



Pets On Wheels

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2006

Baltimore Metro/
Harford County

What's Going On Next!

Look forward to some fun and exciting things happening with Pets On Wheels in the next few months!

In January, we'll take part in the Pet Expo held at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. It will be held Friday through Sunday, January 26-28th. Please keep your

eyes out for more information since volunteers will be needed to help out!

Pets On Wheels will begin a fantastic new program this spring too! *Reading P.A.W.S. (Pets Are Wonderful Support)* will bring students together with a buddy dog and a new book each week after

school for one hour. The pilot program will have second grade students. *Reading P.A.W.S.* will be held for 8 weeks at an elementary school in Dundalk from 4:15-5:15, once a week. If you are interested in having your dog participate, please contact Vicki.

Keep your eyes and ears open for more upcoming events!

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The Stats:

- * # of volunteers with Pets On Wheels: [215](#)
- * # of animals with Pets on Wheels: [200+](#)
- * # of facilities currently being served by Pets On Wheels: [72](#)

What Have We Been Up To?

Wow! The past few months have been very busy for POW! Pets on Wheels was all over town this fall! Not only did we have a very successful Dog-A-Thon at Oregon Ridge Park, but we also had doggie swim parties and participated in two parades (White Marsh

Holiday Parade, and Baltimore's Thanksgiving Parade). Seeing the dogs in reindeer ears on their heads, and umm, waists, was adorable! All of our fuzzy friends have had a ton of fun, and their humans enjoyed themselves too!

The Pets on Wheels web site also received a



Baltimore Thanksgiving Parade

fabulous facelift and you'll continue to see more improvements and info posted there.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this fall's events!

Volunteer Spotlight

Vicki Rummel deserves a huge for thanks for all she and her family do for the Baltimore Metro/ Harford County Pets On Wheels. They devote an immense amount of time towards organizing and promoting the group and making sure everything runs smoothly.

Vicki has been a POW volunteer since June 2004 but became coordinator in March 2006. Two of her pets, Sienna, a beautiful golden retriever and Bogus, her cat go on visits with her. Bogus will soon be

traveling in style via a pet stroller since he was not a fan of the leash.

While not doing work for POW, Vicki is a physical therapist assistant. She found out about POW through one of the facilities she visits with work.

Her family also includes her very supportive husband Dave, her son David who handles facilities for POW, another son Alex, 2 cats and 3 ferrets.

In her free time, Vicki likes to do things that involve her human family and Sienna. Her favorite thing about POW is, "This is one of the

few organizations were everyone benefits. The residents living in the facilities really enjoy our visits, our pets get to go out and get lots of attention, and we get to see 1st hand how rewarding it is to share."



Fantastic Facility of the Month - Upper Chesapeake Health

Upper Chesapeake Health has two facilities in our organization: Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air and Harford Memorial Hospital in Havre de Grace. The name of our Pet Visitation Program is "Healing PAWS." Our human volunteers wear a polo shirt with the UCH Healing PAWS and the Pets-on-wheels logos. Our volunteer dogs wear a bandana with these logos. They both wear UCH badges.

Length of Time with POW: We started our collaboration with Pets on Wheels in May of 2004.

Type of facility: Acute Care Hospitals

How'd you hear about POW: A committee of team members was formed to look into the possibility of having a pet visitation program at our hospitals. They researched Pet Visitation Programs and contacted POW.

How often are we visited?: Our goal is to have a Healing PAWS team visit every day. Currently we have team visiting patients 3x week at UCMC and 1x week at HMM.

Funny or good stories:

From Kay Bleinberg and Magnum (UCMC):

"On one visit I entered the room of a very elderly woman who was scheduled to have hip surgery the next day. As I went in I introduced myself and Magnum. As we approached her bed, Magnum tried to lift the patient's hand with his muzzle to get her to pet him. The

patient remarked on what a pretty dog he was. Her daughter, who was attending to her, had a very strange look on her face and said that those were the first words her mother had spoken all day. It was a wonderful feeling to know that Magnum could have that effect on someone."

From Lisa Jennings and Angel (HMM):

"Angel and I were asked to visit a gentleman at HMM who was obviously very sick. I took Angel into his room and placed her on a towel on the bed next to his hand which was loosely restrained at the wrist. I introduced Angel and myself and told him why we were here. His eyes remained closed and he did not respond either physically or verbally. As I described Angel to him, she sat very still at this patient's hand and appeared very relaxed and attentive- as if she understood how sick he was. I then took the patient's hand and told him I was going to pet Angel with his hand so he could feel her warmth and soft fur. After a few moment of petting her, the patient opened his eyes. He did not lift or turn his head to look at Angel or me; nonetheless, he opened his eyes. The nurses were excited to see this, saying "look, his eyes are open!" I just about cried- the hair on my neck stood up and I felt great! It was obvious that Angel and this patient connected and we brought him a few moments of enjoyment."

Favorite Thing about POW:

We are very grateful to be collaborating with POW.

They really care about assisting us to meet our patient's needs and the volunteers are very dedicated.

Facilities Requesting Help

The following facilities would love more volunteers to visit. Some don't have anyone coming to share some pet love. Please contact them if you can visit, Other facilities would also like more volunteers so check with Vicki to see if anywhere local to you needs more visitors!

Lorien Bel Air Assisted Living
1909 Emmorton Rd
Bel Air, MD 21015
Contact: Amy Townsend
(410) 803-1400 x 1414
atownsend@mail.lorienhealth.com

Edenwald
800 Southerly Rd
Towson, MD 21286
Contact: Karen Baranauskas
KBaranauskas@edenwald.org
410-339-6000

Life, Inc
2822 Hollins Ferry Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21230
Contact: Fatima Askew
(410) 735-5433 x 210

askewf@lifeinc.org

Maryland Masonic Homes
300 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030
Contact: Terri Vaughan
(410) 527-1111
tvaughan@mdmasonichomes.org

Broadmead
13801 York Rd Cockeysville, MD 21030
Contact: Marty Nichols
(410)527-1900
mnichols@broadmead.org

Don't forget log sheets are due at the end of the month. Check with facilities you visit to make sure they are sent in! If they do not do it, you should!

Welcome to the Newest POW Volunteers!

October:

Lori Chambers- Bacchus & Polo
Marjorie Brooks- Rebel
Judy Letcher- MacAbee
Jennifer Horrigan- Bailey
Joyce Engle- Jasmine
Robyn Watts- Fin
Nancy Metzger- Jazz
Kristen Reynolds- Duke
Elizabeth Borris- Missy
Jenny Thompson- Shula

December:

Judi Fishman- Chloe & Callie (also Buddy from October)
Lori Reik- Checkers
Melanie Smith-Taylor- Cheyenne
Sally Foley- Nick
Barbara Wilson- Lily Rose
Fawn Bennett- Willie
Terry Lang- Gideon
Rachel Ruocco- Tessa
Adam Mensh- Honeybear
John Maguire- Goldie
Ed Wood- Max

Fred Traut- Kookie
Cindy Hagan- Guinness
Terri Janiak- Casey
Julie Moran- Hershey and Shari
Tami & Joe Dieumegarde- Raven
Claire Hoffman- Bailey Joy
Karen Grier- Alfie
Julie Black-Gillman- Max
David Baron- Maya
Steve & Jennifer Wilkerson- Mauka
Joan da Silva Heit- Miss Georgia

Baltimore Metro/ Harford County

P.O. Box 44176
Baltimore, MD 21236

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

Providing friendly pet visits to help
lick loneliness since 1982.

Visit us on the web!
www.petsonwheels.org



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.

Recent Photos!



Baltimore Thanksgiving Parade



White Marsh Holiday Parade



Pet Depot Swim Party



2006 Dog-A-Thon