



Baltimore Metro/
Harford, Carroll, and
Cecil Counties

Pets on Wheels

Volume 2, Issue 2

Fall 2009

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The Stats:

No. of volunteers with
Pets On Wheels: [274](#)

No. of animals with
Pets on Wheels
(including dogs, cats,
rabbits and a ferret):
[303](#)

No. of facilities cur-
rently being served by
Pets On Wheels: [116](#)

What's Happening!



Don't fall back yet! Even if you missed the Dog-A-Thon, we have several upcoming events for you to leaf through.

On October 10th several of us had a blast at the Baltimore County Humane Society's Dog-Fest. The event included swimming pools, sandpits and agility for its canine attendees, as well as costume contests and adoptions and great shopping. POW had a lot of people stop by our booth, both to inquire about joining and to bid on our silent

auctions. Thanks to all who helped out.

Also upcoming, Trick-or-Treating on the Avenue in White Marsh, a pet-friendly and family event which promises treats for your dogs too. October 31st at 3 PM.

We'll be back in White Marsh for their holiday parade, December 5th. Baltimore's Thanksgiving Parade has been cancelled.

It's a ways away, but we're already looking for help manning the booths at the 2010 Pet Expo. January 29th-31st. If interested in volunteering your time, please contact Vicki.



Don't forget to send in your log sheets!

Reading PAWS Reflection

We corresponded with two of this year's ten PAWS volunteer teams, Deborah Simmons and Judith Fishman, who reflected back on their experiences from May. The women were prompted to participate in the program by its potential for success and their background with education. Several similar endeavors have

demonstrated results elsewhere and more are getting off the ground. For information about reading programs in our area currently seeking Pets on Wheels teams, turn to page 2.

The interview begins on page 2.

Meet Our Members:

Join the Pets on Wheels Facebook page
[www.facebook.com/
group.php?gid=59228406575](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=59228406575)
and stay in touch!

Reading PAWS Reflection



Continued from page 1

How did the children and administrators respond to the dogs?

Deborah: The children loved them and were more than glad to read to them. The administration was very happy and eager to have us there.

Judith: The second grader was a bit shy at first and the third grader was more affectionate. The administrators seemed very impressed with the dogs and appreciative.

Did the children appear to enjoy the experience? Were they more focused on the animals than the book?

Judith: Definitely. I think they were focused on the books and the tasks. They also loved having the dogs with them. At the end of the program, I think the children were sad that they wouldn't see the dogs the following week.

Deborah: I had two boys and they were very focused on the reading their book each week. Some weeks they would read more than one book. They seemed to look forward to it very much.

How did your dog respond to the experience?

Deborah: Very well. He would lay and listen the whole time the children were reading.

Judith: My dog was quite excited at the beginning of the program. She had never been in a school with me before. As time progressed, she seemed to get use to it and calm down.

What do you feel are the advantages to this program or one like it?

Judith: Pleasure for the children, dogs and their handlers, along with improved reading scores. The dogs are non-judgmental and gave the children encouragement to read.

Deborah: The program gave the children more confidence in their reading.

At the end of the program did you observe an increase in the children's focus or desire to read?

Deborah: Yes, a big increase.

Judith: Both girls who read with Chloe improved their reading scores.

How was this different from your regular Pets on Wheels visit?

Judith: It was very different. I regularly go to a Nursing Home and a woman's house (with my cat Tolstoy). It was an extension of Chloe's skills in obedience, but taught her some new ones as well.

Tyler the Spokesdog

Meet Tyler, the 2009 Dog-A-Thon spokesdog. Tyler has been speaking up from the front of the Dog-A-Thon brochures his owner Cathy graciously helped fund winning the Pet in Print auction.

If you missed him at the Dog-A-Thon, you may spot him in a Pets on Wheels parade event. He and Cathy have participated in every parade, rain or shine (mostly rain and cold) since joining the team.

She's never got read to before! Deborah: It was more of a learning experience than just a visit.

What would you tell other volunteers interested in being a part of PAWS?

Deborah: That it's a very rewarding and great program. I think the children are much more confident readers after the participating in it.

Judith: I would tell other Volunteers that it was a constructive experience and that we were appreciated in this environment. It wasn't just entertainment but a success story in the ability to read verbally.

When asked, both women agreed that the program could be improved if there were more of them in the region. More schools, more sessions, allowing for more children to participate. Both encourage other organizations to attempt similar programs if given the opportunity. Thank you Judith and Deborah for your thoughts!

If you'd like to participate in a reading program, opportunities are available at the Enoch Pratt Library (Paws Reading) and on Ben Carson Reading Day, November 16th. Contact Vicki for information on signing up.



Past Events

Thanks to everyone who made the 2009 Dog-A-Thon a huge success– our volunteers, vendors, guests, and sponsors! Thanks also to our teams that showed their spirit at Camden Yards, walked for the SPCA, held down the fort at the 1st annual Responsible Dog Ownership Day, helped the college kids keep their cool during finals at the UMBC Stress Free Zone, and came out to appear on WJZ.

Welcome to the Newest POW Volunteers!

April

Jacquie Astemborski and Scout and Bella
 Laura Brazil and Harley
 Tina Brocato and Ava and Yoko
 Susan Chaudron and Aydan
 Jill Davis and Deuce
 Amy Decker and Brooklyn
 Marguerite Forte and Mary
 Lori Huesman and Frosty
 Michael Huggins and Harley
 Elise Johnson and Elsie
 Jonna Lazarus and Isabel
 Lesley Mason and Beulah
 Jennifer Molesevich and Martha
 Harold Norton and Emma
 Elizabeth Sieber and Chauncey
 Jennifer Swensen and Daisy
 Margot Volk and Jenny
 Melanie Voyce and Kirby
 Susan Walters and Maggie
 Nicole White and Jake and Dodger

May

Robin Agnoli and Humphrey
 Shawna Runt and Boomer
 Marguerite Forte and DiVinci
 Lisl Wilkinson and Flurry
 Olga Paterakis and Mia
 Paul Winberry and Shelly
 Stewart Russell and Rosie
 Claire Dubit and Niko
 Mary Wolf and Chowder
 Helen Karamalakos and Armani

June

Amy Stumme and Jake
 Heller Kreshtool and Cassie
 Melissa Jones and Dookie
 Mary Harris and Bentley
 Joyce Engle and Sandy
 Dara Schill and Max
 Cindy Willard and Cooper
 Michele Tibbo and Ellsworth James
 Miranda Murdoch and Kyro
 Amanda Taylor and Mira
 Michelle Secor and Justice
 Vicki Tyranski and Buster

July

Linda Albin and Kenji
 Merry Alterman and Jordie
 Beckie Berkshire and Bacardi
 Michelle Berterman and Bella
 Kelly Bock and Carly and Annie
Valerie Bonincontri and Toby
Amber Ceslik and Kobe
Martha Elliott and Marco
Sharon Flynn and Ginger
Ed and Mary Kay Fritsche and Rosie
Tracie Guy-Decker and Pixie
Jay Hensley and Snoopy
Johanna Howe and Manman
Debra Quinton and Casey
Jess Spear and Samantha
Evan Struke and Aidan
Judy Ware and Mali
Margaret Welling and Chester
Kathy Wolff and Tucker

August

Sharon Adkins and Little Duke
 Kathleen Balch and Barley
 Pam Cummings and Sonny
 Katie Gilbert and Oliver
 Kevin Gilbert and Allie
 Justin Garvin and Taco
 Sandra Matthai and Chloe
 Jenna McCall and Corrine
 Caitlin O'Donnell and Stella
 Kathy Osborn and Chloe
 Marissa Parra and Sugar Bear
 Charles Pennington and Dallas
 Moire Riley and Roxy
 Jacquelyn Seaborg and Mocha and Latte
 The Singleton Family and Razer
 Cynthia Stoltz and Maggie
 Julie Thompson and Dylan
 Lisa-Dai Venker and Chester
 Debbie Verbillis and Fluffy
 Jennifer Webster and JAlee
 Robert Zendle and Copper

August

Hally Ashby and Kadie
 Kim Bagley and Abby
 Conar Densmore and Baron
 Rose Densmore and Willow and Indy
 Debbie Gill and Cookie
 Melissa Heathcote and Bronson
 Becky Kline and Flower
 Tracy Moran and Jasper
 Libby Naylor and Mollie
 Pete Severinsen and Lady
 Ann Vukelich and Rudy

Pets on Wheels

Baltimore Metro/ Harford,
Carroll, and Cecil Counties

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Providing friendly pet visits to help lick
loneliness since 1982.

Pets on Wheels is a not for profit volunteer organization which provides friendly visits from volunteers and their pets to those requiring the support of an institutional setting.

Visits are most often to nursing homes; however, assisted living communities and facilities for the physically and mentally challenged are also recipients of our visits. Recently, veterans' hospitals, programs for the homeless, and children at risk of home out placement have also been added to our visits. Our emphasis is on residents who have been unresponsive to ongoing activities. Many of these patients have impaired cognitive abilities due to specific illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease, and react to animals with more awareness than to people around them. For instance, repetitive speech behavior or annoying mannerisms may cease while a patient is petting an animal.

Pets love unconditionally, even when a person is no longer attractive, even-tempered, or agile. Their warmth makes a difference to those they visit.

Visit us on the web!
www.petsonwheels.org



Take Your Dog to...

... the Robert E. Lee Park in Baltimore. The park is huge, covering 450 acres and Lake Roland and is owned by the city despite its location in the county. Many people take their dogs there to run free, though leash laws do apply. There are plans to construct a secure dog area within the park to be ready in about a year and half, officials say. If you choose to go, be sure to pick up after your pooch! Fall is a lovely time for a visit.

The Rainbow Bridge

Unfortunately, some of our members experienced the loss of a loved pet in the past few months. We'd like to recognize these friends...

Annie– Diane Northway
Marley and Mick– Sandy Lin
Diamond Lady– Nancy Ginsberg
Bailey– Cindy Hagan
Nemo– Julie Thompson

Lady– Pamela Turnbull
Roscoe– Nancy Metzger
Mako– Susan Guller
Freddie– Bob Scott

The Rainbow Bridge Story (Author Unknown)

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very

special to them, who had to be left behind. They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster. You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in

joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart. Then you cross

Rainbow Bridge together...

