



About Us

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc. is a nonprofit, no-kill shelter dedicated to the protection of animals. It's an all-volunteer organization that rescues stray, abandoned, abused, and handicapped cats. All animals are given needed medical care, vaccinations and spayed or neutered, then cared for at our shelter until an appropriate placement can be found.

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Meet Noelle – Jennifer B.



We reached out to AFOC in December. In early January, we were asked to come meet Noelle. From the photos, her eyes and markings captivated me and I could tell she was pensive and special. When we met her, she was curious, friendly, and quite confident socially. Our child was happy and proud to bring her home. She settled in that day, explored her surroundings, and felt safe enough to find her spot on a quilt when it was bedtime.



At first, it seemed that despite her friendly demeanor, she had some hesitation to trust.

We adoringly called her 'Swiper' sometimes because she would swat with play or when she wanted her space.

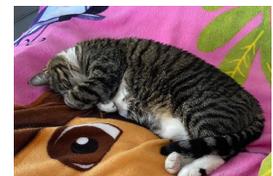


Now, she lets me pick her up and we walk around the house as she leans into chin rubs. She does gentle play bops and I'm quit certain she thinks I'm just another big kitty.

She absolutely loves to play with toys, but her favorite is 'hide and seek,' which she initiates with a 'tag your it' little bop on our legs. She loves tennis balls and rolls them down the stairs when we are sleeping-very cute! But most touching is when she has comforted our son when he had a hard remote school day- she came to him when he was sad, and kept putting her nose in his hands, and meowed. Recently, I was on the phone regarding a family emergency. I had become

very upset and worried, and she appeared from nowhere and layed down by my feet in the kitchen- she never rests in our kitchen because it's too noisy for her from all of the cooking sounds and dishes, but She never left my side. Although she's not a lap cat (yet), she knows she's well loved and appreciated- with all of her soft beds, and how we wrap her up like a kitty burrito in her pink blanket on our bed, where she sleeps all afternoon. We gave her soft rugs in all of our bay windows with ledges- and she soaks up the sun. We adore our Noelle, (aka- Noella- who now responds to Kee-Kee).

We love her heart, her caring nature, and her eye shadow! What a pretty girl. Thank you, Toni, Brenda, and AFOC for making the process seamless and for your ongoing support!



Happy Tails!

Belle (Formerly Chevy)



Belle was rescued from a salvage yard in Hartford but is adjusting nicely in her fur-ever home. Her adaptors share that little miss kitten is doing fantastic! She is quite spoiled with lots of toys and plays nonstop!

She also runs against her new family's legs, and purrs constantly! She's such a little love bug and is doing very well. She's really come out of her shell and is not nearly as shy as she used to be.



Luke and Boots – George M.



On New Year's Eve, AFOC received a call from an animal rescue down south. They rescued and placed two young kittens with a gentleman in north eastern Connecticut who said that he no longer wanted them and would AFOC go pick up them up and rehome them to a family acceptable to us as the logistics of returning them to Tennessee were very complicated.

I contacted the adopter and the following day we drove to Ellington to pick up Luke and Boots. When we arrived, I phoned the person and he came out with the two kittens in a carrier. He said that he had bought a lot of food and toys and asked if we wanted everything that he had.

Of course, I said yes, and we drove around the back of his unit and he filled the car with the items he had purchased. He showed no emotion or sadness about giving up his kittens which was most unusual no matter what the circumstances are. He had very little to say and never told us why he was giving them up. I returned home and placed the two kittens with a foster and advertised Luke and Boots as being available for adoption but only together.

A gentleman from West Hartford was the first person to respond to the post and I agreed to give him the two new kittens.



He had the two kittens only a few days, when he called and said he wanted to return them

because all they do is play and run around. I told him that is what kittens do and why they are fun. But he did not want them any longer. I picked up the two kittens, and returned them to the foster. She knew a family that wanted them and we placed them again immediately.

AFOC has received frequent feedback from the new adopters who could not be happier with their new family members, Luke and Boots. And all they still do is run around and play.



- Cynthia Toni Sefter in loving memory of Carroll Hyllen
- Robert and Mary Vallario in memory of Mary Lou Foran
- Michael and Ann Buchas in HONOR of Sapphire
- Nicola Rubinow in HONOR of Dr Thomas Morganti & his staff
- Diane Hunter in honor of our young grandson's new kitten Pepper
- Theresa Duprey in memory of Ellen Bucchere
- Barbara Trzcinski in memory of Ellen Bucchere
- Gail and Howard Sohn in memory of Ellen Bucchere
- Richard Doucette in memory of Ellen Bucchere
- Judy Gascoigne in memory of Gracie who died at the age of 21 ½
- Sara, Coleen, Paul, Melissa and Paula in memory of Theresa Pendergast
- Paula Cortis in honor of our dear friends Deborah and Jeff Fox
- Theresa Duprey in memory of Ellen Bucchere
- Goodwin Village Association in memory of Carroll Hyllen
- Janice and William Dedominicis in memory of Lady and Izzy
- Penny Rorrio in memory of Carroll Hyllen



Jacob



Jacob was living out the harsh winter months as a stray and was rescued by AFOC in January. His life on the outside was definitely very rough as evidenced by the knicks and scrapes we noticed after taking him in. We're happy to report that Jacob found his forever home and his new family share this update.

Jacob has been a sweet angel since he joined our family.

It has been tough since we lost our cat Billy to his second cancer battle last September. It took us a while to open ourselves to another cat. We started looking for a new cat late last year, but Jacob caught our attention when we saw a Facebook post of him on Valentine's Day. His photos and description touched our hearts. Similar to Billy, Jacob had some sorts of knicks and scrapes on him. Both appeared to have gone through some tough times as strays (Billy even had a metal pellet bullet lodged just above his brow!). At that moment, we were interested in knowing more about him.

When we first reached out to Animal Friends of CT, we were

told that Jacob might not be ready for adoption as he was still very shy and there were several people interested in him ahead of us. We were also told that multiple times that he might need a lot of patience and work. Fortunately for us, he was got passed by those.

During my visit to the shelter, my first impression of Jacob was that he was extremely shy and looked a little depressed. He was hiding in the corner of his cage and didn't come out. However, there were some encouraging signs that gave me hope that it could work. First, when I petted him, he didn't dodge but instead appeared to enjoy that. Second, he was willing to eat some treats off my hand. I believed that with patience, we could see improvement from him and gain his trust over time.



After we took him home and settled him in his box, he was largely by himself most of the afternoon. However, to our surprise, things progressed dramatically well after a few hours, especially after we gave him some catnip. We saw a night-and-day difference from him as if he were two different cats. He became extremely approachable, and he even showed his belly to us when we petted him. He enjoyed some play time with us and we noticed he had more of a spring in his step. Since then, he has become very

sweet and looks very happy. He always brushes against our legs and headbutts us. He follows us around wherever we go in the house. He even slept in our bed one night in less than two weeks since he got here. We did not anticipate a dramatic turnaround this fast.



A big thank you to the Animal Friends of CT. Their staffs are very attentive and responsible. They were very helpful and patient throughout our adoption process. We are grateful for them helping us to find a perfect cat and Jacob a warm forever home.



Experienced Fosters Needed for Adult Cats

Fostering is an important part of the adoption process. With the help of an amazing group of foster volunteers, we give animals that aren't yet ready for adoption a chance to be placed in foster homes.

Fostering is one of the most rewarding things you can do for a homeless pet and for yourself, fostering gives an animal the love and attention they desperately need, greatly increasing their chances of being adopted.

As a foster you should be comfortable with:

- Daily feeding, playing & attention
- Administering medications
- Following special dietary needs
- Handling cat in & out of carrier
- Transporting cats to vet appointments as needed

AFOC provides food, supplies, medications and pays for all vet care.

Please call the main shelter number at [860-225-1339](tel:860-225-1339) and leave a message.



Lucy and Ellie (Formerly Lavender & Lilac)



Lucy and Ellie (formerly Lavender & Lilac) were born in a feral colony and were rescued by AFOC. They were given shots, wellness checks and were finally ready for adoption.

They were shy and frightened, so they did a lot of hissing, but eventually calmed down once they were held and got pets. When held, their little bodies trembled, but after about 20 minutes of holding and petting, they finally relaxed.

They're confident enough to play with toys when people are around, but there is evidence of play during the night.

Their patient new family spends a lot of time sitting near them and giving them the attention, they require. Their new family says that "they will take a lot of work and time, but they have given us a new purpose."



Is a ferret the right pet for you?



Once you get to know a ferret, you'll fall in love with it! They have amazing personalities. A well-handled and socialized ferret is loving, playful and inquisitive. They're great with children, if your child knows not to startle or overexcite them. They readily bond with their owners, so you can hope to have plenty of furry ferret hugs. Ferrets can provide hours of entertainment – in fact, you should interact with your ferret for at least two hours a day.

They love to play and are likely to think of you as a toy, too. They're intelligent, and they quickly pick up new behaviors, so they're easy to train and teach tricks. If you have more than one ferret, just watching a pair or more play together can keep you amused for hours.

Although ferrets require a reasonable amount of time each day, they're easy to care for in other respects. Most pet stores now carry a

specialized ferret food, so you don't need to put too much effort into feeding them an appropriate diet. They can easily be trained to use a litter box, which makes cleaning out their cages relatively easy. They have no problem being without human interaction for most of the day, so they're ideal pets for people who are often out of the house.



Many people object to the smell of ferrets; others don't find it a problem. It isn't necessarily unpleasant odor, but it is quite strong and musky. This smell can be kept to a minimum by cleaning out your ferrets' cage three or more times a week and by weekly or monthly bathing with a baby shampoo.

Due to their curiosity, ferrets like to get into everything, and they're not afraid of making a

mess. Any rooms in which you let them roam will have to carefully ferret-proofed. They won't hesitate to scratch and scabble at a door they want to get to the other side of, or to try to burrow into your sofa. They'll also chew any electrical cables they can get their teeth into, and squeeze into any small spaces they find. They need constant supervision outside of the cage to ensure they don't get into trouble.

Ferrets require more of your time than you might initially imagine. Although they're OK being kept in a cage while you're at work or out of the house, they need a minimum of a few hours a day playing outside their cage. You'll also need to devote of time to grooming, as they will need regular nail-clipping, ear-cleaning and tooth-brushing.

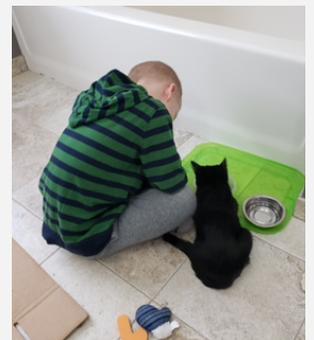


Happy Tails!

Pepper – (Formerly Cooper)



Pepper came running up to a person on a cold winter day in Hartford just begging to be rescued. Pepper has since been adopted and has settled in very well! He is crazy about his 6-year-old companion and the love connection is definitely mutual!



Got a happy tail story?

We'd love to hear how things are going with the pets you've adopted from AFOC. Please take a moment to send us an email and we will share in our newsletter or Facebook. (sylvia.afoc@gamil.com)

We never know when or where our kittens are coming from. But one thing for sure is that we get very little advance notice.

AFOC received a phone call from a very distraught woman who said that her landlord had moved out and left 19 cats and kittens behind. She was feeding them but needed to find them a home quickly. She said that there was one mother with two-week-old kittens and one pregnant cat.



I called a foster that lives near the location and asked her to assess the situation to possibly take the mother, kittens, and the o pregnant mother and also posted a distress call Animal Emergency Network, CT asking for shelters to take one or more of the remaining cats.

The foster went to the house immediately and learned that the woman was renting a room in the house that had been quit claimed to a 3rd party. All the cats and kittens needed to find a new home immediately.

We took the cats that we thought we could help knowing that if no one else stood up to help, we were

However, Connecticut Cat Connection who we work with occasionally took all the remaining cats. They had the room and were able to act immediately.

So, all 19 cats are safe and will be adopted as soon as they are ready.



Trixie & Kelly Fall in Love at the Sanctuary

Trixie was a feral momma cat rescued by AFOC with two kittens. Her rescuers thought the kittens were Trixie's, but then she surprised everyone by giving birth to her own litter. She was a good mom. Once her kittens were old enough, they were placed into loving homes.



Trixie's foster family tried to socialize her, but she remained afraid and feral. AFOC started to look for a place that Trixie could be happy, free of her cage, and be well cared for. They contacted a feral cat sanctuary and Trixie moved to her new home shortly thereafter.

Trixie remained very fearful and hid under the couch. With time, treats and a quiet environment, she began getting comfortable. Eventually she came out from under the couch and out of her shell. Trixie is now a wonderful and sweet young lady.



Kelly was taken in as a feral kitten by the Animals for Life organization. Despite their efforts he did not socialize enough to be adopted into a home. He too needed a sanctuary. Kelly's handsome, kind soul who's well liked among the other sanctuary residents. He's a bit of a Casanova!



A match is made! Out of all the cats in the sanctuary, Kelly and Trixie fell in love and they're inseparable. They're always walking together, rubbing, and nuzzling each other in total happiness. They had to come a long way to find each other, but their better days are here!



Adopting a pet may not be possible in your future, but you can still help by sponsoring a pet. We have many cats that may not be adoptable due to age or medical condition and you may be a perfect fit to become a sponsor so let's connect!

AFOC's sponsorship program began in 2003 and over the years we've connected with many generous people who can't adopt with a special AFOC feline.

Here's how to sponsor:

- **Visit** our website at <https://www.animalfriendsofct.org/sponsorship-program>, click on the sponsorship link.
- **Select** the wonderful cat you want to sponsor. Remember, it's OK for kitties to have more than one sponsor.
- **Use the Donate** link to set up your monthly payments, and you'll receive updates about your kitty in no time. The minimum donation is a low \$10 a month. The money you donate will help with our many bills such as vet visits, medicine, cat food, and lots and lots of litter.

Contact us at afoc@afocinc.org to start your own customized sponsorship

Don't delay; come join our valued group of generous, caring sponsors. Your special kitty is waiting for you now.

Worth the wait: Why You Should Consider Adopting a Shy Cat

Shy cats may take some time to win over, but that can make it even more gratifying when your new friend purrs or sits in your lap for the first time.

Hiding, shying away from touch, and wide-eyed wariness might make it harder for a cat to connect with potential adopters, but there are lots of reasons why adopting a more-reserved kitty could be the right choice.

For one thing, cats who appear anxious in the shelter environment aren't necessarily shy at home. Even fairly confident cats can become cautious in the shelter environment. After all, who wouldn't feel a little anxious surrounded by all those new sounds, smells, cats, and people? When these cats go home with a new family, they often regain their outgoing nature within days.

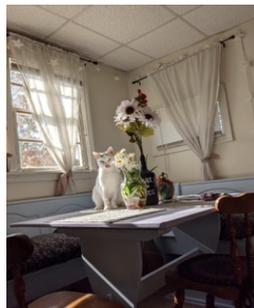
Even cats who are more on the cautious side often build confidence after some time in a loving, patient home. It may take a little longer for a shy cat to get comfortable, but there are things you can do to help the process.

- Set a routine. An uncertain cat feels more settled when they know what to expect and when.
- Find common ground. Take some time to learn what activities your new feline friend prefers. Do they respond well to being brushed? Love snacks? Always play with wand toys? Use these distractions to encourage and reward interaction.

- Respect personal space. Forcing a cat to endure cuddling will only make things worse. Start out by simply sharing the space without interaction. Sit in the same room and read, play quiet video games, or even watch TV. Provide kitty with alone time too.
- Take baby steps. As your new cat gets more comfortable, increase the length of interactions a few minutes each day. Use treats to reward your kitty after they let you pet or hold them—even if just for a few moments.
- Try synthetic pheromones. FELIWAY Spray or Diffusers have been shown to help cats feel more calm and comfortable by mimicking the natural feline reassuring messages. (Bonus: You can purchase FELIWAY products in our in-shelter retail store!)

Delilah's (formerly known as Glenda) adopter knows firsthand the joy of helping a nervous cat overcome her fears. She shares:

"Look at this stunning lady! I think she was posing a bit. And little by little, certainly, moving in the right direction!"



She has such a sweet personality.

I think Delilah is officially settled in her new home. She is a very sweet, flirty, but also reserved kitty cat. She mostly lounges around my house and comes to me when she wants scratches and love. It's been very rewarding to see her come out of her shell, I'm so lucky to have her too."



AFOC is so grateful that Delilah's adopter opened her heart and gave Delilah a chance! The once extremely shy kitty got to know love and now can't get enough of it.

It may take a little longer than an outgoing cat, but it is so worth it, knowing that you helped give a shy cat a chance to step into their own—one paw at a time.

Our pets say thanks—and so do we!

2020 was a difficult year for everyone, but we were able to help so many homeless pets, thanks to kind and caring people.

Many of the adopters send us updates and photos for a long time. Last year, we placed a kitten with the perfect adopter. We do hear from her regularly and recently received the following note along with a donation.

"On behalf of the adopted kitten and me with deepest gratitude.

"For of those to whom much is given, much is required." ~ JFK.

A little something to contribute to your work. In hopes it may help more sick babies and their fortunate adopters.

Thanks for all you have done, are doing and will do. Thank you for my kitten. She has brought joy, purpose and laughter back into my life. She is my love!"

We're so grateful for our compassionate community who make this possible! Your big heart, helping hands, and determination to save innocent cats made the dream of a forever home come true.

Meet our Volunteers! - Allison C. Kitten Foster



The statue of Liberty bears the words: give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free...this came to mind when George Murtha described Alison, this edition's volunteer. He says, "Alison is great and such a willing foster, she will take any kittens I ask her to take; the sick, the injured and even multiple litters at a time". No situation is too daunting for her...even ringworm doesn't back her off from a foster.

Alison says she saw a post on Facebook looking for people to foster kittens and gave George a call.

So, in August 2019, Alison began her adventure with fostering. She says she is willing to foster cats of any age, but she especially enjoys kitten fostering. Over her short career she has reached a milestone of 25 fosters! She has fostered all ages from newborn to adult. Alison went to college to learn veterinary medicine, but lost her student loans, so she went to work at a veterinary hospital. She wanted to stay in the field, with the intention of going back to school someday. Unfortunately, her life plans changed, and she never got back to her schooling and goal of becoming a Vet.

This foster Mom has cared for mother cats and their litters but when the mother cat is no longer with the litter, she

has taken on the role of "Mom Cat" and bottle fed the newborn babies. Alison remarks, "bottle babies are special". Seven is the most kittens she has fostered at one time.

They were from two different litters and it was during Christmas. "My house was very full, but it was so much fun." When I asked Alison to relate some favorite stories, she said, "All of my fosters have been amazing and special. Toby was particularly sweet and was with me for a long time, he was adopted by a friend and I get to see pictures of him and his younger brother Simba, who was adopted by the same friend. Another foster, Fry was my first bottle baby. I raised him from birth and he loved me so much. Then there was Onyx who was found alone on the side of the road but was clean and healthy. She refused to bottle feed even though she should have been. At mealtime she literally climbed into the bowl with the wet food and needed a bath after every meal! She liked to climb on me and sleep on my neck, she was very vocal and very sweet and special".



Alison says there isn't a typical day, but it usually involves filling food and water bowls, emptying litter pans and having fun playing with cats and kittens and getting lots of love in return. Alison leads a very busy life. In the beginning, she had a special separate room for fostering, which is always an important consideration for fosters, but "at the moment, due to renovation projects happening in

my house, it isn't possible". Her tips for anyone considering kitten fostering is to have patience, try not to stress and just do your best. Wisdom is gained with experience, so try to learn something each time and soon it become second nature!

Alison has fun naming the kittens in a litter and uses the theme method for each litter, her first mom cat came with the name Trixie so all five of her newborns got names ending in "ie".



In fostering Alison has had to deal with some tough situations like ringworm and parasites. She says parasites are pretty much a given for any animal that was on the streets. Worming medications are effective and easy to get at the Vet's office. Ringworm is not usual but on cats, it can be hard to recognize sometimes because it presents differently than on people. Fortunately, in the case with one litter, the Vet recognized it and we began treatment immediately. Ringworm is stubborn but treatable!

Alison owns five of her own cats now, three of which were "foster fails", (when the foster parent decides to adopt the kitten). Along with the five cats, she has a dog, two ferrets and a tortoise.

Fry Sam and Dean, they really liked their food and needed baths often.



Happy Tails!

Eugene (formerly known as Bristol)



Eugene (formerly Bristol) was a very frightened cat surviving the cold winter weather in a garage. He was in dire need of medical attention to treat an abscess he sustained while he was trying to fend for himself outdoors. After a few trips to the vet and some much-needed rest, he was ready for his fur-ever home.

We're happy to report that Eugene is now doing great! He was a little afraid when he first arrived in his new home, but soon began jumping in bed and plopping down next to his loving adopter where he'd comfortably fall asleep.

He loves to play with a feather toy and anything with a bell in it. He even runs after it when it's thrown.



His personality is so sweet, when his new owner puts their hand out, he comes right to them and wants lots of pets. He's always purring!

"Despite Eugene only being home for a short period of time, he's already my best friend. He warmed up to his new environment relatively fast and began to show his affectionate but also playful personality. He loves to cuddle and lay in sunny spots. He was the perfect addition to my life."



Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc.

P.O. Box 370306 West Hartford, Connecticut 06137-0306

Phone (860) 225-1339

E-mail afoc@afocinc.org



We're on the Web! See us at: www.animalfriendsofct.org

Remember Donations Save Lives!

Our organization depends, and always appreciates, the generosity and involvement of people like you. Every contribution goes towards helping Animal Friends of Connecticut continue to rescue and shelter homeless pets.

Every little bit counts! Here's how you can donate.

Mail-In Donations:

Complete a donation form and mail your tax-deductible check today. Make your checks payable to:

**Animal Friends of Connecticut
POB 370306
West Hartford, CT.
06137-0306**

PayPal:

It is fast and convenient, and safe! You can now use your credit card and donate on-line through PayPal.

United Way:

Please specify that your donation is intended for AFOC.

Please use the following letters and numbers on the form: AG 0640.

I-GIVE Matching Contributions:

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

Sponsorship Program:

We have many cats that are hard to place or not adoptable. 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.

In Memoriam



- Janice and William Dedominicis in memory of Lady and Izzy
- Penny Rorrio in memory of Carroll Hyllen
- Derek Petroka in memory of Lorrie Petroka
- June Kozak in memory of "Missy" "Li'l Bit" & "Big Boy", her much loved cats
- Melinda and Robert Alexander in memory of Jack
- Diane Hunter in honor of our young grandson's new kitten Pepper
- Judy Gascoigne in memory of Gracie who died at the age of 21 1/2
- In Honor of Jane Wilson from Renee Hughes

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) 693-0303

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc.
P.O. Box 370306
West Hartford, Connecticut 06137-0306

Name _____
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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- \$5.00 Giving
- \$10.00 Helping
- \$25.00 Contributing
- \$50.00 Supporting
- \$100.00 Sustaining
- \$250.00 Sponsor
- \$500.00 Patron
- \$ Other

- Please send information on automatic transfer donation
- Name/address changes: (please print clearly)

- I'd like to help. Volunteers please call 860-827-0371
- I am interested in becoming a member. Please add me to your mailing list to receive the newsletter (new members only)

