

• JANUARY 2012



Phinney's Friends

2011 Update

DEDICATED TO THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND DURING TIMES OF CRISIS

Wow, it's been three years since Phinney's Friends turned into an independent nonprofit! And we were able to accomplish so much since then, thanks to our generous donors and volunteers.

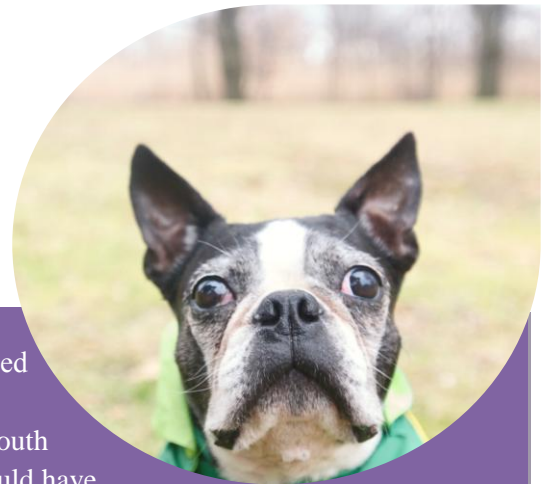
In 2011, many dogs and cats needed our help.

We were able to provide food, prescription food, preventative vet care and emergency vet care that kept cats and dogs and their owners together. We also distributed donated items -- from pet stairs and beds for old cats and dogs to cat scratchers, toys, treats, pee pads, diapers, shampoo, grooming tools, leashes, collars, dog jackets, and many other items that provided comfort to families in distress.

When our clients are going through a hard time, their pets are generally the ones who bring relief and joy. They don't judge them, they don't ask questions, they are great listeners. And seeing them suffer is something that can take people to their limits.

We are happy to tell you we were able to see many doggie, kitty and people smiles in 2011, making sure they will continue together during hard times. To give you an idea of what we did during 2011, we selected a few stories to tell you.

Enjoy!



Mary's little dog, Labeam, was treated for severe dental disease at Angell Memorial. The vet said that if his mouth had been left as is, the infection would have caused his jaw to break. We paid to have most of his teeth extracted -- Labeam was a sad little guy when he got home, as you can imagine! But Phinney's Friends volunteers helped Mary with his recovery, and he is now wagging his tail again and feeling great.

Beautiful Shadow, one of our beloved dogs, was diagnosed with liver cancer in 2011. Phinney's took care of vet bills and many rides to the vet to try to save her. Shadow saved her owner's life several times during the years they were together. When we found out that the cancer had spread, her volunteer dog walkers made sure she got out many days a week for as long as she could enjoy her strolls, since Rick could not walk her anymore, being sick himself.

When the cancer finally made a good life impossible for Shad, we provided a visiting vet, so Rick could hold her and say goodbye in his home by her side, as Rick cannot leave his apartment due to his health. Volunteer Erin, who has walked Shad for years, came to the apartment and provided her strength and support as Shad was peacefully relieved of her pain. Rick was so grateful to be able to be with his best buddy when her time came.





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Phinney's volunteers also stepped up during the spring of 2011 floods.

One of our clients was evacuated and would not go to safety unless their pets were also safe. The pets were promptly picked up, taken to a foster home and returned to the owner as soon as the home was again habitable. If the client had not received our help, she would have had to abandon her pets or stay in a dangerous environment.



Pedro, another long-time Phinney's client, was very worried about his dog Scooby, who seemed sad and listless. Scooby's coat got dry and started falling out. He had also gained several pounds. A trip to the vet diagnosed him with a thyroid problem. Scooby got the lab work he needed, prescription food and medication.

After a few months on the right medication, and with all the care and love that Pedro provides him, you should see how much Scooby improved. He is now a slimmer, bright and lively dog with a soft shiny coat and lots of energy. We are all so glad to have our old Scooby back. Phinney's volunteers walk Scooby and Chiquinha a few days a week, and they report Scooby is so much happier, as is his proud owner, Pedro.

Chaplin the cat needed to be rushed to the vet for a urinary obstruction, a life-threatening condition. He was in a great deal of pain and needed immediate treatment. Phinney's helped his owner with the vet bill, and since then we have been delivering the prescription food that Chaplin needs to stay healthy. Chaplin is back to purring on his owners lap. Life is good again for this furry family.

Our client John had a very difficult year in 2011. He was hospitalized for a hip fracture and another time for an infection. The apartment above his had a small fire, which caused his place to be flooded with smokey water. Phinney's immediately removed his cat from there and took Miss Kitty to a foster home. We kept her safe while he recovered from his illnesses and got his apartment cleaned.



When John came back and found Miss Kitty in good health, he profusely thanked Phinney's for all we've done to help them. He lives alone, and Miss Kitty is truly his main source of company and support. Phinney's also provides food for Miss Kitty every now and then, and volunteers visit often to say hello and trim kitty nails.

Jack is a senior client of Phinney's who lives in Boston with his 13-year-old cat, Whiskers. Phinney's has gotten Whiskers in for his annual vet check up to make sure he's enjoying a healthy life with his loving owner. Whiskers let everyone know at the vet's office that he wasn't very happy about being examined. But Jack was very thankful that he could finally provide his cat with the care he needed.

Phinney's volunteers also visit Whiskers once a month to trim his nails -- which he also detests. Jack has very thin skin, and long cat nails tend to hurt him. So, Whiskers may be mad at us when we show up, but Jack is so grateful. He can once more call Whiskers and let him sit on his lap, so they can read a book or watch TV together.





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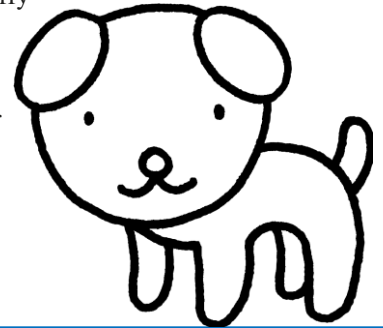
Matthew, one of our sickest clients, lives in an apartment in Boston in a hospital bed.

His cat Lily, a cat who had nowhere to go because she lost her home, found a helping hand at Phinney's Friends. A Phinney's volunteer brought her over to Matthew's home. He had lost his senior cat and was feeling very sad and lonely. The two of them bonded immediately. Now Lily spends all of her time sitting on his bed watching over him, purring and keeping him company.

Since Matthew can't scoop the litter box for medical reasons, Phinney's bought him an automatic self-cleaning litter box and taught Lily how to use it. A team of volunteers come in weekly to clean the poop cartridge, change water, groom Lily and change the litter trays. After a few months, Lily started vomiting several times a day. When we took her to the vet, we also found out she had a heart murmur. We are providing Lily prescription food to make her tummy better and scheduled a heart check with a specialist. We will make sure that Lily gets the care she needs, so she can continue to share her love with Matthew.

Polar the Bichon Frise needed our help urgently in 2011.

His owner was unable to brush him properly, so his fluffy coat got very matted. Pooch Palace helped with and emergency clip down, and Phinney's Friends took Polar to the vet, so his skin could be treated. Polar got home quite "naked" but much happier. Since his owner has disabilities, we recruited a volunteer to help Polar's owner with routine brushing and care.



We provide Polar dog food when things are tough during a particular month, and we helped his owner pay for his vaccines and neutering surgery. Polar is now feeling much better when he trots along beside his owner's electric wheelchair, and we heard he entertains the other residents in his building his tricks and tail wags.

Andrea, a long-time, Phinney's Friends client, needed help with her cat Anook. She did not have enough cat food, and Anook was past due her vaccines, which needed to be done so they could continue living in their group home in Cambridge. Phinney's took Andrea and Anook to the vet and provided them with cat food, a bed, a cat scratcher and toys. Oh, and he loved the catnip container, too!

Stan was very worried when he found out about Phinney's and called us. He required double knee replacements and was in a great deal of pain, therefore unable to walk his little dog Lucy Snow. Since he had no money to hire dog walkers, Phinney's formed a team of volunteers that made sure Lucy got out for exercise and sun. **Thanks to our help, he didn't have to surrender his best friend in the world.**

Our client Vincent asked for our help with vet bills and food for his two cats, Yoda and Patches. He also asked us to be there for his kitties if anything happened to him. Sadly, Vincent passed away, and Phinney's made sure that his two cats got adopted together into a new home. We hear that they adapted quickly to their new family and are happy to be together.

Nuyen, Laura's little Lhasa Apso, had a painful lump on his leg, and she had run out of money. Phinney's was able to get Nuyen the vet care he so badly needed, and after surgery, Nuyen is pain-free and recovering. Laura loves her dog and was in great distress about not being able to help him. She was so committed to providing him with a better quality of life. Her efforts to help her dog was so inspirational to all of the board members. It's always wonderful to see how much Phinney's people love their animals.



**We are so grateful for the donations we receive.
They make all these dreams come true. Keeping pets and people together.**