



# Forgotten Cats News

May 2022

**April Status:**  
To be provided in the next newsletter!

## Kitten season is here! Why foster?



There are many reasons to foster, the most important being that you are literally helping to save lives. ***By fostering, you save the life of the cat you are fostering and you open up a space in the shelter for another cat.***

The mama and babies pictured above are thankfully being cared for by one of our amazing and dedicated fosters. If this precious mama had not been fortunate enough to be rescued, she would have given birth to her babies in an abandoned house, in the drawer of a discarded dresser, behind a dumpster or literally on the street.

On top of saving lives, ***fostering can bring so much joy in knowing that you are providing a safe and loving environment to prepare a cat(s)/kittens for a loving forever home.***

A home environment is a much healthier environment for cats recovering from living on the streets and kittens who are more prone to infections in the shelter environment due to their underdeveloped immune systems.

***Spending time in a loving home environment relieves stress, which is healthier and better prepares cats/kittens for their new forever home.*** Keeping them healthy allows them to enter the adoption system sooner - the sooner they are in the adoption system, the sooner they will find their forever home!

It can be an opportunity for family members to bond over the care of your foster(s). What fun to have a furry house guest(s) to all chip in together to care for! ***Sharing in the responsibility as a family allows for everyone to share a common goal of providing care and socialization to give your foster cat(s)/kittens a start to a wonderful new life.***

At Forgotten Cats, we have a variety of foster options which ***includes weaned kittens, mama and babies, bottle babies, sick or injured cats, under-socialized cats or kittens, and cats simply needing a cage break.*** Forgotten Cats will provide a training manual and medical care for all foster cats/kittens. You provide the basic necessities: litter box & litter, food (Purina cat or kitten chow), bedding, and love.

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Here are a few words from the foster of this beautiful mama and kittens:



***"Fostering changes lives. Theirs and ours.***

***I think one of the most important reasons for fostering is giving our kitties the one thing that nature is unable to provide ... nurturing.***

***Cats, like people, learn from what they are taught. Unconditional love, care and patience creates an environment where we are able to build trust, be affectionate and establish a lifelong unbreakable bond with people and other friendly pets.***

***I have witnessed firsthand the way they look at me when they are afraid or sick. Kind gentle words and gestures reassure the littlest to the biggest. When we tell them it will be ok, and they feel safe everything is possible.***

***Miracles happen when we open our hearts, hands and homes to those who need our help.***

***Every day fostering is one where I am touched inside. Because of them I am blessed to keep becoming a better person. My belief - The best version of ourselves is always yet to be realized. Because there is no end to what is possible and the difference we can make in another's life!"***

If you would like to experience the joy and rewards of fostering, please consider volunteering to foster a cat and/or kittens. By fostering, you can make the difference in the lives of the cats and/or kittens that you welcome into your home.

To volunteer to foster or to learn more about our foster program, please visit: <https://forgottencats.org/foster-a-cat/>

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When "Happily Ever After" includes Volunteering



# for Forgotten Cats . . . you get this month's Spotlighted Volunteers: Debbie Smith and Bob Conway

by Mary Ann Emely

This month's Volunteer Spotlight shines on a couple who volunteer together and may typify the ideals of life in America. Debbie Smith and Bob Conway were born and raised in the Philadelphia area, met and married more than forty years ago.



*Above, Debbie and Bob in a photo taken in Savannah, and below, a photo of them with their daughters Holly and Hannah at a family vacation in Disney.*



They had two daughters who were also born in this area – Holly and Hannah. Bob's professional life included many years in insurance and financial planning, while Debbie initially worked as a high school business teacher and eventually transitioned to the corporate world working in human resources. In 2001, work took Debbie and Bob away from our area to Ohio where they spent many years in the Cincinnati area raising their family and beginning their journey with various animal rescue efforts in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Debbie tells us that during the early years of family life, they were definitely 'dog people' having raised several rescue dogs. They got their first cat when 4-year-old Holly begged and pleaded for a kitten – until they adopted an adult cat named Tip who had spent the first 8 years of her

life with an aging senior citizen and then thrived and lived out the rest of her life enjoying the more energetic world of a busy family with growing, active children.

Now firmly both dog and cat people, their cat rescue efforts began around 2008 when a feral cat, who Debbie and Bob named Charlie, began to visit their yard daily. On warm days, Charlie would 'talk' to Deb and Bob's indoor cats through the screen door. Hannah suggested feeding Charlie, and this is how it all began!

After feeding Charlie for a couple of months, they made the decision to trap him and have him spayed/neutered (at this point, they weren't sure if Charlie was male or female) and vaccinated. They fed him in front of an open trap for about a week, and finally the big day came. Charlie went into the trap and they had him, but when Bob went to pick up the trap, the door malfunctioned, opened, and Charlie took off.

They were devastated! They called the vet for advice and talked to anyone who would listen about what steps they should take next. Finally, a woman from the Ohio Alleycat

Resource (OAR) advised them they had maybe one more chance to trap Charlie, and she loaned them a more reliable trap. Finally, Charlie was trapped, and this led to Debbie and Bob volunteering at OAR . . . doing TNR, working events, and fostering cats and kittens. Debbie then started volunteering at the OAR spay and neuter clinic, and ultimately, she was asked to serve on OAR's Board of Directors.

Charlie eventually came inside to live with the family, having made the 9-hour trip from Cincinnati with the rest of the crew when Bob's work brought them all back to this area. Charlie didn't seem to mind the long trip at all and acclimated very nicely to his new home in Malvern. **Above, Charlie.**



When back in this area, they were interested in continuing their cat mission and got involved with Forgotten Cats after Debbie stopped into the Pet Supplies Plus in West Chester and struck-up a conversation with a Forgotten Cats volunteer. The next step was a visit to the Trainer clinic and before long, Deb and Bob were helping with TNR work for Forgotten Cats.

Deb and Bob both transitioned to a semi-retired status – both working part-time jobs – and this gave them more time to devote to their volunteer activities. They both volunteer as substitutes at Trainer, usually in the Trap Room cleaning traps and getting them ready for cats when their spay/neuter procedures are done. They also volunteer at adoption events at the Brandywine PetSmart – usually together and occasionally transport kitties between the Trainer and Willow Grove clinics. Because Bob likes to drive, he once drove down to Maryland to pick-up a former FC cat that had been turned in to a shelter there and brought her back to Trainer. They started fostering in 2016 and have fostered 90+ cats and kittens for FC, including a record of 20 cats and kittens in 2020!

When asked about “interesting volunteer stories” Deb told us about a trapping assignment they carried out last May. She said they don't do a lot of trapping these days so this was certainly a memorable experience involving three feral cats in Radnor that had regularly been fed by an older woman. The woman passed away and her property was being sold, so the cats had to be relocated. Deb and Bob trapped them and took them to the Willow Grove clinic for surgery/vaccinations and then relocated them to a farm in Elverson, PA. This can be tricky because sometimes the cats want to go back to their old location. But in this case, it was a successful relocation, which was very exciting for all who were involved.

Another interesting tale was that of an adopter from Oklahoma who saw an online adoption ad for FC's Blue, a momma kitty whose kittens had all been successfully adopted, but momma was waiting a long time for her forever home. The Oklahoma woman said she liked Blue's eyes and applied to adopt – “she had stellar references” Deb told us, “and was approved”. The woman then flew into Philadelphia airport where she met up with Deb and Deb's daughter, Hannah and Blue, and the happy exchange was made. Deb keeps in touch with Blue's human and says she is a great pet mom. Another happy ending!

Currently, Deb and Bob have two dogs and four cats but have had as many as three dogs and seven cats at one time! Three of the current four cats are fairly close in age. Charlie, the oldest, sadly passed away in April of this year. Deb says “Charlie had a wonderful life, and his life meant a great deal . . . what we learned from him changed a lot of other lives and saved a lot of lives too. He was special and we will miss him terribly.”

The oldest family kitty is now Bear who was found by Holly on campus while a kitten. Omelette was a pregnant stray at a local swim club in Cincinnati. The last two are FC cats. One was a fairly feral foster who was going to become a barn cat, but she had



no teeth so Deb and Bob kept her and they say she has come a long way in four years. The youngest was a mom from a hoarding situation who came to them as a foster with four kittens.



***Above, top row left to right, the furry family members – Bear, Debbie holding Omelette, Cricket. Above, bottom row left to right, Kippie with her 4 kittens (photo taken when they were Deb and Bob’s fosters), and their two dogs, Clover and Penny.***

There are many things Deb and Bob enjoy about the volunteer experience and working with cats. Probably their favorite part is TNR because they say there is a true feeling of making a difference at the grass roots level in the feral cat situation; however, they add, “it is physically very demanding which makes it more difficult as one ages.” “The fostering experience is also a highly rewarding experience” they say but admit that it can be difficult to let go of a fostered cat sometimes, “once you’ve made an emotional investment.”

When not volunteering for Forgotten Cats, or working at their part-time jobs, they like to work on their garden and hope to travel again, now that the pandemic is winding down. They like to vacation in Yellow Springs, Ohio because Holly lives in Ohio. (Daughter Hannah is in nearby Wynnewood so they see her more often.) Not surprisingly, both girls have inherited the family love of animals.

Deb and Bob told us that they are honored to be chosen as volunteers of the month and look forward to many more years working with FC! Deb and Bob – FC is grateful for all you do, and we welcome the prospect of having you continue as volunteers into the future!

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## At the clinics and shelters!



Last month, we featured our volunteer trappers. You may be wondering, what happens when the cats that are trapped arrive at our Trainer or Willow Grove Clinics? **This is where our incredible clinic and shelter volunteers make the extraordinary an ordinary occurrence each and every day.**

Our clinic volunteers are responsible for assisting in the medical care of the many cats/kittens that come through the clinic. There are multiple volunteer positions on clinic days and each and every one of them is essential to running the clinics as safely and efficiently as possible due to the high volume of sterilizations taking place during any given clinic day.

Some clinic positions are more administrative, such as intake and discharge as the cats and kittens that are arriving for clinic need to be checked in prior to clinic and checked out upon discharge. Other positions are more hands on where you are working directly with the cats/kittens at various phases of the process (i.e. surgery preparation, surgery assistance, administration of medication, recovering the cats after surgery, etc.). Our surgical sanitation volunteers keep all of the surgical instruments sterilized using established protocols.

**Days at the clinic can be long, but our dedicated volunteers work tirelessly through the day to ensure that each cat/kitten that is scheduled for clinic receives the best care possible.**

While the cats and kittens at the shelters anxiously await adoption or release back to their colony, they naturally require feeding and cleaning on a daily basis. **Our amazing shelter volunteers ensure each cat/kitten is fed and their cage cleaned.** In addition, they also assist with laundry, washing dishes, and sanitizing cages/carriers, etc. whenever possible. They dedicate 2-3 hours per shift (sometimes more depending on the work that needs to be done!). And that's not all - after all their hard work, **they take the time to play and cuddle with the adoptable kitties that are at the shelter!**

**This short article on our clinic and shelter volunteers does not do justice to what they do each and every day at our Trainer and Willow Grove clinics. Their dedication and devotion are to be admired and we cannot thank them enough for the care they provide to the cats and kittens that come to Forgotten Cats.**

Forgotten Cats provides training for each clinic position. To learn more about our volunteer opportunities in the clinic, click the following link: **[Clinic Position Descriptions](#)**. If you are interested in becoming part of our dedicated clinic or shelter teams, please complete our **[volunteer application](#)** or contact John Fedele at **[info@forgottencats.org](mailto:info@forgottencats.org)**.



Senior Cats Rock!





Did you know that senior cats are one of the most overlooked and the hardest to find homes for? Most people prefer younger cats or the “oh so cute” kittens. But as anyone that has adopted a senior cat will tell you, it’s one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives and the joy that adopting a senior cat brings is beyond compare. If you are looking for the perfect senior feline companion, check out Matthew (see left), Anastasia, Xenon, & Clarence.

<https://forgottencats.org/services/available-cats/>

## The Mews with the Least Views!

Each week, we receive a report from **Adopt-A-Pet** that shows us how many views each cat has received. This month, we would like to introduce you to 6 of the “**Mews with the Least Views**”!

If you would like to arrange a meet and greet with any of these beautiful kitties, please complete a no obligation application at <https://forgottencats.org/adoption-application>. If you are interested in fostering, please complete our foster application at <https://forgottencats.org/foster-a-cat/>.



**Sabrina** loves head scratches! She looks as if she could use a friend to brighten her days. Could it be YOU??? Sabrina is



**Colossus** Please meet Colossus! This handsome brown tabby weighs 12.5 pounds and as you can see, is quite a handsome boy!

Colossus and his friends in our Trainer clinic/shelter would love to be in a home

currently at our Willow Grove facility but would love to be in a home environment. Please consider this beautiful girl for adoption or foster. FCID# 08/19/2021 - 21

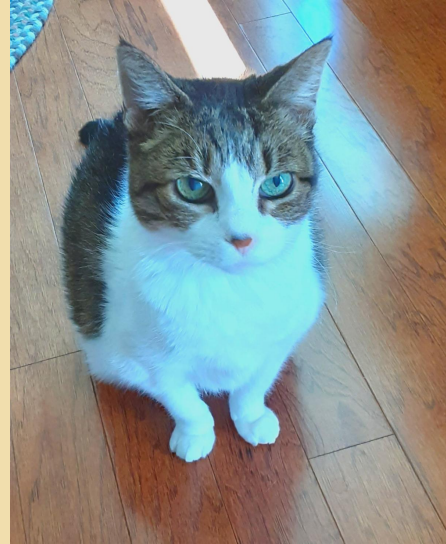


**Charity** is a sweet, calm, chunky tabby who is about 3 or 4 years old. She had 4 lovely kittens, all adopted, and now it's her turn! She is quite shy but once she warms up, she loves attention and to be pet, just not picked up! She is ok with dogs and cats after a slow introduction but would probably prefer to be the only pet. She loves to play with her toys and explore. She would probably be very nervous around children under 12. She is just waiting to come out of her shell and bond with someone! FCID# 09/07/2020 - 58



**Zorba** is a very handsome, cool, and

environment. FCID# 05/09/2022 - 60



**Xenon** aka "Zee" had already been spayed before she came through our doors. Xenon is a full-figure girl, at least 10 years old, or older, and has beautiful green eyes. She is a brown/gray tabby with white. Xenon loves head, chin and back scratches via your hands or a back-scratcher, belly rubs, curling-up in her comfy cat bed, sun warming her fur, heat coming from the register, and looking out the front door window. A lap is a good place - you will have to pick her up and put her there, and she will meow her displeasure if you need to disturb her in order for you to get up. FCID# 11/05/2020 - 203

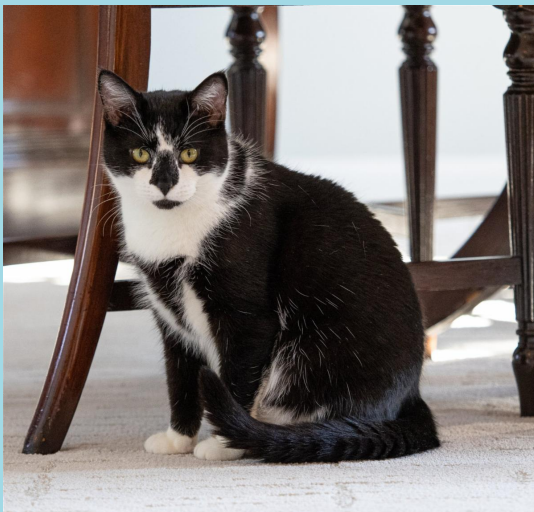




sweet boy! He has a purrsonality that instantly wins everyone over, which has made him a favorite amongst volunteers at the clinic. He loves attention and while he's not a lap cat, he lives for head & ear scratches. He has a strong, sweet purr. His new favorite thing is to sit at the window and take his catnaps on his window bed. He loves to rest on his foster moms legs to play! He has a lot of energy and playtime is so much fun with him!! FCID# 10/21/2021 - 105

**Roscoe** - Hi! My name is Roscoe. I am a handsome Tabby cat. They tell me I weigh 12.4 pounds. I am a sweet boy and am known for my snuggling ability. I just love to snuggle with my foster mom. I would do that 24-hours a day if she would let me! I also make great biscuits! What more could my human ask for – snuggles, biscuits and some purring. I love chin scratches and don't mind being combed either. FCID# 01/27/2022 - 8

## Featured Cats!



**Julia** - LAP CAT ALERT!!! What a fur pattern! Check out her whiskers! Please meet Julia! Julia is the sweetest snuggle bug around. She'll lay on your lap all day if you let her. She's so precious and gentle. At around 2 years old, she is the perfect age. She's good with other cats! Please give this girl the home she deserves.

From Julia's foster: This sweet girl is looking for her forever home! She loves her spring cat toys, cat tunnels and her scratch posts. Julia loves attention, too. She loved playing with her fellow cat brothers and sisters. Please consider making Julia part of your family! FCID# 10/11/2021 - 27  
[Adoption Application](#)



**Hiram** - Please meet Hiram! This handsome guy is about 3 years young and weighs about 17 pounds! Hiram is one of those cats that you fall in love with as soon as you meet him. Look at his face. His personality is as adorable as his face. Hiram is super sweet. He likes other cats. FCID# 11/26/2019 - 183

Hiram is FIV+ (**see below**) and can play and live with non-FIV+ cats.  
[Adoption Application](#)

[Foster Application](#)



# FIV+ Cat Facts

Cats who test positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) are often euthanized or are considered unadoptable. In fact, cats who test positive for FIV usually live long, healthy lives and do not infect other household pets.

**Transmission:** "FIV is mainly passed from cat to cat through deep bite wounds, the kind that usually occur outdoors during aggressive fights and territorial disputes—the perfect reason to keep your cat inside." - The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)\*

"Casual non-aggressive behavior" does not spread FIV. "Cats in households with stable social structures [...] are at little risk for acquiring infections." -Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine\*

**MYTH:** A cat can pass on FIV by living with other household cats, sharing water bowls and cleaning each other.

**FACT:** FIV is only transmitted through deep blood-drawing bite wounds. FIV+ cats can happy lives in socialized multi-cat households.

**MYTH:** FIV+ cats will become ill and die at an early age.

**FACT:** FIV+ cats do not have a higher incidence of illness, and live the same lifespan as non FIV+ cats.

**Lifespan:** Multiple medical studies show that cats who test positive for FIV live just as long as FIV-negative cats.\*

**"FIV itself does not cause severe clinical signs, and FIV infected cats live many years without any health problems."**

- Hartman, *Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology*, 2011

\*Addie, Toth, Reid, Jarrett, Dennis & Callanan, *Veterinary Record*, 2000

\*Gleich, Krieger & Hartmann, *Journal of Feline Medicine & Surgery*, 2009

\*Little, Bienzie, Carioto, Chisholm, O'Brien & Scherk, *The Canadian Veterinary Journal*, 2011

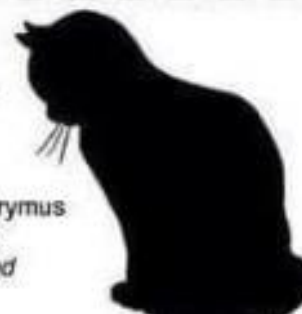
**Please spread the facts about FIV+ cats to your veterinarians, rescues, shelters, and friends!**



**FIV+ cats need love too!**

\*Hosie, Addie, Belak, Boucraut-Baralon, Egberink, Frymus & Lloret, *Journal of Feline Medicine & Surgery*, 2009

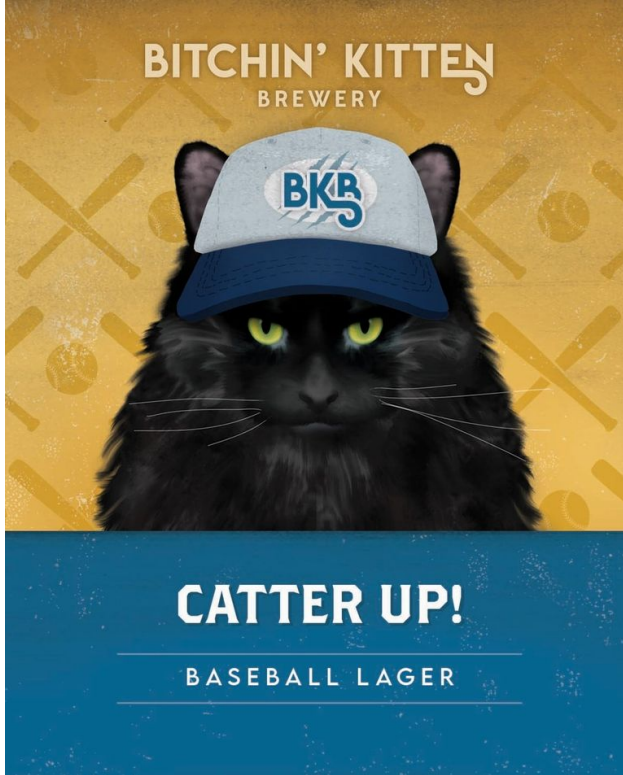
\*Walker, Canfield & Love, *Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology*, 1994



## Events

Many thanks to 2SP Brewery (and Brewery Cat!) for hosting Forgotten





Cats at their Cinco de Meow Pay It Forward Charity Night event and to all of you that were able to come out and support the event! We hope you had as much fun as we did!

### Upcoming Events

We are planning a special event at Bit-hin' Kitten Brewery in Morrisville, PA on June 23. Save the date and stay tuned for more info!

### Forgotten to Forever Pop-up Boutique

May 21 - Downingtown Vintage Community Spring Festival 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 June 15 - Tinicum Farm Market - 4:00 - 7:00 pm  
 September 21 - Tinicum Farm Market - 4:00 - 7:00 pm  
 September 24 - Art on the Green - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

## Volunteer Opportunities with Forgotten Cats



### Online Clinic Scheduler

*Work from home position.*

A clinic scheduler communicates with potential clients via email, answers their questions, and schedules them for a clinic appointment.

Duties include responding daily to email messages from people inquiring about our clinic services, addressing concerns, answering their questions, and scheduling them for a clinic appointment.

Occasionally, a clinic appointment request will turn into a need for TNVR assistance. In that case, you would explain the process of TNVR and add them to our waiting list. If the inquirer needs a type of assistance we cannot provide, direct them to another group or agency that can assist them.

Time commitment is about 4 hour per day, but it can fluctuate from time to time. This job is 100% remote, with no set hours, but it is best to dedicate an hour or two in the early morning and then the remaining time here and there throughout the day.

To qualify for this position, you must have a computer and internet access, be comfortable using email, web browsers, and a text editor like Word or Google Docs, and be able to remain calm and courteous when stressful situations arise.

### **TNVR Scheduler**

*Work from home position.*

A TNVR scheduler communicates with potential clients, answers their questions, and schedules them for trapping assistance.

Duties include responding daily to email messages from people inquiring about our TNVR services, addressing concerns, answering their questions, and scheduling them for TNVR.

Occasionally, a TNVR request will turn into a need for an appointment at one of our clinics. In that case, you would send them the appropriate information regarding a clinic appointment and schedule them.

If the inquirer needs a type of assistance we cannot provide, direct them to another group or agency that can assist them.

Time commitment is about 1 hour per day, but it can fluctuate from time to time. This job is 100% remote, with no set hours.

To qualify for this position, you must have a computer and internet access, be comfortable using email, web browsers, and a text editor like Word or Google Docs, and be able to remain calm and courteous when stressful situations arise.

### **Maintenance & Repair Person**

*Trainer Clinic (near Claymont, DE)*

Maintenance & Repair Volunteer needed to help us at our clinic in Trainer, PA to perform routine maintenance around the building such as:

- Fixing structural damage - for example, window, door, or wall repair.
- Repairing broken or leaking plumbing to avoid water damage and restore full use of water fixtures.
- Painting, applying preventative measures to the building to reduce the risk of future problems.
- Fixing potential safety hazards to avoid injuries.

### **Cat Cuddler**

*Trainer, PA (near Claymont, DE)*

Enrich the lives of the cats in the free-roaming cat room by spending 1-2 hours per week in the afternoon or evening with the cats by socializing with them through playing, petting, brushing, reading to them, and cuddling.

Must be 18 or older. If under 18 (no younger than 12), you must be accompanied by an adult. Since the cat room is on the 2nd floor, you must be able to climb one flight of stairs.



If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions (we would love for you to join our team of volunteers!), please email [info@forgottencats.org](mailto:info@forgottencats.org). Please include the volunteer position in the subject line.

## CLINIC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Forgotten Cats, Inc.



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 **Trainer clinic** is an important and serious under-taking 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 once a week basis.

***We will train. No medical background required.***

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION,  
PLEASE CONTACT US AT [info@forgottencats.org](mailto:info@forgottencats.org).**

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Forgotten Cats, Inc. operates one of the largest trap, neuter, vaccinate & release (TNVR) programs in the country. *Due to expanding needs, we are seeking a **Full and Part-Time Veterinarian** to join our compassionate team, working to reduce the homeless cat population through TNVR.*

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 Sussex County, DE. The candidate will perform routine and emergency surgery, as well as provide wellness services and medical treatment within our facilities.

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:  
[info@forgottencats.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@forgottencats.org).*



### [Chewy Wish List](#)

It's never been easier to give back! Help our animals in need by shopping our



### [Amazon Wish List](#)

Remember to shop on Amazon Smile



Wish List on Chewy to donate much-needed pet food and supplies directly to our organization.

and choose **Forgotten Cats** as your charity so that a donation will be made to Forgotten Cats at no additional cost to you!

## 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](mailto:info@forgottencats.org)

## Our Corporate Sponsors



Forgotten Cats offers a variety of sponsorship levels - if you are interested in learning more about our Sponsorship Program, please visit: <https://forgottencats.org/corporate-sponsorship/>

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