

4 PAWS PRESS

ISSUE # 22 WINTER 2009

THE RIGHT HOME FOR THE RIGHT CAT

CATS ARE OFTEN STEREOTYPED as independent loners. Anyone who has lived with and loved one knows that cats are generally very social creatures. Of course, every cat has its own personality quirks and preferences. Some cats may not enjoy the companionship of other felines, but instead seek out human attention. Others may be closely bonded to a feline or canine friend in addition to a person. And certainly there are examples of cats that do not gain comfort from interacting with people. Cats that fall into the latter group usually did not have much socialization with people at a young age and, therefore, are not comfortable being

around people. But these feline loners are the exception not the rule when it comes to personalities.

At 4Paws we have cats with whichever personality you are seeking. Cats that prefer the company of their people instead of other animals make some of the very best companions. They tend to be the most affectionate, attentive, and loyal pets around. A few of the 4Paws cats that would thrive in a single cat household are **Abby, Anna, Dominique, Freddy, Goodness, Obi Wan, Peggy, Princess Tilly, Squeaky,** and **Waltz**. Cats who don't like to share with other cats generally don't mind spending the day alone while their family is

at work and school as long as they are able to have some quality time with their person at some point in the day.

Sharing your home with a pair of cats that is closely bonded can be a very special experience. Often, the mere presence of their feline companion is so comforting that each cat is happier and more confident than he would be on his own. Depending on the strength of the bond, even a brief separation when one cat goes to the vet or wanders into another room of the house can cause anxiety and distress.

It's simply a joy to watch two feline companions romping through the house or curled up together to take a nap. Some of the 4Paws pairs of cats available for adoption are: **Arowana & Chub, Comet & Eclipse, Ling Ling & Jasmine, Lucy & Peppermint Patty, Tommy & Missy, Tobias & Lucille, and Wolf & Tarheel**. Don't worry, though, having a feline friend to pal around with when no one is home is

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WHY SPAY OR NEUTER?

WE HEAR THIS ALL THE TIME. 'What's the big deal? If my cat gets pregnant, I'll find homes for the kittens--no harm done.'

Maybe no harm to your kittens, but take a look at the bigger picture. The people who took your kittens would have gotten kittens somewhere else if your cat had not gotten pregnant. Maybe they would have gone to the animal shelter or given a home to the stray prowling around the dumpster for food.

Five kittens at the shelter could have been saved if your cat's litter of five hadn't taken those homes. The people that gave homes to your kittens--kittens whose births could easily be prevented by spaying your cat--could have given homeless kittens at the shelter loving homes.

Not too far fetched when you consider that millions of adoptable cats die in animal shelters every day. These potentially wonderful pets are dying because shelters are overcrowded. When a stray kitten is taken to an animal shelter, the facility is required to take in that cat. Often times, taking in a new arrival means killing a cat that has been at the facility in order to empty a cage and make room. Horrible, but true...this happens every day in shelters in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia.

If you let your cat get pregnant, you may not see the harm done, but know that innocent lives will end unnecessarily. Contribute to the solution, not the problem, PLEASE spay or neuter your pet today.



Anna, above, would thrive in a single cat home!



4PAWS PRESS

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CFC # 34517

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

4Paws Rescue Team

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4Paws Online Adoption Fair

is updated regularly, please visit at www.fourpaws.org/pages/online_fair.html

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

HOW MANY CATS ARE TOO MANY? The answer to this question, of course, depends on individual preferences and constraints. It may surprise you to know, though, that fewer cats are not necessarily easier. A single kitten can get into a lot of trouble trying to entertain himself while you are away at work all day. A pair of kittens can keep themselves busy playing with each other instead of unrolling the paper towels or chewing on the plants. It's certainly not much more work to feed and scoop litter for two cats than for one.

Many times harmony and peace can be restored by adding another cat to the household. The new addition may change the dynamics among the existing resident cats, adding a distraction or calming influence to a tense relationship. A cat that chases his feline sister may simply need a like-minded companion willing to play. It never ceases to amaze me how adding a new cat to the mix can so often restore harmony to a feline family.

How many is enough? Everyday at 4Paws we get email, phone calls, personal pleas, begging us to take a stray cat out of the cold, shelter kittens whose time is up, or a long-time family pet with no one to care for him when his owner is deployed overseas. We take in as many cats as we have foster homes to accommodate...unfortunately it's never enough. For every cat we rescue, there are dozens that we have to turn away.

As a No-Kill shelter, 4Paws never euthanizes a cat except out of medical necessity. We continue caring for our cats until permanent, loving homes are found for them. This policy while humane and caring has its limitations. It means that we only have room to take in a new cat when another is adopted. Unfortunately, with limited foster space that means many are turned away.

Healthy adoptable cats are dying every day in local shelters because these facilities are overcrowded and need to make room for incoming cats. It's impossible to ever rescue enough. No one ever wants to turn away a cat or kitten in need of help...it is the hardest thing we have to do. Each day, we do what we can, giving each cat that comes through our adoption program the love and medical attention he needs.

During 2009, we rescued and found homes for more than 300 cats and kittens. That brings total feline lives saved since inception to almost 6,500. Sure, that's a lot of well deserving cats and kittens that didn't die cold and hungry in our back alleys; didn't get hit by a car dashing to cross the road in search of a morsel of food; and didn't die unnecessarily in an overcrowded animal shelter. But is it enough? Of course not.

We can save more, though, with your help. Our two most precious and scarce resources are foster homes and financial assistance. If you have a spare room, please consider fostering a homeless cat or litter of kittens. But if you can't foster a cat, then please make a tax deductible donation today to 4Paws either by mail, online, or through workplace giving. With your help, we will be able to save even more feline lives in 2010.

Happy holidays and **please** spay or neuter your cat,

Barbara Lipson

THE RIGHT HOME FOR THE RIGHT CAT continued from cover

no substitute for human companionship. Cats that make up bonded pairs are often very loving and interactive with their people when they are home. These cats certainly have plenty of love and affection to go around.

Some cats that are less confident around people—usually due to a lack of human contact early in their lives—make

the best companions for other cats. If you have a cat at home that is in need of a furry friend, 4Paws has plenty of possibilities, such as **Hokie, Ms. Betty Mittens, Rosemary and Tracy.**

For more information on any of the cats mentioned, please visit our Online Adoption Fair at www.fourpaws.org and click on Adopting a Cat. 



FELINE TALES WITH HAPPY ENDINGS



We adopted Yuri (formerly **Rocky**) far left, the day after Christmas last year and then, her sister **River**, left, in May 2009. The two girls are so playful and happy and bring joy to all around them. They are always close to each other, lick and clean each other a lot and then, sometimes “kitty wrestle” with

gentle bites and much rolling around. I had some reservations about adopting a second cat after adopting Yuri—was not certain how it would work out. Well, it has been just a wonderful experience as these two girls simply love being together. Now, I can't imagine not having two cats. —Lin R.

I have heard on several occasions from people that cats are not social animals. I will tell you that it is the opposite with **Monaco**. She follows us around from room to room just like a puppy. She has a personality like no other cat we have ever owned. —Deborah E.



I drove from Williamsburg to Tyson's Petco four years ago and adopted **Gracie**, left, a little skittish gray cat. She loves her home; whenever my wife or I sit down, she is quickly up in our laps and is very comfortable. She is still skittish when she moves from one room to another, backing across the threshold of the door so she can see what is behind her. She is a funny cat and gives us much entertainment. —Douglas S.



After a rocky beginning when **Fiona**, above, said 'no way' to accepting Figgy (**Figgo**) above, they are now good friends and playmates. As of last December, Fiona marked 6 years with me and Figgy 4 years. —Martha H.

We had a lot of trouble with Masha Purreophone (formerly **Venus**), right, at first—she hid all the time and hissed whenever anyone tried to approach her. I was in frequent contact with her foster parents getting advice. They suggested we give her Bach Flower's Rescue Remedy and a week later she was a different cat. She is now adapting well, plays a LOT, eats too much and loves to be brushed and rubbed. —Diana J.



A SPARE ROOM WILL SAVE A LIFE

DO YOU HAVE A SPARE BEDROOM, home office, or finished basement? Put that space to use and save a feline life. That's it! A spare room is all it takes to foster an abandoned cat, a litter of kittens, or an animal shelter survivor. As a foster parent you provide a temporary home for kittens or cats in need. The length of fostering can vary from a few weeks to several months depending on your availability.

The rewards of being a foster parent are many. They include offering a cat a second chance at life and in return receiving love and attention from the animal you are nurturing.

There is no need to worry about vet costs. 4Paws pays for pre-authorized vet care at one of our participating vets. Before going into foster care, every cat is examined by a vet, vaccinated and tested for feline leukemia and FIV. 4Paws provides for wellness and illness care for the duration of your foster's visit. Your only financial responsibility will be to provide daily care—food, litter, toys, etc. It's your non-monetary gifts that will be most important—love, shelter, and security.

You don't think that your current pets will do well with newcomers? Not a problem, we recommend that you do not introduce your pets to the foster cats—definitely not initially and sometimes not at all for the duration of the foster's stay. The cat will acclimate more easily if he can stay separated from other pets in a room of his own where he can feel safe. It may also be less stressful for your own cat.

Fostering can be challenging but also a very rewarding experience. Foster homes provide cats and kittens with opportunities not otherwise available to them. In your home, with your care and nurturing, your foster cat will have a chance to grow, getting healthier every day, both physically and emotionally. With the opportunity that you provide, your foster will be ready to embrace his new home when the right person comes along.

Please consider becoming a foster volunteer. It doesn't take much to foster, but the rewards are endless. 4Paws can only save a feline life if there is a foster home available to care for him. Your generosity of opening your home to a stray or abandoned cat will directly result in a saved life. Put that spare room to a valuable use and foster a cat today!



DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

SO OFTEN IT'S THE KITTENS that get all the attention. And no wonder—they are cute, cuddly, and playful.

Everyone crowds around the kittens at adoption fairs to watch their antics and, as a result, the older cats get overlooked.

However, a kitten is not necessarily the best choice for every household.

A young rambunctious kitten may have too much energy for an older person, possibly even causing a fall as he darts around legs and objects. Likewise, a little furry bundle of energy may simply be an annoyance to an older cat or dog. How awful to set out looking for a companion for your current pet but instead end up providing a source of stress.

Before you rush to adopt a kitten, take some time to consider all the wonderful qualities that an older cat has to offer. Mature cats may have less energy than a kitten, but that can translate into being a better companion for a person. Instead of running off to chase anything that moves, an older adult will contentedly sit with his person, happy to receive pets and scratches. Also, an adult cat already has an identifiable personality. No surprises a few months down the road as with a kitten that is just beginning to form lasting personality characteristics.

People often worry about the cost of caring for an older cat. Not many realize how very expensive kittens can be. During their first year of life, kittens need to get a series of vaccines in addition to being spayed or neutered. Still developing immune systems make kittens quite susceptible to environmental factors such as parasites and common airborne viruses. Before they are even born, most kittens have already contracted worms while in their mother's womb.

Mature adult cats often have already been exposed to many parasites and common viruses and so have built up some immunity. Common ailments like diarrhea, conjunctivitis, and upper respiratory infection can severely debilitate a kitten and cost hundreds to cure. But these maladies often have little effect on adults with more developed immune systems.

FELINE TALES WITH HAPPY ENDINGS

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Jessica is now truly Queen of the Castle. Though she spent her first 32 hours hiding under our bed, now that she has explored every nook and cranny and found every tall surface, she is a bundle of energy. When not snuggling with one of her humans and purring up a storm, she has a blast... watching the birds from our sunroom, teasing the other two cats (who are clearly old and fat), playing string and chase games with our 7-yr old daughter, attacking the evil toilet paper roll in the bathroom, and charging around the house. —Kristin M.

We had originally applied to adopt a different cat, but she had already been adopted so a volunteer suggested Molly (formerly **Vienna**) to us. It has worked out perfectly. She has so many cute eccentricities. She loves to watch TV. As soon as you turn it on, Molly comes running over and will stare at the TV for hours. She is also very bold about stealing people-food...and not just small portions of food either. She has been seen racing down the hall dragging a foot-long sub roll in her mouth. She is totally amazing and keeps us amused. —Linda P.

Consider also—a mature adult cat will have already learned good cat manners. No need for you to spend time teaching him to stay in the house, use a scratching post, or stay off the kitchen counter. With an older cat, someone else has already done the hard part. And here you come to enjoy the fruits of their labors.

4Paws has several amazing older cats currently available for adoption: **Abby**, loves to lick faces and sit quietly with her person (requires large lap); **Anna**, devoted to her person and quite chatty about it; **Cinnamon**, gentle, quiet and loving, she gets along with dogs; **Crystal**, Siamese-mix will do



India, above, and I are doing great together! Every day she trusts me and our environment more. It's great fun watching her progress. This is the first time I have had a lap cat. India is truly a wonderful cat in so many ways. —Suzanne G.

Willy is such a happy, happy boy in his new home. He gets along with the dogs—runs with them around the house. He is certainly a member of the pack. He sleeps in our daughter Faith's room on her pillow and we often find him wrapped around her head—it's very sweet. —Hannah C.

Molly (formerly **Jade**) is a beautiful loving cat whose severely infected tail had to be amputated shortly after coming to 4Paws. As the anniversary of her adoption approaches, I just want to take a moment to thank you for allowing this sweet fur person to share our lives. She and Murph (a stray we took in a few months before Molly came into our lives) are great buddies. —Jill M.

best as only cat; **Freddy**, never seems to get enough petting and scratching; **Gracie**, petite sweetheart seeks a warm lap; **Missy & Tommy**, well-adjusted lap lovers; **Morgan**, loves being petted while sitting in a lap; **Peggy**, purr-machine craves human attention; **Tookie**, best as only cat, great with people

For more information about these cats, please visit our Online Adoption Fair at www.fourpaws.org. And, if you are thinking about adopting a cat, please consider a more mature option—you will be hard pressed to find a better companion. 



UNEXPECTED COSTS

EVEN IN THE MIDST of a down-turned economy, 4Paws is deeply committed to providing quality vet care to our cats. Each cat that comes into the 4Paws Adoption Program is examined by a veterinarian; tested for Feline Leukemia (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV); neutered; and vaccinated. Most cats that come from shelters and strays from the streets require treatment for common ailments like parasites (worms and fleas), upper respiratory infections, and urinary tract infections.

This year, in addition to expected medical expenses, we encountered several conditions that proved to be both challenging and expensive.

Brandy, a beautiful Siamese mix, came to 4Paws from a rural shelter. Her right paw had been mangled and severely infected in a trap. Most of the flesh had fallen off and the shelter did not have the resources to treat her. Though initially expected to lose her leg, after months of medication, bandage changes, vet visits and dedicated care, Brandy has retained full use of her paw and is now happy and playful.

Abandoned in a box outside a Petco store with her five siblings, **Rita** has never had full use of her left front leg. Under the care of a specialist it was determined that she is missing a bone in her leg—a congenital defect—that causes her leg and paw to curl under her body. Rita has adapted well to her deformity and is able to move around and use the litter box without any problems.

Wolf and her siblings suffered from a virulent upper respiratory infection when first rescued from a local shelter. Weeks after recovering, Wolf suddenly stopped eating and developed an unidentified infection that caused her ears to wilt and discolor. The vet had never seen anything like it and kept her at the hospital for several days of close observation, intensive care, medications and force-feeding. Wolf has recovered and is back to being a sweet and playful kitten who is especially bonded to her sibling, Tarheel.

Chub and **Arowana** are the only surviving kittens from their litter. Malnutrition and an unidentified virus nearly took their lives as well. Several visits to the emergency hospital, their regular vet, and intensive home care helped these kittens beat the odds. They are very sweet and people-oriented in spite of the weeks of poking, medicating, and force-feedings that they endured.

Before coming to 4Paws, **Mocha** survived by staying out of the way of the domestic violence in her home. One day, in a desperate attempt to become invisible, Mocha squeezed her body under a radiator. As a result, she suffered four long parallel burns on her back. One of the burns spanning her shoulders and going down her left front leg was very deep. After enduring several months of wound cleaning, medication, and vet visits Mocha's wounds have healed. She is a loving and beautiful cat in spite of her ordeal—the deepest burn, though, has left scar tissue on her back where no fur will grow.



Goodness, above, risked her life to save her kittens.

Goodness risked her life to save her 2-week old kittens from a vicious dog attack. The violent fight left Goodness nearly torn in half and literally fighting for her own life. After several surgeries, feeding tubes, antibiotics, and a lot of tender loving care, Goodness has emerged as a loving (with people) and beautiful companion.

Ferne, a playful kitten, suffered what was originally thought to be a fracture of her front leg. An orthopedic specialist determined that an infection had seeped into her bone, eventually infecting both front legs. At one point she was in so much pain that she could not put any weight on either front leg, leaving an upright sitting position as the only position comfortable to her. Many vet visits later, several antibiotic regimens, and frequent warm compresses, Ferne is once again a happy, playful girl.

Having recovered from their medical hardships, these cats are now ready to find their forever homes. For more information on the personalities and traits that make each of these cats special, visit our Online Adoption Fair at www.fourpaws.org. 

DONATE TO 4PAWS

Online: Pay by credit card online: www.paypal.com
Login and select "send money"
Enter recipient's email address:
info@fourpaws.org

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

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC):
Federal government employees choose #34517 to designate 4Paws as your charity of choice.

United Way: designate #34517 as your charity of choice.

Combined Virginia Campaign (CVC):
Virginia government employees choose 4Paws by designating CVC #3472.

IS YOUR CAT A STAR?

We are now accepting photos for the 2011 calendar. Make sure your cat gets his 15 minutes of fame—send your photos in before space runs out.

Mail color or black & white photos to 4Paws, P.O. Box 2908, Merrifield, VA 22116. Or, email high resolution images to: info@fourpaws.org.

Images chosen will have good contrast, contain only animals (no people), and contain at least one 4Paws cat in the image. Include your name and your cat's 4Paws name (if known) with the submission. Sorry, we can't return pictures.

ON THE RADIO

4Paws is the featured charity on WAMU during the month of December. Every day in December, WAMU will tell listeners about the rescue work done by the 4Paws Rescue Team. Tune your radio to WAMU 88.5 FM and show your support for 4Paws.

FOOD DONATIONS

Lately 4Paws has been getting frequent pleas from people who take care of stray cats and feral colonies. Difficult financial times make it especially challenging to feed cats that have been fixed and returned to their outside homes. 4Paws is collecting wet and dry cat food to distribute to the generous people who help homeless cats in our community. 



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

THE 4PAWS RESCUE TEAM is run entirely by volunteers. Different activities require varying degrees of commitment. In as little as thirty minutes a week, you can make a significant contribution. If you are interested in any of the following opportunities, please call 703-715-6369 (or email info@fourpaws.org):

- ◆ **Adoption Fair Assistant** – At adoption fairs, held on Saturdays, volunteers talk to potential adopters about general cat care and help them handle the cats. At the end of the day, volunteers dismantle the cages and clean up.
- ◆ **Adoption Fair Set Up** – Volunteers set up cages the Friday night before an adoption fair. Set up usually starts at 7 p.m. and lasts an hour.
- ◆ **Follow Up Calls** – Volunteers contact recent adopters to ensure their cat has transitioned smoothly to its new home. Potential problems and suggested resolutions will be discussed in advance with new volunteers.
- ◆ **Store Volunteer** – An individual commits to care for the cats in a Petco store, one evening or morning each week. Each volunteer provides food/water, scoops litter, and cleans cages at the store of their choice. 

WANTED: BARN HOMES FOR CITY CATS

FERAL CATS, those born outside or having lived outside most of their lives without much, if any, human contact, are not suited to be adopted into homes as indoor pets. The best that 4Paws can do for these felines is to vaccinate and sterilize them before returning them to their outside homes. More and more often, though, because of construction, busy streets or other dangers, it is not safe to return these cats to their former homes.

Relocating city cats to country barns is a winning solution for all concerned. Your new barn cats will earn their keep by helping to control the rodent population, and you will be saving a feline life or two. Please call 703-715-6369 or email us at info@fourpaws.org for more information. 

FELINE TALES WITH HAPPY ENDINGS

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About five years ago we adopted from 4Paws a 5 year old tabby-tortoise cat named **Calico** that we saw for adoption at vet's office. Cali has filled our lives with love. –Nancy & Marlow M.

Shadow, now known as Samson is a great joy to our family. We recently took in another cat that had been living outside for over a year and had been declawed. Samson has welcomed him into the house, no hissing or spitting. –Joyce S.

Rascal (formerly **Tikki**) and sister Repeat (formerly **Tavi**) are curious, playful and full of energy. They chase each other—running from one end of the house to the other...first one is the chaser, then the 'chasee'. They are so very cute. They run and tumble, stalk and chase, hide and attack, lick and cuddle. But when I sit to watch TV, they are always ready for a quiet moment—Rascal stakes her claim to my lap and Repeat sits on the back of the couch near my head. –Jane E.



Mars (formerly **Sunny**, a.k.a. **The Grinch**) above, was one of your Gulfport Mississippi Hurricane Katrina rescues. Every night when I herd cats to the bedroom, he yells at me as he trots down the hall with his hunter's pouch swinging from side to side. He is a delight. The rest of my cats have their claws, but even declawed Mars is still the Alpha. His days are spent in his bed in front of the window often upside down with his legs in the air so his Buddha belly can get the sunshine. –Crystal B.

Chandler (formerly **Gunther**) had been abandoned in a Petco parking lot and then fostered for more than a year before we met him. We could not believe such a well-behaved, loving animal had not been adopted yet—he seemed meant for us! –Nita M. 

ADOPTION FAIR SCHEDULE

At Fairfax Petco store from 1 to 5 p.m. on the following days:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Saturday, December 5, 2009 | Saturday, March 20, 2010 |
| Saturday, December 12, 2009 | Saturday, April 10, 2010 |
| Saturday, January 9, 2010 | Saturday, May 1, 2010 |
| Saturday, January 23, 2010 | Saturday, May 15, 2010 |
| Saturday, February 20, 2010 | Saturday, June 12, 2010 |

Adoption Sites:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Alexandria Petco | 703/660-1300 |
| Burke Petco | 703/455-2007 |
| Chantilly Petco | 703/817-9444 |
| Fairfax Petco | 703/352-3300 |
| Tysons Petco | 703/448-3401 |
| Pet Medical Center of Springfield | 703/455-1188 |
| Potomac Valley Veterinary Hospital | 703/425-7387 |

2010 4Paws calendars featuring 4Paws cats and kittens are available for purchase at adoption fairs.

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



We thank those who honored their departed loved ones by helping homeless cats and kittens:

To honor the memory of George Baker, a great friend to stray cats, his family asked that memorial gifts be sent to 4Paws.

To honor her life and a cause that was dear to her heart, family and friends of Peggy Butler donated to 4Paws.

In loving memory of **Miel & Gabi** (Lloyd G) • **Mr. Big**, 1992-2007 (Rebecca S) • **Timmy** (Carrie K) • **Angel** (Dorianne A) • **Mozart** whom we miss terribly (Melanie M) • Joe's **Sam** and Kim's **Three** (Pam, Kira & Becky) • **Drew**, a cat adopted from 4Paws by Mary and Andrew (Greg & Tanya S) • **Charlie** who died in October at the age of 16 years (Lucinda S)



In honor of **Juliet**, left, my first kitty, who inspired me to go on to adopt and rescue other cats. –Marcia N.

In memory of my sister's cat, **Annabelle**, who died after a long battle with kidney disease. –Bev V.

In honor of my cat **Dewey** who died this summer. I've know him my entire life (11.5 yrs). –Emily L.



To the indomitable, irreplaceable **Nigel**, left, who lived til 20. I hoped you would live forever. –Denise A.

To **Guppy, Betta, & Mbuna** whose time was much too short. Mbuna, who had the longest time with us...but still too short—your intelligence, energy, enthusiasm, and contagious personality will not be forgotten. –Laura B. & Gloria N.

Benson (formerly Logan) died from an aggressive form of cancer at 3.5 yrs. Though only for three years, we were lucky to have him through good and bad. –Adrienne S.

In memory of Elric's feline brother, **Fairfax**, who lost his battle against kidney disease this past October. –Craig F. & Lorine B.



In remembrance of **Beatrice**, left, who brought smiles to our faces and warmth to our hearts till the day we lost her. Although we only shared a few months, she will impact our lives forever. Beatrice, Happy Tails to you...



We were so sad to say goodbye to **Thea**, above, on December 30, 2008. Adopted from 4Paws (as Teke) in April 1999, she shared our home for almost 10 years. Thea had been abandoned when her family moved away. She came so far with us, starting as a fearful kitty we couldn't hold or touch. Over the years, she gradually became a cuddly loving cat who purred constantly and couldn't get enough attention. We loved her and will remember her always. –Joanne & Lance E.

To my big beautiful boy, **Sam** "the Bammer," I am in awe of your sweet, gentle, proud spirit. You are and always will be the steady keel of our family. Thank you for bringing us such joy. We were the lucky ones. We love and miss you so much. –Linda, Marty & the rest of the Nutwell gang.

Thank you for **Stella & Ziggy** (Sarah B) • **Zoe** (Frank Y) • **Oreo & Leo** (Ruixia & John P) • **Bruno** (Sandra & Mac M) • **Molly & Foxtrot** (Joyce P) • Piper, formerly **Beth** (Kelly G) • **Lucky & Misty** adopted 3 years ago (Freda T) • Matilda, formerly **Cleopatra** adopted August, 1997 (Bruce M)

In celebration of **Rocket's** 16th birthday. –Rebecca S.

In honor of **Lola's** four year Adoption Anniversary. –Allan E.

For **Sam**, adopted 9 years ago. –Brenda F.

In honor of **Duncan** who is truly loved and adored. –Jacki, David & Janie F.

Jupiter and **Venus**, rescued after Hurricane Katrina are now 4 years old and incredibly loving. –KC

Thank you again for taking care of my **Shadow** before we could find each other when I adopted him in November 2007. –Laura F

Edward Cat (previously **Cesar**) was adopted over a year ago and has been a wonderful addition to our family. –Hugh O.

Melanie (formerly **Melon**) continues to do well. She is a sweet, very affectionate kitty. Thank you for bringing us together. –Martha S.

Thanks for my beautiful tortie, Fiona (formerly **Biscuit**)—one of your Hurricane Katrina rescues—she is a treasure. –Lally Anne A.





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

**(703) 715-MEOW
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YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ONCE AGAIN, 4Paws volunteers adopted more than 300 cats and kittens into permanent loving homes. Without 4Paws, many of those rescued would have died in overcrowded shelters or suffered cold, scared and hungry. Since inception in 1995, 4Paws, an all-volunteer organization, has found adoptive homes for more than 6,500 cats and kittens. Every cat rescued by 4Paws receives wellness vet care; many that come to 4Paws are sick, needing to be nursed back to health before they can be adopted into permanent homes.

The adoption fee of \$95 for a neutered 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. The rising cost of veterinary services continues to put a tremendous 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—92 cents of every dollar goes directly toward helping the cats. We rely on your generosity to continue our work. Please make a tax-deductible contribution today.

\$25 treats a litter of kittens for worms
\$130 provides vaccines for an entire litter of kittens
\$50 tests one cat for FeLV and FIV
\$185 readies a healthy stray for adoption
\$95 spays one female cat

YES, I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$_____ (Please make checks payable to 4Paws, mail to: P.O. Box 2908, Merrifield, VA 22116)

I have moved. Please note my new address below.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

I am interested in volunteering. Please contact me:

NAME _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

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

4PAWS' WISH LIST

- More than anything we need foster homes—people who will allow a cat or kittens to reside in a spare room or home office until the feline visitor becomes healthy and confident and finds his forever home.
- Towels
- Cat litter and/or food
- Collapsible "dog" crates
- Small cardboard boxes from canned cat food (used for litter boxes at adoption fairs)
- Dog houses to provide shelter for feral cats (the older the better)

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

www.fourpaws.org
CFC # 34517

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