

Animalfriends

Fall 2013 OF CONNECTICUT

MOLLY'S NEW LIFE

As you might remember from the last Animal Friends newsletter, Molly was transported from Kentucky to her new home in Connecticut. But, after the animal transporter arrived in Connecticut, she was unable to make contact with the person who had hired her to make the trip. Luckily, one of the veterinarian offices that AFOC deals with was still open, so Molly was placed in their care. That is where Molly met her new owners and her new life began.

We lost our dear, sweet Goldendoodle, Louie, in October of 2012 to cancer. He was only 7 years old. He was our first dog and the loss was hard. We waited until January, 2013 to begin looking for another dog and began to look for a rescue, a poodle mix. I was spoiled with Louie. He was a goofy, friendly dog that did not shed and I wanted another non-shedding dog. (Truth be told, I wanted another Louie.) The process of trying to rescue a dog was frustrating. e-mails and phone calls went unreturned. We were rejected by one rescue agency because we did not have a fenced yard. (Who fences in their yard when they live in the country?) Often, dogs we were interested in were adopted quickly and we missed the opportunity by not contacting the rescue organization immediately after a dog was listed. We considered going to a breeder and getting a doodle puppy.

One day, in mid-April, I came across a notice in the Hartford Courant that Molly, a mixed breed dog whose owner had died, was available for adoption through Animal Friends of Connecticut. I had previously adopted a cat through Animal Friends and knew the organization. I clipped the article and set it aside. I don't know what made me pause and consider Molly. A few days later, my husband, Guy, came to me and said, "Jayne, if you would accept a shedding dog we could have a dog sooner." I showed him the photo of Molly and we made a plan to meet her. We brought our 8-year old West Highland Terrier, Abby, with us to meet Molly. All went well and the next day, we brought Molly home.

We did not know Molly's full story when we adopted her and honestly, I don't think I would have pursued her if I had known. The details of her story frightened me. What had I done by adopting her? Why had I taken this wild, untrained creature into my home? She did not know about doing her business outside. She did not know about a whole lot of other

canine things that a three-year old dog should know. Plus, she has fur that sheds!

I quickly discovered that Molly is wild, but also very smart. She has had a few accidents inside, but is learning quickly to do her business outside. We have a large, gated deck that looks out over the back yard. We haven't quite trained Molly to not poop on the deck. But you got to hand it to her, it is outside! She is very stealthy and sneaky about it. The dogs have open access to the deck and we haven't caught her in the act in order to correct her. We are optimistic that, with her intelligence, she can be redirected.

As for the shedding, she does shed but Guy combs her daily and this helps. We have given up keeping her off our couch and created a space for her to hang out with us there on a blanket. We try to keep her off the bed (except for morning cuddle time). Did I mention Molly is smart? Her first night with us she jumped into our bed, we told her "No. Molly. Go to your bed!" and she went to her dog bed. Within 30 seconds, she was back in bed. Again we told her "No." After the third time, she slept in her dog bed all night. What a good dog! Recently, Abby has joined her on the dog bed at night. Keep in mind, Abby has always been a bed sleeper, even before she was our dog. Our sleep might improve with Molly around.

Molly goes to day care and does well. She likes other dogs. She has a lot of energy and races around our back yard, jumping over Abby and eating moths. We learned, first from her vet record and then from experience that Molly's vocalizations, especially when she plays, sound aggressive but are not. She does have a style of play that looks and sounds aggressive. At first, playing tug-of-war with her was a bit intimidating, given her vocalizations and visible, large teeth, but she really just wants to play and doesn't show any signs of wanting to chomp on my hand. She plays well with Abby, with no signs of aggression toward her.

We have found Molly to be a sweet, friendly, gregarious and energetic dog. She is very owner focused and follows us around the house. She is thriving with us. She has





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).



Judy Levy, Director
Jo-Ann Regan, Editor

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Molly - continued from page 1

gained weight and no longer looks undernourished. She plays with Abby and loves dog toys. She loves to run. She loves to snuggle.

Molly is a vocal girl. When she is really content, snuggling with us or with a Kong Ball, she purrs: a deep, raspy and very Darth Vader-like canine purr. There is no doubt that she is a dog that has been loved, and while she doesn't know much about obedience training, she knows how to have a relationship and this she does beautifully.

In my search for another dog companion, I realize that I wanted what I knew. I wanted what was safe. The unknown frightened me. The shedding made me nervous and agitated. And somehow, I overcame my reservations and now Molly, so loving and spirited, is a part of my family. We grow by encountering the new, by taking risks and, sometimes, taking a leap of faith. I am so grateful that I did. I am grateful to George, Judy and especially Laura (Animal Transporter) for midwifing Molly's transition to her new life with us.

NEW ANIMAL LAWS

For further information visit ctvotesforanimals.org

AS OF JULY 1, 2013, DOGS IN CONNECTICUT MUST NOT BE CHAINED OUTSIDE DURING OFFICIAL SEVERE WEATHER ADVISORIES

EXAMPLES OF SEVERE WEATHER ADVISORIES

- SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH
- EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING
- WIND CHILL WARNING
- WINTER STORM WATCH
- TORNADO WATCH

THE LAW ALSO PROHIBITS CHAINING WHENEVER THE WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE NOT A GOOD MATCH FOR THE DOG'S AGE, BREED, OR PHYSICAL CONDITION

for more information visit ctvotesforanimals.org

IF YOU SEE A DOG CHAINED OUTSIDE DURING SEVERE WEATHER, PLEASE CALL YOUR LOCAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER



Dear Animal Friends of CT Family,

Today I lost one of my dearest friends. Dottie came to me from Animal Friends of CT about 15 years ago as a 2 ½ year-old beautiful calico “young lady.” She was somewhat feral at the time after having lived in the Hartford facility with 30 or more cats for almost two years. But she so wanted to be loved and held. It took time for her to learn to trust me, but once the trust was established, it was absolute.

After moving with me to Nova Scotia 12 years ago (almost to the day) we became even closer. She was my faithful companion and she provided so much laughter and comfort during the good and bad times during the many years she shared her life with me. She loved nothing more than to sit on a blanket on my lap in the recliner during the long, hard winters. She would start to purr from the moment I walked into the room and often lasted as long as half an hour, even if I was not holding her or talking to her. She just wanted to be with me, especially after my husband died six years ago. She would follow the sun around the house and could usually be found curled up in the spots of sunshine wherever it was shining through a window or door. Had she lived longer, she would have been 18 years old on December 31.

Of all the pets I have ever loved, Dottie was the one who took total possession of my heart. I will miss her for the rest of my life. I spent the last minutes before going to sleep last night thanking God for giving her to me and letting me have her to love for so many years. When the most intense time of grief is finally over, if I ever decide to get another cat, you will probably see me at your door once again.

Here’s a picture of Dottie, age 17+, taken about four months ago.

Genie



Dottie

A CAT’S PRAYER

Treat me kindly, dear master. Accord me the courtesy due to a cat – and I for my part will love you, amuse you and cheer your heart as only a cat can do.

Give me a sunny spot to sleep in when morning dawns and I will warm your lap on cold evenings.

Respect my independence and my need to walk alone at times and I will look after myself, so that you may come and go as you please.

Speak to me in our secret kitty language, let me hear my name sung in the music of your voice, and I will meow happily in sweet harmony with you.

Stroke my fur gently and lovingly and I will soothe you with soft purrs that can only come from a happy cat.

Indulge my curiosity and I will show you the joys of bird watching, star gazing and other kitty pleasures.

Play with me and see me rejoice! Toss a humble ball of yarn and I will delight you with my cleverness and acrobatic leaps.

But do not laugh at me or allow me to be teased for there is nothing I prize more than dignity.

Keep my surroundings neat and clean and I will be fastidious in my habits.

Feed me and be fair and I will teach you how to tell “kitty time” by instinct and tummy tunes.

And when I am old and the time comes to say farewell, hold me gently in your arms and I will go without a whimper. For with you I am trusting, safe and secure.

From a cat who walked alone but loved you with a full and happy heart.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Brandy: A donation was given in memory of Barbara & Kevin Morton's yellow lab, Brandy.
- Constance Mozzarella

Stanley: Donations were given in memory of Stanley Bobeck.
- Theresa & Stanley Bobeck
Joan Buckman

Gail: A donation was given in memory of my wife, Gail.
- Robert Nevins

Gail: Donations were given in memory of Gail Nevins.
- Judith & Lawrence Nevins
Judith Devin
Maurice Devin
Sheila & Charles Vendetti
St. Catherine Men's Club

Tia: A donation was given in memory of their cat Tia.
- Leslie & Tim Craine

Steve: A donation was given in memory of Mr. Steve Radcliffe.
_ Maija Earl

Jessie: A donation was given in memory of Jessie.
- Matthew Pasternak

Casper: A donation was given in memory of Casper, best friend of Elaine Luckey
- Ursula G. Korzenik

Sadie, Lucy Lou, & Humphrey: A donation was given in memory of Sadie, Lucy Lou, & Humphrey.
- Ursula G. Korzenik

Cassie: A donation was given in memory of Cassie Lapenta.
Mike Duffek and Terry LaPenta

Mecah: A donation was given in memory of Mecah, the cat.
- Virginia Glienke

Pauline: A donation was given in memory of Pauline Nash Corder.
- Vivienne Dawn Maddox

Punky: Donations were given in memory of Mr. Punky for Kate Foley.
- Willa Nemetz
Diane Bennett

DeeDee: A donation was given in memory of DeeDee, beloved pet of Julie & Mike Smith.
- Barbara Diorio

Pam: Donations were given in memory of Pam Normandin.
- Mary Kaplan
Lynn Olson
- Andrea Clark

Little Mildred: A donation was given in memory of Little Mildred.
- Willa Nemetz

SPECIAL DONATIONS:

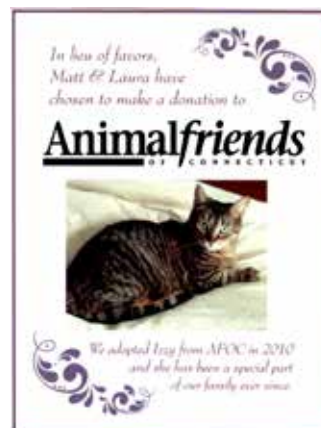
Given in honor of Paul & AnneMarie Bellenoit's 40th wedding anniversary
Richard & Bernadette Marcel
William and Linda Donoghue
Michele Benzing

Given in honor of Drs. Feibel & Morganti and the staff at Avon Veterinary Clinic
- Ruth Woodford

Given in honor of Carolyn Waltman's Birthday
- Marybeth Waltman

Matt and Laura Boucher:

Matt and I were married on April 28, 2013. In lieu of favors, and as a way to include our feline family member, Izzy, in our special day, we chose to make a donation to the organization responsible for bringing her into our lives. Here is the card that was at each guest's table setting.



Please accept this donation on behalf of the new Mr. & Mrs. Boucher and the 98 guests that attended our special day! Thank you for the important work you do!

FUNDRAISER SUCCESS

After many months of preparation, Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc. held its 5th annual benefit on Tuesday, May 21 at Flatbread's in Canton. There was a continual stream of AFOC members arriving, some even had to wait for a table. But the socializing was exceptional, so no one really cared. Everyone in attendance had a great time and the noise level could be heard in the street. AFOC received a percentage of the money Flatbread's collected that evening and the check we received was the largest one so far. So it appears that everyone there was very hungry.

The much anticipated arrival of Scot Haney happened a little after 6 PM and flashbulbs lit the room up for quite a while, as everyone wanted their photo taken with him. Scot has attended the benefit each year that it has been held. We want to thank him very much for his continual support. He did depart a little earlier than his usual tradition because he said he had been on the road since 4:00 AM that morning and needed some down time. Before he left, he did draw the winning ticket for the 50/50 raffle. I would like to thank Anneliis Koiv and Julie Blackmore for spending their evening selling tickets

A new feature we added this year was a pet psychic who did readings on pets for their owners. Donna Velardi had a waiting list of people who wanted to talk to her and many of you did take advantage of her services. She is looking forward to attending all Animal Friends of Connecticut's benefits in the future.

We would also like very much to thank Mike and Michelle Woyt of RidgeLine Bicycles of Avon for their very generous donation of a "Giant" bicycle which was raffled off over the course of the evening. Dakota Nickolson sold raffle tickets all evening, in spite of the fact there were several people who said they would do it for a while so she could have a break. An added incentive to purchase raffle tickets was donated by Deanna Damen, known to everyone in Canton, as the Cake Gypsy. Each person who bought a raffle ticket received a cupcake, so each person was an instant winner

Since Animal Friends of Connecticut is an animal rescue organization, each year we bring some animals with us. We are not allowed to bring them into the restaurant, so they have to remain in the lobby for all to enjoy. This year we brought a blind cat that was the victim of animal abuse along with her two kittens. While Carole Donagher was babysitting the three cats all evening, they received much attention from everyone and I am very happy to say that all three were adopted before the evening ended. I am sure their new parents are waiting impatiently until they can take them to their new forever home.

Of course, the highlight of the evening is the huge giant auction which, once again, featured some 200 items available for bidding. I noticed some very aggressive bidders checking to be sure no one had outbid them on things that they really wanted. There were many new items this year such as

a guided tour for 20 people at the New Britain Museum of American Art.

I would like to give special thanks to Jorie Butler, Ryan McIntosh, Allie McIntosh, Jacob Svensk, Justin Svensk, Pattie Piotrowski, Cody Butler, Donna Nicholson, Dakota Nicholson, Dan Johnson and Jo-Ann Regan for helping to set up and clean up that evening.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Animal Friends of Connecticut has put on this benefit each year for the past five years. Many of you have attended. It is our biggest fund raiser of the year with 500 members attending each time it has been held.

The silent auction has averaged 200 or more items each year which has resulted in over \$5000 being raised for Animal Friends of Connecticut. Our gross receipts from the evening are the highest of all organizations that participate in the program

For the benefit to be held next year, we need your help. Donations are needed for the silent auction. If each member reading this donated one item, we would have more than enough items for the auction and be able to put on other benefits throughout the year. Many members make things and donate them. Some of the homemade items from past years have been quilts, pocket books, afghans, pillows, cat and dog treats, candles, jewelry, pottery, and themed gift baskets. The gift baskets are very popular and generate many bids and are very simple to create. Some members have donated gift cards they will not be using or re-gifting something they received, but do not want (We won't tell you did it).

If you are not artistic, getting one donation from your favorite restaurant, dog groomer, veterinarian, grocery store, hair dresser, nail salon, spa, gym, gas station, dry cleaner, dentist, auto repair facility, animal boarding company, bowling alley, laser tag, healing center, or any other business that you frequent, would result in enough donations to make next year's benefit the best one yet. Most stores are very willing to donate when they hear of the work that Animal Friends of Connecticut performs.

Each person that does donate will receive a letter stating the value of the item that was donated so that the amount can be deducted from their state and federal income taxes.

If we don't get enough donations, the benefit might not be held. So please help us to continue holding them. The benefit is also the only event of the year where many of the members get together to socialize with each other and have a great time.

Contact the AFOC shelter at 860-827-0381 or e-mail llylaclama@aol.com for more information or to arrange to have your auction item picked up.

PLEASE HELP!

ADOPTEE STORIES



ROCKETTE

“Rockette” was very young when we became acquainted. She was only 14 weeks old when this little chihuahua puppy was dropped off at Roaring Brook Veterinary Hospital with a broken front leg. She had no one in her corner to pay for her much needed medical care until Animal Friends of Connecticut came to the rescue. With the help of the rescue, she was able to have her fractured leg fixed and to be spayed. Her surgery was complicated and involved placing a tiny metal plate in her leg, but after 6 weeks in a cast she was all healed. It was during that 6 week period that I came to know her intimately. The teeny tan bundle was terrified of all human contact. She would shudder and run screaming from anyone that came near her, she could not be picked up without thrashing about, and could not be walked outside for fear of running off. That all changed the day we realized that she was enamored with little kittens.

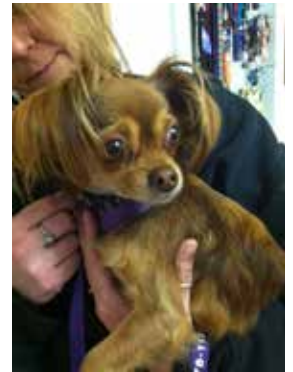
She was brought to the practice during spring when there is always a ready supply of kittens to play with and one day a technician put her with a pair of kittens. She was immediately transformed into a more confident, gentle, and caring little sister. She would happily start a game of fake boxing. She was obsessed with them being clean. I think that is what drew me to her- how she completely opened up when she was able to spend time with those little kittens.

Her fractured leg and her extreme fear of people made it difficult to find her a home. It would be dangerous for her healing leg if she were sent to a home without owners experienced in high anxiety pets. She could easily be injured again by overreacting to an innocent attempt to pet her because she would frantically run from any person approaching her. It was imperative for this puppy to have exposure to other pets and humans, so I decided to rehab her in my own home. Initially she spent the first 24 hours in my bathroom huddled in her dog bed and did not move. It took several weeks for her to come out of her shell, but I am happy to say that she has matured tremendously since the day I took her home. She plays with other dogs, loves to drag toys around the house and onto her favorite perch – the back of the couch. Each night she curls up with her best friend, a yellow lab named Darby, who has patience for her obsessive licking! Without Animal friends of Connecticut I dare say that Rockette may have not have had such a happy ending!

Candace, DVM

I was contacted by a friend asking if my family would be interested in fostering a 2-year old Chihuahua for Animal Friends of Connecticut. So, on December 12th, we picked “Cocoa” up from a local Veterinary Clinic where he was being boarded. He was about 6 pounds and so scared. The first two days were spent getting used to each other as he explored his new environment. We quickly realized that we would not be fostering him for long, but would be asking to adopt him!

Cocoa was renamed “Rico Suave” (pronounced Swa-vay) because he is so handsome and charming, the name seems to fit perfectly. We love Rico and all his cute mannerism, especially the way he pushes his nose and wiggles his way under the covers to snuggle up to sleep. Then there’s the way he tries to bark menacingly when a stranger walks into the house only to wag his tail and greet them nicely and wanted to be petted 5 seconds later. Rico is a good dog, learns quickly and is well behaved. We couldn’t be happier with our newest family member and thank Animal Friends of Connecticut for this opportunity.



Sandy

“Tell You a Secret – We Were So Lucky to Be Rescued!”

I am Star, a beautiful cat rescued from a dangerous street life by the caring humans at AFOC. My best furry friend is Blitzen. She was rescued from a high-kill shelter and went on to become the first Top Dog in Andover, CT! Together we work to raise awareness of the need to donate pet food to our town’s food pantry. That is working out well. Recently we learned that AFOC has cats who are unadoptable or hard to place. It made us sad. Please accept this donation as the first of our monthly payments to sponsor one of these kitties. Our very best human in the world (who is also our secretary) will attend to the details for us. Good luck to this deserving kitty!

Mary





Manny, Smudge and Butterball just celebrated their 6th birthday. We adopted them when they were 6 months old. They still think they are kittens, for the most part, but each has their own special personality. Manny thinks he is a dog; he always wants to be petted and do whatever he can to please us, which includes shedding huge amounts of hair. Because he had a crunched tail, it wags just like a dog's. Smudgy likes her petting to be done in bed, where she can lay on top of us to be sure we can't move. She doesn't mind sharing, but she will always snuggle up closer than anyone else. She also loves to head butt us and poke us with her paw to be sure we are paying attention to her. Butterball, on the other hand, is very much a solo cat. She enjoys playing with Manny and will even snuggle up with him from time to time, but she prefers one to one on her favorite chair (mostly with mom), or watching football on the couch with dad on the weekends. She can spend hours doing this, whereas Manny and Smudge are a little less patient. They certainly have brought quite a bit of fun and excitement into our home, and we look forward to much more to come.

Thank you, Judy and AFOC!

Roslyn and David

To Animal Friends of Connecticut and their newsletter readers,

I decided to get my own cat after Cookie, my family cat of 19 years, had passed away. I wanted to adopt from a shelter because I know there are far too many animals without homes. I had been living on my own for a while and after a waiting period, out of respect for Cookie, I decided it was time to start looking for another cat.



A quick internet search brought me to Animal Friends of Connecticut. I got in touch with Judy and she helped me find a cat. Bo was the first they showed me. Up until then, I hadn't been the biggest fan of orange colored cats. Bo made quite the impression on me though. After a night to think it over, I decided to go back for him. Knowing a few other pets named Bo, I decided to rename him Javier. The name originates etymologically from the word *etxaberrri*, meaning "new house" which seemed fitting. I took Javier home and almost immediately he began exploring. Once he was comfortable in his new surroundings, he started playing with the toys I got him. He gets along well with my roommate and any guests we have over the house. He likes to greet me at the door when I come home from work. I couldn't have asked for a better cat.

Thanks, AFOC.

Dear Animal Friends of CT,

Thank goodness for our wonderful Hartford Fire Department, who rescued 5 kittens in December when they were only 3 days old. The mom got scared, ran away, and didn't come back. The HFD knew who to call (AFOC) to save the kittens and four of the five survived. We are so blessed to have our Gizmo. He is a black and white long hair, with markings like a milk cow. He is growing like a weed, and is so loving and playful. When we brought him home at 7-weeks old, he acted like he had lived with us forever already. Our Rocky (gray long hair), who was also adopted from AFOC welcomed Gizmo with open paws. Within an hour, they were playing, and actually cuddled that evening.

Thank you, AFOC, for all you do for our wonderful furry friends.

Tammy

June 2013 Tag Sale Report

I am happy to announce that the AFOC tag sale went very well. To date, we have raised about \$4200. We were very lucky to have a great variety of items to offer customers, who, despite the 90 degree weather, showed up in droves to shop. Many of our customers had stories to tell about cats and dogs they had adopted or rescued. As always, it's a tremendous amount of work for our volunteers. Our commitment to helping vulnerable animals drives us.

Much appreciation is due to the wonderful donors who drive long distances and haul heavy boxes of donations to the sale site. We are grateful to the First Church of Christ, Simsbury for donating items left over from their tag sale and to Boy Scout Troop 76 for transporting those items. Thank you also to Nicole Delong for donating water for volunteers and customers, Paine's, Inc. for providing a dumpster at a deep discount and the Pickin' Patch for parking and, in general, being a terrific neighbor. Thank you to Lucy Temperilli, Julie Blackmore, Bea and Melinda, who helped out at the sale. Ruth Woodford, Kim Chagnon, Ed Paquette, Willa Nemetz, Vicki Kayser, Olga and Bill Coffey, Marianne Heymann, Donna Neary, Sandra Pouliot, Brenda Rock, Jerry Hikel, Rise Cappadona, Vivian Elba, Karen Wendhiser, Lauren Allison-Fisher, Barbara Korzendorfer, Eileen and Taylor Perry each worked long hours during each of the several days of the sale to make it a success. After some rest, we look forward to doing it all over again in 2014! Please consider joining us!

Anneliis Koiv

Shelter Volunteers Needed

We are looking for new volunteers to help out at our New Britain shelter. If you are available for a few hours during the morning and want to help take care of the many cats in our charge, please call 860-827-0381 to arrange for an interview. You can volunteer for just one day a week or several days, depending on your schedule. Just let us know what day(s) you would like to volunteer. We are looking for someone who can volunteer on a long term basis.

You will find it very rewarding and the animals need you now.



HEARTFUL THANKS

Berkshire Bank, headquartered in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, relocated and opened a new branch in West Hartford on June 12, 2013. In celebration of the new endeavor, the bank's Charitable Foundation recognized two organizations that are based in West Hartford. One of the organizations chosen was Animal Friends of Connecticut.

At the ribbon cutting ceremony, officers from the bank, the West Hartford Chamber of Commerce and West Hartford town officials presented Judy Levy, AFOC's president, with a \$1000 grant to help AFOC fulfill its mission of rescuing animals in distress.

We would like to thank Berkshire Bank for this grant. It is solely through donations such as this that we are able to help the many animals in need.



AMII

What started off as innocently watching an episode of *Cats 101* on Animal Planet one afternoon, turned into a web search and a phone call to Judy of AFOC. We set up a visit that same day to see two kittens that were available. Two ADORABLE kittens were brought into the visiting room (aren't they all), one completely black with amber eyes, the other a tabby tiger with golden orange eyes. Within moments of the introduction, the little black male had pretty much attached himself to my fiancée, Jeff, purring uncontrollably, and wanting to be petted. As I picked him up to try my luck, he went limp in my arms like a rag doll and rested his head on my shoulder. Perfectly calm. That was it. We named him Amii.

Bringing him home a few days later, we had the task of introducing him to our other two male cats, Vegas and Zen. Eight-year old, 26 pound Vegas seemed confused at the almost spitting image, a tiny reflection of himself and two-year old gray tiger Zen welcomed a feisty new brother to play with. After the last few months of acclimation, Zen and Amii can be seen (and heard) galloping around the house, wrestling on the floor, giving one another baths, or curled up napping with each other. Big brother Vegas keeps a little more to himself, but we're working on it.

We joke and call Amii a dog sometimes because of his quirky mannerisms. He'll greet you at the door, ravenously try to steal any food you are trying to eat, play fetch with his favorite toy lobster and hop around like a puppy whose paws are still too big. All of our cats have their own personalities. They each have their place in our family. Yes, we call them our kids. We talk to them and they talk back. When we're sad, they know when to snuggle up next to us (even in 98 degree, non-air conditioned weather.) We're never lonely. They make us laugh constantly. Adopting this sweet little boy has enriched our lives beyond anticipation. He's an affectionate, bold, healthy, silly, daredevil who makes us smile every day. We are happy to have been able to give this cat a forever home, with brothers that had the same beginning. Now he will always have a family to love him like he loves us. Thank you.

Gabi & Jeff



FROM THE KITCHEN

Pamper your pet with some delicious homemade treats over the cold months ahead. You can find these and other treats on healthyrecipesforpets.com. Enjoy!

Doggie Treats

CHEESE AND BACON DOG BISCUITS

¾ cup flour
½ tsp. baking soda
1 ½ cups oatmeal
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
½ cup wheat germ
½ lb. bacon or bacon bits
2/3 cup butter
2/3 cup brown sugar
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla

Combine flour and baking soda; mix well and set aside. Cream butter, brown sugar, beat in egg and vanilla. Add flour mix and mix well. Stir in oats, cheese wheat germ and bacon. Drop by rounded tablespoons onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350 for 16 minutes. Cool and let your pet enjoy.

Cat Treats

CHICKEN CHEESEBURGER

2 oz. finely ground hamburger
2 oz. finely ground chicken
1 Tbsp. canned thick chicken soup
2 oz. whole grain breadcrumbs or oatmeal
1 baby carrot, cooked until soft
1 egg
½ cup grated cheese

Mash the meat and chicken with the soup. Add the bread crumbs or oatmeal, mushy carrot and egg. Mix well. Make into two small burgers and broil (leaving much rarer than you would eat yourself). Sprinkle with grated cheese and broil again until the cheese is melted. Allow to cool until warm to the touch and serve.

HOLIDAYS AND OUR PETS

By: Donna Velardi

www.zodiapet.com

The holidays are supposed to be a fun and joyous time. After all, isn't that what everyone tells us? However, for many people, it is a time of stress, depression and anxiety. It is probably the most stressful time of year. Yet, while attention is given to the humans on this problem, we often forget that our pets are going through the same problem, and why, because of us, their caregiver.

Animals feed off of our emotions. They realize the climate is changing and not just the weather. They understand that there is more activity in the home and a "different kind of energy" and they feel your stress and anxiety. Normally, when we get depressed or stressed it is for a specific reason, or lasts just a day or two. Our pets pick up on the specific reason such as an illness or problems on the job, etc. and they deal with it accordingly. But this is different.

When the problem is season related, the animal's anxiety level will elevate because all they know is that their caregiver is upset and they don't know why. This makes the pet more anxious. Now, the pet's behavior will change. They may now experience separation anxiety, eating habits could change, they may sleep more or even become more aggressive. Basically, depression, stress and anxiety will manifest itself in ways as it does for people.

This is when you need to spend more time with your pet, reassure them, talk to them and massage them. Soft music and aromatherapy are very helpful when an animal is stressed. Remember what is good for us is good for them. But more important, when you truly start to feel better about yourself, you will see an improvement in your pet. You will notice a much happier and healthier pet.

So this holiday season - RELAX and ENJOY!

AFOC's ANNUAL BAKE SALE October 2013

The annual bake sale to benefit Animal Friends of Connecticut will be held October 12th at the entrance to the Simsbury Stop N Shop on Bushy Hill Road, Simsbury.

If you can bake one or more items or know of another baker who would be willing to help, contact Ruth Woodford at 860-676-0544 or by e-mail at ruthw144@sbcglobal.net. If you are not a baker but are willing to pick up and deliver some items to the sale, that would be helpful. Last year, Jill Perrault and Ruth Woodford manned the sales table from 9 to 2. We'd love to add another person or two to the sales team.

The bake sale brings in anywhere from \$500 to \$750 dollars, much of it in the form of donations. Most importantly, it is an opportunity to share the work of Animal Friends with the public and encourage people to adopt rescued cats and dogs.

Ruth Woodford

Want to make over \$100 an hour for AFOC?

It's so easy! Last year when I went to his house to pick up the items I had won at AFOC's annual silent auction, George asked me if I would be willing to help solicit items for the following year's auction. In my head, I immediately came up with several reasons why I couldn't do it. "I'm too busy." "I don't like asking people for things." "I don't want to get involved." "Someone else can do it." But then I looked around at all the cats in their home, some very young, some very old, some sick, some who had been injured, some who were disabled, but all were happy and cared for because of AFOC. Had it not been for AFOC, each one would have been living painful, tortured lives, or would have been euthanized long before. And all of a sudden my reasons (o.k., more like excuses) flew right out the window and I said I'd give it a try.

Had I known how easy it would be, I would have offered to help years before. All it took was e-mailing a list of businesses to George. Businesses that I knew, liked, and frequented. My pets' veterinarian, the woman who cuts my hair, the reflexologist I go to, the consignment store where I shop, etc. Within two days, George hand delivered to my house solicitation letters and envelopes addressed to each of the businesses. I then wrote individual notes to include with each letter and mailed them out (it took about an hour.) During the next few weeks, I heard back from each business and every single one of them was happy to offer a product, a gift certificate, or in some cases, both. I followed up with phone calls thanking each one and made arrangements for pick-up (that took about half-an-hour.) About a week later, I drove to each business and collected the donations (an hour and a half.) George picked them up at my house.

Fast forward to the always fun, always exciting, AFOC auction, where in addition to enjoying fabulous Flatbreads pizza and beer, and placing bids on loads of items, I took a tally of the items I had personally solicited. At about mid-point of the evening, my items had raised roughly \$300. If you've been keeping a tally, that meant my three hours of (very easy) work would be bringing in well over \$300 before the evening would end.

Like I said, over \$100 an hour!

This year, when you read George's heartfelt plea for help soliciting auction items, I hope you'll consider saying yes. I'm so glad I did.



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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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00 Giving | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Helping | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00 Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00 Patron |
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Please send information on automatic transfer donation

Name/address changes: (please print clearly)

Name _____

Street/P.O. Box _____

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- I'd like to help. Volunteers please call 827-0381.
- 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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