



Genesee County Animal Shelter Volunteers for Animals

3841 West Main Street Road
Batavia, NY 14020



Wyoming Cats rescue: by Shanna Shaw

Back in February Volunteers for Animals responded to the call for help at the Wyoming County SPCA when Erie County SPCA lead efforts to relocate 518 cats found in the Attica facility. VFA Foster Coordinators, in 24 hours' notice, were able to find six wonderful fosters that would open their homes to allow us to take in 18 rescue cats. Where are they all now? We have been successful in adopting 13 of the rescue cats. Unfortunately, 3 out of the 18 were euthanized due to their medical conditions. Two rescue cats are still in foster care to continue socializing them as they were quite scared and not used to being handled. If you are interested in meeting one of the two remaining rescue cats, call the shelter or email vol4animals@yahoo.com. Please help these remaining kitties get a long deserved home.



DID YOU KNOW THAT AT BATAVIA PETCO...

- We have adopted 578 cats and kitten from Oct 2008-2011
- Over 80 cats and kittens have gotten homes so far in 2012
- Petco also donates supplies, fundraiser items, host adoption events, runs promotions like donations for spay and neuter program, awarded us a grant, staff assists with adoptions and care of the cats, and many other things.

Thanks again to the Batavia Petco for helping VFA and the GCAS find homes for over 600 cats in the last 4 years!! Wow!

Attention All:

Join is the first Tuesday of every month for our board meetings. They are open to the public and held at the shelter at 7pm. Hope to see you there.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday: 1-3pm.

Wednesday: 7-9 pm

Saturday: 11-1pm

Thursday: closed

The average cost of basic food, supplies, medical care and training for a dog or cat is \$600 to \$900 annually (ASPCA.com).

Help for a house full of Poodles by: Andre' Miller of Zoom N' Groom



In June, the animal control officer, Bill Taylor, brought in 12 poodle mixed dogs from one home. They were skinny, scared, and all severely matted. As soon as I heard of these poodles, I brought my mobile grooming trailer in the next day. I was told these were the worst they have even seen mats on a dog, but I wasn't expecting what I saw. Hair in knots wrapped around their legs, their ears, their tails. It took two days to groom them. One of the brown poodles had a limp. We called it "wolfman" because that's what it looked like, a warwolf. It had to be sedated to be groomed because like most the poodles, they didn't know what human touch was and when this one was touched it would try to bite. Two discoveries were made while grooming our little warwolf. He was a she. And while grooming her we found out why she was limping. The

leg she was limping on, that was wrapped in mats, was missing a foot. It appeared that she was born without the foot.

After two days of grooming, baths, and medical care they settled in to the shelter life. Every day, a few volunteers would spend time socializing them. The dogs didn't know what a dog toy was, a door, the outside, and how to walk on a leash. The simple things every dog should know at their age. Some went into foster care for more one on one time.

To date all have been adopted!!!!

Some people ask me how can I deal with seeing bad situations like this. I tell them, it's all worth it in the end to help them and see them all get healthy, happy homes.

I would like to introduce our 2012 board members

President: Kathie Bernard

Vice Presidents: Andre' Miller and Brenda Cromwell

Secretary: Sylvia Dimick

Treasurer: Rich Pearson

Thank you all who have helped support our cats and dogs. Our annual garage sale was a big hit and we raised over \$1200. Hogs for Paws at Stans Harley Davidson was also a huge hit. Not only did we raise money for all the animals at the shelter, but we were able to visit with lots of past adopted dogs. Thank you Stans and thank you to all our volunteers who helped make these events possible!



Memorials

Richard Lachance in memory of Kathrine Klue
Beverly McConnell in memory of Kathrine Klue
Sam and Anne Barone in memory of Kathrine Klue
Diane Gerould in memory of Kathrine Klue
Janice W. Cummings in memory of Kathrine Klue
Gary A. Klue in memory of Kathrine Klue
Raymond and Alice Barone in memory of Kathrine Klue
Robert and Dortha Pompa in memory of Clarles Skip Char nella
Don and Sharon Burkel in memory of Pogo, the Goldendoodle of Cathy and Jim Dusen
Don and Sharon Burkel in memory of Stanley, the beagle of Gary and Deb Horton
Ed and barb Faley in memory of Katherine Klue
Don and Sue Anne Loughlin in memory of Kathrine Klue
Treeworks in memory of Kathrine Klue
Larry Davidson and D'Addario-Canador in memory of Kathrine Klue
Meinl USA LC 8-02 in memory of Kathrine Klue
Pat Cassells Family in memory of Kathrine Klue
Jim and Carol Pierson in memory of Peppi our little stray dog of 12 years
Rybak, Metzler and Grasso LLP in memory of Gertrude Kerr
Jam Industries Ltd. In memory of Kathrine Klue
Yorkville Sound in memory of Kathrine Klue
Jimmy and Randi Garrett in memory of Dakota, Dana, and Chaz
Cindy Francis in memory of Verly Stone
Dorothy Carrigan in memory of Verly Stone
Patricia Page in memory of Verly Stone
Sherley McNally in memory of Verly Stone
Family of Verly Stone in memory of Verly Stone
Karen Campbell in memory of Gert Kerr
Lance and Katherine Lervin in memory of Gert Kerr
Barbara Collyer to honor Melba Ferris 100th birthday
Michelle Gerould in memory of Shadow and Silver
Sue and Ed O'Connor in memory of Mule Robinson
Felicia Brown in memory of Lyn Dudek
Rich and Anne Marie Starowitz in memory of Gutrude M. Kerr
Susan M. Marinaccio in memory of Gutrude M. Kerr
Doug and Beth Diegelman in memory of Gutrude M. Kerr
Ronald Lombardo in memory of Gutrude M. Kerr
Jeff and Marie Olson in memory of Gutrude M. Kerr

Memorials continued

Gina and Chad Stevens in memory of Gutrude M. Kerr
Jill Christiano and JR Campbell in memory of Gutrude M. Kerr
Mary Ann Boyd in honor of Brenda Emens Birthday
Leonard J Bartello Family in memory of Kathrine Klue
James Pope and friends in memory of Kathrine Klue
Genesee County Baseball Club in memory of Merle Robinson
Darlene and Charles Burtin in memory of Richard "Dick" Lawton
G David and Nancy Post in memory of Ricahrd "Dick" Lawton
Paul and Sharon White in memory of Merle Robinson
Jerilyn Powell in memory of Merle Robinson
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Finnigan in honor of Dr. Andrew Hilburger
Elaine and Steve Watson in memory of Richard Lawton
I Muriel Rafferty in memory of Richard Lawton
June Chamberlain in memory of Richard Lawton
Robert and Jane Balbeck in memory of Richard Lawton
Laura Marzalf in memory of "Tigger"
Arlene Steele in memory of Raymond and Mary Burr
Ann Pursel in memory of Josephine Green, Geo and Liz Towner
Rosalie Pacino in memory of Fred Benz
Mr. and Mrs. James Pierson in honor of Cheryl Fernaay's Birthday
Linda Crvok in gratitude and respect of State Street Animal Hospital and memory of my many pets over 40 yrs
Debbie Shepard in memory of Christine Sorva
Dick and Marian Partridge in memory of Fay Totten
Pamela S. Herons in memory of Gert Kerr
Jack Colantonio in memory Carl Colantonio
Dorothy Koziy in memory of Kristine Marie Sorva
Bob and Midge Adams in memory of Kristine Marie Sorva
Salon Europa in memory of Kristine Marie Sorva
Kris Hermance in memory of Linda Crook
Robert and Brenda Emens in honor of Mary A. Boyds Birthday
Mary Hristo in honor of Gerry Harringtons 80th Birthday
Jan and Bob Daries in memory of Shirley Cotton
Jan and max Mason in memory of Linda Crook
Robert Grecki in memory of Linda Crook
Gary and Sandra Johnson in memory of Linda Crook
Hydrosource Association INC in memory of Linda Crook
Katherine Collette in memory of "Paige" the dog
Jane Wilkes Castronova in memory of Winnie Hume
Linda Meyer in memory of Linda Crook
Cheryll D. Fernaays in honor of friend Carol Pierson
William Copeland in memory of Carol W. Doty
Patricia Moss in memory of "Merlin"
Donna Weibel in memory of our shepard "Koda"
Virginia Westacott in memory of her dobe "Greta"
Bonnie Hall in memory of Pooch, Cody, and Barley
Meghan Henry in honor of Allison Bliss
Gracia Leavy in memory of Dorothy Amidon
Betty Ahl in memory of Dorothy Amidon
Ann Pursel in memory of Richard Pursel and Josephene Green
Frank Dana in memory of Dora Terena
Sandy and Joe, Jada, Dolly, Betsy and Ralphie J in memory of Virginia Tiede Maas
Friends in the Batavia Baptist Church Choir in memory of Merle Robinson
Mike and Therese Hickok in memory of their beloved dog "Buzz"
Robert and Brenda Emens in memory of their beloved kitty "Trilby"

Fostering: The Best Job in the World

By Jamie Bragg

Although I have several “jobs” in my life right now, the one I love most is fostering cats and kittens for the VFA. Sometimes the hours seem endless, the work exhausting, and the pay is... well, nil. Perhaps we do it for the unconditional love, or the gratitude we see in their eyes even though they can't speak. For me, it's the immense satisfaction of making a difference in their lives – a feeling powerful enough to make fostering the most *rewarding* job in the world.

For those of us lucky enough to foster cats and kittens, you get to a point where as a large team you become a well-oiled machine. Some of us are skilled at getting the cats and kittens in and filing the paperwork. Some of us trap the feral young to offer them a better life. There are those of us that help with testing, or with vetting. And others who offer love, affection, or even hospice when needed. Some of us excel at organizing spay/neuter appointments and running cats to and fro like a bus-load of children to after-school sports. We even have a “Finishing School” where bad attitudes are rectified, manners polished, and the bond with humans is restored. There are many of us, although it never seems like enough. Regardless, someone is always there to help each other, or shift the load if we become overwhelmed. We are just people with families, or problems, and we are insignificant in this entire world. Yet we do make a difference. We are foster “heroes.”

As foster parents, we have cared for hundreds of dogs, cats, kittens, rabbits, and new to this list - chickens. I presently care for fourteen foster felines, many of which are very young kittens. It seems the heat this summer has caused a rash of mothers to abandon their newborns or the very young. It's upsetting that we can't take them all, but we do try our best. Bottle-fed kittens require care every 2-4 hours, for weeks at a time. Like parenting, you look forward to the moment when they let you sleep through the night. Last week I had eight 'babies' to care for, but I have only seven this week. Occasional heartbreaking losses are inevitable... it goes with the job.

I am fortunate enough to be foster-mom to the infamous “Hit-by-car-kitty.” Post-amputative now, he is one of the happiest young cats I've ever known. Earlier this evening he lay snuggled up alongside of me, while I sat on the floor tending to a pair of those tiny kittens. He watched attentively as I juggled bottle feeding, burping, and butt wiping... like an assembly line processing the needs of the helpless ones. Their cries eventually subside through satiation. In this quiet moment, Hit-by-car-kitty placed his one remaining front paw on my leg and stood up as tall as he could. He stretched toward my face, as if trying to tell me something. I stared into his golden eyes, and he just stared back at me. My hands still full, I smiled and leaned down to kiss his soft forehead. I said, “You are very welcome, but you don't have to thank me honey.” I absolutely love this job. It is the *best* job in the world.



One of our fosters, named Hammie, being bottle fed. Hammie was one week old when found in someone's yard. He had no mother or siblings to be found. Hammie was adopted!!



PO Box 1621
Batavia, NY 14021
Phone number 343-6410
www.vol4animals.org

(the number you see below your address is the year you last donated)

Less than 2 percent of cats and only 15-20% of dogs are returned to their owners.* Most of these were identified with tags, tattoos or microchips (petfinder.com).

Volunteers for Animals Membership Change

In an effort to simplify maintaining our membership records, memberships will become due each year in January. As we all know, everything is done by volunteers and our memberships have not been tracked as currently based on whatever month you paid and it was difficult to monitor and find a volunteer to send renewal reminders. In an effort to recover costs due to rising costs for medical and vet care, supplies and, well, everything, we ask you to consider renewing your membership. Your membership will be effective until January of 2014. Please cut out and complete the below membership form.

Volunteers for Animals Annual Membership

Annual membership: check membership level below.

Adult \$10:_____

Make checks payable to: Volunteers for Animals

Senior (62 and older) \$5_____

Mail to: VFA, PO Box 162, Batavia, NY 14021

Junior (17 and under) \$5_____

Name & Address:_____

Family \$20_____

Other contributions to help cover medical expenses of the dogs and cats

\$_____

The animals thank you!

Memberships are effective until January 2014.

Fall 2012