

Funds needed to upgrade our shelter!

Animalfriends

Winter 2015 O F C O N N E C T I C U T

HOW IT ALL STARTED



Judy Levy with Foxy

Animal Friends of Ct., Inc. unofficially began in the late 1970's, when Judy Levy found a lost, friendly, young cat in her neighborhood. She spent the next few days trying to find its home, only to finally come to the realization that the cat was homeless. Wanting the cat to have a good home, she brought it to the Humane Society, assuming they would put it up for adoption and place it with a good family. She was told that the cat would not be put up for adoption, but it would be euthanized the same day. Since she did not want that to happen, she brought the cat back home with her and found it a good home herself. That started the lifelong task of Judy and two of her friends, Margarite and Muriel. For the next 5 years, they rescued homeless, abandoned felines and canines, placing them with loving families.

In 1986, the three women applied for 501(c)(3) status, which made them an official tax exempt charity. Because they were now rescuing more and more animals, it became necessary for them to find a place to keep them while they were awaiting adoptions. They were given the use of a condemned building in Hartford

with no heat or running water and Barbara Morris, who lived in the area, agreed to take care of the cats who were sheltered there.

Animal Friends of Connecticut soon outgrew the meager facility and rented space from local veterinarians, who were able to meet the medical needs of the animals and provide shelter. At the same time, they began to solicit contributions to help pay for the care of the animals. Membership grew to 3000 people, who started receiving the newsletter which told the rescue and adoption stories.

In 1998, Animal Friends of Connecticut purchased their own building to use as a shelter. It was a large, 3 story, single family home in central New Britain that was built at the turn of the century. It had been previously converted to a walk in medical clinic, so the building's layout lent itself well to Animal Friends' needs.

Animal Friends of Connecticut was now rescuing abused, handicapped and abandoned animals at a rapid rate each week. Being a No Kill shelter, it was imperative that homes be found quickly for each animal. The

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shelter was always full to capacity and room was needed for additional animals. It is always easy to find homes for kittens, but placing older cats, especially those with medical needs, remains a challenge.

Of the three founders of the organization, Judy remains the president. Muriel and Margarite died a few years ago. Barbara continued to take care of the new shelter with dedicated volunteers help for 16 years, but it became necessary for her to retire this year due to health issues. New, excellent volunteers are coming on board weekly to maintain the shelter and take care of the cats who live there.

This article focuses on the rescue of cats, but Animal Friends of Connecticut does rescue dogs on a regular basis. Rescuing a dog and having it adopted is an easier task because there are more homes wanting a dog than there are dogs available.

After rescue, all animals are brought to a veterinarians' office to have their physical condition assessed and dealt with. After a quarantine period, cats are brought to the shelter to wait for adoption. Dogs, on the other hand, are adopted as soon as they are rescued. As soon as their medical issues are resolved and their quarantine period has ended, the dogs go to their new homes. At the present time, there are over 50 animals who are being cared for by Animal Friends of Connecticut.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Animal Friends of Connecticut needs volunteers to transport animals back and forth from our shelter in New Britain to veterinarian appointments in the Farmington Valley. We are also in need of foster homes for kittens or dogs. Maximum time for fostering is 7 weeks, but normally the time is less. Food and other supplies will be provided. As always, volunteers are needed to help with fund raisers. We would also like our readers to put the organization on social media.

If you are interested in any of the above volunteer opportunities, please contact Judy at 860-827-0381.



UNITED WAY

You can donate while at work by making a contribution to THE UNITED WAY. Just specify that your donation is intended for AFOC. Please use the following letters and numbers on the form: AG 0640.



Sunshine Fund

Sunshine was a dog that came to us many years ago. She was a Shepherd Husky cross and was found in a project in Hartford with one eye poked out by a stick. The owners signed the dog over to AFOC. We had her injuries treated and we found her a wonderful home. She lived to be over 14 years old. What happened to Sunshine was just the beginning of many years involved in rescuing injured and abused animals. This fund is in her memory.



I-GIVE MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

Register with I-Give on line. Shop on line with major retailers and help AFOC at the same time! All consumer transactions will contain a percentage donated to AFOC.



Sponsorship Program

We have many cats that are not adoptable or hard to place. We are looking for sponsors willing to sponsor a rescue cat by helping to cover the cost of food, litter, and basic medicine. Our goal is to sponsor every cat.

ANOTHER CONVENIENT WAY OF GIFT GIVING!

You can now use your credit card and make a donation on-line through PayPal. Just go directly to our website for further details (www.afocinc.org).



Judy Levy, Director
Jo-Ann Regan, Editor

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ADOPTEE STORIES

Dear Animal Friends of Connecticut,

In December of 2001, I adopted a sickly black long-haired kitten from you who had already been named Brewster. He came into this world in terrible shape – presumably born the week of the attacks on our nation, September 11, 2001. He was very ill and spent nearly a month in Wethersfield, recuperating and growing strong from respiratory issues, eye infections, and other ailments. In December, he came to live with us in Norfolk.

From that day, he never looked back and grew to be a large, luscious black long-haired boy with stunning good looks and an incredible personality. Brewster was a squawker, no meek mews came from him and he had something to say about everything. He was compassionate and caring and welcomed every animal and person into our home with affection. He also sat vigil by his aging companions in their final hours. He stayed by our little girl Cali for an entire weekend before she passed at the age of 21 and again by our dog, Buddy, in his last days, so that they were never lonely. You actually featured him in your newsletter in a letter I wrote about a year after he was adopted.

In July 2009, he became ill and I was heartbroken when my vet told me he was in renal failure and with a creatinine of 18 and BUN over 200, he had just days to live. I would not accept that and Brew and I made the trip to Tufts Veterinary Hospital in Grafton, MA for what turned out to be a summer of treatment to stabilize him and prolong his life. Within months of treatment, medicine, and lifelong regiment of subQ fluids twice daily, he came home again to live five more wonderful years with his levels in normal range. He and I made subQ a fun thing because he loved to lay across my legs on the front porch while I administered the fluids. This was his special time because he got to go outdoors. I would carry him out and on the way he would bat the storm door open with his paw, as if to say, “I’ll do that!” He never missed a beat throughout his five years battling CRF at home. He was as gorgeous as he day he turned one year old and as talkative as ever.

Sadly, this summer his kidneys progressed into their final stages and again we prayed that the doctors at Tufts could get his values down so that we could manage the CRF. Through all of this, he was a fighter and savored every minute of his time with us and with his companions, who adored him. He had always been the alpha male, the father of the house, the Lion King. He never complained and for the most part, never missed a meal either, since he weighed in at over 16 pounds.

When Tufts told me there was nothing more they could do, I worked with them to see if he qualified for a kidney transplant. After weeks of testing, followed by weeks of dialysis, he did. His donor was selected and he had the surgery on September 11, 2014, the week of his 13th birthday.

His surgery was done by the renowned Dr. Lillian Aronson at Penn Veterinary Hospital and it went very well. The graft was perfect. Immediate indication was that the kidney was working, but as the hours grew, he was turning for the worse. They desperately tried to identify the source of the problem and dialyze him to stabilize him. Unfortunately, by the fifth day, his immunosuppressed body could not stave off the infection that had taken over his body. At 12:53 on September 16, 2014, we lost our Brewster. The staff at Penn Veterinary Hospital were so caring and kind, and we all cried when we lost him.

I am writing to thank you for giving me Brewster. We only had 13 years together, but he was such a huge force in my life and always will be. I am still in shock from his loss and grieve for him as do his feline companions at home, more than you can imagine.

Someday, I will adopt another black long-haired cat, it has always been my nature, but there is only one Brewster in my heart. He was my baby.

*Thank you so much,
Nina*

A Special Thank You

On November 12th, 2014, the Gay Straight Alliance at Two River’s Magnet High School hosted a pasta dinner with special guest Scot Haney. They raised \$350 in ticket sales and donated the entire proceeds to Animal Friends of Connecticut. The GSA is a club that focuses on acceptance of all students, regardless of sexual orientation, identity, or expression, and aims to teach and practice acceptance throughout the entire school. The students in the club wanted to give back to the community and specifically researched for a No Kill Animal Program to raise money for. The students are passionate about kindness, not just amongst people, but also animals, and were pleased to learn that Scot Haney was an advocate for the program they chose to donate to. The GSA is grateful to Scot Haney for attending the dinner and helping to support GSA’s cause.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Angelo: Donations were given in memory of Angelo Greco.

- Eleanor & Paul Zimmitti
N. B. Federation of Teachers

James: Donations were given in memory of James Vicino.

- Geraldine & David Ambrose
Richard & Patricia Carbray Jr.
Steven Brainard
Helen McGrath
Susan & Plagido Gioco
Patricia Pac & Paul LeTendre
Mark & Susan Bottomley
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South End Auto Body LLC
Judith Libby
Timothy & Janice Palmer
Lester Butnick
Judith Keane
Clearance House Auction Galleries
Kenny & Nancy McCourt
Thomas Vicino Sr.
Sherwood & Ann Kelly

Joanne: A donation was made in memory of Joanne Atkins and in honor of Judy Levy.

- Marsha Rabe

Margaret: Donations were made in memory of Margaret Staszko.

- Erik Egbertson
Demia & Andrew Wright
Joy Anna Egbertson

Angel, Brie & Cate: A donation was made in memory of Angel and in honor of Brie & Cate.

- Michele Potum-Piecuch.

Buffy: A donation was made in memory of Buffy her owner Steve Jaeger.

- John Darcey

Casper: A donation was made in memory of Casper, Barbara Mizahsca's cat.

- Sandra Crookes Gaillard

Cleopatra: A donation was made in memory of Cleopatra, the cat.

- Joy & Jeffrey Puglise

****THE KEY TO PET FIRST AID IS PREVENTION AND PREPARATION.***

You don't fear (as much) that which you are prepared for

Excerpts from a presentation given by:

Ann K. Johnson, Nursing Manager at Roaring Brook Veterinary Hospital, Canton, CT

What is a true emergency?

It is important that you know what a true emergency is. Here is a list of some of the reasons your pet should be seen immediately:

Ingestion of a toxin
Ingestion of a foreign object
Acute vomiting and/or diarrhea with lethargy and/or change in personality
Trauma
Hemorrhaging
Respiratory Distress
Seizures
Heat Stroke/Hypothermia
Hypoglycemia
Difficulty urinating
Prolonged labor and delivery
Unconsciousness or collapsing

Please note that these are not the only situations where immediate medical attention should be sought.

Always remember that any first aid administered to your pet should be followed by immediate veterinary care. First aid care is not a substitute for veterinary care, but it may save your pet's life until it receives veterinary treatment.

(*AVMA [First Aid Tips for Pet Owners](#))

TOP 10 TOXINS IN DOGS: (2012 via Pet Poison Helpline)

CHOCOLATE
MOUSE AND RAT BAIT*
VITAMINS AND MINERALS
HUMAN AND VETERINARY PAIN RELIEVERS
HEART MEDICATIONS
COLD AND ALLERGY MEDICATIONS
ANTIDEPRESSANTS
XYLITOL
ACETAMINOPHEN
CAFFEINE PILLS

TOP 10 TOXINS IN CATS: (2012 via Pet Poison Helpline)

TOPICAL SPOT-ON INSECTICIDES
HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS
ANTIDEPRESSANTS
LILIES
INSOLUBLE OXALITE PLANTS
HUMAN AND VETERINARY PAIN RELIEVERS
ACETAMINOPHEN
GLOW STICKS
ADD/ADHD MEDICATION
MOUSE AND RAT BAIT*

***New mouse and rat bait don't have an antidote. Please be very careful when using these products.**

Bromethalin is a neurotoxin that can cause Central Nervous System damage. The treatment for Bromethalin ingestion is much more extensive than previous rodenticide treatment.

Pet First Aid Kit

Gauze
Non-stick bandages
Adhesive tape (don't use Band-Aids on pets)
3% Hydrogen Peroxide
Activated charcoal
Digital thermometer
Eye dropper or large syringe without needle
Muzzle
Slip leash
Stretcher (a board, sled, towel or blanket)

What do I do when...?

Trauma: If your pet has been hit by a car or fell and sustained an injury, if possible, try to stabilize any injuries before moving him/her. Use simple bandages or splints to keep the injury from bleeding and/or moving. Take them to the hospital as soon as possible.

Hemorrhaging: If your pet has a severe bleed, the best thing to do is apply constant, even pressure with gauze or clean towels. Don't remove the gauze or towel, even if it is saturated with blood. Add more on top until you are able to get to the hospital.

Toxins/Foreign objects: If your pet has ingested a toxin or a foreign object, call your veterinarian or The Pet Poison Helpline. They will be able to tell if your pet should be seen immediately or what next steps to take.

Heatstroke: First step: Don't assume your pet has heat stroke. Always take their temperature. Normal temperature for dogs and cats is 100-102.5.

If your pet truly is hyperthermic, put the pet on your stretcher. Place ice packs (or plastic bags with ice in them) around the pet's body. You can spray the feet with alcohol. Do not try to force the pet to drink water. Take them to the hospital immediately.

Suffocation: This is a very real danger. Too many pets die each day from suffocation.

First step: Prevention! Always cut the bottoms out of bags before throwing them out. Keep all food bags out of any pet's reach, including cats. Remember that stressors like thunder, fireworks etc can cause pets to "act out of the norm." So don't leave your chip bags on the counter during Labor Day because "Fluffy" never jumps on the counter. Once those fireworks start, she could.

Remember:

While transporting your injured pet, keep him/her confined in a small area to reduce the risk of additional injury. Pet carriers work well or you can use a box or other container (insure your pet has enough air). For larger dogs, you can use a board, sled, blanket, towel or something similar to act as a stretcher. (AVMA [Basic tips for handling an injured pet.](#))

Pet Emergency Phone Numbers

Pet Poison Helpline

\$39 fee*

1-855-289-0358

www.petpoisonhelpline.com

Animal Poison Control

\$65 fee*

1-888-426-4435

*With some pet health insurance carries, pet poison control fees may be waived. With Home Again Microchips you receive free pet poison control advice with the annual renewal of your membership.

CPCR (Cardiopulmonary Cerebral Resuscitation)

All resuscitated animals should be transported to a veterinary facility for further examination and care!

- The most up to date information on Pet CPCR is that quality chest compressions are what is most likely to save a pet's life. Don't feel overwhelmed that you don't have IV catheters, drugs and oxygen tanks at home. If you can breathe for your pet and do quality compressions, you will make the most difference in an emergency.
- Make certain the animal is actually in cardiac arrest and unconscious. Talk to the pet first. Gently touch and attempt to awaken the pet. You could be seriously injured should you attempt to perform CPCR on a pet who was only sleeping heavily and was startled awake.
- Ensure an open airway
 - Lift the head, open the mouth, pull out the tongue. This can cause spontaneous breathing. If that is the case, check for a pulse.
 - If breathing does not begin, check for foreign objects, saliva, etc. and scoop out with your finger. Be careful not to damage/pull on the adams apple.
- After verifying an open airway, begin compressions. In veterinary and human medicine, it has been found that quality compressions assist with rescue breathing, even when the patient isn't receiving breaths.
- Compress to a depth of 2 inches
- Check for a femoral pulse after 2 minutes
- Push hard and fast
 - Cats/small dogs: heart rate of 120-150/minute
 - Medium/large dogs: heart rate of 80-120/minute
- If you have multiple people, you must switch off after 2 minutes. The quality of compressions goes down after 2 minutes. If you are alone, you do what you can.

Compressions:

Cat/Small dog <15 lbs	Medium dogs 15-40 lbs	Large dogs: Barrel chest	Large dogs: Flat chest
120-150 beats/min	120-150 beats/min	80-120 beats/min	80-120 beats/min
Lateral (on the side)	Lateral (on the side)	Lateral (on the side)	Dorsal (on the back)
Thoracic pump (widest part of the chest)	Thoracic pump (widest part of the chest)	Cardiac pump (directly over the heart)	Cardiac pump (directly over the heart)

Rescue Breathing:

It is the same for all dogs/cats:

Mouth to snout: 2 breaths for every 30 compressions. Trade off after 2 minutes.

Hyperventilation is bad! Keep your breaths under control.

Please reach into your heart and give what you can afford to help these animals get a second chance in life.

Your gift is tax deductible.

We would be happy to talk with you about endowments, grants, gifts-in-kind, corporate sponsorship or other long-term support. Please call us at (860)827-0381

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc

P.O. Box 370306

West Hartford, Connecticut 06137-0306

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00 Giving | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Helping | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00 Sponsor |
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- I'd like to help. Volunteers please call 827-0381.
- I am interested in becoming a member. Please add me to your mailing list to receive the newsletter (new members only).

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