

# New plates going to the dogs

By Stephanie Thiessen  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Fans of Farley, the beloved old sheepdog from the comic strip For Better or For Worse, can now enjoy the affable canine on their licence plates, with a Farley graphic that'll do more than just look cute.

The licence plates, which were made available for sale by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation recently, are designed to raise funds and support for The Farley Foundation, a charitable organization run out of Milton by the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA).

The Farley Foundation, which was founded in 2001, helps financially-challenged seniors and disabled pet owners pay for vet care.

"I am so proud that Farley will be memorialized by a licence plate," said comic strip artist Lynn Johnston in a press release.

Johnston modeled Farley after the first dog she owned.

"The Farley Foundation is a wonderful organization which has done amazing things in such a short period of time," she said.

A portion of the sale of each plate will be donated to The Farley Foundation, said



**HEY THERE FARLEY:** For Better or For Worse's Farley looks quite at home on a licence plate.

spokesperson Nadia Vercillo. But more important is the awareness they'll generate, she said.

The Farley Foundation logo can appear with or without a personalized licence plate.

Farley was introduced to audiences more than 20 years ago. In 1995, his character suffered a heroic death after saving April Patterson from drowning.

Today, his memory lives on through his namesake foundation and readers' memories.

"The Pattersons would be pleased to know that Farley's memory is helping to promote animal health and is helping people with pets in need," Johnston said.

The bond between pets and owners is special indeed, Vercillo said. But it takes on an even greater significance when the owners are disabled or elderly and might not have many friends or family members, she said.

"Pets really are like children

to a lot of people," she said, adding, "A number of studies indicate there are health benefits to owning pets."

To date, 325 dogs and 246 cats have received vet care they would've gone without if it weren't for The Farley Foundation. But pets aren't limited to cats and dogs. And so there are also four birds, three rabbits, two rats and a snake that have also benefited; the only criteria is that the animal be for companionship purposes.

Pet owners who qualify for funding through the foundation must be unable to afford to pay for the vet treatment and be either seniors receiving the Federal Guaranteed Income Supplement or disabled and receiving the Ontario Disability Support Payment.

For more information, call 1-888-262-9811 or visit [www.farleyfoundation.org](http://www.farleyfoundation.org).

The Farley Foundation plates can be ordered through the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) issuing offices, MTO Service Ontario kiosks and the MTO website at [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca) (click on drivers and vehicles, then Ministry Online Services).

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