

# FORGOTTEN Cats



JULY  
News

2019

Forgotten Cats, Inc.



## JUNE 2019 STATUS UPDATE:

We sterilized **885** cats and placed **167** cats into loving forever homes!

## We Want to Hear from You!

If you have an idea for an article or have a story you would like to share about a rescue, special volunteer, your adoption center or recent adoptions from Forgotten Cats, please send photos if possible and/or story to: [calleycat1@comcast.net](mailto:calleycat1@comcast.net) and/or [info@forgottencats.org](mailto:info@forgottencats.org)



## Bringing a New Cat or Kitten Home for the First Time

It can be challenging to bring home a new cat or kitten home for the first time. Many cats or kittens have never been in a home before so they will be curious and will need time to get used to a new home.

### Here are a Few Tips To Make the Adjustment Easier:

- **Prepare a safe room.** A safe starter room or sanctuary for the new cat will provide the cat with the quiet and safety s/he needs while becoming familiar with the scents and sounds of your home. The starter room can be any size but must have a secure door and ceiling.
- **Cat-proof the safe room.**
- **Give kitty a place to hide.** New cats are often nervous and like to

hide. Cardboard boxes or sheets draped over chairs make ideal hiding spots when you first bring kitty home. If you've adopted a shy cat, we recommend removing large items of furniture from the room, such as beds and dressers. It is much easier to interact with a cat hiding in a box than a cat hiding under a bed.

- **Help your new cat get to know you.** Place a t-shirt or a piece of your clothing that contains your scent in the safe room.
- **Equip the safe room with cat food, water and litter.** Place food and water on one side of the room and an open (unenclosed) litter box on the other side. Shyer cats may not eat much during the first 24 to 48 hours and may experience temporary diarrhea from stress. If your cat has not eaten in 48 hours, try some extra tasty treats such as canned tuna or salmon. If this is not successful, you may want to consult your veterinarian for advice.
- **Give your new cat a new post.** Put a new scratching post (at least one metre tall) inside the safe room. Scratching is a natural and comforting behaviour for cats. It's also important that the scratching post is new and has not been used by other cats. Your new cat does not want to be stressed by the smells of other cats while s/he is first adapting to his or her new surroundings.
- **Feliway saves the day.** If your new cat is an adult, you can use a store-bought product called Feliway. Feliway imitates natural cat pheromones and helps a new cat feel more comfortable. Feliway comes in a spray and diffuser form.
- **Give your cat some cat toys for entertainment.** Provide toys such as mice and balls in the safe room for when you are not around.
- **Spend time with your new cat.** In the beginning, visit frequently for short periods of time. Visiting can mean interacting directly with the new cat in the form of play or petting, or quietly reading a book or chatting on the telephone in the same space as your new companion. Keep in mind that a nervous cat may growl, hiss, twitch its tails or pull its ears back. The best response is to speak softly followed by giving the cat some time alone.
- **Transition beyond the safe room.** When you and your new cat have established a trusting relationship, the cat is ready to begin exploring the house. Be sure to begin this process when you are home to supervise. Close most of the doors so the cat begins its orientation in stages. Too many new spaces at once can be stressful and frightening. If you've adopted a shy cat, be sure not let it in the basement for many weeks. Most basements have many hiding places—some inaccessible to humans.
- **Ready to explore the roost.** Remember, integration into the rest of the house is dependent on the personality of your new cat (as well as your existing pets). Sometimes the integration process can begin in just two to four days; however, sometimes it is best to wait a couple weeks. Shy cats in particular may need a longer integration period.

# Michelle Ralph

By Megan Dively Lehman



## **Tell me a little bit about yourself.**

My name is Michelle Ralph, and I am a three-year volunteer at the West Bradford Petco in West Chester, PA. I volunteer on Wednesday evenings and every other Sunday. I have also fostered, but not as much as I would like given my professional and family commitments. I am a home care occupational therapist and small private practice owner. I live in West Chester with my husband, Kevin. I love spending time with my parents, siblings and friends at my home for Sunday dinners. I knit every Thursday with a fab group of friends and enjoy my vegetable gardens in the summer.

## **When and how did you start volunteering for Forgotten Cats?**

I started volunteering with Forgotten Cats about three years ago. A feral cat had 4 kittens in my neighbor's back yard and soon brought them over to me. I reached out to **Forgotten Cats** for trapping advice and was able to trap Momma and her kittens. Momma has a new home in the country now, and two of the kittens were adopted by friends. The other two kittens were taken to the SPCA. I was very overwhelmed with how to compassionately care for them. Nancy Simes was very instrumental with helping me trap two additional feral cats and getting them the appropriate medical care. Every time I trap, I have a crying meltdown even though I know it's the right thing to do.

## **What volunteer work have you done for FC?**

I regularly volunteer Wednesday evenings and every other Sunday at West Bradford Petco in West Chester. We are a small but mighty team of dedicated volunteers who come together under the leadership of Julie O'Leary. We support each as best we can with schedule flexibility, vetting applications, tracking the well being of our rescues, and marketing Forgotten Cats to the public.

### **What is your favorite thing about working with FC?**

So many things! I **LOVE** the cats. I love seeing their personalities emerge and working together as a volunteer team to make sure they are getting play time, monitoring their health, and welcoming visitors. Even though our cages are in the back of the store, we have a presence. It's about inviting those customers to pet a cat, know about our mission and consider adoption. Once they see our cats, my job is easy!

### **What do you wish the public knew about animal rescue?**

How very rewarding it is! It doesn't take much time out of your schedule. It's better than staring at social media. It connects you to an awesome community of like-minded people. To cuddle a cat that has been rescued is one of the best feelings in the world. There is an overwhelming need to educate about spay and neuter, over and over again. Forgotten Cats fights for those cats who have been kicked to the curb. It can make you cry and feel defeated, or it can rally you to fight the good fight.

### **We all know that working with animals can be quite unpredictable! Tell me something funny or unusual that has happened while volunteering.**

I am always amazed at the athletic prowess of our cats. We have an ample play area and to watch them run around and chase play mice, feather , and laser pointers while leaping over cardboard boxes or scratching posts with sheer joy is such fun. I am especially grateful when I see a shy cat blossom into a love bug.

### **What animals do you share your home and heart with?**

Hendrix, Clapton, and Zippy Zoey (my failed FC foster).

### **What else do you enjoy besides volunteering? Any interesting hobbies or secret talents?**

I am an avid knitter and gardener.

### **Is there anything else you'd like to share about yourself or FC?**

It is an amazing army of dedicated and compassionate people. I am so glad they rescued me!

**Thank You Michelle for All You Do for Forgotten Cats!**

**Happy Endings for Tortie**



In the summer of 2014, a mother cat and her kittens appeared suddenly in our neighborhood. I got glimpses of them, but they never came to my house. However, some neighbors fed them when they came onto their property. The cats wouldn't let anyone near them. We all thought they were feral. With the help of **Forgotten Cats** I managed to trap the mother. It took several months, but sadly the kittens were gone. One was found dead, the others disappeared.

Forgotten Cats picked up the mother cat, a calico/tortie, spayed her and gave her shots, then released her to me. We put food on our porch, and eventually, she'd show up several times a day and eat, but she ran when she saw us. That was in October. Worried about her, when we went away in November, we arranged for a neighbor to feed her on our porch. My husband and I ordered a custom house for her, figuring she'd spend the winter outside.

As I continued to feed her, she didn't run away. I called her **Tortie**, and talked to her when she waited for food on our porch. She'd listen and cry, as if to answer me. One day she shocked me by rubbing against my ankles and letting me pet her. After two months on our porch, I held the door open one evening and she ran in the house. She was nervous, looked around, and ran out. I had another cat, an indoor cat, who thankfully never saw Tortie at this time. Finally, in December 2014, I let Tortie in, closed the door, and she's been with us ever since. We realized she wasn't feral, but just a scared, abandoned little cat. She had PTSD for the first year she lived with us. She literally slept with one eye open. She jumped at everything. She's calm now, and extremely affectionate. She's an indoor cat who I've trained to walk on a leash. She seems to understand we saved her life. Sadly, my other sweet cat died the next year of cancer. I got a kitten from DHA a few months later. Tortie and the new cat mostly get along.



## Here are Some Special Cats Ready for their Forever Homes!



### **Gloria**

(FCID# 05/22/2018 - 103 Willow Grove)  
Adult • F

Waiting over a year for her forever home!!! Please say Hi! to Gloria (FCID# 05/22/2018 - 103)! Gloria is a feisty little bundle of cattitude. Sweet little girl that just wants love, attention and lots of room to run around and play. She loves her little stuffed mice and will bat them all over the place and chase them. She also loves to climb, so cat condos are her favorite hangout. She is a little sweetheart, and once you get to know her, a purring bundle of fun. She does tolerate other cats, but would be better as an only cat, since she wants all of your attention. She is a real purr machine for single cat home. **Does Gloria sound like the cat for you?**

Please submit a no-obligation adoption application to meet her. Thank you!  
<http://www.forgottencats.org/application.php>.  
(Foster: Willow Grove)

View this pet on [Petfinder](#) • Fill out an [application](#) for Gloria



## Sparkles

(FCID# 11/03/2017-112)

Adult • F

Waiting for a quiet forever home since **November 2017!!! What a beauty!** Sparkles (FCID# 11/03/2017- 112) is a gorgeous gray adult. Sparkles is extremely shy but very sweet once she gets to know you. She likes to sit next to you but not on you. For some reason, she does not like being picked up and can be nippy as a reminder warning. Here is Sparkles's story: A lady begged FC to take Sparkles and her 3 kittens. She said the person who found them was cruel and abused them. Sparkles's foster states that she acts abused; one of the kittens that is now

an adult acts the same way. We do not know what happened to Sparkles and her kittens before she was rescued, but she was traumatized and is a damaged kitty. UPDATE: Sparkles has come a long way. She is shy and afraid of anything bigger than very small dog. She now seeks human attention and is sweet. Can coexist with other female cats and kittens but is very afraid of large male cats. This pretty girl is at her foster's home. **Her possible ideal forever home may be with a retired person who can focus only on Sparkles. Could this be YOU?** Would you like to meet her and offer a spot for her to sit next to you?

Please submit a no-obligation adoption application. Thank you!

<http://www.forgottencats.org/application.php>.

(Foster: Julie T.)

View this pet on [Petfinder](#) • Fill out an [application](#) for Sparkles (FCID# 11/03/2017-112).

There are many other cats looking for fostering or forever homes  
<http://www.forgottencats.org/adoptiongallery.php>

**We are in Desperate Need of Fosters!**



**The difference between the kittens shown above living on the streets, and those living in a home can come down to Foster Care.**

**You can make the difference in their lives!**

This is the time of year when we bring in hundreds of cats and kittens every week. Currently, we are inundated with nursing mothers and babies. If fosters are not available, we are forced in most cases, to return the mom and kittens to where they were living outside. We would prefer to put them in foster homes and then, once old enough, into our adoption centers in PetSmart, Petco, and Pet Supplies Plus. The kittens we would like fostered range in age from a few days old to a few weeks. We also have "bottle babies" and weaned babies without their mother.

**Every day counts! We Need Your Help.**

They can be kept in a large dog crate, which we will provide. All you need to do is provide food and water for the mom and clean her litter box once/day. They can stay in a basement, bathroom, or any spare room in your home. The crate is about 2' X 3' and can sit on the floor or table. The kittens will be ready for adoption in a few weeks' time and at that point we will take mom and kittens back.

**If you or someone you know wants to foster or if you need more information, please send an email to [info@forgottencats.org](mailto:info@forgottencats.org) ASAP and we will be in touch very soon.**

*\*\*We are also seeking fosters for adult cats as well.*

**We Have Exciting News to Share!**

In May 2018, Forgotten Cats partnered



with [ACCT Philly](#) to provide FREE sterilizations, ear tips, and rabies vaccinations to community cats of Philadelphia in order to help reduce the homeless cat population. Since then, we have sterilized over 1600 cats from Philadelphia.

While this program is over, at Forgotten Cats, we are very excited to share that a generous investment from the [Petco Foundation](#) will allow us to continue humanely reducing the homeless cat population in Philadelphia! Forgotten Cats is now providing **FREE TNVR services in Philadelphia zip codes 19142 and 19143**. Call us today for TNVR assistance at 215-219-8148. *Package includes: humane trapping & transport, spay/neuter, rabies and FVRCP vaccines, parasite treatment, ear tip for feral cats. Please share!*



## Forgotten Cats is Looking for a New Operations Manager for our Trainer Clinic

**Forgotten Cats, Inc.** is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to humanely reduce the homeless cat population through trap, neuter, vaccinate and release. Our operation consists of a high volume surgical clinic and shelter servicing 4 states and 11 adoption centers. We are looking for a motivated individual to lead a team of



compassionate rescuers who make the extraordinary an ordinary occurrence every day as they provide the necessary surgery, medical care, and love for sick, injured, or abandoned cats. The successful candidate will be self managed and report directly to the President of Forgotten Cats. This is a challenging position with endless opportunities and rewards. We are looking for a part time or full time employee. The hours are flexible. The work involves both hands on and supervisory responsibilities.

### The Ideal Candidate **Must:**

- Have a **minimum of 1 year** of veterinary technician experience with hands on experience with cats
- Shelter experience a plus
- Is comfortable working with little direction/supervision
- Can think out of the box for creative solutions
- Is able to work in a fast paced environment
- Capable of managing a team of coworkers
- Can lift 30 lbs routinely
- Is computer literate and has access to the internet and a computer at

- home
- Experienced with Excel and Database software
- Be compassionate towards animals

Interested candidates should email a resume and an explanation as to why you are interested in this position to the President, Felicia Cross at [info@forgottencats.org](mailto:info@forgottencats.org)

## Our Brick Fundraiser is Still Going On!

You can purchase a brick to be added to our new pathway at Trainer clinic. Your purchase will directly support our efforts to spay and neuter the cats in Chester, PA. Our Development Director bought a brick in honor of her cat **Simba** and wanted to share his story with you.



*"Our dear beloved Simba was the first cat my husband and I adopted together. Oh, he was the best cat. The kind that would sleep in your bed and let you carry him around like a baby. He'd greet everyone that came to our house and was just a happy, lazy, big orange love bug. Simba took my "crazy cat lady" status to a whole new level. He is the reason I started volunteering with Forgotten Cats. He made me want to save more just like him. Except, I couldn't bring them all home-so I figured volunteering would be great way to make a difference. Crippled with illness, Simba passed away 2 short years after we adopted him. **Everything I've done through this organization has been in his honor.** I have touched thousands of cats' lives and I'm grateful he introduced me to Forgotten Cats (I was buying his cat food when I saw their adoption center inside the Christiana PetSmart).*

*I am SO happy and touched that I could purchase a brick in his honor. Not only did the purchase of Simba's brick save yet another life (a Chester cat), but his name is now permanently etched in a pathway that literally leads homeless cats directly into a facility where they are no longer forgotten." You can honor a beloved pet like Simba too! We are creating a tribute pathway that will lead to the front doors of our recently renovated Trainer facility. Through the purchase of a brick you can remember a beloved pet who has crossed the Rainbow Bridge, honor a current pet, or pay tribute to a family member or friend. The best part is that with the purchase of a brick, you will also be saving the life of a homeless cat.*

*Over the years, Forgotten Cats has been conducting Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, and Release (TNVR) in Chester, PA. Through our work in this city, we have seen and heard of multiple cruelty cases against stray cats*

*and kittens. We estimate there to be over 2,500 homeless cats in desperate need of help. 100% of the proceeds from this fundraiser will go directly to helping the Chester cats. We would greatly appreciate your help in raising the funds for this much needed TNVR project."*

There are two (2) brick sizes offered for purchase. We have a 4"x8" brick for \$100 and an 8"x8" brick for \$300. The website and form include engraving details.

**With the purchase of a brick, you will pave the way to safety and security for homeless cats.**

Order your brick today at: <https://4everbricks.com/donors/FC/>

## Upcoming Events- August



### AUGUST 24

Yoga with Kittens  
YogaFit Studios  
Horsham, PA  
12:30 pm-2:30 pm

Contact YogaFit Studios directly to reserve your spot.  
215.795.4600 or  
[horsham@yogafitstudios.com](mailto:horsham@yogafitstudios.com)

**DONATE**

## Lets Keep in Touch!

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[www.forgottencats.org](http://www.forgottencats.org)