

# FROSTBURG EXPRESS

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## Food drive being held for pets

FOR THE FROSTBURG EXPRESS

FROSTBURG — The Frostburg Lions Club is sponsoring the first annual Pet Food Drive during the month of August. Lions will be collecting pet food at the Frostburg Farmers Market, every Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, Main Street, Frostburg. The drive will benefit the Ark of Hope Animal Rescue and (no kill) Shelter in Oldtown.

"Every animal lover should help with this Pet Food Drive," said Lions President Bill Munck. "This is the best way to help our abuse, abandoned and neglected friends."

During the Ducky incident in Allegany County, Lions wanted to help find and care for Ducky, but were unable to. Born of that desire to help, the Pet Food Drive came to life: a way to help that would have a positive impact on shelter animals in the county.

The famous little dog, Ducky, was a resident of the Ark of Hope during his recovery. "We want to help them all," said Lion Linda Baker, "and this Food Drive is a way for everyone to make a contribution, no matter how small or large."

The Ark of Hope will be this year's beneficiary, receiving all collected pet food, and monetary contributions. The "Ark" is a non-profit organization that rescues animals that have been abused, abandoned, and neglected. Once at "The Ark" the animals get the medical treatments that they need, and they are provided with nutritious food, bathed, receive a warm room and a comfortable bed. They are cared for until they are ready to be placed up for adoption. When healthy enough, the animal will be spayed/neutered and vaccinat-

ed.

The Ark of Hope Rescue, is operated by Dianne Care, her husband Bobby, their son Bobby 3, and their daughter Elizabeth. Over the years Dianne has been rescuing animals, but the cost of vet bills food for the animals, spaying and neutering, as well as the numerous other supplies needed to do this became too financially prohibitive; so, they set up an organization where others would learn about caring for dogs, cats, etc., and hopefully people would decide that they wanted to help. They have built a new building suitable for some long term rescues. These are the animals that come in need of medical attention, or with slight behavior problems that need to be addressed before they are placed in new homes.

"Our goals for this first ever Pet Food Drive are simple," said Munck. "We want to collect: 500 pounds of dry dog and cat food, 10 cases of canned food, 100 pounds of cat litter, and \$500 cash for the shelter." Munck added: "We just don't know what to expect with this food drive, so we set our goal low. Hopefully, we will far exceed them."

In addition to food, the shelter can use cash for special diets, toys, blankets, Kuranda beds and to pay some of its massive vet bills.

First United Bank, Frostburg, is the first business to partner with Frostburg Lions Club for this unique community service project. First United will be a pet food drop of point for the Drive. Mary Lyn Longley, branch manager, said: "We are very please to partner with the Frostburg Lions, and the Ark of Hope, to collect pet food, and promote this project." Longley



Dianne Care is pictured with Chance, the dog that was shot in face several years ago.

noted that the bank, "is a community member, and as such, community service is very important to us."

County residents are encouraged to help out the Lions and make contributions to the drive to reach the goals. Pet food can be dropped off each Friday at

the Farmers Market in Frostburg, and at other times at: First United Bank, Frostburg, and the Hotel Gunter, downtown Frostburg. Checks can be mailed to: Pet Food Drive, P.O. Box 371, Frostburg, MD 21532.

For additional information,

call the Frostburg Lions at: 301-687-0212. The Ark of Hope can be reached at The Ark of Hope Rescue, Inc., 13400 Arctic Ridge Lane Oldtown, MD 21555 or by calling 301-478-3300. Visit the Ark of Hope on the net at: <http://www.arkofhoperescue.org>.