

# EDOA FOCUS



PO Box 274 - Eastham, MA 02642  
www.easthamdog.org

## Winter 2016

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

### Notes from Your President (Vicky Anderson)



Vicky Anderson

After months of tangled, twisted, and controversial election reporting in the national media, I am so very happy to say that our new Officers and Board of Directors were installed with dignity and economy of procedures at the Annual

Meeting on October 20, 2016, at the Eastham Senior Center. The program presented by Officer Raneo and his wonderful drug-sniffing dog (Officer) Ella was enjoyable and most enlightening. It was nice to see so many of you there. I am honored to hold the office of President of EDOA, and I encourage you to contact me with any concerns, questions, etc. at [vickyanderson.7062@yahoo.com](mailto:vickyanderson.7062@yahoo.com).



Cindy Blum & outgoing Pres. Per Bentsen

*Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season!*

### Owners Unite in Eastham (Rick Eldred)

Rick Eldred, a reporter for the *The Cape Codder*, who attended our annual meeting wrote a wonderful article about the EDOA. It begins: "Every dog has its day and in Eastham that day is every day. The Eastham Dog Owners Association keeps canines at the forefront of the town 365 days a year."

#### Read the entire article online at

<http://capecod.wickedlocal.com/news/20161111/dog-owners-are-united-breed-in-eastham>



Officers Raneo & Ella

### Gift a Dog Family

When you find something you really like, you tell people about it, right? How about going one step further and make a gift of it?

- ✓ EDOA does good work, provides nice local discounts, and stands up for dog owners. You know why EDOA is a wonderful group to support. Pass it along.
- ✓ Get your friends started in EDOA with a GIFT MEMBERSHIP. It's easy to do on our safe and secure [website](#), AND, when you indicate that it is a gift we will include a special card recognizing your gift.
- ✓ You know they will be grateful.
- ✓ While you are at it, don't forget to renew your own membership for 2017. <https://www.easthamdog.org/application.html>



### CANINE COMMENT CORNER:

#### DWM\* 101: What Goes On the Ground Cannot Stay On the Ground

My name is Casey Dasti Anderson, and my human read to me the article that Finn had in the summer Newsletter, so it occurred to me that it might be a good idea for me and my four-legged friends to send an article in as Finn did. No pressure, mind you, but if we have something to share, I think we should feel free to do so.

We are so fortunate to be in this wonderful dog-friendly Eastham and to have our humans who belong to EDOA work on all kinds of issues important to us. Further, we have so many great spots to walk and do our doggie business, which I would like to talk a little about.

Eastham is a special place with many advantages and one very special, important feature: it is environmentally fragile and always in need of tender loving care.

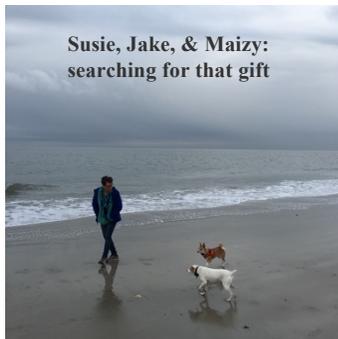
(Can you tell that my human is helping me write this? LOL)

So, always remember to try to "go" in a spot where our humans can easily pick it up and we can nudge him/her if they don't.

Now, I may be preaching to the choir here, but you just might have human neighbors who need gentle reminders about cleaning up after their most noble dogs.

Finally, I urge all you wonderful EDOA members to read this to your pets. Trust me when I say they will understand and may want to send in an article for the next Newsletter!

*Canines: send your articles & comments to Cassie c/o EDOA  
\*DWM=dog waste management*



### **Looking for that Perfect Holiday Gift?**

#### **Why not donate to the *Buddy Scholarship Fund*?**

Donations may be made either IN HONOR OF or IN MEMORY OF your recipient. Your recipient will get a beautiful, handwritten card acknowledging your generous donation.

Your gift helps support an Eastham Resident who is currently enrolled in an animal related educational program.

It's Simple to Donate!

[Go online to http://www.easthamdog.org/](http://www.easthamdog.org/)

***A meaningful way to express how much you care!!***

### **Lost Dog Serendipity** (Tracey Plantier)

The Lost Dog Network has been very busy in 2016. As of this writing the network has taken 97 calls. In October,



the network experienced what I would call "serendipity." The definition of serendipity is the chance occurrence of an event that has a happy or beneficial result. The weekend after the EDOA Annual meeting seemed to be a perfect example of that happy chance event phenomenon.

The Lost Dog Network is a team comprised of many roles that make the network successful. One role in the network is to handle communication: e-mail, Facebook, and phone. Using these tools, even as a part-time resident of Eastham, I can help with the network all year-round. On-Cape activities like placing Lost Dog signs, organizing and completing physical searches, and reuniting lost dogs with their owners falls to other committed members of the network.

One role in the network is to handle communication: e-mail, Facebook, and phone. Using these tools, even as a part-time resident of Eastham, I can help with the network all year-round. On-Cape activities like placing Lost Dog signs, organizing and completing physical searches, or reuniting lost dogs with their owners falls to other committed members of the network.

Right after the EDOA Annual Meeting, I was headed back from an errand to the Superette when four glowing eyes came glimmering down the middle of the road. I immediately thought: "coyotes?" As they became visible in my headlights, I realized they weren't coyotes but two big beautiful dogs. I immediately called the Eastham Police and asked if anyone had reported two lost dogs. The dispatcher replied, "Yes! Please get them. Their names are Mac and Iva, but they respond to a sound. Make a sound like 'beep, beep, beep.'" OK, I was out in the dark, in the middle of the road yelling their names, followed by "beep, beep, beep". They didn't come directly to me, but I could see their running shadows. My goal was to keep them nearby until their owner could get to us. So I continued, "Mac, Iva, beep, beep, beep." After about 10 minutes of yelling, the owner arrived, driving down the street, sounding her car horn – "beep, beep, beep!" I wasn't sure if something was lost in the translation from the owner to the dispatcher, but in that moment, I realized that Mac & Iva probably don't respond to a voice yelling "beep, beep, beep," but the actual sound of a car horn. The dogs responding to the familiar sound of the horn and owner's voice, jumped right into their car. Happy to have helped and excited to see the reunion, I headed home.

I thought I'd settled in for a relaxing night, but the phone rang; the caller was a kind Samaritan reporting about a lost blind, older Yorkie named Bozo. After speaking to the owner, a plan was communicated to the LD Network: get out early the next morning to place signs and start a physical search. The next morning as a physical search had begun and signs had been placed, I got a call from Larry, the Lost Dog Network on-Cape coordinator and my friend. Larry gave me the address of the couple who had found Bozo, and off I went to collect him, while Larry called our searcher in the field, Carolyn, to call off the physical search. The nice couple told me that they could tell Bozo was hungry; he had wolfed the treats they offered him and hungrily sniffed for more. Sure enough, Bozo was soon squirming in my arms was trying to get to the treats that I carry in my Lost Dog vest. He was soon happily reunited with his owners; we took pictures and talked about the Lost Dog Network.

On my way home, as I was happily thinking how lucky we were with both rescues, I spotted a gentleman standing in the middle of the street blowing a dog whistle (and obviously looking for a lost dog—of course!). I stopped my car, thought "this really is the definition of serendipity." I said to the man with the whistle: "You're probably going to think this is strange, but the vest I'm wearing is a lost dog vest & these signs in my car are lost dog signs & I'm with an organization in Eastham that helps find lost dogs! So would you like our help?" He was very relieved; he and his wife were renting a cottage for the weekend and thought the fenced in backyard was a safe space for their miniature schnauzer, Peanut. But (of course) Peanut discovered a breach in the fence and soon



disappeared. So I jumped out of the car and started placing Lost Dog signs in front of the house. The owner returned to the backyard to call the dog. I was creating a minor traffic slowdown because folks were curious about what was going on. A young couple slowed down to ask the dog's name. "**Peanut**" I said a little bit louder than I would normally so they could hear me over their engine. Then the couple began moving their car around me, but I caught movement to my left. So I yelled to them, "**stay put**" because Peanut was running directly towards me right down the middle of the road. I immediately got low on the road, and Peanut ran right to me. I scooped her up with probably the biggest smile on my face. The young couple laughed and said "Wow, those signs really work!" It was a quick happy reunion with Peanuts owners. I returned home—*finally*--to send out all the information about the luck we had that weekend returning four dogs to their owners.

It was very satisfying to be part of these on-Cape activities, meet the dogs and their owners, and experience the happy reunions. The strength of the network is a large group of people who care about dogs. This team consists of Eastham Police and dispatchers who help with information and support. Local organizations help with identification and communication, including Nauset Pet Services, Animal Rescue League of Boston, and local veterinary offices. The network expands even further with local companies that have asked their drivers to keep an eye out while they are working – Nauset Disposal and Snow's Fuel Company. Of course, Lost Dog Network coordinators who help organize information and physical searches and Lost Dog Network searchers who go out on very short notice to place signs, help with sightings and search tough terrain. This network also includes good Samaritans who call in with reports of lost or found dogs, take them in and keep them safe. That's the team that is The Lost Dog Network. Team is what makes us successful--that and a little bit of serendipity.

**Holiday Foods Your Pets Should Never Eat** (thanks to Cindy Blum; excerpted from [VetStreet.com](http://VetStreet.com))

*If you suspect your pet has eaten a dangerous food, contact your veterinarian immediately.*



1. **Chocolate:** It's one of our favorite holiday indulgences, but can cause and death in dogs and cats (although felines seem to be less attracted to chocolate). Darker chocolate, such as unsweetened baker's chocolate, is more toxic than milk or white chocolate.
2. **Macadamia Nuts:** These small nuts may look harmless, but they can poison dogs who get into a bowl of them. Clinical signs of poisoning include depression, vomiting, tremors, lack of coordination and joint stiffness.
3. **Coffee:** If you have guests over for after-dinner coffee, make sure they don't leave it anywhere that pets could take a sip. The caffeine in coffee can prompt abnormal heart rhythm and death in pets.
4. **Unbaked Bread Dough:** Around the holidays, many of us are dusting off bread makers and baking tins that haven't seen the light of day since last Christmas. But here's a toxin that would probably surprise most pet owners: unbaked dough. If your pet ingests it, it can expand in the stomach. In some dogs, it's possible for the stomach to twist, cutting off the blood supply, a condition requiring emergency surgery. The yeast in the dough can also produce alcohol, leading to seizures and respiratory failure.
5. **Alcohol:** Speaking of, that's another holiday treat to keep away from your animals. Alcohol's toxicity is heavily dependent on body weight — and pets weigh a lot less than people do, which means it takes much less alcohol to make them dangerously sick. And that explains why animals (well maybe except some humans?) shouldn't have any alcohol at all.
6. **Sugar-Free Items Containing Xylitol:** Even the most knowledgeable pet owners may not have heard about this very dangerous hazard. Xylitol, an artificial sweetener in products like sugar-free gum, candy and mints, causes a sudden release of insulin in a dog's body that leads to serious low blood sugar. It can also cause liver damage. You could see vomiting, lethargy and other signs of poisoning in less than 15 minutes. If left untreated, the condition can be fatal. Make sure your pets don't have access to sugar-free baked goods or open purses containing sugar-free gum and mints.

**Too Close to the Cliff** (Ed Daniels)



"I'm so sorry. Dogs that have damage like that do not have a good prognosis." The young veterinarian in Bar Harbor was solemn and did not make eye contact. There was a long pause while my brain flashed between not being sure of my hearing and not understanding what I surely heard. Monty, our 4-year-old Labrador retriever, lay motionless at my feet – taking rapid, shallow breaths.

"What exactly does that look like?" I asked, afraid to put the words out there.

Two days before he was relentlessly chasing balls for as long as my grandsons could throw them. Monty was nosing around the campground, excited to be back in the woods with new smells and new territory to mark. He jumped from rock to rock, following the boys as they explored the tide pools at Acadia National Park's Otter cliffs. "Hey, you guys, not too close to that cliff." That was when he came up lame.

Monty could be a big baby. The slightest thing would have him limping and looking sad – a thorn, a tiny cut on his pad. A close inspection turned up no such obvious injury, so I chalked it up to a twisted leg. He'd be back to normal tomorrow, as always, I assured the boys. The next morning, Monty did not want to walk at all. Temp was 105 and he started five days without food.

"If caused by the Lyme disease, kidney damage is always fatal." The vet looked at me briefly, apologetically. She teared up – then pulled herself back into doctor mode. "We will start on antibiotics but it must be after Monty has eaten."

I felt the blood drain from my head despite my heart racing. This muscular, athletic, healthy dog, my companion, was in dreadful danger of being taken out by one of the smallest organisms on Earth.

I snapped back to the conversation with the vet. "Eating is usually no problem for a Lab and Monty in particular, but he has now refused three meals," I reported.

The Bar Harbor Veterinary Hospital had its own lab, pharmacy, and market. We left with a vial of pills, two cans of "digestive" dog food, and a lab report. "*Lyme and Anaplasmosis*. Elevated protein in the urine – kidney damage.". These are two of the most common tick-borne diseases now found in nearly all ticks on Cape Cod. I found one on me and sent it off for testing a year ago, and it had both bacterial loads (although I did not contract the diseases). Over the next three days Monty was spoon-fed anything he would eat followed by doxycycline pills. He was carried out to pee. He threw up the pills. He panted all night and day, lying next to me on my camp bed, never raising his head. He was sliding away. We headed back to the vet.

In the pickup truck on the way to Bar Harbor, Monty vomited yet again but did not move from his spot on the back seat. He lay limp as I cleaned him up. He had now lost eight pounds (12% of his weight) in four days. I hugged him, felt his ribs through thinning fur, and looked into his sunken eyes – the look of death.

"Don't give up, Pup. We have to go play ball," I said, as he tried to lick me with his now white tongue. More tests showed the kidney test was improving, but the lack of consistent antibiotics was allowing the bacteria to persist and possibly develop resistance. A different antibiotic – not usually used due to expense and incomplete testing – is injectable and therefore does not irritate the GI tract. That might work.

Monty ate his first meal in 5 days. He started drinking, walking around, breathing normally. The speed of his recovery was astonishing. Once the diseases were knocked back and his appetite returned, we could complete the traditional treatment with doxycycline.

Today, he has no residual effects. But I do.

I am delighted by my pup's mindless playfulness and think of those moments of desperate helplessness. Monty jumps for his ball – one bounce – 5 feet in the air, and I remember a special veterinary group that responded quickly and professionally - even opening on a Sunday. We are fortunate. Very fortunate. It could have ended differently.

That was way too close to the cliff.



#### **The take-away on ticks:**

- Advantix and Frontline are NOT 100% effective (used in Monty's case).
- Vaccine for Lyme was about 50% effective although recently improved. (Monty had his shots).
- *You may not see the tick* (never saw a tick on Monty all season).
- Ticks now carry Lone Star disease as well as Lyme and Anaplasmosis.
- Nearly all ticks on Cape Cod now carry diseases.
- Dogs react differently to the disease. 90 - 95% show no symptoms.
- Lyme can act fast. Decline takes *hours*-- not days -- and damage can be permanent, even fatal.
- Damage to kidneys caused by Lyme is nearly 100% fatal.
- Watch for joint pain (limping not always on the same leg), lethargy and high fever.

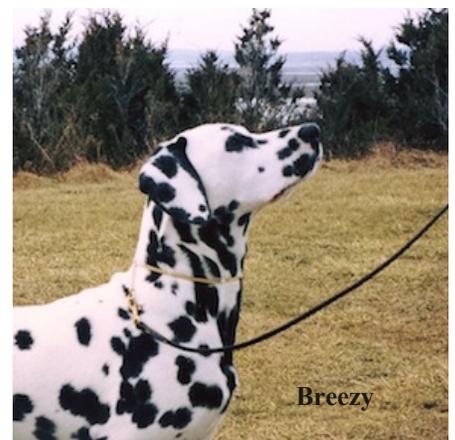
#### **IN MEMORIAM**

**Breezy** (Ellen Murray)

Losing a dog who has been such an integral part of your life is never easy. But, I am thankful and feel blessed to have had Breezy for 15 wonderful years.

She was my pick puppy from the last Dalmatian litter that I bred in 2001. Destined for the show ring, she finished her AKC championship before the age of one, winning many honors at National Specialties, and finally at the Westminster Kennel Club Show in 2003. She also had a cameo appearance in the PBS Nova documentary, *Dogs and More Dogs*. She loved exploring and walking the many beaches and trails in Eastham, Wellfleet and Truro until she was 14. In her golden years, she enjoyed chiropractic and hydrotherapy, which helped with her mobility.

She was a very special part of my life, and I will never forget her.



#### **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.*