

WHAT IS FOSTERING?

Foster volunteers are critical to what 4Paws does. We cannot rescue cats from overcrowded animal shelters or dangerous neighborhood streets unless we have people available to temporarily foster cats in their homes. All you need is a room where your foster cat can be separated from other pets.

4Paws pays for pre-authorized vet care, you provide food, shelter, and love. Bring your foster cat to monthly adoption fairs and talk to potential adopters in an effort to find the perfect home.

Put that spare room to good use! Give a homeless cat a chance at a happy life. For more information contact 4Paws at 703.715.6369 or email info@fourpaws.org.

ADOPTING A CAT

Visit 4Paws cats available for adoption at local pet stores:

Petco (four Virginia stores) Alexandria 703.660.1300; Fairfax 703-352-3300; Manassas 703.330.3743; and Sterling 571.434.6562

Pet Supplies Plus Falls Church 703.356.6014

Pet Valu Alexandria 571.970.5875

Check our website, for adoption fair dates and locations **and** visit the **Online Adoption Fair** at fourpaws.org.

BEYOND BASIC CARE

EVERY CAT RESCUED by 4Paws receives veterinary care, including vaccines, feline leukemia and FIV testing, parasite treatment, microchipping, and spay or neuter. Cats that arrive with injuries or medical needs outside the norm receive treatment. 4Paws does not shy away from providing vet care that will improve the quality of a cat's life. Below are examples:

Zuma was born with underdeveloped eyeballs. In addition to this birth defect, severe upper respiratory infections resulted in his third eye lid adhering to his eyeball. These conditions impair Zuma's ability to see. He has an appointment with a veterinary ophthalmologist to determine future options.

When **Andy** first came to 4Paws, he had a wound that wrapped from his chin to the back of his neck. After several cold laser treatments, surgeries, and a lot of tender loving care, the wound has shrunk to the size of an egg. Andy is on the mend, but still has more surgeries in his future.



Andy



Hoppy



Mack



Persil



Tabitha



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

DURING 2018, 4Paws' twenty-third year rescuing cats, we saved the lives of more than 300 homeless cats and kittens. Over the last twenty-three years, volunteers have found loving homes for more than 9,400 cats that would have been euthanized in overcrowded animal shelters or died, cold and hungry, in neighborhood streets.

All cats rescued by 4Paws receive testing for feline leukemia and FIV; routine vaccines; and spay or neuter as appropriate for their age. Often, our rescued cats require more than basic health care. When needed, 4Paws also provides dental cleanings, diagnostic testing, wound repair, and many other non-basic vet services.

DONATE TO 4PAWS

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation.

- 🐾 \$50 feeds a mother and her kittens for a month
- 🐾 \$95 spays a female cat
- 🐾 \$150 vaccinates a litter of kittens for rabies
- 🐾 \$220 pays for a dental cleaning
- 🐾 \$350 spays and neuters a litter of kittens

Online: Pay by credit card at fourpaws.org, click on "Donating to 4Paws"

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

Workplace giving:

CFC 34517 (Federal workers and United Way)
CVC 3472 (Virginia state workers)

Federal retirees can now designate a portion of their retirement income to 4Paws through CFC.

Please consider naming 4Paws in your will.

2018 was a very busy year for kittens. By the end of April, the start of kitten season, 4Paws fosters were already caring for more than 40 kittens. By the end of the summer, more than 120 kittens had been adopted into permanent homes. Without 4Paws, those kittens would have spent their days scavenging for food scraps if they had survived at all. "Home" would have been any sewer or crevice that protected them from predators and the elements.

Each cat taken off the streets, spayed, and adopted into a loving home, is one less cat that will spend its life desperately trying to survive. And it will be one less cat contributing to the pet overpopulation crisis. A single mother cat and her offspring can produce more than 420,000 cats over a seven year period. That means every cat spayed or neutered is a huge step toward ending pet overpopulation and the inevitable suffering that accompanies pet homelessness.

Last year, 4Paws spent \$280,000—mainly on vet services, cat food, and pet supplies. That translates to expenditures of more than \$23,000 every month. Adoption fees and workplace giving (Combined Federal Campaign #34517, Commonwealth of VA Campaign #3472, and United Way #34517) contribute almost 30% of the funds needed to run 4Paws, leaving more than \$16,000 each month that needs to come from generous donors like you.

Please consider giving to 4Paws on a monthly basis by credit card (paypal.com or donorbox.org) or by mailing a check to 4Paws, P.O. Box 2908, Merrifield, VA 22116. Your donations are critical to our ability to save precious feline lives.

All donations of any amount or frequency are appreciated. 4Paws cannot continue to do its important work without your support.

Barbara Lipson

A LIFETIME COMMITMENT TO EVERY CAT

EVERY CAT RESCUED by 4Paws is rescued for life. From the very outset, 4Paws makes a commitment to each cat that it will be safe for its lifetime. If an adopter, at any point in the future can no longer care for their adopted 4Paws cat, 4Paws will unconditionally take the cat back. If the cat is healthy enough to be readopted, we will update veterinary care and find the cat a new home. If the returned cat is chronically ill, we provide veterinary care so that the cat is comfortable and has quality of life. Then we seek out a long-term foster home where the cat can spend its remaining days.



Tripoli and Tel Aviv, originally adopted as kittens, were returned to 4Paws nine years later. They have always lived together but do not seem to be bonded and do not need to be adopted together. It was hard for

them to lose the only home they had ever known, but it became necessary when the former owner's son became allergic.

Tel Aviv and Tripoli both like to be near their people after they have adapted to their new environment. Tel Aviv will likely sit in your lap from the very beginning. In the store where she currently waits to be adopted, she walks on a leash and likes to investigate every nook. Tripoli takes a little longer to adjust, but eventually enjoys sitting next to you and snuggling on the sofa. At just over



9 years of age, they both still like to play with toys—especially small balls and the laser pointer. These girls still have a lot of love to give, won't you give them a chance?

Max was returned to 4Paws at 11 years of age when his owner could no longer care for him because of her own terminal illness. Initially, Max was in rough shape, he had bad teeth and

skin lesions on his ears and nose. He stayed at the animal hospital for testing and treatment as well as a dental cleaning. His blood tests came back normal and after a couple of baths and a good diet, Max is looking more like his healthy self. He recently had a melanoma removed but now he is ready to find his new family and embark upon the next chapter of his life.

LONG-TERM FOSTER UPDATES

SOME 4PAWS RESCUES have medical needs making them unsuitable for adoption. In those cases, we enlist volunteers to be long-term caregivers. 4Paws manages and pays for all medication, prescription food, and pre-authorized vet visits. The foster is responsible for providing care, shelter and most importantly, love.

In many cases, long-term caregivers do not have other pets, providing their special needs cats with the opportunity to have free range of the home. Without such options, these cats often must stay in cages at vet hospitals for extended periods of time.



Ruby has been fostered in a DC apartment for three years. At one year old, she tested positive for feline leukemia (FeLV) when she first came to 4Paws from a high-kill shelter. Most FeLV+ cats in animal shelters are euthanized. Ruby was one of the lucky ones.

Cats that are FeLV+ have compromised

immune systems and do not heal quickly from illness or infection. However, with attentive care, they can live satisfying and fulfilling lives. Ruby has a tendency to get urinary tract infections, requiring frequent visits to the vet, for which 4Paws pays the bills. Otherwise, she lives a happy life with her loving foster parents.

Willow was adopted as a kitten. She returned to 4Paws at age 14 suffering from heart disease and in poor health. With attentive care by her foster mom and several vet visits (including a cardiologist), Willow is still going strong, almost five years later. Willow has developed additional age-related illnesses such as hyperthyroid and kidney disease, but at nearly 19 years old, she is very much enjoying life.



Gilda (now known as **Gigi**) was a young adult when she came to 4Paws from a local animal shelter. Needing a dental cleaning, she underwent the normally routine procedure, which turned out anything but routine. Gigi stopped breathing while under anesthesia. When she awoke, Gigi could not see or hear anything. She could not interact

with her environment nor was she comfortable being touched. She was barely able to walk, eat, or drink water without assistance. And a visit to a neurologist yielded a guarded prognosis.

It has been a long road for Gigi, but she has made tremendous progress over the past three years while in foster care. Her foster has patiently worked with Gigi to improve her motor skills, become more aware of her environment, and both eat and drink without assistance. Treatment for toxoplasmosis has improved her neurological health.

Now, Gigi strolls around on her own. She interacts with other cats and even enjoys being brushed. Gigi has regained limited ability to hear sounds. It is amazing to see the changes in Gigi; she is quite a testament to the healing power of the brain.

Voodoo still needs a long-term foster home. When Voodoo came to 4Paws this past summer, he was malnourished, had low energy, and was given a poor prognosis. After diagnostic testing, medical treatment, and several months of tender loving care, Voodoo is finally ready to leave the animal hospital and experience a real home. Voodoo is feline leukemia positive in addition to having blood with abnormally low oxygen, but he is active, eats well, and loves attention. Feline leukemia is contagious through direct contact between cats (sharing of food and water bowls, mutual grooming, or shared litter box use) but is not contagious to dogs or humans.

If you have other cats in your household, Voodoo would require a room of his own. Otherwise, he doesn't need to be confined. Voodoo has perfect litter box habits and needs a home where he can get the attention he wants and deserves. If you are interested, please contact 4Paws at info@fourpaws.org.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

IN 2018, 4Paws lost three adoption locations due to store closings and management changes. As a result, fewer cats were adopted. And, as they do every year, veterinary costs continued to rise. With a higher percentage of older 4Paws cats being returned, extensive and costly vet services have been required before these cats can be adopted into new homes.

The adoption fee of \$120 for an adult cat barely covers half the cost of readying a healthy female cat for adoption. Young kittens with immature immune systems, usually have upper respiratory infections, accompanied with diarrhea when they arrive. Vet care quickly adds up and lack of funds sometimes requires 4Paws to temporarily stop taking in cats.

4Paws urgently needs your financial support to continue our important work, uninterrupted. Last year, 4Paws spent almost \$280,000, of which 95% paid for the care of our cats. 4Paws has very little overhead costs—no salaries or rent to pay—95¢ of every donated dollar goes directly to help the cats.

Please make a life saving donation 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 _____

Please consider mentioning 4Paws in your will and be sure to let us know!

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