

## Pongo Fund gives out record amounts of pet food

By Jacques Von Lunen, Special to The Oregonian...

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Word is getting around about Portland's pet food bank.

When **The Pongo Fund Pet Food Bank** opened its doors **last November**, founder Larry Chusid was prepared for a torrent of need. But requests came in at a trickle. On that first day Chusid and his volunteers gave out food for 119 animals.

The Pongo Fund has enough supplies and volunteers to give out 8 tons - 16,000 pounds - of pet food per month. Reaching that volume would mean helping more animals than any other single pet food bank in the country.

Clearly, the somewhat sparse demand of those early days was not due to lack of need. Other pet food banks in the area - **FIDO** in Oregon City and **CAT** in Sherwood - started out slow, only to eventually be flooded with requests.

Now that's happening at Portland's pet food bank, too.

This month, Chusid's group gave out more than 10,000 pounds of pet food.

This past Sunday, people "were lined up all the way around the corner as (we) opened our doors," Chusid said. "All of us that were there will remember (that day)."

In just three hours, The Pongo Fund provided food for the 465 pets of 135 families.

The Pongo Fund Pet Food Bank is located at 910 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. in Portland. It is open every second and fourth Sunday of the month from noon to 3 p.m. For more information go to The Pongo Fund's **Web site** or call 503-939-7555.

-- **Jacques Von Lunen**

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Pongo Fund founder Larry Chusid is geared up to give out a lot of pet food to those in need.