

FORGOTTEN Cats

JANUARY
News

Forgotten Cats, Inc.



2018

Keeping Outdoor Cats Warm and Safe in the Winter

While, for now, the extreme cold weather we experienced over the holidays has moderated, knowing how to protect any outdoor cats you are caring for in winter is very important. Outdoor cats can live long healthy lives with proper care, including adequate food, water and shelter. Winter is far from over, and we hope you find the information below to Learn More helpful, which lists specific plans and hints for constructing winter and adverse weather shelters for outdoor kitties.

Living outdoors, cats begin to grow their warm fluffy "winter coats" around October, as the nights begin to get cooler. This takes a couple months so if a cat is newly outside, it is best for them to be outside when this cooling trend starts to adequately grow their coats for the winter. But, they need shelter from wind, snow, ice and cold to survive, and they appreciate having shelter so much. Outdoor shelter materials can be plastic storage crates lined with Styrofoam, repurposed frozen food coolers, and wooden houses built especially for this purpose. Straw is the best bedding for them, allowing them to burrow nice nests into it, and providing warmth and keeping them clean. Blankets become soggy, filthy and useless for warmth. Most shelters you construct will hold 2-3 cats per shelter, and even if they don't normally sleep together, in bitter cold they will huddle together for additional warmth. Ideally, the shelter is placed in a sheltered spot, under trees or brush, so it is both protected from winds, and less visible to people nearby, giving the cats a sense of security.

If there is access to electricity, there are a number of outdoor heated pads you can provide inside the shelters, many made by K&H Manufacturing (found on Amazon). They also sell a heated food/water bowl set, as wet food freezes soon, and like other animals, cats need an open water source, even in the most frigid weather. Another possibility for warming, but not ideal, is to purchase microwaveable discs (SnuggleSafe) that can stay warm for several hours. These can be placed in the shelter with the cats, or under water bowls, but in the coldest weather will still

**Does he visit
your backyard?**



**Help him by
installing an
OUTDOOR
CAT HOUSE**

freeze fairly quickly.

Below is a link to extensive information and construction plans for outdoor shelters, even those that can be put together very quickly for a surprise storm. They can be very inexpensive, or as funds permit, more durable, such as the wooden ones. You are already ensuring they have plenty of food and water (dry food is critical in freezing weather, as the wet food will freeze quickly), so why not provide them with the important survival need of shelter? Your outdoor kitties will greatly appreciate your efforts.

[Learn More!](#)



FUN FACT:

Black cats are considered bad luck in the United States, but they are good luck in the United Kingdom and Australia.



Linda & Henry

Volunteer Spotlight on Linda Auchinleck

By Anne Meddings

Linda Auchinleck was initially reluctant to participate in the Volunteer Spotlight. Like a number of individuals we have featured, she believes there are other volunteers who have more experience and more interesting duties within the organization. So I was pleased when she agreed to let me visit her at the Willow Grove clinic.

On a Friday in December, I met Linda on the second floor of the clinic. She works there with the cats awaiting placement in adoption centers or foster homes. She graciously welcomed me and introduced me to fellow volunteers Adam and Skylar, who help out on Fridays. The duo was busy trimming the nails of a white and grey kitten named Phillip.

I met a few of the resident cats (Joleen, Chubbs and Cupcake, Sarah Jane and Phillip) and learned their stories before Linda took me downstairs to show me the clinic area where a team was busy prepping cats for spay and neuter surgery.

Back upstairs, Linda took me into one of the cat rooms to meet more resident kitties. Adam and Skylar were working in this room. The three volunteers know the cats very well and could tell me their histories, personalities, preferences, and known medical issues. It's obvious they love the cats very much. Linda put me to work holding and cuddling Phillip the kitten, who was feeling lonely, while the volunteers went about their chores.

I accompanied Linda to another cat room where she really got down to business. She worked non-stop –opening cages, scooping boxes, cleaning up scattered litter, wiping down surfaces, emptying and wiping out bowls, changing linens, and tidying bedding. She stepped out of the room frequently - to wash her hands, gather supplies, answer questions from other volunteers, and report an ill cat (Noche) to the vet downstairs. In between all this, she told me about the cats in the room. There is Carter, a big tuxedo cat who is missing his best buddy Elias, recently adopted. Augie, who is a good boy but likes to taunt Jaxson for some reason. Henry, a rugged FIV+ boy with a sweet face is a favorite of hers, and she was happy to pose for a photo with him.

Linda first learned about Forgotten Cats when stopping by the clinic with a friend, who was bringing a cat to get spayed. Linda was intrigued. She asked about volunteering opportunities and they had her start the next day! Linda has now been with Forgotten Cats for two years, and finds it very rewarding to care for the cats. She works two days a week at Willow Grove, helping out more as needed. She also volunteers at the new Pet Valu adoption center in Jenkintown.

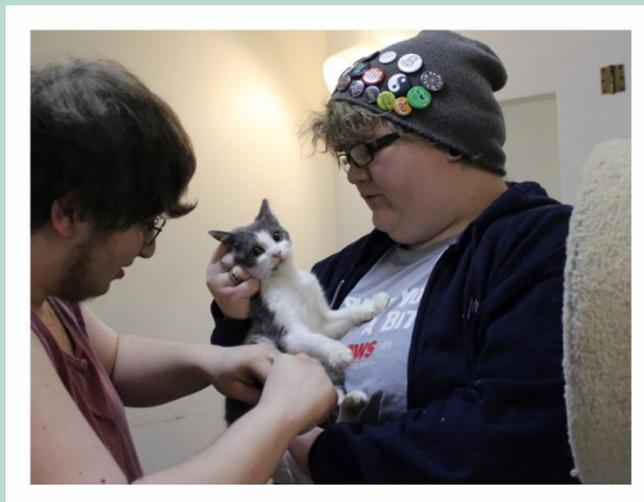
Linda grew up in Cheltenham. She received her undergraduate degree from Penn State and her Master's from Temple. In 2015 she retired from the City of Philadelphia where she worked for over 30 years as a social worker with the intellectually disabled population. Toward the end of her career she got more involved in helping clients who had dealings with the court system. She found this to be one of the most interesting and satisfying aspects of her career.

Linda's hard work with animals doesn't stop when she goes home for the day. She and Joe, her husband of 32 years, share their home with five pets. There are 4 cats - Murphy, Dexter, Helen and Barney - and a rescued hound dog named Lily. Two of their cats are diabetic; one of them (Murphy) is also hard of hearing, arthritic and senile. When she signed on to volunteer with Forgotten Cats, Linda promised Joe she would not bring home any more pets!

In her down time, Linda enjoys reading. She is especially fond of character-driven mystery books and books by foreign writers. Three recent reads she highly recommends are *Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafron, *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton, and *The Story of Arthur Truluv: A Novel* by Elizabeth Berg. As for TV, she enjoys PBS, Book TV on C-SPAN2, and the occasional cooking show and Travel Channel show.

Linda may not think she does anything all that special for the organization. But she is just the kind of selfless, caring, hardworking person that keeps Forgotten Cats running on a daily basis. We know it's a group effort and that not everyone is a superstar. That is why we created the Volunteer Spotlight feature - to highlight the work of the "ordinary" folks behind the scenes who make it all possible.

Thank you for your service Linda! You are making a difference.



Adam and Skyler

Happy Endings!

In February 2017, Sponge aka Hugo went to his forever home. We knew that Sponge & his new mama would be a great match. We later found out in an email from his new mama, Jennifer, just how good of a match they are!

"In February I was finally able to adopt a cat. I saw Sponge on your site and absolutely had to meet him; I was coming home from a work trip and as soon as I touched down, I came to the PetSmart where he was living. It was love at first site and I arranged to pick him up shortly after. However, he was recovering from having his eye removed and I was recovering from a time of great change and pain. Both of us were learning to trust and love again. Deciding on a names was tough but my vet suggested "Hugo." It stuck when I thought about how he followed me from room to room, "Wherever you go (Hugo), I go!" I wanted to share with you all his amazing progress not only in his health and recovery, but in his blossoming cat personality and cuddly loving nature. It took him months to play again, but now he "tags" me, pounces tennis balls, leaps, runs, and he meows at the door until I take him for a walk on his harness! Hugo loves napping in his chair, but prefers to sleep beside me nearly every night. Because I often work from home, his vocal contributions during my conference calls has made him incredibly popular with my coworkers. They ask for his opinion and "meow" back at him. He has earned the title of "CNO, Chief Napping Officer." I can't imagine life without Hugo. He is my best friend.



Thank you for saving him and bringing him to my life."

STATUS UPDATE:

In December, we sterilized 523 cats and placed 240 cats in loving forever homes.

Visit our website at
www.forgottencats.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at these upcoming events.

February 13, 2018 - Chipotle Fundraiser

4:00 PM-8:00 PM

Chipotle, 1673 Limekiln Pike, Dresher, PA

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**

Donate Today!

STAY CONNECTED

