

Animalfriends

OF CONNECTICUT

February 2019

Remember Donations

Save Lives

Please donate!

AFOC would like to feature a story in each newsletter about your pet(s). If you think people would enjoy reading about your experience with your animals, please contact us at llylaclama@aol.com with your idea.

Your story doesn't have to be cat related and could be anything interesting animal related. Look forward to hearing from you!

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About Us, Adoption, and Fostering

About Us

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc. is a nonprofit, no-kill shelter dedicated to the protection of animals. It is 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.

Interested in adopting?

- Check our website and discover the pets that are up for adoption.
- Please call **860-489-4901** for more information.

Kitten Season

July through September is very busy for AFOC as it is kitten season. We start receiving calls beginning in July and continuing throughout the summer, hopefully winding down the end of September but not necessarily.

2018 was a very busy year as we rescued and placed some 125 kittens. The most ever. They come to us alone and abandoned and in litters of 6 or more. Some litters have mothers and some do not. Every kitten we rescue is placed in a foster home with its siblings until it is 8 weeks of age at which time it is old enough to be adopted. If the kittens' mother is with them, the mother will take care of them the entire 8 weeks. If not, depending on their age, they will have to be bottle fed until they are weaned when 4 weeks old.



If you would like to become a foster family, please call **860-693-0303**. The choice of litters with or without mothers and the age of the kittens up to you.

You'll find it a most rewarding experience which you will repeat over and over again. Your most important job as a foster parent is to have fun and play with the kittens as much as possible.



Sophia - AFOC Success Story

Nigel was the neighborhood cat and had been for years. Everyone fed him as he went from house to house and he ate well. And as evening

approached he would decide whose porch he wanted to sleep on for the night. Life was good, until one day he injured his paw. He was immediately taken to Canton Emergency Vet to be treated before returning to the neighborhood. But such was not to be. The treatment for his paw was successful but when tested for Leukemia and FIV, he tested positive for FIV. It was decided that the neighborhood would surrender him to Animal Friends of Connecticut with the hope of finding him a permanent home.



About the same time, Sophia was found wandering the streets of Hartford. Although healthy, a good Samaritan saw her and called AFOC to see if we would take her in. Which we did. As opposed to Nigel who loved everyone, Sophia was afraid of everyone. She also tested positive for FIV.

Cats that test positive for Leukemia will not have a very long or healthy life, but cats that test positive for FIV will usually live as long as non FIV cats. And we do place a reasonable number of them in loving homes each year.

For some reason however, finding a home for Nigel and Sophia proved to be very difficult. For several months, placing them became a full time job with no success. Nigel was a very sweet cat and one day I received a call that one of the vet techs where he was being

boarded had fallen in love with him and was going to adopt him. Excellent news, but now what to do with Sophia.

A friend who lives in Michigan takes care of many cats in his shop and in his house. All are strays that found someone to love and feed them. Also a gaze, correct name for a herd, of raccoon (32 at last count) found Dave and come for a meal each evening. Dave is fine with healthy cats but also fine with Leukemia cats and Aids cats.

I called him and asked him if he would be interested in fostering Sophia for the rest of her life. He said yes. So I arranged a transport to bring her from Connecticut to Michigan to start her new life. This was going to start in a barn from which there was no escape. The barn was used for car storage and as the car season was winding down, the barn was being sealed up for the winter.

Sophia arrived in Michigan several days later and her carrier, with the door open, was put inside the barn. She remained in the carrier until after Dave left the building. And she was not sighted again for over a month. But the food was eaten each day so we knew that she was OK. As the cold winter approached, Dave was worried about the lack of heat in the building so he set up heat lamps for Sophia and her barn mate to sleep under. He would go to the barn each evening and sit for an hour or two waiting for Sophie to come out. With no success initially and minimal success later.

As time went by, Sophia was seen daily running away from Dave, but there was some, although minimal improvement, all the time. Finally Sophia decided that the front seat of Dave's Model T Ford was the perfect bed and is where he found her each day.

She was not immediately running away any longer but she was not going to get any closer either.

Almost a year had passed since she arrived in Michigan when Sophia let Dave pet her for the first time. And from that day on, there has been marked daily improvement to the point, Sophia follows him everywhere he goes, sits in his lap and demands so much attention, Dave has difficulty getting anything done.

It took a long time, but this is a success story that we are very proud of. Animal Friends of Connecticut never gives up on an animal no matter what it takes or how long it takes unless the animal has a terminal problem that cannot be treated and is in a lot of pain. Sophia has an excellent home for the rest of her life.



Celebrity Pets:

Channing Tatum has a lot of love for his animals. Most popular are his two horses, Cajun and Smoke. Smoke was adopted from a shelter, while Cajun was a birthday gift from his wife. He also has two dogs, Lulu the pit bull mix and Meeka the Pomeranian.

Maxwell Comes Home

Salvador Dalí, the surrealist painter, owned a couple of exotic pets. Two well-known ones are Babou the ocelot and an unnamed giant anteater. While the anteater was seen as a performance stunt, Babou remained Dalí's pet, and accompanied him almost everywhere on a leash.

Meooooow, my name is Maxwell. I'm a 14 lb. 2 yr. old orange tabby. When I'm not sleeping or eating, I love to talk. I've spent most of my early life on the street. About seven months ago, I was found on the street and rescued by AFOC.



I was pretty beat up with my right eye needing surgery and some male fixing. While I was in the hospital I was adopted and brought to a home that is occupied by a DOG!



I showed that dog right away who was boss – I drank from his bowl, hung around the kitchen while he was eating, swatted him a couple of times, and best of all, gave him my unearthly howl. I have to admit he didn't run or try to chase me – although he gave me a few growls when I hung

around while he was having dinner. The howl shook him up so he pretty much leaves me alone.



In fact, jumping ahead, we get along pretty well.

Those first two/three months were OK but I really got the itch to go for a stroll. The doors were kept shut and the humans shoed me away when I got near an open door. They used a water bottle to chase me away but having lived outside the water didn't bother me that much. They had me micro-chipped and put on a special collar what had my name, phone number, and ID number so I could be returned in case I got out.

And got out I did. I walked right out the front door. I was free! Back out on the street again! I heard them calling for me but I was going to stay out and enjoy myself. Well over the next couple of days it rained, got cold and snowed. I couldn't find any food. I was lost. This was all new to me. The rain and

snow had wiped away all the smells I needed to find my way back. So I kept going.

Three days later I was exhausted and pretty hungry. I howled at this back door hoping somebody would hear me and maybe let me in. No luck. Finally, a person came out to bring their trash out for pick up. He saw me, picked me up – I'm really lovable when I want to be – and he saw my collar. He took me inside, gave me some food and checked out the information on the collar. I had traveled around two miles.

They called my humans who came right over to pick me up. Home again.

That was four months ago. I've probably put on a couple of pounds but I do enjoy lying around, talking to no one in particular and chasing the laser light. I have no interest in going for another stroll and know that I am better off inside where it is safe and I am spoiled rotten.



Purrsonality Plus !....A Little Extra Attention



Midnight

Lights! Camera! Action! Do you love those action-packed films with lots of car races and explosions but not many mushy parts? Then, Midnight is the cat for you! He charges up and down the halls with no limit to his energy, madly chasing wand toys. No stunt man for this guy. Midnight may not be good at giving kitty kisses, but he intently watches your every movement, ready at the git-go for a rousing play session. After a good workout, he would love to be your sofa buddy, binge watching all your fav action films. Popcorn optional.



Big Boy

Big Boy ...literally... a... BIG... boy... lives in a room he shares with 2-3 other cats. Big Boy is a mellow fellow with a sweet personality. He is very low maintenance and just yearns for space to stretch out his big paws and roam comfortably from room to room. He does well with other cats, as long as there are the recommended number of litter boxes (one for each cat plus one extra.)



KC

Ever watch a flower bloom? That's what it's like watching our wall flower KC transform from a shy kitty hiding on a shelf into a purring machine, lazily stretching and schmoozing, while she's being combed and petted. KC once had a quiet home, living with her feline companion and watched over by a loving guardian. Unfortunately her guardian had a health event outside the home with lots of sirens, confusion, and trauma. KC was uprooted from this wonderful life to come to the strangeness of shelter life. KC is a favorite with the shelter volunteers, and with love and patience she can become your favorite also.

Please call **George at 860-693-0303** if you are interested in one of our **Purrsonality Plus** kitties. Also our Senior Kitizens are still available, see the Fall 2018 Newsletter.

Raisin

Celebrity Pets:

Actress **Kristen Stewart** didn't leave her love of wolves after Twilight. Her mother owns four wolf-dog hybrids, one of which was gifted to Stewart. Her pet, Jack, lives with her, and her social media is full of pictures of the two curled up together.

Animal Friends of Connecticut received a call early one evening that a cat was on a couple's deck and was either very sick or injured. And it appeared that the cat was unable to walk. Perhaps it had been hit by a car. I asked the woman if there were any apparent wounds as that is potentially a serious problem due to the possibility of rabies. She said no. She wanted us to come rescue it and get it medical treatment. I asked her if she was able to put it in a carrier or a wine box and take it to one of our vets. She said she was able to transport the cat but was afraid to touch it for fear of being bitten or scratched. She said she and her husband wanted to help but they were not cat people.

I contacted a long time AFOC volunteer that lived near them who agreed to go to their house and put the cat into a carrier for them so

A short time later the cat arrived at the animal clinic and was named Raisin. The initial diagnosis was that the cat had advanced diabetes, because it

appeared to be blind and was unable to use its rear legs. However after a complete examination it was determined that the cat had a very bad bladder infection and was severely dehydrated. The good news was that in spite of how sick it was, Raisin was extremely friendly and wanted to be held all the time. The vet techs consequently carried her around with them all evening.

The report from the vet the following morning was positive. Raisin was still gravely ill but intravenous fluids had been administered all night and she was responsive and more alert. I told the vet that AFOC was committed to saving her and to do whatever was necessary to make that happen.

Over the next few days, Raisin got stronger and rapidly gained one pound. The apparent blindness was due to the severe dehydration so that the eyes had sunk inward. As she got stronger, she was able to see some and was attempting to move around.

I went down several times to play with her and just to let her know that people cared

about her.

But at 2 AM the next morning, we received a call from the vet that Raisin had taken a very bad turn for the worse and passed away in a vet tech's arms.

We knew that we had made her last days as comfortable as possible and she did not die alone outside without a name.



Help support AFOC by Donating Small Collectables

Celebrity Pets:

Ernest Hemingway was famous not only for his writing, but also for his love of cats. He was given a polydactyl, or six-toed, cat and came to love them. There grew to be about twenty cats on his property at a time during his life. The Hemingway Home and Museum currently has about 50 cats in residence, about half of which are descendants of the original felines and sharing this polydactyl trait.

One of our volunteers is willing to sell items that you donate on EBAY. We can accept only small collectables, coins, jewelry, etc. that can be shipped in small boxes no larger than a shoebox.

All items must be working, undamaged, and sellable. We cannot sell damaged

items and will discard them. Items can be dropped off at any of the following locations and if nobody is home at the time leave in front of the garage door.

Please leave your contact information so that when the items sell, we can send you a donation letter

for the amount so you can deduct it from your income taxes.

Drop-off locations:

95 Hilldale Rd West
Hartford, CT 06117

30 Powder Mill Rd Canton,
CT 06019

106 Red Oak Hill, Torrington,
CT 06790

2018 AFOC Bake Sale a Success

Ruth Woodford

Despite another spate of cold and windy weather, the annual AFOC bake sale at the Simsbury Stop N Shop on October 20th made \$887.36 in sales and donations.

We had a number of people who inquired about AFOC while others shared stories of their rescued cats and dogs. Several people who gave us donations had adopted pets from us.

This is always a wonderful opportunity to get our name and presence out in front of the public.

This year's income was the 2nd highest we've had. It would not have been possible without our team of talented bakers and candy makers:

Jean Blackman, Barbara Dennis, Erika Elbert, Barbara Greenleaf, Sue Jansen, Liz Neff, Joann O'Connell, Ed Paquette, Jill Perrault, Sue Riley, Jill and Phil Rothstein, Mary Skinner, Jane Wilson, Terri Wilson and Carmelo Aresco and myself. (I apologize if I have omitted anyone.)

Simsbury PetValu also donated dog treats and folders with discount coupons to hand out. Thanks also to George Murtha, Carmelo, Jill and Phil Rothstein for their help at the sales table. As usual, George took the leftovers to Roaring Brook Vets and Canton Emergency Veterinary Clinic as a thank you for their support for AFOC.

In Loving Memory

- **Barbara Vicino:** In memory of Geno Vicino
- **Robert Cole:** In memory of Gertrude, the precious pet of Dan Barone.
- **Johanne Griffin:** In memory of Happy the Bunn
- **Doreen Gagnon:** In memory of Lady, Dakota & Minnie
- **Charles & Judith Marino:** In memory of Max
- **Joan Aldi:** In memory of Tiger
- **Nicola Rubinow:** In honor of Dr Monganti & Staff
- **Elaine Erdman:** In memory of Florence Cooper
- **Janice & William De Dominicis:** In memory of Lady and Izzy Beloved Golden Retrievers
- **Diane Lamb:** In memory of Willis-sweetest cat ever
- **The Richard Morency Family:** In memory of Florence Cooper
- **Carol Yedziniak:** In memory of Florence Cooper
- **Jo Anne & Henry Bochicchio:** In memory of Shotzie, Jessie, Lacey Lou, Killie
- **Joan Bolton:** In memory of our dear Lab Dixie
- **Marcia & Richard Metcalf:** In honor of Dr Monganti & Staff

For All Bird Watchers

Marji Murtha Butler

All God's creatures can use a helping hand. Feed your hobby and your backyard birds at the same time. One store dedicated to birds is Wild Birds Unlimited which can help you create a winter refuge for the local birds and provide a source of entertainment for bird watchers.

They are opening with several new designs of feeders which are easier to clean. As with all animals, there are three basic needs, food, water and shelter. I attended a workshop run by Jessica Penfield, new owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Old Saybrook who demonstrated the variety of feeders sold at her store and the proper way to clean them which should be done every two months. To clean a tube feeder one may use one part bleach and ten parts water. There are now new feeders on the market that open at the bottom for easier cleaning.

Jessica showed the eager group a vacation seed cylinder that will feed your birds for nearly two months if you choose to be a snowbird. The old trusty suet feeder has a new design to stand up better and put the needed

fat into the birds' diet. The proper feeder for a finch has smaller slits and the best food is Niger seeds. Members of the audience were more than eager to share their personal stories of funny antics and the new variety of birds coming into their yard from Old Saybrook's marshes.

The store will also carry new roosting homes for winter. If you want to use one from a previous year, clean out the existing nest. She and her partner, husband Ken Penfield, also sell water bowls with electric plugs to keep water at 40 degrees. She gave tried and true methods to keep your bird food fresh and described the 12 elements of a thoughtful bird feeding station, which can be put into 5 groups: Feeders, Water, Landing Surfaces, Feeder Locations and Basic Problem solving.

They also sell a variety of birdbaths and accessories and a large variety of baffles to keep out unwanted critters.

They've helped create Pathways to Nature for Kids (www.pathwaysforkids.com) in partnership with the National Audubon Society which provides scholarships to summer camps at Audubon Centers across the U.S.

They plan to go out into the public as soon as the store opens and hold workshops. For more information or to book an event go to wbuoldsaybrook@gmail.com or visit their web site at www.wbu.com/oldsaybrook.

Jessica Penfield



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!

Joseph Alphabet is 76 years old and lives in Newport Beach, CA. He has never in his entire life donated to any organization. But when he read our newsletter about the work that AFOC does, he sent \$100. Please do as Joe did and send a tax deductible donation so that we can continue our mission of rescuing animals in distress.

Animal Friends of
Connecticut, Inc.

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(860) 827-0381

E-Mail:
afoc@afocinc.org

Newsletter
E-mail
newsletter@afocinc.org

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



Ways to Give

Direct Contribution:

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:

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 on line. Shop on line 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.

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

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 _____
Street/P.O.Box _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
E-mail _____

- \$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)

- 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