



## Remember Donations Save Lives

Please donate!



## Highlights

Trixie	2
The Cats of St. Martin	3
AFOC Alumni Cats	4
AFOC Alumni Cats	5
Eagle Scout Builds Osprey Nest	6
Pi & Introducing a New Cat to Your Household	7
Ways to Give	8

## About Us, Fostering, Volunteering, and Sponsorship

### 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 **860-225-1339** for more information.

### Fosters Needed:

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. Not only is it 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 their chances of being adopted.

### Volunteer:

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**.

### 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 can't 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 or speak with a resident to help build a connection. As always, we offer the opportunity to come and visit your sponsored pet during available hours.

- **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.

**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](mailto:afoc@afocinc.org) to start your own customized sponsorship!

# Trixie

It is always our hope that a rescue goes well and that we have saved another cat from a life outside, searching for food, safety and looking for shelter. But sometimes unexpected things happen.

The first thing we do after a rescue is have the cat tested for FIV and FeLV. Hopefully, the results are negative for both tests and they usually are, but that is not always the case. A cat with FIV can live a normal life into his/her teens. A cat with FeLV will have a more challenging future. But we still need to find a placement for all of them.

Our rescue cats are broken into 3 groups. The easiest cats to place are the very friendly lap cats that everyone wants. These cats were probably someone's pet who escaped or were left outside when the family moved away. Then there are the strays that usually can be socialized by the volunteers or foster families until they are ready to be adopted. And lastly are the ferals which are difficult if not impossible to socialize and place no matter how much time is spent with them.

Cats in the first group are adopted quickly. Cats in the 2nd group are adopted after a lengthy socializing period. Cats in the 3rd group come to the shelter to live the remainder of their life.

Trixie, a beautiful tricolor fell into the latter group. She was rescued along with her 3 kittens by a very concerned homeowner that had been feeding them for a few weeks. Twice a day the group would walk across the golf course where they lived to come for breakfast or dinner. AFOC was called to rescue them.

So, on a beautiful Sunday morning I set out with my traps. Catching 2 of the kittens went very well and they were brought to a vet's office for an examination before being placed in a foster home. Trixie and the remaining kitten were elusive but were ultimately caught by the woman that was feeding them. I picked them up and after a vet visit, they were united with the other 2 kittens in the foster home. From day 1, Trixie wanted nothing to do with her kittens. The kittens would

play and be kittens, but Trixie would only hide as far from them as possible. So, we were lucky they were eating on their own. At 8 weeks of age the kittens were adopted, and Trixie was moved to a different foster home with the hope of becoming more socialized. But this was not to be.

Then the unexpected happened. Trixie had a litter of kittens. She was not the mother of the original kittens and was pregnant when in the first foster home. She was a good mother but continued to have no interest in interacting with the foster family. After 8 weeks, the 2nd litter of kittens were adopted, and continuing attempts were made to socialize Trixie with no success.

Trixie spent most, if not all her time in a cage as she was too feral to be loose in the fosters' house. Then as I guess is common currently, the adult children of the foster moved back into the house and Trixie lost her room. So, she was delegated to a more remote area of the house. The question remained what we were ultimately going to do with her. But we never give up.

Totally by chance I came across a woman that ran a sanctuary for feral and other unadoptable cats. I had never heard of them, but their website looked very impressive. The gallery on the website showed feral cats leading a very nice life lounging in cat trees and playing in a fenced in outside area. They are limited in the number of cats they accept so I asked them to put Trixie on their waiting list. She was 3rd in the queue, and they anticipated that it would be a while before Trixie was accepted. They can only take a new cat when a current resident departs. But as the two cats ahead of Trixie were living outside, they were nowhere to be found when their turn came up. So, Trixie was transported to her forever home.



She has now been there for several months and is starting to come out of her shell and interact with the other residents. The sanctuary does allow visitors but not during the winter months when the cats are confined to their indoor living quarters. Which are very impressive. A small group of AFOC volunteers were scheduled to visit her on April 19th but like all other operations it was quarantined due to Corona Virus and our visit had to be rescheduled. We'll visit as soon as possible.

The Director of the Sanctuary said that she is thrilled with Trixie and she is coming around in leaps and bounds. She can pet her now and she is so happy she walks around rubbing on all the other cats and they accept her completely. Her tail is always held high she seems very happy! It's been a long road for her, but she thinks she feels at home now.

She's become much more relaxed! She is the first one outside no matter the weather. She likes to roll around in the sand so she's not always clean, but she cleans herself up for the evening.



# The Cats of St. Martin - Jane

Traveling to French St Martin in the winter is always a nice get away in the sun. Every morning I walk for some exercise and to make sure the croissants don't take a toll on me. While I make the loop around the residential complex where we stay, I come across feeding stations for the numerous cats who call this place home. Some have been adopted by the residents and others are strays who have been graciously taken care of by a group of loyal volunteers who provide food and water to help them survive.

Because the weather is warm most of these cats live outside and when weather is stormy or the sun rays are too strong, they take shelter in the cover of stairways or lush tropical foliage. Occasionally you hear some territorial disagreements going on and you see a few tattered ears but mostly these cats live harmoniously. For the most part they are free from danger except for island dog strays that may on occasion do them harm. Just last week I heard about some cats that had been killed by stray dogs. Although there are a few dozen cats here, the residents do attempt to control the population, pooling personal money to support a spay/ neuter program.

Each year when we return, we look for those familiar felines that we recognize from our previous trips. Some we have even nicknamed. It is always comforting to find "Fluffy" a long haired black and white kitty lying in her usual spot ( 2016 to present) "Pool Cat", a kitty we named for the fact that she would come down to the pool in the afternoon to spend some time lounging under sun bathers chairs. If she didn't visit your chair, those slighted felt disappointed. The pool was destroyed by Hurricane Irma in September of 2017. We heard that Lily (Pool Cat's real name) passed away last year (2019). "Escort kitty" would walk with you to your apartment in the evenings when we returned from dinner possibly in hopes of an evening snack; we wonder did his owner move or was "Escort kitty" lost in Irma? Every morning I notice with pleasure the tuxedo cat who joins his owner and her two leashed dogs on their morning walk along the path overlooking the beach, a routine that has continued for about three years.

This year there are many new cats, a brief survey notes orange cats are in the majority, followed by black and whites, a few gray tabbies, blacks, calicos, tortoise, white with black markings and an exotic silver with spots! The French residents love their cats and take notice of me snapping photos and talking to them. They greet me with a Bon Jour and a smile and I tell them ...j' aime les chats!

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"Cat names are more for human benefit. They give one a certain degree more confidence that the animal belongs to you."

- Alan Ayckbourn

"I have cats because they have no artificially imposed culturally prescribed sense of decorum. They live in the moment. If I dropped dead, I love knowing that as the paramedics carry me out, my cats are going to be swatting at the little toe tag"

- Paul Provenza



## Animal Friends of CT Alumni Cats



### **Animal Friends of CT Alumni Cats !**

Our centerfold features some of the cats and kittens that have been adopted from Animal Friends over the past few years.

We never forget their pretty faces and remember their individual personalities with fondness.

Our shelter is always rescuing new cats and kittens from the streets or from homes whose owners can no longer care for them. Cats and kittens that are rescued by us are vet checked, neutered/spayed (age appropriate) and have had up to date shots.

To find out about the cats and kittens that are currently available through our shelter please check our Animal Friends of CT webpage, our Facebook pages or call the shelter at 860 225-1339.



# Animal Friends of CT Alumni Cats



# Eagle Scout Builds Osprey Nest – M. Butler



With help from his scout troop and five adults, Joshua Kapp an eighth grader from Old Saybrook has presented the Estuary Council of Seniors with the gift of an osprey nest. From start to finish, the boys got help from many sources, the Connecticut Audubon Society, the internet and other interested bird watchers.

They received guidelines on how to assemble the wood donated from Beard Lumber of Old Saybrook and the nails. "We did have to buy the sheet metal," said Joshua. "We were able to construct the nest at my house and carry it into the marsh once the ground had started to soften up. John Ogren was our mentor."

Joshua's grandfather drove him to this interview and told this reporter proudly, "Most Eagle Scouts are 17 years old. Joshua is one of the youngest." Joshua took off his Old Saybrook jacket to show

his Scout shirt, and point out where the Eagle Badge will go after the ceremony. When it was time for pictures, his grandfather got up and straightened his collar.

Joshua said, "I got the idea to build the nest from the Land Trust. "I had to earn many badges before qualifying for the Eagle Scout Badge."



A telescope has been set up in front of the window looking out to the marsh. It is aimed right at the nest in clear view. There are instructions for anyone who wants to monitor the nest. Arrival of the birds starts in April when the breeding season begins. Monitoring consists of visiting the nest site at least eight times every two weeks. A check-off list in four stages, check to see if birds have arrived, is it active, are there eggs, and then wait

for the fledglings to arrive. One must approach the nest slowly and quietly.

Joshua's project is welcomed by the Council of eager seniors wait for a turn to look into the telescope. They have been told this nest will get two young birds as older birds tend to go back to last year's nest. There are now over 600 nests ranging throughout the entire state. The nests are normally near bodies of open shallow water, built with bark, grass, and algae. Usually there are three eggs incubated by the female, while the males provide their mates with food.

The Council is now officially a part of the Audubon Osprey Nation. The telescope has been donated by John Ogren, who has offered to be the Council's monitor for this year.

It's time to sit and watch.



## In Memoriam

- Gwen and Chet Zaslow in memory of Grant Miller
- Michele Potvin-Piecuch and Joseph Piecuch in memory of Brie
- Donna Vose in memory of Barbara Miller
- Christine and Carlton Arruda in memory of Barbara Miller
- Chester and Gwen Zaslow in memory of Barbara Miller
- Leslie Dalenta in memory of Barbara Miller
- Timothy and Susan McGuire in memory of Barbara Miller
- Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Aronson in memory of Barbara Miller
- The Donenfeld Family in loving memory of Rick Donenfeld, lifelong animal lover and supporter
- Ann Gaudreau in loving memory of Barbara Miller
- Lisa deMauro, Josh Mills and Peter Mills in memory of Barbara Miller
- Polito and Associates, LLC in memory of Grant H. Miller
- Tim and Susan McGuire in memory of Grant Miller
- Phyllis Pasternak in memory of Mickey, Camden and Imp
- Ruth Pasitano in memory of Clair Trifari
- Yvonne Goldstein in memory of my beloved Shoshi. Shalom
- Frank Virnelli in memory of Shoshi beloved companion of Yvonne Goldstein
- Carol Pinkston in memory of Shoshi beloved companion of Yvonne Goldstein

- Anne Talcott and Stephen Crouse in memory of Kenneth Merwin Spring
- Jaime Ruggiero in memory of Carol Aldridge
- Kim Uscilla in memory of Addison and Bonnie
- Janice and William Dedominicis in loving memory of Lady and Izzy. They remain always in our hearts
- Lorraine Brodeur in honor of Zoe Rene Brodeur
- Jennifer Corvo in memory of Barbara Miller
- Christine Credit in memory of William Bill Wrightson -
- Christine Credit in memory of Jeremie Debruycker
- Michael Crotty on behalf of Erin Clark, MBA, by her friends Mike & Rotua
- Susan Emond in memory of Honorable Judge Grant Miller and his love of dogs.
- Ann Gaudreau in loving memory of Grant H. Miller
- Christine & Peter Karpinski in memory Bimbo
- Teresa LaPenta-Duffek in memory of Mimi
- Matthew Pasternak in memory of Camden. A dog who lived life on his terms
- Ruth Positano in memory of Claire Trifar
- George & Jacqueline Roraback in memory of John Shea, Edna Shea, Judie Shea & Erice Roraback
- Albert Shiu in honor of the Honorable Judge Grant H. Miller and my dog Duncan who both passed away.
- Friends at the United States Attorney's Office, Hartford Branch in memory of Grant H. Miller

# Pi & Introducing a New Cat to Your Household

## Pi's Story:

Animal Friends of Connecticut rescues animals that have been abandoned, are homeless or injured or handicapped. This is our primary mission. But occasionally we get animals from other sources. One additional source are the veterinarians that we use to keep our animals safe and healthy. Occasionally they will have an animal surrendered to them that an owner no longer wants and asks them to put a healthy loving pet down. The vets will often not do that and call us to see if we can take the animal. Usually we do. Pi was one of those cats that a vet placed with Animal Friends of CT only because her owner no longer wanted her.



## How Pi Found Her Forever Home:

On April 30th, I was rescued and adopted by Ms. Sandra of Simsbury. Boy – was I lucky! She has given me free range of her whole house, even my own private bathroom with a new shaped litter box which gives me more privacy; and she has great litter which clumps up quickly; and she cleans it every day – sometimes twice a day!

I have an endless supply of delicious dry cat food and a fresh bowl of water all the time. She offered me several kinds of wet food, but I didn't like them. She also has treats! One day I decided to go out on our balcony to sniff around. I figured out how to slide the screen door open with my nails, just far enough to let me out and PRESTO! I was on the balcony. I sniffed the newly planted flowers and tried out one of the chairs (which was very comfortable) but soon I heard Ms. Sandra calling my name! I didn't come in right away and even teased my new owner by jumping off the side onto the ground (it was only about a foot drop). Soon she arrived with the bag of treats, so I decided to come back in. Now she has fixed the lock on the screen door and I watch the world go by from behind the screen.

My very favorite place to be is in her lap and I spend a lot of time there – she strokes my head and scratches around my ears, and it feels soooo good. I have two favorite sleeping places: one is in the living room on the soft pink blanket that was given to me by The Animal Friends of Connecticut when I left the shelter; the other favorite is on my mistress's bed where I sleep every night, and even sometimes during the day!

Ms. Sandra has also gifted me with several toys – some I like, but others are too childish ... I am almost ten years old, you know! My newest present is a self-groomer which she attached to the corner of the wall and I can rub my face or back each time I lean into it! I hope you have enjoyed my true story of how I found my Forever Home and all the possibilities it affords me. Ms. Sandra calls me a "Keeper" and that makes me purr and feel great!

## Hi there! I'm your new cat and I'd like to tell you a few things:

- It will take me a few days to feel comfortable, so please be patient.
- Please don't chase me; I'll start to play when I feel more comfortable.
- I'll learn about my new house by smelling everything.
- Because I'm new, I might run away from loud voices, noises and fast movements.
- Because I'm a bit nervous, I might hiss; that's how I say, "I'm scared."
- I need quiet times just like you do, so I might find a hiding spot and take a nap.
- Please put my litter box in a quiet spot and let me use it alone.
- Please remember to pick up all my legs when you carry me or my tummy will hurt.
- I won't mean to, but since I have claws I might scratch you if we play too much.
- I'm not sure where to sleep yet, so I might try a lot of places before I get comfortable.
- Please pet me gently and don't pull my tail; I'm small and can be hurt easily.
- Make sure you don't let me outside. I don't know where I live and I'll get lost.
- Oh, and one last thing. Please remember to close the door to outside behind you. I'm naturally very curious!



**Mr. Ed** captured the imagination of a nation when he opened his giant lips and finally spoke. The talking was all camera tricks and the voice belonged to Allan Lane, but North American's loved him, nonetheless.

Bamboo Harvester, the horse who played Mr. Ed, enjoyed six seasons of limelight before the show's eventual finish, but those seasons of fame wouldn't translate into a long-term career.



# 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!

## Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc.

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West Hartford,  
Connecticut  
06137-0306

Phone  
(860) 827-0381

E-Mail:  
[afoc@afocinc.org](mailto:afoc@afocinc.org)

Newsletter  
E-mail  
[newsletter@afocinc.org](mailto:newsletter@afocinc.org)

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[https://  
www.animalfriendsofct.org](https://www.animalfriendsofct.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: [https://  
www.animalfriendsofct.org/](https://www.animalfriendsofct.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  
 \$10.00 Helping  
 \$25.00 Contributing  
 \$50.00 Supporting  
 \$100.00 Sustaining  
 \$250.00 Sponsor  
 \$500.00 Patron  
 \$ 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