

FORGOTTEN Cats

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News

Forgotten Cats, Inc.



2017



The Critical Role of Fosters

It is challenging to be able to fully emphasize the importance of fosters when preparing cats that have been feral or strays to be adopted into their forever homes. The majority of the cats that FC gets are coming directly off the street. Many kittens, and also some adults, require socialization in order to become adoption ready. This is where the cuddling and playing with kittens comes into play (pun intended)!



Often, the kittens need socialization because they are born to feral or abandoned cats and haven't had much human interaction aside from maybe their colony caregiver who was feeding them. To complicate matters, if kittens are born to feral moms, ideally they should be trapped and placed in foster care before the age of 8 weeks, as after that it becomes increasingly harder to fully socialize them so they are suitable for adoptive homes. Of course, then there are the very tiny neonate kittens that come in without mama and need to be bottle fed! This is truly a big commitment for a foster, nearly 24x7 for the first 2-3 weeks. It takes a truly special and committed person to feed the tiny babies every 2-3 hours, help them go to the bathroom, and spend time nurturing them. But, their socialization comes naturally, as they are being fed and handled. Being "feral" is not

inherited, but rather happens as a result of lack of socialization and a stable home. Bottle babies are guaranteed to have great dispositions.

Kittens of any age are always better off in a foster home environment, rather than the clinic. They need the warmth and human contact that being in a home provides, and their immature immune systems make them vulnerable to illnesses when in a community setting in a clinic. Because they are so vulnerable to illness, many kittens come in with upper respiratory infections (URI) and our fosters nurse them back to health! This takes a good deal of time and commitment, giving them medicines, helping them to eat enough, perhaps using a vaporizer to help unstuff their noses, keeping their eyes free of discharge, etc. Eye infections are very common in kittens off the street, and can sometimes result in them losing one or both eyes.

It is not only kittens who need caring fosters. Adult cats also need foster homes for a variety of reasons. They may be sick and need daily meds and monitoring, or need additional socialization. It's a miracle what getting them out of a cage in a strange facility and into a home can do sometimes. Since adults are harder to get adopted, they deserve all the care and attention that can be given to them to help them compete with cute little kittens for their homes.

So, what is the process of being a foster?

You pick up your foster cat(s) from our Willow Grove or Trainer facility. You will likely have them anywhere from one week to a few months. While they are with you, you will take care of daily feeding, medicine (if needed), litter boxes, and socialization.

Cats are brought back to our clinics when they are due for vaccinations/ sterilizations/ or need medical attention. When they are "adoption ready" they will be sent to one of our nine adoption centers in pet stores. Sometimes, foster cats will receive online applications and they never even have to step foot in an adoption center, or they may be taken to an adoption center for a "meet and greet" with the online applicant.

Fosters play a HUGE role in a cat's journey to their forever home. Forgotten Cats is so grateful to the love and care our fosters provide in order to get our kitties ready to go to one of our adoption centers to find their forever homes. Another big reason to consider becoming a foster is each cat or kitten placed in foster care opens up a cage at our clinic to allow us to rescue more cats. Becoming a foster is knowing that you hold the key to helping kitties get their forever homes more easily, while also making space for even more rescues. It isn't always the easiest job, but it is extremely rewarding. Adopters often keep in touch with fosters as their cat moves through the years, and it is so heartwarming to hear continued stories of how the former foster is doing in his/her new home. [Learn More](#)



Volunteer Spotlight on Mary Lou Skrocki

By Anne Meddings

Mary Lou Skrocki is thrilled that her most recent foster cat, Rose Marie, has been adopted into a great home. Rose Marie was one of those cats who did fine in a home setting, but didn't show too well in a shelter environment. As a result she was one of the more, ahem, "challenging" adoptable cats staying at the West Chester Pet Supplies Plus until recently. Thankfully, the right family finally came along and Rose Marie is now living the good life.

Mary Lou has fostered numerous adult cats since she began volunteering with Forgotten Cats approximately 1.5 years ago. There was Ophelia, Princess, Sterling and Claire, Lucinda, and then Rose Marie. She loved them all but Rose Marie and Princess held special places in her heart. Fostering has been very rewarding for Mary Lou. She likes to take in adult cats that have been overlooked for various reasons, and need a little vacation from the shelter. She said it's wonderful to see the cats blossom and show their true personalities once they are relaxed in a loving home environment. Mary Lou's husband John is also a cat lover and is on board with them opening their home to foster cats.

In addition to fostering, Mary Lou regularly volunteers at both West Chester adoption centers - Pet Supplies Plus and Petco. A normal shift involves feeding, scooping & cleaning, playing with the cats, and interacting with the public. Her adult daughter Jocelyn volunteers with her, and they enjoy getting to spend time together while caring for the cats. Jocelyn recently began fostering for Forgotten Cats too, and had her hands full the first time out with three energetic kittens!

In her regular life, Mary Lou works as a legal secretary for an attorney in Exton. She grew up in Havertown and now lives in West Chester with her husband and four rescue cats, two of whom were once Forgotten Cats. She and John have three adult children - Jillian, Jocelyn, and John Jr. She comes from a close-knit family of six children and enjoys spending time with her brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews and going to their various

sporting events. Her fall weekends are spent going to Gettysburg College football games, where her son is on the team. In the summer she likes to spend time at Sea Isle City. Mary Lou's family is currently getting ready for her daughter Jillian's upcoming wedding in January.

Mary Lou is happy to be a volunteer with Forgotten Cats. She knows that by helping out at the adoption centers on a regular basis, and by fostering cats, she's making a positive impact. She enjoys working with like-minded people who are passionate about saving cats and getting them into good homes. Seeing a happy ending like the one Rose Marie just experienced is what makes it all worthwhile.

Thank you for your service Mary Lou!



Rose Marie



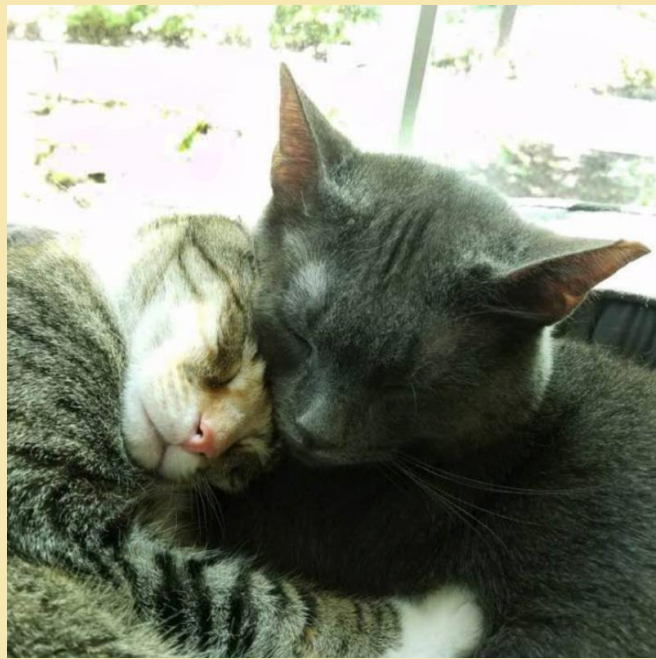
cat eating lollipop

FUN FACT:

Cats are incapable of tasting sweet things. They just don't have the sweet taste receptors in their mouths.

Happy Endings!

Hunk and Firecracker were both considered a little less adoptable, due to being on the shy side and not too cuddly. Fortunately, the perfect adopter came along for both of them, and the rest is history! Here's their story, as told by their forever family.



"My husband and I were "adopted" by a neighborhood cat that came to our front door in the early winter of 2015. We realized that he wasn't owned by anyone in the neighborhood and bought him a heated house and started caring for him. Mr. Kitty passed away the following year with FeLV just months after allowing us to pet him. I am allergic to animals (especially cats) and was looking to donate Mr. Kitty's items to an organization that helps feral cats and someone told me about Forgotten Cats. I noticed that they had "barn cats" (cats available for adoption for safe locations that live mostly outside and who aren't your typical domesticated "friendly" pet) up for adoption so I started looking at photos online and saw (and fell in love with) Hunk.

Hunk had met Firecracker at the shelter and they were a bonded couple so we got them both! We put them in the garage room so they would know "home" and looked into getting a door installed to allow them in and out of the room but after a few weeks we decided that they were going to be indoor cats living in the converted garage or "the cats' room" we furnished for them. They were both long time tenants at the Willow Grove location (and notorious with the fabulous volunteers) so we kept their names, Hunk and Firecracker. Our track record for naming pets was pretty lame (Mr. Kitty) and after only a few hours with them realized that their names are perfect!

We were up for a challenge and really love the fact that we took "unadoptable" cats and have started to work on them to be more social. Hunk still is a bit skittish but is slowly becoming an attention seeking love bug. Firecracker no longer is the 100 percent "I will cut you" kitty and is happy being played with and petted (most of the time!) Although they only have limited space (but we have doubled their real estate recently) Hunk and Firecracker enjoy the garage room and the office. They lounge on the window sill (many times intertwined) while we work or watch TV and enjoy watching any activity out the large window.

We are so thankful that I was told about Forgotten Cats and that we have given 2 cats a safe place indoors to call home.

Feel free to follow their progress on Facebook under [Hunk Firecracker!](#)

STATUS UPDATE:

In October, we sterilized 893 cats and placed 143 cats in loving forever homes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at these upcoming events.

November 11 & 12, 2017 - PetSmart National Adoption Event

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

November 19, 2017 - Autumn Leaf Fundraisers Booth at UUFN's Craft Fair

10:00 AM-1:30 PM

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Newark

November 25, 2017 - Autumn Leaf Fundraisers Booth at West Chester Growers Market

9:00 AM-1:00 PM

West Chester Growers Market

December 10, 2017 - Annual Shopping Event at Ten Thousand Villages on Rt. 52 in Wilmington, DE

12:00 PM-5:00 PM

Lets Keep in Touch!

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