

Animalfriends

OF CONNECTICUT



September 2019

**Remember
Donations Save
Lives**
Please donate!



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About Us and Sponsoring

About Us:
Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc. (AFOC) 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 dogs and 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.

Sponsorship Program:
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 aren't able to adopt with a special AFOC feline. A rescued cat's story may touch a caring person like you and you may want to help. If you find it difficult to choose, we offer Kitty-Go-Round where you'll receive periodic cards from different felines and get status updates from your sponsored pets.

Sponsorships can be given to a friend as a gift. You can also visit our shelter to volunteer and speak with one of our residents to help build a connection. As always we offer the opportunity to come and visit your sponsored pet during available hours.

Here's how you can become a sponsor:

- **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.

You may be a perfect fit to become a sponsor, but you may not know how important it is to our kitties, how easy it is to set up, and how you can enhance your sponsorship to fit your individual lifestyle. As a pet sponsor you will receive:

- A card and picture from your sponsor cat.
- Periodic personal notes from your sponsor cat.
- Your name listed on our web site next to a picture of your sponsor cat. (Sponsors can remain

anonymous if desired.)

- A letter if your sponsor cat is adopted.
- A tax deduction for your contribution.
- The knowledge that you have made a difference in an abused or abandoned cat's life.

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

Here's how to sponsor:

Visit our website at <https://www.animalfriendsofct.org/sponsorship-program>, click on the sponsorship link.

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



In search of “kitty love” – Jane Wilson



Two years ago my sweet tabby, Meggie passed away. At 17, she had a good long life and brought such happiness to ours. Meggie was our third cat and each time before when our cat passed away we looked forward to bringing a new one into our lives. My husband and I agreed at this point in our life we could not have another pet because now that we were retired we planned to travel for longer periods of time and that would be unfair to a pet. I was sad for the loss of Meggie but even sadder now because I would miss what I called “kitty love” in my life.

I had been sending donations to Animal Friends for years and when the fall newsletter arrived I took note of the “Volunteers needed” section. I decided this was perhaps the way I could interact with cats and do some good. I contacted AFOC and was interviewed and introduced to the shelter by a volunteer. The following Monday I arrived at the shelter at an agreed time and met Jean, the

Shelter Manager. My approach was “whatever you need me to do”. Jean asked me to go into each room and check the cat’s bedding covers. I should brush them off, refold and turn, or change out with a fresh one if necessary. Because I was an “unfamiliar person in their space”, I decided I would talk quietly to each resident of the rooms I visited. They listened to me with great interest and sized me up with reasonable caution.

After I had finished my chores, Jean asked me to go visit one kitty, Rainbow, who was particularly in need of some “human” time. I picked her up and stroked her and the sound of the purr was music to my ears. I left the shelter that day looking forward to going back on Thursday.

It has been over two years now and I find myself drawn there. I know most all of the cats and kitten’s names and I have learned to understand each one’s comfort level. Every room has a personality to it. There’s the “black and white room” appropriately named for all the cats there are either pure black or different patterns of black and white. Over time, these once “reserved cats” have come to know me and when I enter their room they come down from their perches led by “Curtis” for strokes and petting. The room of young adults who are very shy, amazingly all come to life when the teaser toy appears. It turns into what could be described as a family game of

touch football. The “kitten room” is about socializing and teaching the sometimes frightened kittens that touch and handling can bring comforting and pleasant results. For me it’s also a room of hope: hope that someone will come adopt and give these little ones a chance at a loving home.

I have fallen in love with volunteering. Each cat there has captured a bit of my heart. I am so happy when I hear that one of the cats has been adopted. I’ll miss seeing them for selfish reasons but I know that they have reached the goal of the shelter: to give them a good life in a loving home. And those that don’t get adopted and end up being residents, I know they are safe, warm, well fed and receiving good medical care through your donations. And they are receiving care, love and company from the dedicated volunteers who give their time and efforts to the shelter.



Miley Cyrus loves nothing more than to spend a lazy day cuddling with her many pets.

The singer and actress hangs out around the house and spends time feeding her pet pig. "Pig feedin time is daaaaa best time!

The appreciation is real! The only one that loves veggies as much as me is Pigggy! She is a vegan."



In Loving Memory

- **Lorraine Brodeur:** In honor of Parker Brodeur birthday
- **Lorraine Brodeur:** In honor of Zoe Rebe Brodeur birthday
- **Donna Neary:** In memory of Jesse a beloved pet
- **Toni Seffer:** In honor of Betsy Anderson
- **Mary Kerns:** In honor of Betsy Anderson
- **William & Jeanne Conrad:** In memory Bunny pet of Connie Castner

- **Louise & Christine Pandolfe:** In memory Bunny pet of Connie Castner
- **Carol & Paul Stacey:** In memory Joseph Hebert
- **Judy Gascoigne:** In memory of Barbara Nugent
- **Maxine Plourde:** In memory of Brandon toy poodle of Robert & Karen Martin
- **Matthew Pasternak:** In memory of Maeby, Pet of Gloria & Adam Schwartz
- **Matthew Pasternak:** In memory of Bruno pet of Jennifer & Tony Consolini
- **Claire Young:** In memory of Chestie
- **Teresa LaPenta-Duffek:** In memory of Dora-Cat of Jackie & Rob Rioux

AFOC Rescue – Hartford, CT

We received a call from a volunteer at the shelter that said a friend of her daughter's had an injured kitten and would we take it. As kitten season was coming to an end, we decided to go try to find them. Upon arriving, we found some 20 cats running around the back yard of a house. We finally found one very young kitten that was easy to catch. As we got ready to leave, we saw a second kitten under a car. We were able to get her out and took the two of them back with us. There was no injured cat. They were young enough that they could be socialized and adopted easily. The remaining cats were too feral for us to consider taking. The woman did say she had 10 more in her house but that she was keeping them.

We assumed incorrectly that we would not be hearing from the woman again. Some months later, we received a call from the woman saying she wanted us to come take the cats that were living in her house. She said there were two kittens that were 5 weeks old and ten more that were older. Once again we wanted to assess what we were getting involved in before I made any decision. So we went to visit the house again.

In a small two room apartment were ten or more cats. They were everywhere and there were dry food bowls scattered throughout the apartment including on the kitchen table. We told her that we'd take the two young cats and asked which cat was the mother. She said there were three different mothers. This made no sense with two kittens. The two then became three. We asked what happened to the other kittens and were told that they had

died. Whatever the true story was, we agreed to take the three kittens that day which were about 4 months old, not 5 weeks old and pick up the four younger kittens the following Monday. The remaining cats were too feral to be adoptable.

The first three kittens went for a vet checkup and we were told they had the usual upper respiratory problem and were covered with fleas. They went to a foster home after receiving medication and a very serious flea treatment. Two days later we went to get the remaining 4 kittens. One was too feral for us to take so 3 kittens went home with us. Their eyes were totally crusted over to the point they could not see. We were told by our regular vet they needed to see an animal ophthalmologist as soon as possible. As the ophthalmologist we normally use had no open appointments for a few weeks, we ventured south to a new vet practice that had an opening the following day.

We were most impressed when we met the new vet. She was very professional and said that the kittens had an advanced case of cat herpes (a not uncommon problem.) Most cats carry the virus but it never presents itself if the cat is

healthy otherwise but the bad news was that they each had one eye that had ruptured and needed to be removed immediately. We left the two kittens to have surgery the following morning. They were picked up that afternoon to begin the healing process.

They all recovered and their stitches will be removed. All of the kittens have been adopted.

The rest of their lives will definitely be much better than the way they started.



Galileo - Sometimes Love Just Finds You

Alicia

The commitment to foster a cat without a home is one that my daughters (ages 9 and 11 years old) were determined to pursue for at least a year or two.

When it comes to big decisions and commitments for our family, I like to draw up a plan or a proposal to outline what the latest dream might actually require in reality. My older daughter provided me with a very thoughtfully composed "Official Proposal for Fostering a Cat in Need". I was so impressed by the details that she included. She had thought about all of the needs and requirements that this type of commitment would entail, especially within our home that is shared by 2 cats and one dog already! Between my older daughter's written proposal and my younger daughter's sincere commitment to helping a cat without a home, my daughters convinced me to go ahead and jump in to foster a cat at some point in time.

The proposal was posted on the fridge, which meant it was official. And I kept the proposal there, front and center to keep me true to my promise that we could jump into this unknown world of fostering.

In December of 2017, we had some extraordinarily cold days and nights. It was during this cold snap that Mr. Murtha had posted information about a cat in need that he had rescued. I reached out to Mr. Murtha and soon went to meet the black cat without a home who had been surviving outdoors during the cold cruel winter. I walked into the vet's office, armed with decisive discipline - a mantra of sorts: "We are at pet capacity. We have two cats and one dog. We will only be fostering. We will NOT adopt. We are at pet capacity. We are at pet capacity. We are at pet capacity." George Murtha had a twinkle in his eye and mentioned that this cat was just the sweetest. The story of how he went to rescue this cat is pretty amazing. He truly wanted to be rescued because he had walked right to George Murtha and into the cat carrier.

Maybe he knew he would be in good hands and that he was going to the right place.

It was such a bittersweet afternoon, meeting this extraordinarily beautiful cat who had been through an equally extraordinary time of survival out in the cold.

Meeting this cat who would be in our foster care for about two weeks or so, felt heartwarming and heartbreaking. It was love at first sight. He had long silky black fur, and a very sweet disposition, evident even in the somewhat jarring environment of the vet's office. It was heartbreaking to think of what this cat had been through in the cold days and even colder nights... and what's more, it appeared that he had been declawed. He looked like he could use a good grooming and a soft warm bed, or better yet, a lap to curl up on and security of a home sweet home.

That January afternoon, I brought this black cat home and my daughters were completely delighted. I was as well, but I kept repeating "Pet Capacity" as my mantra.... him, now known as "Galileo" in one room, away from our two cats and our dog. I have called our house the "Peaceable Kingdom" because of the way that our pets get along so nicely. I wanted this black cat to feel safe and have some time to adjust into our house. I also wanted the "Peaceable Kingdom" to continue. Eventually, after many patient days of keeping Galileo apart from the other pets, we began to let them see each other a little bit. I wish I had taken photos. There was some formality to it all. It was as if each pet, Francesca, our tiny gray and white fluffy "bunny cat", Pumpkin Pie, our large orange cat who is just like Garfield, and our sweet Golden Retriever, Daisy, decided that they were going to love and accept Galileo. They were on their best behavior, one by one greeting Galileo and then letting him be, to continue to adjust. As time went on, I noticed that he had little white spots on his back paws, like the stars in the night sky. He has this knowing look about him as well. I always wanted to have a pet named Galileo, and this cat fit the name. We all got to know this cat a little more each day. We brushed him and pet him and kept him safe and warm. He began to play like a kitten too! Soon, it was clear that he had not been declawed but that somehow he had lost his claws out in the cold winter; surviving. His claws had all grown back over time, although he remained just as gentle as ever.

Soon, Galileo began to have more freedom throughout the house. He immediately went to my younger daughter (8 years old at that time) and stayed with her whenever he could. He sat with her when she practiced piano and he snuggled with her at night while she read. Eventually, I was amazed by the way the "Peaceable Kingdom" remained.... even if we had reached "Pet Capacity". These pets play together, groom each other and snuggle up together. Now it is clear that "Pet Capacity" plus "One More" would be bound to equal... Love!

And, so, it was not really that we had adopted Galileo. I believe that he adopted us.



I now believe that sometimes, there are special animals that just find their way to us. We thought we were giving this sweet cat a foster home. In fact he is the one that re-defined our home. Our hearts have boundless capacity to love, especially when an animal without a home finds YOU and reminds you of the power of an open heart.

Sometimes, love just finds you!

We are grateful to George Murtha for all of the work that he does to rescue animals in need of a home. Rescuing these animals may also provide something equally powerful to the people that foster and adopt them as well. Thank you, Mr. Murtha!



Galileo, Our Furry Friend

Norah - Age 11

Galileo

(A poem by Anna, age 9)

Galileo, you
sit with me
when I am
sad,

You calm
me when I
am mad.

You watch
me play
piano in the
afternoon.

Sometimes
you try to
play it too,
and I think
it's kind of
cool!

What better
friend can a
human get,
than a
loving pet
like that!



The moment my sister Anna and I first set eyes on Galileo, I knew he had found his forever home. Although our house was only supposed to be his foster home, we just had to keep him.

The first time we met him was a cold winter day, which is logical because we met almost all of our pets on cold winter days.

Since then, my sister and Galileo seemed to forge a special relationship and bond with each other that ceased to be broken. Anna often comments on how Galileo licks her face, and calms her.

This was not at all what we had expected from a foster cat, nonetheless one who had been found outside in the freezing winter temperatures.

When an Animal Finds a Home, You Find Love

Anna - Age 9

Galileo is black like the night sky and has white dots on the tips of his toes. He was outside in the cold for about two weeks. Luckily someone found him. She reported this to George Murtha, and he came to rescue Galileo. We offered to be a foster family for this cat without a home. George agreed to let us keep Galileo warm and safe.

My sister and I were SO excited!!!! When Galileo finally arrived on January 2nd, 2018, we all immediately fell in love

Unlike our other pets, which are rambunctious and outgoing, Galileo is shy, quiet, but friendly in his own special way. He prefers to be approached, rather than to approach, and he never claws, scratches, or bites. He gets along quite well with all of the other animals, our dog included. Galileo has truly become part of the family, not only to the humans in the house, but also to the animals.

I love our sweet black cat, Galileo and don't think there's anything wrong with adopting a black cat. Even though some may say Galileo brings bad luck, I dissent. I believe that Galileo brings quite the opposite.

Sometimes I wonder if it was just our good fortune to come upon this marvelous, formerly homeless black cat, or if many

shelter cats are this ⁵ eminently friendly.



with him. He stayed in one room for a while and then slowly started interacting with our pets. Finally, he began to roam the whole house.

I felt like Galileo was special. This is why I think that. He licks people. Sometimes I think that's his way of greeting them.

It's so cute! He also sleeps with me every night. No animals seem to know me like Galileo does. So we just had to adopt him. I think that he thinks that I'm his kitten or his mother. I don't think that I could live without him.



AFOC Rescue Story – Waterbury, CT

Animal Friends of Connecticut is continually receiving calls from people that found a mother cat that had kittens under their deck or a cat that has been injured and is lying in the street. We immediately respond to these calls. Then we get calls from people that can no longer keep their cat for a variety of reasons such as having a baby, allergies or moving. With these calls we have to make a value judgment as to what our response will be, as our boarding space is limited.

It was a Monday night and we received a call from a very distraught person who said that his wife had left him and taken the kids. And he was entering rehab on Wednesday and he had no one to take care of his three cats. We asked many questions before deciding to see the cats the following day and then make a decision as to whether we would take them. He assured us many times that they were young and very friendly.

As usual, we looked at photos of the street and house on-line before venturing out to be sure it was safe to go to that neighborhood. The following morning, we were in route to see some cats.

As we arrived, we saw there were the three cats playing in the street. It was amazing that no one had run them over. As there was no door on the house, we went up the stairs to the 2nd floor and the three cats followed us up. We knocked on the door many times but no one answered.

And in the meantime one of the cats was trying to climb up the shelter manager's leg.

They were all very, very friendly. In fact; they were probably the friendliest cats we had ever gone to rescue. We returned to the car and decided we would take the cats back with us even though we were unable to locate the owner. But we phoned him and he eventually showed up. He was obviously very upset about losing his cats, but he said he would not trust any of his friends to take them. He helped us pick them up from the street and put them in carriers when he started crying. We assured him the cats would be placed in excellent homes and we returned to the shelter.

After letting them out of the carriers, they immediately ate 9 cans of cat food and we're sure they would have eaten more if we had let them. The people that adopted these three got some amazing cats.



Tiger Lily



Chad



Daisy



Harley Davidson Rescue

On any given day in Los Angeles, one might spot **Tori Spelling** out and about with her fluffy pet chicken, Coco Chanel.

The reality TV star, mother, and author likes to carry Coco around town while she runs errands and even feeds her scones and other human treats.

AFOC not only rescues animals, we also rescue Harley Davidsons. It was a warm Friday night and a van with New York plates pulled behind our shelter. The shelter caretaker watched a man take out ramps and unload a motorcycle, then drive off.

The following day, we called the police who came out and said the motorcycle isn't stolen but it is an abandoned vehicle and we can do what we want with it. What we wanted was to make money for AFOC by selling it.

It sat behind the shelter for a week while we attempted to find out from CT MVD what we have to do to sell it. We spent 2 hours on hold and when MVD finally picked up, we were cut off. We tried again with the same outcome. We went to MVD the next day and waited in line for an hour only to find out we cannot sell the

motorcycle, only a licensed towing company can.

As we were arranging to get it towed it disappeared. We assumed the owner came back to get it and it was gone forever.

A few weeks later the shelter caretaker was trying to catch a stray cat that ventured to the abandoned property next door to the shelter. She looked in the falling down garage for the cat and there was the motorcycle. We contacted the owner of the property and told him what had occurred and asked if it was OK for me to open the garage and return the motorcycle to our property. He said yes and I we called a tow company to come get it and had some volunteers push it back to the shelter. It was towed to a location that no one knew, about within the hour.

MVD said that the last registered owner lived in Bristol. He was sent a certified letter saying he had

15 days to respond and arrange to pick up the motorcycle. And of course he would have to pay towing and storage. As there was no reply, we received permission from CT MVD to sell it.

We put it on Craig's list saying the highest offer by next Friday owned it. A gentleman from NJ was the highest offer and he came to get it the following day.

4 months later the police called the tow company saying that the original owner wanted his motorcycle back. And we told them we are sorry but he is way too late. Where was he 5 months ago?



Spring Clean up

May 25th, what a beautiful day it was outside. Within a few hours it was sunny and beautiful inside the shelter as well. A soon to be Dirty Dozen crew, give or take, hit the ground running washing windows, walls and floors, combing out kitty condos & cubbies, vacuuming and scrubbing everywhere. A job so very well done and appreciated.

A big thank you to Gary, Linda and Jan for joining us and to our committed team of volunteers and family. Thanks also to those who couldn't make it that day but donated cleaning supplies. Taking time out on your weekends and especially a holiday weekend meant a lot, but especially to our felines. They really respond to their nicely, lovingly cleaned rooms.



AFOC's Annual Bake Sale

- > **When:** Saturday, September 21st 9:00 am to 1:30 pm
- > **Where:** Stop & Shop on Bushy Hill Road in Simsbury
- > **About:** The bake sale gives us the opportunity to raise funds and to publicize the work of Animal Friends. It can lead to the adoption of animals and generates interest in the organization. With your help, we can have another successful sale.
- > **Not sure what to make?** Cookies, brownies & cupcakes wrapped in small quantities are popular. Quick breads, small coffee cakes, candy or fudge which doesn't require refrigeration can easily be include in the sales table. Donated baked goods should be wrapped in a manner that makes them easy to transport and display.
- > **Food Allergens: Please label the items you donate.** Due to allergy concerns, please indicate if the item contains nuts or nut butter etc.
- > **Drop Off:** Sale items can be dropped off at Stop & Shop up **from 9AM to 10AM** on the **morning of the sale**. We are usually situated at the north entrance.
- > **Don't Bake?** If you don't bake but would like to help for a couple hours at the sales table, contact Ruth.
- > **We look forward to hearing from you at ruthw144@sbcglobal.net or 860-676-0544.**

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc.

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Newsletter
E-mail
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We're on the Web!
See us at:
<http://afocinc.org>



Ways to Give, Adoption, and Fostering

Remember Donations Save Lives

Animal Friends counts on donations to survive. Please remember us so we can continue to provide for the many animals in our care.

Please donate!

Direct Contribution:

Complete a donation form and mail your tax-deductible check today.

PayPal:

You can now use your credit card and make a donation 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 & shop on line with major retailers and help AFOC at the same time! All transactions will contain a percentage donated to AFOC.

Vehicle Donation:

You can donate a car, truck, RV or boat to help us save animals and get a tax deduction at the same time!

Visit our website for further details:

www.afocinc.org

Interested in adopting?

Check our website & discover the pets that are up for adoption.

Please call **860-489-4901** for more information.

Foster

With the help of an amazing group of foster volunteers, we give *animals* that aren't ready for adoption a chance to live and be loved in foster homes.

It's easy, fun and 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 his or her chances of being adopted.

Volunteer

AFOC is run entirely by dedicated volunteers. There are plenty of opportunities to help! 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 **860-489-4901**.

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

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- \$100.00 Sustaining
- \$250.00 Sponsor
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- 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)

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