Canine Capers

A Publication of the Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club

CECIL COUNTY RECEIVES AKC PET RELIEF TRAILERS

By Adelma Gregory-Bunnell agregory@cecilwhig.com | Posted: Tuesday, May 6, 2014 5:47 pm

ELKTON — Thanks to a recent donation, Cecil County will have a way to care for displaced pets in case of a catastrophic flood or other disaster.
The American Kennel Club (AKC) Cecil/Harford Chapter partnered with Cecil County De
partment of Emergency Services to acquire a pet shelter trailer from AKC Reunite on Tuesday afternoon.
AKC Reunite started the program last year as a way to provide a safe haven for citizens and their pets in the event of a disaster. It was well received, and the trailers are rolling out across the United States.
"It all started after Hurricane Katrina when there was thousands of abandoned pets after the storm," said Mary Lou Olszewski, AKC Delegate for Cecil/Harford Chapter. "It has taken months and years to find placements for all of the animals."
Cecil County is the first county in the state to receive a Pet Disaster Relief Trailer from AKC Reunite.
"When our emergency operation center opens a shelter and people arrive at shelters, they are arriving with husband, wife, children and their pets. We accept

that responsibility and we take it very seriously," said Richard Brooks, director of the Cecil County Department of Emergency Services. "Today, A Buddy for Life is fully engaged in the planning in our emergency operation plans. This is going to be an integral part of that. This will be added into the plan as a resource."

UPCOMING EVENTS

COMING SOON!

QUARTERLY QUOTE

- *"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole."*
  -Roger Caras (photographer and writer)

PET RELIEF TRAILERS

The trailer will house generators, crates, bowls, litter boxes and other supplies for 50 animals or more. The trailer was made possible by a $22,000 grant and donations from Northeastern Maryland, English Setter Association and other clubs.

"Hopefully, we will never have to use it, but it is there if we need it," County Executive Tari Moore said. "Our loved ones are not just human beings; our loved ones are our pets, and this will enable us to take care of them with a peace of mind until the emergency is over."

Buddy for Life Co-Executive Director Jenn Callahan was happy with the new trailer.

"It is a great opportunity for the citizens and the animals in the time of disaster," Callahan said. "We are very happy with this donation to our county."

MARYLAND CREATES SPAY-NEUTER PROGRAM

Program Background

The Need Identified

The Maryland Spay/Neuter Program was conceived and initiated by Maryland Votes for Animals (MVFA). Their first step was to meet with a powerful member of the Maryland General Assembly, Speaker of the House, Michael Busch, where they discussed the need for a state spay/neuter program and requested his support. After drafting a white paper outlining the problem and solution, Maryland Votes for Animals—working with the Speaker's staff—determined that the problem was too complex to design a program without a task force to study the issue and make recommendations. Having Speaker Busch's support at the very beginning of the process was critical, and he was a strong supporter of the legislation when it was finally introduced.

The Task Force

The Spay and Neuter Task Force was created by an act of the Maryland General Assembly in 2011 (Chapter 266, Senate Bill 639) and signed into law by Governor Martin O'Malley.

With leadership provided by Del. Barbara Frush and Sen. Joanne Benson and made up of representatives from animal control agencies, humane societies, spay/neuter groups, the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, and the Maryland Department of Agriculture the Task Force was charged to:

Collect and review data on the number of spay/neuter services performed each year in the State and the unmet need for the services;

Review ongoing successful local spay/neuter programs in the State;

Review spay/neuter programs in other states and identify best practices;

Review and make recommendations regarding the most appropriate funding mechanism for spay/neuter fund; and

Make recommendations regarding the establishment of a spay/neuter fund that best meets the needs of the State.

Results of the Task Force's Final Report confirmed Maryland's urgent need for a statewide spay/neuter program to reduce shelter intake and euthanasia rates in Maryland.

The Report indicates approximately 1/2 of the cats and 1/3 of the dogs in Maryland's shelter populations are euthanized for reasons other than owner requested euthanasia.

The intake, housing, and killing of these animals is costing Maryland taxpayers millions of dollars and a statewide spay/neuter program has huge potential to benefit animals in facilities across the state, and Maryland taxpayers, and low income pet owners.

Follow this link to see the full report: Task Force Final Report (2012).pdf http://mda.maryland.gov/about_mda/Documents/SNAB/Task%20Force%20Final%20Report%20%282012%29.pdf

The Law

With information gathered by the Task Force Final Report, Maryland Votes for Animals, together with Legislators in Maryland and other groups developed and introduced Senate Bill 820 (SB 820 / HB 767) to the General Assembly in Maryland.

This bill called for the development of a Spay and Neuter Grants Program that would result in affordable spay and neuter services throughout the state and ultimately reduce shelter intake and euthanasia rates. The bill also called for quarterly surveys

MARYLAND SPAY-NEUTER

of shelters run by county or municipal governments or non-profit facilities providing animal control services on behalf of local jurisdictions to track any changes in intake and euthanasia rates as the grants program is underway.

Senate Bill 820 passed on April 4th 2013 and was signed by Gov. Martin O'Malley on May 16th, 2013.

To see more specifics on the voting history of this bill, check out:

OPEN STATES - about MD SB820
http://openstates.org/md/bills/2013/SB820/

General Assembly of Maryland - SB820 (CH0561)
http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=billpage&tab=subject3&id=sb0820&stab=01&ys=2013RS

To read the full Senate Bill follow the link: Senate Bill 820.pdf
http://mda.maryland.gov/about_mda/Documents/SNAB/Senate%20Bill%20820.pdf

The Regulations
As part of Senate Bill 820, the Secretary of Agriculture appointed a Spay and Neuter Advisory Board, to help formulate the regulations and guidelines and to provide funding recommendations to the Secretary. One of the main tasks of the Spay and Neuter Advisory Board was to help MDA formulate the regulations for implementing Senate Bill 820.

The Regulations (.01 — .10, under a new Chapter Code of Maryland [COMAR] 15.01.10 Spay/Neuter Grant Program) explain the requirements for the Spay/Neuter Grant program that is established to assist in the reduction of animal shelter overpopulation, and cat and dog euthanasia rates by financing grants to local governments and qualifying animal welfare organizations for programs, on a competitive basis, that will effectively facilitate and promote spay and neuter services for cats and dogs.

The Regulations were adopted June 23, 2014.

Follow this link to see the Regulations 15.01.10.00 (Spay Neuter Grant Program) on COMAR:

COMAR
http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/SubtitleSearch.aspx?search=15.01.10

Program Funding
Funding for this program comes wholely from fees paid by the pet food industry. As mandated by SB820, a fee is levied on all pet food companies that sell their product(s) in the state. In the first year, companies paid $50.00/product. In 2014 the fee increases to $75.00/product and in 2015, the fee is capped at $100/product.

SAINT BERNARDS COMFORT FIRST RESPONDERS

BOSTON—Just before the anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombings, the city is still reeling from the loss of two firefighters in a nine alarm fire on Beacon Street.
Many of those who responded to the fire had also been called to action in the aftermath of the bombings.
For Boston, it seems like one traumatic event after another.
For the first responders, every day, for the 350 days in between the marathons, they arrived at work, not knowing if they would return home.
That kind of ongoing stress takes its toll, according to William Hamilton, chaplain for the Massachusetts State Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.
Events of the magnitude of the 2013 attack bring the danger inherent in the job to the forefront, according to Hamilton. "They get it. They know that they are in harm's way. It is always there, not that they talk about it a lot, but it is always there," he said.
It is their dedication in the face that daily fear that makes them heroes, says Hamilton. "That's what it is all about, rising above ourselves to do the good that we can do," he said.
Comfort and Coping
Lt. William R. Gordon of the Greenfield Police Department and his wife, Officer Laura Gordon, run the first therapy dog team to focus on the needs of first responders and rescue personnel.
Lt. Gordon suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from, "cumulative events consisting of a series of tragic deaths and failed extended rescues," in the line of duty, he said.
Gordon sought treatment for his PTSD at the On-Site Academy in Gardner, Mass. They provide treatment for rescue personnel who are temporarily overwhelmed by job stress.
"When I was going through my treatment I started using my dog, Rosie" he said.
Gordon began bringing Rosie to On-Site Academy. "We realized that she was not just helping me, she was helping the other police officers," he said.
What began as a personal means of coping quickly grew into a different type of first responding: The Gordons and their dog team now bring relief and comfort to the front lines.

SAINT BERNARDS

"It has become my mission in life. My mission in life is to help the people who help others," he said.

'A Positive Distraction'

In 2012 Hamilton went down to Newtown, Conn., as a part of a team responding to the shootings at the Sandy Hook Elementary School. Familiar with Gordon's work, Hamilton invited Gordon to join him in Newtown.

"Everyone wanted to pet the dog, everyone wanted to take their picture with the dog, and for a moment you could feel the tension let up." Hamilton said.

Rosie found her way through the crowded emergency operations center in Newtown to an ATF agent who was trying to type his report.

"To do this he has to relive the past few days," Laura Gordon said. "She went over to him, and with one hand he is typing, with the other hand he is petting the dog. It was what he needed to get his work done."

Gordon explained PTSD with an image right out of Animal Planet: "Have you ever seen an antelope being attacked by a lion? The first thing he does is run, that is flight. Then if they get caught they start kicking, that is called fight. When "fight and flight" doesn't work you go into what is called "dissociation," according to Gordon.

"We try to break that cycle of dissociation, with distraction. We don't bring small dogs, we bring Saint Bernards," he said.

Alan Beck, director of the Center for the Human-Animal Bond at Purdue University, was one of the first to study the connection between humans and animals.

"One way that we deal with the world is to have a positive distraction. Something that holds our attention without being too stimulating," he said in an interview with WBAA, Public Radio from Purdue.

This positive distraction is what Gordon sees when he brings his dogs into a crisis situation.

"They go from watching the house burn down to petting the dog. Breaking the cycle is important in preventing the PTSD," he said.

The Greenfield Police Department is the first in the country to have therapy dogs as a part of the force, just like the drug- and bomb-sniffing dogs. Rosie and Clarence were given their badges in June 2013.

Hamilton has been counseling first responders for 32 years. His experience with the Gordons in Newtown prompted him to get his own therapy dog: Ted Ted. 140-Pound Lap Dog

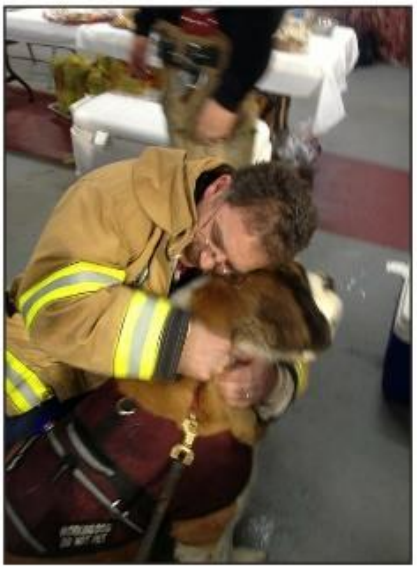
"He is 140 pounds of lap dog," Hamilton said. "He is a Saint Bernard who thinks he's a Shih Tzu."

In less than a year of working with Ted Ted, Hamilton has felt the positive effect on his own life. "I lost 50 pounds."

Laura Gordon credits Rosie for bringing her husband back to the family. "When he was going through his worst times, the dissociation, she could bring him back from that," she said.

In Hamilton's experience it really works: "People are hurting and they are still doing their jobs.

"This is not heaven. It's not hell either, though people like to think it is. But we get those moments of light and joy that allow us to carry on," Hamilton said. Sometimes, that joy comes in a big furry package with a wet nose.



KUDOS! YAY! CONGRATULATIONS! WAY TO GO! GOOD JOB!

- Joan Hamilton-Lassie's White Lightning, HIT (Skylar) and Lassie's Ray of Light, HIT (Sydney) both passed their herding instinct test at Dawgwood Farm's Herding Day on May 6. Skylar took to herding sheep like a duck to water, while Sydney started slow but picked it up very quickly.
- Debra Warfield-Oak-Hill White Christmas CD, BN, RE placed 3rd in Rally Excellent B with a 97, and 3rd in Rally Advanced B with a 96, earning his second leg towards his RAE at the Old Dominion Kennel Cub trial in Timonium, MD on April 21.
- Stephen Skolnik-Ch Aran Isles Scolaidhies Mon Cherie of Irish Rose took BOS at the Chesapeak Irish Terrier Club Specialty on April 26 in Timonium.
- Hannah Ward-Gch Ernhart's Like a Rolling Stone CGCA, BN, RN, CD finished his CD with a 194 and 2nd place and earned the first two legs of his RA with scores of 96 and 98 at the Catoctin and Old Dominion trials in Timonium on April 19th and 21st.

MORE BRAGS!

- Debbie & Ed Heydt- In April a litter of 4 male and 2 female Havanese were born to Lilli Mae de Grace and GrCh Surluv Lilkid Larrgo de Grace. Larrgo earned his Silver GrCh with 13 BOB wins out of 15 shows at the age of 2 years.
- Guy Long-Glory received a "Volunteer Certificate" from the Calvert Manor Rehab and Health Center on April 14 along with owner, Guy. They visit residents every month. Guy and Glory have been doing this for six years at Calvert Manor.
- Joyce Engle-Raebeth Devinwood Angel in Disguise just returned to the ring on April 19th, and on April 20th she took Reserve Winners Bitch at the Baltimore County Kennel Club show in Timonium, MD.
- Norma Ryan-Gch Tigh O'Tykes enjoyed a successful Memorial Day weekend at the Blue Ridge Cluster in Fletcher, NC, taking BOB and Group 3 on day 1, BOB and Best Owner Handler/Terrier Group on day 2, BOB and Group 2 on day 3, and wrapping it up with a BOS on day 4.
- Lyn Skillman-NLS President Madison L Storm, RN earned four qualifying scores at the Old Line State Dog Club (UKC) trial on May 10th and 11th. Saturday he earned a 97 in Trial 1, and 95 in Trial 2. Sunday he earned a 93 in Trial 1 and 97 in Trial 2.
- Dawn Rexrode-U-CH Phoenix' Dragon of Dunaverty, CGC whelped four males and one female on April 24. This litter is a result of a surgical AI, using frozen semen from a 22 year old collection. Many thanks again to the staff of Olney-Sandy Springs Veterinary Hospital for helping to make this possible.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

The first place winner is Rachel Lovell. With a $2000.00 scholarship.
Enrolled at Univ of Fla-exotic animals and wildlife. She is working as a vet tex and has fostered dogs to be adop. and has worked with Luna's house as a vol. She has traveled to S Africa and Portuguese to work and vol as a vet-tex. Would like to be a exotic vet someday. She would also like to educate people to understand about the behavier of animals in order to help them.
The second place winner is Kathryn Bell. With a $1000.00 scholarship. She was last years winner. Enrolled at Frostburg St. Univ. She has a 4.0 grade average in pre-vet biology. Has worked in New Zealand and has worked with small animals. She wants to work at Plumpton Zoo this summer to make a difference in helping with the animals housed there. She has a lot of hands on experience.

Thanks Lyn Skillman
Scholarship Chairperson

IF TEARS COULD BUILD A STAIRWAY…

…And Memories a Lane

I'd Walk Right Up to Heaven

And Bring You Home Again.

August 2005 – Sept. 2014.

Kismet will be remembered for the truly wonderful Irish Wolfhound that he was! Joanne's pride and joy!