

FORGOTTEN Cats

MARCH
News

Forgotten Cats, Inc.



2018

Sussex County News



This month we are pleased to give you information on our ongoing (and expanding) efforts in Sussex County, DE.

TNVR (trap, neuter, vaccinate, release) is the core guiding principle of Forgotten Cats, with intent to reduce unwanted kitten births and create stable healthy colonies of outdoor cats, each with a dedicated caregiver. Forgotten Cats has been very successful in Northern Delaware and parts of Pennsylvania in furthering this initiative, but in early 2017 expanded its efforts to Sussex County in southern Delaware.

We got off to a great start and in just 14 weeks, with funding provided by PetSmart Charities®, worked to trap and sterilize 1015 cats. In addition to helping

these homeless cats, and people that care for them, we've been collaborating with fellow TNVR groups in Sussex County. Our collaboration with these groups has increased the capacity to handle the free roaming cat population in Sussex County, and word is spreading of our ability to provide support to communities trying to cope with free-roaming cats.

We estimate that the sterilization of these 1,015 cats immediately prevented the birth of over 1000 kittens that otherwise would have been born this past kitten season.

This project was well received by the state of Delaware and cities in Sussex County. We even formed a partnership with the Town of Bridgeville, and hope to form partnerships with more cities with this new project. Nationwide, the best outcomes for free-roaming cats have occurred where the rescue, in this case Forgotten Cats, partners with local municipal officials to work together to solve problems caused by uncontrolled numbers of unsterilized cats.

When funding from our original grant was depleted, we were still deluged with phone calls from people in the area asking for our help. We created a waiting list which has over 600 cats on it waiting for our services. To meet this need, we are pleased to share that another grant provided by PetSmart Charities will help continue spay/neuter efforts in Sussex County.

Our Sussex County targeted TNVR efforts launched early February of this year, and Forgotten Cats plans on sterilizing and vaccinating around 200 cats each week. Socialized cats are coming to our adoption centers in Delaware and Pennsylvania.

We are pleased our presence in Sussex County has been so successful, and look forward to continuing to work with other local rescues to help homeless cats and kittens in the community.



Did you Know?

A group of cats is referred to as a **clowder** or a **glaring**, a male cat is called a **tom** or **tomcat** (or a **gib**, if neutered), an unaltered female is called a **queen**, and a juvenile cat is referred to as a **kitten**.

Volunteer Spotlight on Jeni Jackson

By Anne Meddings

Jeni Jackson has been a Forgotten Cats volunteer for less than two years but she's already made a very positive impression. She is known for jumping in at a moment's notice to offer a helping hand. Jeni volunteers at the Brandywine adoption center as an application processor and adoption counselor. She also processes applications for the King of Prussia and Brookhaven sites. In addition, she assists at adoption events and trains new processors.



Before joining Forgotten Cats, Jeni rescued strays for years, whether from her own back yard or from the grounds of the Winterthur Museum where she works. One particularly elusive cat named Persephone gave birth to two litters of kittens under her shed before Jeni was able to catch her and get her spayed. Jeni fostered Persephone's kittens herself to get them socialized. She then worked hard to successfully get all the kittens placed into good homes.

A native Delawarean, Jeni has been married to her husband Stewart for 22 years. They met while working together at First USA Bank. Stewart is an unofficial volunteer - he helps set up at adoption events and enjoys accompanying Jeni to adoptions where she is the counselor. The couple love to travel. Favorite destinations are Ireland, England, Scotland and France. Jeni and Stewart live in Liftwood (North Wilmington) with their two cats, Curley and Russell.

Jeni is employed full-time as the scheduling coordinator at the Winterthur Museum, where she also serves as a tour guide. She keeps very busy: in addition to her day job and working with Forgotten Cats, she volunteers weekly at the Mary Campbell Center. In her well-deserved down time she enjoys reading historical fiction. A favorite author is Diana Gabaldon, best known for the *Outlander* series.

Jeni is known for her fun and quirky flair for fashion which earned her a profile in the *Wilmington News Journal's* Sunday "Style Files" feature back in 2016!

But back to the cats.... Processing applications involves online research, dealing with a variety of people, good judgment, and a lot of phone work. For the most part Jeni finds it enjoyable. However, occasionally during the course of an application she learns upsetting information about an applicants' past treatment of pets. It saddens her that some people do not value animals.

Seeing cats happily adopted into good homes is its own reward, but a highlight of Jeni's time with Forgotten Cats was when she persuaded a family to adopt two bonded cats (Midnight and Colton), when they had applied for just one of them. Jeni knew the pair would be much happier together, and she is very pleased she could be a part of making that happen.

Jeni, thank you for being such an asset to the Forgotten Cats volunteer family. We appreciate your top-notch service!



TNVR Update:

As the focus of this month's newsletter focuses on FC's TNVR efforts in Sussex County, we find it fitting to share a TNVR update. A few months ago, FC received a message from a person who was taking care of feral cats in Dagsboro, DE, in Sussex County.

The message read as follows:

"I was delivering donated food for three pit bulls in Dagsboro. These poor dogs had been chained outside with extremely shabby shelters and thick anchor chains around their necks. No one knew the situation. I got to the place and first thing that happened was cats came from everywhere to try and get some of the food. My next delivery included cat food.

It is in the country so we figure it must be a dump site for cats.

No tipped ears. No one claims ownership of the cats.

We have been delivering food and will continue with the help of contributors. What we need is TNR. The man who lives on the property has agreed to feed them with donated food."

We are proud to share that, thanks to the above mentioned grant from PetSmart Charities®, we were able to provide free TNR services to this community. The dedicated caregivers are working with our trappers and are in the process of trapping all the cats - 20-40 cats and kittens in all. We hope to be able to place a few friendly strays from this colony up for adoption and will release the ferals back to the kind caregivers that are caring for them.

Thanks so much to Emma Maring, Melissa Aldrich, and the other community activists who reached out to us to help these cats!

P.S., the dogs were also rescued!

STATUS UPDATE:



In February, we sterilized 688 cats and placed 102 cats in loving forever homes.

Visit our website at www.forgottencats.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at these upcoming events.

March 17, 2018 - Dogs & Cats Rule Adoption Event
9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Maple Glen, PA

April 15, 2018 - Yoga with Cats at Tulaa Yoga
12:00 PM & 1:15 PM
Wilmington, DE

Lets Keep in Touch!

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

Donate Today!

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