



Fairfax Pets
on Wheels, Inc

Fairfax Pets On Wheels Winter Update

January 2014

Volunteer Spotlight: Janet and Al Iagnemmo



Our volunteer spotlight is on Janet and Al Iagnemmo, a couple who are longtime FPOW volunteers – Janet since 2007, and Al since 2011. Al and Janet Iagnemmo are both retired from the General Services Administration of the federal government. Janet had retired a few years before Al did, and one afternoon while doing errands, she delivered some candy and a thank-you note to a resident of Sleepy Hollow Nursing Home who had done something nice for her. Janet took Suzie Q Sunshine, her Maltese, into the facility and the pair was MOBBED. They were not permitted to leave for several hours, since everyone wanted to see the lovely dog. Janet and Suzie Q were only allowed to

leave after Janet promised that the team would join the volunteer program that brought pets into the facility, Fairfax Pets on Wheels.

Suzie was a great FPOW volunteer



(Continued on page 2)

Shop to Donate to FPOW

Are you addicted to Amazon.com? If you are anything like me, I am hooked on how easy it is to shop online, especially at Amazon.

Did you know that Amazon has a program that contributes a percentage of sales to nonprofit organizations? Here's how shopping can get FPOW contributions and it costs you nothing extra.

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Each time you shop and buy from smile.amazon.com, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to FPOW.

If you want to learn more, visit, <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.



By Denise Elliott

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— she loved to visit ‘her’ nursing home, and she would throw herself into her visits so enthusiastically that she would always put herself to bed afterward for a long nap. Suzie developed a special bond with one man in particular, and this six-pound dog would literally pull Janet down the hall to visit him. She would climb right up on him, walk right up his body to his face and cover it with kisses. It was delightful to see him react to Suzie with uncharacteristic smiles and laughter, and wonderful to see how happy that made his dear mother, who is a delightful woman.

Unfortunately, Suzie’s special friend passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. During every visit afterward, Suzie continued to pull Janet down the hall to the room of her special friend, and then to his former room, and then to every room on the floor, looking for him while becoming increasingly frantic. It was heartbreaking for Janet to see Suzie search for him, so Janet thought it was best for the team to go to another facility in order to have a fresh start. The two volunteers started visiting at The Virginian, and have visited there since 2008. Al was so impressed with what Suzie had accomplished that when he retired he joined FPOW with another of the Iagnemmo’s Maltese, Delilah, a tiny three-pound darling. Delilah is even more ‘lap-sized’ than Suzie, and she has a lot of friends at The Virginian.

Suzie passed away on October 20, so Delilah is the Iagnemmo’s only FPOW dog at this time. They also have a small male Maltese, The Mighty (Bad) Samson, but he has not been temperament tested yet. Delilah’s AKC name is actually Jambet’s Marshmallow Delight and she was to have been a show dog but insisted on rolling over for tummy rubs instead of prancing around the ring. Fortunately, her children inherited her good looks and both her son and daughter have won dual-Championship titles in the USA and in Canada.

Suzie loved to visit — she clearly had made a ‘project’ of her special friend. Delilah also loves the program. She knows the FPOW badges are kept in a wicker basket on the kitchen counter, and if Janet or Al reaches toward that basket she goes on high

alert to see what is selected. When she and Suzie were both visiting, whenever Janet and Al would open the door of the closet that holds the leashes, both girls would watch closely to see if a leash was being brought out. If so, they would run over, each trying to push in front of the other to be first in line for the leash in case only one dog was going to go visiting that day. It was always so funny to see three-pound Delilah knocking six-pound Suzie out of the way.

The FPOW program is an excellent way to bring joy into the lives of people very easily. One dear resident who was being treated for cancer would always cry when the volunteer team would leave. She would have them promise to return and she would say that seeing the dogs did her more good than the medicine did. Even years later, that memory still chokes Janet up. FPOW brings happiness for a lot of people — residents, staff and volunteers — and also for the animals as well. These visits are the high point of the week for people in the facilities.

Al and Janet are snowbirds and spend the winters at their home in Florida. The couple bought a house there as a fixer-upper many years ago, and Al has performed an incredible amount of work on it to make it into a lovely home. This winter they hope to get involved with a Florida-based program similar to FPOW. Being out of town for three or four months of the year puts them at a disadvantage when it comes to keeping their volunteer hours with FPOW up, but they certainly keep very busy with numerous activities.

The couple has an appreciation for antique cars — Al has a 1931 Model A Ford Slant Window Town Sedan and Janet has a gorgeous 1957 XK140 Jaguar convertible that has won a garageful of awards. In Virginia, they participate in a Jaguar Club and a Model A Ford Club and are also active with United Maltese Rescue. All of their Maltese are rescue dogs and one of the most enjoyable activities for the couple is annually hosting the UMR Annual Adopters’ Picnic in their yard. They are able to enjoy watching so many Maltese running and playing as their owners take pride in the good that the group performs for the breed. Janet also takes

Delilah to visit an adult day care center with their minister and her dog.

In Florida, the couple is in a British car club — a Fossil club, and the United States Power Squadrons — a boating safety organization. In Virginia, they have a large vegetable garden and grow many kinds of fruits and berries — Al is constantly working in the yard.

Many thanks to the Iagnemmos for being so devoted to Fairfax Pets on Wheels and sharing their Maltese dogs with the residents of The Virginian. They are enjoying an active and involved retirement!



By Madelynn Arnold

Sit/Stay

There are several common recommendations for dealing with problem barking while your dogs are at home alone. The five most common solutions are below.

When finding a solution, keep in mind that as the dog's trainer (or animal behaviorist), finding the function of the behavior is important. If the dog is barking because it is bored, providing something for the dog to do (e.g., a Kong™ filled with treats) may solve the problem. However, if the dog is barking because it has separation issues, that may require a completely different solution. Sometimes, the easiest solutions work, but for dogs that have established barking as a leisure-time activity, a simple solution does not always work.

Exercise. Make sure your dogs have an adequate amount of exercise before you leave in the morning. Tired dogs are more likely to want a quiet rest time. If possible, have a dog walker come to walk the dogs midday.

Toys, canine puzzles. There are a number of products that give the dog something to do. Treats can

be placed inside a Kong toy, and the dog will work to get the treats out. This is a behavior that is incompatible to barking.

Familiar sounds. A common suggestion by trainers for dogs that bark when owners are gone is to leave the dog with some familiar sounds such as a radio or television. The idea is that these approximate the household sounds when the owner is present.

Citronella collars. Citronella collars spray a burst of citronella when the dog barks. Citronella is made from the oils of lemongrass and it is often used in perfumes, candles and incense. This collar is seen as a humane alternative to shock bark collars.

There can be a problem when more than one dog is barking, and the collar is sometimes hard to fit on very small dogs. Online reviewers report that some dogs learn to bark in tones and frequencies the collar does not detect.

Anti-barking devices (non-collar). There are several anti-barking devices that do not involve collars. For example, the Dog Silencer Pro detects barks and sends a high-pitched sound that only dogs can hear. This device works with multiple dogs or a neighbor's outside barking dogs.

This article appeared in Citizen Canine, the blog of the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen Program. It is reprinted with permission.



Submitted by Liz Breyer

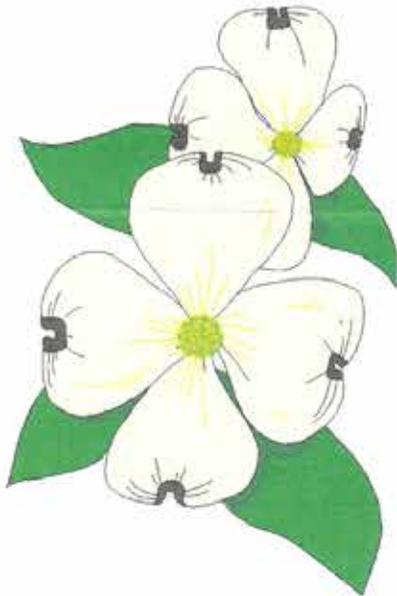
What Is MRSA?

Methicillin-resistant staph aureus (MRSA) is a bacteria that is highly resistant to commonly used antibiotics. While this bacteria has been found on dogs, it is currently considered a human problem only. Studies have shown that typically dogs that have tested positive for MRSA have been exposed to a human carrying the bacteria.

(Continued on page 6)

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Thanks for the Memory

■ In memory of Gwen Tierney, beloved mother of Lisa Baun. Gwen was a FPOW volunteer at Powhatan Nursing Home from 2003 to 2007. From Lisa Baun.

■ In memory of Gwen Tierney, beloved mother of Lisa Baun. Gwen was a FPOW volunteer at Powhatan Nursing Home. From Anne Trostel, Jacksonville, FL.

■ In memory of Gwen Tierney, beloved mother of my good friend Lisa Baun. From Sharon Knight, Portsmouth, VA.

■ In memory of Monster. He was the beloved German shepherd mix of Rebecca Melone. Rebecca wants FPOW to know "I love this organization." From Rebecca Melone.

■ In memory of Taylor, who was the beloved golden retriever of Steven Rockwell. From Steven Rockwell.

■ In memory of Strider, a beautiful German shepherd who was adopted and loved by Kim Batchellor. Strider loved to run and I have fond memories of him running along as Kim and I enjoyed many trail rides with our horses. Sadly, Strider was struck down by degenerative myelopathy. He kept his bright spirits but it was very hard for such an athletic dog to deal with the limitations of this disease. He will be missed by both Kim, to whom he was very devoted, and AC, his doggie companion. From Kim Wilkerson.

■ In memory of Kuttan, a toy Pomeranian, owned, loved, and missed by Dr. Shiva Makki and Dr. Geetha Nagarajan. Drs. Makki and Nagarajan chose to memorialize their beloved Kuttan through Fairfax Pets On Wheels. From Ann and Wade Gregory.

■ In memory of Trooper, a handsome German shepherd, who was adopted and loved by Allison and David Stover. Trooper especially enjoyed his playtime

with his golden retriever buddy, Romeo. He was a wonderful dog whose life was shortened by degenerative myelopathy. He will be missed by both David and Allison, to whom he was devoted. From Kim and Mark Wilkerson.

■ In memory of Patch, a much-loved 19-year-old domestic shorthair cat. Patch was cherished by Penny Flores and Ali Abbas. He will also be missed by his kitty pal, Artie, who is quite forlorn without him. Patch's quiet, dignified, handsome, and patient presence, as well as his companionship, will always be remembered fondly. As a dependable friend, this black and white cat has no rival. From Kim and Mark Wilkerson.

■ In memory of Bacal, the big, beautiful Bouvier de Flanders who shared her life with Deborah Zelten and Scott Carle. As a FPOW volunteer at Powhatan Nursing Home and Vinson Hall, Bacal brought lots of love and joy to numerous residents for many years. Bacal, always a gentle lady with perfect manners, was a great visitor and taught many other FPOW volunteers by her perfect example and exemplary behavior. She will be missed and will continue to be loved by Debbie and Scott and all of us at FPOW. From Kim and Mark Wilkerson.

■ In memory of Gracie, who was the much loved Labrador retriever of Glenn Daniels. Glenn lost both of her "girls" this year, Chelsea in March and Gracie in December. They are doubly missed. From Susie and Bob Duvall.

■ In honor of Snowy and Snuffy, two domestic shorthair cats loved by Gabriel Goldberg. He says, "What joy these critters bring!" From Gabriel Goldberg.

■ In honor of Lenny Dachshund and Squiggy Rat Terrier, just because they are soooo cute! From P. Rubinoff, Oakton, VA.

Visit www.fpow.org/tribute to make an online memorial or tribute donation.

Dates to Remember

BOD Meeting: March 3, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
Fairfax County Government Center
Pennino Building – Room 709

Newsletter Deadline: March 30, 2014

BOD Meeting: June 2, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
Fairfax County Government Center
Pennino Building – Room 709

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic: June 14, 2014, 12:00/Noon – Frying Pan Park Pavilion, Herndon, VA

Newsletter Deadline: June 30, 2014

These studies also have shown that when an otherwise healthy dog is no longer exposed to the person carrying MRSA, the dog will test negative for MRSA within a few weeks — without treatment. Dogs have their own version of MRSA known as methicillin-resistant staph pseudintermedius (MRSP).

While MRSP and MRSA are similar in many ways, MRSP is considered to be primarily a canine problem rather than a human one. These bacteria most commonly are transmitted by direct contact with a contaminated object, a person carrying MRSA, or a dog carrying MRSP.

Be sure you are familiar with the Isolation and/or Biohazard signs and signals used at your facility. Please contact your FPOW Facility Liaison if you have any questions or concerns about procedures in your facility.

Though treating drug-resistant bacteria is a complicated issue, following these simple

suggestions can help reduce risks to both humans as well as animals.

1) No dog with an open wound, active skin problem, or compromised immune system should be visiting residents. When in doubt, ask your veterinarian.

2) If you are concerned your pet has been exposed to MRSA or MRSP, bathe it in a chlorhexidine-based medicated shampoo. Lather the dog and allow the shampoo to stay on the skin for 5-10 minutes, then rinse thoroughly (don't forget the bottom of the paws!). This can be done weekly or as needed.

3) Routine hand-washing can significantly reduce the spread of these bacteria.

I hope this brief introduction has helped clarify some of the confusion about MRSA. Drug-resistant bacteria are a very real problem in the medical field.

A little bit of common sense and prevention can go a long way toward protecting not only our pets, but everyone else as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me or your regular veterinarian.



By Gregory Lawrence, DVM
Great Falls Animal Hospital

FPOW Is Thankful for Joan's "Retirement"

This past summer, I started volunteering in the Fairfax Pets On Wheels office at the Fairfax County Office. Since I recently retired, I thought that I could give some of my time to the organization and help them out. But what I'm finding is that they are helping me much more than I'm helping them.

This volunteer experience not only aided in my transition into retirement life, but it gives me a



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sense of belonging to a great group of dedicated volunteers who perform work that I never knew was done, and by so few people.

There is an enormous amount of record-keeping, tracking dates and data input that these few people manage to accomplish weekly without a blip in the operation of the Fairfax Pets On Wheels organization.

I am amazed each week when I arrive at the office to see another stack of information to go through or to input in the system. I am still learning what goes on behind the scenes of this valuable service we perform for our community.

However, I can say without a doubt that this group of office volunteers are the best kind of folks to work with and are more dedicated than anyone would imagine. I'm proud to be part of their team.



By Joan Violante

FPOW is grateful for Joan's dedication and to have her part of the FPOW office team. — Kim Wilkerson.



A Special THANK YOU to these businesses that featured our Donation Dawg in 2013:

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Great Falls Animal Hospital
Terrace Café
Vienna Pet Spaw
Kilroy's Restaurant
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Jerry's Barber Shop
Herndon Animal Medical Center

Dear FPOW,

I was just emailing you to let you know how I was doing after receiving the FPOW Founder's Scholarship. So far, school has been going great! I've been very busy with working full time as well, but as spring registration for classes is coming up, the scholarship money will definitely be going toward tuition.

My fiance, our dog, and I took part in the FPOW 3k dog walk this year, and our dog loved it and definitely enjoyed the puppy pool afterward. Thank you all again so much for this opportunity!

Sincerely,
Crystal Bailey



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Fairfax Pets
on Wheels, Inc

Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc., is a volunteer program working with the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, 12011 Government Center Parkway, #708, Fairfax, VA 22035-1104. FPOW Volunteer Hotline: (703) 324-5424. Visit www.fpow.org Please use the FPOW Hotline number for nonemergency calls if you are an FPOW volunteer or currently in the pipeline. Someone will either act on your message or return your call if more information is required.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT FPOW NEWSLETTER: March 30, 2014

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EDITORIAL POLICY

This is your newsletter. Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc., volunteers may contribute articles for publication. Articles will be reviewed by the editors. We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for publication. We cannot guarantee the return of documents or photos (if used). Because Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc., is under the sponsorship of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, the FPOW Newsletter must be approved by the FAAA prior to publication. Letters to the editor are welcome and encouraged. Letters must be signed, but if requested, your name will be withheld.

All correspondence should be directed to:

Fairfax Area Agency on Aging

Attention: FPOW Newsletter

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