

Forgotten Cats News

April 2022

March 2022 Status:

In March, we sterilized 1637 cats and placed 95 cats into loving forever homes.

A Special Message to our Volunteers!

BECAUSE APRIL IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH,

A Heartfelt "Thank You" to the HEART of Forgotten Cats - YOU!

It may seem trite, but nothing could be truer – all of the good that is done at Forgotten Cats couldn't happen without all that YOU contribute to the effort! We couldn't do it without the support of more than 700 volunteers. We deeply thank you.

To date we have sterilized over 165,000 cats and facilitated more than 19,000 adoptions and our greatest resource in accomplishing all of this is YOU. At Forgotten Cats we operate with a VERY small staff. Other than our contracted veterinarians we have 1 full-time employee and 2 part-time employees – to say we couldn't do it without you is an understatement.

Every week we run six spay/neuter clinics, we have seven active adoption centers, two shelters, and hundreds of cats who are cared for by our selfless, dependable volunteers with hearts of gold. You feed, clean, snuggle, foster, promote, and perform myriad administrative tasks. I don't think that "National Volunteer Month" can adequately honor the contributions that our volunteers have made.

To our volunteers – I thank you from the bottom of my heart. For today, for yesterday, for every day. Because of you, our cats live a better day today

Felicia Cross

Felicia Cross Executive Director

Cinco de Meow at 2SP Brewery - May 5



Guess who's ready to celebrate Cinco de Meow? If you guessed 2SP's very own Brewery Cat, you guessed right!!

Come celebrate with us (and Brewery Cat) on May 5, from 3:00 pm - 9:00 pm at 2SP Brewing Company in Aston - 20% of the sales from the entire day will be donated to Forgotten Cats!

And if that isn't cool enough, <u>there will also be another special edition 2SP t-shirt</u> <u>available</u> for sale and a portion of the sales will also be donated to Forgotten Cats!!

There will be <u>TWO</u> food trucks on-site this year (The Walking Taco Company and SPITE.pizza.pastry.), so come have some beer, grab a bite to eat, and spend time with other cat lovers to help support our mission of humanely reducing the homeless cat population.

We have some beautiful raffle baskets, there will be a 50/50 and we'll have some unique cat merchandise for sale. And don't forget to snap a pic of Brewery Cat - we will have a Facebook post the following day for you to post your pics!

OUR CATS ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Everyone at Forgotten Cats, especially our kitties, is extremely grateful for the financial support of the thousands of loyal friends who donate each year in response to our various appeals – some of you giving several times each year. We really could not operate without your dedication and ongoing support. Your generosity during these tight Covid and inflationary times has been amazing – our recent end-of-year appeal brought in a record number of contributions totaling more than \$100,000! Wow!

To our donors, the Board and I thank you for making all of our work possible. We look forward to another successful and rewarding year.

Felicia Cross

Felicia Cross Executive Director



FOSTERS NEEDED!!!

PLEASE EMAIL INFO@FORGOTTENCATS.ORG FOR MORE Information or submit a form to foster at forgottencats.org

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 choose to foster a cat, you are literally **SAVING A LIFE**. We cannot do what we do without **YOU**.

Kitten season is upon us, and we need fosters for moms with kittens, kittens without moms, & bottle babies. But we also have adult cats that have 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. <u>https://forgottencats.org/foster-a-cat/</u>

"Meet Michele" – Forgotten Cats' April Spotlighted Volunteer of the Month

by Mary Ann Emely

Meet Michele! At left is a whimsical intro to Michele Alberto – something she put together that is very similar to the flattering graphic intros she creates for Forgotten Cats' Willow Grove kitties!

Forgotten Cats' highlighted April volunteer, Michele Alberto, tells us that becoming a Forgotten Cats volunteer was a happy coincidence for her because at about the same time that Willow Grove volunteer coordinator Mary Ryan put out a call for volunteers, Michele had asked Mary if FC needed any photography help. Michele had taken some photography classes while doing undergraduate work at Lafayette College, including Photoshop and design, and because she enjoyed it so



Michele is our in-house photographer that makes sure our cats are camera-ready for their adoption photos!

Michele can be shy, loves head scratches and gets along with other people, cats, and dogs!





CID Michele 11/30/89-3

much, she kept it as a hobby. Coincidentally, at about the same time, the Willow Grove photographer gave Mary notice that she was moving out of the area . . . and the rest is history . . . as well as Forgotten Cats' good fortune!

"Graphic design became a hobby of mine when a nonprofit I worked for had really out-of-date invitations and branding. I thought it was such a shame that an organization trying to do a good thing wouldn't get the attention it deserved, and I ended up re-designing for hours!" says Michele.

It was early 2021 when Michele jumped right into photographing the kitties at Willow Grove for use in the Forgotten Cats website gallery as well as in special

promos for adoption and other events. Besides taking their pictures, Michele writes their bios and puts it in a format that can easily be shared on social media.

Below is a montage of Michelle's creations.



Michele says it was through trial-and-error that she figured out the best time to take pictures of our cats was after dinner, when the shelter has quieted down. She typically just sits and spends time with them to get an idea of their personalities – who likes other cats, who likes to be picked up, who has high or

low energy! "When I take the photos of the cats, I think the lighting is the most important. The cats move so fast, pictures get blurrier the less light there is. I use a lot of natural light, and position one of the cat trees right in the light. Typically, I have to move a cat to where I'd like them to go and make noises and wave toys right above the camera to get them to look into it. I read somewhere that animals looking into the camera have a better chance of being chosen. Then I take about 50 pictures and go through them later to pick the best one – quantity is key! When I find the picture I like, I edit the lighting to make the cats the focal point of the picture, and then send it over to the website gallery!"

"A fun fact," says Michele, is that sometimes she gets to name new cats, so she keeps an extensive list of cat pun names in her phone. For example, Cat Sajak, Mandy Pawtinkin, Lin Meownwell Miranda! "If anyone sees a cat with a ridiculous name on our adoption website, it's probably my fault. Sorry!"

Michele believes that she has the easiest job at Forgotten Cats – she can take the pretty pictures and come to the shelter when her schedules allows. "I'm not the most consistent person in the world, and the other volunteers have blown my mind with their dedication and grit, which I admire to no end. It's not easy to go in several hours a week and clean litter boxes for cats that don't understand the labor of love." She says the best part of her job is petting all the cats, but the most challenging is meeting a cat that has just come into the shelter – she says you can tell they want to open up, but the shelter environment is overstimulating, making them act out. "You just really get invested in these guys and want them to live their best lives."

Michele's relationship with Forgotten Cats dates back almost 10 years when she walked into the Willow Grove PetSmart and came back with a cat! She went back for food and came back with another Cat! "Don't worry," she says – "I now order their food online!" Stormy and Watson are her two boys. She describes Stormy, the black shorthair as an "absolute cheese gremlin", and Watson, the Russian Blue as her sweet gray kitty with anxiety and asthma – just like his mom!

Michele's boys are below. Stormy at left, and Watson at right – captured as only an artistic photographer can do!



When not at home with Stormy and Watson, or at Forgotten Cats taking photos, Michele has lots of other roles that keep her busy. Her "day job" is doing HR project management as an executive assistant to a VP, handling scheduling, budgets, and project oversight. She also volunteers for her local Youth Aid Panel and is in the process of becoming a "Big" for Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

She humbly describes herself as a jack-of-all-trades and master of none – we don't believe that! She has studied abroad in Florence, Italy where she also taught English to kids 6-14. She does stand-up comedy, coaches youth soccer and occasionally plays the viola. She says she has just gotten comfortable singing in public! This past year she took scuba lessons in order to hang out with her

favorite ocean animal, the octopus. She's a big marine biology fan and even has an octopus tattoo on her arm!

What's next for Michele? She says she's looking to buy a house but is legitimately concerned that she will immediately fill it with 15 cats!



Above, Michele and some of her photography "subjects"!

Michele, Forgotten Cats thanks you and your creative efforts for all you do to help our fur babies find their furever homes!

To the rescue ... our volunteer trappers!

Last month, we highlighted our wonderful volunteer call & online screeners. This month, we would like to tell you about our amazing volunteer trappers. Forgotten Cats does have one employed trapper, but to manage the number of cats we have coming through our clinics for trap, neuter,



vaccinate & release (TNVR), we could not do it without our volunteer trappers.

Our trappers are literally on the front lines of our mission. When we receive calls for the trapping of feral cats, stray cats, or a colony of cats, our trappers are right there - physically rescuing these homeless cats from the streets.

They are responsible for going to the trapping location, setting & monitoring the traps, transporting the trapped cat(s) to the clinics, and transporting the cat(s) back to their original location. They diligently work with colony caregivers to ensure ALL cats in a colony are trapped, to ensure zero growth of the colony.

Oftentimes, the people that reach out to us for help with TNVR are in desperate need of our services. Their colonies continue to grow, and it becomes more and more difficult to care for the colonies. It is also a struggle for the cats as they must compete for limited resources. Helping people with trapping and transporting for TNVR, provides a great relief to the compassionate colony caretakers and the cats.

Many thanks to our trappers for taking the time to go out to trap these cats that are

desperately in need of the services and care that they receive at Forgotten Cats!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer trapper or would like to volunteer in another position (we need clinic and feed & clean volunteers at Trainer - see below) - please visit our volunteer page at: <u>https://forgottencats.org/services/volunteer/</u>



Special Needs Cats for that Special Someone!

At Forgotten Cats, no cat is neglected or forgotten, so we always have a need for special adopters and/or fosters. We'd like to introduce you to some of our special cats that are in need of that special someone to love and care for them.

FOREVER FOSTER NEEDED FOR HICKORY!!! Will you please open your heart and home to Hickory (FCID# 03/09/2022 - 14)? This sweet boy is FIV+ AND FeLV+.

Feline leukemia aka FeLV+ is contagious to other cats but not to other species such as dogs or rabbits. Hickory's life span will be shorter than a healthy cat. We know Hickory would love to be in a loving home environment instead of a cage.

Hickory is SUCH a cuddle bug. He loves to be pet and given tons of affection. He's super irresistible and the volunteers cannot get much done with this cutie asking for love all day. We can't wait until he finds an amazing home to spoil him rotten. He certainly deserves it. He's incredibly gentle and sweet. Please open your heart to Hickory. Let's get Hickory out of a cage and into a loving home!

We will accept a "forever foster" for Hickory in which Forgotten Cats will cover medical expenses related to this illness. He likely will not need any medical care until his time is winding down. As of this moment, he is fine.



Lucius - Super sweet lap cat!

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, but currently does not need insulin for his diabetes - he is managed on his diabetic food alone. However, it is possible he could need insulin in the future.

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: <u>https://forgottencats.org/adoption-application/</u>



Can Bunny hop into your life?



This sweet lil Bunny was found living outside a seafood restaurant. Bunny doesn't have a tail and our veterinarian believes she may have been born that way. Unfortunately, this has resulted in her being completely incontinent. Because of this, she is prone to chronic UTIs.

Bunny is looking for a home where she would be loved despite her condition. She needs to have her bladder expressed twice a day to help prevent UTIs.

Even a barn home that is committed to expressing her bladder (which is super easy to do and we can teach you) would be

a great option for Bunny!

Bunny is so sweet and gentle. She loves to be held and will sit on your lap for hours. If you are interested in hopping on by to meet Bunny please email us at *info@forgottencats.org*. Please help us spread the word about Bunny!



CeCee & Abe - Precious Heart Kitties!



Cecee - Super friendly and gentle!!!



Abe - Check out this adorable

Please meet CeCee! As you can see, she is quite a beautiful girl. She's an outgoing girl around 1 year old. She's super friendly and gentle. Cecee is affectionate and sweet.

Her foster says, "She is such a great cat. I am really enjoying having her! She is my favorite "person" to cuddle with and she purrs so much." Doesn't she sound awesome?

CeCee has a heart condition that will require her to take a daily pill. She is very good about taking her meds! FCID# 10/18/2021 - 3

If you are interested in meeting or adopting CeCee, please submit our no-obligation adoption application @

https://forgottencats.org/adoptio n-application orange and white tabby! Abe has a great personality and gets along well with other cats.

While he is not dog friendly, he does follow his foster around like a dog - he is very loving and loves to sleep with his foster and be petted.

Abe is such a sweet loving 5 - 6 year-old cat. If you notice his right eye looks defective - it's not - he can see out of both eyes.

His right side of his face was attacked by a raccoon. But with great medical attention, his right side except for the eye, looks great.

Abe has a heart condition that requires 2 medications on a daily basis.

Please give Abe a chance - he will love you forever! FCID # 02/21/2022-39

If you are interested in meeting or adopting Abe, please submit our noobligation adoption application @ <u>https://forgottencats.org/adoptio</u> <u>n-application</u>

A Happy Ending for Helsing!

Just one week ago, one of our special needs cats, Helsing was featured on our Facebook page. Helsing is diabetic and was in need of a forever home where he could get the proper care that he needed. Thankfully, he was adopted and is already adapting to his new home and cat siblings!

From Helsing's new dad "He's doing so well. Such a good boy about his diet and litter box habits. He sleeps well and enjoys playing eclectically with Rufus who we adopted in February. He's good with our other, more



standoffish cats too. He's super affectionate and easy going . . . He's been an absolute joy. We look forward to getting him in good health and hopefully having many years

with him in our lives."

Above right, Jason (Helsing's new dad) pictured with Helsing & Rufus (Rufus was adopted as a kitten in February)

Volunteer Opportunities at Trainer!



We are in need of CLINIC Volunteers in our Trainer Clinic (Delaware County, PA - near Claymont, DE).

We are looking for help on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

This is an opportunity to help cats whose only medical treatment during their lifetime may be when they go to our clinic. Volunteering at the clinics is an important and serious undertaking and we are looking for the few ready to make the commitment. *CLINIC volunteers need to commit to one specific day a week at the clinic*. The reason for this is that we are dealing with the lives of the cats, and we need to make sure that our volunteers know the clinic procedures, and this can only be done by volunteering on at least a one day per week basis. *We will train - no medical background required*.

Volunteers must commit to either One Full Day a week or Half a day.

Serious Inquiries only please!

IF YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, IS INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION, PLEASE EMAIL JOHN FEDELE AT: <u>info@forgottencats.org</u>

<u>Please include your phone number</u> in your reply.



We are in need of Cat Care Volunteers in our Trainer shelter located in Delaware County, PA/near Claymont, Delaware.

This is an opportunity to help provide love and care to our shelter cats while they wait for their forever homes. Volunteering at our shelter is a rewarding and heartwarming experience.

Cat Care Volunteers are needed every day of the week. The **time commitment** is about 3 hours and start time is generally in the morning. The cats are up and ready for their breakfast!

Duties include: feeding cats, providing fresh water, scooping litter boxes, and of course giving them lots of love and attention. Also includes some laundry and dishes.

Do you want to help other cats just like your beloved pet but can't adopt more? Then this is the PURRFECT opportunity for you!

IF YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, IS INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION, PLEASE EMAIL JOHN FEDELE AT: <u>info@forgottencats.org</u>

We look forward to hearing from anyone interested in becoming part of our cat-loving team.

Employment Opportunity! Part-time/Full-time Veterinarian

Forgotten Cats, Inc. operates one of the largest trap, neuter,



vaccinate & release (TNVR) programs in the country. <u>Due to</u> <u>expanding needs, we are seeking</u> <u>a Full and Part-Time veterinarian</u> <u>to join our compassionate team,</u> <u>working to reduce the homeless</u> <u>cat population through TNVR.</u>

This employment opportunity offers a flexible work schedule as well as location. Forgotten Cats operates two clinics - one in

Trainer, PA (Delaware County) and one in Willow Grove, PA. The candidate will perform routine and emergency surgery, as well as provide wellness services and medical treatment within our facilities.

Since our inception in 2003, Forgotten Cats has sterilized and provided medical treatment for over 165,000 cats and kittens within our facilities. In addition, over 19,000 homeless cats and kittens were removed from the streets and given a second chance at life in loving forever homes through our adoption program.

Due to the high volume of sterilizations performed at our clinics, the candidate must have surgery experience, a willingness to learn, be able to function in a high-energy environment and enjoy working with cats. Salary is commensurate with experience.

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.

Please consider joining our dynamic team where we make the extraordinary occurrence an ordinary occurrence each day.

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 info@forgottencats.org

PS. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this job opening, please have them respond to **info@forgottencats.org**.

IN 2021, FORGOTTEN CATS RECEIVED \$6,346.31 IN DONATIONS FROM AMAZON SMILE!

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FORGOTTEN CATS HAS RECEIVED \$23,147.30 TO DATE, AND IN THE 1ST QUARTER OF 2022, WE'VE ALREADY RECEIVED MORE THAN \$2,000.00!

These contributions are essentially "rebates" on the Amazon shopping done by Forgotten Cats volunteers and friends who have clicked on "AmazonSmile" and designated Forgotten Cats as the recipient of this benefit!

AmazonSmile is an easy way for you to support Forgotten Cats every time you make a purchase on Amazon, and it doesn't cost you a penny extra! When you shop at smile.amazon.com you will see the same items, for the same prices, but Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Forgotten Cats! AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

How do I sign-up?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select Forgotten Cats to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping, by typing our name in to the bar to select your own charity. BE CAREFUL - THERE ARE SEVERAL DIFFERENT CHARITIES IN AMAZON SMILE WITH NAMES SIMILAR TO OURS. If you don't see "Greenville, Delaware" as our location, it's not us! If you're having difficulty finding us, you may search on our tax I.D. number, 200691180. Your selection will be remembered, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. Just remember instead of going to amazon.com to shop, simply go to smile.amazon.com to shop! Don't forget to bookmark the page for ease of finding it the next time!

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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*

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