



Forgotten Cats News

June 2023

May Status:

In May, we sterilized 1664 cats and placed 105 cats into loving forever homes.

A MIRACLE for West!



Last month, we were praying for a miracle for West - we are beyond grateful that our prayers were answered!

We are so beyond excited, happy, and relieved to share the news that West (our special incontinent boy) is now in a HOME!

Rescue work truly takes a village, and we want to give shout outs to everyone who made saving this boy's life possible!

Thank you to **The Cat Collaborative** for trapping him! Thank you to our dedicated, compassionate, and caring volunteers for caring for West day in and day out (which included many baths, meds, and TLC).

After a heavy push on social media - we came up empty handed for a home for West. That's

when we started reaching out to all our rescue partners to see if anyone could help. Thank you to **Stray Cat Relief Fund** for putting us in touch with **Charlie's Army Animal Rescue**! Charlie's Army had a foster mama ready and waiting for a special incontinent kitty. It was a match made in heaven.

We are so grateful Charlie's Army welcomed West into their rescue with such open and loving arms.

We wish West all the best - we'll miss his stinky butt!

This "Wall of Fame" Speaks Volumes About Our June Spotlights Volunteer – Megan Gaffney

By Mary Ann Emely

The “wall of fame” in the home of Megan Gaffney pawsitively summarizes what is so special about this month's spotlighted volunteer! Megan and her wife, Theresa, have been Forgotten Cats fosters since 2017 and since then have fostered 71 (at the time this article was written!) cats and kittens – a job they love so much that they honor each foster with a permanent photo on their “wall of fame”. “It makes me smile every time I look at it” says Megan.



Megan & Theresa's "Wall of Fame"



Megan with Foster Trey

Megan's involvement with Forgotten Cats began on that fateful Sunday morning in 2017 when Theresa woke up Megan to see a stray mama cat and her kittens. The kittens moved in with Megan and Theresa and soon became Sancho and Quijote (because just two days prior, Megan had graduated from the University of Delaware with an MA in Spanish Literature and had written her thesis on Don Quijote.) Megan adds that the kittens filled the spare time left after she had finished her graduate coursework.

Forgotten Cats spayed the mom cat, but about a year later, more kittens and another mom cat appeared. Megan says “We were fortunate to bring them to FC to be spayed and neutered, and the kittens were accepted as fosters under our care. After that, we started being regular fosters, and the rest is history!”

Megan goes on to say “No one believes me, but I had no interest in having cats until Sancho and Quijote appeared in my yard. Friends still joke about what happened to me that day to make me a crazy cat lady.” They now have five cats living in their house! They adopted two foster fails, Sophie and Nala. Nala has a heart condition and was overlooked for some time. One day, they realized that if she ever was adopted, they would miss her too much. She was already part of the family! They also have a forever foster named Macintosh. “Fostering has been a great activity for our whole family”, continues Megan – “and Riley (age 16) and Lucas (age 13) get involved with playing and socializing. We also have long debates over potential names for each foster!”



Theresa with Foster Fitzgerald



Riley and Sancho



Lucas with Foster Benny

Megan says it is incredibly rewarding to help cats and kittens that might otherwise be left on the streets. "We've felt heartbreak many times, from wondering how our sweet foster could be overlooked for a forever home to losing young kittens to various health problems. On the other side, we have had countless hours of entertainment from kittens who are learning to play, walk, run, and pounce. One of my favorite stories (and I think this should be a newsletter story of its own!) is that one of our fosters, Eliot, moved from the US to Edinburgh by way of a transatlantic cruise. He went from homeless Delaware kitten to world traveler, and he brings his parents so much joy."

Megan tells us that she and Theresa are both librarians, so they may fit the stereotype of cat ladies! They work at the University of Delaware. They enjoy traveling and have appreciated the times when other foster parents have provided temporary homes for their fosters when they take a vacation. She says having grown up in Connecticut, she visited New York and went to the theater frequently, so her family now squeezes in a few theater weekends each year. They are also grateful to have a local community of cat-loving friends who can help them socialize kittens . . . and who sometimes end up adopting them!

Megan had relocated to Delaware to begin her library career and that is where and when she met Theresa, a Newark native. Megan says they are just trying to slow time down as they watch their kids grow up too quickly. They are hoping to take a family vacation to Europe next summer, before Riley starts her senior year of high school and Lucas starts his freshman year of high school.



The “Foster” Family Extraordinaire — Theresa, Riley, Lucas and Megan

As I conclude this article about our extraordinary foster family, Megan's total count of foster cats and kittens under her care has grown to 76! Megan, you are indeed part of an amazing Forgotten Cats volunteer family and FC is extremely grateful for your gift of ongoing, compassionate fostering and we are amazed by all you do.

YOU can make a difference
in their precious lives . . .



This is the time of year when we bring in hundreds of cats and kittens every week. Currently, we are inundated with nursing mothers and babies. If fosters are not available, we are forced in most cases, to return the mom and kittens to where they were living outside. We would prefer to put them in foster homes and then, once old enough, into our adoption centers. The kittens we would like fostered range in age from a few days old to a few weeks. We also have "bottle babies".

Please consider opening your home to foster a mom and kittens.

They can be kept in a large dog crate which we will provide. All you need to do is provide food and water for the mom and clean her litter box once/day. They can stay in a basement, bathroom, or any spare room in your home. The crate is about 2' X 3' and can sit on the floor or table. The kittens will be ready for adoption in a few weeks' time and at that point we will take mom and kittens back.

They are the cutest little balls of fur. You will get so much enjoyment from watching them develop and knowing that they will be going to homes where they will be cared for the rest of their lives.

If you want to foster or if you need more information, please contact info@forgottencats.org and include your phone number and we will be in touch very soon. Or complete our foster application at: <https://forgottencats.org/foster-a-cat/>. Every day counts!

Please share this email with anyone who can help!

****We are also seeking fosters for adult cats as well.**

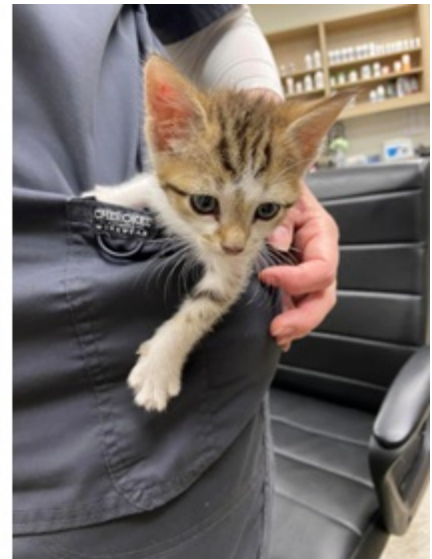
Pancake's Happy Ending!

We'd like to extend another big thank you to our friends at **Charlie's Army Animal Rescue** for intaking Pancake from us.

We've had Pancake in our care since she was an itty bitty baby. We quickly noticed she didn't have much use of her hind legs. We determined there is a pinched nerve in her lower spine which was either a birth defect or from trauma during birth.

She's not completely paralyzed and has started showing small improvements. We are hopeful and optimistic for her future with Charlie's Army.

Thanks again for taking this special, sweet little lady from us!



Just 1 day left to enter the raffle!

Only **ONE** day left to help us raise funds to continue to make a difference for homeless cats & kittens by participating in our [Home Run & Summer Fun Online Raffle](https://go.rallyup.com/homerunandsummerfun/Campaign/Details).

If raffles aren't your thing, but you still want to contribute, no worries - you can also make a donation through the raffle site.

<https://go.rallyup.com/homerunandsummerfun/Campaign/Details>

At our no-kill clinic/shelters, we welcome the FIV+ & FeLV+ cats, the blind, the 3-legged, the lost, those that have been abused, and those that have been abandoned. *We offer love and hope to the Forgotten Cats from all walks of life, like King George, a handsome FIV+ boy; Arendelle, a beautiful deaf girl; Dorian with the cutest chubby*

cheeks; Oscar, a handsome senior kitty; Pancake, a special needs kitten; Sheba, along with her kittens; and so many more.

It is so that we can help more cats and kittens like those mentioned above and increase our TNVR services, that we are expanding the Trainer facility.

Please check out this video about our expansion and how your contribution will help us continue our mission to help more homeless cats and kittens.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OL3rWEAjzoA>

Thank you!



King George



Arendelle



Pancake



Dorian



Oscar



Sheba

Upcoming Events

FORGOTTEN CATS ADOPTION EVENT

WILLOW GROVE PETSMART
SATURDAY, JULY 8TH
10:00 AM – 4:30 PM



3995 WELSH ROAD
WILLOW GROVE, PA
19090



Apply online to adopt:

[HTTPS://FORGOTTENCATS.ORG/ADOPTION-APPLICATION/](https://forgottencats.org/adoption-application/)



7/15 & 7/16
NATIONAL ADOPTION WEEKEND!

Brandywine (Wilmington), DE PetSmart
Brookhaven, PA PetSmart
Christiana, DE PetSmart
Jenkintown, PA PetSmart
Levittown, PA PetSmart
Hours TBD

Get pre-approved at forgottencats.org

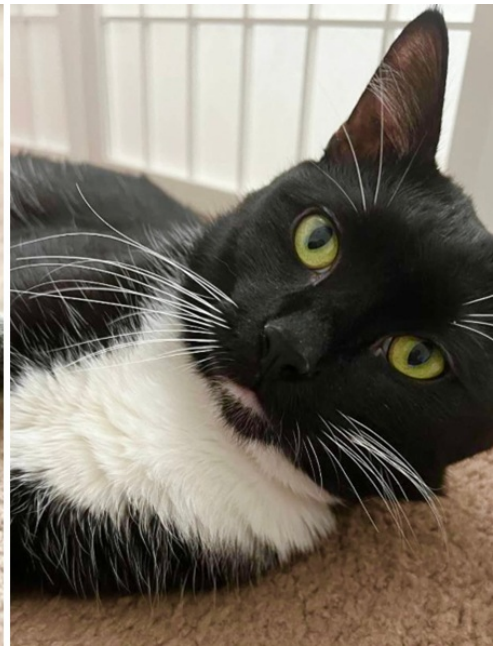
Clear the Shelters 2023

Forgotten Cats will be participating in Clear the Shelters 2023 - August 25 - 27.

More details coming soon!



Please meet some of our special needs kitties!



Bonded pair Ray and Kona! Ray is a beautiful young adult grey kitty! Although he is blind and cannot see with his eyes, he can see just fine with his heart. His sense of perception is very strong, and he relies on his hearing and his human keeping things in the same spot to get himself around. His ability to memorize the layout of a room is amazing! He even hops up on the windowsill to sunbathe.

Due to Ray's disability, he is closely bonded with his older pal Kona. Kona helps keep him safe and guides him when needed. Ray loves to play just like any other cat! He loves toys he can chase and hunt. He enjoys eating lots of food and drinking lots of water. Because his lack of eyesight can put him at a safety and disorientation risk, it is very important that his new home not have a lot of clutter and his food and litter boxes stay in the same places. He prefers to be played with on the floor and not picked up.

Kona is a big but gentle boy! He is always looking dapper in his tuxedo. Kona LOVES affection and has no problem getting your attention to let you know it. He is big, but has the tiniest meow, and he is such a lap cat! He loves his younger pal Ray who is blind, and even helps him get around.

Kona would prefer laying in your lap, but he does like to play with and chase toys too. He is often found sunbathing in the window when not gobbling up cat food. He is super kind and gentle, and even lets Ray push him around at times!

If you are looking for a pair, please consider meeting Ray and Kona as they must be adopted together. The boys are now at our Christiana PetSmart adoption center. Please stop in to meet them!

If you are interested in adopting these precious boys, please submit our no-

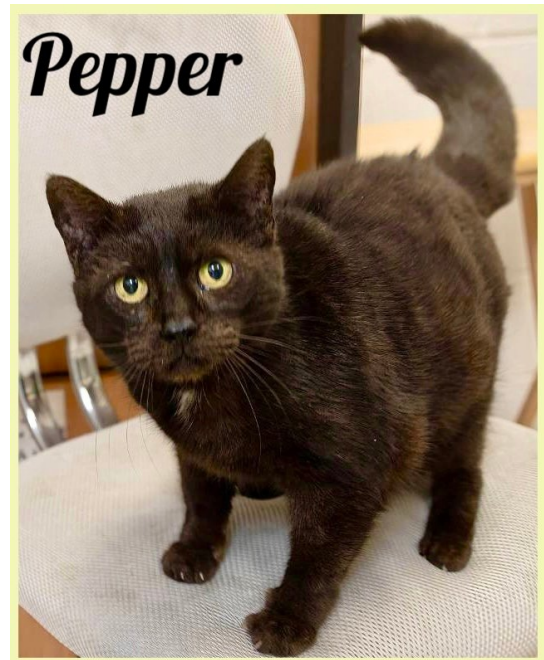
SUPER FRIENDLY!!! Are you ready for the sweetest, cutest, and FRIENDLIEST cat ever?

Meet **Pepper**! She's pure magic. Pepper has the most engaging and magnetic personality. She's very playful and active. She doesn't take any time to warm up. She's around 6-8 years old and as you can see, has a lovely brownish-black coat.

Pepper's only "special need" beside finding her very own forever family, is that she is on Hills ZD diet for food allergies.

Please submit our no-obligation application to meet Pepper:

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



Let's talk cat allergies . . .



Each year, thousands of cats are surrendered to shelters or rehomed due to their caretakers being allergic. Having to relinquish a beloved pet because of allergies is a painful experience for both the caretaker as well as the cat and one that can now possibly be avoided due to a new revolutionary diet.

There are 8 common feline allergens classified as Fel d 1 to Fel d 8. Researchers have

isolated the most common allergen to Fel d 1. According to an article titled "Human allergy to cats: A review of the impact on cat ownership and relinquishment" by Andrew H. Sparkes, "More than 80%, and typically 90-96%, of individuals allergic to cats are known to respond to Fel d 1, and it is estimated that Fel d 1 is responsible for between 60% and 90% of the total reactivity seen in allergic individuals."

According to Sparkes, "human allergies (including allergy to cats) have been increasing and it has been estimated that globally up to 10-20% of human adults are sensitized to cats." He goes on to say that "cat allergy among humans is second only to house dust mite as a cause of indoor respiratory allergy, and that around 20-30% of patients with respiratory allergy are allergic to cats."

One of the key points made by Sparkes is that "5% and 35% of potential owners

avoid owning a cat (or dog) due to concerns about allergy, and cat allergy in a household member is an important factor in the decision to relinquish a cat for rehoming in around 5-15% of cases." Based on these statistics, it is no surprise that allergies are listed among the top reasons for surrendering or rehoming cats.

It has been determined that Fel d 1 is the most common feline allergen. The allergen is found in the cat's saliva and is transferred to their fur when they groom. When they shed, their hair and dander is released into the environment, causing a reaction in allergic individuals.

Purina has developed LiveClear, a food that is backed by 10 years of research that reduces cat allergens. A key protein from eggs binds to the Fel d 1 allergen and neutralizes it. According to Purina, *"LiveClear is a revolutionary cat food shown to reduce the major allergen in cat hair and dander by an average of 47% starting in the third week of daily feeding."* (2)

This is truly good news for those allergic to cats! It is our hope that LiveClear will decrease the number of surrenders due to allergies or even enable people with allergies to adopt. If you want to learn more about the effectiveness of the diet, you can check out reviews on both Chewy and Amazon.

To read more about the LiveClear diet, please visit Purina's LiveClear website at <https://www.purina.com/pro-plan/cats/liveclear-cat-allergen-reducing-food>. Please note that this information is provided for information only – diet changes should only be made upon consultation with your veterinarian.

1.

Sparkes AH. Human allergy to cats: A review of the impact on cat ownership and relinquishment. Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery. 2022;24(1):43-52.
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1098612X211013016>

2.

<https://www.purina.com/pro-plan/cats/liveclear-cat-allergen-reducing-food>



Chewy Wish List

It's never been easier to give back! Help



Amazon Wish List

Unfortunately, Amazon has decided to discontinue their Amazon Smile donation program. But please keep in mind that we also have a Wish List on Amazon for much needed items - just click on "Amazon Wish List" above. This

our animals in need by shopping our Wish List on Chewy to donate much-needed pet food and supplies directly to our organization. Just click on "Chewy Wish List" above.

makes it super easy to help Forgotten Cats by donating much needed food and supplies to our organization.

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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