



ANNUAL REPORT

4PAWS RESCUE TEAM, INC.

Year Ended September 30, 2006

The 4Paws Rescue Team is a non-profit community-based all-volunteer organization that takes in neglected, abandoned, abused and unwanted cats and kittens. After providing appropriate veterinary care, these previously homeless animals are adopted into permanent, loving homes. An animal rescued by 4Paws will never be euthanized, except out of medical necessity.

Education is an important component of 4Paws' mission. Volunteers work with schools in an effort to teach children the importance of responsible pet care. Volunteers offer adopters, callers and fair attendees several forums to ask questions and become educated about cat care and feline behavior in an effort to enhance the human-feline experience. Significant effort is also spent educating the public about the need to spay or neuter their pets. Only by ending pet overpopulation can we ever hope to stop the suffering and needless deaths of the millions of domestic animals euthanized in animal shelters each year.

The fiscal year ended September 30, 2006 (FY 2006), was filled with many successes and, once again, many challenges. Almost 300 cats and kittens were rescued and placed into new homes. These previously homeless animals were permanently adopted by families whose lives, like those of the pets themselves, were enhanced through the 4Paws Adoption Program.

More than thirty (30) of the cats rescued this fiscal year were refugees of Hurricane Katrina. Added to the fifty (50) feline refugees taken in by 4Paws during the previous year, 4Paws volunteers were able to provide a second chance to more than eighty (80) cats and kittens displaced by the hurricane. Both this year and last, volunteers worked extra hard in order that efforts to help the feline refugees of Hurricane Katrina not interfere with normal daily operations to rescue local cats and kittens.

Initially, the intent was to reunite lost pets with their owners. As things turned out, none of the 30+ feline refugees rescued during FY 2006 were reclaimed, despite volunteers' relentless efforts to locate owners using Petfinder.com and other search organizations. Few human former-residents of the region were reachable, having themselves been displaced by the hurricane. Others were not physically or financially able to care for their former pets. One cat what volunteers were able to trace back to a specific neighborhood and residents, turned out to have been a stray. A cat that everyone fed, but no one actually took responsibility for.

After rescuing and transporting the cats from the Gulf Region, the early weeks were spent caring for the feline refugees, providing appropriate medical care and placing them into foster homes. Many of the cats suffered from severe stress after their ordeals; as a result, there were physical and emotional issues to address.

It has been a long painstaking process to return these feline refugees to adoptable condition. Many suffered from malnutrition, upper respiratory infections, diarrhea issues and skin fungi after their ordeals. As of September 30, 2006, most of the hurricane survivors have been adopted into permanent homes. Only a handful of deserving feline refugees remain in foster care. To learn more about these and other cats available for adoption, interested parties should visit www.fourpaws.org.

In addition to the Katrina refugees, during 2006, 4Paws rescued cats and kittens from local shelters, owners who could no longer care for their pets and local neighborhood streets. Because 4Paws pledges a lifetime commitment to every cat rescued, if an adopter can no longer care for his pet, the organization will take that cat back into its adoption program.



During FY 2005, 4Paws experienced the return of an unprecedented number of cats previously adopted out by the organization. This past year the rate of cats being returned (from adoptions as far back as 1996) decreased somewhat from the previous year, but still persisted at a crippling rate. As a consequence, 4Paws volunteers were forced to reduce the number of cats and kittens rescued from local shelters. The Organization can only rescue as many homeless cats for which there are available foster homes. With so many 4Paws cats being returned, foster space was severely restricted for new rescues.

Foster home volunteers are private citizens who provide temporary housing to cats and kittens that have been scheduled for euthanasia in over-crowded animal shelters. 4Paws also assists owners who cannot keep their cats, usually because of a family member's allergies or a change in circumstances causing the owner to need to move without his pets.

The Humane Society of the United States estimates that 8 to 10 million cats and dogs are euthanized in U.S. animal shelters each year. According to the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy, 71% of cats and kittens entering shelters each year are killed. In many cases, they are euthanized simply because these facilities do not have the space or resources to care for the many homeless animals surrendered to them.

In 2006, to the extent of foster home availability, 4Paws focused its limited financial and volunteer resources on rescuing cats from animal shelters. Management believes that the greatest impact can be made by taking felines directly from the clutches of death: sweet and innocent cats and kittens scheduled for euthanasia in over-crowded facilities.

As the word gets out, more and more animal shelters are contacting 4Paws to rescue felines from their facilities. Almost every day, shelter workers from local and rural facilities contact 4Paws about cats and kittens in their facilities that are slated for imminent death.

During FY 2006, 4Paws volunteers took cats from shelters in the Metro DC area as well as from facilities in more rural areas of Virginia such as Giles, Louisa, Madison, and Fluvanna counties. In Maryland cats were rescued from rural shelters in Carroll County and Tricounty. Localities outside of the Metro DC area often have great difficulty placing abandoned animals into homes. Consequently, the euthanasia rates tend to be higher in these outlying areas. 4Paws makes an effort, whenever possible, to rescue cats from rural shelters with historically high rates of euthanizing adoptable animals.

In addition to finding permanent loving homes for homeless cats and kittens, 4Paws helped individuals who called looking for advice about stray cats. Other callers wanted to surrender their own pets for a variety of reasons: allergies, relocation, illness, or pet compatibility issues.

In some cases, volunteers provided information that helped the callers resolve the problems, allowing them to continue caring for their pets themselves. In other cases, however, the only solution was to assist the caller in finding a loving home for the stray that had been found or the pet needing to be given up.



Throughout FY 2006, cats were adopted out primarily through four outlets:

- 1) Adoption fairs held approximately twice each month provided an opportunity for cats in foster care to be seen by potential adopters;
- 2) Temporary placement in pet stores allowed more opportunity for the cats to be seen by the public and possibly adopted;
- 3) Online venues highlighted many cats as they appeared in the comfort of their foster homes; and
- 4) One local veterinary office in Burke, Virginia displayed kittens that were available for adoption.

During fiscal year 2006, adoption fairs were held primarily at two locations: Fairfax and Tyson's Corner Petco stores. Cats, cared for twice daily by volunteers, were displayed in permanent cages at five Petco stores: Alexandria, Burke, Chantilly, Fairfax, and Tyson's Corner. As of September 30, 2006, one local animal hospital—Pet Medical Center of Springfield—was providing 4Paws with space in their lobby for rescued kittens to be seen by the public and ultimately adopted into permanent homes.

The virtual adoption fair, which can be seen on the organization's website at www.fourpaws.org, allowed cats that do not adapt well at the fairs or in store cages to be seen as they truly are in their foster homes. 4Paws continued to list cats available for adoption on www.Petfinder.org which has turned out to be another valuable web-based resource. The following is a breakdown of adoptions listed by the various adoption venues:

Petco stores and vet offices	35.9 %
Adoption fairs	30.4 %
Online Resources	19.4 %
Foster homes	14.3 %

To cover at least a portion of the costs associated with caring for a cat before a permanent home is found, 4Paws volunteers collect a standard adoption fee for each cat placed. The adoption fee for an already sterilized cat is \$85 and the fee for an unsterilized cat is \$115 which includes a deposit of \$50 that is returned after the new owner provides proof that his kitten has been sterilized.

Adoption fees cover less than half of the cost of the veterinary care necessary to ready healthy cats for adoption. Medical care for injury and disease (i.e., diarrhea, upper respiratory, anemia) also drain a large portion of the organization's financial resources. This year, in addition to the normal costs of readying cats for adoption, there was the added expense of caring for the Katrina refugees.

Costs not covered by adoption fees are paid for with donations from the general public and from government workers (through the Combined Federal Campaign—CFC#7540). During FY 2006, the organization spent almost \$120,000 on vet services and other pet care costs.

While financial support is vital, the life-saving work of the 4Paws Rescue Team would not be possible without the help of approximately one hundred and twenty volunteers who dedicate a portion of their free time to improving the lives of homeless cats. In FY 2006, volunteers perform a variety of functions including caring for cats in stores, assisting at adoption fairs, fostering homeless cats, fielding calls on the hotline, transporting cats, and performing home visits to ensure the suitability of the adopting families.



Community education is also a very important aspect of the work done by the 4Paws Rescue Team. During the year ended September 30, 2006, volunteers were able to respond to inquiries about cat care and behavior issues and give suggestions about food, litter and other supplies that were most appropriate for particular situations.

Throughout the year, a team of volunteers visited various elementary schools in the Northern Virginia area in order to talk to students about responsible pet care. Rescued cats were taken to the schools during these visits in order to demonstrate proper handling and grooming techniques. For the seventh year, the First Grade classes at Forestville Elementary sponsored a year-long donation drive to collect food, litter and other supplies for 4Paws' rescued cats.

Officers and Board of Directors:

Barbara Lipson, President/Director	Dianna Hogan, Secretary/Director
Deirdre Dixon, Vice President/Director	Kathleen Kerrins, Director
Linda Simmons, Treasurer/Director	DeAnna Scott, Director/Co-founder

Next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at 1360 Beverly Road, Ste 300, McLean, VA 22101.

Members of the Board of Directors are appointed by a majority vote of the Board and hold office for a period of one year. At the end of their term, Board members can be re-appointed for another one-year term through a majority vote of the Board.

The 4Paws Rescue Team, Inc. does not have any paid employees nor does it lease office space. In an effort to keep costs down and conserve funds for the work of saving feline lives, volunteers perform all program and administrative functions. In FY 2006, more than ninety two percent (92%) of expenditures directly benefited rescued cats. The following are the major activities for which each of the organization's officers and directors is responsible:

Dede Dixon	Database administrator, web site administrator, vet record coordinator, and adoption fair set up
Dianna Hogan	Adoption fair facilitator, vet office liaison, and back-up adoption coordinator
Kathleen Kerrins	Cash flow manager and public relations coordinator
Barbara Lipson	Adoption coordinator, pet store liaison, and manager of daily administrative operations
Linda Simmons	Manager of financial functions
DeAnna Scott	E-mail messaging system administrator

Many lives were saved during fiscal year 2006. Hopefully, many more will be saved during the coming months. For more information about the organization, cats available for adoption, or volunteer opportunities, please call (703) 715-6369 or send an e-mail to info@fourpaws.org.