We Want to Hear from You!

If you have an idea for an article or have a story to share about a rescue, special volunteer, your adoption center or recent adoptions from Forgotten Cats, please share, send photos and/or story to: calleycat1@comcast.net

MARCH 2019 STATUS UPDATE:
We sterilized 1,091 cats and placed 106 cats into loving forever homes!

Poe - A Tale of a Shy Cat
by Angie Moretti

In October of 2016, we found a very skittish yet sweet cat in our backyard. Lonely and hungry, he decided to trust us and let us feed him. We learned after asking around in our neighborhood that this cat had been abandoned and left behind when his old family moved in June of that year. Fast forward to November and we have a new cat named Poe inside our house.

On a side note, Poe had both FIV and FeLV, so he was considered unadoptable. Our vet told us that he usually puts these cats to sleep. But
Poe was healthy at the time and he still is. We did not have it in our hearts to put down a cat that is capable of living happily, even if it isn’t for as long as a normal cat. In fact, after much care from us, Poe shed FeLV! He still has FIV, but with lots of attention to his medical needs, he will live a good life.

Even though we could tell he was scared outside, it quickly became apparent just how traumatized Poe was once he was in our house. He jumped at every sound. His tail was always tucked between his legs. He hid behind my desk and couldn’t come out into the open of my room until my room’s door was closed. He was even scared of toys. He existed in my room for a few good weeks, with only glimpses of the rest of the house.

When he’s comfortable, Poe is an angel. His love for being pet is unmatched. He slowly blinks at me or he will bunt against me to show affection. He now loves to play with little mice toys. He sings operas for his breakfast and dinner. He sleeps on my pillow at night.

And slowly but surely, Poe crawled outside of his shell. He started with the hallway just outside my bedroom. Then the downstairs when no one was awake. This process took literal months, but now you can see that he is relaxing in our downstairs window, happy and content. He’s still a scaredy cat, but the progress is inarguable.

I wanted to tell you all of this because many people do not consider the shy cats when adopting. They often overlook them in favor of the more confident ones. Confident cats are just as good as any other cat, but they do not have trouble getting adopted. It is the shy cats, the traumatized cats, that people tend to brush aside. Maybe it’s because they worry about a challenge, or maybe it’s because they fear the cat will never be happy. Both these concerns are valid and should always be considered when adopting a cat.
I won’t argue that having a shy or traumatized cat is not a challenge. It is, and if someone isn’t up to it, they are never obligated to take up such a challenge. But I can say that nurturing and caring for a shy cat is a reward in and of itself. Maybe they might never be “confident,” but with love and support, they can be happy. And when they are happy, they are wonderful and amazing companions.

So please always consider the shy ones. Not just cats, but any animal that needs it. It might take some time, but you can find a great pet behind their fear and anxiety.

Thank you for reading this!

When a cat arrives at Forgotten Cats and tests positive for feline leukemia they are NOT euthanized. Unlike many shelters, we don’t give up on them. We hold them in our shelter for 60 days in hopes that their bodies will shed the virus. After 60 days, they are retested. Many times, they have successfully shed the virus! On the occasions when they do not shed the virus, they are placed in a forever foster home. Though their time on this earth is shorter than the average cat, they can live happily and healthily for years until the infected cat’s health will progressively deteriorate. At that time, our vet humanely euthanizes the cat.

Volunteer Spotlight - Kelly Esposito
by Stacey Rymkiewicz

Kelly Esposito began volunteering with Forgotten Cats approximately 12 years ago. This came to be as she reached out to seven or eight different organizations to borrow traps and a van for a feral colony desperately in need of trapping near her shore house in Delaware.

Over the years Kelly has taken on several different roles within the organization including, but not limited to trapping, new volunteer trainer, adoption counselor and is now the Adoption Manager at the King of Prussia PetSmart. Her greatest role has been to do a great deal of both cat and kitten fostering. She specializes in feral mama cats with kittens, special needs cats/kittens and un-socialized cats/kittens.
Kelly has a way about her that has even been referred to as the “Cat Whisperer” which has definitely come in handy picking out and socializing the cats that are brought to the center for adoption.

In her current role as the KOP PetSmart’s Adoption Manager, Kelly visits the center daily, administers medications (if necessary), trains new volunteers, transports cats/kittens to and from the center and performs the finalized adoptions. Kelly has a great support team in the hard working and dedicated volunteers that she has at King of Prussia. They have taken on a great deal of responsibilities which has helped her quite a bit and she couldn’t do what she does without her team. Kelly also played an integral role in establishing the Brookhaven PetSmart Adoption Center. She filled the space with adoptable cats and assisted with building a strong volunteer base, who have continued to make the Brookhaven adoption center a success.

Kelly was born and raised in Pennsylvania (in the King of Prussia area). She currently lives in Oaks, PA with her husband Chris, her son Christopher (16 YO), her son Nathan (8 YO), her three Golden Retrievers (Bud-Bud, Daisy aka Mama and Cooper aka Pup-Pup) and her five rescue cats (Azul, Drake, Lil Wayne, Oliver and Greyson) YES...all of the cats are from Forgotten Cats!

Kelly has experience in working as an EMT/Fireman for 10+ years at the Goodwill Fire Department in Bridgeport and Swedeland Fire Department in King of Prussia, as a Rescue Diver with the Norristown Diving Unit, as CNA and Reiki Specialist at Valley Forge Medical Center and Hospital (Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation) specializing in pain management and as a cake/dessert/cookie decorator for both Costco Wholesale and Corropolese Bakery.

Currently, Kelly is a self-employed massage/reiki specialist for over 20 years. She specializes in clients that are suffering from painful medical issues and/or sports (she used to work with Villanova Athletics) related injuries. However, she can also provide a much needed relaxation or geriatric massage if that’s more your speed. She’s definitely known for her very powerful and healing hands.

A truly special fun fact about Kelly is that she and Chris have also opened their homes to two very special foster children Stephon (23 YO) and Christopher (26 YO) which are cousins. Stephon has spent time with them on and off since he was 8 months old and Christopher on and off since he was 4 years old. These two young men have added something so very special to their family over the years. Not to mention that Stephon has provided Kelly with her first grandson, Jayden (3 YO/May) and even though they live in Florida, they visit as often as humanly possible.

Kelly and her entire family have dedicated so much of their lives to animal
rescue and especially Forgotten Cats. This type of rescue wouldn’t be possible without the loving, caring, hard work that Kelly provides on a daily basis.

We truly can’t thank Kelly enough for all that she has done for us and our cats/kittens!

Adoption Story-Barn Cats

In early February, Forgotten Cats received a call from a caregiver of a colony we had previously TNVR’d. She was in a panic and desperately needed help. Sadly, her neighbor was trying to poison her colony cats.

First and foremost, we needed to get these cats to safety. So, we jumped into action and immediately re-trapped her colony cats. Once in our care, we started contacting barns. These kitties would make great rodent technicians! It only took just a few days until we found the perfect place to send them. A week later, a volunteer transported them to their new home: a beautiful barn with a variety of animals, lots of land to do kitty things (hide, play, run), and two compassionate and caring barn owners.

Kathy, the new mama reports, "They come and go as they please via cat door. Out and about during good weather....hang inside if a rainy day. Little grey kitty....whimsy...is most friendly. She talks to us when we are at the barn in the evening and goes here and there in our travel patterns. Like she knows our scent and is trying to guess where we might go next. Lucas is her boyfriend. :) She runs to meet him when he comes home and they swoon each other and rub and nose together. Little black kitty goes on her
own. We don’t see her much, but she lets us see her now and again to know she is ok.” These cats had a rough start, but they sure are living the good life now.

We are always in need of barn homes to relocate feral and semi-feral cats from dangerous situations. If you are looking for a barn cat, please email us at info@forgottencats.org.

It’s a Kitten!

Help us prepare for kitten season by joining Forgotten Cats for a Kitten Shower Donation Drive!

Stop by Brandywine, Christiana, and Brookhaven PetSmart to drop off a “gift” for our newborns!

You aren’t near one of these PetSmarts and still want to participate? Check out our Amazon Wish list. Your kitten gift will be shipped directly to one of our shelters!

Trainee Clinic Wish List:
https://www.amazon.com/…/w…/ls/WFLEDZL66BQW/ref=cm_go_nav_hz

Willow Grove Clinic Wish List:
https://www.amazon.com/…/w…/ls/WDR91QHOSORM/ref=cm_go_nav_hz

Because we will have hundreds of kittens this spring & summer, PetSmart will be hosting our Kitten Shower for the entire month of April!

Brandywine PetSmart
3010 Brandywine Pkwy
Wilmington, DE 19803

Christiana PetSmart
1291 Churchmans Rd
**Upcoming Events | April-May**

**Month of April**

**Kitten Shower Donation Drive**
Brandywine, Christiana and Brookhaven PetSmarts or Donate Online
*(See article above for details)*

**MAY 4**

**7th Annual Spring Shopping Event**
Ten Thousand Villages-Wilmington, DE
11:00 am-4:00 pm

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**Full-time Volunteer Foster Coordinator is Needed Immediately for Our Trainer Facility**

This is a Core Volunteer position and requires a time commitment of **15 hrs/week**, sometimes more.

The time commitment is BIG (**15 hours+ per week**) but the rewards (**cats will find homes and not be returned to the streets**) are also Big. **Training is provided for this position.**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE SEND EMAIL TO:** info@forgottencats.org
**AND ALSO INCLUDE A CONTACT PHONE NUMBER.**

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**Lets Keep in Touch!**

302-429-0124 (DE)
215-219-8148 (PA)

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Greenville, DE 19807

Visit our website at
www.forgottencats.org