

# 2010 Veterinary Service Award

## Larry Chusid, The Pongo Fund

The Veterinary Service Award recognizes an individual, group or organization that has promoted the veterinary profession and/or the well-being of animals.



It all started with an effort to feed two hungry dogs underneath the Morrison Bridge in Portland, Oregon. And little more than two years later, The Pongo Fund has become Oregon's largest single charitable pet food resource.

With their mission of providing quality dog and cat food for the family pets of anyone in honest need, The Pongo Fund currently donates some 40,000 meals for more than 1,000 family pets each month; this adds up to more than 300,000 life-saving meals to date.



But this is about far more than just a bowl of kibble. Because when families must choose what to cut from their grocery lists, pets often are among those that suffer most. In reality the entire family suffers, as meals end up commonly shared between person and pet. And everyone goes to bed hungry.

Further pain is caused by the countless numbers of family pets that are abandoned or surrendered, simply because their families cannot afford to feed them. For folks already struggling, being forced to give up their beloved pet is akin to ripping their family apart. And that's where The Pongo Fund comes in.

Through their partnerships with Canidae All Natural Pet Foods and Dogswell Pet Foods, The Pongo Fund is really part of the conduit keeping families together. By feeding the pets, they're feeding the family. And their extensive distribution through The Pongo Fund Pet Food Bank allows everyone the chance to have good food for their dinner.

Because, sometimes, a simple bowl of kibble is the force that both keeps a family together and saves the lives of the animals they love.