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# 4PAWS PRESS

ISSUE #18 · FALL 2005

## OUR WISH LIST

- Foster Homes
- Towels
- Cat litter and/or food
- Collapsible “dog” crates
- Cardboard boxes for canned cat food (used for litter boxes at adoption fairs)

*We hope and pray for a day when no healthy cat or kitten must die in order to make room at a shelter for another homeless cat. Please spay or neuter your pet.*

**4Paws Website:**  
[www.fourpaws.org](http://www.fourpaws.org)

Please visit our website for updated information about adoption fairs, to download an application, or to view some of our many cats available for adoption. Our virtual adoption fair is updated frequently. Completed applications should be faxed to 703-560-9795.

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Last year, 4Paws volunteers adopted out approx. 400 cats and kittens, many of which would have died in overcrowded shelters or suffered, cold, scared and hungry, in our streets. This year marks 4Paws' 10 year anniversary—since inception, 4Paws has found permanent loving homes for almost 5,200 cats and kittens. Every cat rescued by 4Paws receives wellness vet care; many come to 4Paws sick, needing to be nursed back to health before they can be adopted into permanent homes. This year, in addition to our normal rescue efforts, dedicated 4Paws volunteers went above and beyond to save 80+ cats and kittens made homeless by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

The adoption fee 4Paws charges for an altered adult cat does not come close to covering the cost of readying a healthy cat for adoption—let alone the additional expense of caring for a sick feline. Veterinary bills have been higher this year than ever before and the ongoing cost of caring for the hurricane refugees has put an additional strain on 4Paws' financial resources. You can trust that donations to 4Paws will be used as you intend—to benefit homeless cats. With very little overhead—no salaries or rent to pay—91 cents of every dollar donated goes directly toward helping the cats. More than ever, 4Paws volunteers rely on your generosity to continue our work. Please make a tax-deductible contribution today.

- \$25 feeds a litter of kittens for a month
- \$40 tests one cat for Feline AIDs and Leukemia
- \$85 spays or neuters one cat
- \$125 provides vaccines for an entire litter of kittens
- \$165 readies a healthy stray for adoption

- YES, I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to 4Paws in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please make checks payable to 4Paws and mail to P.O. Box 2908, Merrifield, VA 22116)
- I have moved. Please note my new address:  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- I am interested in volunteering. Please contact me at: \_\_\_\_\_

## A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT to rescue animal victims of Hurricane Katrina

In early September, 4Paws got involved in a collaborative effort to rescue animal victims of Hurricane Katrina. Veterinarians and volunteers drove two cargo vans and a horse trailer to Gulfport, MS. Their vehicles were packed to capacity with medical supplies, pet food, bottled water, and other supplies necessary to care for and transport any animals rescued.

4Paws' contribution to this effort primarily came when the weary travelers (people and animals) arrived back in Northern Virginia, five days later. The animal evacuees consisted mainly of 54 cats, but also among the group were two dogs and other small animals.



Volunteers spent countless hours getting the animals settled into their temporary quarters at the Veterinary Holistic & Rehabilitation Center. Scared, hungry, and dirty when they first arrived, these animal survivors were amazingly accommodating especially given all they had gone through in the previous days and weeks. They had lost everything that was safe and familiar—their families, their homes, their sense of security. A bath, fresh food, water, and a warm place to sleep, this was the beginning of their new lives, safely away from the trauma and loss that they had left behind in Mississippi.

Once their immediate needs were taken care of, their medical needs could be addressed. Wellness exams included vaccines, blood tests for Feline AIDs and Leukemia as well as

see “Collaborative” on page 3

## FOSTER A CAT, SAVE A LIFE

When the stories of homeless animal victims of the hurricanes hit the news, people all over the nation came forward to help by providing temporary shelter for the evacuees. Especially in the DC Metro area, the outpouring of compassion and the offers of assistance were overwhelming...and heart warming. 4Paws was flooded with offers to foster homeless cats from the Gulf Region.

The response is very different, though, when most people are asked to help a local homeless cat or kitten. Why is a DC Metro area cat less worthy of a healthy, happy future than one from Mississippi or New Orleans? The circumstances of their abandonment may be different, but the end result is most certainly the same—local cats and kittens are suffering, cold, hungry, and scared, in our streets and every day, local felines are dying in our shelters.

When asked to foster a local homeless cat or kitten, often the immediate reaction is—I can't foster because...my cats wouldn't like having another cat in the house...or the foster cat might make my cats sick...or it would be too difficult to give the cat away after having it in my home.

These may be valid concerns—for someone who doesn't understand how fostering works. Foster cats are always kept in a separate room away from other pets. This isolation is necessary for many reasons. Resident pets may not appreciate the newcomer. The isolation allows resident pets to get used to the idea of having a new cat in the house without the stress of a face-to-face confrontation.

Also, foster cats often come from stressful situations—animal shelters, circumstances of neglect or abandonment. Providing your foster cat with a room of his own will help him start to feel protected—he will quickly realize that enemies don't lurk around every corner. In his “safe room” your foster cat will have time to regain confidence and start trusting again.

Furthermore, cats tend to feel most comfortable in small spaces (like the cardboard box that your cat enjoys snuggling in). Bathrooms or small dens tend to be less overwhelming and provide ideal accommodations for a foster cat.

Cats and kittens rescued by 4Paws are examined by a vet, given appropriate vaccines, treated for fleas/worms, and tested for Feline AIDs and Leukemia before being placed into foster homes. The stress of any change can bring on illness, though, so keeping foster cats in a room of their own, away from

see “Foster” on page 6



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By now, everyone has heard the stories and seen the images of the devastation wrought by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. The animal victims received quite a bit of coverage by local and national news media. Who didn't see the video of dogs paddling in flood waters trying to keep their heads afloat or hear human victims tell of how they were forced to leave their pets behind as they fled to safety? In the aftermath—tens of thousand, no hundreds of thousands of dogs, cats and other domestic animals were left in flooded, destroyed dwellings or wandering the streets with no food or drinkable water.

The stories are horrible, but what does this have to do with 4Paws? In conjunction with a group of volunteers and local veterinarians, 4Paws has been able to assist in the rescue of 80+ cats from the Gulf Region. This project has been a tremendous drain on human and financial resources, but seeing those furry faces—after all the trauma and loss they suffered, tired and hungry from the long trip—settle into their foster homes, become healthy and strong, there can be no greater reward.

In deciding whether to participate in this rescue project, the conflict didn't focus on a concern for the time and effort or for the cost (though it has been far more expensive than expected), but a concern for the plight of local cats also in desperate need of rescue. First and

foremost, we did not want any efforts helping homeless animals in the Gulf Region to hurt our ability to help local strays, displaced pets, and cats scheduled for euthanasia in local animal shelters.

There are many things that 4Paws has accomplished in these past few months—helping to remove 80+ scared and traumatized feline refugees from the Gulf Region, providing them with medical care, temporary foster homes, and for some, permanent adoptive homes. What I am most proud of, however, is that we were able to help cats made homeless by the hurricanes without negatively impacting our local rescue efforts.

As foster homes are 4Paws' most precious resource, our greatest concern was to be able to provide temporary housing for the feline refugees without using foster homes previously designated for local rescues. Thankfully, a tremendous outpouring of support from the community enabled 4Paws to place almost all of the Gulf Region cats into homes of people who had not previously fostered.

The community support has been truly heart warming. It is comforting to know just how much people will rally in times of crisis. **Unfortunately, the crisis did not start or end with the devastation caused by the hurricanes.**

The sad truth is that 4Paws could have filled all of the foster homes that came forward to help Katrina and Rita refugees with local homeless cats and kittens. And even then, after quadrupling the number of temporary homes for local rescues, there would still have been cats and kittens dying in our streets and in animal shelters for no other reason than that there isn't enough space to house or resources to care for them.

The feline overpopulation problem in the DC Metro area, mirroring the problem nationwide, is a crisis that 4Paws volunteers face every day. There are too many homeless cats and kittens for our animal shelters to accommodate. And the sad result is that when space runs out, healthy adoptable animals must be euthanized in order to make room for new arrivals.

According to statistics gathered by the Humane Society of the U.S., every person in the United States would need to take in six cats in order to provide homes for all the cats and kittens in need. That means a household of four people would need to house twenty-four cats—a far cry from the reality of, on average, two cats residing in each American household.

What is the solution? In the long term, spaying and neutering is the only answer. In the short term, what can you do? Take a homeless cat into your home by adopting or fostering through 4Paws. If you can't foster or volunteer in a different capacity, please make a tax-deductible donation to help 4Paws pay mounting vet bills.

During this holiday season and throughout the year, please don't forget the suffering of homeless cats and kittens locally, in the Gulf Region, and nationwide.

*Blessings To All On Two And Four Legs,*

*Barbara Lipson*

The 4Paws Press is published by:  
4Paws Rescue Team, Inc.  
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(703) 715-MEOW (voice) • (703) 560-9795 (fax)  
info@fourpaws.org • www.fourpaws.org  
**Combined Federal Campaign # 7540**

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.

### 4Paws Rescue Team Officers and Board Members

Barbara Lipson *President*  
Dede Dixon *Vice President*  
Dianna Hogan *Secretary*  
Linda Simmons *Treasurer*

### Board of Directors

Barbara Lipson • Dianna Hogan • Linda Simmons  
Dede Dixon • Kathleen Kerrins • DeAnna Scott

## HOW I GOT MY MOM AND I ADOPTED

Hi—my name is Zorro and this is my story about how I got me and my catmom adopted. When I was a kitten, my catmom, two brothers, and sister were picked up and brought to a shelter. It was a very scary place, but luckily a 4Paws volunteer rescued us.

One day, we went to a 4Paws adoption fair. We were huddled in a cage when this lady came in. She had just had her 19 year old cat, D'Artagnan, put to sleep. He had fought kidney disease for 2 years, but had gotten a tumor in the end. Needless to say, the lady was very upset. A friend who was a 4Paws volunteer suggested that she stop by the cat adoption fair if she needed to hug a kitty.

She went to the fair and told everyone that she wasn't looking for a cat that day. Whereupon my 4Paws foster mom asked her what kind of cat she eventually wanted. The lady said two adults, preferably lap cats. The lady wanted nice

### Fifteen Minutes of Fame

*Just like Zorro, your furry loved one can have his or her fifteen minutes of fame. We are looking for funny or heart warming feline stories. Please submit stories (500 words or less) to:*

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

or email to: [info@fourpaws.org](mailto:info@fourpaws.org)

quiet cats and knew adult cats were difficult to place. My foster mom said she had just the thing and quickly reached into our cage and put my catmom on her lap. She told the lady my catmom was a great lap cat.

This lady pet my catmom her for a while and then asked, "What about a second cat?" At that point, I was put on the lady's lap. I was such an adorable ball of fur, if I must say so myself, a Tuxedo kitty with a little black mask and only eight weeks old. My foster mom told her that she wanted to keep me and my catmom together since we were so close. I heard this and thought to myself, "I'm just so cute -- who could possibly resist me?" And then I heard the lady say, "I don't know - kittens are a lot of work." Oh no! She wasn't supposed to say that! I knew I had to work fast if I wanted to be adopted with my catmom. So I turned around and looked up at the lady with the cutest expression I could muster. The lady never had a chance, she caved. And that's how

I got me and my catmom adopted. My hummom never regretted her choice, or having to sleep with earplugs in order to have those "nice quiet cats" she wanted! 🐾

### ADOPTION FAIR SCHEDULE

Saturday, 12/3/05, 1-5 pm	Tyson's Petco
Saturday, 12/17/05, 1-5 pm	Fairfax Petco
Saturday, 1/7/06, 1-5 pm	Tyson's Petco
Saturday, 1/28/06, 1-5 pm	Fairfax Petco
Saturday, 2/18/06, 1-5 pm	Tyson's Petco
Saturday, 3/11/06, 1-5 pm	Fairfax Petco
Saturday, 4/1/06, 1-5 pm	Tyson's Petco
Saturday, 4/22/06, 1-5 pm	Fairfax Petco
Saturday, 5/6/06, 1-5 pm	Tyson's Petco
Saturday, 5/20/06, 1-5 pm	Fairfax Petco
Saturday, 6/17/06, 1-5 pm	Tyson's 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

Available for purchase at adoption fairs: 2006 4Paws calendars featuring 4Paws cats and kittens and an assortment of t-shirts with animal friendly messages

### VIRTUAL ADOPTION FAIR

[www.fourpaws.org/pages/online\\_fair.html](http://www.fourpaws.org/pages/online_fair.html)

*"Collaborative" continued from Page 1*

treatment for parasites. As would be expected, the incredible stress of the previous weeks caused several of the cats to become sick, primarily with upper respiratory and fungal infections. Medical care—wellness and illness—is ongoing and, unfortunately, has become quite a drain on financial resources.

In the days after their arrival in Virginia, the rescued animals were all placed into foster homes. 4Paws took responsibility for the cats, finding temporary housing with people who came forward specifically to help the feline Katrina refugees. Fortunately, existing 4Paws foster homes were not needed for Katrina cats, allowing 4Paws to continue rescuing local cats and kittens without any interruption or reallocation of volunteer resources.

The vast majority—38 of the 54 cats—came from the Humane Society of Diamondhead, MS. The facility was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina—though overcome by 5½ feet of flood waters, all but one of the cats survived the hurricane. The other cats evacuated were relinquished to 4Paws by their owners. People who had lost their homes, everything they owned, were comforted to know that though they could no longer care for their pets themselves, their cats would be well taken care of.

Because they were given up by their owners (or the Humane Society) and not found on the streets, once the cats settled into their foster homes and began to thrive, 4Paws could begin the quest for permanent adoptive homes. Many of the people who initially volunteered to foster the refugees decided to adopt their feline visitors. Other cats rescued from the Gulf have found permanent homes through 4Paws' adoption fairs or website. Of the original group of fifty-four, 19 feline survivors of Hurricane Katrina are still looking for permanent, loving homes. 🐾

## WANTED: BARN HOMES FOR CITY CATS

With the ever increasing numbers of homeless cats, 4Paws is rescuing more and more cats that are too shy or scared to be adopted as pets. Usually, they were born and have lived outside with little or no human interaction. 4Paws vaccinates and sterilizes the cats, but if they cannot return to their outdoor homes (because of dangers such as marauding dogs, construction, busy streets, etc.), 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). 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. Please call (703) 715-6369 or email us at [info@fourpaws.org](mailto:info@fourpaws.org) for more information.

## “NO KILL”

The 4Paws Rescue Team is a “no kill” organization. What does that mean? The literature says, “4Paws will never euthanize a cat or kitten except out of medical necessity.” In practice, this policy means that any healthy or medically curable cat or kitten rescued by 4Paws will be kept until a home is found.

By making this pledge to each cat rescued, it means that 4Paws cannot take in any additional homeless felines until a space is opened through an adoption of a cat currently in foster care. The unspoken truth is that by having a “no kill” policy, we end up having to turn away many, many needy cats. Unlike a government mandated animal shelter that must take in every animal entering its facility, 4Paws, a private organization, can set limits...and we do...we have to. “No kill” is great for the cats we have space to take into our program, but sadly, not for the many we have to turn away...

Nationwide, millions of cats and dogs are put to sleep every year—according to estimates by the Humane Society of the United States, one animal dies every 9½ seconds in an animal shelter in the U.S. These animals are dying because the shelters are overcrowded, not, in most cases, because there is anything medically wrong with them. Often, the animals put to sleep are healthy, adoptable cats and dogs. Usually the ones that have been at the facility the longest will be the ones sacrificed to make space for new arrivals.

4Paws' ability to save lives is directly impacted by our capacity to house and care for each cat rescued. Every day 4Paws gets calls from animal shelters whose workers are begging us to save cats and kittens in their facilities. They call 4Paws hoping to spare the lives of animals slated for euthanasia to make space for new arrivals. 4Paws cannot say “yes” to these calls without your help.

To save more feline lives, 4Paws needs foster homes to provide temporary shelter, volunteers to take care of the cats awaiting adoption in Petco stores, and monetary contributions to pay for mounting vet bills. 4Paws needs your help so that we can help them. 🐾

## IN APPRECIATION...

4Paws could not have provided 80+ cats and kittens, refugees of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, with opportunities for happy and healthy futures without the help of the following organizations: **Del Ray Animal Hospital • Festival Bel Air Veterinary Clinic • Olde Towne Pet Resort • Veterinary Holistic and Rehabilitation Center**

Thanks also to the following organizations for their help and support in 4Paws' Rita and Katrina Rescue Effort: **Alley Cat Allies • Antech Diagnostics • Chesapeake Veterinary Cardiology Associates • Crosspointe Animal Hospital • Dale City Animal Hospital • Eye Design & Marketing • Fairfax Animal Hospital • Friends of Homeless Animals • Great Falls Animal Hospital • Homeward Trails Animal Rescue • The Hope Center (Emergency Veterinary Clinic of Northern Virginia) • McLean Animal Hospital • Metro Ferals • Petco • Pet Medical Center of Springfield • RGM Graphics • Town & Country Animal Hospital • Washington Humane Society • Waverly Woods Animal Medical Center**

## RESCUED CAT By Arlene Pace

*Once I was a lonely cat,  
just looking for a home.  
I had no place to go,  
no one to call my own.*

*I wandered up and down the streets,  
in rain in beat and snow.  
I ate what ever I could find,  
I was always on the go.*

*My skin would itch, my feet were sore,  
my body ached with pain.  
And no one stopped to give a pat,  
or gently say my name.*

*I never saw a loving glance,  
I was always on the run.  
For people thought that hurting me  
was really lots of fun.*

*Then one day I heard a voice  
so gentle, kind and sweet.  
And arms so soft reached down to me  
and took me off my feet.*

*“No one again will hurt you,”  
was whispered in my ear.  
“You’ll have a home to call your own  
where you will know no fear.”*

*“You will be dry, you will be warm,  
you’ll have enough to eat,”  
“and rest assured that when you sleep,  
your dreams will all be sweet.”*

*I was afraid I must admit,  
I’ve lived so long in fear.  
I can’t remember when I let  
a human come so near.*

*And as she tended to my wounds,  
and batbed and brushed my fur,  
she told me about the rescue group  
and what it meant to her.*

*She said, “We are a circle,  
a line that never ends.”*  
*Continued next page...*

## FELINE REFUGEES OF RITA/KATRINA Second Group—30+ Rescued

No sooner had the first group of 50+ Katrina refugees settled into foster homes and started on the road to becoming healthier, both physically and emotionally, when plans began for a second trip down to the Gulf Region. This time, the Del Ray Animal Hospital organized the rescue effort.

In the days and weeks after the hurricanes, several make-shift animal shelters sprang up in the region. With little in the way of food, drinkable water, medical supplies or even electricity to cool the animals in the sweltering heat, exhausted workers did what they could to care for the huge influx of animals made homeless by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

Our group of travelers removed 33 cats and 31 dogs from these temporary shelters in order to make room for additional animal victims to be rescued. After a 24-hour journey, the animal evacuees arrived to find the comforts of the Olde Towne Pet Resort waiting for them (quite the story of rags to riches!). The Resort generously provided daily care and accommodations for the cats and dogs during their first week in Virginia.

The animals all received wellness care and treatment for illnesses. Many of the cats became ill with upper respiratory infections—not surprising given the stress and trauma that they had recently lived through. A few of the cats' illnesses became debilitating, requiring hospitalization and intense treatment regimes. Though there were tense times, all of the cats recovered from these early illnesses and are currently in foster care.

*“And in the center there is you  
protected by new friends.”*

*“And all around you are  
the ones who check the pounds,  
and those that share their home  
after you’ve been found.”*

*“And all the other folk  
are searching near and far  
to find a perfect home for you,  
where you can be a star.”*

*She said, “There is a family,  
that’s waiting patiently,  
and pretty soon we’ll find them,  
just you wait and see.”*

*“And then they’ll join our circle.”  
“They’ll help to make it grow,  
so there’ll be room for more like you,  
who have no place to go.”*

*I waited very patiently,  
the days they came and went.  
Then just when I began to think  
it wasn’t meant to be,  
there were people standing there  
just gazing down at me.*

*I knew them in a heart beat,  
I could tell they felt it too.  
They said, “We have been waiting  
for a special cat like you.”*

*Now every night I say a prayer  
to all the gods that be.  
“Thank you for the life I live  
and all you’ve given me.”*

*But most of all protect the cats  
in the pound and on the street.  
And send a Rescue Person  
to lift them off their feet.”*

While they all are thriving in foster care—happy for daily meals, a comfortable place to sleep and people who love them—not all emerged from their ordeals unscathed. One is positive for Feline AIDs (FIV), a kitten is positive for Feline Leukemia (FeLV) and a third cat tested positive for both FIV and FeLV. It is likely, based on evidence of recent wounds, that each became infected with these incurable diseases during the days and weeks after losing their homes in the hurricanes.

Pictures have been posted on Petfinder.com in an effort to reunite owners with their lost pets. While we have been in contact with some individuals desperate to find their lost companions, so far, none of our cats' owners have been located.

Though we haven't given up, it is looking unlikely that owners will be found. Many are homeless themselves and probably could no longer care for their pets even if found. The most likely scenario is that 4Paws will need to find new permanent homes for these feline refugees from the Gulf Region. 🐾

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The 4Paws Rescue Team is run entirely by volunteers. Our ability to save feline lives depends on the generosity of those willing to donate their time to our cause. Different volunteer activities require varying degrees of commitment. In as little as thirty minutes a week, you can make a significant contribution, helping to improve the lives of homeless cats and kittens. If you are interested in any of the following volunteer opportunities please call (703) 715-6369.

**Adoption Fair Assistant** 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 the day, volunteers help dismantle the cages and clean up.

**Adoption Fair Set Up** Volunteers are needed to help set up cages for adoption fairs. Set up takes place the Friday night before a fair, usually lasting an hour.

**Follow Up Calls** Volunteers call recent adopters to ensure the cat has transitioned

smoothly to its new home. Problems and suggested resolutions are discussed.

**Home Visits** Volunteers set up appointments with adopters to visit their homes and pets. New volunteers are trained and briefed on appropriate responses to questions that may arise. Visits usually take 20 minutes and are limited to the geographical location requested by the volunteer.

**Store Volunteer** Individual is asked to commit to one evening or morning each week to care for cats that are temporarily housed at Petco stores. Volunteers provide fresh food/water, scoop litter, clean cages, and give love and attention to the cats at the store of their choice. We are looking for both morning and evening volunteers, but we are most desperate for people in the mornings.

**Voicemail Volunteer** Volunteer returns calls to people who need help finding homes for cats/kittens or who have questions about feline behavior. Volunteer will need to have the emotional fortitude to handle what can often be a difficult glimpse into the plight of homeless cats.

**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 a place for them to stay until they find their forever homes.

Won't you please help?  
Call 703-715-6369 or  
email [info@fourpaws.org](mailto:info@fourpaws.org)  
for more information.

**Each one that you take into  
your home is one less feline  
suffering or dying.**

*"Foster" continued from Page 1*

resident pets, will provide an added level of protection for resident pets.

When you foster a cat through 4Paws, you can feel good about the beautiful opportunity that you are giving a homeless cat. Adoptive families are well screened in order to find the best match between cat and adoptive home. It may be difficult to send your foster cat off to his new home, but you will be comforted to know that you have done a generous thing. By providing a temporary home for your foster cat and then letting him leave to have a family of his own, you will have saved his life and given him a chance for a happy and healthy future. And then, with your foster cat settled into his new home, you will have space once again to provide temporary shelter to another homeless cat. Unfortunately, there is never a shortage of homeless cats in need.

A wide variety of fostering opportunities are available. You could foster a single cat, a pair of adults, a few kittens, or a nursing mother and her babies. Volunteers will talk with you to determine the best match, given your living situation and time constraints. While your furry guest is staying with you, 4Paws pays for pre-authorized vet care at a participating animal hospital conveniently located to your home or office in D.C., Virginia or Maryland.

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 the fair.

Now that you understand what it takes to be a foster volunteer, please contact us and say, "Yes, I will foster a cat and save a life." 🐾

### 2006 4PAWS CALENDARS

Are now available for \$10. Each month features black & white photos of 4Paws cats and kittens. Come to an adoption fair & check them out...maybe *your* 4Paws cat is famous!

**We are now accepting photos for the 2007 calendar.** Photos must be submitted **no later than May 31, 2006** in order to be considered for publication. Send yours in soon—space goes quickly!

Mail photos in color or B&W to:  
4Paws Rescue Team,  
P.O. Box 2908,  
Merrifield, VA 22116

Email photos (high resolution only) to:  
[info@fourpaws.org](mailto:info@fourpaws.org)

Images chosen for the calendar will have good contrast, contain only animals (no people), and at least one cat in the image should be a 4Paws adoptee. Please include your name and your cat's 4Paws name (if known) with your submission. Sorry, we can't return pictures—please send duplicates.

### MEMORIALS & DEDICATIONS

We thank those who remembered homeless cats as a way to honor departed loved ones:

**John Wills**, father of Claire Wills, a long-time 4Paws volunteer, passed away this fall after a long bout with cancer. Claire talked about the comfort brought to her father during his illness and especially at the end by Emily, the cat that her parents adopted from 4Paws.

**Vera Cooper**, grandmother of Kathleen Kerrins, passed away this summer. Mrs. Cooper had supported 4Paws for years, crocheting toys & blankets for our rescued cats and kittens.

To honor the memory of **Gloria Dane McCarthy**, an animal lover, her family requested that donations be sent to 4Paws in lieu of flowers.

••••

In loving memory of **Miel** and **Gabi** (formerly Groucho). Miel continues to be greatly missed. Gabi an older 4Paws cat spent her last months loved and adored. *Lloyd G.*

In honor of **Skeeziks** and **Oliver**, cat companions of Katherine and Mal who are mourning them. *Cindy S.*

In memory of my beloved **Daisy**, July 8, 1990—April 26, 2003 and her littermate, **Nick** who died of cancer in January. **Fiona** (adopted December 8, 2003) has helped to fill the hole in my heart. *Martha H.*

We were so upset to lose **Mosby** to his diabetes this year. We will always love our Mosby and be grateful to 4Paws for bringing him to us. *Dorothy B.*

Poor **Treasure** never had a chance to find a loving home. Shortly after being rescued from a DC alley, she died of kidney failure—poisoned by a toxin of unknown origin. Goodbye sweet, Treasure. *Susan W.*

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In gratitude for 4Paws' wonderful work and for two wonderful cats—**Katie** and **Jamie**. *Dolores M.*

To **Sheba** (adopted 6/10/03) who's brought more joy than I ever could've imagined. I never stop falling in love with her! She's my angel. *Christine R.*

For **Levi**. *Laura T.* • In honor of **Odin**. *Bruce & Sarah D.* • For **Frances** and **Smokey**. *Selma P.*

Thanks for my cat, **Isis**, adopted on 1/16/04, she is the joy of my life. *Cynthia W.*

**Smoke** is a beautiful cat. Thank you for choosing me to be his mother. *Judy Lynn P.*

A Christmas gift in honor of my two cats, **Becky** and **Jacob**. *Dolores M.*

In honor of **Sammy** (aka Firebird Montgomery) who was adopted from 4Paws March 29, 2003.

He has become a big part of our family. *Michael & Donna A.*

### FELINE TALES—WITH HAPPY ENDINGS

"My **Shannon** will be 5 yrs and and **Chessie** (formerly **Missy**) will be 4. Shannon is still very much my lap-sitter...Chessie has been my challenge...she has taken a long time to warm up to her mom—even now there are times when I pet her, I can sense that she might just as soon I left her alone...but when she wants to be loved she will climb on my lap and fall asleep and could be there for hours... I [have] called her my diamond in the rough. I think the rough edges are starting to sparkle! Thank you for letting me be Shannon and Chessie's mom!" *Jessica H.*

"We adopted **Lena** in April and she is a funny little cat...we adore her! She sleeps with us every night and is very prissy and cute. She and our little dog Lizzie get along famously and play. She has brought much joy to our home." *Molly V.*

"Just an update... I love this little kitty (**Lil' Zane**)! She's romping the house with my 16-year old cat Smokey...followed by my 22 year old cat Rascal...and trying to figure out my huge cat Bandit (who mostly lies around). I have been separating her at bedtime or she wears us all out and we get no sleep!" *Shirley K.*

"Late August 2004, we stopped at a nearby Petco to pick up food for our 2 cats. One of the cats up for adoption was a large gray cat named **Missy** that had come to 4Paws after her owner had died, she was 5 years old. We always feel sorry for the older kitties, since we know it takes longer to find them a home. The next week was spent discussing adding Missy to our household and how our 12 and 15 year old cats would adjust. In the end we decided to go for it. A new life deserves a new name, so she became Serafina Pekalla. Serafina has settled in well...she loves to cuddle up on a lap or next to someone on the couch. When she's really happy, she drools. We think adopting Serafina was a good move and we're sure Serafina agrees." *Kurt and Marion A.*

"Gidget (formerly **Hester**) and Bodhi (formerly **Kahuna**)...were still a bit jumpy up until a few months ago. I went out of town for a few days, and when I came back, you would have thought I was a long lost relative! The two of them used to spend all of their time on the ground floor, only coming upstairs to use the litter boxes—but when I came home, I found both of them on my bed! All lovey, the pair of them! Now Gidget sleeps with me nightly." *Caryn C.*



"Everything is going wonderfully with little **Marmelade**, except that we are spending everything we earn to buy her toys. Such a spoiled little girl! Every morning when we wake up we find a little ball of fur on our bed surrounded by all her toys. During the course of the evening she ferries all her little squeaky and rattly and jiggly toys for us to enjoy when we open our eyes." *Alistair B. and Claire L.*

Rescued from an animal shelter with a high-kill rate, **Etoile** was separated from her sister, **Pamela** when the latter was adopted. Six months later, the same adopter came back for Etoile—the reunion went off as though no time had passed. "We were able to reintroduce Etoile and ItsyBitsy (formerly Pamela) within a few days. They definitely remembered each other fondly. They play chase and wrestle multiple times each day, bathe each other's head daily, and sleep side-by-side. We've never had two cats that get along so well all the time!" *Pat and Neal R.*



"Hello my name is DC...I wanted to thank you for letting my Mom and Dad adopt my baby brother **Mattie**! When they first brought my brother home I was scared...The first few times Mattie came over to me, I just hissed at him, he would walk away. A few times I would sneak up to him and check him out and even hit him with my paw and run, he just looked at me and yawned. I finally realized he was okay and within no time he was my best friend. Sometimes my baby brother just walks up to me and kisses me...he has taught me to purr. Thanks 4Paws for my baby brother, I am a much happier cat with him around." *Deborah L. for DC, the cat.*

**Elric** and **Lasher** (now Fairfax) were turned into 4Paws by their owner who was moving. They were initially adopted into separate homes. A year later, when Fairfax's new owners couldn't keep him, Elric's family decided to reunite the brothers. "The reintroduction is complete and the 'boys' are happy to be back together. Elric's personality has changed...as he is not as nervous and seems to be more content. Both cats are attached to my wife literally, where ever she is, they follow. It is interesting...Fairfax is much more fearless, but Elric is much smarter. It can lead to some interesting moments in the house as the two are a perfect foil for each other." *Craig F.*



After two years in foster care, **Prince Edward** (formerly Tigger) has finally found his place in the world, where he gets lots of attention as the only pet. "Eddie likes to sit up in the loft and look down on his kingdom. He is doing just great—Eddie is THE most affectionate cat I've ever had. We have enjoyed lots of porch time and cuddles. He's such a great companion." *Jean W.*

**Callie** (originally **Sharon**), lived in an outdoor cage crammed with seven other cats when rescued by 4Paws. After several months of gentle care in a 4Paws foster home, she learned to trust again. "Just wanted to let you know Callie continues to thrive. We had a sad week here; I had to euthanize Oscar last night...he was having a tough time with cancer. I am thankful I have Callie...this morning for the first time she jumped up on the bed to greet me when I woke up (usually Oscar's job, one he did right to his very last morning) and she's been checking up on me all day as I stay home to cope with losing Oscar. I don't know what I'd do without her." *Amy P.*

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