

CARING FOR ANIMALS IS AGELESS AND REWARDING

(continued from page 3)

three years ago and has very quickly and thoroughly recovered. Bonebreak also cares for two cats, a Tabby and a Calico, her daughter adopted in New York City from a rescue group. She rented a limousine and gave them an amazing journey to Ocean City, Maryland among other stops before nestling into her home in Clarksville. She added, "I also have a goldfish. The Tabby exercises vigorously by banging on the side of the tank to get the attention of the fish. You could say the Tabby is can-tank-erous. I keep a lid on the tank to protect the fish."

Laura VanTassel proudly shared photos of her three dogs, Diesel, Rocket and Luna. They are Belgian Malinois, a breed known for military and police work. They resemble German Shepherds yet definitely enjoy a handsome look of their own. Luna is VanTassel's therapy dog. She takes her on regular visits to the Oncology ward at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital and to local nursing homes. VanTassel said, "It's amazing what a dog can do for therapy. We see different



Alison Shutt, Topper Shutt, Claire Proffitt, FMCA board president and Janet Lamkin, FMCA vice-president.

people every week. It's a nice thing to do and on a selfish level, it makes you humble when you think you're having a bad day.

Topper Shutt "talks the talk" and "walks the walk." For over fifteen years he has led the Montgomery County SPCA's annual Dog Walk in Potomac. "Weather" great or small, he encourages the adoption of animals. Annually on WUSA9's broadcast, he features the SPCA's mascot and owners who adopted through MCSPCA. WUSA9 features Petline 9 on air every Thursday at noon when a

representative from a humane organization appears with information about an animal seeking adoption. Shutt said, "It's a cause near and dear and a great way to get the word out. It's a great station service to find an owner for a pet."

For more information visit:

www.friendsofmontgomerycountyanimals.com

*The Officers and Board Members of FMCA
express our sympathy to Board Member Ellie Brown
on the passing of her son David Croyder.*

David's poetic tribute to his dog Bo, written in 2001, can be read below.

Best Friend

by David W. Croyder – February 2001

In the tall grass by the railroad tracks a most humble beginning
To the New York Palace all class and charm, room service is waiting
Outgoing, warm and kind by nature a new friend today, it's in the making
Eyes gleaming, white teeth beaming, a sprint around the house standard greeting

Cold, winter air and a light snow a spring walk in Central Park
Feathers in the wind, water over rocks stop and take notice, hark
A playful day and now at rest, the groping of a child my patience is your pleasure
Leap to the bed, say goodnight, contented eyes and smile the day now has closure

By your side, always there "Where are you going?" – I want to be there
Uncompromising loyalty, a bond created nothing asked in return, for him – it's fair
Joyful exuberance, zest for life, stole the turkey carcass caught in the act, confessed
Catch a shooting star, is it possible? many lives touched and those have been blessed

Like yesterday, it seems a face so bright
Face full of joy chasing a squirrel, you know that's right
The forgiving eyes from across the couch, missing say it ain't so
I miss you, I love you my best friend, Bo

Bo Croyder 1989 - 2001



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