

We just received another update from the Motion Picture & Television Fund about how the Doris Day Animal Foundation funds are helping residents and their pets. We wanted to share a few of these terrific stories with you.

MPTF ELDER CONNECTION - PET CARE PROGRAM

1) A year ago Mrs. K. moved onto the Wasserman Campus with her cat, LG. Already receiving a charitable subsidy, the Pet Care program was able to help her with food and litter. As Mrs. K's health deteriorated, the nursing staff cared for not only her, but LG as well, and Pet Care continued to help pay for food and litter. When Mrs. K. died, another resident who had come to love LG's company wanted to adopt him. Although on a fixed income herself, she thought a companion would be good for her. The Pet Care program has alleviated the financial fears that can be associated with pet ownership and at the same time has assured LG of a good meal and a clean litter box.

2) Ms. G, a Screen Actors Guild (SAG) member since 1946, began volunteering for MPTF on April 2, 2008- her 85th birthday! It was a great way to celebrate - by starting something new. If we mentioned some of her roles, you would remember her well. While sitting at a celebrity signing event one day with a friend from movies in the '40s, a young lady passed their table carrying a small golden ball of fluff. Never one to let an animal so cute get by without a smooch, a friend and volunteer Gloria stopped her and asked about the little dog. It turned out, the dog's name was Emma, and she couldn't walk, and never had, having been rescued from a puppy farm a few years back. Ms. G gave her a big cuddle. A few days later, after starting her new volunteer job at the *Pet Care Program* for the Motion Picture and Television Fund, she was chatting with a client to make sure her monthly check for pet food had arrived. Ms. G asked about her pets, learning that she had three dogs: two fairly large and one small, named Emma, who had never walked, and who had lived all her life in a cage in a puppy mill until she took her home. It was the same little Emma, herself! Ms. G told her that Emma is a very lucky dog to have a caring friend who carries her around all the time. And that caring friend is also lucky to be able to enjoy the warmth and companionship of those grateful animals through the help of the *Pet Care Program* and the Doris Day Animal Foundation.

3) Mrs. B. is an 83-year-old woman who was employed in the entertainment industry as a hair and make up artist. Three years ago some friends came to visit and brought along a cat named Babe. Mrs. B quickly became attached to the furry feline, and the friends gave the cat to Mrs. B. and now the two live in Southern California. Babe has brought a great sense of purpose to her life because she no longer had anyone to care for; her children are all grown and her family is far away. Mrs. B. lives on a fixed income and turned to MPTF for assistance. She now receives financial support through the *MPTF Elder Connection Program* and the *Pet Care Program* for support with cat food and supplies.

When Babe developed an infection from a bite that needed immediate treatment, Mrs. B. could not imagine life without Babe and panicked, urging her caregiver to take her to the animal hospital. She was shocked to hear he needed an emergency surgery, but agreed to the cost without thinking because Babe is her primary relationship. When she learned the cost came to \$690, she was overwhelmed. She brought the problem to her *Elder Connection* social worker, and after an assessment of the case, the *Pet Care Program* was able to pay the vet bill completely and relieve the financial burden this emergency created. Mrs. B exclaimed about what a "God send" the Pet Care Program is and how much she appreciates it.

4) A letter to Doris Day from another resident reads: "Hello, my name is A, and I reside on the Motion Picture Television Fund campus, and I am writing to thank you for the Pet Care Program. I am owned by a wonderful feline named N due to her Egyptian-shaped eyes. N was adopted from a rescue group called Cat Faire that places adult cats with good homes. N was six years old when she moved in and took over my life three years ago. Her breed is domestic short hair, and I believe she has some calico in her background as some of her fur is a soft orange. The Pet Care Program has helped me so much with her food and other supplies. They even reimbursed me for a vet trip I had to make for N. Being on a limited income I just had to say thank you and let you know N and I really appreciate the program and your help."