



# Fairfax Pets On Wheels Fall Update

November 2014



## Perfect Fall Day for 19th Annual Paws for a Cause

The weather was crisp and the sun was bright for the Walk held on October 5. There were more than 125 walkers and pets at the event. Walkers received a gray shirt with the colorful design by Falls Church High School student, Greg Mills, that won the first annual design contest. There were doorprizes and cupcakes for those finishing the walk.

Many thanks to everyone who made the walk a success, again.

The Walk is FPOW's only fundraiser and make sure to mark your calendar for next year's walk on Sunday, October 4, 2015. See page 7 to view some photos from the day.

## State of FPOW 2013-14

Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc. continued its mission of "Helping to Lick Loneliness" for the 27th year. This was despite the challenge presented in having over 300 volunteers needing to be fingerprinted and having driver's license checks that the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging began requiring late last year. This process resulted in 92 volunteer teams resigning from the program and some rebuilding of FPOW volunteer numbers is needed.

Many thanks to FPOW volunteers who took the time to have fingerprints taken and submit the driver's license paperwork, in order to continue volunteering and devoting themselves to an often neglected segment of society.

During the year, more than 3,500 hours were provided to 14 facilities by over 147 volunteer teams. FPOW added a new facility during the year, Goodwin House in the Bailey's Crossroad

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area and lost one when Cameron Glen moved to Loudoun County in July. FPOW has continued visiting at three of the five adult day health care facilities whose volunteers are under the auspices of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging. These visits are conducted during the day in a group setting for the senior clients. More than 57 new volunteer teams have joined the program during 2013-14.

FPOW's United Way application was accepted for inclusion in the United Way of the National Capital Area Campaign – remember to designate #8097 when pledging. FPOW was also in the Combined Federal Campaign (#51148). Fundraising through United Way and CFC is crucial to FPOW's bottom line and some of this giving has been effected by the sequester and lowered donations overall in giving to charities.

Speakers' Bureau members made presentations at numerous United Way fundraising events, to the Arlington Animal Rescue League, and a local Girl Scout troop. In addition, the Speakers' Bureau manned information booths at the Reston Pet Fiesta, Northern Virginia Jewish Community Center, and Venturing into Volunteering. We were featured in an article in the regional Connection newspapers' Senior Supplement. FPOW volunteers participated in filming a video for the Center for Pet Safety, which is working on testing safety restraints for dogs in their owners' cars.

FPOW's 18th Annual 3K Paws for a Cause dog walk was held in October 2013 and over \$4,000 was raised for the program. There were over 150 walkers and their pets despite the showery conditions on walk day. Plans are underway for the 19th annual walk on October 5, 2014. FPOW held a contest for the Walk t-shirt design which was won by a local high school art student.

FPOW expanded its AKC Therapy Dog Titling program in addition to the Therapy Dog Title (dog is eligible for this title after 100 hours of visiting as an FPOW volunteer). Newly added are Novice title (a dog is eligible after 20 hours of FPOW visiting), Advanced title (a dog is eligible after 200 hours of FPOW visiting), Excellent title (a dog is eligible af-

ter 400 hours of FPOW visiting), and Distinguished title (a dog is eligible after 800 hours of FPOW visiting). All dogs – purebred and mixed breed – are eligible to earn the Therapy Dog titles.

FPOW continues to work with Kris Higgins of GoodbyeFilms to create a video that will be shown to prospective volunteers at our monthly Orientation sessions. Two segments dealing with the temperament tests have been finished. Footage was shot at the annual picnic and volunteers were interviewed and it is hoped that the new video will be completed shortly.

In June, FPOW had its annual picnic at Frying Pan Park in Herndon. Many thanks to Kathi Baker, Director, Volunteer Appreciation, and her team of helpers for making the event so special. In addition to Kathi, Robin Burkett of PawPrints Photography took great photographs for our FPOW pet trading cards and pet portraits. King Creole Catering provided yummy food, and DJ Michael Galvin provided the music and master of ceremony services.

At the event, FPOW recognized 12 volunteers for giving between 50 and 74 hours to the program, four volunteers for giving between 75 and 99 hours to the program, and 11 volunteers for giving 100 or more hours to the program. Winners of the Latshaw Award for Excellence were FPOW Volunteers Liz Breyer and Laurie Stone, as well as, "FPOW DJ" Michael Galvin as a Corporate winner. The Shauna Award went to Lit'l Duke Patton, Terry Patton's Boston Terrier, who was awarded posthumously. Thanks to the Awards Committee – Pat Leader, Tracy Van Duston, and Joan Violante for selecting the winners from many deserving nominees. Thanks again to everyone who had a part in making this event special for the more than 100 human and pets volunteers who attended.

There are always so many people to thank for their devoted efforts that make FPOW successful. One group that deserves recognition is the staff of the FPOW office – Ruth Benker, Jill Davidson, Carla Graham, and Joan Violante – for their dedication to the many tasks and all the paperwork that make our program happen.

# Thanks for the Memory

■ In memory of Virginia Haley, beloved 105 year old Mother of Andra Krause and long time resident of Iliff Nursing Home. A special thanks to the nurses and staff of Iliff for always being there for their residents. From Janice Budney, Niagara Falls, NY.

■ In memory of Max and Zoe, the much loved Pug dogs of Frank and Lanelle Kyle and family. Max and Zoe provided many years of companionship and unconditional love to their human family. The Kyles know that Max and Zoe are now at the Rainbow Bridge healthy, happy, and at peace. From Susie and Bob Duvall.

Visit [www.fpow.org/tribute](http://www.fpow.org/tribute) to make an online memorial or tribute donation.

The facility liaisons provide the critical link between FPOW and our facilities; each facility has its own set of challenges and circumstances that are unique in providing pet visitation to its residents. Our liaisons are always willing and able to do what it takes to offer our services to the residents and help our volunteers meet the challenges of visiting.

The Temperament Testing Committee members always have their hands full, making sure that every pet that becomes an FPOW volunteer has the ability to be an ambassador for our program. The testing team members have to be incredibly diplomatic when informing owners of potential pet volunteers that their pet is not compatible with visiting.

Also thanks to the 2013 – 2014 Board of Directors who helped me along as I continued in my role as President of the Board. The Board was always will-

ing to help with the many tasks involved in running a program with over 300 volunteers both two- and four-legged. They also completed the review of FPOW's Policy and Procedures making sure that the program runs smoothly and the review is often a bit tedious but the policies and procedures are current until the next review in four years. The Board was able to move FPOW forward and meet new challenges.

Thanks to the staff of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging Volunteer Solutions and the Ombudsman Program. FPOW's partnership with the Agency has allowed volunteers to bring meaningful interactions with the residents of the 14 facilities and the Day Care Centers we serve.

Finally, thanks to you, our volunteers who make time in your busy lives to reach out to the residents.

You are not always aware of the good that you are doing by taking that time and visiting with your pet. Fairfax Pets On Wheels is truly a wonderful way of sharing your pet's love with other people.

Madelynn Arnold  
September 30, 2014



## Dave Martin: Volunteer Spotlight

Our Volunteer Spotlight is on Dave Martin who visits at Iliff Nursing Home in Vienna with his



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## Dates to Remember

**Newsletter Deadlines: January 31, June 30 and October 31, 2015.**

**BOD Meeting: March 2, 2015 7:00 p.m. – Fairfax County Government Center – Pennino Building, 12011 Government Center Pkwy, Room 709, Fairfax, VA 22035**

Best Friend Forever, Bouvier de Flandres, Boo. Dave grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and attended Ohio State University and graduated with a law degree from the College of Law at OSU. He spent two years in New York City as a VISTA Volunteer before moving to Arlington. He recently retired from the National Labor Relations Board, after 43 years.

Growing up in Cleveland, Dave had a dog — a boxer named Dickie. His aunt actually operated a kennel where she raised dogs — including boxers — and he loved to visit her and play with all the many dogs. Dave has always loved dogs and wanted to have another dog but did not have enough time or enough room. When he moved to the Washington area in 1971, he settled in Arlington — first in an apartment and then a house with a very small yard. So, he held off getting a dog.

Dave had read an article about a Bouvier des Flandres and decided that if he ever lived somewhere with a nice large yard, he would get a Bouvier. So, after moving to Oakton in 2003 and getting a big yard, Dave and his wife, Willow, added Boo and Annie to the household. Boo is a 10-year-old who arrived on the scene as a puppy in early 2004. He is about 70 pounds and a beautiful dog. Boo rarely visits Iliff or anywhere else without someone saying “oh, what a beautiful dog.” Dave and his wife have two Bouviers — Boo and Annie. Annie arrived at their home as a puppy in early 2006. Boo is an “ambassador of goodwill” who loves to make new friends. He is thus a perfect fit for FPOW. Annie is a stern guard dog — a bit too

stern to be a FPOW volunteer. So, Annie guards the house when Boo and Dave head off to visit Iliff.

Dave first heard about FPOW through an ad in the Fairfax edition of the *Washington Post*. Then a bit later, Boo was taking a “combo” dog class, a sort of refresher course for dogs, taught by Janice Morton. Another lady in the class was a FPOW volunteer, and she told Dave about her rewarding experiences with FPOW and she encouraged him to sign up with Boo. Boo and Dave have been involved in FPOW, visiting Iliff, for over five years. Dave believes that Boo is currently the dog who has been visiting Iliff for the longest period of time.

Dave enjoys FPOW because it offers him a chance to help others. Best of all, he gets to do it with Boo. With Boo along, it's easy to approach the seniors at Iliff and, on occasion, the children at Iliff in its pediatric unit. People are generally eager to meet Boo — find out what kind of dog he is and learn more about him. Often he encounters someone new who asks about Boo and who looks perplexed when he responds about his breed. But a light goes on when he says “Bouvier — spelled the same way as Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy’s maiden name.”

Boo and Dave have made many special senior friends at Iliff, but the most memorable experiences have involved the children that reside in the fa-



cility for long-term pediatric care. Last year, as Boo and Dave were leaving the Halloween Party, a staff person asked them if they could stop and visit the children for a few minutes as they were playing in the play area just beyond the Iliff lobby. One little girl was sitting in a chair in the play area but she was not playing or communicating with the other children. The team walked up to her and Boo and the girl got into a staring match. Then, Boo gave the little girl a big lick on the side of her cheek. In response, the little girl started petting Boo gently — and the staff person was so pleased that she clapped her hands in appreciation.

When Dave puts a bandana on Boo - he knows he's going to work and he's eager to go. When the team arrives, he pulls to go in the front door of Iliff and see who might be in the lobby to greet him. Dave is motivated to go visit Iliff regularly because he knows how much Boo enjoys seeing his many fans at Iliff — and how much his fans enjoy seeing him. Boo knows that when his bandana goes on he is going to “work,” the only place he wears his FPOW bandana is when he goes to visit at Iliff. Boo is a very good ballplayer, Dave usually brings a rubber ball when they visit. He entertains young and old alike at Iliff by showing his prowess at catching the ball — he rarely misses the ball.

Dave has now retired but Boo has not. As long as Boo is healthy enough, the team will continue to visit Iliff regularly. Before retirement they only had time to visit on weekends, but now they will be able to visit on weekdays. This will allow Boo to make even more new friends — especially among the children. Dave states, “FPOW provides a very valuable service to seniors - that is what it does well. FPOW adds a little joy to folks who need a little joy.”

We are glad that it all worked out, a larger yard, a favorite breed of dog, a well-deserved retirement, and a great volunteer team for FPOW!

Madelynn Arnold



## My Fellow Pets

I'd like to relate a recent experience I had with “Mr. Wheels” who takes me to visit all my friends at Commonwealth most Tuesday afternoons. How do I know it's Tuesday? Wheels does the gym on Tuesday mornings. When he returns I reluctantly permit him to have breakfast. I understand he needs to eat, but I've already eaten and am ready to go. If he takes too long I dance around the door, bark, do whatever I need to do to get him moving. I must see my friends !! FINALLY, we're off.

Well, on one visit, Wheels met a new resident, Mary, and her family. The family noted how much Mary loved dogs. In fact, Mary had been a dog groomer.

Well, when I met Mary and her family, they went bonkers over me. I'm an Old English Sheepdog and Mary's specialty was grooming Old English Sheepdogs! Mary gave Wheels advice on how to control the knots in my long coat, brush them out, keep my coat fluffy, and trim my nails and the hair balls in my feet. Finally, someone who understood how to groom a fine lady like me! And, even better, she checked how well Wheels was using her advice.

I returned the favor by putting my front paws on Mary's bed, giving her kisses and letting her give me the best pets I ever had. Wow! Her family petted me, stroked my coat, shook my paw and enjoyed me as well. I hated to say good-by.

On following visits, I insisted we first go visit Mary. You all know how it is when you have a special friend. But over time, Mary became sicker and sicker and our meetings became shorter. Bummer. But, they all always wanted to know when Wheels would bring me back.

Then one day, Mary was no longer in her room. I overheard one of the nurses telling Wheels, Mary had died and the family wanted to let us know. They told Wheels where and when funeral would be. I figured Mary and her family thought I was special to them.

Well, the funeral day came. Wheels, was his normal oblivious self! Again, you know how your wheels are. Sigh. I insisted Wheels take me to see my friend one last time. When we arrived, we got a lot of strange looks. But, Wheels explained why we were here. The family and all of Mary's friends were just overcome by me being there. I couldn't figure it out. She was a dear friend (only exceeded by my Wheels family). Isn't that what we're supposed to do? We dutifully, took a back pew seat.

When the service was over and the sanctuary was emptied, we went up to Mary's casket, I sat and I said my last goodbyes to Mary. It broke me up (and I understand, Wheels, Mary's family, and the other folks as well).

Afterward, the family and friends, petted me, shook my paw and thanked me for being there. It meant a lot to them.

So my fellow Pets (even cats, grrr), we are the reason FPOW exists. Residents depend on us. We bring joy and happiness to folks who can't wait to see us again.



Let's keep up our good work. We are special. Even if we have to tolerate the wheels.

Mia Amica Doehring

## AKC Awards Title

FPOW is pleased to announce that Abby, Kathi Baker's sheltie, has received the AKC Therapy Dog Distinguished title in September 2014.

## 9th Annual Pet Photo Contest – Happiness Is ...

Please participate in our photo contest by submitting your favorite pet photo which captures the theme, "Happiness Is ..."

See if you can be one of our eight winners; first through fourth place plus four honorable mentions. Before January 1, 2015, send your digital pet photos to: [fpowphotocontest@cox.net](mailto:fpowphotocontest@cox.net). No professional photography. Enter as many different photos as you like but please send each entry in a separate email.

To be considered, your entry MUST include:

1. Your name, 2. Your pet's name, 3. Facility where you volunteer, 4. Phone number. Feel free to provide an optional caption for your pic.

Winners will be announced at the March 2015 board meeting and showcased on [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org).

## Halloween at Arden Courts

On October 29th the residents of Arden Courts Fair Oaks enjoyed a group visit featuring the Halloween costumes on the dogs from FPOW.

Also attending were Cinnamon the poodle as a Xmas present with Diane Devick, and Train the dachshund as a hotdog with Jennifer Campbell.



*Tamar the purple Cheetah and Brie the Princess with Su Hatcher, Jared the pumpkin with Linda Koczera, and Mo the pumpkin with Mary Kurtenbach. Brie's mom Nina Miller took the picture.*



**A big thank you to Deb and Roger Clark, owners of Weber's Pet Supermarket for providing FPOW with a location and other much needed support for Paws for a Cause for the past 19 years!**

Fairfax - 703-385-3766  
11021 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030

Herndon - 703-476-3536  
2599 John Milton Drive, Herndon, VA 20171

Chantilly - 703-631-2738  
14508-G Lee Road, Chantilly, VA 20151

Your Dog's Best Friend - McLean - 703-356-7437  
1323 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101

To view all 2014 walk pictures, visit [www.fpow.org/events](http://www.fpow.org/events)





## Are A Breed Apart

Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.  
Fairfax Area Agency on Aging  
12011 Government Center Parkway, #708  
Fairfax, VA 22035-1104



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](http://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: January 31, 2015

### FAIRFAX PETS ON WHEELS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

12011 Government Center Parkway, #708

Fairfax, VA 22035-1104

(703) 324-5411

Email:

[dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov)



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