

About Us, Adoption, Fostering, and Volunteering



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About Us

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc. is a nonprofit, no-kill shelter dedicated to the protection of cats. Our organization rescues stray, abandoned and abused, cats and your donations help provide medical care, vaccinations as well as spay or neuter surgery. The cats are cared for at our shelter or foster care until an appropriate placement can be found.

Pledge to Adopt Your Next Pet

Although AFOC may have kittens available for adoption, we encourage all potential adopters to consider the rewards of adopting an adult animal.

Interested in adopting?

- Check our website and discover the pets that are up for adoption.
- Please call **(860) 225-1339** for more information.

Experienced Fosters Still 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** and leave a message.

Volunteers Still Needed

AFOC is run entirely by dedicated volunteers. There are plenty of opportunities to help! AFOC volunteers are people like you, who love animals. If you can donate your time, your help will be gladly appreciated! For more information call us at **860-225-1339**.

When:

- Monday through Saturday **mornings from 7:30 – 9:30am**
- Monday through Saturday **evenings from 5-7pm**
- One day per week or more if your schedule permits.

Responsibilities:

- Feeding (Fill water and food bowls)
- Light housekeeping

Additional Volunteers Needed for:

- Socialization
- Outside maintenance
- Fundraising
- Transport to vet appointments



- Barbara Gorman participating in the Betty White Challenge
- Sandra Pouliot in memory of Barbara Morris
- Christine O'Neill in honor of Dear Friends Jen and Brandon Dowty for all their work fostering kittens
- Marilyn Beebe in honor and memory of Betty White
- Timothy and Lisa Sheridan in memory and honor of Betty White
- Pamela Zimmer in honor and memory of Betty White
- Marty and Mary Howe in memory of Julio
- Don and Joanne Prefontaine in the name of John and Karen Guarco, Benny's parents
- Diana Petro in memory of Richard Verret
- Jason and Kellie Morey in memory of Margaret Ziolkowski
- The Jacobs Family in memory of Richard Verret
- Sandra Hastings in memory of Mr. Mystic
- George and Jacqueline Roraback in memory of the Shea Family, TJ and Murphy
- Paul and Lynn Szemanczky in memory of Christian
- Michael Weinstein in memory of Mickey Weinstein
- Jo-Anne Bochicchio in memory of Schotzie, Jessie, LaceyLu, Killie and Freckles

Kimchee Journey – by Jane W.

Kimchee is a very loving orange boy who was rescued by AFOC after being found living on the street with his eyes stuck shut with discharge.

We thought at first that we were just dealing with a chronic eye infection, but upon physical examination it was discovered that Kimchee's eyelids rolled forward making his eyelashes constantly rub against his eyes causing constant irritation.



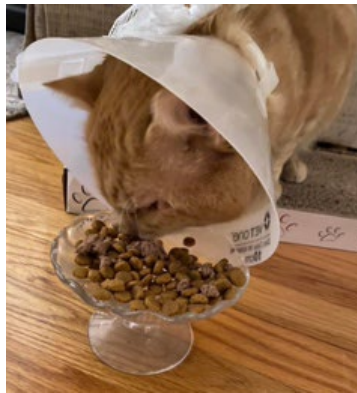
Kimchee's eyes were always filled with thick mucus and needed to be cleaned every day so he could see. Most of Kimchee's pictures show him squinting or with his eye closed as it is more comfortable for him.

Thankfully Kimchee didn't develop corneal ulcers. But it was advised to save damage to his eyes he need surgery right away to correct his condition.

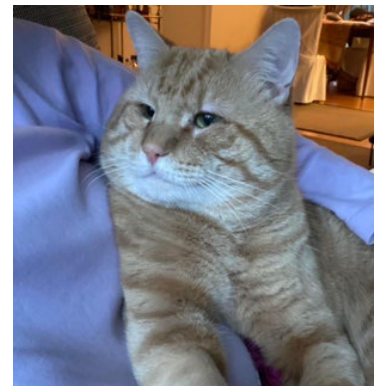


Kimchee underwent surgery on December 22nd. This was an expensive surgery, and our shelter has so many other expenses to help all the cats we rescue. But how could we not provide this surgical option for the sweetest boy in the world. He must have been so uncomfortable. Have you ever had an eyelash in your eye? This boy had most of his bottom lashes constantly rubbing against his eye.

We could use your help to pay the bills for his surgery. Any amount you can contribute is greatly appreciated!



Kimchee is also available for adoption! He's approximately 7-8 years old, is neutered and up to date on his vaccinations. Kimchee is FIV positive which means his immune system, is compromised so it's important that he has yearly vet check-ups. Kimchee also needs a special prescription diet to manage his urinary system health. BUT he is a doll!



He's a very mild mannered, well behaved kitty who loves people and all the cuddling and lap time he can get. We are looking for the right home for him. He so deserves someone with a big heart and who wants to give this boy the quality of life he deserves in exchange for all the love you can "take".

Maybe you're the person Kimchee is looking for?

Please call the shelter at 860-225-1339 to learn more.



Melissa and Meghan

We are excited to announce that we will be posting "volunteer in the Spotlight" stories on our Facebook page to help celebrate the fantastic team of people that work together at Animal Friends of Connecticut.

This month's "Volunteers in the Spotlight" are Melissa and Meghan!

Melissa and her daughter Meghan have been volunteering with AFOC since 2020. Both Melissa and Meghan play a vital role in our team socializing our shelter cats to help make them happy and comfortable while they wait to be adopted.

Part of the many ways that Meghan and Melissa help our shelter cats get comfortable is by assessing a cat's comfort level and allowing them to interact at their own pace.

Meghan says, "working with shelter cats is so rewarding, and that there is no better feeling than to see a cat I've been working with hit a social milestone".

Melissa says they both have made so many lasting memories together during their time at the shelter. One thing's for sure, these two know just what to do to help the cats at AFOC feel a bit more like home.

Outside of volunteering for AFOC, this duo enjoys sewing and getting crafty! Meghan also loves to spend time with her cats Luna & Finn, and her beagle named Bailey. Melissa finds peace spending time with her dog named Max and her cat named Percy, who loves being outside with her in his harness.

AFOC is incredibly thankful to have them as part of the team and hope you will help us in recognizing their efforts! "



Our volunteers are the backbone of this organization and the community that we serve. We could never achieve what we do without the unfaltering commitment of time, support, skills, creativity, and knowledge generously shared by so many. We are what we are because of the daily commitment of the volunteers that believe in us.

Thank you to each one of our volunteers. The impact of your hard work is felt each day. Our success is your success.

If you haven't visited our Facebook page, please do so at:

<https://www.facebook.com/AnimalFriendsofCT.org>

Dee Dee Power - by Pat H.

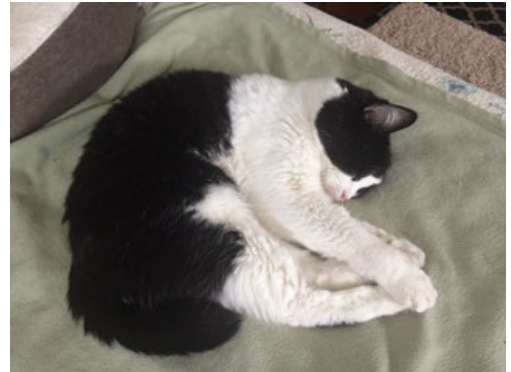
Dee Dee came into my life through an unrelated phone call with George, a director at Animal Friends of Connecticut. We were talking about charitable contributions for non-profits, and George asked if I saw the Animal Friends post about Dee Dee. She was a black and white cat who had a couple strikes against her. She was a senior at 10 years old, she was blind, her caretaker was seriously ill, and Dee Dee was now residing in a shelter in Georgia. I was taken by how sweet Dee Dee looked and how sad her life circumstances were. Out of the blue, George asked if I wanted her. Skip a beat, and then I said 'Sure, why not?' I've had cats that didn't see well but never one who was blind. George had adopted a blind cat in the early days of Animal Friends. He shared stories of how well she adapted to her surroundings, including mastering a 'catwalk' suspended from the ceiling.

I picked Dee Dee up one April morning when she arrived in CT from GA. She was underweight but that didn't stop her from settling in my arms and enjoying attention from the other volunteers George, Jean, and Jane. I set up in my foster room to begin her transition to home with her new furry siblings. By the first afternoon, she had mapped out her food buffet, water bowl, and litter boxes. Within a day, I began to suspect that Dee Dee was not only blind but also deaf.



Dee Dee proved to be up to the transition challenge. In the first week she explored the rest of the foster room by pacing in circles, some large and some small, backing up when she encountered an obstacle, and moving toward a new direction. I put a variety of rugs

and cat beds in the corners of the room so she could identify her location by the different textures. She was drawn to the door/pet gate with the many interesting scents of cats walking back and forth in the hallway. She accomplished figure eights in and around the legs of tables and chairs. A couple of my ambassador cats came in the room to visit her. She immediately perked up with the new scents. I was in awe of Dee Dee's mapping strategies.



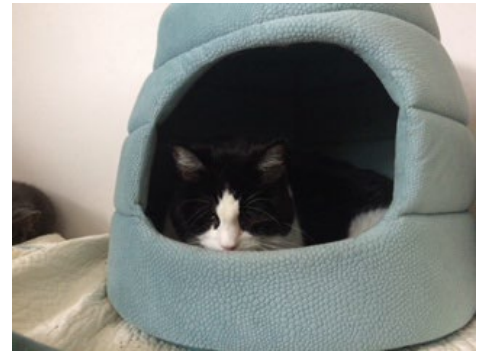
After a week and a half in her new home, Dee Dee faced another obstacle. It began with some wet sneezes and weepy eyes. Within a week, she had a full-blown respiratory illness. Her nose was stuffy, and her sense of smell was temporarily gone. She had trouble swallowing and could only manage short, painful gulps when eating. She got the full court press of support techniques-steam showers (some days 6-8 times), daily subcutaneous fluids, Convenia shots every 2 weeks, syringe feeding multiple times a day (hampered because she couldn't breathe and eat at the same time, and swallowing was painful), and lots of nose and eye clean-ups. The first day she started drinking on her own, I did my happy dance. The next day she ate a little baby food, and I did more happy dances. Each day she ate a little more baby food, and I did more happy dances. The morning that I woke up and Dee Dee was at the pet gate, meowing to be fed, I knew she was going to make it. Happy days (and dances)!

Dee Dee Power – by Pat H.

With her recuperation, Dee Dee became an avid explorer of her new home. Perhaps the cutest of Dee Dee's accomplishments was becoming a participant in the twice daily treat sessions. Dee Dee loves treats and 'alerted' every time I walked in the bedroom holding bags of treats. The treat sessions involve simultaneously giving individual treats to Chaz on the window perch, Victor and Twinkletoeson the bed, and Felipe on the floor. (Volunteers will recognize the previous shelter residents.) This may sound easy, but cats are not known for respecting boundaries when it comes to treats. Chaz was above it all on the perch, so he wasn't a problem. Victor is a (sometimes irascible) 19-year old who exudes 'no trespassing signals' around his defined personal space. Twinkletoes is a senior CH cat whose lack of coordination results in somersaults and tumbles all over the bed. She couldn't define territory if she wanted to. Felipe, who considers all treats as his, paces back and forth along the perimeter of the bed in anticipation of any nearby treats to snatch. In the midst of this chaos, Dee Dee was able to find her spot on the bed, scoop up the treats that were placed under her nose, and wait patiently for her treats in the next round. She knows the session is over when I pet her several times, after which she settles in her cat bed for leisurely grooming.



Unfortunately, Dee Dee's obstacles weren't over yet. The viral infection that caused her respiratory illness also infected her left eye. The damage was so great that the eye couldn't be salvaged. She had surgery to remove the eye, and then had to navigate eating, drinking, and eliminating for 2 weeks while wearing a cone (sometimes called a party hat) on her head. Cones are a tough challenge for any pet, but even more so when you can't see the bowls or litter box. She was successful, though, and earned a clean bill of health from her vet.



Dee Dee has now been a member of the family for 4 months. She became blind in 2019, had her caretaker become deathly ill, was surrendered to a shelter, endured a van trip from GA to CT, survived a life-threatening respiratory illness, had surgery to remove one of her eyes, and somewhere along the line became deaf. Through all of this, Dee Dee managed to integrate into a totally new environment; locate the multiple food bowls, water bowls, and litter boxes throughout the house; find her place on the bed in and amongst other cats; actively participate in the treat sessions; and become a fellow companion to her new mom and other siblings.



- Leslie Craine in memory of Tim Craine who loved his cats so much
- Peter and Christine Karpinski in honor of their angel cats Boris and Binky
- John and Karen Guarco, Benny's parents in honor of Benny
- Marsha Faith in memory of Anthony Zavalick
- Frances "Pinky" Doyle in memory of her dearest friend and partner Barbara "Bobbie" Lepak
- Pam Hastings in memory of Sally Pascus
- Shirley and Lew Segal in memory of Vera Klein
- Zoe Rene and Ethan Adam Brodeur
- John and Theresa Farmer in memory of Alize VanRiper Longstreet
- Pamela Desmarais -Donation in honor of the marriage of Eileen Glancy and James Machado
- Barbara Greenleaf and James Bayne donation in honor of the the wedding of Eileen Glancy and Jim Machado
- Phyllis Pasternak in memory of Joshua Albert
- James Storms in memory of his sister Donna Storms, a long time AFOC supporter
- Rosalind Terranova in memory of her beloved cat, Emily, her companion for 18 years
- Schilling-Lawson Family Fund in honor of Hiliary Bassett
- Patricia Dokas in honor of Carrie Johnson Mott
- Judy Gascoigne in memory of Ella
- Roseann and Jackie Gardner in memory of Betty White
- Laurie Brodeur in memory of Mike Chewatek
- Betsy Anderson in memory of Betty White
- Nicole DeLong in honor of Barbara Morris
- Elaine Herlihy in memory of Barbara Morris

Sophie and Her Kittens – by George M.

Animal Friends received a call about a mother cat and her litter that were living outside. Within a few days the mother cat and her 6 kittens arrived and were immediately placed together in an experienced foster home.

Soon after they were settled in, it was determined that the mother, Sophie, and all of her kittens had an Upper Respiratory Infection which is a very common illness in cats particularly when they're living outside. It's like a cold, but it can be much more serious. It's caused by different viruses or bacteria, and it targets the upper airway -- the nose, throat, and sinuses -- rather than the lungs.

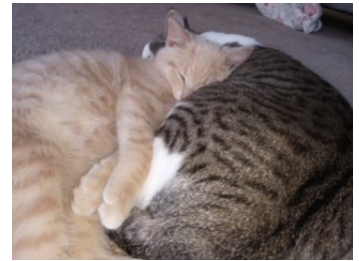
After a thorough vet exam and medication, all showed improvement initially but then Sophie and one of the kittens took a turn for the worst and weren't improving as quickly as the other five. Several trips to the vet and still no improvement! Their eyes were getting worse, and that's when it was recommended that the Sophie's eyes be removed as they were very infected at this point as well as one of the eyes of the kitten.



AFOC has rescued several cats over the years that were blind. The good news about cats with vision issues or blindness is that they can go on to lead happy and healthy lives. The key is to make changes to their home environment to accommodate for their disability. This includes making it easier to find their food, water, bedding, and litter box as well as eliminating clutter. I personally had a blind cat for 7 years and she was wonderful.

After the surgery and speedy recovery, it was time to find fur-ever homes for Sophie and her kitten. As you can imagine, the kitten was reserved almost immediately. But when it was time for him to go to his new home, his foster could not part with him. They had been through so much together and he was sleeping on her pillow every night purring for many hours.

When it was time for Sophie to meet her potential adopter, she held Sophie for the entire hour of her adoption appointment. Sophie had no interest in getting down and it was apparent that she found her new home.



The adopter phoned me that evening to say that everything went perfectly. Sophie entered the house, and it was like she had been there her entire life. She ran around and climbed on everything. But most of all she just wanted to be cuddled.



AFOC News & Announcements.

AFOC News

2021 brought many changes to the world and to Animal Friends of Connecticut. For our wonderful supporters, please take note of the section entitled "PayPal".

Thank you all for your continued support. We couldn't do what we do without you.



Website

We launched our new website in 2018 and have been transitioning to it since. We've completed that process but are always working to improve it so you can have a better online experience. The URL for our new website is:

<https://www.animalfriendsofct.org/>

If you'd like to let us know what you think, please email us at:

admin@AnimalFriendsofCT.org

Emails

We are currently in the process of migrating to our new email addresses. We will continue to support the old email addresses for a period before phasing them out. Our new emails are:

- **For Adoptions and General Inquiries:**
 - afoc@AnimalFriendsofCT.org
- **For Administration & Concerns:**
 - info@AnimalFriendsofCT.org
- **For our Website or Issues with PayPal:**
 - admin@AnimalFriendsofCT.org

PayPal

2020/2021 brought many changes to Animal Friends of Connecticut. Some long-term, highly valued, volunteer officers retired. Between that, and the changes to our website and email addresses, we encountered many difficulties with our PayPal account. After an exhaustive effort to fix the issues, PayPal and Animal Friends of Connecticut determined that the best course of action was to close the current PayPal account and open a new one.

The email for our new PayPal account is:

admin@AnimalFriendsofCT.org

We've updated the PayPal link on our website to:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=45GUY8XWJL8XL

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 cats.

If you're a subscriber making monthly donations or sponsoring one of our shelter cats, we ask that you please change to our new PayPal account. We'll try to send notifications to our subscribers, from our old email address (donations@afocinc.org), before we phase out that email address.

If you have questions or concerns, please email us at

admin@AnimalFriendsofCT.org

Facebook

We have an official Animal Friends of Connecticut Facebook page! If you haven't visited us, please do so at:

<https://www.facebook.com/AnimalFriendsofCT.org>

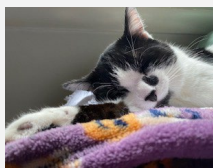


Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc.

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(860) 225-1339

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**afoc@AnimalFriends
ofCT.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!

Ways to Donate

Mail-In Donations:

Complete the donation form below and mail your tax-deductible check. Please make 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.

Amazon Wishlist:

Consider donating an item from our Amazon Wishlist. Everything helps us continue our duty to our furry residents.

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

\$5.00 Giving \$100.00 Sustaining
 \$10.00 Helping \$250.00 Sponsor
 \$25.00 Contributing \$500.00 Patron
 \$50.00 Supporting \$ Other

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

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc. Name _____
 P.O. Box 370306 Street/P.O.Box _____
 West Hartford, Connecticut 06137-0306 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail _____

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)

Animalfriends
OF CONNECTICUT