



4 PAWS PRESS

ISSUE # 17 FALL 2004

"FROM DEATH ROW " (abridged)

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER to you from death row, the last day of my life. Yes, in just a few short hours, I will walk down that long corridor, to the room where my life will be ended with an injection. No priest will escort me, giving me comfort or prayers for my soul. No family will visit me or even miss me when I am gone.

My "family" abandoned me long ago. As a matter of fact, I doubt anyone will ever give me or my death even a passing thought after today.

The saddest fact in this whole matter is that I am innocent. I have done no crime, yet today, I will die. I know that others have said "I am innocent", all the way to their deaths, but in my case, it is the truth.

Let me take you back through my life, tell you my story, please take the time to read it, then you decide for yourself whether or not I deserve to die.

I do not know my parents. I doubt that they even remember me. My birth was just a tragic beginning of a tormented life. As a youngster, I seemed to just "fall through the cracks of the system." I wandered around aimlessly looking for food and shelter anywhere I could find it. Every once in a while a kind person would try to help me out, but it was always temporary sympathy, and then they would be on their way, leaving me just as alone as ever.

As fate would have it, I wound up pregnant. It was a hard pregnancy. I never seemed to get enough to eat, and having no permanent home, I was always

exposed to the weather. I actually slept outside throughout my entire pregnancy.

Time marched on and I continued to struggle along. I was hanging out on the streets one night and I was picked up by a man. He seemed nice enough at first, he took me home with him, offering me food and shelter so I decided to hang around for a while.

I am not really sure what I did wrong, but after a while he said he was tired of me and could not afford to have me around and that I would have to go. He got into his car, drove out to an old deserted road and he put me out. He just left me there. I was alone again.

After several days, I found my way to

the nearest city. Eventually, the police, who had seen me hanging out on the streets for several days picked me up and took me to this place for the homeless. I have been here about a week and nobody has told me what wrong I have committed.

I sleep, eat and relieve myself in my little cell. The smell is horrible and it is so very noisy here. All the other prisoners cry and call out endlessly. It seems that I am being punished for simply being born. How can this happen in such a "civilized" world?

You probably think I am a bank robber, drug dealer or murderer... no, my only crime is that I am a cat, born without a home. 

FOSTER A CAT, SAVE A LIFE

WHAT DOES IT mean to foster? As a foster volunteer for 4Paws, you will provide a temporary home—usually a spare room—for a cat, a pair of adults, a few kittens, or a nursing mother and her babies. While you are fostering, we will ask that you not integrate foster cats with your current pets. Since cats generally do not adjust well to change, it will be less stressful for all the animals—foster cats and resident pets—if you keep your temporary guests in a room of their own. Many people use a spare bedroom or den. A large bathroom, especially for kittens, is often plenty of space. Remember, your "least attractive" option beats the alternative.

While your furry guest is staying with you, 4Paws pays for all pre-authorized vet care at one of our participating animal hospitals. We work with several vets in Vir-

ginia, Maryland and D.C., so it is likely that one is conveniently located to your home or office.

As a foster home, you provide food, shelter and love. We also ask that you transport your foster cats to and from adoption fairs, which are generally held once or twice a month at Petco stores in Northern Virginia. Some foster volunteers choose to stay at the fairs and talk to potential adopters, while others drop off their cats in the morning and pick them up at the end. Of course, people go out of town or have other commitments, so we wouldn't expect you to be available for every show.

Why should you foster? The benefits are obvious to the cats whose lives are saved. What about the benefits to you?

Maybe you enjoy the companionship of a furry friend, but are in flux—thinking about moving or going back to school or

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Combined Federal Campaign # 7540

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

YOU MAY REMEMBER a television commercial with a young girl, approximately 14 years old, picking up a starfish that had washed up on the beach. As she starts to toss it back into the ocean, a man yells to her, 'it won't do any good to throw that starfish back in the water. The tide will just wash more onto the beach.' The girl—showing the wisdom of a much older person—responds 'maybe so, but to this one starfish, returning it to the ocean will make a world of difference.'

I haven't seen that commercial in years and I don't even remember what product it was touting, but the little girl's words have stuck with me. It is those words and the sentiment behind them that reinforce to me the importance of 4Paws and the work that we do. We know that we cannot save them all, but each cat that we do rescue is a life saved, a victory won. And in the end, our efforts will make a world of difference to each individual cat that is taken from a desperate situation and placed into a loving home.

Every cat taken off the street or out of an overcrowded animal shelter is one fewer that likely would have suffered and died needlessly. Each cat or kitten that 4Paws saves will have a much better life than otherwise would have been possible—no more fearful moments trying to anticipate the next peril, no more days of endlessly scavenging for food, no more nights going to sleep hungry and cold.

During 2004, there have been many individual success stories. Many feline lives have been saved; many sick cats made well; many stray, abandoned or unwanted cats placed into loving permanent homes. These victories, however, have not been easily won and have taken their toll. Caring for sick cats, working to undo abuse and neglect, talking to people who don't care—all of this is emotionally exhausting.

And then there is the financial cost—this past year, caring for sick cats, put a tremendous strain on 4Paws' financial resources. Many of the cats rescued from animal shelters have come to us with virulent strains of upper respiratory infection. Often, these cats did not respond to standard antibiotics and required more costly and time consuming treatment. More than usual, in 2004 we encountered cats with a variety of nonstandard medical conditions—severe constipation, a liver shunt, ocular disease, and heart disease, to name a few. Often, these conditions required more extensive (and expensive) medical screening and treatment than is the norm.

Even though, a proportionately higher number of cats turned out to have expensive medical conditions, we did not waiver in our commitment to any of them. At 4Paws, when we take a cat into our adoption program, we commit to the care and welfare of that cat for the long term. If a cat has a treatable medical condition, we put forth the resources to care for that cat. And, though we take pains to find permanent homes for our cats, if a placement does not work out, for any reason, we will always take the cat back.

Last year we adopted out almost 450 cats and kittens. This year, we are on track to find homes for as many, if not more. Unfortunately, because our volunteer and financial resources are limited, we are forced to turn away many, many cats that are in need. Every day, shelter workers call or email telling us about wonderful and loving cats, cats that, because of overcrowding, will be euthanized the following day if we don't take them. It is heartbreaking, but often we have to turn these cats away.

It doesn't have to be this way. Of course, we cannot save them all, but we can save more of them and for each one that we do save it will make a world of difference to that individual cat. You have it in your power to make a difference. If you have spare time—even just an hour each week—we would love to hear from you. If you have an unused room in your house or apartment, fill it with a foster cat or kitten. If you can't volunteer, please make a charitable contribution to 4Paws—a one time contribution, a monthly contribution, or designate 4Paws as your charity of choice for the CFC (if you are a federal employee). Please, whatever help you can provide, it will be greatly appreciated.

Barbara Lipson



MARGE AND MAGGIE

Could these two kittens—Marge and Maggie—be any cuter? Too bad they were dealt a really rotten hand in life. Why, you ask?...not just because their mom, Ariana, was a stray, most likely a discarded pet that had been discarded when the owner moved; not just because they started life malnourished, their mother barely able to produce enough milk to keep them alive as she balanced scavenging for food with protecting her young family; and not just because they learned about the cruelty of our world even before they opened their eyes, as young children threw rocks at the kittens for entertainment.

Somehow, Marge and Maggie managed to weather each of these hardships quite well and grow into energetic, playful, and loving kittens. The bad fortune that will affect them for the rest of their lives is Feline Leukemia. While Ariana was living the difficult life of a discarded pet—outside and alone—she contracted Feline Leukemia and then, through her milk, passed it on to her offspring.

A healthy, vaccinated, and well-nourished adult cat with a strong immune system has a chance of developing antibodies to fight off the virus and avoid contracting Feline Leukemia. For Ariana, however, her circumstances worked against her. Dumped in an alley, each day a test of survival—searching for scraps of food, avoiding predators and other hazards, her body working overtime to nourish the unborn kittens that she carried—stress and malnutrition made it impossible for her to fight off the disease.

On average, 50% of kittens born to a mother infected with Feline Leukemia end up contracting the disease. In the case of Marge and Maggie, statistics rang true—these girls were the ones that drew the short sticks, they were the two out of a litter of four that became infected with Feline Leukemia.

There is no cure for Feline Leukemia; however, most cats infected with the virus, do not actually die from this disease. They usually succumb to related complications—having more difficulty healing from infection or fighting off other diseases.

At least Marge and Maggie will have an easier and more carefree life than most cats infected with Feline Leukemia. Good nutrition, an aggressive wellness program,



and a loving caregiver who pays attention to subtle changes, will give these kittens their best chance for several months of healthy and happy living.

Marge and Maggie are approximately eight months old, current on vaccines, and spayed. They are happy, well-adjusted kittens with no visible signs of illness. Marge and Maggie should be adopted into a home without other cats. Canine companions would be ideal, since Feline Leukemia is not contagious to dogs and the girls love to play with anyone—furry or human.

Fate has dealt Marge and Maggie an unfair hand; won't you give them a chance

to have the loving and pampered life that they deserve? If you have room in your home and your heart for these cuties, please call 4Paws at (703) 715-6369 or email us at info@fourpaws.org.

2005 4PAWS CALENDARS

The 2005 calendars are available for sale. If you've never seen one—you are missing out! Each month features black and white photos of 4Paws cats. Come to an adoption fair (visit www.fourpaws.org for dates and times) and check them out...maybe your 4Paws cat is famous! If not, there is always next year. We are now accepting photos for the 2006 calendar. Either mail the photos to us at P.O. Box 2908, Merrifield, VA 22116 or email the electronic file to info@fourpaws.org. Photos should be high resolution, good contrast and only contain cats (no people)—at least one cat in the image should be a 4Paws adoptee. With each submission, please include your name and your cat's original 4Paws name (if known). Sorry, we can't return pictures, so please only send duplicates.

Feline Leukemia (FeLV)—How It Is Transmitted

Feline leukemia is caused by a virus. Many cats that are exposed to the Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) produce antibodies and are able to fight off infection. Usually, the cats able to fight off the infection, are healthy adults with strong immune systems stimulated by regular vaccines that live in a low stress environment and eat a quality diet.

As viruses go, FeLV is not a "hardy" virus, meaning that it does not live long in a dry environment, outside of a cat's body. Furthermore, it is not as easily transmitted as previously thought; this virus cannot infect your cat by being carried through an open window on a dust particle or brought into your house on your shoes or clothing.

Transmission of the virus requires prolonged, extensive, and direct cat to cat contact. Infected cats spread the virus to other cats through secretions—saliva, urine, feces, and tears. Biting and grooming are the most common means of transmission.

Cats infected with FeLV often show no signs of illness. They can live comfortably for years appearing to feel well, unbothered by the disease. A cat with an advanced infection can present with a wide variety of clinical signs including depression, weight loss, diarrhea or constipation, and respiratory distress.

FeLV suppresses the cat's immune system, interfering with a cat's natural ability to ward off other infectious diseases. This is why most cats infected with Feline Leukemia do not actually die from the disease. They usually succumb to other illnesses or infections that an otherwise healthy cat would have been able to fight off through normal immune system function. This is why it is so important for any caregiver of a Feline Leukemia positive cat to establish an aggressive wellness program with a vet and take the cat to the vet for treatment at the first sign of illness.

Do your cat a favor—just keep her inside so she doesn't have an opportunity to be exposed to a cat infected with Feline Leukemia. But, if one day, you happen to find a sweet cat on your doorstep that turns out to test positive for Feline Leukemia, please remember this is not necessarily an immediate death sentence. With proper care, some cats infected with Feline Leukemia live years without showing any outward signs of illness. 



FELINE TALES—WITH HAPPY ENDINGS

Let's start with a Happy Ending from the last issue's *Unfinished Tales*—**Tom and Bill**, were rescued after being tossed out into an alley in DC when their owner died. These boys had been in 4Paws' foster care for more than a year when, in the fall of 2003, they were adopted into a loving home of two people and one other cat. The boys were very lucky to be adopted by people sensitive to their need to stay together and patient enough to let them adjust at their own pace.

Shortly after arriving at their new home, 4Paws received this report, "Tom has become much the explorer...Bill has found all the best places to hide and is the much shyer of the two. We've found that Bill calms down greatly if we bring Tom to wherever he is, and pet them together...Because Abby (the original cat) is a very happy cat, we think she can do a lot to let the boys know that this is an okay place. It is going to take a while, probably several months, before they realize this is 'home' and it's safe. We're really glad we adopted Tom and Bill." —Walter and Paula G.

Tony (now Mr. Beans) and his siblings were rescued from a trash dump in Stafford, Virginia. It has taken three tries, but after two failed adoptions, Mr. Beans has definitely found his forever-home. "...He is doing fantastically well with my daughter (Kendra)He absolutely ADORES her... If Kendra walks into the room, he is off and away from us, over to her, rubbing her leg and looking UP AT HER, waiting for her to recognize him. The adoration is just amazing. We are officially Chopped Liver!...that kind of relationship may come along once or twice in a lifetime..." —Nancy G.

Tony snuggles blissfully in Kendra's arms.



Coming to 4Paws from entirely different situations, **Pierette** (a stray) and **Nowie** (taken from an overcrowded house with 30+ cats), these girls now share a loving home. "...they are the joy of my life...they have lots of toys, sleep in their beds during the day and my bed at night, and they now own the house (they let me live here). I was very apprehensive about adopting because I grieved so much for my cat that... (died) in May of 2003. I wasn't sure that I wanted to become so attached to another cat. I made the right decision! I love them so much and... they are such a delight." —Winola E.

Geeta, an adult female cat, was abandoned at the Alexandria Petco store. Now she has a new home where she is doted upon. "Geeta is doing very well, and we've been getting along fantastically... She's quite a cuddler, and loves having her belly rubbed... I usually leave a radio or TV on... when I'm not home so that there will at least be the sound of a voice around her. I left Animal Planet on yesterday when I went to work, and came home to find her trying to talk to one of the on-screen cats! I can't tell you how happy I am to have her." —Sarah S.

Completely blind, with severe nasal congestion, **J.B.** was rescued from a kill shelter with an average euthanasia rate of 90%. Never, since the day of his rescue, has J.B.'s disability slowed him down—not for one minute. Now, he has made a place for himself in the new home that he shares with a cat named Killian and two ferrets. "...Killian... hisses and thumps at the ground...(but) J.B. really doesn't give him the time of day, and simply ignores (him)...I do think that the cold war between them is fading because they both worked to give me as little room as possible in bed last night. (On the other hand)... the ferrets are in love with him, mainly because he will play. The first (ferret) I introduced to J.B. was Bubbles...she really couldn't figure him out, largely because he wasn't running away from her. So I guess, when all else fail(s)... wrestle." —Jessica G.



J.B. makes a place for himself in his new home.

Thrown from a moving car, **Mercedes** had a very rough start to her life. Fortunately, she did not sustain any serious injuries and shortly after her abandonment, a 4Paws volunteer heard about the incident and went looking for her. After lots of TLC in foster care to get her through a tough bout with upper respiratory and an infected paw, Mercedes was adopted and has made herself right at home with her new family. "Mercedes is acclimating exceptionally well, loves rough-housing with her toys and playing with the kids, and really likes watching the birds and squirrels from the window perch...For a small cat, she is a real chow-hound and talker....A great addition & we're really enjoying her." —Rich C.

Pickles (now Katie), abandoned at a local vet in 2000, and **Shadow**, relinquished last year by his owner eight years after his adoption, have both found their way into Julie's heart. "Katie has bonded with Shadow (a much more recent addition) and they sleep together on either side of me at night. The funny thing was that Shadow wouldn't take 'no' for an answer. He kept trying to sleep next to her and she would hiss and swipe at him. Finally she must have realized that it wasn't worth it. Now they are best friends. Shadow has made such a difference in her life. Before him, she was affectionate to me, but avoided the other kitties like the plague. Now she is fine with all of them. I'm so glad it finally worked out for her. She is such a sweet kitty." —Julie V.

Duncan was rescued from a sanctuary where he had lived his entire life when he entered the 4Paws Adoption Program. At



the age of nine, he finally has a home and family of his own. "We love our adopted kitty—Duncan!! What a delight he is to be with. He purrs all the time and is already so friendly with our other two cats. He loves to eat and play all the time, he runs around a lot—up and down the stairs with the other kitties. He has adjusted very well. He sits on one particular chair that we now call 'Duncan's Throne.'" —Jacki & David F.

Leo (now Killian) and **Bunny** (now Izzy) were both rescued in West Virginia, but two years apart. Bunny and her sisters were already teenagers in 2002 when they were taken off the street. Leo was seven weeks old when he was rescued along with his mom and eight siblings—all orange boys! "When I first adopted (Izzy), she was a very scared little kitty. She's still a timid little girl... when others are around, but she has gotten completely comfortable with me... It took patience and gentleness... and now she is actually waiting for me when I arrive home from work... She has come such a long way! (Killian) has really (helped bring)... Izzy out of her shell (even more). They play quite a bit and she is definitely 'out and about' more since he joined our home. Adding (Killian) to the clan has turned out wonderfully!!" —Amanda M.

Given to 4Paws because his owner was moving and couldn't take him, **Elric** spent more than a year in foster care looking for a new family to love. At the time that Elric was relinquished to 4Paws, he had lived his entire six years with a single person who hadn't even realized that Elric was deaf. Now he has a family that dotes on him. "Elric has... reclined in all his beds and has already



Rosa (left) and Lexi (right)—a perfect pair!

picked out a favorite—the biggest poofiest one with flannel lining... We have petted and brushed till I would think he has had enough (but of course he hasn't)... it's like this was always his home and he was always a part of our family. Funny how these things work out so well sometimes." —Lorine B.

Alexi (now Lexi) and **Rosa** were abandoned at a very young age with their sister **Virginia** (now Ginny). Suddenly finding that they had to fend for themselves during the cool, damp Spring days of 2003, with no shelter or food source, all three developed severe upper respiratory infections. By the time they were rescued, secondary infections had spread to their eyes. Ginny, the "lucky" one, only lost sight in one of her eyes. For Lexi and Rosa, the disease had progressed beyond repair; they each lost an eye.

Now, Lexi and Rosa have a family that adores them... chose them, in fact, because of their disabilities, rather than in spite of them. "(Rosa) acts like she owns the house, but she lets my mom and dad live there. It's great to watch them act like they know they're home! And they jump—they are so



A regal Ginny content in her forever home.

crazy. They jump on tables, they jump on the backs of chairs, they jump on the sink... They leap, they fly. It is absolutely hilarious. My mom calls me every day to tell me what they are into now... My mom loves them dearly. She thinks they are finally having the kittenhood they weren't really able to have 'til now." —Elizabeth B.

And now, for one final Happy Ending—**Virginia** (sister of Alexi and Rosa, above left) has found her forever-home here with me. Virginia first came into my house as a foster cat. After recovering from spay surgery, she was supposed to go into a Petco store cage, where her sparkling personality would surely entice a new mom or dad to adopt her.

Things did not go as planned, though. A rare complication during surgery caused Ginny to go into respiratory failure during which her heart stopped and she suffered brain damage.

It has been a long road to recovery, but Ginny is a fighter. When she came home after a week's stay at the emergency hospital, Ginny could not walk or eat without assistance. Now, after several months of hard work she is, once again, a happy and playful girl. Not entirely back to herself—she sometimes plays with friends that aren't there. And she is not quite as gentle as she once was when she needs to get my attention for something really important (like mealtime) she just chomps down on my closest body part. (Ouch!)

Ginny has come a long way and made an amazing recovery. She is a special girl and we (Sammy, her furry sister and I) are thrilled that out of the hundreds of foster cats who have passed through our home, Ginny is the one who stayed.—Barbara L.



Leo and his seven siblings—ready to make trouble!



continued from cover page

making some other change that is keeping you from committing to the long term care of a cat. Fostering is the perfect option for you! You get a companion and a homeless cat has a place to stay until he or she finds a permanent home. And don't worry—when your foster cat gets adopted, we will be able to fill your empty nest in no time with new furry friends—unfortunately, there are always more homeless cats in need.

Maybe you are interested in teaching your children to care for and respect animals. Fostering provides a wonderful opportunity for children to see that animals are living beings that experience pain and fear, joy and excitement, just as we do. And the entire family will benefit from seeing the amazing effect that nurturing has on a cat or kitten—the way in which a cat that feels safe blossoms from a hungry, bedraggled mass of fur into a loving confident pet.

Maybe you just want to feel good about helping to save a life—giving an innocent and loving creature the chance he deserves. The cats and kittens that end up in shelters have not committed any wrongs. Many times, their only crimes were to be owned by the wrong people—people who did not take seriously their responsibilities to care for their pets; people who moved, but didn't take their cats with them; people who didn't get their pets spayed or neutered and ended up with kittens they didn't want; or people who took in kittens, no longer wanting them when they grew up to be adult cats. The stray cats and kittens roaming our streets are equally innocent, often abandoned to fend for themselves for the same reasons as those that end up in shelters.

What do foster volunteers say about the experience? 4Paws first met Zachary Goldblatt, just over a year ago, when he offered to collect supplies for 4Paws' cats at his 8th birthday party instead of receiving gifts from his friends. Now Zachary's family fosters kittens for 4Paws. Zachary explains that he wanted to foster because he wanted to bring some kittens into the house—“they make life fun... they are so playful.”

During the past year, Zachary's family has fostered a couple of dozen kittens—

one litter at a time. Each one has made an impression on him—ask him and Zachary will list each by name, telling you about their appearances as well as personality traits. He says that he is both “sad and happy when (his) foster kittens get new homes.” Zachary explains that he misses them, but knows that they will have great lives in their new homes.

Alex Ernst, now 11 years old, and her parents started fostering for 4Paws in 2001. She describes herself as a “real animal lover” and, as an expression of her devotion, she has often donated birthday and holiday money to 4Paws instead of buying something for herself.

Alex loves cats and excitedly talks about all that she has learned as a foster volunteer... including general cat care, the best way to feed and care for orphaned kittens, and the proper way to hold cats with different personalities.

Alex says that she gets sad when one of her favorite cats is adopted, but that she knows she can't keep them all. Taking the foster cats to their new homes makes her feel good—especially seeing how happy the new owners are. And then, in no time, she gets another cat or kitten to foster and love.

Every day 4Paws gets phone calls and emails from shelters with too many cats, from people who have found strays, and from owners who can no longer care for their pets. We cannot help these desperately deserving cats and kittens unless we have somewhere for them to stay until they find their forever-homes. Won't you please help? Call 703-715-6369 or email info@fourpaws.org for more information. Each one that you take into your home is one less feline suffering or dying.



FIFTEEN MINUTES OF FAME

Here is your chance to give your furry loved one his or her fifteen minutes of fame. We are looking for funny feline stories. Please submit stories about your cat (doesn't have to be a 4Paws cat) to 4Paws Rescue, PO Box 2908, Merrifield, VA 22116. We will choose one or two to print in our next newsletter. Due to limited space, please keep your article to 500 words or less.

ADOPTION FAIR SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 6, 1-5 p.m.	Burke Petco
Saturday, November 13, 1-5 p.m.	Herndon Petco
Saturday, November 20, 1-5 p.m.	Tyson's Petco
Saturday, December 4, 1-5 p.m.	Tyson's Petco
Saturday, December 11, 1-5 p.m.	Fairfax Petco

ADOPTION SITES

Alexandria Petco	703/660-1300
Burke Petco	703/455-2007
Chantilly Petco	703/817-9444
Fairfax Petco	703/352-3300
Tyson's Petco	703/448-3401
Animal Medical Center of Springfield	703/455-1188
Ashburn Farm Animal Hospital	703/726-8784

*Available for purchase at adoption fairs:
2005 4Paws calendars featuring 4Paws cats and kittens
An assortment of t-shirts with animal friendly messages*

VIRTUAL ADOPTION FAIR
www.fourpaws.org/pages/online_fair.html



WANTED: BARN HOMES FOR CITY CATS

4Paws occasionally rescues cats that are too shy or scared to be adopted as pets. These cats are vaccinated and sterilized, but if they cannot be returned to their outdoor homes (because of any number of dangers—marauding dogs, construction, busy streets), we must find new homes for them—barns are the perfect solution.

Are you a cat lover who keeps horses? We would love to discuss the benefits of providing a barn home to a displaced city cat (or two). Please call (703) 715-6369 or email us at info@fourpaws.org for more information.

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

DONATE!

Support 4Paws in our effort to help homeless cats:

Online at www.paypal.com
Login, then Select "Send Money"
Enter Recipient's Email: info@fourpaws.org
Donate to 4Paws using your credit card

By mail send checks to
4Paws Rescue Team
P.O. Box 2908
Merrifield, VA 22116

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

If you are a federal government employee, designate 4Paws (#7540) as your charity of choice.

CASH FOR CRITTERS

Recycle used printer cartridges and earn cash for 4Paws. Use postage paid plastic mailing envelopes, available at adoption fairs and participating Petco stores. Or email us your mailing address at info@fourpaws.org to request envelopes be sent directly to you. Visit our website for a list of cartridges eligible for this program. (Epson cartridges not accepted.)

Emily Dixon, mother of Dede, died last winter, shortly after suffering a massive heart attack. It has almost been one year, now, since her mother passed away, but that doesn't make the loss less difficult. Many people donated to 4Paws in honor of Emily Dixon's life and her love for animals. Those contributions also honored Dede, who has dedicated many hours of service to 4Paws, providing her compassion, level headed decision making skills and her computer programming expertise.

Ruth Sipin passed away this year after a long illness. Ruth was mother and mother-in-law to Susan Burke and Bill Janicki, respectively—two long time 4Paws supporters and volunteers. Susan and Bill also lost their beloved cat **Gingersnap**, just a few months later. Many people have expressed their concern for Susan and Bill through contributions to 4Paws. Our thoughts are with them and the many others who lost loved ones this year.

Sadie, loving companion to Carole P. and Jim A., is remembered by the Johnson's.

"**Charly**, my best friend for over 12 years, I was truly blessed to have found you!" —Mary C.

"**Samson** was a much loved foster cat, who found a loving home with me for the last three years of his life. This large, long-legged black cat was a quiet soul who was content with a warm place to sleep and yummy food to eat. He bravely fought through illnesses that might have gotten the better of another cat and taught me much about kindness, love and compassion. Sammy was a dignified gentleman cat who made my heart glad." —Deena D.

"In memory of our wonderful cat, **Singha**, who followed my husband home one day after a walk in the woods. He was black with green eyes, and was 'King' of the animals in our home for twelve years." —Roberta G.

"Tonight for the third time in three years, our family has suffered a loss. **Chloe**, Belinda's cat and companion for 18 years, passed away after a long struggle with kidney disease. She struggled bravely against her condition. We say

goodnight to Chloe with tears and full hearts, knowing that she is now, forever beyond the reach of pain and fear." —Dave S.

In memory of **Margaret**, a stray, who, several years ago in the spring, crawled under the hood of a car to stay warm. Amazingly, she was able to survive a terrifying ride across town—the driver unaware that she was trapped. Margaret was ultimately adopted by Claire who provided her with a comfortable life and loving home until she passed away in October of 2003.

"**Gertie** (4/14/93- 2/18/03), a truly unique cat, was adopted from 4Paws in February 2000. Though she is gone, she will forever remain in our hearts." —Michael and Donna A.

In memory of **Pip** who I looked forward to seeing when I went to feed his colony every weekend for the past few years. 4Paws generously vetted him and provided the shelter from which he always emerged. He disappeared several months ago. How I miss this dapper brown tabby with his sparkly sandy eyes and sweet sad face.—Denise A.

Surviving life as a stray and then death row at a shelter, **Latifa** was not fortunate enough to be rescued before being exposed to a virus that eventually caused her death. **Jasper**, another stray, was born with a liver shunt and died from related complications. **Chip, Kola** and **Polyanna** are three of the many kittens taken by 4Paws from animal shelters in 2004. Ultimately, they were not among the lucky ones—succumbing to illnesses to which they were exposed before being rescued.

Katie, originally given to 4Paws by her terminally ill owner, was loved in foster care, but did not find her forever-home before passing away from illness. At 13 years, Katie had a long life...it's never long enough, though. In the years that Katie remained in foster care, she touched many people with her gentle ways and kind spirit. Katie's daughter, **Groucho**, remains in foster care, waiting to find a family of her own to love. 





**P.O. Box 2908
Merrifield, VA 22116**

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YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Last year, 4Paws volunteers found loving homes for approximately 450 cats and kittens, many of which would have died in overcrowded shelters or suffered, cold, scared and hungry, in the shadows of our neighborhood streets. Since inception in 1995, 4Paws has found permanent loving homes for more than 4,700 cats and kittens. Cats rescued by 4Paws receive wellness vet care—including vaccines, spay or neuter, and testing for Feline Leukemia and AIDS. Many cats rescued from the streets or taken from shelters must be nursed back to health before they can be adopted. Medical care costs money and with vet costs on the rise, more than ever, 4Paws volunteers rely on your generosity to continue our work. With very little overhead—no salaries or rent to pay—91 cents of every dollar donated goes directly toward helping the cats. Please make a tax-deductible contribution today so that we can continue our important work of saving feline lives.

\$25 feeds a litter of kittens for a month
 \$85 spays or neuters a cat
 \$40 tests one cat for FeLV and FIV
 \$125 provides vaccines for an entire litter of kittens
 \$165 reads a healthy stray for adoption

YES, I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$_____.

I have moved. Please note my new address below.

Name _____
 Address _____

I am interested in volunteering. Please contact me:

Telephone _____
 Email _____

Please take me off your mailing list.

Please make checks payable to 4Paws Rescue Team, and mail to P.O. Box 2908, Merrifield, VA 22116

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

OUR WISH LIST

Printers

Foster homes

Towels

Cat litter and/or food

Collapsible "dog" crates

Cardboard boxes for storing

canine cat food (used as litter boxes at adoption fairs)

We hope and pray for a day when no healthy cat or kitten must die simply because there is no room at a shelter. Please spay or neuter your pet.

4PAWS WEBSITE

Visit our new website www.fourpaws.org

courtesy of Paul Threatt and Affordable Creative Services. Find updated information about adoption fairs, download an application, or view some of our many cats available for adoption. Completed application should be faxed to 703/560-9795.

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)
 If you are a federal government employee, designate 4Paws (#7540) as your charity of choice.