





POA, Inc. · 144 Main St., East Hartford, CT 06118

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
HARTFORD CT  
PERMIT NO 5123

## We want to help!



Fixing your dog or cat is good for you and your pet! And the cost of surgery should not be an obstacle. There are many low-cost options to fix companion animals across Connecticut and in neighboring states.

Fixing early is safe, easy and the best way to go!  
Affordable options are available!

Visit [www.spayct.org](http://www.spayct.org) or  
call: **844-SPAYCT1 - 844-772-9281**



**SPAYCONNECTICUT**

A program of Protectors of Animals, Inc.



# POA News

P R O T E C T O R S O F A N I M A L S

V O L U M E 1 4 · I S S U E 2 · S U M M E R 2 0 1 4

## Do you love cats & dogs?

Protectors of Animals, Inc. is looking for volunteers for the following positions:

- Adoption Counselors
- Animal Care
- Animal Socialization
- Dog Training & Handling
- Transportation
- Fund Raising
- Foster Care Homes
- Medication Team Members

## We need your help!

We will train in all positions. POA is a non-profit, primarily volunteer, no kill organization which rescues abandoned, stray and impounded cats & dogs. Call 860-569-0722



Look inside (page 6) to find out why Roopa Rajaramadoss coordinates POA's fundraising committee and how one of these dogs was Michelle Dixon's inspiration to get involved!



## POA Joins in the One Million PIBBLE March

On May 10th, 2013, Rebecca Corry photographed her Pit Bull Terrier Angel in front of the White House with a sign that read "Mr. President, Be Our Voice." On May 3, 2014, one year after photographing Angel in front of the White House, Rebecca initiated a march in Washington, D.C. of approximately three thousand people in the One Million PIBBLE March. The march culminated in a rally on the West Lawn of the United States Capitol, complete with the singing of the National Anthem. POA volunteers Mindy Baller, Anya Brunschwag, Christine Penney, Amy Gagnon, Ellen Maurer, Jennifer Wright, Steve Black, Noelle Fairclough, Kristin Gibson, Lisa Barnett and her daughter Danielle, were there to march and lend their voices in support!

Corry, who refers to Pit Bulls Terriers as Pibbles, is the founder of the Stand Up For Pits Foundation. The foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to



Rebecca Corry's "Pibble" Angel poses in front of the White House.

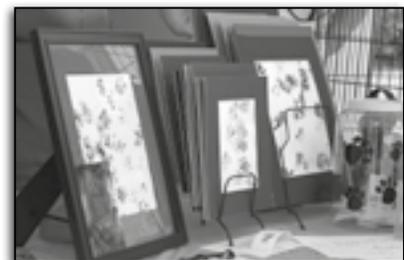
saving Pit Bull Terriers, a type of dog that actually includes five or so breeds, through events, entertainment, education, advocating and front-lines rescue. One of the key messages of Stand Up For Pits is that breed-specific legislation (BSL) is ineffective and wrong.

*Continued on page 2*

## POA's Kittens Showered with Love and Gifts

POA's kittens surely felt the love at our first-ever Kitten Shower held June 8th at Pets Supplies Plus located at 1142 Silas Dean Highway in Wethersfield. Each year, the pitter patter of little paws brings a huge need for kitten items and donations. The event was held to shower these bundles of joy with items needed to care for them until they are ready for adoption.

Each year in late spring and early summer, we receive an influx of kittens and pregnant or nursing mom cats. Last year alone, more than 350 kittens were rescued



Original artwork created by pawsome POA kittens!

and placed into loving homes. POA's network of loving foster homes provides consistent and quality care to mother

*Continued on page 6*

**POA NEWS IS A PUBLICATION OF**

Protectors of Animals, Inc.  
144 Main St., East Hartford, CT 06118  
and is published four times a year.

**NEWSLETTER STAFF**

Kerry Bartoletti, Sushama Dhakite,  
Susan Dimmock, Stacey Doan,  
Ron Plante, and Gregory M. Simpson.

**POA PHONE NUMBERS**

Cat Adoption: 860-569-0722  
Dog Adoption: 860-569-0722

**POA BOARD MEMBERS**

Jody Macrina (President), Stacey Doan (Vice President), Sara Taylor (Secretary), Zachary Stewart (Treasurer), JoAnn Azzara, Debbie Nichols, Ron Plante, Jordan Price, Greg Simpson, Roopa Rajaramadoss, and Mukesh Sharma

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

John C. Thomas

**POA MEETINGS**

Meetings are held in May and October on the third Tuesday of these months at 7:30 pm at the POA Adoption Center, 144 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06118  
Phone: 860-569-0722.

Members are welcome to attend.

The annual meeting is held on the third Tuesday in May with officer elections held every-other year. The next officer elections are in May 2014.

Visit us on the web at [www.poinc.org](http://www.poinc.org) or [www.petfinder.org](http://www.petfinder.org) and follow the links to Protectors of Animals, Inc. in East Hartford, CT.

**WE HONOR THE FOUNDING WOMEN OF PROTECTORS OF ANIMALS, INC.**

Dru Harder  
Trudy Samsom  
Hildur Sullivan

**EVENT & FUNDRAISING  
SUMMER 2014 EVENTS**

Event	Date & Time	Location	Host
Dream Ride 2014	Sun., Aug. 24 8am - 5pm	The Farmington Club 162 Town Farm Road Farmington	The Dream Ride Experience
PetSmart National Adoption Weekend	Sept. 12	PetSmart Putnam Plaza 5 Main St. East Hartford	PetSmart POA Attending

In addition to the events above:

Cat Shelter Saturday Hours Open House, 144 Main St., Unit O, E. Hartford

Every Saturday 10:30am - 4pm

Other days & evenings by appointment.

POA Dog Meet & Greet every 1st and 3rd Saturday at PetSmart, 5 Main St. E. Hartford

**POA PIBBLE March** - *Continued from page 1*



*POA Pibble supporters make their way to the West Lawn of the US Capitol.*

BSL is the blanket term for laws that either regulate or even ban certain breeds, in the hopes of reducing dog attacks. Pit Bull Terriers in particular are often targeted, but so are other breeds, including American Bulldogs, Mastiffs, Dalmatians, Chow Chows, German Shepherds, and Doberman Pinschers. In Denver, CO, for example, Pits Bulls are banned; if you move there already owning one, you must surrender it.

The POA contingent rented a van and made the eight-hour trip to D.C. the night before march. They even got to stay in the same hotel as the event's keynote speakers, and had the opportunity to get to know both the speakers and the pets who had accompanied them. (These dogs were the only pets allowed at the event.)

POA volunteers attended the march to help bring attention and awareness to BSL.

The ultimate purpose of the event was, as its website states, "to inspire, educate and create safer, more humane communities for humans and pets." Pit bulls are often the target of abuse, sometimes being forced to fight for sport, which can result in volatile behavior. They subsequently sometimes become dangerous to other animals and to people. At the heart of the march, then, was the belief, endorsed by POA, that "through education and effective solutions we can fix this social pandemic and provide a safe society for future generations of humans and animals alike." This was the first time POA volunteers made such an advocacy "field trip," and they look forward to another opportunity!

For more information about Stand Up For Pits, visit [www.standupforpits.us!](http://www.standupforpits.us!)



# Memorial Donations, "In Honor of" Donations and Contributions

**Memorial Donations** - People often want to do something special in recognition of a significant event. It might be a happy occasion like a birthday or anniversary tribute. It might be in times of sadness: the death of a family member, friend or beloved animal. All memorial and pet memorial names are listed in a special section of POA News.

**"In Honor of" Donations** - In Honor of Donations are a special way to give tribute to family members and friends while helping animals at the same time. Giving a donation "In Honor of" a person, a pet, an event, a birthday, a wedding, a graduation, an anniversary or as a holiday present is a marvelous way to salute the recipient. It is a great choice as a "thank you" for a person's deed or service.

You will receive an acknowledgement of your gift and all in honor donations will be listed in a special section of POA News.

**Contributions** - A contribution can be made to a specific areas such as spay and neuter, vet costs, cat adoption center, dog division or general fund.

All donations to Protectors of Animals, Inc. are always greatly appreciated and we use them directly for the benefit of the stray, abandoned and abused animals we rescue!

Please complete the form below and send with your contribution to:

Protectors of Animals, Inc.  
144 Main St., East Hartford, CT 06118

- Memorial Donation
- "In Honor of" Donation
- Contribution
  - \$50
  - \$100
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Information**

I would like to pay by **check**:

Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable to POA.)

I would like to pay by **credit card**:

Credit Card Number:    

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Memorial Information**

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

**"In Honor" of Information**

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this completed form with your contribution to: Protectors of Animals, Inc., 144 Main St., East Hartford, CT 06118

**MEMORIALS** - Continued from page 9

*In honor of POA & Jannette Sullivan, by:  
Judith Gherlone*

*In memory of Richard Law, by:  
RB Lawrence  
The Green Scene, Inc.*

*In loving memory of Rosalind A. Roberto, by:  
Sadwiga & Mark Parys  
Elaine Costello  
Judy Pellett  
Ronald Gustafson  
Rosina Bolduc-Gustafson*

*In memory of Sammy (dog), by:  
Joan Kerelejza*

*In memory of Scooby, by:  
Daniel Rothbart*

*In memory of Shirley Carangelo, by:  
Robert Carangelo*

*In honor of Teddy & Willy, by:  
Brenda Woods*

*In memory of Toby Mahland, by:  
Margaret O'Keefe*

*In memory of Travis Booth, by:  
David Morse  
Elizabeth Coley  
Mark Jones*

*In memory of Wallace Inkpen, by:  
Sandra Inkpen*

*In memory of Zimmie Brodsky, by:  
Cathy Ann Ferreira*

*In memory of Tibbets, by:  
John C. Thomas*

## Reasons to Foster an Animal

You can put that spare bedroom to good use!

You will receive unconditional love from your temporary companion!

You will help socialize a homeless animal so they become more adoptable and better companions. Animals would much rather be in a house any day.

You will help POA learn more about the personality of the animal, so we can place him/her with the perfect family.

You will be carefully matched with foster animals according to the pet's special needs and the foster parent's abilities.

Whether you work full-time or you spend most of your time at home, we'll help match you with a foster animal that fits your lifestyle.

You will see what animal care is all about if you don't have any pets of your own!

You will delight at the smiles on the faces of the family that adopts your foster animal and possibly make new friends along the way!

You will know that you're making a huge difference in the lives of your foster animal! The satisfaction of helping an animal realize a second chance in life really is one of the best feelings in the world.

## A Purrfect "Finn"ish!



When we last reported on Finn in our Spring newsletter, he was resting and recuperating at the home of POA foster Janette Sullivan. He was continuing to make great strides toward good health and stability.

Since that time, Finn made a trip with Janette to a veterinarian in Massachusetts, who determined that his blindness is complete and irreversible, and is most likely the result of malnutrition and a vitamin deficiency. He had his neuter surgery and recovered well. All the vets who treated Finn thought that he was ready for a quiet, stable home with no dogs.

The best news about Finn is that he has found a forever home! In May, a Massachusetts woman and her friend travelled to POA to meet Finn. Finn was ready to go, with his bed, his favorite catnip mice, his low condo, his special litter box, and his favorite CD!

Janette reports in her blog that Finn and his new mom Mary hit it off immediately. Mary has had three blind cats and has experience with getting them adjusted to their surroundings. Although Finn is an only cat for the time being, Mary is thinking of adopting a blind kitten who could be a companion to him. Finn has settled in nicely, eating well and exploring his new home. He even climbed up on his kitty condo by himself for the first time! We at POA are thrilled, and wish Finn and his new mom much happiness together!

### It's KITTEN Season and we need Foster Homes!



To become a Foster Home for kittens or a pregnant/nursing mom, Call: 860-569-0722 or email [poaplacement@gmail.com](mailto:poaplacement@gmail.com)



#### About fostering POA Kittens:

POA provides medical care and will handle all adoptions. Foster homes provide shelter, socialization, and must be willing to transport kittens to POA's shelter in East Hartford for vet checks and adoption days.

To adopt the kittens that are ready, visit our website at [www.poainc.org](http://www.poainc.org)



# GoodNews Letters



## BENJAMIN

*Benjamin is doing great! Yesterday was the first day we gave him free access to the house while we were out for a few hours. I don't think he moved from our bed the whole time we were gone. Benjamin really likes my husband. He has been sitting on his lap and hanging with him on the couch at night. He also loves sitting in the window when it is open. He purrs SO LOUD at night.*

*Benjamin's New Mom*



## NALLA

*Nalla has been a good fit for us. She's not afraid or confused about us when we come home anymore. Shabba has taught her how to be a dog in a regular home. Having her around has been good for him too. If she could, I'm sure she would send love your way!*

*Tony*



## TOBY

*Just wanted to send a Toby (Bandit) update. He's doing great and we couldn't be happier. The kids had a birthday party for him and we made him a PB and Carrot cupcake with PB and cream cheese frosting. He loved it!*

*Jaime*



## LELA

*Lela has adapted very well to her new home. She loves her new perch and she gives us tons of love and affection, as we do for her too. We've introduced her to our family gradually and she's shared the same affection with them and has won their hearts over as well.*

*Lela's New Family*



## MEL

*Just wanted to let you know how great Mel is doing. He's funny and affectionate and such a cuddler! He was up at the table looking for scrambled eggs this morning!!*

*Linda*



## CALLIE

*I wanted to let you know Callie is doing great – she has been very comfortable from the minute she got here. This picture was taken the first hour she was at our house! She is awesome with our daughter, and doesn't seem to mind even when our daughter is very loud!*

*Pete*

# POA Goes Back to School!

POA is expanding its community outreach programs by partnering with Manchester Community College (MCC). The collaboration is a way for POA to present informational courses in a classroom setting at the MCC facility. This partnership has been facilitated by POA socialization volunteer, Elizabeth Angry-Smith, who is the MCC librarian.

The first offering is a one day non-credit course scheduled for Saturday, October 25th, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The guest lecturer for the event will be POA Executive Director, John C. Thomas. The purpose of the lecture is to provide attendees with everything they need to know about adopting from an animal shelter! The fee will be \$20.

Information about how to register will be announced in the coming weeks!

## ATTENTION East Hartford CAT OWNERS

SPAY CONNECTICUT has limited space available for a low-cost cat spay/neuter clinic August 20th. The \$50 fee includes spay/neuter surgery plus rabies and distemper vaccine! Must bring proof of receiving state/federal assistance.

Call 1-844-772-9281  
to make appointment and for  
information about upcoming clinics.



SPAYCONNECTICUT  
A program of Providence of Animals, Inc.

# Support POA Simply by Shopping, Walking or Working

## *AmazonSmile*

Shop Amazon? Support POA while you do! The AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchase to our organization! Simply use your regular Amazon account at smile.amazon.com to make your purchase. AmazonSmile offers the same selections, prices, and convenience that Amazon does. Before placing your first order, you will need to choose Protectors of Animals as your selected charity to receive donations. AmazonSmile will remember your selection when you return to shop. Why not give a little and put a smile on your face while shopping? Use Smile.Amazon.com to support POA!



## *Walk for a Dog*

You can now donate to POA just by taking a walk! A new Smart Phone app called "Walk for a Dog" gives you the option to support POA while encouraging good health for you and your pets. Just go to WoofTrax.com on your Smart Phone and download the free application. You will be prompted to enter your name and email address and select an organization to support. Be sure to select POA! Simply follow the instructions and personalize your account. Each time you walk your dog, just press start on the app. It will keep track of your walk and make a donation to POA for every mile you walk! Walk for a Dog donates about three times per year and you will be notified by email, by "liking" Walk for a Dog on Facebook or following

on Twitter. Enjoy the gratification of doing something good for you and your dog's health while supporting POA.

## *GooglersGive*

POA is now a registered organization with GooglersGive, a Google workplace giving program. It is an opportunity for POA to receive donations and connect directly with Google employees, known as Googlers.

Google has almost 50,000 employees worldwide, so if you know a Googler, please pass along the information about how they can help POA!



## *POA Shelter Stats*

Have you wondered just how many animals you are helping when you support POA? Here is a look some shelter statistics for the second quarter of 2014 and 2014 Year-to-Date!

*(All animals are spayed/neutered and vaccinated prior to adoption.)*

### **Second Quarter 2014**

#### **Cats**

Cats/Kittens Admitted to Shelter: 194  
Cats/Kittens Adopted: 104  
TNR (Feral Cats): 50

#### **Dogs**

Dogs/Puppies Admitted to Shelter: 18  
Dogs/Puppies Adopted: 17

### **2014 Year-to-Date**

#### **Cats**

Cats/Kittens Admitted to Shelter: 327  
Cats/Kittens Adopted: 225  
TNR (Feral Cats): 52

#### **Dogs**

Dogs/Puppies Admitted to Shelter: 42  
Dogs/Puppies Adopted: 41

## *LOW COST CAT SPAY & NEUTER OPTIONS*

Has the cost of getting your cat or dog spayed, neutered, or vaccinated been keeping you from doing the right thing? If so, many low-cost options are available throughout the area. Please call for up-to-date pricing, hours of operation and appointment information.

**Visit [www.spayct.org](http://www.spayct.org) for other options and information on special programs.**

### **Central CT Cat Project**

Monthly low cost spay/neuter (includes vaccinations) clinics for cats.  
For information call **860-828-5287** or visit **[www.fobac.org](http://www.fobac.org)**.

### **Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society Spay/Neuter Clinic**

**171 Union St., Springfield, MA**

Low cost spay/neuter and vaccines at the time of surgery for cats and dogs.  
For information call **413-781-4019** or visit **[www.dpvhs.org](http://www.dpvhs.org)**.

### **New Hope Clinic - 214 Canal St., Plantsville, CT**

Low cost spay/neuter and vaccines at the time of surgery for cats and dogs.  
For information visit **[www.hopect.org](http://www.hopect.org)**.

### **Rhode Island Community Spay/Neuter Clinic - 235 Elm St., Warwick, RI**

Low cost spay/neuter and vaccines at the time of surgery for cats and dogs.  
For information call **401-369-PAWS** or visit **[www.ricsnc.org](http://www.ricsnc.org)**.

### **TEAM Mobile Feline Unit**

Low cost spay/neuter and vaccines for cats. For information call  
**Toll-free: 1-888-FOR-TEAM (888-367-8326)** or visit **[www.everyanimalmatters.org](http://www.everyanimalmatters.org)**.

# Memorials and Honorarium

*“There is an Indian legend which says when a human dies there is a bridge they must cross to enter into heaven. At the head of that bridge waits every animal that human encountered during their lifetime. The animals, based upon what they know of this person, decide which humans may cross the bridge. . . and which are turned away.”*

*In honor of Ann Trinkaus, by:  
Elizabeth Edgare*

*In memory of Annis Breton Corey, by:  
Gregory Besek and Nancy Lapier  
Susan & Keith Orsini  
Robert & Pamela Cyr*

*In memory of Armand Calabro, by:  
Brenda & Kenneth Killer  
Dino & Barbara Calabro*

*In honor of Artemisia and Zoe, by:  
Diane Pizzo*

*In honor of Ashley Price on Mother's Day, by:  
Joseph Price*

*In honor of Ava Bertrand, by:  
Richard & Virginia Surdei*

*In memory of Ben & Bailey, by:  
Mary Cavanna*

*In memory of Buster, by:  
George & Mary Elmore*

*In memory of Cassie (cat), by:  
Teresa LaPenta-Duffek*

*In memory of Chip, by:  
Corinna Thompson*

*In memory of Cody Lee Ericson, by:  
Kenneth & Gail Schoppmann*

*In memory of Cornelius Mora, by:  
Jean Lombard*

*In memory of Crystal & Java, by:  
Peter & Jan Grandahl*

*In memory of Daisy Shortell (dog), by:  
Gail Lantowski  
Jennifer Barney  
Marianne Schrenker  
Lynn Moeng*

*In memory of Dodger (dog), by:  
Diane Werr*

*In memory of Douglas Friend, by:  
Martin Courneen  
Irmtraud & Richard Hermanson  
Marie Hutnick  
William & Joan Haines  
Fred & Adrienne Valente  
John & Joanna Hamby*

*In memory of Ken Gwozdz, by:  
Stacey & Bob Doan  
Pamela & Paul Falcone  
Alexander Fortier  
Deborah & Thomas Hartney  
Kevin & Jeanne Fahey  
Edward Peltier  
Mark & Susan Mathiasen  
Tracy & Ryan Snyder  
EHHS Cheer Fund  
Charlotte & Dino Genga  
Raymond & Judith Grasso  
Robert & Deborah Wood  
Daniel DelMastro*

*Warner & Patricia Cross  
Marilyn Dupuis  
Joan & Lawrence Harvey  
Bruce Wentworth  
Cynthia & Donald McCall  
Fettes Wine & Spirits  
Betsy & Ugo Benettieri  
Mark Nystrom  
Joan & Lawrence Murphy  
Bethany & Desmond McCaffrey  
Mary Sclafani  
Roberta & Bernie Mulligan  
John & Marti Choquette  
Susan & Larry Anderson  
Richard Agne  
Thomas Corto & Bonnie Therrien  
April & Theresa Kreyssig  
Philip Sclafani  
Nancy & Timothy Dwyer  
Kelly Monahan-DiNoia  
Ann Patrice Forde  
Mary Lynne & Bob Laflamme*

*In honor of Elsbeth Murata, by:  
Brad Taylor*

*In honor of Emma Bertrand, by:  
Luke Kenary*

*In memory of Eragon & Timara, by:  
Betsey Smith*

*In honor of Fergie and adopting Ms. Lily  
Rose, by:  
Jacqueline Golletz*

*In honor of Finn, by:  
Jeanie Ives*

*In memory of Frankie, by:  
Cheryl Krawchuk*

*In honor of Gertrude Pietro, by:  
Gisele Roemer*

*In memory of Gertrude “Trudy” Madore, by:  
Donna Hopkins*

*In honor of Hallie & Walter, by:  
Leslie Gauthier*

*In memory of Harry Bowen, by:  
Richard & Lynn Paseka  
International Brotherhood of Electrical  
Workers, AFL*

*In memory of Josie, by:  
Karen Trepp*

*In memory of Laurie Chaplin, by:  
Lorraine Pinette*

*In memory of Lexi Williams (dog), by:  
Kenneth & Maryann Stino*

*In memory of Lita, by:  
Beverly Clough*

*In memory of Lynn Milan, by:  
Douglas Gordon  
Judith & Manuel Silvia  
Vincent & Shirley Mondo*

*In memory of Lynn Pilczak, by:  
Peggy Long*

*In memory of Mackenzie, by:  
William & Faith Maura*

*In honor of Margarida Melklejohn, by:  
Gen Park*

*In memory of Michael Kirby, by:  
Lynne Wagoner  
Victoria McAllister  
Patricia Sarandrea*

*In honor of Missy & Lorelei, by:  
Normand & Janice Charlette*

*In memory of Nilla, by:  
Jody Macrina*

*In memory of Oreste Tulio DiNinni, by:  
Lynda & Guy Russo*

*In honor of Patches, by:  
Maribeth Payton*

*In memory of Peanut, by:  
Caralyn Whipple*

*In memory of Pepper, Rosie, Moxie, Simon,  
Cloey & Nathan, by:  
Rachael Davis*

Continued on page 10

Illustration by Bonnie Demanche

# “Senior Animals are Pure Golden”

## *Benefits to Adopting Older Animals*

POA has a variety of animals for adoption, but have you considered adopting an older, or “senior” animal? Before you turn your mind from a possible dog or cat match due to their age, consider the following:

- Older cats and dogs are typically house trained already. Of course, many new animals like to “sign in” when first brought home; but generally, older animals know that potty breaks are best taken in the litter box or outside.
- Most likely, senior animals also have other training. They already know how to behave properly in the house, how to handle guests, and how to handle most other mundane situations that require training for younger animals.
- Older animals are calmer and less energetic. If you have a busy schedule

and limited time to entertain young cats or exhaust your dog, consider that older animals usually require less exercise, and are content to spend more time laying around. If a good night’s sleep or afternoon nap sounds good to you, perhaps a senior animal is more your “speed.”

- Many adopters claim that their senior animals are more appreciative of being rescued. After spending time in our kennels after living many years in a home, the animals value the second chance you’ve given them.
- Particularly during kitten seasons, the adult and senior cats are often overlooked. By adopting a senior animal, you are truly rescuing them.

- To help encourage adoption of our senior animals, POA requests a smaller adoption donation.

Many senior animals still have many years ahead of them. Cats are considered seniors at around 9 years old, and given the expected lifespan of an indoor cat to be 13-17 years, you can still expect to enjoy many years with a senior cat. The life span of dogs varies greatly by size and breed, so the “senior” designation is a moving target. But you can still expect to enjoy many good years with a “senior” dog if they are properly cared for.

Before you close your mind to a senior animal, please let our adoption counselors suggest a possible match from our roster of “golden” animals.



**MYA**

Seal Point Siamese  
8 Years old  
Beautiful cat (and knows it),  
who bonds closely to her people.



**MADDY & MAGOO**

Maine Coon Mixes, both male 8 Years old  
Bonded pair, rescued by POA as kittens. Recently returned due to severe allergies by new toddler.



**CHARLEY**

English Cocker Spaniel  
9 Years Old  
Charley’s elderly owner  
passed-on, and he really wants  
a new companion.



**REMY**

American Eskimo Dog  
9-Years Old  
Loves interacting with people.  
Happy, friendly, sweet! Gets  
along with other dogs too!



**SADIE**

Love-muffin (breed?)  
7 Years Old  
Calm, low-energy, friendly and lov-  
able dog. Has lived with cats, and is  
good with other dogs.

## Shelter Needs

**Cat Food:** Canned: Friskies Pate (NO shredded, chunk, sliced and NO FISH flavors) Dry: Purina, Meow Mix, or Purina One. (NO Treats)

**Kitten Food:** Canned: Friskies kitten food or Purina One (NO fish product). Dry: Friskies, Purina Kitten Chow or Purina One.

**Cat Litter:** Any type of Pine Litter or Clay Scented Litter, any brand. (NO scoopable please).

**Cat Toys:** Any small catnip filled toy. Feathers on sticks. Little mice. Containers of dry Cat Nip.

**Cat Bedding:** Must be totally washable. (No items containing foam please).

**Dog Food:** Dry: Pro Plan, Purina One, Blue Buffalo or California Natural (regular variety, although we could use a bit of weight-control formulas too). Canned: Blue Buffalo, California Natural.

**Dog Toys & Treats:** Milkbone soft “chewy” treats. Snausages, Scooby Snacks, Milkbone biscuits, beef or chicken sticks, edible flavored Nylabones. Dentabones and Dentastix, rawhide chewies. Toys: Kongs (any size) and kong fillers (cookies or paste), tennis balls, fetch toys, soft toys to cuddle with.

**Dog Bedding:** Soft, washable, dog cushions/dog pillows/dogdonuts. Blankets: soft to cuddle up on.

**Dog Collars, Leashes: or No-Pull Harness:** (Any size, any color), “no-pull” harnesses are always needed. Halti Head Collars, leashes, Martingale & Easy-Walk Harnesses.

**Other Supplies:** Paper towels, tall kitchen garbage bags, hand sanitizer, medium disposal latex gloves, Ajax antibacterial dish soap, bleach, colored copier paper, stamps, brooms, dust mops, sponge mops and mop heads.

**Also Needed:** Monetary donations, food & litter expense sponsors, rent sponsors.

Donations can be dropped off at the POA Cat Adoption Center, 144 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06118. Please call for times that volunteers will be there before coming. (860) 569-0722

# Finding Support When A Beloved Pet Passes

For so many of us, pets are family members. In fact a 2011 Harris Poll found that 9 out of 10 people surveyed considered their pets to be family members. They help us celebrate the good times and comfort us when we are down. We talk to them, buy them presents and share our homes. We love them and they give us unconditional love in return. Loving a pet is a rewarding experience, and losing a pet can be devastating.

According to Lori Rathchelous, a masters-level clinician with Soul Friends, Inc. of Wallingford, there are several reasons why people reach out for help while grieving the loss of a pet. “Some people may not have the support of those who understand the strong human-animal bond and there may be a lack of understanding when sadness over the loss of a beloved pet is expressed”, says Rathchelous. “Hearing responses to grief such as it was just a cat/dog or just go get another one can make people feel alone or as if there is something wrong with them.” Other people may seek support because they find it hard to return home without their cherished pet to greet them. Others may have feelings of guilt as they wonder if they made the right choices for their four-legged family members. Having support from others who understand the bond and who can help validate feelings of grief can help people to feel less isolated and begin to deal with their loss.

Support can also be sought in anticipation of a pet’s passing. Anticipatory grief often experiences the same physical and emotional reactions that occur during the normal grieving process. The decisions that often must be made can create anxiety which can affect sleep and change eating habits. Having time to prepare for what lies ahead can be one of the more positive aspects of anticipatory grieving. People can make the most of their remaining time with their pets by talking with their veterinarian about questions they have regarding

the care for their pet while also talking with a bereavement counselor or therapist about what the impending loss will mean for them. Processing these feelings can help release some of the anxiety.

Individual rather than group therapy is the preferred way of helping children through the grief process. Children deal with the loss of a pet very differently. Younger children don’t fully understand the finality of death which can often lead to confusion. Art and play therapy are explored when working with toddlers and preschoolers. Once children reach around 8 years of age they realize that death is permanent which is an important time for adults to teach them how to cope with loss. Teens often turn to their friends and prefer to grieve alone while young adults acknowledge the significance of loss and find their own individual ways to say good-bye.

You can find pet bereavement support locally or online. Following is a list of some resources that are available to help with the grieving process.

- **Soul Friends, Inc. Wallingford, CT**  
[www.soul-friends.org](http://www.soul-friends.org)  
203-679-0849
- **Our Companions, Inc. Manchester, CT**  
contact Andrea Seader directly at:  
[andrea106@cox.net](mailto:andrea106@cox.net)
- **Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement**  
[www.aplb.org](http://www.aplb.org)
- **ASPCA**  
[www.aspca.org/pet-care/pet-loss](http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/pet-loss)
- **Buttercup’s Pet Bereavement Support**  
[www.petbereavementsupport.com](http://www.petbereavementsupport.com)

# What Makes Our Volunteers Tick?

You've seen an ad in the newsletter about the need for volunteers and you are intrigued! You love cats and dogs, but you haven't made to call to volunteer. Maybe you are not sure what the job descriptions are, or how you can apply your experience to the various volunteer opportunities available with POA! You may have only a few hours to give or many and we want to let you know about the kinds of things POA volunteers do! In this issue, we are focusing on Fundraising Volunteers and why Roopa Rajaramadoss and Michelle Dixon find raising money for POA rewarding!

## *Volunteering to Raise Funds*

Fundraising is critical for POA to survive and thrive! And volunteers are at the crucial to the success of fundraising events – large and small.

POA's fundraising committee consists of eight core and six floating members. Core members coordinate overall efforts, while floating members change from year to year and help with setup, take-down, basket-making for raffles, etc. For the major annual fundraiser each March, prep work starts at least six months in advance. The committee typically meets twice a month for about 3 months, and then weekly for the next 3 months. For smaller events, fundraisers meet on an as-needed basis. Some events don't need much prep work, other than putting things together the day of the event. In some cases, volunteers need to prepare poster boards or have an

animal picked up, for example. In addition to larger events, other methods of fundraising POA uses include bake sales, tag sales, and local fairs. For fundraising ideas, core members brainstorm, and do internet research. Some members have experience in organizing events, and they share their expert knowledge.

## *Roopa Rajaramadoss Fundraising Coordinator*

Roopa Rajaramadoss has volunteered with POA since March 2008, and has been the fundraising coordinator for the last year. She has always loved animals, and learned about POA after someone gave her a cat. She volunteered first in socialization of the animals; she then moved to completing paperwork; and next into rescues, and finally into fundraising.

Roopa finds that being part of a fundraising team is fun. She states she has learned to be more patient and to focus on others' needs as well as her own, and has learned to listen better. Her favorite part of being at POA is spending time with the animals!

Roopa has four cats of her own as well as two fosters. She works for Travelers as a business analyst, and recently bought a home. Roopa enjoys sewing in her spare time.

## *Michelle Dixon Fundraising Committee Volunteer*

Michelle Dixon has volunteered for POA

for two years. She learned about our shelter's work when she saw volunteer Ron Plante on TV with the Pit Bull Jasper from the Wethersfield pound. Michelle's two retrievers had just passed away after 13 years, and she and her husband decided to adopt Jasper. She has worked on the fundraising committee throughout her time with POA. She typically works on the large events, such as the Fabulous Forties Frolic this past spring and the Italian Wedding Comedy last year. She also helps put together Volunteer Appreciation Day, and is working with the team on planning next March's event already.

Michelle is passionate about animals, and has learned that she enjoys working with the fundraising team to make as much money for the animals as possible. She says fundraising is hard work, but exciting and rewarding. Her wish is that someday all animals will have loving homes, and raising money will not be necessary, but in the meantime she is happy to do whatever she can to help make a difference.

When she is not at POA, Michelle is the principal of an elementary school. She is a Reiki master and teacher to her family and friends, a practice she began when one of her dogs became sick. She has adopted another Pit Bull named Sadie Mae who is a good companion for Jasper and does agility work. Jasper is in training to be a therapy dog. Michelle has been boating for nine years, and recently bought a beach house.

## **POA Kittens Showered with Love and Gifts** - *Continued from page 1*

cats and newborns until they are old enough to be spayed/neutered and are ready to go to their permanent homes. Prior to the shower a wish list similar to a baby shower registry was publicized along with information about the event. A large crowd attended, bringing toys, food, litter, gift cards, specialty kitten items and monetary donations as shower gifts for these four-legged toddlers. This included over 550 pounds of dry food, 283 cans of food, 106 pounds of kitty litter, and over 100 kitten toys! Generous shower goers also brought kitten formula, bottles, bed warmers, dishes, litter boxes and a cat tree!



*POA Kitten Show gifts filled out  
Hip to Snip van!*

In addition to cuddling with our adorable kittens, guests enjoyed delicious refreshments, a chance to win raffle prizes, a foster parent meet and greet and kitten art created by our own little furry Picassos. These original works of art were available for purchase at the shower.

Thank you to everyone who made the Kitten Shower a smashing success! If you missed the shower and still want to help, take a look at our "Shelter Needs" listed on page 5 of the newsletter to find items that are always needed.

# “A View Volunteered”

Some twenty-five years ago, I attended a seminar presented by a child psychiatrist. He professed that the most significant challenge during our life is separation and loss. His simple but profound message was that if we can handle losing the ones we love, we can cope with anything else that life brings our way.

Losing a beloved companion animal is such a challenge. The unconditional love an animal brings into our life means a huge loss when the time comes to say goodbye. For some people, the pain is so great that they decide not to bring another companion animal into their life.

Personally, to honor the companion animals who have taught me so much about love, I prefer the advice Maude gives to Harold in the cult movie classic, Harold and Maude – “go and love some more.” To that end, I have devoted myself to improving the lives of animals however I can, including adopting more strays whose paths have crossed mine.

In speaking about cats, Theophile Gautier penned, “Who can believe that there is no soul behind those luminous eyes.” The same could be said about dogs. For me, the grief I feel over the loss of companion animals is tempered with the faith that we will meet again, for I believe as a wise man once said, death is but a horizon and a horizon is but the limit of our sight. Put another way, as a pet cemetery epitaph proclaims, “O heaven will not ever Heaven be unless my cats are there to welcome me.”

There is no right or wrong way to grieve. Each must do it in his or her own way.

For those who are comforted by reading, I recommend one of the following books: *When Your Pet Dies* by Quackenbush and Graveline, *Goodbye, Friend* by Gary Kowalski, *Preparing for the Loss of Your Pet* by Myrna Milani, DVM, and *The Loss of a Pet* by Wallace Sife, Ph.D.

The impact that animals have on our lives is not necessarily tied to the amount of time that they spend with us. It is the quality, not the quantity, of time spent that matters. As Barbara Diamond writes, “I will always remember the olive-eyed tabby who taught me that not all relationships are meant to last a lifetime. Sometimes just an hour is enough to touch your heart.” Those who volunteer at any animal shelter can attest to this.

Recently, an e-mail arrived with a story by unknown authorship showcasing the wisdom of a child over the loss of a companion animal. I cannot improve on the sentiments of this four year old, so I will let his words speak for himself. The story is entitled, “Why Dogs Don’t Live as Long as People” and goes like this:

As a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog’s owners, Ron and Lisa and their little boy, Shane, were all very attached to Belker and they were hoping for a miracle. I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family there were no miracles left for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia for their pet in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good

for four-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt Shane could learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker’s family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting his friend for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.

The little boy seemed to accept Belker’s transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for awhile after Belker’s death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives.

Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, “I know why.”

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me – I’d never heard a more comforting explanation.

He said, “Everybody is born so that they can learn how to live a good life, like loving everybody and being nice.” The four-year-old continued, “Animals already know how to do that, so they don’t have to stay as long.”

Be sure to give your animals an extra hug today.

For the animals,  
*Gregory M. Simpson*

***POA would like to extend their thanks for there donation to our Fabulous Forties event to:***



**MT CARMEL  
BANQUET FACILITY**  
*Weddings, Sweet 15s and all Occasions*  
30 Old Roberts St.  
East Hartford, CT 06108  
**(860)290-9151**  
casamiact.com/mtcarmel