



Pets on Wheels

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2009

Baltimore Metro/
Harford, Carroll, and
Cecil Counties

What's Happening!



Mark your calendars, we're getting ready to spring into action!

We have a booth lined up for the MD SPCA's March for the Animals, taking place from 10-2, April 19th at Druid Hill Park in Baltimore. If you'd like to participate in the walk, registration information is available on the SPCA's website, www.mdspca.org.

Also upcoming, the Preakness Parade of Lights, May 15th! Once again we've rented a bus, so be sure to

sign up early! Dawn will be designing and constructing our illuminated outfits; to walk we must all be glowing!

The date for the 2009 Dog-A-Thon has set for September 27th. Jake of Shorty's Beef and Rib Shack will again be feeding us. If you have something you wish to donate to the raffle table, please contact Vicki. We're also looking for vendors. The cost for non-profits is \$40, for profits, \$75. Again, if

Interested, please contact Vicki.

Stay turned for more pool parties as the weather gets warmer!



Don't forget to send in your log sheets!

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The Stats:

No. of volunteers with Pets On Wheels: [273](#)

No. of animals with Pets on Wheels (including dogs, cats, rabbits and a ferret): [302](#)

No. of facilities currently being served by Pets On Wheels: [108](#)

Business Spotlight

We'd like to extend a special thank you to Alan Eanet for providing us with a last-minute banner for the Timonium Pet Expo! Alan, a former Pets on Wheels volunteer, along with his brother Art operate A/A Signs, a local factory specializing in architectural and commercial sign fabrication. Dog lovers that they are,

they welcome canine companions in their workplace and have even installed a dog run that goes the length of the building. What a great place to work! Thank you, Alan!

Know of a dog-friendly business in your area? Contact Felicia at moveoverstars@gmail.com to see it highlighted.

Meet Our Members:

Join the Pets on Wheels Facebook page
www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=59228406575
and stay in touch!

Spotlight on Reading PAWS

Now in its third year, the Baltimore County Reading PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support) program has just entered the first weeks of its six week run. The reading assistance program is grant sponsored and operated by the Baltimore County School System working with our regional Pets on Wheels team to benefit children with difficulty reading. It's up to the Reading Specialist to select twenty second grade children who they feel would benefit from the program, then supply books and activities for them. This years program is being held at Colgate Elementary.

Once the after school sessions have been organized, our volunteers sign on. The twenty children will meet weekly with a group of ten dedicated teams, who commit to be present at all consecutive meetings of the group. The dogs are paired with two students who they will see every week, allowing the student to form an attachment to the animal, all the while being monitored by the dog's handler. While one child reads to the dog, the other completes an activity.

The idea is that the presence of the dogs not only eases the tension of the learning experience, making the kids want to read, but also gives them an interested, appreciative party to read to. Their canine companions love the attention!

This is our first year working with the current Reading Specialist, Ronda, so we'd like to thank her, Baltimore County Schools, and also our members for continuing to work together to make such a progressive program possible!

In the next issue, we'll talk to our volunteers about their experiences at Colgate Elementary.



Photo: PAWS 2008 at Glemar Elementary

In the Works

Veteran Pets on Wheels member Mick Bowers, one of several volunteers to log over one hundred hours in 2008, is pursuing a new program that may soon involve our group

Like PAWS, this program would provide the services of therapy dogs to children, not in the setting of a school, but instead that of a courtroom. A child victim of abuse or molestation would be paired with a dog to follow them through the legal process as their case goes to trial, making the potentially scary courtroom experience less so, the added security maybe even

Changes

You may notice some sweeping changes to the newsletter. We're opening up the lines, er, inboxes for you to send us your comments about what you'd like to see here.

The volunteer and facility spotlights will be returning next quarter.

opening up their testimony in court. The use of dogs in the courtroom is in its infancy, but slowly gaining nationally.

While Mick battles the red tape to make this happen, it's important for all of us to understand that this is not a dead issue, but that it may take time. This is truly the cutting edge of dog therapy.

Stay tuned for more developments as Baltimore County rules on dogs in the courthouse!



Past Events

Thanks to everyone who braved the rain (and the bus ride) to walk with us in the St. Patrick's Day Parade!



Getting their green on!

Welcome to the Newest POW Volunteers!

January

Katherine Jacobson and Chandler
 Kristy Wingate and Kane
 Lisl Wilkinson and Halo
 Sandy Lin and Mick
 Fred Dawson and Nigel
 Michelle Catterton and Jack
 Chris Hartings and Fugee
 Alice Boring and Rocco

February

Stephanie White and Sunshine
 Christine Covington and Murphy
 Amy Hubbard and Rex
 Tricia Condro and Pearl & Gunner
 Kristin Welker and Mickey
 Luci Shepherd and Bubba

Arleen Shepherd and Ollie
 Susan Guler and Mako
 Jennifer Engelhard and Monty
 Jenny Power and Abby
 Lisl Wilkinson and Sarah
 Marilyn Buettner and Mollie
 Carianne Edmondson and Butterball
 Anne North and Josie
 Katie Dansicker and Tonka
 Pamela Lynch and Pennie
 Betsy Hochstein and Pete

March

Susan Stiles and Bingo
 Martha Major and Rosie
 Liz Erlich and Tovi
 Darlene Hicks and Jackey & Gena

Becky Odabashian and Bear
 Jean Severe and Luna
 Tom Woerner and Moscow
 Paula Hoffman and Petie
 June Dannettal and Lilo
 Jerilynn Allen and Ben
 Natalie Sobolewski and Lexie
 James DeBesse and Bonnie
 Sherry Schnepfe and Noir
 Michelle Moss and Zeke
 Janet Soeffing and Amber
 Karen Herwig and Daisy
 Judy Bartlebaugh and Dobby
 Janice Wright and Daisy-Mae
 Valerie Riedel and Holly
 Heather Harrison and Dea

Pets on Wheels

Baltimore Metro/Harford,
Carroll, and Cecil Counties

P.O. Box 44176
Baltimore, MD 21236

410-913-5569
410-256-0171 (fax)

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 Downs Park Dog Beach! Sure, Pasadena is a little over the border into Anne Arundel County, but what better way to make use of a day or unwind after a visit than to take your dog out for a swim in the Bay! Dogs are allowed to run off leash, but people-swimming is prohibited.

The beach is located at 8311 John Downs Loop in Pasadena, MD in Downs Park. When not on the beach, dogs must be leashed.

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...

Julie -- Sheila Unger
Belle -- Peter Moulder

Reina -- Debbie Pineda

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...

