

Cape Region lawyer crusades against canine cancer

\$5,000 raised for Chase Away K9 Cancer

By Rob Kunzig
rkunzig@capegazette.com

Checkers is a 7-year-old Jack Russell terrier who greets clients at Bonnie Benson's law offices in Camden and Lewes. A year ago, veterinarians discovered a rare nerve sheath tumor near Checkers' spine that would eventually kill him. Though crushed, Benson felt compelled to do something. She started a fundraiser. The Paws for the Cause

Fundraiser held its maiden event Jan. 25, drawing more than 100 people to JD Shuckers. Patrons enjoyed drinks and plates of beef brisket and shrimp while singer/songwriter Paul Cullen plucked an acoustic guitar. Sponsored by JD Shuckers, **Make My Day Event Planning** and RJ Studios, the event raised over \$5,000.

All proceeds were donated to Chase Away K9 Cancer, a Lakewood, Colo.-based nonprofit dedicated to raising funds for canine cancer research. Chase Away awarded two \$50,000 re-

search grants in 2008.

"I'm a big believer in fate," said Benson, who heard about Chase Away at the Waterfowl Festival in Easton, Md. Though Checkers'

tumor isn't cancerous, supporting Chase Away seemed like the perfect way to funnel her determination to help.

Benson said one in every three

dogs will get cancer – the cold fact of the numbers propelled her.

Continued on page 52



ROB KUNZIG PHOTOS

MAKE MY DAY EVENT PLANNING and JD Shuckers co-sponsored Paws for the Cause. Enjoying the party are (l-r) Leanne Silicato Affeldt, **Make My Day** coordinator; Bonnie Benson, Paws for the Cause founder; Jamie Davis, JD Shuckers co-owner. Benson holds a watercolor portrait of her dog Checkers, painted by portrait artist Jerry Dahl.



Let me tell you about my best friend..

She's always on guard.

She has my back – and my heart.

Office hours Monday ~ Saturday



OCEAN VIEW
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

A full service
small animal hospital

118 atlantic avenue ■ ocean view ■ 302.539.2273
jennifer lesser brunori, dvm ■ oceanviewanimalthospital.com

Canine

Continued from page 51

"I couldn't just feel sorry for myself," she said. "This was just something I had to do."

Title sponsors and local businesses donated services for silent auction. RJ Studios donated a \$1,000 gift certificate for a photo session, and Jerry Dahl, a Broomall, Pa.-based watercolor painter, offered 25 percent off of a pet portrait.

Dahl's painting of Checkers was on display.

Benson plans to expand Paws for the Cause activities – eventually, she hopes the organization will raise up to \$50,000 for Chase Away. Leanne Silicato Affeldt, an event coordinator with **Make My Day**, is optimistic about future efforts.

"I definitely think we're going to be collaborating on another fundraiser in the spring," she said, mentioning the possibility of a golf tournament.

Anyone interested in sponsoring future events can contact Pamela Amoroso at 302-644-7181 or pamoroso@bonniebenson.com.

A forthcoming website, **pawsforthecausefoundation.com**, will include a schedule of events.