



Pets On Wheels

Volume 1, Issue 5

Winter 2008

Baltimore Metro/
Harford, Carroll,
and Cecil Counties

What's Going On Next!

There's never a dull moment with Pets On Wheels. After finishing up a busy fall and early winter full of parades, swim parties, holiday gatherings, and the Pet Expo, more is scheduled for the end of winter and beginning of spring!

The next parade will be the Baltimore St. Patrick's Day parade. POW will provide transportation downtown for dogs

and owners! The parade is March 16th at 2 pm.

Pets On Wheels will once again participate in the Reading Paws program. This is an excellent opportunity for your furry pal to help students increase their reading ability and confidence. The program will take place at Glenmar Elementary School on Tuesday afternoons.

Last year, POW formed a pack for the MdSPCA's March for the Animals. If you're interested in walking this year, please let Vicki know!

Other upcoming events include more swim parties and the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. This was a fabulous event last year so keep your eyes peeled for emails with the details!



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The Stats:

- * # of volunteers with Pets On Wheels: **244**
- * # of animals with Pets on Wheels (including dogs, cats, rabbits and a hamster): **265**
- * # of facilities currently being served by Pets On Wheels: **130**

Pets on Wheels Expands

Pets on Wheels now serves Carroll and Cecil Counties in addition to the Baltimore Metropolitan Area and Harford County. If you know of any facilities there who would benefit from POW visits, please let Vicki know. There is also a form for this on the web

site.

As our size continues to grow, our leader needs more help. A huge thank you is extended to Nancy for tracking volunteer hours. This spring, our volunteers will be recognized for their service. Those volunteers

with over 100 hours of service will be honored with the President's Service Award. Please make sure you continue to send in your hourly logs each quarter. In addition, don't forget to keep your pet's health records up to date.

Volunteer Spotlight

Name: Mick Bowers

Length of time with Pets On

Wheels: 5 years in May

Occupation: Retired on disability

How'd you hear about Pets On

Wheels?: Article in the *North County Chronicle*

Animal family (those that do POW and those that don't, and please

specify): Major is an 11 year old Newfoundland. I started visiting with him but had to retire him due to his age. Bandit is a 20 month old Leonberger. He and I started visiting Broadmead last May. We also now visit Genesis multi-care.

Human family (spouse, kids, etc.):

Married. I have a son who is married and living in Connecticut. They had twins last June. My daughter and her husband live in Ellicott City and have a 4 year old son and a 2 year old daughter.

Other interests: We have a greenhouse and sell tropical plants. We specialize in brugmansia and night blooming jasmine. I also fly fish and tie all my own flies!

Favorite thing about Pets On

Wheels: The obvious... the patients are so glad. It is such a small thing to visit people with Bandit and see how much they look forward to seeing him each week. I don't try and see everyone. I visit people that I know really like dogs and spend lengthy visits with those people. It gives me a great deal of satisfaction knowing I am bringing joy into other people's life.



Name: Billy and Joan da Silva Heit and Miss Georgia, a golden retriever

Length of time with Pets On

Wheels: Miss Georgia joined Pets On Wheels in December of 2006.

Occupation: Billy is retired army, currently an administrator of the Pathology department at Walter Reed. Joan is a flutist, member of Femme Flutale, a quartet of flutes, and freelances and teaches privately. Miss Georgia is a hugger.

How'd you hear about Pets On Wheels?: We heard of Pets on Wheels from Miss Georgia's dermatologist's assistant.

Animal family (those that do POW and those that don't, and please

specify): *Miss Georgia* is our very spoiled six year old, blond Golden Retriever. She absolutely loves people (dogs are another story for some reason). She loved her late brothers, Mr. Dave Handsome and Simon (she used to sit on Dave as if he were a couch and Dave just let her do it. But, she also let Simon have her entire bed when he was sick). After they passed we felt it was important for her to do something special. Since Billy, *Miss Georgia's* Daddy, said he is interested in doing volunteer work when he officially retires one day, Joan, *Miss Georgia's* Mommy, thought that it would be a good idea to get started before retirement and volunteer as a family. Our late *Mr. Dave Handsome* (also known to some, as Dr. Dave because he didn't like people wearing band aids and would proceed to remove them with his front teeth without ever touching the skin, and then proceed to lick the wound) was a wonderful Golden Retriever with a beautiful soul. He was red in color and about 100 lbs (and

thought that he was a lap dog). It broke our hearts when cancer stole him from us. He was eleven years old. He is so deeply missed. By the way, Dave was at Joan and Billy's wedding and the only time he barked was when Pastor Rudy asked if anyone objected. Our late *Simon* sometimes known as Sir Simon was our Chocolate Himalayan cat. Simon ruled both Mr. Dave Handsome and Miss Georgia. He was an absolutely gorgeous cat but never was as affectionate as our *Goldens*. Simon came first so that might have had something to do with it. Simon died of kidney disease the year before Mr. Dave Handsome. Simon was fifteen years old.

Human family (spouse, kids, etc.):

Billy has two daughters (Joan's their step mommy). Joan and Billy also have a special relationship with their niece and nephews.

Other interests: Billy loves the Ravens and Orioles. When he retires (again) he hopes to be an usher at Camden Yards. Joan's hobbies include photography and she has her private pilot's license (stopped flying when Billy came along, but it sounds good).

Favorite thing about Pets On

Wheels: Watching *Miss Georgia* interact with the people she visits, and seeing 'her patients' smile.



Fantastic Facility of the Month

Facility name: Pickersgill Retirement Community

Length of time with Pets On Wheels: At least 10-11 years

Type of facility (nursing home, assisted living, etc.): Pickersgill is a continuing care retirement community with no entrance fees. The community offers independent living, assisted living and skilled nursing care.

How'd you hear about Pets On Wheels?: Pickersgill Assistant Director, Lacy Flynn, was on the original Pets on Wheels Board of Directors.

What do your Pets On Wheels visitors do?: Make friendly visits to residents who cannot leave their rooms and help create a fun atmosphere during resident activities such as happy hour

How often are you visited?: We are visited on a weekly basis by Bob Scott with Freddie II and Diane Poffel with "Riley. We are also visited occasionally by Ann Martin with Tess, Libby, and Moki, and Judy Letcher with Macabee.

Any funny or good stories about a Pets On Wheels visit you'd like to share?: Our Social Services Director gives one of the dogs, Freddie II, a treat every time she sees him. Freddie is in the habit of stopping by her office every week and gets very disappointed if

she is not there. If he sees her in the hallway and Bob lets him off the leash, Freddie will run back to her office, stopping every so often to make sure that she's coming. Also, our former Volunteer Coordinator, Peggy Castagna, joined the POW program in July of 1982 and was one of the original 17 pet visiting teams.

Favorite thing about Pets On Wheels: Everyone lights up when they see a POW volunteer stop by. The volunteers bring a huge smile to the faces of both residents and staff. The owners for the dogs brought to Pickersgill also go out of their way to build a great relationship with not only residents, but staff as well.

"Having all of these wonderful animals visit regularly is such a blessing for the residents," said Lacy Flynn, Pickersgill Assistant Director and Pets on Wheels original board member. "They light up when they see a Pets on Wheels volunteer. It really helps us create a warm, comfortable atmosphere here at Pickersgill."

Welcome to the Newest POW Volunteers!

November

Candice Thomas & Petie
Ellen Luckman & Sheba (in addition to Patches and Izzy)
Susan Shafer & Nelson
Cheryl Trudil & Murray
Elizabeth Mander & Dozer
Kate Moxley & Guinness
Jeanine Turner & Meathead
Joe Webster & Hannah
Beverly Pizzala & Skye
Joanne Stover & Flash
Sally Buck & Moonshine
John Davis & Pancake and Girl Dog

Carole Ann Gartland & Jade
Laura Train & Sandy
Kerry Hoofnagle & Ripley
Leah Rosensweig & Sweet Pea

December

Robert Joyce & Mr. Bean
Alison Shaughnessy & Katie
John Hilgenberg & Wolfgang
Bridget Parlatto & Magnet
Kristine Crosswhite & Penny Lane
Beth Mentusky & Bones
Tiffany Potterfield & Montana
Emily Junod & Dazzle

Grace Nasrallah & Haiku
Diana Fusting & Fletcher
Adriane Cosby & Zada
Debbie Weil & Angel and Gizmo
Joanne and Todd Englund & Shasta

January

Kathi Nichols & Skipper
Martha Elliott & Lily
John Williams & Dusty
Lisa Kerner & Porky
Lisa Hardy & Jada and Kisses
Debbie Besche & Cassie
Jennifer Parks & Suko

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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.

The Rainbow Bridge

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

Caramel ---Alan Eanet

Marley---Sue Kallaugher

Molly---Maggie Sydnor

Tigger---Jo-El & Ed Mehalick

Dusty--- Joanne & Todd Englund

Annie---Laura Feiler

Savannah---Cindy Hagan

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...

