



VOLUNTEERS SAVING LIVES

DOING ANIMAL RESCUE WORK, 4Paws volunteers see evidence of the pet overpopulation problem every day...store volunteers care for cats temporarily staying in cages at Petco stores, cats that would otherwise be homeless; foster homes provide food and shelter for cats awaiting permanent placement; and volunteers at adoption fairs help potential adopters meet the dozens and dozens of cats on display at the fairs. These cats, the ones in the 4Paws system, are the success stories.

The hardest part about rescue work is the daily phone calls we receive telling us about cats in need and asking for our help. Worse yet is actually seeing stray cats and kittens in our neighborhoods, around restaurant dumpsters, in wooded areas, or in back alleys and not having enough foster space to take most of them out of the rain or cold.

Limited foster space means we have to turn away hundreds of cats every year, some of them injured, all of them hungry. First and foremost, we must consider the welfare of the cats that we have already rescued, making sure not to compromise their care by overcrowding our foster homes. So, without new foster homes, we cannot rescue additional cats, until one that we have already saved finds a new home and frees a spot for another stray. Turning away a hungry cat in need is the hardest thing that,

as rescuers, we are forced to do.

With your help, however, we won't have to turn as many away. Consider opening your heart and home to a stray cat; consider becoming a foster home volunteer. The experience is quite rewarding and a wonderful way to teach children responsibility toward animals.

The commitment could vary from a couple of weeks to several months depending upon your availability. You provide the food, litter and love, 4Paws pays for pre-authorized vet care.

Call 703-715-6369 (MEOW) to find out how you can help us give one more homeless cat a better life; a life filled with love, warmth and security.

You will be rewarded many times over...every time your foster cat purrs in your ear or snuggles up against your neck. Your greatest reward, however, will be when you hand over your ward to her new family.

Of course it will be difficult to say goodbye to your foster cat, having poured your heart into her care, but you will be comforted to know that her new family has been carefully screened by a 4Paws volunteer to ensure that she will be well cared for and loved throughout her life. And in your heart, you will know that you have done a generous and beautiful thing by providing a temporary home for your foster cat, but then letting her go in order to make space for the next homeless cat waiting to escape the cold and dangerous streets. 

NO SNEEZING MATTER!

OVER THE YEARS, 4Paws has rescued hundreds of cats that became homeless because someone in their house developed an allergy to them. The standard medical advice to a pet owner who has cat allergies is to, well, get rid of the cat.

But not so fast! There are things you can do to minimize your allergic reactions. In fact, almost 10 million pet owners are allergic to their animals and still choose to share their homes with a pet. Finding a way to control your allergy is worth

a try, not only for the sake of your cat, but because:

- ◆ Studies consistently show that pet owners live longer than non-pet owners, probably because a pet eases the stress of daily life.
- ◆ According to an August 28, 2002 article in the Journal of the American Medical Association, children who live with two or more cats or dogs in their first year of life have less chance of suffering from a variety of common allergies later in childhood.

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If you would like to be added to or deleted from our mailing list or know others who would like to receive our mailings, please contact us.

The 4Paws Rescue Team is a non-profit community based volunteer organization that takes in neglected, abandoned, abused and unwanted cats and kittens and finds them permanent, loving homes. An animal rescued by 4Paws will never be euthanized except out of medical necessity. In addition, 4Paws is dedicated to managing the populations and improving the health of feral cat colonies. 4Paws also works with schools to teach children the importance of responsible pet care.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IT HAS BEEN A YEAR OF MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND REWARDS. Many lives have been saved... with more than 700 cats placed into loving homes during the past year. The rewards have been seemingly limitless with grateful purrs from contented felines with new families to love and tearful thanks from adopters who finally found the perfect furry friend to fill an empty void.

Each accomplishment, each life saved, is a victory. We know that we cannot save them all, but we certainly make a significant difference in the lives of those that we do save. While our achievements may be noteworthy, we know that there is always more that can be done. 4Paws' greatest limiting factor is our resources, financial, of course, but just as important is the time given by our volunteers. Every day, in every participating PETCO store, 4Paws volunteers care for the cats awaiting placement into permanent homes. Foster homes, our most valuable resource, provide food, shelter and love to previously homeless cats and kittens, animals that might have otherwise died in shelters or wandering the streets hungry and scared. Other volunteers help in a variety of ways, by returning calls from our hotline; participating at adoption fairs; and transporting cats locally, and occasionally farther distances.

Last year we were able to save over 700 feline lives, next year we hope to save many more. Our ability to do so, however, will depend on us as well as you. Please, consider giving either your time or your financial support to 4Paws. Become a member of our team and help us save even more lives... learn for yourself how it feels to see a scrawny kitten with little hope of survival, dirty and hungry from a life on the street, nursed back to health and ultimately adopted by a family that feels as lucky to have their new furry family member as the cat whose life you helped save.

Barbara Lipson

FACT CORNER: 4 PAWS FACTS

 In 2001, 4Paws placed over 700 cats and kittens into permanent, loving homes. As of August 2002, we had adopted out almost 400 cats and kittens for the year and nearly 4,000 since inception in 1995.

 4Paws supports local Trap Neuter Return (TNR) projects in an effort to curb the overpopulation problem by targeting a primary source: feral cats. Through TNR programs, cats that are too wild to be pets are vaccinated and sterilized before being returned to their outside homes where a caretaker provides them with food. TNR is a win-win situation; the cats are allowed to continue living in their homes, but they do not breed and, cannot add to the homeless cat problem.

 Of 4Paws' total expenditures during fiscal year 2001, approximately 85% directly benefited the cats by providing veterinary services or medical supplies. The remaining funds were used for such costs as printing applications and advertising adoption fairs.

 On average, the adoption fee charged for an adult cat does not even cover half of the vet costs necessary to get the cat ready for placement.

 4Paws is run by a volunteer work force which currently consists of approximately 100 dedicated individuals who perform a variety of functions. It requires 56 volunteers to simply care for the cats staying in Petco stores while they await adoption.

 Cats available for adoption may be seen in any of the following seven Petco store locations: Alexandria, Burke, Chantilly, Fairfax, Herndon, Leesburg, and Tyson's Corner.

Thanks, as always, to Petco for the generosity and support shown to our cats and our volunteers. In addition to donating employee time and store resources, Petco gave \$7,500 to 4Paws during the past year. We recognize that Petco's support has been a significant factor in 4Paws' success over the years and will continue to be instrumental to our ability to save feline lives into the future.



PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT

Looking for that perfect holiday gift for the animal lover who already has everything? This year, give a gift that won't end up gathering dust in the closet; give a gift that will make a difference by giving a homeless cat a chance for a better life: make a donation to 4Paws. Mail your check to P.O. Box 2908, Merrifield, Virginia 22116, no later than December 18, 2002. Please provide the name and address of the intended recipient of your gift and we will send an acknowledgment card explaining the generous choice that you made this holiday season... by donating to 4Paws you will save a homeless cat from suffering through another Winter, cold and hungry.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The 4Paws Rescue Team operates using a work force made up entirely of volunteers. Consequently, the number of feline lives that we are able to save is directly related to the generosity of those who are willing to donate their time to our cause. Different volunteer activities require varying degrees of commitment. With as little as thirty minutes a week, you can make a significant difference and help us to save more lives. Please call (703) 715-6369 if you are interested in any of the following volunteer opportunities:

Adoption Fair Set Up Volunteers are needed to help set up cages for adoption fairs. Set up takes place the Friday night before a show and lasts approximately one hour.

Adoption Fair Assistants Adoption fairs are usually held on Saturday afternoons. Volunteers talk to potential adopters about general cat care and help them handle the cats that are available for adoption. At the end of each show volunteers help dismantle the cages and clean up.

Foster Homes Foster homes are needed to provide temporary housing for cats and kittens. Volunteers provide food, shelter and love; 4Paws pays for pre-authorized vet services. Foster homes transport their wards to and from semi-monthly adoption fairs. The commitment can vary from a few weeks to a couple of months depending upon the availability of the volunteer.

Home Visits Volunteers set up appointments with adopters to visit their homes and pets. New volunteers are trained by an experienced person and briefed on appropriate responses to questions that may arise. The visits usually take twenty minutes and are limited to the geographical location requested by the volunteer.

Store Volunteers Individuals are asked to commit to one evening or morning each week to care for the cats that are temporarily housed at Petco stores. Volunteers give the cats fresh food and water, scoop the litter, clean the cages and provide love and attention to the cats at the store of their choice.

Transportation Volunteers are needed to transport cats for a variety of reasons. Sometimes cats need transportation from a store to the vet; other times they need to be moved from one Petco store to another. Requests are usually flexible to fit the volunteer's schedule.

Voicemail Volunteers Volunteers return calls to people who need help finding homes for their pets or stray cats that they have found. Volunteers check the voicemail three times each week and return approximately five calls each time.

COUNTRY BARNS NEEDED FOR CITY CATS

We often find cats that are too shy or skittish to be adopted into homes. We are able to vaccinate and sterilize these animals, but unfortunately, they often cannot be returned to their original location due to any number of dangers—aggressive animals, construction, or busy streets.

Do you know a cat lover who keeps horses? These sweet, but shy, city cats have few options for a decent life—they would love to move to a warm barn in the country!

Please call (703) 715-6369 or e-mail us at info@fourpaws.org if you or someone you know can provide a barn for a homeless cat or two. We'll be happy to deliver these cats (altered and vaccinated) and provide advice on how to integrate them into the barn.

Placing city cats in country barns is a winning situation for all concerned. Your new barn cats will certainly earn their keep by helping to control the rodent population, and you'll be saving a feline life or two.



2002 ADOPTION FAIR SCHEDULE

Saturday, October 26, 1-4 p.m.	Fairfax Petco
Saturday, November 9, 1-5 p.m.	Tysons Petco
Saturday, November 9, 1-6 p.m.	Herndon Petco
Sunday, November 10, 1-4, p.m.	Herndon Petco
Saturday, November 16, 1-6 p.m.	Herndon Petco
Sunday, November 17, 1-4 p.m.	Herndon Petco
Saturday, November 30, 1-6 p.m.	Herndon Petco
Saturday, December 7, 1-5 p.m.	Tysons Petco
Saturday, December 14, 1-5 p.m.	Tysons Petco

ADOPTION SITES

Alexandria Petco	703/660-1300
Burke Petco	703/455-2007
Chantilly Petco	703/817-9444
Fairfax Petco	703/352-3300
Herndon Petco	703/713-1552
Leesburg Petco	703/669-3517
Tysons Petco	703/448-3401

4 Paws T-shirts and sweatshirts available for sale at Adoption Fairs held at Fairfax and Tysons Corner Petco stores.

VIRTUAL ADOPTION FAIR
WWW.FOURPAWS.ORG

WAITING

by Linda Gillian

HE LOOKED LOST, creeping along the curb, hungry and confused. His whole world had been turned upside down and he was frightened. Where, he wondered, would his next meal come from? The sun had already set and it was getting darker and colder.

He stopped to look around. There was the house! He'd eaten there early this morning. The car wasn't in the driveway and no lights were on. They must not have come back from their trip yet. His belly growled—it had been a long time since breakfast.

He was worried that they wouldn't be home in time for supper. He walked up onto the front porch and sat there, watching the headlights of the cars racing up and down the busy street, hearing the early night noises of the neighborhood.

The wind had picked up with a bite in it that made him shiver in its chill. He thought he heard the familiar growl of their car, and leaned forward to look, but—no, it kept on going. He settled back on the step, waiting.

He caught himself dozing off several times. A dog barking nearby startled him awake again. Disoriented, he looked around, afraid until he recognized familiar landmarks in the yard. He stood, stretched and yawned, his teeth gleaming white in the night. He paced back and forth across the porch, looking at the still dark windows, his belly growling louder with his growing hunger.

He jumped onto the railing and sat, shivering in the



HAPPY TAILS

Tango whose mom, a stray, was rescued with her litter of kittens by a 4Paws volunteer "Words can never express the happiness you have brought us with our sweet little cat. Thank you for the work you do... (and) thanks for bringing such a bundle of love to our lives." —Tami and Don

Juliet rescued from a back alley in DC "Just to let you know that Juliet, the kitten that we adopted on 1/10/01 has grown into a shiny black beauty who loves being part of our pride of cats. She will run up to each cat, trilling a greeting and has started an outrageous flirtation with Sweeney, our large male cat." —Sheila

Angel, formerly **Audrey**, adopted 10/00, rescued with her mother and siblings, shortly before time ran out at a shelter in southern Maryland "Angel entertains me constantly and I regale my friends with stories of all of her amusing antics. She is so intelligent and fills my life with joy and laughter." —Helen

Annabelle a stray rescued in Stafford "I adopted Annabelle from 4Paws last year. We got transferred from Fort Belvoir to the Netherlands. Let me tell you it was quite a big move, especially with two little kitties. We made it safely and the cats have adjusted to their new home quite well." —Stacy

Kismet, formerly **Mr. Box**, adopted 11/01, a declawed adult rescued after being left to fend for himself outside "Just wanted to let you all know that 'Mr. Box,' whom we adopted from the Fairfax Petco, is doing great. It didn't take him long to settle in and establish his place in our home. He is extremely affectionate with everyone in the family. He sleeps with us every night. We are very happy with Kismet and look forward to many long years with him!" —Barrie

Ginger who was adopted from 4Paws first and then **Anthony** a stray from Warren County, joined the family as a companion for Ginger "Anthony is settling in really well...He wants to bond with Ginger, but she is slow to warm up. They've been getting along much better this weekend [though] and Joe and I are confident that eventually they'll be best buddies...we love them to pieces and can't imagine our lives without these two amazing cats. They add so much happiness and joy to our lives and home." —Diana

Dot a mature adult given up by her heart - broken family who was transferred to Japan "On Sunday (her first day), Dot waited until after the kids had gone to bed to come out and explore. By Monday morning, she was ready to interact with the kids. Cara, who is 18 months old...has started to get used to Dot's affectionate rubs and head butts. Mason absolutely adores her and the attention she gives him...When we arrived home on Monday, she had been "hunting" and had "caught" several of Mason's small reptile toys that were waiting for us by our bed. That was so cute! This morning, she excitedly helped me wake up the kids by getting in their beds and giving them affectionate rubs." —Shannon

Vanessa a kitten rescued in Front Royal "I wanted you to know how George and I have both been richly rewarded for our patience! It wasn't easy to introduce a new cat into the household; George was still mourning the loss of his littermate, and was very hostile at first. I endured two months of cat wars...but it's been worth it...The happiest sight—now that George has fully accepted her as a member of the family—is when I open my eyes every morning and see them at the foot of my bed, cuddling, grooming each other, and purring like little furry powerboats." —Carole



Chelsea (above) a kitten herself when she darted into a kind stranger's house, made her way to the bedroom and proceeded to give birth on the bed. "It was like it was planned, somehow. It's only been what, about a month? And it's a special bond already. She sometimes wakes me up by getting on my chest while I'm asleep, and I wake up to her lying on my tummy, her little paws crossed and her chin resting on them waiting for me to wake up and scratch her. It's adorable... She's the most amazing affectionate little thing—she just leapt off my lap a moment ago after a furious purr-fest! I can't imagine NOT having her now." —Rebecca

OVERLOOKED TREASURES

IT STARTED WITH A SIMPLE PHONE call to the 4Paws hotline. A local animal hospital called asking for help...one of their clients had brought in a cat to be euthanized.

An elderly woman with advancing Alzheimer's had been moved into an assisted living facility. She could no longer care for herself, let alone Precious, the pet that she had cherished ever since it was a tiny kitten. The family member who inherited responsibility for Precious' care did not want her and wasted no time in taking her to the vet to be put to sleep.

Fortunately, the vet would not accommodate the request indicating that he would not kill a cat that was active, healthy, alert, but simply unwanted. The new owner agreed to surrender the cat to the hospital that in turn called 4Paws for help.

After hearing Precious' story, there was no doubt that we would have to find a place for this cat. Precious, an 18 year old Persian had lived her entire life with one woman dotting on her. Now in her advanced years, having lost her sight, this beautiful feline deserved to live out her life in a secure and loving home...just as her previous guardian would have wanted and expected.

Knowing it is more difficult to find homes for adult cats than kittens, we knew that finding a home for an elderly cat would be nearly impossible Well it was...nearly, but not impossible.

Along came a family, not necessarily looking for another pet, but interested in helping an animal in need. They took Precious into their home to love and care for her during her remaining years. They quickly discovered, though, that the giving was not one-sided. What they got was a loving mature pet who had grown out of her playful antics stage, happy to simply sit quietly while being brushed or stroked.

Although Precious had recently experienced terrible loss and devastating change, she quickly settled into her new home. In no time she was purring, kneading and nuzzling her new family as if to say, thanks for giving me a second chance at life.

* * *

4Paws gets many calls from people who are heartbroken at having to give up their beloved pets. The hardest calls, however, are from those who have older cats

KITTY KORN E R



MATURE LADY WITH LOTS MORE LOVE TO GIVE

Cassie, a gorgeous declawed Siamese mix with vivid blue eyes, certainly does not act her chronological age of 10 years. She is playful and cuddly, and should have many more years to lighten the life of that someone special. Cassie is a very affectionate girl that loves nothing more than to

sit in your lap and receive lots of attention. Her purr is so loud that her foster dad calls her his "purr monster."

This beauty was given to 4Paws by a family who no longer wanted to be inconvenienced by her medical needs. Cassie has been diagnosed with mega-colon, a digestive condition that is easily controlled with daily medication. Cassie is good about taking the required three doses of liquid medicine every day. Properly cared for, Cassie should live a long and healthy life, which on average, is 15 to 20 years for an indoor cat.

Cassie can get along with other cats, if properly introduced. She would probably be happiest, though, as an only pet.

Cassie is spayed, tested negative for feline leukemia and AIDs, and is current on her vaccines. She is a mature, loving cat that is looking for someone who can see past her medical needs to the beautiful creature that she is. Are you that person who will see the capacity that Cassie has for giving and receiving a lifetime still of love? 

that they can no longer keep. In most cases, these cats have been pets all their lives, making them an ideal choice for adoption since they know how to appreciate the love and security of being an indoor pet. Unfortunately, while older adult cats make some of the best companions, they are generally overlooked in favor of kittens or young adults.

The average life span of an indoor cat is fifteen to twenty years. Therefore, a ten year old cat is only in the middle stage of its life...with plenty more years to give love and companionship to that special someone.

As a matter of fact, older cats often have qualities that make them a better choice than kittens or young adults. Adult cats already have an identifiable personality... that is, you know what you are getting, whereas a kitten's permanent personality may not start manifesting until the cat reaches six or seven months of age. Consequently, with an adult cat, you have a much better chance of adopting a cat with the qualities you are seeking instead of simply hoping that the kitten grows up to be a "lap cat" or a "friendly cat that gets along with children."

Furthermore, mature felines tend to be more settled, calmer and more interactive with people. They are less likely to engage in dangerous or destructive behavior such as weaving in and out of legs or climbing curtains. Older cats are also more likely to already know how to use a scratching post. Adult cats tend to have a better sense of their claws and are less likely to inadvertently scratch or bite a child in a burst of excited play. Finally, adult cats tend to be healthier from the outset... they have more established immune systems than kittens and are less likely to be affected by any little bug that passes their way, which in the end will certainly be easier on the wallet.

So, next time you are looking for a new furry family member, don't just walk past the adult cats on your way to the kittens. Stop and take a look at the more mature cats, you might just be rushing by the purrfect pet. And if you already have pets, please be sure to make specific arrangements for their care in case of your incapacity. That way you can have peace of mind that your pets will continue to be cherished for the rest of their lives. 

NO SNEEZING MATTER!

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Something else to consider is the fact that allergies are not static; they change over time as your environment changes and as your body works toward an adjustment. Case in point: teens who have never been allergic to their family pets will sometimes have an allergic reaction upon returning home from college (what allergists call the "Thanksgiving Effect"). Allergies work the other way as well. Over time, many allergic people will build up a resistance to their own pets, enabling them to live comfortably and happily with cats in their homes.

What causes cat allergies? Cat allergies are not caused by a cat's hair. Neither the amount nor length of a cat's hair has much, if anything, to do with the amount of allergens a cat produces. People who are allergic to cats, react to Fel d 1, a protein which is produced in the sebaceous (oil) glands on a cat's skin. This substance works to keep a cat's skin supple and its hair shiny; all cats produce it. Also found in a cat's saliva, the allergen is spread all over the cat's body through grooming and then throughout the house when fur is shed. This allergen, about ten times smaller than pollen or dust particles, can remain in a home for months or even a year.

Treatment and prevention. The following is a list of things that people do to minimize their allergic reactions. Not everything here will work for everyone, but one (or more) may just do the trick.



Your home. Minimize the places in your home where cat hair can stick and keep the accumulation of shed fur to a minimum.

- ◆ Covering your windows with blinds instead of curtains and washing them frequently
- ◆ Covering your floors with hard-wood or vinyl instead of carpet and mopping frequently
- ◆ Buying leather or wood furniture instead of upholstered furniture
- ◆ Frequently wiping down walls, counters, and furniture with a damp cloth
- ◆ Airing out rooms regularly
- ◆ Thoroughly washing bedspreads, sheets, throw rugs, etc. in hot water
- ◆ Covering mattresses with air-tight encasings
- ◆ If needed, keeping bedroom doors closed (adults spend one-third of their time and children one-half of their time in the bedroom)
- ◆ Replacing heating and air filters on a regular basis
- ◆ Installing a large, commercial-size indoor air purifier
- ◆ Using a good vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter
- ◆ Using clay kitty litter which has low-dust or is dust free
- ◆ Keeping litter boxes away from air intake vents.

Your cat: minimize the amount of allergens your cat releases. Since the allergens attach to cat hair via saliva and skin oils, reducing shedding and, therefore, hair distribution throughout the house will go a long way toward controlling your allergies. Better yet, reduce or all together eliminate the allergy enzyme from the cat's saliva and oil glands.

- ◆ Brushing your cat daily to control shedding
- ◆ Adding coat conditioner to your cat's food to help prevent dry skin and reduce shedding

- ◆ Bathing your cat every two- to four- weeks with a veterinary-approved shampoo or have a pet groomer do so
- ◆ Spraying and then wiping down your cat with distilled water weekly
- ◆ Applying an over-the-counter product to your cat's fur that reduces shedding
- ◆ Asking your veterinarian to prescribe Acepromzaine, an animal tranquilizer which when added to food, in small doses, produces a chemical change in the cat's saliva that reduces some people's allergic reactions
- ◆ Keeping your cat indoors so he doesn't bring mold and other allergens into the house (see below regarding the cumulative nature of allergic reactions)

You: treat or control your allergies by reducing your contact to allergens or increasing your resistance.

- ◆ Washing your hands after handling or touching your cat to avoid spreading any allergens
- ◆ Taking over-the-counter or prescription allergy medicines
- ◆ Asking your physician for hypo-sensitization treatment in which he or she gives you a series of injections of cat allergen extract that are gradually increased in strength until you're able to tolerate the cat's presence with minimal, if any, discomfort
- ◆ Reducing other allergens in your environment—allergies are cumulative and non-cat allergies may in fact be pushing you over the edge

The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine conducted a study, one intended outcome of which was to develop a vaccine for cat allergies. So, it may be that help is on the way. In the meantime, find out what works for you. More than 50 percent of allergic individuals develop a tolerance for their own pets. Maybe one of those people will be you. 

In honor of **Scooter's** adoption (formerly Sashi) —Celia Goldberg

In **Bruno's** name —Sandra and William McAmis

In thanks for my beloved **Sam** —Brenda Forman

In memory of my beloved sweet pea kitty, **Domino**. Thank you for being by my side for 12 amazing years. You taught me so much...not only about cats, but about myself. I know you are still by my side even now. I love you Miss Kitty. I'll see you again when we meet in the field of flowers. —love, Linda

In memory of **Tess**—with my sympathy for Dave and Belinda —Patti Stinson

Misty—what a wonderful friend and companion you were! Independent but never aloof; fiercely protective of your home (from creatures that had the nerve to walk outside the window) but gentle and loving; and clairvoyant in your ability to appear in my lap when you sensed my need to stroke your velvety fur and hear your comforting purr. You are greatly missed. —Cathye Kerrins

In loving memory of **Grace** whose quiet disposition will be greatly missed. She found her place in my multi-cat household and never asked for much—just regular meals and a soft bed to rest her weary head. Her eyes told the tale of being left behind in Lewes, Delaware to fend for herself, which she could not do very well due to severe periodontal disease. At my home she rediscovered her kittenhood and played tirelessly with her favorite toy, the "kitty tease." I will forever see her—sleeping in her favorite corner in her favorite bed—and relish/appreciate the three wonderful years we shared. —Pamela Tomlinson

In continuing memory of **Harry**, who died on December 2, 1998, but still lives on in his mom's heart. —Joanne Tetreault Eldridge

Ted—How lucky for me to have been blessed with four years of your love and devotion...cuddling on the sofa, kitty licks on my face, your warm body resting on my shoulders as you wrapped yourself around my neck. We didn't have enough time. I hope, I know you are in a better place, now—free of pain, with all the fishy food you could ever want. White daisies will forever remind me of you. Sweet dreams, my little Pumpkin-head. I miss you. —Barbara

In memory of my wonderful cat **Steve**, who passed away last November from stomach cancer, at the age of 19. I miss him very much, and since I found him as a stray, I wanted to make a donation in his memory to an organization that helps homeless cats. —Catherine Stanton

In loving memory of our one-eyed girl, **Wink**. She stole my heart at the animal shelter, but had plenty of love to give to all. —Joyce Harrell

For my little **Salem Martha**, your spirit and light will always live in my heart. God bless you, precious girl. —Carrie Kovar

In honor of **Gertie**—a 4Paws Rescue Team success. —Michael and Donna Adams

In thanksgiving for **Hope** —Josephine Ingley

In memory of my sister's cat **Bosco**, rescued off the streets of New York City. He lived 12 years—totally adored. This cat didn't have one mean bone in his entire body. He gave back all that he got! He is deeply missed. —Denise Arnot

Thanks to **Aleen Ruppel** of Redington Beach, Florida who crochets the toys and colorful kitty blankets that have kept hundreds of cats cozy, entertained and comfortable at adoption fairs and in store cages while they await permanent placement.

Thanks to **Gwen David** who once again spent a good part of her vacation crocheting toys filled with cat nip for the cats awaiting adoption and maybe... for that special kitty waiting at home for you. Available with donation at Tysons Corner adoption fairs.

In memory of **Depeche**, a.k.a. "Blackie" Warring. A wonderful cat that lived a full life through 18 years. With sympathy for his survivors, Tom and Stephanie Warring. —Marguerite Downey

In memory of **Matilda** —Bruce Mueller

Our house is a little emptier today. Our "permanent kitten," **Chessie**, died yesterday. She passed away in David's arms, we hope knowing how much she was and is loved by her mom and dad. Chessie was only five weeks old when she came into Dave's life, and the 17 years between then and now seem to have passed in a moment... Going to sleep last night without her contented purr to fill our dreams was a hard, hard thing. We always called her "the world's cutest kitten," and she was that; all big eyes, big ears, and big feet. And, a huge heart. We will miss her every single day. Sleep warm and soundly, Chessie Toes. Thank you for sharing your too-short life with us. —Dave and Belinda Shlapak 

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

Through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), Federal government workers can contribute a portion of their salaries to the charities of their choice. During the five years that 4Paws has participated in the CFC, this fund raising effort has become an increasingly important source of operating revenue for the organization.

If you or someone you know works for the Federal government, please consider designating 4Paws as your charity of choice. Remember CFC # 7540.

as allowed by law.

4Paws Rescue Team is a 501(c)(3) organization and all contributions are fully tax deductible.

Please visit our site at www.fourpaws.org for updated information about adoption fairs and cats available for adoption.

4 PAWS WEBSITE

- Towels
- Postage stamps
- Toys and beds
- Cat carriers
- Crates and play pen cages
- Cat litter
- Cat and kitten food

Donated items should be brought to Petco stores during adoption fair hours. Visit our web site at www.fourpaws.org for adoption fair dates, times, and locations. Or call 703/715-6369 to make special arrangements.

OUR WISH LIST

Presorted Standard
US Postage
PAID
Merrifield VA
Permit #2880

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

It has been an especially strenuous year during which time many volunteers have dedicated countless hours to caring for and then finding permanent homes for the cats that we are able to rescue. While the struggles have at times been both emotionally and financially draining, the end result is always worth the effort. Please consider making a donation to help us continue our important work.



- \$15 will pay for a rabies shot or feed a cat or kitten for a month
- \$20 will pay for a distemper shot
- \$40 will pay for a feline leukemia/AIDS test
- \$60 will pay for a neuter
- \$90 will pay for a spay
- YES!** I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to 4Paws Rescue Team in the amount of \$_____
- I can't make a financial contribution at this time, but please keep me on your mailing list.
- I have moved. Please note my new address below.

Name _____

Address _____

Please make checks payable to 4Paws Rescue Team, P.O. Box 2908, Merrifield, VA 22116. Please take me off your mailing list.



4 Paws Rescue Team
P.O. Box 2908
Merrifield, VA 22116

(703) 715-MEOW
www.fourpaws.org

Forwarding Service Requested