# FORGOTTEN MAY News

### **APRIL 2019 STATUS UPDATE:**

We sterilized 901 cats and placed 131 cats into loving forever homes!

# Fostering Cats and Helping Your Community

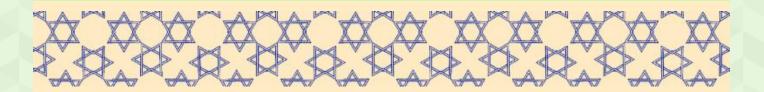
This time of year the shelters and rescues are especially full with cats and kittens and fostering is a way to help.

Fostering a cat is one of the most rewarding experiences you can have (other than adopting, of course). By taking an animal in need temporarily into your home you're:



- freeing up a spot so the rescue can take in another cat.
- giving your foster cat the time he needs to be ready for adoption.
- helping the rescue learn more about the cat so he can end up in the best home possible.
- socializing the cat to a home environment and getting him used to different types of people.

Not sure you can foster a cat? Petfinder.com has <u>Eight Reasons You Can</u> <u>Foster</u>, <u>Even if You Think You Can't</u>.





# Volunteer Shalom Cuker Donates His Bar Mitzvah Gifts to Forgotten Cats

Jenkintown Petsmart mother/son volunteers, Amy & Shalom Cuker, have been volunteering at JPS, covering a closing shift. Shalom and his mom have been volunteering with Forgotten Cats since September 2018 and have fostered several cats.

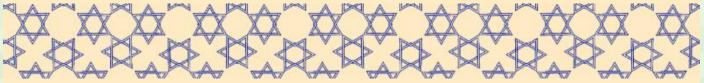
Shalom picked Forgotten Cats as his Bar Mitzvah project. He decided to ask his guests to make contributions to FC in lieu of gifts. As a result of Shalom requesting that his Bar Mitzvah gifts be donated to Forgotten Cats, they are making a sizable donation of \$3,000. Shalom asked that the money donated directly to the care of the cats at our Willow Grove facility, as those are the ones that feed into the Jenkintown PetSmart. But if wasn't possible, he was fine with it and just wanted to help the organization in anyway possible.

The Willow Grove facility said this donation was quite opportune, since they just spent \$1,500 for a new washer & dryer. We all feel so good about the washer and dryer - sometimes it's those unglamorous things that make the biggest difference!

To celebrate Shalom's Bar Mitzvah, here's a video of photos of him through the years. Towards the end, the video also features many of the Forgotten Cats he worked with and continues to work with for his mitzvah project. <a href="https://youtu.be/SR29Ng7MuXY?t=378">https://youtu.be/SR29Ng7MuXY?t=378</a>

Thank You Shalom for your selfless gift and dedication to Forgotten Cats.





# Volunteer Spotlight on Lauren DiCarlantonio By Megan Dively Lehman

### Tell me a little bit about yourself.

My name is Lauren DiCarlantonio. I am 24 years old, graduated from the University of Delaware, and I am a microbiologist at Christiana Hospital.

# When and how did you start volunteering for Forgotten Cats?

I started volunteering last July. My relationship ended, and I really needed a hobby to get my mind off of it. It went from something to do in my free time to my life's passion! My first day there, they gave me a tour and set me up

with my first two foster kittens.

# What volunteer work have you done for FC?

I've done feed and clean duty for the trap cats, administered anesthesia on clinic days, and fostered kittens, adults, and medical cases. I've also volunteered at and run adoption events at PetSmart, transported cats from the shelters to the events, trapping, administered medications and vaccinations to cats at the shelters, and collected donations.



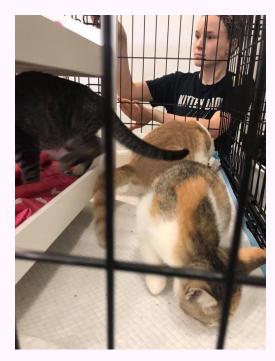


### What is your favorite thing about working with FC?

I'd definitely have to say the dedication of the volunteers and staff, especially Michele Dustin and Melissa Sims. They run themselves into the ground every day and pick themselves back up the next day. They go above and beyond for these cats, always putting their own well-being on the back burner. Their commitment and dedication honestly inspires me and other volunteers to want to help more. Sometimes organizations get lost in the cause, but Forgotten Cats keeps the bigger picture in mind. Also, I LOVE that we focus strictly on trapped cats. That's super rare. All our cats come from the streets and some are in terrible conditions. We provide medical care to strays and ferals that they would otherwise never get in their life. No matter how mean or feisty a cat is, we do everything possible to make sure their quality of life is improved and decrease the spread of disease and population of homeless kittens at the same time.

# What do you wish the public knew about animal rescue?

Literally everything! I dedicate pretty much all my free time to spreading education and advocacy. I need people to know that cats aren't the problem, we are. Spay and neutering of pet cats is as crucial as putting gas in your car. The amount of cancers and diseases that could have been avoided by spay and neuter is unfathomable. I need people to know that it is affordable, and if you can't afford \$50 for a spay or neuter, you probably shouldn't have that pet. People vaccinate their kids to avoid deadly diseases, and it's the same mindset as spaying and



neutering your cats. Also, animal rescue is HARD, physically and mentally. We see so much death and abuse, it's hard to keep going because it seems never-ending. Please hug your local shelter worker! We need it!

### What animals do you share your home and heart with?

Besides all my fosters, I have three cats of my own, my girlfriend's cat, a rescued pit bull, two rats, a bearded dragon lizard, and a blue tongued skink! It's pretty much a zoo! I actually just recently bought a house to have for more room for my babies.

# What else do you enjoy besides volunteering? Any interesting hobbies or secret talents?

I don't want to sound like the crazy cat lady, but this is my hobby. I've literally dedicated every free second of my life to these amazing animals for the past year and I wouldn't want it any other way. I think trapping missions are my favorite because they're so unpredictable. My girlfriend and I will literally be out all hours of the night and day to trap a pregnant or nursing cat. Sometimes we even trap the wrong cat and they turn out to be amazing house cats. We try to educate and not berate. So many people are in the dark about cat rescue, so all our free time goes into changing that.

# Is there anything else you'd like to share about yourself or FC?

I just reached 45 adoptions, and that doesn't even count the TNR moms and strays. And I know it's not a quantity thing, but we (my girlfriend and I) did that in less than a year. Without Forgotten Cats, none of that would have been possible. I've volunteered for other



organizations, but nothing beats the dedication of Forgotten Cats. Through blood, sweat, and tears (literally) we are a family. We are all here to lend advice, experiences, and support. There are SO many roles in animal rescue and literally ANYONE can get involved. Whether it be transporting, fostering, cleaning some cages, or even just hanging out with the shelter cats, there's something for everyone if they want to get involved!

Thanks Lauren for your dedication to Forgotten Cats!

# A Happy Ending for Mr. Roagie



Happy Endings! Who remembers Mr. Roagie?

Roagie had lived with his beloved owner for the last 20 years. In January she unfortunately lost her home and was moving to a new location in which Roagie was not allowed to join. Set to be euthanized at a local veterinary office, the staff did not have the heart to euthanize a healthy and happy cat. They contacted us and we offered to take him in.

We posted him as Cat of the Week in early March and we are so happy to report that Mr. Roagie was adopted and is now living the good life! His new mama reports that he loves to lounge on the couch and watch tv. Pictured below is his favorite nap spot. He recently had a checkup and bloodwork completed at the vet. His vet reports his bloodwork is "beautiful"! From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to the vet who contacted us for his rescue, his foster family, the kind donor who sponsored his adoption fee, and his adopter!

Cheers to a Happy Ending, Mr. Roagie!





# Spay/Neuter Grant from PetSmart Charities®

We are excited to announce that thanks to a grant from PetSmart Charities<sup>®</sup>, Forgotten Cats has launched a spay/neuter campaign in Norristown, PA. This campaign is designed to reduce the homeless cat population and stop the suffering of the thousands of kittens born to homeless, abandoned cats.

Do you know of feral or stray cats in need of spay/neuter? If so, call us today at 215.219.8148.

## Upcoming Events May/June

# MAY 17-19

Meet adoptable cats and kittens this weekend at participating PetSmarts! Additional kitties will be Charities
National
Adoption Weekend
May 17-19

Adopt if you can,

inspire others if you can't.



brought to the adoption centers specifically for the event. Volunteers will be on hand to assist you.

Brandywine, Brookhaven, Jenkintown, Levittown, King of Prussia, PA, & Wilmington & Christiana, DE locations

# **MAY 30**

Guest Bartender
Fundraiser
BBC Tavern and Grill
Greenville, DE
6:00 pm-9:00 pm

# JUNE 5

Paint & Sip Fundraiser Joe's Crab Shack Wilmington, DE 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

# **JUNE 22**

Yoga with Kittens YogaFit Studios Horsham, PA 12:30 pm-1:30 pm

# We Want to Hear from You!

If you have an idea for an article or have a story to share about a rescue, special volunteer, your adoption center or recent adoptions from Forgotten Cats, please share, send photos and/or story to: calleycat1@comcast.net or info@forgottencats.net

### **DONATE**

# Lets Keep in Touch!

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Visit our website at www.forgottencats.org