

FORGOTTEN Cats



FEBRUARY
News

Forgotten Cats, Inc.



2018



We Did It!

1,000 Adoptions

Sometimes people, working together, can accomplish things that don't seem possible. Such was the case over the past several months, when Forgotten Cats accepted the challenge to adopt 1000 cats into their new forever homes in five months. Previously, the annual figure for adoptions was 1000-1500 cats, so to do that many in less than half a year seemed impossible. Still, the lure of the extra **\$41,000 "Big Thanks" bonus offered by PetSmart Charities** was strong, as that money can do so much to help homeless cats and kittens, and prevent the birth of unwanted kittens.

Working from September 2017 to January 28, 2018,

WE MADE THE 1000 CAT ADOPTION GOAL!!!

Our volunteers came together as never before to work towards our goal. We had adoption events almost EVERY weekend since early November at our Christiana and Brandywine PetSmart stores. The King of Prussia store hit an all-time store high of 22 cats adopted in November, Jenkintown did 26 adoptions in ONE weekend in January, and Levittown kept a steady flow of kitties coming in and out of their doors. Even the new Brookhaven PetSmart, which opened in November, was able to contribute to our total numbers! Some volunteers put in over 35 hours at these events, many staying all day, even during the busy holiday season. It's remarkable what we were able to achieve when we all worked together with a common goal. For the first time ever, our clinics were ALMOST empty. We couldn't believe we were running out of cats. Team work, dedication, and love made this seemingly impossible challenge possible! Thanks to all of you for helping achieve this goal. These 1000 cats' lives are now changed forever, something you can reflect upon with pride and joy, as it could not have happened without our many very dedicated volunteers.

While we are not yet aware of another challenge from PetSmart Charities, we need to work each and every month to find homes for as many kitties as we can. Each adoption gives us space to help another kitty find its home. A great start to the year for adoptions is always the PetSmart National Adoption Events, which are held four times each year. There is lots of publicity about these events, and various other rescues join us in the store, working to find homes for homeless animals. The first of these events in 2018 is the weekend of February 16-19. All of our PetSmart FC locations will be planning events, most with extra kitties brought in especially for the event. It is always important for our volunteers to help with these events, and that often involves extra volunteers coming to the events to work with the event kitties and their potential adopters. While FC stages its own adoption events through the year, the PetSmart National Adoption events give us an additional publicity advantage, and plenty of store staff support. Please watch for local news of events at the location at which you volunteer.

Forgotten Cats has the best group of volunteers anywhere, and you prove it on a regular basis. Your accomplishment to find 1000 kitties homes in five months is simply amazing, just as all of you are.

**Thank you so much for caring for the kitties
and making sacrifices to help them find homes.
You will see the joy reflected in their faces as
we share their "Happy Ending" stories through the year.**

FUN FACT:

**Approximately 3.2 million
shelter animals are adopted
each year (1.6 million dogs
and 1.6 million cats).**



Volunteer Spotlight on Janet Cavallo

By Anne Meddings

The calls to the Forgotten Cats phone line keep coming. The callers request information about adoption, the status of adoption applications, about volunteering. They want to schedule a clinic appointment, or get TNR assistance. They ask what to do about that stray cat behind their office building, or some hungry kittens found under a shed, possibly orphaned. These are the normal day-to-day calls.



For phone volunteer Janet Cavallo, the saddest calls are from people wanting to surrender a family pet, like the man who wanted to give up his family's 20-year-old cat. The best calls are from people who just need assistance or someone to point them in the right direction. Janet fields the calls all day, all week, and in between calls she keeps up with the voicemail messages. It doesn't end.

While on the phone, she does a lot of educating - about the services Forgotten Cats provides, about TNR, community resources, and cats in general. She learned quickly that a thick skin is required for this position. Callers can get upset and even abusive when they do not get an answer they like. Such as when they learn that Forgotten Cats is not able to immediately dispatch someone to solve their cat situation. Fortunately for Janet, the appreciative people make up for the difficult callers. She finds it especially rewarding to help elderly people. They often lack the computer skills or access needed to obtain information online. Janet is happy to patiently assist them as best she can.

Janet volunteers 5-6 days per week from her home in Secane, Delaware County using a dedicated Forgotten Cats phone line. It's a full-time job. She covers all calls from Pennsylvania, and spends one day per week taking Delaware calls. There are now three other phone volunteers who help cover the Delaware calls. (For a period, Janet was handling all calls from both states by herself.) In addition, there are two volunteers who respond exclusively to online inquiries. The telephone volunteers schedule all clinic appointments for Trainer and Willow Grove. They also schedule all trapping jobs. There is such demand for trapping services that the waitlist is several weeks.

This position requires someone with extensive knowledge and information at their fingertips. Most of Janet's knowledge was gained on the job. She credits fellow volunteer Stacy Knox-Shetzline (Levittown & Willow Grove) with being a wonderful mentor and source of information. No matter what situation Janet asked her about, Stacy would know the right person to contact. Still, there were many things Janet had to research herself. Early on, she began creating detailed notes and spreadsheets. These tools have been invaluable resources to help her train the other phone volunteers. Janet is proud of the cohesive team of phone volunteers she has been instrumental in building.

Janet was born and raised in Upper Darby, PA. She received a degree in Radio-Television-Film (Communications) from Temple University. She put her skill as a videographer to good use when she began pursuing a passion for Native American rights in the 1990s while she was living in West Philadelphia. Janet was deeply involved as an activist in this cause for many years, and traveled the country to attend and film various events. The Walk Across America for Mother Earth in 1992 was a highlight of her life.

Her video work was shown on Drexel University Television ("Red Nations Report") and for a while she even hosted a regular program on Philadelphia-based TV station WYBE. Janet even created

and co-produced a 1999 documentary, "The Flickering Flame: The Life and Legacy of Chief Turkey Tayac," which is now at the Museum of the American Indian, part of the Smithsonian. She spent five long years on this project.

Janet shares her home with Cameron, a three-year-old rescue cat. He spends his mornings providing moral support while she does her volunteer work, but excuses himself every afternoon for a private nap in another part of the home. Janet is definitely a front-line volunteer who represents the organization to the public, yet she labors in relative obscurity from the privacy of her home. Therefore, we were pleased to have this opportunity to shine the Volunteer Spotlight on Janet Cavallo, who works so hard for Forgotten Cats. She is truly a valued volunteer who goes above and beyond, and we appreciate her!

Thank you for your service Janet!



Happy Endings!

For this month's adoption update, we felt it fitting to feature Bear, a kitty adopted during the Big Thanks Bonus. Bear and his brother Panda were in Forgotten Cats' care for a few months before they found their forever homes. Their loving personalities made them volunteer favorites! Panda went first, and then Bear found his forever home at the end of January.

Bear's new mama, Dara, shares this: *"Thank you so much for letting our family adopt the sweetest boy in the world! We were lucky enough to meet "Bear" at the Brookhaven PetSmart a couple weeks ago, and we fell in love with him instantly! My son and daughter absolutely adore him! Because of his bushy tail, we decided to name him after a panda from the movie, "Kung Fu Panda." So his new name is "Shifu!" He has been doing so well in his new fur-ever home and he got to meet our amazing vet last week, and he had a perfect checkup! Shifu loves playing with his new toys and*

lounging on his new cat tree. He's so cuddly and sweet! I just wanted to let you guys know how happy we all are, and just say thank you for doing so much to help these sweet babies! Your shelter is one of the best I have ever known, and you go above and beyond to ensure your cats find the perfect homes. We appreciate you all so much!"

We thank Dara for her kind words but we thank her even more for opening her heart and home to Bear!

STATUS UPDATE:

In January, we sterilized 570 cats and placed 253 cats in loving forever homes.

Visit our website at
www.forgottencats.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at these upcoming events.

February 17 & 18, 2018 - PetSmart National Adoption Event

Christiana, Brandywine, King of Prussia, Levittown, Brookhaven, and Jenkintown PetSmarts are participating.

February 25, 2018 - Painting with a Purpose

3:00 PM-5:00 PM

Newark, DE

Lets Keep in Touch!

302-429-0124 (DE)

215-219-8148 (PA)

4023 Kennett Pike, Suite 422

Greenville, DE 19807

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