  
**Veterinary Associates of Cape Cod**  
South Yarmouth  
**Veterinary Wellness Center of Provincetown**

## 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.*



Follow Us on Facebook

Dear Friends,

A huge thank you to all of you who supported The Sampson Fund in our end of the year appeal. Generous donors have made it possible for us to be on firm financial footing as we start the new year.

We have expanded. As of February 1, we welcomed Deer Run Veterinary Services as our 14th affiliated hospital. Located at 168 Teaticket Highway in East Falmouth, Deer Run Veterinary Services is open 9-5 weekdays.

Many of you have probably seen the national television ads promoting veterinary telemedicine. Below is the relevant statement on the American Veterinary Medical Association's website :  
**American Veterinary Medical Association  
Telemedicine and the veterinarian-client-patient relationship**  
Proper use of telemedicine can improve effectiveness and efficiency in delivering veterinary care, and the AVMA provides a suite of resources that empower veterinary practices to implement it. The veterinary profession has been using telemedicine successfully for a very long time, largely because it has been done within a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) established with an in-person exam. The AVMA strongly believes that veterinary telemedicine must only be conducted after a VCPR has been established in person, except in emergencies until the patient can be seen by a veterinarian. The in-person visit gives the veterinarian information about the animal's physical condition and allows the veterinarian to obtain appropriate diagnostic specimens. Both are important for a prompt and accurate diagnosis, particularly because animals may not show obvious signs of disease and cannot speak. A wrong diagnosis and/or treatment plan results in prolonged illness and suffering and also increases costs for the animal's owner. Some direct-to-consumer companies appear to be sales-oriented rather than care-oriented, focused on delivering their preferred set of drugs and medical products instead of comprehensively evaluating patients and delivering best-suited care. Some of these companies are actively pursuing state legislative and regulatory changes that would allow a VCPR to be established electronically—lobbying for a virtual VCPR because, it appears, their business model is only sustainable and more profitable in an operating environment that allows a VCPR to be established electronically. The AVMA opposes any legislative efforts to eliminate the need for an in-person visit to establish the VCPR. The in-person VCPR requirement is in the best interest of animals and is fundamental to quality care.

Makes sense to me.

Patti

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

Agway of Cape Cod  
The Alfred Kobacker and Elizabeth Trimbach Fund  
The Arlan Wise Charitable Fund  
The Bryce Family Foundation  
Caithness Foundation  
Cape Cod 5  
Cape Cod Pet Collective Fund of The Cape Cod Foundation  
Carlee Charitable Trust  
The Chamberlain Foundation  
Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts  
The Cortez Family Charitable Fund  
Dorothy A. Savarese Giving Fund of The Cape Cod Foundation  
The Grace W. Allsop Foundation - The Zachary Fund  
John and Mary Camp Foundation  
The Katz Family Foundation  
The Kristen Elizabeth Davis Memorial Endowment Fund  
Lyndon Paul Lorusso Charitable Foundation  
Marian Craig Leers Charitable Trust  
The Mary-Louise Eddy and Ruth N. Eddy Foundation  
Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation  
The Peter and Ann Lambertus Family Foundation, Inc.  
The Robert D. and Shirlee G. Burd Animal Welfare Fund of The Cape Cod Foundation  
The Shirley S. Windsor Charitable Trust  
Susan Bernier Fund  
Susan P. Jones Family Foundation  
The Wallaby Foundation

## Remembering Our Pets

**Skye Copp**  
Linda Connell

**Minnie**  
Dianna Lewis

**Lucy and Minnie**  
Gregg Pospisil

**Socks**  
Jerry Curcione

**Simon**  
Nina and Ralph Armenti

**Sugar and Buddy**  
Dara Gannon

**Maxine**  
Lisa Guyon

**Hailey**  
David Luxenberg

**Bella**  
Jody Hines

**Simon**  
Lisa Guyon

**Ross, Joey and Rachel**  
Joyce Lance

**All Our Beloved Pets**  
John Hornyak

**Kady**  
Jayne Wood

**Kasha, Scout, Coby, Siena,  
Spencer, Leo and Ollie**  
Suzanne Nowak

**Tillie**  
Christopher Owens

**Pearl**  
Nick Belsito

**Otis**  
Margaret Quenneville

**Melody**  
Therese Leddy

**Jake**  
Karen Beetham

**Cody**  
Steven and Nancy Scott

**Katy**  
Gerie Schumann

**Smudge**  
Laurie Stillwell

**Ricky**  
Helen Chestnut

**Lou, Sasha, Wick and Ping**  
Rochelle Ackell

**All Our Pets**  
Lorie B. Morris

**Mayzie and Peanut**  
Kathleen Ann Finnegan

**Murph**  
Judith Miller

**Sammy and Lily**  
Helene Gross

**Sasha**  
Dorothy Wolfe

**Millie**  
Michael McCabe

**Lily**  
Chickery Kasouf

**Huckleberry**  
Lyle and Martha Elkins

**Ringo**  
Mary Josephine Powers

**Gary**  
Elizabeth Wade

**Rafa**  
Mary Beth Fincke

**Teddy**  
Francine Lipani

## DECLAWING OF CATS BANNED IN MASSACHUSETTS

An act prohibiting inhumane feline declawing has been signed by Governor Maura Healey making Massachusetts the fourth state, along with Maryland, New York and Virginia to ban this practice. The act goes into effect on April 8, 2025.



## Pet CPR and Pet Safety Training Event

Saturday, April 5 at 10:30 a.m.

VCA Pleasant Bay and Eastham Animal Control are hosting a Pet CPR and Pet Safety Certification led by technician supervisor, Eduardo Netto, CVT. Eduardo Netto, CVT is RECOVER certified in basic and advanced life support.

CPR course completion cards will be provided.

\$20 donation to Sampson Fund day of event.

RSVP by March 29  
Stephanie Sykes  
ssykes@eastham-ma.gov  
774-801-0502

Location  
Eastham Public Library  
190 Samoset Rd.  
Eastham, MA 02642

© 2014 VCA Animal Hospitals Inc. VCA Logo is a registered trademark of VCA Inc. or its affiliated companies.



## Save These Dates

Please mark these upcoming events  
in your calendar.

CPR and Pet Safety Training – Saturday,  
April 5 at the Eastham Library

Barks & Brews – Saturday, October 11 at  
Cape Cod Beer in Hyannis