

EDOA FOCUS



Spring 2017

EDOA is a non-profit citizens' group advocating on issues affecting dogs & dog owners in Eastham, MA

EDOA NEWS

From Your President:



"Good Government Begins at Home"—or— "All Politics is Local"
by Vicky Anderson

According to the calendar, Spring has sprung. I'm trying to believe this, but some days are definitely not spring-like. We are fast approaching Town Meeting time and our local elections. (In the current political climate, local elections look pretty good to me!!). The EDOA and the Chamber of Commerce will sponsor "Meet the Candidates" on April 24 (see calendar below) at the Town Hall. One highlight is the fact that there are FOUR candidates for two seats on the Board of Selectmen. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this exciting evening.

As a group, we attempt to make the quality of life vis-a-vis our beloved animals in Eastham the very best it can possibly be. This includes being informed about our elected officials and their views on rules, regulations that affect our lives. Sponsoring an evening to introduce candidates to the voters of Eastham furthers the goals of educating ourselves and representing our organization to the community. An informed citizenry and a well-governed Eastham benefit all of us, including our pets.

If you want to contact me for any reason, my phone is 508-246-3111.

SAVE THE DATES!

Please add these important events to your calendar:

- April 2: **AHO** (Animal Hospital of Orleans) **Fundraiser for the Santana Fund**; 5:00 pm @ Land Ho! (Harwichport location)
- April 3: Buddy Scholarship Applications due!
- April 8: **Rabies Clinic**; 10:00 am-12:00 pm @ Eastham Police Station (back garage area)
- April 28: **Eastham Candidates Forum**--Hosted by Eastham Chamber of Commerce & EDOA; 6:00 pm @ Town Hall (Earle Meeting Room)
- May 9: **Lobby Day for Animals 2017** (an opportunity to speak up for animal protection legislation) @ Massachusetts State House. Register at <http://www.arlboston.org/take-action-animals-humane-lobby-day-2017/>
- May 20: **Bow Wow Bash**; 12:00-2:00 pm @ First Encounter (Bee's River). Name the Dog Contest winner announced!

Who is Big Dog? Name our new EDOA Mascot!

We have a new big dog. The original Big Dog was borrowed for the parade on Windmill Weekend. It was so popular that we just had to have one of our own. Now "it" needs a name; get your suggestion entered by emailing NameBigDog@easthamdog.org. We'll announce the winner at the Bow Wow Bash; the winner gets a bag of dog food of their choice.

Membership Drive Update:

Thanks to you and other members, we had the best membership drive in EDOA history! We've received 175 renewals, but our goal is

to best 205. Please mention the EDOA and all its worthy projects to your friends and neighbors and let them know that members receive discounts at local sponsors' businesses. Renewal is easy; go to our website's [Membership](#) page, and either fill-out the online form, or print it & send it!

The Buddy Scholarship Application Deadline: April 3

Memorial contributions made in the name of our dogs and their human fans support Eastham and Nauset students pursuing post-high school pet/animal-related education. The award this year is \$1500—up from \$1000 last year and \$500 just a few years back. That means our generous donors have found a good cause to support. See the Memorials on our [website](#).

LCAST

During an emergency, a hurricane, a blizzard, or a flood, humans can go to the Red Cross Emergency Shelter at Nauset High School. But wait...where will your pets go? Did you know they are not allowed inside the RC shelter?

Never Fear, EDOA to the rescue once more. In 2014 the Lower Cape Animal Shelter Team (LCAST) was founded under the umbrella of EDOA. Volunteers were recruited, hours of training occurred, and money for equipment raised, so that our pets have a place to go in an Emergency. Whenever the Red Cross Shelter is open, LCAST sets up next door, so that pets can be brought in if you need to go to the Red Cross shelter. Since 2014 the LCAST team has successfully deployed several times!

This past Feb 23rd, the LCAST team met at the Library for an evening of policy review, education and videos about shelter operations. Kathy Herrick put together a beautiful and informative presentation which new and seasoned volunteers alike found quite interesting. This is just another example of the wonderful things that EDOA does!!!

On April 15th the team will assemble once more for a drill at the Wellfleet Fire Dept. If you have an interest in being on the shelter team, **join us from 10-12 on Saturday 4/15 at the Wellfleet Fire Dept.** If you would like more information about joining the LCAST team, contact Cindy Blum at cindy.blum@me.com.

Preparing for Animal Care in an Emergency

Here are a few pointers to add to your "to do" list:

- Make sure your pets are current on their vaccinations. Keep a copy of their current vaccinations on hand. Pet shelters may require proof of vaccines.
- Have a current photograph of your pet and make sure all wear ID tags at all times. Include the phone number of a trusted friend or relative in another part of town.
- Keep an "in case of emergency" card in your wallet that includes information about your pets (So if you can't get home right away, someone will card for them.)
- Have your pet microchipped or tattooed and registered with a national registry.
- Have an evacuation plan and rehearse it with your pets.
- Put "Fireman Alert" notices on your front and rear windows indicating how many animals live in your home.
- Keep a list of local shelters, rescue groups and emergency veterinarians. Keep duplicates at home and elsewhere such as in your car, with friends, on your cell phone, etc.
- Prepare a pet disaster supply kit; include an ample supply of food and water, a carrier or cage, medications, collar, leash and muzzle.

CANINE COMMENTS CORNER

Why I'm Glad Spring is Here (Almost)

By Finn (transcribed by Kathy Herrick)

I'll admit it...I'm short. My legs are about 7 inches long, and if I really stretch, I stand about 13 inches tall. That might not seem like a problem for you, but for me, it makes winter snows a real challenge. It's true that this past winter has been relatively tolerable from a snow perspective, but the snow storms we've had have been tough for me. Most of the storms left at least 6 inches of the white stuff on the ground, and at best, that means that my belly is either skimming the snow or buried in it.

Yes, I have a nice red winter coat that--I must admit--I look pretty dapper in. But for me to walk through the snow, I have to jump like a bunny or a kangaroo, and since I've had surgery on both of my back legs, that is difficult for me. Even with coats on, we dogs lose most of our body heat through the pads of our feet, our ears,



and our respiration. What does all this mean for my winter walks? It means that my humans often need to shovel paths for me in our yard. And it also means that sometimes they must carry me through the higher snow until we get to an area that is plowed. I really don't like for the other dogs in the neighborhood to see me getting carried...I get a little embarrassed when my big personality is impacted by my short stature.

So...goodbye winter and hello spring! Like my humans, I'm really looking forward to the green grass, warm sands, and sunshine that await all of us.

P.S. It's March 22nd as I write this, and incredibly, it's snowing again



Winter in Eastham—Redux*

Ed Daniels, Member of EDOA

“Seems like years since it’s been here”. Four years ago, in this Newsletter I conjured this Ringo Starr lyric to encourage the end of winter and a time my dog and I could get more time outdoors. Not that winter pins dog owners indoors. Now, as then, it is mostly dog walkers that we encounter out in the biting wind. We dog people do take advantage of our recreational opportunities.

Now, as then, Monty expends his energy in enthusiastic – even manic – races for his tennis ball. And afterwards, as I read the newspaper, he still curls up at my feet or in his bed (see photos).



MONTY: Then & Now

Back in 2013 the stories in the paper that were about dogs had turned ugly. The Town of Brewster had torn itself inside out in a polarizing row over dogs in Drummer Boy Park. Other towns were considering breed-specific bans due to dog bites. State Parks were discussing limiting access to dogs. Several Cape communities were adding further restrictions to their by-laws to public lands and beaches.

I still regard such restrictions as particularly onerous. Four years ago I wrote: “Recreational space has been set aside in an inspired attempt to preserve and protect a healthy and fulfilling way of life. Dog owners are arguably the most enthusiastic and constant users of those resources. We know they provide places to train our companion animals – and ourselves - to be emotionally and physically fit. Who could be against that?” And still the pressure continues.

The Drummer Boy Park fiasco exists as a cautionary tail (see what I did there?). After dominating the time and effort of officials and citizens for more than a year, the dog ban was challenged in court. Further attempts to refine the restrictions were eventually abandoned. Dog park plans came and went. Lawyers came and went and got paid. The battle of Drummer Boy Park, as measured by the effects on community, ended with only losers.

A few other towns have since added additional restrictions on beach and public space access for dogs and their owners. Without organized opposition, the dog owners had few options and acquiesced to the new rules. Another cautionary ‘tail’.

If the dog owners of Eastham are to have any legitimacy in standing up for our recreational options, we must take our responsibilities seriously.

Now, just as four years ago:

“As righteous as we should be about our access to public lands, it serves us well to look at the issues that might turn some of our fellow citizens against that access. There are few reports of injury, no reports of dog-borne disease, and point source pollution is nearly impossible to determine. Still the perceptions are understandable that dogs cause these things. A child or stranger to your dog may not be able to differentiate between an enthusiastic greeting and an attack. Dog waste does not belong in recreational spaces where it can come into contact with others or their pets. Be a good citizen. Pick up after your dog – even in the woods – even when no one is looking. Be in control of your dog (leash or voice) and watch for walkers. Call your dog to sit until the walkers pass or show their intention to engage the dog. Who doesn't like to see a well-trained dog?

Having a dog friendly community starts with us. Now get out there and enjoy the coming beautiful weather. You know your dog will.”*

(Note: see the [Winter 2013 EDOA Newsletter](#) for the original “Winter in Eastham” by Ed.)



Katrina & The Cape Cod Dog!

Sponsor Spotlight

Special Canine Kudos to one of our most dedicated and generous sponsors, The Cape Cod Dog, owned and operated by Katrina Boucher. The shop, in Mercantile Plaza on Rte. 6 in Eastham, opened in 2004. Her investment in our community and her generosity has been evident from the start. Katrina was a board member for several years. She was one of the first EDOA sponsors to offer our members discounts at her store. She often donates dog treats, gift certificates, baskets for raffles, and more; she has continued to do this even since she left the board. Additionally, Katrina partners with us for special events such as the Windmill Weekend Parade. We've always been able to count on her support. Thank you,

EDOA member Tony Cantore says, "I shop at CC Dog for all of Madison's needs because Katrina sells the highest quality products, and she provides knowledgeable & valuable information to help me care for our dog."

Take a moment **to fill out a quick survey** for a student from Eastham, Emily DePaoli. Emily attends Stonehill College & is involved with research on dogs' feeding personalities. Deadline is April 11. https://stonehill.co1.qualtrics.com/.../fo.../SV_6n8mLd9UB7ZT6Nn

A Member's Opinion: Benefits of Essential Oils for Pets and Family

By Susan S. Grunin, member of EDOA

Do you know that an average person inhales and absorbs as many as 300 chemicals every day? These chemicals are present in household cleansers, personal care products, and even candles. Because these substances permeate the air and are transferred through touch, others in your home, including children and pets, are also inadvertently exposed to toxins and the potential harm they present.

The biggest household pollutants include caustic cleansers, laundry softeners and dryer sheets, and air and fabric "fresheners" designed to mask odors. Even scented candles can pose a problem. When burned, candles made with petroleum-based paraffin, especially those that have been treated with synthetic fragrances, release highly toxic benzene and toluene. What are the health consequences to people and animals of chronic exposure to these chemicals?

Essential oils can be a safe and effective alternative that can be used to clean our homes and enhance our environment while they improve our health and promote feelings of well-being. Derived from organic sources, essential oils are concentrated plant extracts that are produced using steam distillation, cold pressing, and resin tapping methods that preserve a plant's natural integrity and potency.

Used instead of household and personal cleansers, applied topically, ingested as dietary supplements, or diffused in the air, essential oils are products that we can feel good about having in our homes. As a working parent who shares an active household with two school-age boys, three special-needs dogs, and a bird, I understand the challenges of maintaining a clean and restorative home. Essential oils make it possible for me to achieve both at the same time, without compromising my family's health along the way.

The benefits of aromatherapy are well known. Pleasant aromas can reduce stress and are even used in rescue shelters and by veterinarians to relax nervous animals in their care. But essential oils are also helpful means to improve dogs' health. In my home, simply removing irritants from the air and spraying my dogs' skin with diluted essential oils has been tremendously beneficial. Their skin is less dry and puffy, so they scratch less and retain more protective fur; it appears to be more elastic and healthy, and their dull coats have become thick and glossy. The visible change is dramatic, but best of all, everyone is calmer and happier!

If you would like to learn more, please join me for a free Facebook seminar, "Essential Oils and Dogs", on April 12 at 8 pm, contact me directly at susangrunin@gmail.com or visit the Oily Pets of Cape Cod page on Facebook.

Disclaimer: The information contained herein was not compiled by a medical professional; therefore, anything presented is not intended to treat, diagnose, prevent any disease, or cure your pet. You are responsible for how you use this information. Please consult a veterinarian prior to using essential oils or any other supplements.

Editor's Note: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the EDOA.

Visit us at <http://edoa.powweb.com/> and on Facebook @EasthamDog.org.

Our sponsors are a large part of our success. Please thank them!

- The Dune Tramp Photography
- Eastham Veterinary Hospital
- Animal Hospital of Orleans
- Agway of Cape Cod
- Town of Eastham
- Nauset Pet Services
- The Cape Cod Dog
- All Paws on Deck
- Colleen's Critter Care
- Barkers (Orleans)
- St. Aubin's Bayside Cottages
- First Encounter Coffee House
- Cape Cod Underdog



Molly Malone is our new poster puppy for the Lost Dog Network magnets. Molly's proud humans are Bill and Marybeth O'Shea. Congratulations for having such a beautiful and "lost-looking" dog.

EDOA Board Members

Vicky Anderson, *President*; Tracey Plantier, *Vice President*; Kathy Herrick, *Secretary*; Ruth Bentsen, *Treasurer*; Tony Cantore; Cindy Blum; Dianne Cullen; Joanne Baldauf; Kimberly Inman; Karie Miller; Ellen Murray; Susie Williams, *Newsletter Editor*.

Board meetings are held on the third Thursday, every month at 6 pm. (Eastham Town Hall) All are welcome to attend.