



PENDER PET CARING FOUNDATION  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

*Working to Touch the Lives of Animals, as They Have Touched Ours*

2001  
2002

## Our Mission

The Pender Pet Caring Foundation is a nonprofit organization that was formed exclusively to promote and provide funding for animal care. PPCF seeks to raise the standards of veterinary medicine by supporting advancement in research, sponsoring continuing education, and providing funding for adoption programs and the treatment of sick or injured indigent and stray animals.

Thank you for your continued support of the Pender Pet Caring Foundation. With your help, the foundation has been able to do some exciting things and provide invaluable support to animal care programs over the past few years. Programs supported by the Pender Pet Caring Foundation include humane research and veterinary education, pet adoptions, training for Seeing Eye dogs and Canine Companion for Independence dogs, and health care for sick or injured indigent or stray animals. In this newsletter, we highlight just a few of the recent success stories made possible by your support.

In the wake of the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon, as humanitarian organizations were responding to the needs of the emergency and rescue personnel working at ground zero, the Pender Pet Caring Foundation was able to respond to another need—the needs of the search and rescue dogs also working at ground zero. As scores of trained rescue dogs worked around the clock in difficult and dangerous conditions, the Pender Pet Caring Foundation was able to give something back by providing monetary assistance, as well as donations of medical supplies to help care for the dogs working at the scene (see story inside).

Another success story of the Pender Pet Caring Foundation is our donation to the Purrfect Pet Adoption Program that is administered by Pender Veterinary Centre. Over the past few years, this program has helped more than 500 cats find new homes. The Pender Pet Caring Foundation has also made significant contributions to veterinary education and research. In supporting universities such as the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine and the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, the Pender Pet Caring Foundation helps enable these schools to secure programs for animal health and attract the best and brightest to the veterinary profession.

It is through programs such as these that the Foundation is able to improve the lives of companion animals and give something back to the animals who have given so much to us. Your support assists the Pender Pet Caring Foundation in meeting its goals, and we truly thank you.

Mark Johnson  
Trustees

Helen Mielo

Don Powell

## Affecting the Future of Veterinary Medicine

In its efforts to support humane veterinary research and the betterment of animal health care, the Pender Pet Caring Foundation recently donated funds to the Virginia Tech Veterinary Memorial Fund. The fund is used by the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine to learn more about the diseases that threaten animals and discover ways to improve the quality of their lives. Studies funded by the Virginia Tech Memorial Fund often have an immediate impact on veterinary medicine.

In 2002, the Veterinary Memorial Fund awarded funds to 33 Virginia Tech faculty for nine different research projects for a total of \$52,521. Recently funded projects have included studies for treatment of heart disease, cancer, and other diseases in animals. Dr. Abbott will study hormone levels in cats as a possible diagnostic tool to predict the existence and severity of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, the number one heart disease in cats. Dr. Panciera will evaluate the use of thyroid hormones to provide a less costly and more readily available treatment for Von Willebrand's disease, the most common inherited bleeding disorder in dogs.

Other recent projects include evaluation of cancer treatment protocols, determination of a possibly more accurate diagnostic test for Cushing's disease, and evaluation of a new, easier surgical repair technique. Additionally, researchers will be looking at the risk of misdiagnosis of hypothyroidism in dogs given separation anxiety drugs, effectiveness of omega-3 fatty acids in preventing or stopping mammary tumor development in cats, and the effectiveness of the Veterinary College Pet Loss Support Hotline in conjunction with the Medical College of Virginia.

## Statue at Veterinary College Honors Veterinary Memorial Fund



A bronze statue depicting the relationship between pets and people was unveiled during the annual Fall Meeting of the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association and Virginia Tech.

The statue, which will be installed in the public entrance lobby of the college's Veterinary Teaching Hospital, will symbolize the "Veterinary Memorial Fund," a memorial fund/research program jointly operated by the state professional association and the college.

Founded in 1984 and considered one of the oldest such funds in the nation, the Veterinary Memorial Fund is a program designed to soften the pet bereavement process and develop funding to support clinical research programs that promote animal health and well-being.

Since the program was created, about \$646,000 has been raised and 88 different clinical research programs have been funded.

## Helping out the Canine Heroes of 9/11



In the days after the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon, as humanitarian organizations were responding to the needs of the emergency and rescue personnel working at ground zero, the Pender Pet Caring Foundation was able to respond to another need by providing monetary assistance, as well as donations of medical supplies to help care for the search and rescue dogs working at the scene.

The Urban Search & Rescue effort at the World Trade Center site was the largest deployment of search dogs in United States history. In addition to the 80 Federal Emergency Management Agency dogs, New York City coordinated the efforts of the New York City Police Department K9 Corps, as well as search dogs from around the country. All in all, nearly 400 dogs were active in response efforts.

The dogs were on call for 12-hour shifts, as were all task force team members. The general practice was to work the dogs on the rubble pile for 20 to 45 minutes and allow them to rest for an equal period of time. On-site veterinary facilities were set up by volunteers to treat those injuries that did occur as the

dogs worked. Among the injuries were minor lacerations, abrasions, and stress-related problems such as dehydration and diarrhea.

In addition to volunteers, however, these makeshift veterinary facilities were also in need of supplies. In the Washington, D.C. area, a woman named Laurie Herwig was coordinating the delivery of much-needed supplies to the search and rescue units in New York. After learning of Herwig's efforts, the Pender Pet Caring Foundation rounded up supplies, including bandages, swabs for ear cleaning, gauze, eye wash, ear flush, treats, disinfectants, and shampoos, and sent them to New York with Herwig. The most popular items sent were collars with bright, flashing LEDs that helped handlers locate their dogs when they were off-leash in the rubble. The collars worked so well that the rescue workers themselves were wearing them to help locate each other.

In addition to physical injuries, depression was also a problem for the dogs. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, one of the handler's primary responsibilities was to maintain the interest and "spirit" of their dogs throughout the shifts. Herwig describes such an interaction in her letter back to the contributors. "I met a man and his German Shepherd, Piper. Apparently Piper had just found some remains, and his handler asked if I could play with him for a bit, giving him as much positive interaction as possible to reward his find. So we played tug of war and a few rounds of fetch," says Herwig.

But it wasn't just the people keeping the dogs' spirits up. Herwig says that the dogs did a great deal to cheer up the people working at the scene as well. "As workers changed their shifts or took breaks, they all seemed to gravitate toward the dogs that too were on their breaks. The dogs really made many [workers] feel more comfortable in a most uncomfortable situation."

Despite the hazardous conditions at the World Trade Center site, the Federal Emergency Management Agency notes that the dogs sustained relatively few injuries during their work and no fatalities subsequent to the collapse of the towers.



## Giving Cats a Second Chance

Last fall, Fairfax County Animal Control found a young black cat that had been hit by a car and brought the cat into Pender Veterinary Centre to be euthanized. Despite suffering from extensive hip injuries, the cat was friendly and displayed such personality that it became clear that this cat deserved a second chance at life. With funding from the Pender Pet Caring Foundation, the doctors at Pender Veterinary Centre were able to repair the cat's injuries with an elaborate brace and pin system. Resembling an erector set, the brace and pin system allowed the cat's injuries to heal and the cat was placed into the Purrfect Pet Adoption Program. A few weeks into its recovery, the cat was adopted by Mike Mielo, who named the cat Lou. Completely healed, Lou now spends his days watching wildlife and playing ping-pong with the guys on the sun porch of his new home—all thanks to the Pender Pet Caring Foundation.

Over the past few years, the Pender Pet Caring Foundation has helped hundreds of cats like Lou find new homes through the Purrfect Pet Adoption Program. Working in cooperation with the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, the adoption program finds homes for cats that would otherwise be euthanized. All cats in the adoption program are given complete health examinations and vaccinations. Last year alone, the program adopted more than 80 cats, many of them recovering from injuries—just like Lou.

## Supporting Cutting Edge Research

As part of its mission, the Pender Pet Caring Foundation seeks to raise the standards of veterinary medicine by supporting advancement in research and veterinary education. One way the foundation accomplishes this mission is through donations to the Cornell University James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health and the Cornell Feline Health Center.

These institutions strive to be on the cutting edge of veterinary research and education. In Fall 2001, researchers at Cornell University, in collaboration with researchers from other universities, were able to restore the sight of a dog that had been blind since birth. The dog, a Briard, was blind due to an inherited genetic defect. Researchers conducted a gene therapy experiment in which a virus-gene mixture was injected into the eyes of the young, blind dog. The mixture allowed the dog's eyes to produce the protein necessary for the dog to regain its sight.

In addition to helping this particular dog regain its sight, the research also paves the way for using gene therapy in other diseases. As quoted in the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine *DogWatch*, Dr. Gustavo Aguirre notes that "this is a perfect example of how research in animals helps both the animal—in this case the dog—and the human patient."

## Making a Difference in the Lives of Animals—and People

The Pender Pet Caring Foundation realizes the difference that animals can make in people's lives. In particular, money from the Foundation goes to support two programs that help people every day, Guiding Eyes for the Blind and Canine Companions for Independence.

The Pender Pet Caring Foundation recently donated money to Guiding Eyes for the Blind, which designated those funds for the Guiding Eyes Breeding Center's Sailor Fund. The Sailor Fund is named after a black Labrador who sired many of the Guiding Eyes Guide Dogs. The Fund was started years ago as a way for the Breeding Center to build, support, and strengthen programs that affect Guiding Eyes puppies.

This year, money from the fund went toward much needed renovations at the program's staff house and the whelping kennel. The Guiding Eyes staff house is used by volunteers across the country who bring their dogs in for training or evaluations. "It is a very exciting time at Guiding Eyes for the Blind and through generous contributions of people like you, we will continue to maintain our reputation as one of the leading Guide Dog Schools in the country," writes Janine Haughney, Guiding Eyes for the Blind Resource Director.

Funds from the Pender Pet Caring Foundation were also recently donated to Canine Companions for Independence (CCI). CCI's mission is to serve the needs of people with disabilities by providing trained service, hearing, and assisted service dogs. CCI trains three types of dogs. Service dogs work with people with physical disabilities by pulling wheelchairs, turning lights off and on, retrieving important items, and responding to more than fifty commands. Hearing dogs alert people who are deaf and hard of hearing to fire alarms, doorbells, and ringing telephones. Assisted service dogs are provided for children with disabilities, individuals with developmental disabilities, or any situation where the supervision of a third party is required.



In a recent letter to the Pender Pet Caring Foundation, CCI notes, "Throughout our twenty-four year history, Canine Companions have helped over 1,600 people lead lives of self-direction, increased confidence and promise. Your dedication and generosity provide us with the resources we need to fulfill our mission."

## In Memoriam

The Pender Pet Caring Foundation recently lost one of its friends and supporters, Ms. Linda Christy, who passed away in October. Throughout the years, Ms. Christy loved and cared for many pets, and she was a true supporter of animal causes. Through the donations received in memory of Ms. Christy, the Foundation hopes her dedication to companion animals will live on as we strive to give something back to the animals who have given so much to us.



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**All** contributions to the Pender Pet Caring Foundation go to causes that the foundation supports. No gifts are used for administrative expenses. Administrative expenses are underwritten by generous contributions from Pender Veterinary Centre, Ltd. and from corporations serving the animal healthcare field.

If your company participates in a gift-matching program for employee contributions to charitable organizations, please contact us with information on how we may enroll. We will gladly submit all needed information and complete any enrollment processes so that your gift to PPCF can be multiplied in its effectiveness.

**PPCF thanks these individuals and companies for their financial contributions to underwrite the production of this newsletter.**

**Bayer Corporation**

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**NLS Animal Health**

**Pfizer Animal Health**

Photos of rescue personnel and dogs courtesy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.