

We Have Many Pets In Need Of Adoption - Please Open Your Heart & Home

Animalfriends

Fall 2017 O F C O N N E C T I C U T

21 Kittens

Mother's Day, 2016, was a day that AFOC wanted to forget and hoped would never happen again. We received a call from a woman who had been taking kittens away from their mothers and was planning on raising them herself. When she reached 15 kittens, many of whom required bottle feeding, she realized that she was unable to care for them and called us for help. Fortunately, the kittens, although small, were in reasonably good physical condition. With some excellent veterinary care and excellent foster care they were soon ready to be adopted.



We were dreading the approaching Mother's Day, 2017. It came and went with no problems, although we were apprehensive until Monday arrived. Then, on June 3, we received a call we did not want to ever get. Someone had abandoned 21 small, and very sick, kittens on the steps of a local veterinary office at approximately 3 AM. We were asked if Animal Friends would be able to take them, nurse them back to health and find homes for them. 21 kittens overwhelmed our ability to care for so many at one time, but, with the help of our three veterinary clinics, we began the process of nursing them back to health. Coccidia, an upper respiratory infection and giardia, infected all of them, with some being quite severe. Most of the kittens' problems soon improved to the point that we were able to put them in foster care. This was not very successful because the medical issues intensified once the kittens left medical facilities. So, we received most of them back and had to once again place them with local veterinarians, at considerable expense to the organization.



Animal Friends received several calls from additional people who had a litter of kittens in their yard and wanted us to come rescue them, which of course we did. The first three litters were kittens about a month old. The good news was that they were reasonably healthy and could be immediately placed in foster homes. The number of kittens we were now dealing with rose to 32.

I am sorry to say that several of the original 21 kittens developed pneumonia and there was nothing we could do to save them. It is now a month later and, due to reoccurring medical issues, we have been unable to put the rest up for adoption. Hopefully, they will be ready to be adopted in two weeks from the time I am writing this. The last 11 are still doing well. As soon as they are old enough, they will be put up for adoption.

What is Mother's Day 2018 going to bring?

If you are interested in being a foster family for future litters, please contact us at the shelter. We need your help.



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).



AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets you enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1132973>, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the eligible charitable organization of your choice. It does not cost anything to sign up or add to your purchase price. It is totally funded by Amazon. Remember, when you are shopping on line with Amazon, go thru AmazonSmile instead and help Animal Friends of Connecticut at the same time.

ANOTHER SAVE

Sweetie was given her name by the Canton Emergency Vet staff because of her sweet temperament. Sweetie was in the engine compartment of a car when it was started. She was caught between the fan and the radiator and sustained serious injuries, including a fractured skull, a seriously damaged leg, which she may lose, and cuts and bruises all over her body. Even with all of her injuries, she never stopped purring and loving the person who was holding her. She will have orthopedic surgery to try to save her leg. If you would like to contribute to her medical expenses, please send a tax exempt donation to AFOC, P.O.Box 370306, West Hartford, Connecticut 06137



News from the Shelter...

Earlier this spring, we received a call from the Berlin Animal Control officer, who said she had two cats whose owner had passed away. The family told her that they thought he had adopted the cats in New Britain, so she wondered if they had come from us. Fortunately, he had not changed their names, so we knew immediately who they were. First thing the next morning, we picked them up and brought them back to us. Jack and Diane are a brother and sister pair who are looking for a new home. They are sweet and friendly.

Stormy came to us recently (see his story elsewhere in this newsletter). Because he is older and will always be on thyroid medication, we are looking for a foster home for him. If you would be willing to bring him into your home, he would be a loving and grateful companion.

Late this past winter, Pete was found in a bank parking lot in New Britain with serious upper respiratory issues (now cured). George is a young boy who started out very frightened. They became roommates and then they became friends. They now share a pagoda, which warms the volunteers' hearts.

We can always use volunteers. Come share your time with these and our other wonderful kitties.

Jean

Judy Levy, Director
Jo-Ann Regan, Editor

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc.

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Newsletter e-mail: newsletter@afocinc.org

Cats Living with FIV

Candace Hersey-Benner, DVM

A cat infected with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus can still be a loveable pet, but it's important to realize that they may have a shorter life and that you may need to make more trips to veterinarian to treat or screen for illness and infections. First and foremost, once tested and confirmed positive, an FIV cat should never venture outside again. FIV is an infectious disease that should not be allowed to spread thru the feline community. It is critical that anyone who has an FIV positive cat take whatever steps necessary to keep their cat inside at all times. Another reason to make sure your kitty lives inside is to prevent exposure to other diseases that he or she would be exposed to outside. A cat with a normal immune system may be able to handle exposure to intestinal parasites, tick borne diseases and respiratory pathogens, but an FIV positive cat could become gravely ill. It's important to avoid the possible exposure altogether and help your kitty adjust to an indoor lifestyle.

The major mode of transmission of FIV is from deep bite wounds when cats fight, therefore worrying about exposing other cats in the house to an FIV cat is only concerning if the cats fight. Snuggling, sharing bowls and casual contact are less likely to result in spreading of the virus in a household, so it is usually unnecessary to isolate an FIV positive cat. However, you should consider not adding any new cats to the house as these new cat introductions sometimes result in fighting, which could result in exposing new members of the household to FIV. Yearly testing of all negative cats is recommended to track exposure and to closely monitor the health of those other cats. FIV is not transferable to other pets (dogs, birds, rabbits) or humans.

A twice yearly visit to the veterinarian, with yearly blood, urine and intestinal parasite screening, is recommended for a cat living with FIV. Their immune system is not capable of handling any degree of illness and these tests will help your friend live a healthier and longer life. It's important to pay very close attention to small changes in behavior or weight with an FIV positive cat. Even a small change in weight can be a very significant finding and should be addressed quickly, as it could be a sign of something more serious.

Volunteers needed, sometimes on very short notice, to transport cats to veterinary appointments. Most appointments are from the shelter in New Britain to a vet in the Farmington Valley. Very occasionally, the appointment could be to specialists in Massachusetts or just over the border in New York State. If you are willing to do this, please call Jean, the shelter manager, at 860-489-4901.

WE ARE IN NEED OF A HOME

Petie is a very friendly 2 year old neutered male. He was the neighborhood cat in Collinsville, being fed by everyone and sleeping at different houses each evening. When he injured his leg, he was brought to Canton Emergency Vet for treatment and then given to AFOC. Petie tested positive for FIV, which has made it difficult to find him a forever home.



Sophie was rescued from the streets of Hartford and brought to the vet. She was tested and found to be FIV positive. She, too, is in need of a forever or foster home.



Please consider becoming a foster home for Petie and Sophie or adopting them. If interested please call 860-489-4901.

AFOC VOLUNTEER STORY

It all started in the late 1980's, when Eileen Awsiukiewicz was working for a construction company, which had many feral cats roaming around the property. One cat was very friendly and she started to feed him. Eileen called many organizations to come and help her rescue him. Some were so insensitive or just never called her back. She was beginning to give up hope. Luckily, AFOC called her back and set up a time to try and catch the cat she named, Teddy. Judy Levy came with her trap and they were able to trap him. She felt so good until she got the call a few days later that Teddy was FIV positive. Judy explained that the organization doesn't have the ability to care for cats with FIV. This was before they purchased the shelter. She knew Eileen was upset, and with her help, arranged a home with a woman who takes care of sick cats. Eileen was able to visit Teddy from time to time. He lived 4 years after that and she was totally grateful for Judy's help.

After that, Eileen wanted to help out at AFOC. Since she was familiar with computers, she offered to do the pictures for the pet of the week in the weekly paper. She started experimenting with free websites for a while for the organization. As websites became more popular, it was decided AFOC should get their own webpage. She handled setting up the necessary requirements and has been doing it since.

Over the years, Eileen continued helping, first with pictures then the website. In 2004, she created the Sponsor-a-Pet program for AFOC, to help with donations. She thoroughly enjoys taking pictures for sponsors and corresponding with

them. After the web page was created, she helped create an e-mail for the organization, which she has been answering ever since. If you e-mail AFOC, you will get her.

When living in Newington, Eileen saw, over time, many other strays that needed AFOC's help. One that she remembered was an orange female, who had two litters. AFOC helped her trap both litters. The first one was a little more difficult since, they were around her complex for months and were part feral. Once trapped, she kept them in her 2 bedroom apartment, hoping her landlord would not discover them because they only allowed one cat. George Murtha helped her find them homes where they could live in barns. The second litter was a little easier, except one kitten bit her and she had to get a rabies shot. There were other rescues, but the best mother & kitties she rescued was her cat Pearl and her litter. Her kittens found homes, but Mama stayed with her.

In 2011, Eileen volunteered to work in the office, to record donations and send receipts. She has been doing it ever since. She was recently voted into the position of Associate Director by the Board of Directors

Besides helping animals, Eileen enjoys sewing quilts. She also belongs to a quilt guild, which donates to other charities, including Quilts 4 kids, Quilts of Valor, her parish church and various homeless shelters in the area. She loved donating quilts for the Flatbread fundraiser and has made many quilts and pillow cases for the shelter.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Jane: A donation was made in honor of Jane Wilson's birthday.
- Renee Hughes

Callie: A donation of shelter supplies was made in memory of our beloved Callie.
- Gail & Steve Carlson

Jesse: A donation was made in honor of Jesse, a beloved pet of Donna Neary.
- Erika Elbert

Lady: A donation was made in honor of Lady.
- Janice & William DeDominicis

Brittany Blue: A donation was made in honor of our beloved pet, Brittany Blue.
- Christine & Joseph Quartiero

Bear: A donation was made in honor of Bear, dear friend of Travy Civitillo
- Melinda Alexander

Spooky: A donation was made in honor of Spooky.
- Barbara Diorio

Evie: A donation was made in honor of Evie Barton.
- Janet & Dan Meyer

Joyce: A donation was made in honor of Joyce Franceschina.
- Mary & Robert Vallario

Joey: A donation was made in honor of Joey Blake.
- Marianne Riccio

Barbara: A donation was made in honor of Barbara Kidwell.
- Linda & Douglas Smythe

Corrine: A donation was made in honor of our mother, Corrine Stacey.
- Paul & Carol Stacey

Corrine: A donation was made in honor of Corrine Stacey.
- Pamela & Timothy Coon

Barbara: A donation was made in honor of Barbara Pike.
- Jo-Ann Back

Naomi: A donation was made in honor of Naomi Berkowitz, mother & grandmother
- Michael & Shelly Levy

Naomi: A donation was made in honor of Naomi Berkowitz.
- Donna Goldstein
Sophie Levy
Adam Chiara
Allen & Cindy Langer
Barbara Kronfeld
Sandra Greenberg
Barbara & Andrew Derwicki

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

Otto

I received a phone call from one of the local Animal Control Officers, asking for my help. One of her volunteers had adopted a kitten from a backyard animal rescue and they now wanted the kitten returned. Before I would get involved, I checked with the Secretary of State's Office and the Town Clerk in the city where the adoption took place. Neither office had any information on the group and assumed it was just one of the many small rescues that don't need to register themselves.

The person who adopted the animal actually got it for an older couple who she was friends with. When she told the rescue what her intentions were, they said the couple would have to fill out their own application, be interviewed and have a home visitation before they could be approved, which was reasonable. However, while this was happening, they wanted the kitten back in their possession to hold, pending approval. I did not like the sound of that.

I called the rescue organization and spoke to a person who was most pleasant on the phone, but who was not going to budge on wanting the kitten back until everything was approved and there was no negotiation possible. The woman said that if the kitten was not returned, they would go to court to get the kitten back, if necessary.

I hung up and considered my next step. Before I could do anything, I received a phone call at 7 AM the following morning and was told that the woman I had spoken to the night before had appeared at the old couple's door at 10 PM that night with two police officers. They claimed the kitten had been stolen and they were there to get it back. Not knowing what to do, and being afraid, the couple gave the kitten to the woman.

The next day, they did fill out the required paperwork with the organization, but I knew they were never going to have the kitten returned to them.

I talked to the CT Department of Agriculture (they are in charge of animal rescues) regarding the matter. They told me that there are many small backyard rescue organizations that operate under the radar. That they do not get involved with them because they only place a few animals a year. Unless they were bringing animals across state lines, they were really doing nothing illegal.

My assessment is that this organization should be registered, since they were placing many animals each year through pet adoption days. They were affiliated with an out of state organization, so it was reasonable to assume they were transporting animals across state lines.

As I expected, the couple waited several days and heard nothing. They finally contacted the organization and were told that they had not been approved for the adoption. AFOC had a litter of eight-week old kittens, but each one of them had been promised to people who had been waiting for them for several weeks. I told this to the couple, but said that if any of the adoptions failed to happen, I would consider giving them a kitten.

One person had committed to two kittens. However, she wanted me to put a hold on all of the kittens so her daughter could pick the two that she wanted. I told her that she would have to come early the following Wednesday, because I would not make the other three people wait to accommodate her schedule. She said she had to work and did not get home until 7:30 in the evening. The earliest she could come would be the following Saturday. I held two kittens for her and we scheduled the adoption for 9:30 on Saturday morning. I went to the adoption location at 9:15 and waited until 10 o'clock. The woman and her children did not show, so I left. She showed up sometime after 10 and frantically tried to take the kittens home, but with no success.

At 11 PM that night, I received a phone call from her that started with "You are a liar." Not having any need to talk to her, especially after having been woken up, I immediately hung up on her. She called back instantly and left a lengthy message on voice mail saying that "not only am I a liar, but I was very rude to hang up on her and that I should not be allowed to take care of animals, considering the way I had treated two innocent, beautiful children." The message continued for some time, with a similar theme, but there was no chance that I was going to ever let her adopt a kitten or cat from us. It obviously never occurred to her that she did not keep her appointment and what happened was totally her own fault.

The following morning, I contacted one of the people on my waiting list to let her know that the kitten she wanted was available. She came the following afternoon to get it. I then contacted the woman who had adopted the kitten from the first organization and told her that I had a kitten available for the older couple. She suggested I meet them and I agreed to go the following morning. We went to their house, which was located on a steep, dirt road, about one mile off a main road. The location of their house was beautiful. They had it approved as a wild life sanctuary from the Federal Government and it was posted accordingly.

Their yard was filled with hundreds of beautiful birds having breakfast at the many feeders around the property. Plus, several bears were lounging on the edge of their meadow. I enjoyed my time with them and agreed to give them the remaining kitten.

I do intend to stop by to visit with them and the kitten in the near future. They named the kitten Otto.



STORMY

My name is Scott Bernabucci. I have two cats of my own, one of which I adopted from a shelter. I would like to share with you my animal rescue story of the cat now named "Stormy."

I live in a mobile home park in Bristol. It was around Memorial Day weekend and I was gathering things to throw into the dumpster. I walked down to throw the items out. As I was walking back to my house, I happened to look in the shallow storm drain and noticed that there was a black and white cat inside. I spoke to the cat and it looked back. It then got up and walked into the pipe, so I could no longer see it. I went on my way and continued what I was doing. I had to go to the dumpster once again to throw some more things out. I noticed that the cat was back in the same spot once again. I spoke to the cat again and the cat had the same reaction; it walked back into the pipe so I could not see it. When I got back to the house, I placed some dry food on a little dish and placed it in the sewer for the cat to eat.

I had to run some errands. After being gone for a couple of hours, I went back to the sewer. The cat was laying there once again. I spoke to him, but this time, he got up and looked up at me and meowed. I knew then that the cat needed help and he knew that I was there to help him. I lifted the grate off the sewer and picked the cat up out of there. That is when I realized how malnourished he was, because I could feel his whole rib cage. I went back to the house and got some water and moist food and gave it to the cat. He drank the water and ate over half the food I gave him. I



made phone call after phone call, because I did not want this cat to perish. I finally called a 24-hour vet in Canton. They referred me to Animal Friends of Connecticut and gave me a number to call. I spoke to them on the phone and was given permission to bring the cat to the vet, which I did, without hesitation. I spoke to the cat the whole way and he was talking back to me.

I arrived at the vet's and dropped him off, knowing that he was in great hands and that everything possible would be done to insure his survival. They took my phone number, so I could be updated on the cat's progress. I think it was about a week later that I received a phone call. I was told that "Stormy" was alive, on an IV, and that he was eating a

little on his own. I was very happy to receive that excellent news.

I would just like to say a great big THANK YOU to Animal Friends of CT and the Canton Emergency Vet for helping me save this cat's life. It is a good feeling to know that there are other people out there who care about an animal's life as much as I do. Once again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart

NOTE FROM THE SHELTER: Stormy is thriving at the shelter and slowly gaining back some of his weight. He is between 15 and 18 years old, but immediately fit right in. He found a blanket that he made his own and is very popular with the volunteers.



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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