

Animalfriends

Spring 2013 OF CONNECTICUT

FIONA'S RESCUE



Nicole C, one of our newest members, lives on the western side of Hartford. She was outside her house a few weeks ago and saw the neighborhood kids tormenting a stray cat. They were kicking her, pulling her hair and throwing rocks and sticks at her. The cat was a gray tabby and appeared to be about one year old. Nicole immediately went to rescue the cat who, in spite of being tortured and scared, was very friendly but also very pregnant. She took the cat into her house and then proceeded to try and find her owner. Signs were posted around the neighborhood with no results. She then posted the information on Craig's List. No one replied.

The next step in her plan was to keep the cat, now named Fiona. She bought all the needed items: food bowls, litter box, bed and toys, only to find out that she was highly allergic to Fiona. As she really loved the cat, she took high doses of allergy medications, hoping that would help. It

helped some but not enough. Knowing that she was now not going to be able to keep the cat and refusing to put it back outside to fend for herself and her soon to be born kittens, she called many shelters across Connecticut. All of them told her that they were full and would not be able to help her. When Nicole called AFOC, we agreed to take the cat and assured Nicole that we would find a good loving home for her and her kittens. Fiona is being boarded at one of our vets and when the kittens are born, she and her kittens will be transferred to a foster home for 8 weeks until the kittens are ready to be adopted. Thanks to Nicole and others like her, many animals are saved from abuse and given the chance to live in a loving forever home.

*George Murtha
AFOC Volunteer Contributor*



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.

Judy Levy, Director

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc.

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Animal Friends of Connecticut would like to thank Nicole Delong for her work as editor of the AFOC quarterly newsletter. Nicole retired from the position effective the end of the year. We trust that you have enjoyed the newsletters she has worked on and know that you wish her well in her future endeavors.

The new editor will be JoAnn Regan. JoAnn has many ideas she wants to incorporate into future newsletters and she encourages each of you who have adopted from AFOC to consider writing an article describing your experience with your pet(s). She will be contacting many of you regarding this.

One of Animal Friends of Connecticut newest members is Lily Miller, a partner in the law firm of Zlokower and Miller, LLP. Her practice is located at 576 Farmington Avenue, Hartford. Lily says that she will advise Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc. pro bono when we have a need for her services.

If other members have a particular skill that could benefit the organization and are willing to volunteer, please contact us at 860-827-0381. There are many things that need to be done on a regular basis and we need your help.

One of Lily's specialties is estate planning, so if you are considering creating an estate plan, be it a will or a trust, she can advise you, if you choose, how to include Animal Friends of Connecticut as a beneficiary of your estate. Any assets left to Animal Friends of CT can reduce the estate tax owed to both the Federal Government and State Government.

We would be happy to accept a donation of a car, van or truck in any condition, running or not. They are a charitable tax deduction and help us continue our daily work.

Support our fund raisers!

Adoption Mailbag – Success Stories: News from our rescued furry friends

Hi Everyone,

Here are some pics of Bruce (tux black-n-white) & Jolene, formerly Malcolm & Maya from Molly's litter. They eat, sleep, play & speed run around the house together. Bruce is always learning new words & tricks. Jolene is the official greeter & waits at the door for us! They bring such joy & laughter, they both are truly wonderful!

We are soooo happy we adopted from you. They are absolutely fantastic kittens!

The airplane was one of their MANY Christmas gifts. Thank you,



Pat & Missy

Editor's note: we've included the photo of Molly's litter so you can see how big Bruce & Jolene have become. We have no idea who is who as kittens!



Dottie Wilkins' Story as told to her Mom, Genie Wilkins in Nova Scotia

Dear AFOC:

Guess What! It's me again, Dottie Wilkins, writing from Sandy Cove, Nova Scotia. I'm a bit older since you received my last letter. On December 31, 2011, I turned 16 years old according to the paperwork Mom got when she picked me up from AFOC in 1998. The shelter was located near Trinity

College in Hartford at that time.

I've grown a bit stiff lately but Mom pokes a hole in the wild salmon pill three times a week and spreads it through my dry food. That helps a whole lot. She also threw about 12 used nice-and-noisy plastic bags from the store on the floor in a corner. She drags a string through it and laughs when I chase it. You wouldn't believe how much exercise I get that way and how much I love it. I roll and flip the bags, run away and come running and dive into the bags. The way to get her to come play again with me is to sit on the pile of bags and cry until she realizes what I want. You'd be surprised how spry I am for an old gal. My vet, Dr. Neil, says I am beginning to get cataracts but it doesn't bother me one bit. I can't read so it doesn't matter anyway.

My favorite places to be in the world are either on Mom's bed covered with a light blanket, in front of the hope chest by the radiator when it is cold, or in front of the sliding glass doors when the sun is shining. I especially like Mom's lap in the recliner when we take our naps together. I get a lot of purring done then. Mom's getting older too. She will be 68 in May but she doesn't act like it. We are best friends and love spending time together.

Again, thank you for taking such good care of me for almost two years before Mom and I found each other. Ours was a match made in heaven. Give my love to the other animal residents and tell them to never give up hope of finding a family to love and be loved by.

Your friend forever,
Dottie

Dear Animal Friends of CT,

One year ago today (April 7, 2012), we adopted Tedy from AFOC. She is my constant companion and my best friend. We love her so much. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Jean
Torrington, CT



In Memoriam: Felipe, 2006-2012

In one of my weekly visits to the shelter as a volunteer, I was introduced to Mickey, an adorable friendly ball of grey fur. The kitten had been found by the side of the road by a tow truck driver who scooped him up and brought him to the shelter. Mickey loved people; he would crawl all over my neck and shoulders and purr his little heart out. We had recently lost our beloved 20 year old cat, Fido, and were ready to find a worthy successor to our dear kitty. My husband agreed with me that Mickey should come live with us.

Mickey was soon renamed Felipe. He grew from a playful four pound kitten to a dignified eighteen pounder. He was a real gentleman and would allow our six pound, 21 year old cat to feel that she was in charge. The only time that he exhibited his true strength and force of character was when it was time for him to go to the vet. Then he would fight tooth and nail, taking two of us with much patience and cunning to get him into the carrier. He wasn't particularly kind to the staff at the vet's office. The trimming of his nails required our vet and several techs with padded gloves to wield towels before his nails could be cut. The vet finally suggested tranquilizing him before we brought him in, but that was equally traumatic for all of us. At the end of each ordeal, I was the one who needed tranquilizing!

In February, we noticed a lump on his right shoulder. We took him to the vet the next day and Felipe had surgery the following day. The diagnosis was devastating: Felipe had a very aggressive form of cancer. We looked into various forms of treatments, including weekly radiation and chemotherapy. But with Felipe's intense dislike of vets and no assurance of the treatment beating the cancer, we opted to do what we could to make Felipe's days as comfortable as they could be. He took his last trip to the vet in early June. We were heartbroken.

During my recent visits to the shelter, I made the acquaintance of Vanessa and Varina, the last of a litter of six kittens. They were especially enamored with my sneakers and found tugging at my shoelaces and climbing all over me to be very entertaining. Of course, they have come home with us. They are not a replacement for our dear Felipe, but worthy successors as Felipe had been for Fido.

*Elizabeth and Richard G.
Hartford, CT*

AFOC 2012 Bake Sale A Success

This year's bake sale at the Simsbury Stop N Shop had beautiful weather and excellent results. Jill Perrault and I were in shirt sleeves enjoying the mild temperatures while chatting with bake sale customers. The weather was a welcome change from the rain, wind and cold temperatures we've often had for past bake sales. We had plenty of cookies, quick breads, cakes and several pies and we were able to keep the sale going until 2 o'clock, a little later than other years. The few leftovers were dropped off at Avon Veterinary Clinic on the following Monday as a treat for the staff.

We raised \$611.10 from the sale of the goodies we had to offer and the generous donations of the animal lovers who stopped by to pick up a newsletter or to say hello. We couldn't have raised a penny had it not been for the people who did the baking. Among those who donated items were Marianne Heyman, Jane Hikel, Michelle Laramie, Liz Neff, Joann O'Connell, Jill Perrault, Martha Roulard, Mary Skinner, Lori Wadman, Terri Wilson and Ruth Woodford. Judy Levy and Anneliis Koiv also picked up and delivered items that others had baked. I don't have the names of everyone who donated items or otherwise helped but to each and every one of you, a big THANK YOU.

Ruth Woodford

AFOC TAG SALE A BIG SUCCESS!

AFOC's June 1-3 tag sale, followed by the July 4 clearance sale was a success. We owe our appreciation to the great volunteers and donors who made it all happen. Items not sold at the sales were donated to: Vietnam Vets, Bloomfield Senior Citizens and the Simsbury Library. We thank our donors for providing good quality items for sale. Also, to First Church of Simsbury for their leftover tag sale items, Paine's for discounting the dumpster and Pickin' Patch for advertising and parking privileges. We have a great loyal group of sale volunteers: Eileen Perry, Willa Nemetz, Ed Paquette, Kim Chagnon, Lauren Fisher, Marianne Heymann, Bill and Olga Coffey, Ruth Woodford, Sandra Pouliot, Pat Hirschy, Ron Carubba, Jerry Hikel, Barbara Korzendorfer, Brenda Rock, Donna Neary, Karen Wendhiser and Nicole DeLong.





New Year's Resolutions for Pet Owners

It is estimated that approximately 45% of Americans make New Year's resolutions. Far fewer actually follow through on these plans. Here are a few pet-related New Year's resolutions that may give you incentive to keep up with your goals.

SAVE MONEY

At the top of almost everyone's resolution list is to find ways to save money. Pet owners can help keep veterinary costs low by following a few simple guidelines in the New Year.

- Keep pets up to date on annual check-ups, vaccinations, and parasite control. It is much less expensive to prevent disease than it is to treat it. If your pet is injured or ill, delaying

a visit may actually lead to higher expenses.

- Consider investing in pet insurance, or starting a pet health savings plan. There are numerous insurance coverage options available, which serve as significant financial aid when needed. When your pet is sick, the emotional worry should be your priority; removing the financial concern allows you to provide more comprehensive treatment and care.

- Maintain open communication with your veterinarian & veterinary staff. Keeping your veterinarian up to date on pet health and behavior changes may identify problems earlier, at a more treatable stage of disease.

EXERCISE AND WEIGHT LOSS

Next on many resolution lists is the promise to exercise more and lose weight. Why not let your pet help you keep that promise?

- Why not have your pet help you lose weight? Like their owners & caretakers, many pets are overweight. For the New Year, make a commitment to yourself & your pet to lose that extra weight.

- Obesity is the number one nutritional problem seen in pets by veterinarians; a disease which significantly affects their lives. Commit to keeping your pet at their ideal body condition (or helping them get there if they are already overweight). Your veterinarian can help you determine if your pet is overweight, and; if necessary, can help you establish a weight control program for your pet.

- Studies have shown that dog owners spend twice as much time walking each week than non-dog owners. This positive reinforcement can be beneficial for your own goals, as well as help your pet lose weight too.

QUALITY TIME

Some people will make resolutions to spend more quality time with family. That resolution can be expanded to include their pets as well.

- Pets need engagement, enrichment, and activity as part of a healthy lifestyle. Behavior problems are incredibly common, and often are due to boredom. Including a designated amount of time in our daily routine for our pets can help prevent destructive behaviors, and improve your bond.

- Many pets benefit from enrolling in a basic training or socialization class; especially new puppies. Consider this New Year a great time to make sure your pet is a "good pet citizen".

- In addition, the extra exercise and activity you provide for your pets will likely help with weight loss, and prevent medical issues - thereby saving money on veterinary costs.

LOOKING (and feeling) YOUR BEST

- Include your pet in this resolution as well; keeping your fur-baby well-groomed can help prevent skin disease and associated expenses. Proper grooming is also another way to meet your resolution of spending quality time with your pet.

- Dental disease is a common problem seen in pets, and is often overlooked by pet owners & veterinarians. Your pet can start having dental issues even at a young age, and it is a common misconception that bad breath is simply "doggy breath". Bad breath may be a sign of dental disease that warrants attention. Commit to taking better care of your pet's mouth - if brushing is not practical, there are other alternatives in the form of special foods & treats which may help keep your pet's mouth healthy.

- Do you have a senior pet? Are you doing all you can to make that pet's life as comfortable as possible? Senior pets are prone to painful diseases like osteoarthritis. Something as simple as a soft padded bed to rest on can make a big difference for a pet with sore joints or muscles. Ramps can make getting into and out of the car easier for large dogs that cannot be easily lifted and placed inside. They can also make difficult to reach areas

of the home easier for pets to access. Stairs or ramps can make furniture, beds, and perches (for cats) easily accessible. Your veterinarian can offer suggestions for pain relief, should they be appropriate. Therapies for pets like massage, hydrotherapy, laser therapy, acupuncture, and chiropractic are becoming more widely available and more frequently used.

HELPING OTHERS

- This New Year, consider extending this promise to pets as well. Volunteer some of your time at your local animal shelter or rescue organizations, or help provide necessary resources to these organizations. Have extra blankets or toys? Or are you in a position to help foster an animal while an organization finds it a forever home? Find ways to help make a difference to our four-legged friends in need.

Jacoba van der Giessen, DVM

Future Events

The 2013 AFOC benefit at Flatbread's is scheduled for May 21, 2013, with Scot Haney once again hosting the event. We are starting to get to work with the lengthy process of collecting donations.

Once again, we would ask each of you to look around your house and see what you think could be an item that you would want to donate that could be auctioned off at the event.

Also please consider regifting things that you may have received as gifts that you do not want to use or display and GIFT CARDS you may have BOUGHT or received and don't intend to use (thank you for this idea, Joe and Michelle). The value of the donation would be tax deductible and you will receive a letter to that effect from AFOC that meets the IRS's guidelines for a charitable donation.

Please call 860-827-0381 or email llylaclama@aol.com and let us know what you would like to donate.

Your help is needed to make the event the success it has been over the past many years.

AFOC Summer Open House

On August 4, Animal Friends of Connecticut held an open house at our shelter in New Britain. It was the first open house we've had in a while and the first of many we are planning on holding in the future. The weather was perfect and the shelter looked great. Barbara Morris, our shelter manager, did a wonderful job preparing the shelter for the event. One of the objectives of the open house was to encourage more of our members to become active in the organization and we felt that this was the best way to start the process. A shelter volunteer was in each of the rooms where animals are housed and they discussed the operation of the shelter and the specific needs of each of the animals in that room with the visitors. There was a steady stream of visitors all afternoon. We were pleased with the number of people that did attend and we hope that the turnout will be greater at future open houses. Many people spent all afternoon in the shelter. At the end of the event, we thought each person left with a good feeling for the work that AFOC is doing rescuing animals in distress.

Flatbread's of Canton donated the refreshments. We are very appreciative and thank them very much for their offering. Flatbread's is also the location for our huge benefit and auction late spring.

We encouraged people to get involved in any way that they can to support our organization. There is always a need for people to work with the animals, help with fund raising, write articles for the newsletter, transport animals to vet appointments and check out locations of people interested in adopting. This list is endless. Please consider volunteering whether it is for an hour, a week, a month, or on an as needed basis.



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

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00 Giving | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Helping | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00 Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00 Patron |
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- Please send information on automatic transfer donation
 Name/address changes: (please print clearly)

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Street/P.O. Box _____

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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).