



**4PAWS RESCUE TEAM**  
**P.O. Box 2908**  
**Merrifield, VA 22116**



## EASIEST HOUSEGUEST EVER!

Looking for the perfect guest for your spare room? Consider fostering a cat! Your guest will eat what you give him, keep his living area clean, and never complain. As a foster volunteer, you provide food, litter, and love. All you need is a spare room where a foster cat or kittens can live until a permanent adoptive home can be found. 4Paws pays for pre-authorized vet care. Please consider opening your heart and home to a desperate cat or kittens that just want a chance at a life. Contact [info@fourpaws.org](mailto:info@fourpaws.org) for more information.

## SEEKING OUTDOOR HOMES

Some cats that end up in shelters are feral—they were born outside and are not comfortable being around people. Feral cats are not suitable for traditional adoptions, but certainly they deserve a chance to live. Often these cats are the first to be euthanized when shelter space runs out. It is estimated that dozens of feral cats die in area shelters weekly.



Each year, 4Paws volunteers find outdoor homes for shelter cats awaiting imminent death. With your help we could rescue many more.

Do you own property that is located away from busy roads—a yard that backs onto woods with a barn or shed? By participating in the 4Paws Feral Relocation Program you can give the ultimate gift this holiday season—the gift of life.

There are no adoption fees. You only need to agree to provide, food, water, outdoor shelter and annual vaccines. 4Paws will vaccinate and neuter the cats in addition to providing training and initial supplies to acclimate feral cats to their new home. Contact us at [info@fourpaws.org](mailto:info@fourpaws.org) for more information.



**P.O. Box 2908**  
**Merrifield, VA 22116**  
**(703) 715-MEOW**  
**[www.fourpaws.org](http://www.fourpaws.org)**  
**CFC # 34517**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Presorted Non-profit  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Permit No. 2880  
 Merrifield, VA



**Meatball**



**Jake**



**Olivia**



**Sasha**



Cats pictured on the cover were originally adopted from 4Paws and later returned due to financial or changes in living circumstances.

## Greetings from 4Paws,

4Paws is on track to find loving homes for 400 cats and kittens in 2014—almost 8,000 since we started in 1995.

It has been another year of both challenges and triumphs. 2014 began with an urgent plea from an animal shelter. And the frantic requests from overcrowded shelters continued all year long. The reality is that every day healthy, adoptable, loving cats are dying in overcrowded shelters all over the United States. The situation at this specific shelter in southeastern Virginia was unique because nearly two hundred cats and kittens were scheduled to die on a single day.

Many shelters are required to take in every animal brought to their door. With limited space and finite resources to feed and care for these cats, their only option is to kill cats who have been at the shelter the longest to make room for new arrivals.

4Paws desperately tries to save as many of these at-risk cats as possible. Some shelters that we help have euthanasia rates as high as 90%. That means only 1 out of every 10 cats entering the shelter leaves alive.

In addition to the 100 cats rescued from southeastern Virginia, 4Paws rescued cats from a shelter in Roanoke. Adoptions are so scarce at this shelter, the only chance a cat has for survival is to be taken in by a rescue group. Every week the shelter sends out a list of cats scheduled to be euthanized. The following week there is a new list of entirely different cats that will perish at week-end if not rescued.

4Paws rescues as many of these deserving cats as we can. But saving lives is expensive. Many shelter cats are injured or sick, in need of costly treatments. With constantly rising vet costs we need your financial assistance to continue saving feline lives.

How else can you help? Do you have a spare room where you can foster a cat? Do you have time each week to take care of our cats at a Petco adoption center? Maybe you have time to transport cats from rural shelters to a 4Paws vet? Any financial or volunteer assistance that you can provide is greatly appreciated.

We save as many as we can and each one is special, cherished, and deserving of a forever-home. Please help us to save these precious lives.

*Barbara Lipson*

Barbara Lipson, President, 4Paws Rescue Team

## 4PAWS EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESSES

The following are examples of 4Paws going a step beyond for our cats:

**Colleen**, right, came from a high-kill shelter in Baltimore with a euthanasia rate of 78%—that's nearly 9,500 animals dying annually. She was born with an unusual condition—each of her sinuses was blocked by a wall of bone. Her entire life she had been forced to breathe only through her mouth. Holes were drilled to create openings between her nasal cavities and sinuses. Colleen endured two surgeries, massive swelling, and 45 days of tubes sticking out of her nose. She weathered it all and is a ball of energy now that she can breathe! All she needs is a family to love.



**Thomas** arrived at the shelter with a broken leg. After surgery to reconstruct and pin his leg, a long sedentary recovery and lots of TLC, he is running around like a mad man. Most cats avoid his manic energy but **Frisky**, in the same foster home, actually likes him.



**Frankie**, left, a kitten only 8 weeks old, came to 4Paws with a bulging eye, ready to burst. Although his eye could not be saved, he was spared the agony of a rupture. Frankie healed quickly and is an energetic, happy little guy.

Poor **Mr. Pennybags** was filthy and thin when he dragged himself into the open.

Suffering from a blocked colon, he required immediate surgery. A later surgery removed damaged portions of his colon. Mr. Pennybags, fully recovered, is energetic with no special diet or medication requirements. All he needs is a loving home.

A volunteer travelled to Stafford, VA to rescue a litter of kittens. There were many more cats than expected and the volunteer returned with multiple families of adults and kittens. One group of kittens, below, named after **Ballroom Dances** kept passing upper respiratory infections back and forth. A few developed life-threatening pneumonia. Thankfully, all recovered and are ready for adoption.

4Paws could not change the lives of so many cats without your generosity. Thank you for your support.



glue

## DONATE TO 4PAWS

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution today.

- 🐾 \$35 feeds a mother and her kittens for a month
- 🐾 \$60 neuters a male cat
- 🐾 \$120 provides vaccines for three kittens
- 🐾 \$230 readies a healthy stray for adoption

**Online:** Pay by credit card at [fourpaws.org](http://fourpaws.org), click on **Donating to 4Paws**. Or visit [paypal.com](http://paypal.com), log in and select **send money**, enter our email address: [info@fourpaws.org](mailto:info@fourpaws.org).

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

CFC 34517 (Federal workers)  
CVC 3472 (Virginia state workers)

## THANK YOU

Thanks to Petco Foundation and SPCA for grants supporting Trap Neuter Return (TNR) and helping to pay vet costs for cats rescued from shelters.

## SUPPORT 4PAWS

2015 4Paws calendars and other merchandise are on sale at our online shop. Go to [fourpaws.org](http://fourpaws.org), click **4Paws Online Shop** on our home page. 4Paws t-shirts, sweatshirts, and ball caps are among the items for sale. Or come to a Fairfax adoption fair to buy 4Paws merchandise.

## UPCOMING ADOPTION FAIRS

**Sterling Petco** 22000 Dulles Retail Plaza | Sterling, VA | 571.434.6562  
First Sunday of every month, 11 am–4 pm

**Fairfax Petco** 10708 Lee Highway | Fairfax, VA | 703.352.3300  
Once or twice a month on Saturdays, 1 pm–5 pm  
Visit [www.fourpaws.org](http://www.fourpaws.org) for specific dates.

Visit our two new adoption centers: **Manassas** Petco near Liberia Avenue and **Sterling** Petco in the Dulles Retail Plaza.

Visit our Virtual Adoption Fair: [www.fourpaws.org/pages/adopt-cat-online.html](http://www.fourpaws.org/pages/adopt-cat-online.html)

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Financially, 2014 was another difficult year for 4Paws. Last year's federal government shut down had rippling effects that are still being felt. Donations to 4Paws from the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), a major source of funding, remain at the lowest point in ten years.

4Paws is on track to find homes for 400 cats and kittens. Without 4Paws, thousands of cats would have died in overcrowded shelters or suffered cold, scared, and hungry on city streets. Since its inception in 1995, 4Paws, an all-volunteer organization, has found adoptive homes for almost 8,000 cats and kittens.

The \$95 adoption fee for a neutered cat does not come close to covering the cost to sterilize and vaccinate a healthy cat. The reality is that many shelter cats are sick when they come to 4Paws which adds to the cost of readying them for adoption. The additional burden of rising veterinary costs stretches 4Paws financial resources thin.

With very little overhead—no salaries or rent to pay—95¢ of every dollar goes directly toward helping rescue cats. You can trust that donations to 4Paws will be used as you intend—to benefit homeless cats. More than ever, 4Paws volunteers rely on your generosity to continue saving lives. Please make a tax-deductible contribution today.

- 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 want to volunteer, please contact me.
- I want updates, please add me to your distribution list:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I have moved, please update my address.

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

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