

Animalfriends

OF CONNECTICUT



Remember
Donations
Save Lives

Please
donate!



Highlights

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Adopt Don't Stop | 2 |
| Brillo the Hedgehog | 3 |
| Meriden Rescue | 4 |
| Gidget & Pet Pests | 5 |
| TN Kitten Rescue | 6 |
| A Dog's Tale | 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 to start your own customized sponsorship!

Adopt Don't Stop! - Brenda & Dean



CC ("Courageous Cat"): Twenty-two years ago, Dean and Laura first came to AFOC when they realized that they needed a Purrfect companion that would make their life complete after recently moving into their first home. A photo in the Hartford Courant of a kitty, Topo Gigio, caught their attention, and they knew they had to meet the little guy. Turns out, Topo was handicapped, getting around on only three legs. Well, to everyone else he was handicapped but he had no idea, as he did most everything that any other cat would do.

Dean and Laura fell in love with Topo and they brought him home. Laura wrote an article for the newsletter back in 1998, in which she shared their very positive adoption experience through AFOC and from which the following quote was taken. "We wanted to honor his journey and make him feel how much we appreciated his spirit in spite of the hard knocks". "We wanted our cat to have a name that stood for who he was and what he had been through, so we decided to call him CC, which is short for "Courageous Cat". "We can't ever thank CC enough for all the joy and love that he keeps circulating through our little world". CC was a loving, sweet and adorable boy that brought many memorable and special

moments for twenty-two years. Yes! **Twenty-two years!**



I have been volunteering for AFOC for a year now and enjoy it so much. Getting to know the personalities of each and every kitty, sharing kitty stories with other volunteers and being there to watch a kitty finally find a forever home is so very rewarding. Dean and I have worked together for many years, but little did I know that he loves kitties as much as I do. By chance, I happened to find this out shortly after CC had passed away. Those of us who have lost our dear pets know that the grieving process is so very difficult. I knew that there were kitties at the shelter that would find their way to Dean's heart, but he wasn't ready at that point.

Maddie: Here we are, January of 2020, and nine-year-old Maddie comes to the shelter. What a cute snuggle bug she is! A tabby that loves to rub against your feet, sit in your lap, give sweet kisses and purr the loudest and prettiest purr I have ever heard. I knew that this was the kitty for Dean and I knew that it was time-three years after the passing of his beloved CC. I took a video of Maddie, shared it with him and he was smitten. I am so happy and thrilled to say that Maddie left for her forever home with Dean and the two of

them couldn't be happier together. Dean says of Miss Maddie- "She is a true lap cat and my constant companion. Upon hearing I was going to adopt, a coworker asked if I was going to buy Maddie a kitty condo. I told him she is moving into a 1200 sq. ft. condo, and I hope she lets me stay there. Thankfully, she has. I would like to thank AFOC and Brenda for encouraging me to meet Miss Maddie. Love at first sight!"

Thanks so much to Dean for supporting AFOC through the years and for adopting a senior kitty. Senior kitties have so much love to give and sadly, are not even considered by most adopting families.

What is most touching is that Dean has saved the original Hartford Courant photo of Topo, AKA CC, and the newsletter that Laura wrote for all these years! This story runs full circle, starting at AFOC twenty-two years ago and coming right back to where it started. Fortunately, it is a very happy story for everyone! Congratulations Dean, Maddie and a great big THANK YOU to CC!



Brillo the Hedgehog - Alyssa

3

Brillo is 5 years old; I've had him his whole life. I had just moved on my own for the first time and was looking for a companion pet. My apartment did not allow cats or dogs, only small pets so I did a lot of research to find Brillo. Hedgehogs are very smart and can even be litter box trained. They each have their own little personalities and are somewhat high maintenance, which is what I was looking for. I was looking for a pet I could actually care for, bond with, and interact with. The first time I went to meet Ann from CT Hedgehogs in Canton, CT, Brillo and I had an instant connection. He was born in a litter of 5 and I was just drawn to him. The first time I held him he snuggled right into my hand and fell asleep making little peeping sounds. I knew it was a perfect match after that! I took him home at 8 weeks old and the bonding process started.

Hedgehogs are naturally very nervous around people so for weeks I would wrap him up in sweaters I had worn all day to get him accustomed to my scent. I would sit with him wrapped up in those sweaters for at least an hour a day so he would learn to trust me and allow me to handle him fully. Taking the time to really bond with him and build that trust paid off. He started following me around and climbing into my lap on his own to snuggle. His favorite place to snuggle is on my shoulder with his head nestled behind my ear.

During the daytime, Brillo loves a good snuggle session or a nap in a patch of sunlight. Hedgehogs are nocturnal so in the evening is when his personality really comes out. He loves to stick his head in toilet paper tubes and run around like that. He has some felt balls that he will push around with his nose and recently he's taken a fascination with one of my pillows, he will try and drag it across the living room with his teeth. You can tell he is very amused with himself as he does it seeing as the pillow is ten times his size.



Every night he enjoys a dinner of dry cat food with the occasional treat of scrambled eggs, blueberries, or apples - his favorite. His species is the African Pygmy Hedgehog. They require warm temperatures to avoid hibernation attempts, which can be fatal. He lives in a big, clear storage container that I leave the lid off of and have lined partially with fleece blankets where he sleeps, plays and eats, and then partially with care fresh animal bedding where his wheel is and that is where he is trained to use the bathroom.

He gets a bath in the bathroom sink monthly (which he hates, but he does know how to swim!) and his cage gets cleaned out weekly. He has a wheel he loves to run on every night which has to get cleaned daily. He has his own personal space heater to ensure his enclosure temperature stays on or above 72 degrees.

Bringing home Brillo was an experience that has far surpassed all of my expectations. I never expected a hedgehog to have such an amazing personality and the ability to bond with people so closely. Caring for a hedgehog is time consuming but extremely worth it. He has brought so much love and fun into my life. They make a great companion when the time is taken to bond with them and care for them properly. They are definitely more high maintenance than cats but not as much maintenance as dogs to put it in perspective.





I received a call from a woman that said she had 3 litters of kittens in her apartment. One litter, 4 days old, with a friendly mother, one litter, 3 weeks old, with a not friendly mother and one litter, 4 weeks old, with shy mother. She wanted to know if we would take all of them. Of course, we said "yes", and I arranged to pick them up on Thursday morning around 10 AM. As I always do, I checked the neighborhood and house online to see what I am getting myself into. The address was for a used car dealer and car detail shop with what appeared to be 2 apartments above them in an OK neighborhood.

I arrived at 10 on the dot. Walked up the many "not in good condition" stairs and knocked on the door. Then knocked again. And again. And then again. No one answered the door. I returned to my car and called the phone number that I had but no one answered, and the mailbox was full so I was unable to leave a message. I returned up the stairs and continued to knock on the door with no response. On the porch was a lead to tie up a dog and a large bird cage that was being currently being used although the was no bird in it at this time. Not having any options, I returned home After calling many more times with no one answering I decided to return on Saturday late morning to try to get the kittens. Same result, knocked many times, called several times but no one answered. Finally, a young man answered the door and said he would give me the kittens. The woman was not home as she had broken her finger and was at the hospital. I only had one foster family available, so my plan was to bring the now 6-day old kittens home with me and then return for the others. I entered the apartment and was greeted by 2 very large, friendly pit bulls and several children who appeared to be sleeping on the living room floor which was covered with blankets and clothes.

The kittens and mother were in a kitchen cabinet. When I returned home and brought the kittens and mother to a local vet, there were only 3 kittens rather than the 4, I was expecting.

I got in the car and drove back to get the missing kitten. The man said that his mother's sister had adopted one. As the

kitten was so young, it made no sense that it had been adopted but I had no options. The kittens were checked out by a local vet and placed in a foster home.

So, it was time to get the remaining kittens and 2 mothers. Finally, someone answered the phone and I was told that the remaining kittens and mothers would be delivered to me on Friday evening when they had money for gas. Obviously, this did not happen. And as the phone was not being answered, I drove down again hoping to bring everyone back with me. This time the door was answered by a young woman who said she would wake up her mother and she would give me the remaining kittens. A short while later a woman with bright red hair, wearing a nightgown and smoking a cigar came to the door and let me in. I was given 6 kittens but not the mothers as they were not friendly. Once again there were supposed to be 7 kittens, and they said that one more had been adopted. I took what was available at that time, brought them home and put them in foster care.

As we still wanted the mothers, the missing two kittens and now the father that was living in the apartment, I called the phone number we had only to find out that it is no longer in service. Out of desperation, I mailed a letter to the woman saying. We are still waiting to see what happens next.

Every kitten and cat we rescue is covered in fleas. Considering the condition of the apartment I was sure all the kittens and mother were also covered with fleas. But strangely enough not one flea was found on any of the animals. First time this has ever happened

As phone communication is not possible, I sent the woman a letter, but as of this writing I have not received a reply and doubt that I ever will.



Gidget - Linda C.

Gidget, known as Renee when she was a resident at AFOC's shelter, is now 15 years old having had a birthday since moving to Senior Housing in Southington, CT.

When I came to the shelter, I did not care." if the cat I was adopting was young or old. Upon arriving at the shelter, I was taken to a room where there were two cats available for adoption. My heart wanted to adopt both, but unfortunately, I am only allowed to have one pet where I live. I was torn between the 2 of them so I left it up to the cats to decide who would be my new companion. I asked the 2 of them, who wants to come live with me?"

Immediately Renee started reaching out to me with her paw as if to say "me, me, please, please?" When she arrived at my home, the first order of business was giving her plenty of time to explore her forever home. This took about an hour and a half at which point it was time to rename her. She is a very petite, long haired calico and I was thinking about the Gidget movies from the 70s or 80s that I used to watch when I was a youngster. I asked her "What would you like your new name to be? How about Gidget?" Again, she put out her paw and meowed a soft meow as if to approve. So Gidget became her new name.

It was a very early morning and Gidget jumped up on the bed and began to tap my face with her paw and meow loudly. I awoke and began to shush her thinking she was hungry. As I climbed out of bed, I became very dizzy and passed out hitting my head on a piece of metal. When I came to moments later there was blood everywhere and Gidget was making a fuss from the living area. I immediately grabbed a towel to get the bleeding under control and called a neighbor for help. She came immediately and when she saw how badly I was injured, pulled the emergency cord to get assistance. She cleaned up the mess and assured me that she would take care of Gidget.

No one understands why it happens as Gidget has had no formal training but Gidget now alerts me to all medical problems and calms me down when I get too upset or angry. She is very aloof, but very loving in her own way. Everyone where I live and all the town officials who have met Gidget love her and I cannot imagine my life without my darling Gidget. She does not have to be a lap cat or like to be cuddled like other cats, but my life would never be the same without my baby. So, I ask you "who rescued who?"

Pet Pests: Interesting Facts About Fleas

Fleas! Just the word can make you start to itch. It's important for pet owners to understand some of the basics flea control and how fleas interact with your pets.

Some interesting facts about fleas:

- Fleas don't jump from pet to pet. Once they've found a host, they settle in for their 1-2-week adult life.
- A female flea can lay up to 50 eggs a day. They lay the eggs while living on your pet, but the eggs are smooth, and they quickly roll off and settle into carpets and floor crevices.
- After the eggs hatch, the larvae enter a pupae stage and then spin a cocoon. They can stay in their cocoons for up to year but will emerge whenever they sense a warm host nearby.
- They will feed off humans if they are starving, but our short, sparse hair is not an ideal environment for them.

For these reasons, if you do find yourself with a flea problem, you need to treat your pet, but also get rid of the eggs, larvae and pupae in your environment.

In our experience, Advantage II works best for treating the cat. Washing bedding in hot water and drying on high heat, along with thorough vacuuming every few days will usually take care of the problem in the surrounding environment.



Tennessee Kitten Rescue - George M.



The family that adopted Ariel lives in Tennessee.

I received an email from her adopters saying a shelter local to them just rescued 73 kittens and could Animal Friends do anything to help them place them. As kitten season this year has been slow to start, I have fosters waiting for kittens with none to give them.

My nephew's wife and her mother were leaving in a few days to visit the area and I asked her if she could bring back some kittens for us to place. I told her I would take between 8 and 12 kittens in the 5 to 8-week-old range. Jen left for Tennessee on Thursday and will be returning to Connecticut on Monday with 12 kittens on board. She was originally going to make it a 2-day return trip but with 12 kittens in a Jeep Wrangler, a long 1-day trip made more sense. I received several photos of some of the kittens and put them on Facebook They generated a lot of interest with one commitment and 7 people waiting to meet them when they arrive. I know it is not going to be difficult to find them all good homes. Foster families are lined up,

each ready to take a few home to socialize them. Although I don't think much socializing is going to be necessary before they can be placed.

The rescue in Crossville, TN, focus on Cumberland County Animal Safety, did phone me and asked many questions as to what our plan was, and I must guess I gave the correct answers as 13 kittens will be on route to Connecticut. The transporter is keeping 1. (which then became 2)

It is too bad that we can only take 13 this trip as there were many more that the rescue wanted to give us. In Tennessee there are more kittens than people wanting to adopt. In Connecticut there are more people wanting to adopt than there are available kittens.

The vehicle going north had a maximum capacity of 13 kittens in cages. But at the last minute, there was a change of plans. Two young cats were purchased from people driving around looking for free cats to be sent to Kentucky and used in training dogs to fight. This was now a priority to rescue the young 2 cats. But this meant that the 2 had to replace 2 kittens that were supposed to be heading north. At 5 AM, the two drivers and now 13 kittens left Rock Island, Tennessee heading north. It was an uneventful trip for the first 14 hours. Then the torrential rains started so for the next 5 hours they were driving in the pouring rain and the dark. I encouraged them to stay at a motel until morning, but they elected to continue the trip north arriving at the 24-hour receiving vet at midnight.

After an exam, the kittens are reasonably healthy. All had fleas, three had mild upper respiration infections, but nothing serious. By dinner hour, all had been placed in foster homes and are now being socialized and getting ready to be adopted.

And if you are interested in adopting, please look at one of our websites or our Facebook pages.



In Memoriam

- Christine Credit: In memory of Jeremie Debrucker & William Bill Wrightson
- Teresa Lapenta-Duffek: In memory of Mimi
- Christine & Peter Karpinski: In memory of Bimbo
- Matthew Pasternak: In memory of Camden, A dog who lived life on his terms
- Jo-Anne Bochicchio: In memory of Shotzie, Jessie, Lacey Lu, Killie
- Marty Shinder & Ellen Koch: In memory of Fadec who was loved and missed daily.
- Maxine Ploude: In memory of Jerry Plourde
- Jacqueline & George Roraback: In memory of John Shea, Edna Shea, Judie Shea and Erice Roraback
- Alvin Bingham, Josh Goldberg, Neva Vigezzi and Jen Yeomans in loving memory of Jill's mother, Pam Guerrera
- The Sheridans in Honor of Barbara Miller



A Dog's Tale – Is Your Dog Lost? Beware!

Atty. Sydney T. Schulman

Schulman & Associates

10 Grand St., Hartford, Ct. 06106

(860) 522-2960

Office@SchulmanLaw.net



In the last issue, we discussed with you the liability you could face as a dog owner. But, what do you do when your dog flees your yard or home or is off or flees the leash? Again, we look to the Connecticut General Statutes to see what your rights are.

Today we deal with Connecticut General Statutes, Section 22-332. It is entitled "Impoundment and disposition of roaming, injured or mistreated animals. Authority to spay or neuter unclaimed dog. Liability for provision of veterinary care to injured, sick or diseased impounded animal.

Animal control officers are given the authority to impound any dog roaming (without a leash), not having a tag or plate on a collar on the neck or not in harness. Note that for some reason these provisions are specific to dogs and not other animals (cats, etc.). However, this statute specifically

does apply to any animals found on a highway, neglected, mistreated, abandoned or cruelly treated.

So, what specifically is "roaming?" How far away does a dog have to be from its home for it to be "roaming?" Unfortunately, no answer is given in our laws. Theoretically, if your dog is in the street, even in front of your house, and if someone calls the animal control officer, that dog is "roaming." So, what are your rights if the dog roams?

The animal control officer then impounds the dog. This also applies to all "domestic animals" (cats, etc.). Then what happens? If the animal control officer feels that the dog is "so injured or diseased that it should be destroyed immediately," he or she can simply do it. Otherwise, he or she must immediately notify the owner. If the dog owner is not known, the animal control officer will advertise ONCE in a lost and found column in a paper that is circulated in the town where the dog is found OR in a paper of statewide circulation AND a photograph or description notice posted on a national pet adoption internet web site OR any such internet site maintained or accessed by the animal control officer. The posting on the website

is NOT necessary if the animal control officer feels that the dog would be adopted, placed by an organization that does that or is feral (wild).

IF THE DOG IS NOT CLAIMED AND RELEASED TO THE OWNER WITHIN SEVEN (7) DAYS OF THE PUBLICATION, THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER MAY SPAY OR NEUTER SUCH DOG AND SELL IT OR CAUSE IT TO BE "MERCIFULLY KILLED" BY A VETERINARIAN.



It is further provided that the animal control officer is protected from liability and can't be sued for the above. There are other provisions in the law, but the best advice is to protect your dog from every having to be involved in this situation!!



Cats seem to go on the principle that it never does any harm to ask for what you want.

~ Joseph Crutch



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.

P.O. Box 370306
West Hartford,
Connecticut
06137-0306

Phone
(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
 \$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