

## Forgotten Cats News

January 2022

December 2021 Status: In December, we sterilized 1259 cats and placed 228 cats into loving forever homes.

## #BettyWhiteChallenge - Thank you!



Betty White would have celebrated her 100th birthday this January 17th. Sadly, Betty passed on December 31st, just 17 days shy of her 100th birthday.

In honor of Betty White's lifelong love and devotion to animals, the #BettyWhiteChallenge went viral on social media - thousands of animal related organizations participated in the challenge!

We have said it before and we will say it again, our supporters and volunteers are just amazing! Thanks to your donations in honor of Betty White for her many accomplishments and her activism for animals during her lifetime, we exceeded our goal of \$5,000.00 for the #BettyWhiteChallenge.

Betty White was once quoted as saying "You can always tell about somebody by the way they put their hands on an animal." Thanks to Betty White and you, Forgotten Cats will be able to give more cats & kittens a chance at a better life through TNVR and rescue.

Thank you, Betty for what you brought to the world - your talent,

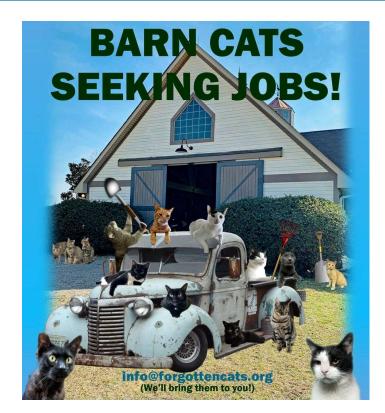
humor, beauty, class, and your love for the incredible animals that grace our world and our lives.

#### BARN HOMES NEEDED! DE, MD, PA, and NJ

Some of our cats don't prefer the indoor, house pet kind of life and that's okay. Instead of toy mice they'd really like to get their paws on the real thing!

Our Rodent Control Technicians will work hard in exchange for food, water and shelter. Forgotten Cats will deliver your barn cat(s) to you sterilized, vaccinated, and at no charge.

Interested in learning more about our barn cat program? Please email <a href="mailto:info@forgottencats.org">info@forgottencats.org</a> for more details (be sure to include your phone number!). Our barn cats will be waiting to hear from you!



#### **FOSTERS NEEDED**

Want a furry friend without the commitment? Why not consider fostering?

Fostering is essential to allow us to continue bringing in homeless kitties from the streets. Every time you chose to foster a cat, you are literally saving a life. We cannot do what we do without YOU.

As the MANY homeless kittens of the spring/summer took up all of our foster space, our adult cats have sadly been residing in our shelter longer than we like. They are desperate for a place to stretch their legs and rest their heads while they wait to be adopted.

Please help if you can. Anything you can provide is better than a cage.

https://forgottencats.org/foster-a-cat/



PLEASE EMAIL INFO@FORGOTTENCATS.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SUBMIT A FORM TO FOSTER AT FORGOTTENCATS.ORG

## A Beautiful Story About Fostering ....



It was exactly one year ago today that I drove to Forgotten Cats to pick up my first foster, sight unseen. All I knew was that his name was Mason. I arrived to find a terrified cat huddled in the corner of his cage. Reaching in to pet him, he did not hiss or bite or scratch me, he just stared with fearful eyes and tried to disappear even further into the corner. Internalizing that rejection, I questioned whether I had what it would take to eventually help this little guy become comfortable enough to be deemed "adoptable", but I was determined to do my best.

After an hour-long car ride to a strange place with a strange person, it was surely not Mason's favorite day. I got his cage set up and managed to transfer his stiff body from the carrier. I performed the duties of food, water and litter and tried when I could to reach him and pet his little head. He recoiled in fear every time my hand reached into that cage regardless of what I was doing. I constantly talked to him and tried to reassure him that he was safe. "It's okay" was uttered hundreds of times a week. And even though he'd never understand what those human sounds meant it was at least something he would become familiar with. My only way to express the promise of his safety, the promise of better things to come. And so, I just kept trying to reach him (literally and figuratively) until one day he rolled over while I was petting his head. I couldn't believe it. He admitted, by physical display, that he was comfortable enough to be vulnerable with me. Comfortable enough to feel the love and safety that I so desperately wanted him to feel.

And so, from there began the delicate process of "practicing" our relationship Helping him get acclimated to his new home (and me) was a much slower process than I ever imagined, but one that taught me countless lessons. Lessons about patience, kindness, fear, acceptance and love. Every step we made together, in our own time (and they weren't always forward steps) but they were always together. Now today, a year later, I am proud to say that I failed at fostering Mason. Not because he was too fearful to ever be placed in a home, not because he was destined to live as a barn cat, and not because I couldn't do what I set out to do, but because after all that time together, I simply could not imagine my life without him.

I officially adopted Mason in November and he is now mine for EVER! He continues to make progress. We continue to build trust in each other. And he continues to teach me amazing life lessons with the loving grace and innocent beauty that only an animal can possess. I will be forever grateful for how much he has enriched my life and will spend the rest of our days together showing him just that! Thank you, Forgotten Cats, for the amazing work you do to help countless kitties in need and the people who need them even more than they need us.

Thank you, Alice for sharing this beautiful story about your journey with Mason - from foster to forever!







Leading off 2022's Volunteer Spotlight is Willow Grove's Lead Vet Tech, Kris Kroner

#### by Mary Ann Emely



A Forgotten Cats volunteer for the past ten years, Kris Kroner is much valued as the lead vet tech at the Willow Grove Clinic. Kris's professional background – she was a registered nurse prior to retirement – serves her well as she performs her avocational duties for the betterment of the many cats and kittens that pass through the Willow Grove Clinic doors.

Kris tells us that as she was nearing the end of her paid working career, she switched to part-time to free up some time to pursue other interests, such as her love of cats. She filled out the volunteer application on the

Forgotten Cats website, received a call back within the hour, and was working as an FC volunteer the following week doing clinic knockdown. Over time she transitioned to vet tech, and then lead vet tech. She also orders medical supplies needed for the OR and medications and treatments necessary for the cats. Above is Kris Kroner, lead vet tech at Willow Grove with one of her kitties – Abigail.

Because of her professional nursing background, Kris was accustomed to handling syringes, needles, drawing blood, maintaining aseptic techniques and various medical procedures. She routinely sets up the OR on Clinic days, assesses the animals – taking their temperatures, weighing the sick cats and kittens and providing a history to the vet, if the history is available. She routinely draws blood for lab tests, administers fluids to dehydrated cats, inserts microchips, and prepares meds per veterinarian direction.

Kris says she gets a good feeling seeing a previously injured and/or ill cat respond to treatments and begin to show its true personality, whether the patient is a feisty feral or a sweet and friendly kitty. Regardless, "we helped" she adds. "It's tough to know we can't save all the community cats, but we definitely make a difference for those that come to us."

As a child, she was always around animals but had a special affinity to cats. She loved their independent nature. In high school, Kris rescued a tiny kitten who quickly bonded with her. This kitten hated every other person and quickly let them know she wasn't interested in any attention from them. Kris named her Prudence, after the Beatles song. Prudence was with her through high school, college, various moves and always retained her attitude that Kris was the only person worthy of her attention. She lived to be 20 years old, and Kris admits she still misses her.

Kris's hobbies include reading, jigsaw puzzles (she says she is addicted to them!), gardening and taking walks. She reads veterinary texts and manuals about all types of species. She says that even during her working years she always found time to volunteer for non-profit animal care rescues. In particular, working with wildlife rehab was an amazing experience, and during the AIDS crisis in the 80s and 90s she volunteered with Philly Paws, which provided services for the pets of people suffering from AIDS. There she was the foster coordinator/transport and adoption coordinator.

## To the right, Rufus is Kris's ginger cat. He loves to help with her jigsaw puzzles!

Kris enjoys the social aspect of working with volunteers who share the same concerns about rescue and cat care. "We're working towards the same goal." She continues, "What I enjoy most about volunteering at Forgotten Cats is knowing I make a difference in the life of each cat that comes in either



for surgery or in treating a sick or injured cat. I've always loved working with and nurturing animals, especially cats. At this point in my life, I need to feel relevant, and FC certainly does that."

Her furry family includes Abigail, whom she adopted shortly after she came into the clinic as a foster kitten in need of being spayed. She had Prudence's coloring. Abigail "spoke to me" says Kris. Abigail is now 8 years old and – unlike Prudence – loves everyone and thinks all people are safe and will appreciate her – the total opposite of Prudence!

Kris is also cat mom to Maggie and Harry – two foster kittens she took in to help them get tamed and used to being handled. Foster fail! She adopted them! They are bonded and are frequently seen sleeping together and grooming each other. And then there's Rufus – her ginger cat who enjoys jigsaw puzzle companionship!







Above, left to right, Kris's bonded pair Maggie and Harry; Harry inspecting Kris's mask; and Kris at the Willow Grove Clinic.

Besides her passion for cats, Kris has also been fascinated with birds and had canaries and finches throughout her life. She joined a bird club when she moved to Pennsylvania and became interested in parrots. It became obvious to her that there was a need to help unwanted pet birds so she and a couple of birding friends organized an exotic bird rescue. She provided advice on behavioral and handling issues for owners and assisted in finding placement and rehoming – something that was both rewarding and frustrating. She loves macaws and adopted a couple that were unwanted. No, her cats do not bother with them. The macaws can be very loud and they are large, so her cats just ignore them!

Forgotten Cats' "Volunteer Spotlight" is intended to highlight the efforts and contributions of the many volunteers responsible for Forgotten Cats' many success stories, and Kris Kroner is certainly a shining example of the volunteers we value so much. Thank you, Kris, for giving your time and talents to our kitties, and for being such an important part of the work we do. Because of you, 2022 is off to a very bright start!



### **Lucius - Super Sweet in More Ways than One!**

## LAP CAT ALERT! We LOVE Lucius AND KNOW you will too!

Lucius is a sweet and gentle guy around 3-5 years old. He's so super soft with a medium length coat. He's very affectionate and sweet. He runs to the door to greet his human and gives them a little chirp hello. He rubs against your leg asking you for some love. When you sit down to take a load off and unwind with some TV, Lucius is right there to keep your lap warm. He loves being around people.

Lucius is diabetic. He needs insulin and special food. He's the perfect patient and VERY good about taking his shots each day. Lucius doesn't mind other cats. He's so laid back and loving-he's pretty darn perfect. He hopes you'll meet him ASAP. He's hanging in a foster home but is waiting anxiously for his FOREVER home. (FCID# 06/24/2021 - 49)

If you are interested in setting up a meet and greet with this sweet boy, please complete a no obligation adoption application at:

https://forgottencats.org/adoption-application/







## Biscuit - A World Champion Biscuit Maker!

Biscuit is a one-year-old gray and white kitty with tons of playful energy! He is super friendly, goofy and happy. If there was a kitty biscuit making competition, Biscuit would literally be the champion because he loves making biscuits in his beds, in his foster's bed and even on his foster's arms and legs while laying down in bed together or watching TV!

Biscuit is very easy-going. He runs to the



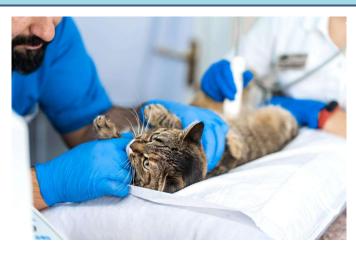


doorway when he hears you enter, and he'll follow you around the house. He gets along very well with his foster's adult male cat (they will play and sleep together!), and he was very well behaved with his foster's foster kittens.

Sadly, Biscuit has shifted between foster care and our adoption centers for quite a while now. We don't understand why he has been continuously overlooked because he is a true hidden gem of a kitty. Perhaps it is because Biscuit has IBS, but that can be managed if Biscuit is kept on his prescription diet – he'll go on to live a normal healthy productive life. Biscuit also has overactive tear ducts at times throughout the day. Some days it's not even noticeable and others he looks like he is crying a bit. This is not painful or irritating and it doesn't hamper his vision in any way.

Won't you please consider giving Biscuit a chance - you will not be disappointed. Please ask to meet him in our Brookhaven PetSmart adoption center. (FCID# 04/22/2021 - 11) https://forgottencats.org/adoption-application/

#### **Employment Opportunity with Forgotten Cats!**



## **Vet Tech/Operations Manager**

We are looking for a **full-time**, **hands-on Vet Tech/Operations Manager** to manage the day-to-day operational needs in our Trainer, PA facility.

The Vet Tech/Operations Manager should possess

sufficient veterinary knowledge to devise medical treatment for routine illnesses and to implement more complicated treatment plans prescribed by our vets. S/he needs to have sufficient knowledge to assess whether the cats are responding to treatment and to respond appropriately. We provide medical treatment as needed

for both cats who are deemed adoptable as well as feral cats who need extra medical care. The Vet Tech/Operations Manager should be knowledgeable, comfortable, and able to work safely with feral cats. The Vet Tech/Operations Manager will need to ensure that all supplies and medicines used during surgery and treatment are kept in stock.

This is a challenging position, but the rewards of making a positive difference in the lives of sick, injured, and/or frightened cats are immense. To apply, please email your phone number, resume and a cover letter explaining why you are interested in the position to John Fedele, Vice President of Forgotten Cats, at info@forgottencats.org

Please share this job opportunity far and wide!

# Forgotten Cats is Grateful for our Chewy and AmazonSmile Donors!



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### Thank You!

-- to the many of you who donate to Forgotten Cats through Chewy's "Chewy Gives Back" program – with eGift Cards and fulfillment of Wish List items – and through Amazon's AmazonSmile program! Most donations through these programs are anonymous gifts, so we seldom get the opportunity to thank each of you personally, but we want to be sure you know how grateful and appreciative we are for what you do!

Chewy is helping customers give back to their favorite animal shelters such as Forgotten Cats through various initiatives, including eGift cards donated by customers to Forgotten Cats, and offering a <u>Wish List</u> we created from which customers can make purchases that are then delivered by Chewy to us. Thank you, Chewy! And especially THANK YOU to our Forgotten Cats loyal followers who have given us thousands of dollars' worth of supplies through this program.

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Forgotten Cats every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice – so be sure to select Forgotten Cats as the recipient of your AmazonSmile donations. We have also created a **Wish List** on AmazonSmile from which we receive thousands of dollars' worth of supplies. THANK YOU to our Forgotten

Cats loyal followers who provide revenue and products to us each year through AmazonSmile!



#### **2022 Upcoming Events**

We are very excited to announce that 2SP Brewery in Aston, PA has invited us back for another Cinco de Meow fundraising event. Stay tuned for more details . . .

We will also be participating in this year's DoMore24 Campaign - March 3-4!

#### We Want to Hear from You!

If you have an idea for an article or a story you would like to share about a rescue, special volunteer, your adoption center or recent adoptions from Forgotten Cats, please send story and photos if possible to: info@forgottencats.org

### **Our Corporate Sponsors**

We are very excited to announce WSFS Bank has renewed their Silver+ sponsorship in our Corporate Sponsorship Program. Forgotten Cats serves the most helpless and neglected creatures - feral, abandoned, and homeless cats. We rely on kind and generous supporters in the community like WSFS Bank to help us do this very important work. Our thanks go out to WSFS Bank (500 Delaware Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19801) for extending their partnership with us by participating in our Corporate Sponsorship Program, which will help us to continue to save many lives and find many forever, loving homes. <a href="https://www.wsfsbank.com/">https://www.wsfsbank.com/</a>





Forgotten Cats offers a variety of sponsorship levels - if you are interested in learning more about our Sponsorship Program, please

visit: <a href="https://forgottencats.org/corporate-sponsorship/">https://forgottencats.org/corporate-sponsorship/</a>







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