

The Scratching Post

T H E N E W S L E T T E R O F F O R G O T T E N C A T S , I N C .

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF LIFESAVING WORK

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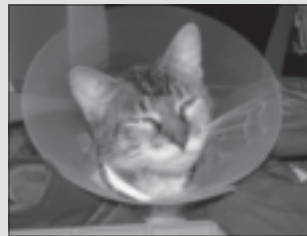
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Plus more!

The volunteers and feline friends of Forgotten Cats extend our warmest summer wishes to you! In a year when many so people have faced uncertainty due to the economy and other forces beyond our control, we are glad to bring you the good news of all we've accomplished. Our organization is literally bursting at the seams because of overwhelming public demand for our services. When times are difficult, pets often suffer through no fault of their own and are surrendered or simply thrown out to fend for themselves. Forgotten Cats picks up the pieces, providing medical attention, food, shelter and love—always love. As awareness of our work has spread, we've received more requests for help this year than ever before.

Forgotten Cats has continued its expansion with the recent addition of a fourth adoption center at a new Petco store in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.



Savannah was thrown from a moving car, picked up by a passerby, and brought to Forgotten Cats. She was one of 9,000 cats treated in our medical clinics and one of 886 cats adopted through FC in 2008.

This provides a second public outlet for our Willow Grove medical clinic, established in 2007, to show precious adopt-

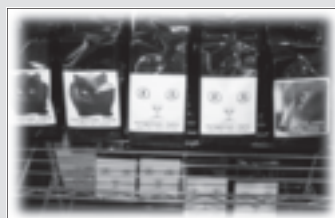
able cats and kittens. Many of these felines come from the most blighted urban areas in Philadelphia, and every time one is adopted into a loving home, it is a true miracle. In August, we will move the Pennsylvania clinic into a new, larger facility which will give us room to grow. We have expanded our partnership efforts by working with the Philadelphia ASPCA Mission Orange program and by providing support to the Trenton Trappers in Trenton, New Jersey, and the Stray Cat Blues in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Meanwhile in Delaware, the clinic facility was doubled in

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HAVE A CUPPA FOR THE CATS

Forgotten Cats Coffees and Teas are now available for purchase in select area stores!



Launched in April, our signature line includes coffees and teas made with premium ingredients to keep your motor humming and your taste buds purring! Whether it's a strong morning Joe or a refreshing iced tea, Forgotten Cats has your gourmet beverage fix.



Pick up a bag for yourself or for a gift. See **Page 6** of this newsletter or visit our website, **forgottencats.org**, for the complete product list and sales locations.

Proceeds benefit Forgotten Cats' lifesaving rescue work.

COVER STORY CONTINUED

size when our neighboring business moved out of the building and we expanded into their space. This allowed us to add a few special purpose rooms for special medical needs.

As the future of our rented space has become uncertain in recent years, we began to set aside some money in a Building Fund so we would be ready when the right opportunity came along. We are hoping to purchase a new facility and relocate our flagship operation, the original Claymont medical clinic, and make it better than ever. The opportunity to own a facility and customize it to our operation's needs would allow us to operate even more efficiently and better serve the cats and the public.

"Because of your support, we can ensure that basic medical care is provided...spay and neuter surgeries are available...and sustenance is given to every cat whose hungry eyes peer out at us from dark and lonely places."

Thanks to the tireless work of our hundreds of volunteers, from the clinics to the adoption centers, from the intrepid trappers to the warmth of our foster homes, our impact is greater than ever. In 2008, Forgotten Cats sterilized more than 7,500 cats and kittens, mostly ferals, strays and pets of low-income families, preventing countless litters from being born without a future. This year, we've sterilized 5000 cats thus far, putting us on track to reach 10,000 for the year. In 2008, we fostered and found forever homes for 886 cats and kit-

tens. Another 459 have been adopted thus far in 2009. Our volunteer roster grows monthly.

It's amazing that this all started out with a few dedicated "cat

ladies" picking up stray cats and taking them to the vet, and has now grown into one of the premier TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) operations in the United States and one of the most successful animal rescue organizations in Delaware's history. Where could Forgotten Cats go in the next year? In the next five years—or ten?

Thank you for your support, whether it's as a volunteer, a donor, an adoptive family, or an advocate. Because of you, we can ensure that basic medical care is provided to stray and feral cats in need; that spay and neuter surgeries are available when owners and colony caretakers cannot pay; and that sustenance is given to every cat whose hungry eyes peer out at us from dark and lonely places.

Sincerely,
Felicia Cross
President and Founder

From Our

Dear Forgotten Cats,
Thank you for bringing Bert into our lives. He is the sweetest little boy and was the most wonderful addition to our family. We couldn't be happier, and I think he is a very happy kitty (even though we made him pose for a silly picture in a Christmas outfit). Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Laura and Bobby Horne

Forgotten Cats,
Many thanks for the service on my cats. May God bless you in your line of work.

Shirley Strouse



On behalf of the Pleasant Hill Bowling League, please accept this donation in memory of George Lester Pearson for your "Forgotten Cats." *-Joanne*

Letter Box

Dear FC,
Pepper was adopted from your organization in July 2006. While he is a little ornery, he has been quite a joy! He's best friends with my mom who is now living with me. She's 91. The two are inseparable! He is also a very good travel cat and loves to visit my elderly relatives. He has brought much love and joy to many! Pepper also enjoys his two brothers and sister who welcomed him when he arrived. Wish you much luck and success.

Most sincerely,
Sue Paglia



GOT FERALS? WE CAN HELP!



The word "feral" is used to define a cat that lives outdoors and is unsocialized to people. Feral cats are the result of a domestic cat being abandoned or lost and left to fend for itself. The offspring of the domestic cat are usually never handled by people and become terrified. Many times, when approached by people, they will hiss out of fright. Given the chance, they will run away and hide. This is misunderstood as being vicious, but that is not true.

Ten to fifteen percent of "feral" or stray cats are actually tame, abandoned or lost pets. Some are even declawed. Others are elderly, guilty of nothing more than having lived with one person all their life until that person passed, and surviving family members decided to throw the animal out.

Traditional animal control will respond to feral colonies by trapping the animals, transporting them to a shelter, and killing those that are deemed unadoptable. (70% of all cats, and virtually 100% of ferals, entering shelters are killed, according to Alley Cat Allies.) Decades of traditional animal control trap-and-kill have resulted in millions of healthy cats being killed, and no long-term reduction in population. *Killing simply doesn't work.*

A humane technique known as Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) has achieved astounding results in the past 20 years in communities across the nation and around the world. TNR uses mass spay and neuter (sterilization) to stop the cycle of breeding,

stop the killing, and improve the health and quality of life of feral cats.

Forgotten Cats is a full service, large scale TNR organization. For many colony caregivers, the thought of TNR seems overwhelming. We work with these people to provide all levels of assistance to ensure the cats are TNR'ed safely and expediently. This assistance includes *trapping, sterilization, recuperation, release, food and shelter.*



Compassionate people everywhere feed and care for feral and stray cats. But the cycle of suffering can only be ended through TNR—Trap, Neuter, and Return.

TRAPPING—Forgotten Cats will provide equipment, training, transportation, and moral support to you as needed. We can work with the colony caretaker to assist with monitoring the trap on an ongoing basis. As the cats are caught, they can be transported to our clinic to be cared for until all of the cats are caught. Because of this dedicated and consistent

trapping effort, FC is able to help colony caregivers spay or neuter entire colonies within a short period of time, thus preventing thousands of kittens from being born.

STERILIZATION—Because Forgotten Cats owns and successfully operates two low cost sterilization clinics, we are able to trap entire colonies without interruptions, regardless of the colony size and duration of the trapping effort. All cats are vaccinated and treated for any medical issues.

RECUPERATION—If the colony caregiver does not have the space or experience to care for feral cats, Forgotten Cats can care for the cats in our facility after surgery until they are ready to be released.

RELEASE—Once the sterilization and recuperation are complete, FC transports the cats back to the trapping location to be released and cared for by their caregiver.

FOOD AND SHELTER—Forgotten Cats provides training to you as to the proper management of free roaming cats. We can help you obtain feral cat houses and food as needed to ensure the cats are properly cared for.

To get help, visit our website at forgottencats.org and click on "Your Colony," then "TNR Assistance." Scroll down to fill out the web form. You can also leave a message on our hotline: (302) 429-0124. Fees for TNR of feral colonies depend on colony size and your ability to pay.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

- ◆ There are approximately 88.3 million owned cats in the United States
- ◆ Nearly 34 percent of U.S. households own a cat
- ◆ Fifty-six percent of those households have multiple cats
- ◆ Eighteen percent were adopted from an animal shelter
- ◆ There are more female pet cats than male cats
- ◆ Eighty-seven percent of owned cats are spayed or neutered
- ◆ An unsprayed female cat can have up to 3 litters in a year, with an average of 4-6 kittens per litter
- ◆ Each year, six to eight million cats and dogs enter U.S. shelters
- ◆ Three to four million of them are killed for lack of homes

Source:
The Humane Society of the United States

SAVING MICKEY **Part II**

By Cher Goodchild

In Part I, Cher shared her story of finding a horribly injured stray senior cat with FIV, whom she named Mickey. After months of medical care, Cher was forced by her partner to give Mickey up to another foster home. The story continues one year later in 2007...

Life is kind of like something out of a movie these days. Huge changes are all happening at once. I am growing, I am happy and I have learned a lot over the past three years.

In retrospect, I made a lot of concessions. I conformed. I accepted things I wouldn't have, normally. I was unhappy. I gave up my soul - and I gave up my animals.

I am in a new house. I am comfortable here. I am making new rules. The very first rule in my new house? Make amends to Mickey!

I called Marge to see if Mickey had been adopted or moved. Much to my amazement, he was still right there with her. A guy like him is a pretty hard fella to adopt out, considering that he takes a bit of care and compassion. He looks decrepit and is an old, old man. This turned out to be lucky for me, in

this case! Marge told me that Mickey was alive and well, but was kind of lonely. She had to keep him separate from the others as he has some special circumstances that required special care. He had a nice comfy place with lots of natural light. I cried.

I let Marge know that I was on my way over to pick him up and bring him home! My life had come full circle. I was able to fix what I had broken and start over! God had given me a second chance. Mickey will never leave my side again.

Mickey is doing very well today. He is home, safe and sound and fat and happy. He sleeps with my dog, Femi (also a rescue), and loves to eat. We've had some minor surgeries over the past six months, but by the time all is said and done, Mickey will be one happy, healthy cat!



Despite being "damaged goods," Mickey provided a lifetime lesson in love.

Today, I thank God for the blessings in my life. I have wonderful friends, a beautiful family and all of my lovely "mutts" to cuddle and adore. I am, once again, volunteering for Forgotten Cats. I have Mickey.

In all of the obstacles Mickey had to overcome, he still loved and trusted unconditionally. He never gave up on me or anyone else.

Postscript: After nearly two more years spent together, Cher was with Mickey when he crossed over the Rainbow Bridge in February 2009. She wrote:

Monday night I had to have Mickey put to sleep. It was awful. We've been through so much stuff together and he was such a good guy. But he couldn't fight illness anymore - his leg was starting to get pretty bad... We went to the vet 5 times in the last few weeks and then to a surgeon and there was nothing they could do. I sobbed for hours and I held him as he went to sleep. He was purring.

The entire Forgotten Cats family sends its condolences to Cher. Thank you to Mickey and Cher for demonstrating the limitless love of the human-pet bond.

Forgotten Cats Merchandise

Wide Variety Now Available

Visit our online store at
<http://www.cafepress.com/forgottencats>

for a wide variety of T-shirts and other merchandise—even skivvies!—with cat artwork and the FC logo. Show off your love for cats and support our rescue work!



Now Taste This: FORGOTTEN CATS COFFEES AND TEAS

Choose your favorite variety for everyday drinking at home or work. Give Forgotten Cats gourmet coffee and tea for birthdays and just-because presents. Doing good never tasted so great!

Cool for Cats Blend - The intriguing aroma of chocolate and subtle spice draws you into this perfect blend of light roasted Brazil and dark roasted Colombian Supremo. This blend provides the best of two distinct roasting levels – the deep flavor and fragrance of the dark roast, and the light sweetness and tangy, medium acidity of a lighter profile. Luscious caramels complimented by mild spicy notes with a smooth, silky body are the cornerstone of this blend. \$11.50/12 oz. bag (whole bean or ground).



Calm Cats Blend (Decaffeinated) - Decaf version of Cool for Cats Blend. \$11.50/12 oz. bag (whole bean or ground).



Black Cat Blend - The crucial component of any espresso is its crema, the golden foam of sugars and oils that gives espresso its characteristic sweetness and concentrates its flavor. This blend of Sumatran, Colombian, Costa Rican, & Guatemalan coffees produce a superiorly thick, rich head of crema. Its earthy aroma foreshadows its sweet chocolate flavor, and its full body has the famous smoothness of Milanese silk with a tanginess that hits the front of the tongue. It's a great blend for straight shots or in milk. \$11.50/12 oz. bag (whole bean or ground).



Hot Tea—Our Hot Tea bags are a classic English Breakfast Blend. \$8.50/package of 15 tea bags.

Iced Tea—Our Iced Tea bags are a blend of black teas chosen to taste great iced. \$4.50/package of five one-gallon large iced tea bags. (That's less than \$1 a gallon!)

Current Retail Locations:

MAGPiE Tea Garden
1715 Delaware Ave.
Wilmington, DE
(302) 654-2911

Pooches and Purrs
116 S. Main Street
North East, MD
(888) 272-0207

GiggyBites Bakery
Old Ridge Village
Shoppes
100 Ridge Road
Chadds Ford, PA
(610) 358-DOGS

Alexis Hair Design
1007 N. Market St.

Hotel DuPont Bldg.
Wilmington, DE
(302) 655-4303



**Check our
website as
we add
more
stores!**

New Advertising Program to Aid Cats

Dear Supporters,

We have some exciting news to share with you! **The News Journal Program** is ready to launch as a brand new ongoing way for us to raise much needed funds. This program will work by asking business sponsors to buy an ad in the News Journal, which will prominently feature adoptable Forgotten Cats. The ad will be split in half, with the top half featuring our cats up for adoption and the bottom half listing all of our business sponsors. Each sponsor receives a space equivalent to the size of a business card, which they can use to promote themselves and show they support our mission.

Plus, the businesses will receive this ad space at a discounted rate! Each sponsor will pay just \$75 a month, which is \$25 off the normal price. The News Journal has a target audience of about 120,000 people (in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey), so this is a great opportunity for a business to get some great exposure at a low price, all while supporting a great cause!

In order to launch this program and run our ad, we need six business

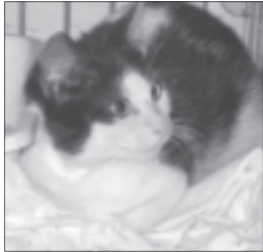
sponsors to participate. **We already have 3 businesses committed to the program, but we need your help in finding 3 more!** This program promises to really aid in our mission of finding good homes for cats by giving us a regular presence in the main section of the News Journal. And the best part is that the ad will not cost Forgotten Cats anything!

Please help by contacting me directly with information on any business that you think may be interested in sponsoring this program. Ideally, you should first contact the business yourself just to see if it's okay for us to call and talk to them about the program. I can promise you there will be no "hard sell" – this is a good program and it will sell itself.

Think about trusted colleagues, contractors that you use regularly or any other business that you patronize frequently. I'm looking forward to receiving your leads and getting this program launched together!

John Fedele, Fundraising Chairman
jpfedele@comcast.net or (302) 475-3282

FORGOTTEN CATS' MOST WANTED



The cats featured here are three of Forgotten Cats' longest-term fosters.

WILLIE

(SPECIAL NEEDS)

I was found living outside with a bunch of stray cats in Delaware City. A nice lady rescued me and brought me to FC. I have been neutered and given all my shots and was blood tested for the various cat diseases. Unfortunately the blood test for FIV came back positive. I am a healthy, happy young cat, and am presently in foster care receiving lots of love and attention to help me overcome my shyness. Won't you make my wishes come true and adopt me? I promise you a lifetime of love and companionship and will keep you amused. I can live just as long and healthy a life as any other cat, as long as I am well-cared for in a stable home.

LUCILLE

As calicos go, I am one of a kind. I am a tiny cat, as you can see, but I got really thin during my time outdoors as a stray. I ended up in someone's driveway, and they took me in for awhile until I was placed in foster care. My foster mom just loved me. I have so much energy, and she would let me run and give me hugs. We would even have conversations. I was then adopted by a nice person who had another cat, and I lived with them for about a year. My housemate was killed by a dog, and I grieved so much that my owner gave me up. I am back in foster care, but I can't quite find my place there. I really need to be back in a home where I can get more attention, and relax a little.

MARTHA

I am about 5-6 years old. I once had a nice, comfortable home along with my kitten, George. But my owner passed away. I didn't understand what was happening as we were put outside. I wish my owner's family had honored them by caring for me! Being on the outside looking in is heartbreaking. Luckily, Forgotten Cats rescued us. In foster care, I have become trusting again. I am shy but sweet and am ready to find a new warm home of her own. Sadly, black cats are often looked over for "flashier" models. I need someone to take a chance on me and let me slowly blossom into the loyal, loving pet I know I can be again.

To "virtually" meet dozens more of our home-fostered Forgotten Cats, please visit our website, forgottencats.org, and click on "Adoption," then "Cat Gallery."

You can also find us on Petfinder.com by searching our name.

A personal meeting can be arranged with any of our foster cats.

Adoption Center Locations

Delaware

Christiana PetSmart (next to Home Depot)
1291 Churchman's Road, Rt. 4
Christiana, DE 19713

Brandywine PetSmart (next to Target)
3010 Brandywine Parkway
Wilmington, DE 19803

Pennsylvania

Jenkintown PetSmart
901 Old York Rd
Jenkintown, PA 19046

Willow Grove PETCO
(between Michael's & Ross)
2522 West Moreland Road
Willow Grove, PA



WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.FORGOTTENCATS.ORG



THE NEWSLETTER
OF FORGOTTEN
CATS, INC.

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4001 Kennett Pike, Suite 134
Greenville, DE 19807

Phone: 302-429-0124
Fax: 302-475-1579
E-mail: info@forgottencats.org

**And homeless, outside your door I
stood...with no name...hungry, and afraid**

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VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME, TALENT, LOVE

Forgotten Cats is an essentially all-volunteer organization.

Without volunteers we would be unable to accomplish our goals of trapping, neutering, and releasing stray and feral cats, medically treating young, pregnant, sick and injured cats, and finding homes for kittens and cats who would be best served in a loving home. Please consider volunteering in one of several ways—is there room enough in your heart? Training is provided.



Clinic Volunteers: Every cat in Forgotten Cats system starts its journey at the clinic. We are in desperate need of help. Just a few hours of your time will make the difference between life and death for many of these cats. Please consider this opportunity. You can help with the following: Intake and discharge; surgery prep and assis-

tance; medical record-keeping; feeding; cleaning; instrument sterilization; laundry.

Fosters: Forgotten Cats is in desperate need of people to help foster the steady flow of cats and kittens that come into our system monthly. Fostering can be a short-term (a few weeks) or long-term (several months) commitment. Forgotten Cats, like most no-kill groups, has a long waiting list of animals that need to be fostered before they can be placed up for adoption. Would you be able to open your heart and home to just one kitten, or maybe a litter and their mom? Forgotten Cats provides training for you, medical care for the cats, and supplies as needed. You and your family supply the love and socialization they need to get a great start in life and find their forever home!

Adoption Centers: Volunteers are needed at our four adoption centers, located inside area PetSmart and Petco stores (see page 7 for locations). During your volunteer

shift, you care for and play with the adoptable cats and kittens, make sure their cages are clean, greet the public, and help cats and kittens find their forever homes! Volunteering with a family member or friend is a great bonding experience. It's a great summer volunteer job for older teens and looks good on college applications, too.

Other Duties: We need volunteers in all other areas of our operation, including fundraising and publicity, trapping and feeding feral cat colonies, transporting cats, and more. We need your talent!

To Volunteer: Visit our website at forgottencats.org and click on "Volunteer" to fill out a web form. Or, call our hotline at 302-429-0124 (Delaware) or 215-219-8148 (Pennsylvania) and leave a message with your name, contact information, and areas of interest. You can also stop by one of our adoption centers to fill out a volunteer interest form.