

WHAT IS FOSTERING?

Not ready for a new pet? Instead of adopting, how about fostering? It is an opportunity to help a homeless cat and benefit from feline companionship without having to make a long-term commitment or incur vet costs. When you foster a cat for 4Paws, we pay for all pre-authorized vet work at one of our participating animal hospitals.

We have several cats who have lived most of their lives in the security of a loving home, but now find themselves homeless because of a death, financial hardship, or simply because their owner moved and could not take them. These cats deserve better. Sometimes they just need a stable home where they can feel loved. Other times they need someone who will be patient with them and give them time to learn to trust again.

All you need is a room where your foster cat can stay away from other pets. A place where they can feel safe and loved, so they can heal from the loss of their home. Do you have a place in your home and heart for a homeless cat? 4Paws needs your help. Please open your home to a cat in need. Contact us at info@fourpaws.org or call 703.715.6369. 🐾

ADOPTING A CAT FROM 4PAWS

Visit fourpaws.org and click on *Adopt a Cat* to view available cats. Click on *Events and Locations* for information on adoption fairs. Cats are displayed in these Petco stores:

Alexandria 6612 Richmond Highway, 703.660.1300
Burke Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, 703.455.2007
Fairfax 10708 Fairfax Boulevard, 703.352.3300
Manassas 10055 Wellington Road, 703.330.3743
Sterling 22000 Dulles Retail Plaza, #110, 571.434.6562

Visitors can interact with our cats at **Meows Corner Cat Café**, meowscorner.com, or email kitty@meowscorner.com, or call 571.926.8760 to schedule an appointment. 🐾

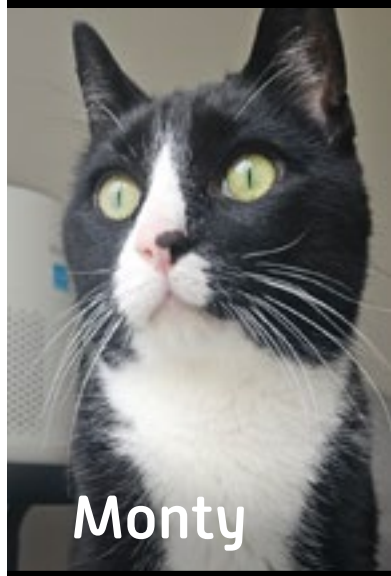
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

4Paws needs volunteers to care for our adoptable cats at our partner Petco stores. Duties include feeding, scooping, tidying cages, socializing with the cats, and transporting cats to pet stores and vet hospitals.

Volunteers commit to one 30-60 minute shift each week at any of our five Petco locations in Alexandria, Burke, Fairfax, Manassas, or Sterling. We hope you'll join our wonderful team of volunteers! 🐾



Lucy



Monty



Memow



Lottie

4 PAWS PRESS

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

THIS YEAR marks thirty years that 4Paws has been rescuing feline lives, providing critical veterinary care, and finding loving homes for previously homeless cats and kittens.

The cost of veterinary care continues to rise. Even with our first adoption-fee increase in many years, the fee covers less than half of what it takes to prepare a cat for adoption. We will spend more than \$400,000 on veterinary services this year.

In 2025, more than 500 cats and kittens found forever homes. In total, over the past 30 years, 4Paws has rescued and found homes for more than 13,500 felines.

Every cat who enters our program receives a complete exam, combo test, rabies and distemper vaccines, spay or neuter surgery, flea and worm treatment, and a microchip. It is rare for an incoming cat or kitten to need only routine wellness care. Most arrive with additional medical challenges – dental disease, heart conditions, eye issues, diarrhea, upper respiratory infections, pneumonia – requiring specialized treatment or emergency hospitalization.

The recent government shutdown delivered an unexpected financial blow. Individual giving slowed, and workplace giving from federal employees stopped entirely during the shutdown. As a result, our resources have been stretched to the limit.

For the first time in many years, we were forced to pause intake of new cats. This was an incredibly difficult decision – especially now, when the need for rescue is greater than ever.

We are asking for your help. Your donation – of any amount – will allow us to resume intake and provide lifesaving care to the cats who urgently need us. Your generosity truly makes the difference between despair and a second chance.

Wishing you and your loved ones a warm and peaceful holiday season.

Barbara Lyson

BEYOND BASIC CARE

4PAWS IS COMMITTED to providing the best life possible for our rescued cats. That is why thanks to your donations, we do not shy away from expensive procedures and consultations with specialists. If a cat needs to see a cardiologist or ophthalmologist, we provide that care. If a cat needs a dental cleaning with extractions, that too is provided. Below are examples of cats that required medical care above and beyond routine services.

Ethan had trouble waking up from anesthesia after a dental cleaning. He suffered brain damage and when the anesthesia wore off he was unable to walk. He was immediately seen by specialty doctors – first, a neurologist who prescribed anti-seizure medication and second, a rehabilitation specialist who recommended exercises to help get him walking on his own.

After a few months of treatment, Ethan is back to eating on his own, walking normally and using the litterbox without any problems. He no longer takes medication and has not a seizure. The only residual effects are slight head tremors which do not effect his quality of life. Ethan loves to play with other animals and doesn't take *no* for an answer – like an annoying younger sibling that always wants to play. He would make a wonderful companion for another cat or dog.

When **Ryan** came to 4Paws, one of his eyelids was sealed shut. A veterinary ophthalmologist surgically opened the eyelid and found a perfectly healthy eyeball underneath. Adhesions were removed and the tissue across the eyelid was repaired.

Ryan is an easy-going and loving boy who likes to provide “instruction” in the form of meows and chirps to anyone who will listen. He is curious and likes to play with toys. Ryan enthusiastically responds to his name, loves to give his humans “hugs” when held. Ryan has a flea allergy and must be kept on a monthly regimen of flea prevention treatment. He is still looking for that special someone who will give him the love he so craves.

(continued inside)

STILL WAITING...

AT 4PAWS, rescue is a lifelong promise. Any cat who enters our program is always part of our family. If an adoption doesn't work out – for any reason – we take the cat back and provide whatever care they need to prepare for a new home. That may include cardiology visits, dental cleanings with extractions, dermatology appointments, or treatment from other specialists. Some cats are returned later in life and need additional time, patience, and understanding to find the right match.

In addition to the cats featured on the cover, here are a few others ready for their next chapter:

A gentle senior orange tabby, **Gus** was adopted as a kitten and recently returned when his family welcomed a baby. Sensitive to noise and high activity, he became very anxious in the new environment. Gus loves sunny napping spots, chasing laser lights, and greeting new people – even at the vet. He gets along with other cats but not dogs and eats prescription food to help manage his stress. He will thrive in a calm, child-free home where he can relax and feel secure.

Bonnie is cautious with new people, likely due to rough treatment as a young kitten, but once she feels safe she becomes a devoted companion who follows her person from room to room. She enjoys quiet company, hideaway beds, and cozy boxes. Bonnie can live with a dog if introduced slowly but prefers to be the only cat. She lost her

home through no fault of her own as young children and then a baby made the environment too stressful. A peaceful home with a patient adopter will let her personality shine.

Bob is a 4-year-old Manx (no tail) with a big heart. Though shy at first, he becomes a loyal, affectionate friend who loves being near his person – often right in their lap. He enjoys treats and neck scratches but can become overstimulated and will politely signal when he needs a break. Bob has seasonal allergies and has begun a regimen of allergy shots recommended by a dermatologist. He is also FIV+, a manageable condition that cannot be passed to humans and is only transmitted to other cats through deep bite wounds. With his gentle temperament, Bob can safely live alongside friendly, non-aggressive cats.

A charming 2-year-old tuxedo, **Wendy** was found outdoors, pregnant and on her own. She raised six healthy kittens, all now adopted, but after nine months she is still waiting for her own forever home. Wendy enjoys people, chirps and trills instead of meowing, and loves watching the world from a sunny window. She learned to play after her kittens were weaned and likes leaping after toys. She prefers to be the only cat and occasionally needs a bit of space, which she communicates clearly.

If you are interested in adopting any of these cats – or meeting others in our care – please visit www.fourpaws.org to complete an application or email info@fourpaws.org with questions. 🐾

DONATE TO 4PAWS

There are many ways to support 4Paws. The most common is mailing a check to 4Paws Rescue, P.O. Box 2908, Merrifield, VA 22116 or donating online at fourpaws.org. Other giving options include:

- 🐾 **Workplace giving:** Government employees can designate CFC #34517.
- 🐾 **Qualified Charitable Distributions:** Individuals taking Required Minimum Distributions from their IRAs can direct a non-taxable QCD to 4Paws. Consult your broker for details.
- 🐾 **Bequests:** You can remember 4Paws in your will (EIN 54-1786116).
- 🐾 **Donations of appreciated stock:** Receive a deduction for the stock's fair market value and avoid paying tax on the gain.
- 🐾 **In-kind donations:** Gently used carriers, towels, beds, and unopened cat food or litter can be brought to our adoption fairs (see our website for dates and locations).

4Paws deeply appreciates every gift. Your generosity made it possible for us to rescue and place 500 cats and kittens in loving homes this year.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

2025 HAS BEEN another expensive year for 4Paws. Our adoption fee does not cover even half of the cost of routine vet work to ready a healthy adult female for adoption. Young kittens have immature immune systems and usually arrive to 4Paws with diarrhea and upper respiratory infections. Sometimes it can take three or four visits to the vet before resolving the problem.

Due to the rising cost of veterinary expenses and reduced donations, 4Paws had to halt intake of cats into our adoption program. We desperately need your financial support to restart our adoption program.

This year, 4Paws spent more than \$400,000 on veterinary services for our cats before finding them adoptive homes. Ninety-six percent of donations were used to pay for adoption program expenses for the year. That means, since 4Paws has very little overhead costs – no salaries or rent to pay – 96¢ of every dollar donated goes directly to help the cats.

During 2025, 4Paws expects to find homes for more than 500 cats and kittens. To date, the organization has adopted more than 13,500 felines.

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 _____

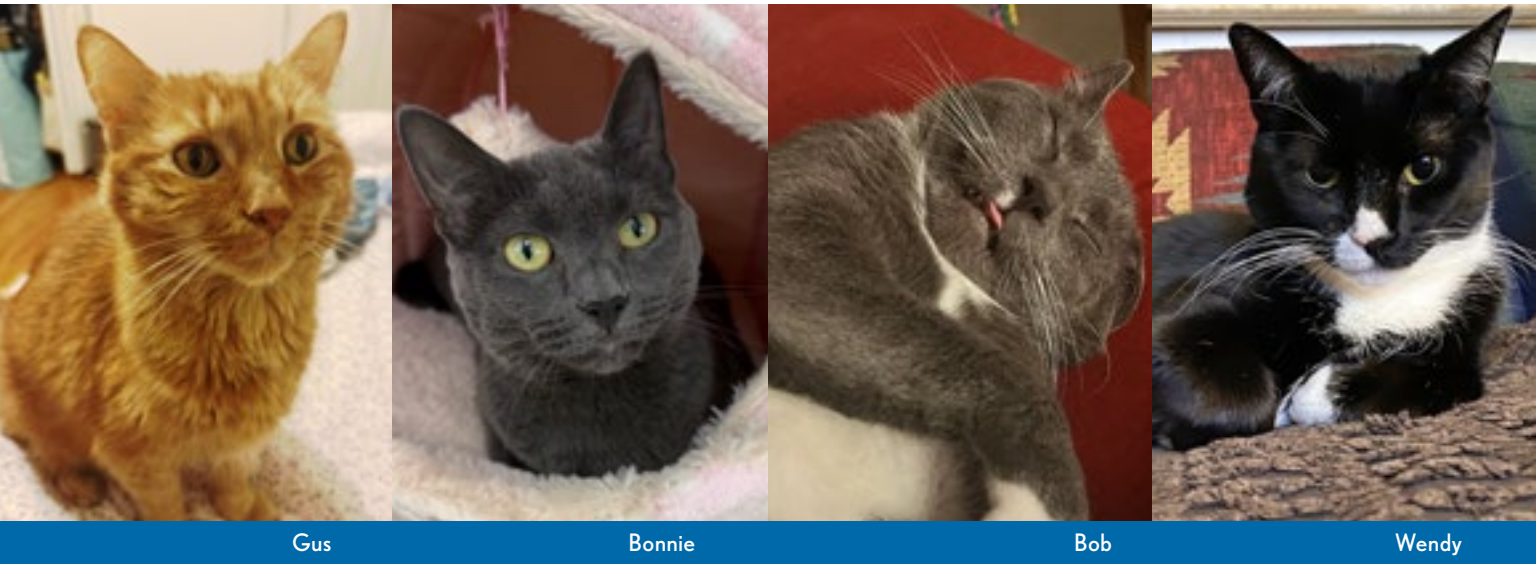
I have moved, please update my address.

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

Please consider mentioning 4Paws as a beneficiary in your will (4Paws EIN 54-1786116).

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



Gus

Bonnie

Bob

Wendy

BEYOND BASIC CARE

(continued from cover)

Now almost a year old, **Shadow's** life so far has not been easy. She was born with esophageal diverticula, a pouch on the wall of her esophagus, causing food to become trapped and causing repeated vomiting. At one point, she developed aspirate pneumonia. It took several trips to the emergency hospital before she was properly diagnosed.

In an effort to help food pass into her stomach, her foster fed her several small meals of easily digestible kitten food throughout the day. Shadow was then held upright for 15 minutes after each meal. She had to be caged for several weeks to prevent her from running around and injuring her esophagus.

Over time, Shadow has grown, gained weight, and become stronger. She now eats normal wet food from a bowl. The esophageal sac has shrunk and no longer causes problems. Shadow is ready to find her forever home. 🐾