



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MOST PEOPLE WHO CONTACT 4 PAWS are interested in finding a cat to adopt into their families. Many don't realize the tremendous amount of work and dedication that goes into getting a cat or kitten ready to be adopted. Volunteers give their time in a variety of ways including rescuing cats from the streets; returning phone calls; cleaning cages; transporting animals to the vet; fostering homeless cats and kittens; processing applications; performing home visits; and helping at adoption fairs. Many thanks to all the volunteers who played a part in the placement of 750 cats and kittens into permanent, loving homes during 2000.

While adopting cats into loving homes is an important goal, 4 Paws has a second and possibly more important function—working toward ending the overpopulation of domestic animals. According to the United States Humane Society, 8-10 million cats and dogs enter shelters each year in the United States. Of those, 4-5 million don't make it out.

Consider that a female cat is capable of bearing three litters in a year—each litter probably containing 4-6 kittens. At that rate of reproduction, a single cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats in seven years.

Humane Society statistics indicate that there are 73 million owned cats in the United States. Sound like a large number—possibly a big step toward ending the homeless animal problem? Consider however, that every day in the United

According to the United States Humane Society, 8-10 million cats and dogs enter shelters each year in the United States.

Of those, 4-5 million don't make it out.

States tens of thousands of kittens and puppies are born, while only 11,000 human babies are born. At this rate of birth there cannot hope to be enough homes for all of these animals.

The only real solution is stopping the births so that we can stop the unnecessary deaths of domestic animals in shelters that cannot find homes. 4 Paws does its part by sterilizing all cats and kittens that are old enough before they go to their new homes. For those kittens that are too young for the surgery, 4 Paws requires adopters to spay or neuter their new kittens by the age of six months. Each adopter must provide the organization with proof that the surgery was performed.

For those cats that are not suitable to be pets, 4 Paws participates in TNR programs (Trap Neuter Return). With TNR, the cats are altered and receive their shots before being returned to their safe outside homes where a caretaker provides them with food on an on-going basis.

What can you do? Make sure your companion animals are sterilized at an early age. Remember, a kitten can reach sexual maturity as early as four months of age. Even an indoor cat can find a way to get outside when she is in heat.

Next, make sure your friends and

family members understand the importance of spaying and neutering their pets.

To go one step further, take in a stray and get it sterilized. There are organizations that can assist you in finding low cost spay and neuter facilities. Call the Animal Welfare Society of Alexandria 703/838-4774, ext. 306; or Spay Inc. at 703/522-7920; or SPAY USA at 1-800/248-7729 for more information.

Even if you can't provide your new ward with a permanent home, get it sterilized. By doing so, you will be preventing unnecessary future births and that will go a long way toward stopping the needless deaths of animals that cannot find homes. Remember, each cat altered eliminates the potential of almost half a million births over seven years.

If you find yourself with a friendly stray that you cannot keep, please contact 4 Paws and we will help the cat find a loving home. After all, that is what we do best—in the last six years we have placed almost 3,000 cats into permanent, loving homes.

DeAnna Scott
President





4 Paws Press is published by the 4 Paws Rescue Team, Inc. P.O. Box 2908, Merrifield, VA 22116 (703) 715-MEOW (voice) (703) 560-9795 (fax) info@fourpaws.org www.fourpaws.org Combined Federal Campaign # 7540

If you would like to be added to or deleted from our mailing list or know others who would like to receive our mailings, please contact us.

The 4 Paws Rescue Team is a non-profit community based volunteer organization that takes in neglected, abandoned, abused, and unwanted kittens and cats. An animal rescued by 4 Paws will never be euthanized except out of medical necessity. In addition, 4 Paws is dedicated to managing the populations and improving the health of feral cat colonies. 4 Paws also works with schools to teach children the importance of responsible pet care.

4 Paws Rescue Team
Officers and Board Members

DeAnna Scott
President/Board of Directors/Founder

Barbara Lipson
Vice President/Treasurer/
Board of Directors

Dianna Hogan
Secretary/Board of Directors

Board of Directors
Kathleen Kerrins
Dede Dixon
Linda Simmons

Dr. Johnny Clark
Executive Medical Advisor

Lucy Wheeler
Legal Advisor to the Board

4 PAWS PRESS

September 11, 2001 No American will ever forget this date or the terrible tragedy that took place. 4 Paws expresses its deepest sympathies to those who lost loved ones on that day in an unspeakably horrible act of terrorism. Unfortunately we do not always appreciate what we have until it is gone. Today, please take the time to show your loved ones—family, friends and pets—how much they mean to you.

I N A N D A R O U N D 4 P A W S

CLINT COME HOME

Every adoptive parent's nightmare—your new pet runs out an open door. This is Clint's story—three weeks after arriving at his new home with his foster brother, Texas, Clint was lost in a strange neighborhood, not knowing how to get home.

Clint spent four long days and four cold nights frightened and alone—with scary noises and strange smells surrounding him. What he didn't know, was that Ed and Sarah, his new owners, were frantically searching for him. They posted signs with his picture and their contact number all over the neighborhood. They even visited neighbors individually asking them to keep a look out for Clint.

Their diligence paid off, on day 4 a neighbor spotted Clint in her back yard. Heartened with this information, the search shifted. Although Ed and Sarah did not go home with Clint that evening, in the early hours of the next morning they were awakened by a scratching and crying at their second story bedroom window. Clint was home and wanted to come in—a request that Ed and Sarah were happy to accommodate.

How did Clint find his way home? Lost cats do not usually stray far from home. Clint was in the back yard of a neighbor who lived adjacent to Ed and Sarah. Clint was probably scared and disoriented, not knowing his way home.

Maybe Clint saw Ed and Sarah looking for him in the neighbor's back yard and was able to follow their scent back to the house. Since they had sprinkled some of Clint's used litter in the yard, when he did make it back home, he knew he had found the correct house. After that it was just a matter of getting someone to open a window and let him in!

Here are some hints to help you locate your cat if he ever escapes:

Put food and water outside—in front and back of the house. Most lost cats do not go far. Your cat is probably very close to your house and is hungry and scared. Provide food and water to ensure that he stays close and remains healthy until you find him.

Put up signs throughout the neighborhood. Include your phone number and, if possible, a picture of your cat. A description of your cat should highlight any distinguishing features.


Visit local shelters weekly and look at the cats. It is not good enough to call. What you describe as an orange tabby may look like a buff colored cat to the person who answers the phone at the shelter.

Put an ad in the local paper describing your lost cat. Also, check the classified ads to see if someone found your cat.


Late at night, when it is very quiet, go outside and call for your cat. He probably did not go far from the house and may respond to your voice. If it is late and very quiet, you may be able to hear his meow in response to your call.


Don't give up. We have heard many happy endings to stories about lost cats. Often these cats are reunited with their owners months after getting out of the house and becoming lost.

FACT CORNER: 4 PAWS FACTS

 In 2000, 4 Paws placed more than 750 cats and kittens into permanent, loving homes. As of August, 2001 we had adopted out more than 425.

 During fiscal year 2000, 4 Paws earned more than \$115,000 in charitable contributions and adoption fees. We have collected almost \$56,000 in donations and adoption fees during the first six months of 2001.

 In 2000, 4 Paws incurred vet and medical supply costs exceeding \$100,000. During the first two quarters of 2001, we paid almost \$45,000 for vet and medical supply costs.

 Last year, 4 Paws used 93.5% of its financial resources to pay for services and items directly related to its mission of helping homeless animals. These expenditures included food, litter, medical supplies and vet services.



A SUCCESS STORY: VINCENT AND ALFRED

To look at him, you would never know that Vincent (Van Gogh) is a lucky little guy. He and his siblings were barely six weeks old when they were dumped on the side of the road. Vincent was the only kitten that survived the onslaught of passing cars. He was lucky.

Searching for warmth and protection, Vincent climbed into the motor of a nearby parked car. Not knowing that a kitten had taken refuge in his motor, the car owner turned on the engine, chopping off the left side of Vincent's head, including his left ear. He was lucky, though.

The driver, sensing that something was wrong, stopped the car. Vincent was luckier still that two 4 Paws volunteers were dining at a nearby restaurant. They pulled him from the car motor and rushed him to a vet for emergency treatment.

Vincent's head was sewn up and he was released to a 4 Paws foster home. The other foster kittens did not readily accept Vincent so he was put in a room by himself in hope that a calm, quiet environment would help his head to heal more quickly.

Shortly after Vincent's arrival, another small orphaned kitten, Alfred, was brought to the same foster home. Being so small, he too was rejected by the other kittens, but not by Vincent. The two became fast friends helping each other get through difficult times.

Alfred and Vincent became inseparable. When Vincent developed compli-

cations from his head injury and needed further vet treatment, Alfred kept him company during his stay at the hospital. To separate them was just too stressful—each cat would cry, frantically looking for the other.

The boys have been adopted into a permanent home together! Now, they can spend the rest of their lives being loved and loving each other. Alfred and Vincent may have had rough starts, but in the end they have turned out to be two of the truly lucky ones—they found each other AND a family to love them.

GOODBYE TO PATTI STINSON

Six years ago Patti Stinson and DeAnna Scott had a vision: to end the suffering of homeless cats. Out of that vision grew the 4 Paws Rescue Team. After six years of hard work and ceaseless dedication to the animals, Patti has decided to move on to other projects. 4 Paws thanks Patti for the many hours that she has given to making this a better world for homeless animals. She has touched many lives both animal and human and we wish her well in her new endeavors.

FAREWELL DAVE & BELINDA SHLAPAK

4 Paws first met Dave and Belinda, when they volunteered to help take care of the cats at the Chantilly Petco store. Soon after, they saw a need and offered to foster a mother cat and her kittens. Not quite cut out for fostering as evidenced by their adoption of nearly half of their foster cats, Dave and Belinda gave up fostering. Instead Dave took over the position of Foster Home Coordinator.

In June, Dave and Belinda moved to Pittsburgh. They are not leaving us entirely, Dave still contributes electronically—sending e-mail and helping with the web site.

Thanks to Dave and Belinda for all you have done and all that you continue to do.

WALK-A-THON

4 Paws is a co-sponsor of the 2001 Cat Walk organized by Alley Cat Allies. Proceeds from the Walk will be used to further our goal of helping homeless animals.

The Walk will take place at 8 a.m. on Saturday, October 13th at Belle Haven

Park on the Mount Vernon Trail in Alexandria, Virginia. The registration fee—due by October 1—is \$10 per person and walkers are encouraged to solicit sponsors. Visit ACA's website at www.alleycat.org/walkathon.html for more information.

Come on out and show your support for 4 Paws and homeless cats!

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

My worst nightmare has always been having my house catch on fire and not being able to rescue my kitties. Consequently, I had a plan in which I would run downstairs, grab my cat's carriers, put the kitties in, then leave the house. I thought that this was a pretty reasonable plan, however, a recent event has shown me that my plan won't work.

Last November, the townhouse across the street from me caught on fire at 2:00 in the morning. Before it was over, 3 townhouses were destroyed and 2 more were badly damaged. Luckily, all people and pets survived. What was truly frightening was how little time the residents had to get out. They had no time to put on their shoes or glasses. They could only grab the blankets from their beds and run out the door.

This experience has made me rethink my fire escape plan. I will now grab my kitties and run for the door. I will put them in my car to keep them safe. Even if they get away outside, hopefully I will find them later. Anything is better than leaving them to burn in the house.

I urge everyone to have a speedy fire evacuation plan. (Also, be sure your cats are wearing ID all of the time—in case the worst happens.)

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

The 4 Paws Rescue Team is embarking on its fourth year of participation in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The CFC allows Federal Government workers to contribute a portion of their pay checks to the charity of their choice. This fund-raising effort has become an increasingly important source of operating revenue for 4 Paws over the years.

If you or any of your friends or relatives work for the Federal Government, please consider designating 4 Paws as your charity of choice. Our CFC number is 7540.



Alfred, white kitty, snuggles with his pal Vincent.



PETCO FOUNDATION ... WHERE HOMELESS ANIMALS GO FOR HELP

Petco and the 4 Paws Rescue Team have been working together for six years—since our organization began. This partnership has given our cats better public exposure and provided them more opportunities to find homes. As a result, 4 Paws placed more than 750 cats and kittens into permanent homes during the year 2000.

Recently, Petco established a non-profit foundation designed to raise funds to help homeless animals. In December 2000, Petco stores sponsored the "Tree of Hope" campaign, giving customers the opportunity to donate \$1, \$5, \$10 or \$15 to local animal welfare groups.

4 Paws received more than \$17,000 during 2001 from Petco Foundation's fundraising campaigns. We used these donations for a variety of projects including expanding into new locations and increasing our efforts to spay and neuter stray cats in an attempt to end the local pet overpopulation problem.

Thank you to Petco for its support over the years—both financially and through its generous contribution of employee time and store resources. Due in large part to Petco's generosity, we have been able to place almost 3,000 cats in permanent, loving homes. We look forward to many more years of a successful partnership with Petco in an effort to save lives. Our ultimate hope, however, is that through spaying and neutering and educating the public, we will eventually be put out of business.



As the end of the year approaches, many of you are starting to think about your taxes. 4 Paws is a public charity so your donation is tax-deductible. Please remember 4 Paws when making your year end contributions to charities. Your dollars will go a long way to saving more lives.

KITTY KORNER



NIKKI READY FOR A NEW HOME

Three years ago, Nikki was rescued by some kind folks working in an office building near where she was foraging for food. She lived in that building and received all the love and attention that a whole company full of people could provide.

Recently, the company was relocated to a new building that was not safe for Nikki. Now she is looking for a family that will share their home with her and make her a part of their lives forever.

Because she was the center of attention

while living in the office building, Nikki loves people. She will climb into your lap and reward you with purrs and kneading. She is happy to be close by and loves to be stroked. Nikki especially enjoys cat naps on the sofa while hunkered down on

the afghan. When she speaks, Nikki has a low, sultry meow which is easily imitated by "two-legged cats" to which she will respond. Nikki is a bit on the big side, but it doesn't seem to slow her down, as she barrels up and down the stairs and plays chase the string.

Nikki does not care for other cats and would do best in a home where she will be the only cat. She just loves ALL the attention and being the only one to claim her owner's lap! She's been spayed, tested negative for feline leukemia and FIV and is up to date on her shots. Nikki is ready to go!



THOMAS AND MIDNIGHT SEARCHING FOR A LOVING HOME

Every loving pet owner hopes and prays that should he pass away, his family and friends will care for the pets that he leaves behind. We all want the peace of mind of knowing that when we are gone, our beloved furry friends will be cared for.

That wasn't the case with Thomas and Midnight. These brothers are big, beautiful and affectionate cats whose lives were turned upside down when their beloved owner died. These cats were obviously loved VERY much, cuddled and cared for, because they don't have a mean bone between them.

When their owner died, they were taken to the Humane Society to be euthanized. Fortunately, a Humane Society volunteer realized that these boys were exceptionally loving creatures and asked 4 Paws to rescue them from certain death.

Thomas and Midnight are approximately two years old, neutered, current on shots and tested negative for Feline Leukemia and FIV. These gentle giants give love like you wouldn't believe possible. If either of these boys sees an empty lap, he will seize the opportunity and fill that lap instantly. When called, they come running in hope of spending more quality time with their human friend.

These boys get along extremely well with other animals. They are currently living in a foster home with a dog and a parrot and get along wonderfully with both.

Thomas and Midnight ask for very little and give back so much. They need to be adopted together and only to a home that can provide them with as much love, affection and devotion as these brothers so deserve.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The 4 Paws Rescue Team work force is made up entirely of volunteers. Consequently, the number of feline lives that we are able to save is directly related to the generosity of those who are willing to donate their time to our cause. Different volunteer activities require varying degrees of commitment. With as little as thirty (30) minutes a week, you can make a significant difference. Please call (703) 715-6369 if you are interested in any of the following volunteer opportunities:

Adoption Fair Set Up Setting up cages for adoption fairs the Friday night before a show, requires approximately one hour.

Adoption Fair Assistants Adoption Fairs are usually held on two Saturday's each month. Volunteers talk to potential adopters about general cat care and help them handle the cats that are available for adoption. At the end of each show, volunteers help dismantle the cages.

Foster Homes Foster homes are needed to provide temporary housing for cats and kittens. Volunteers provide food, shelter and love; 4 Paws pays for pre-authorized vet services. Foster homes transport their wards to and from adoption fairs which are usually held twice each month in Northern Virginia Petco stores.

The commitment can vary from a few weeks to a couple of months depending upon the availability of the volunteer.

Home Visit Volunteers set up appointments with adopters to visit their homes and pets. An experienced person trains and briefs new volunteers on appropriate responses to questions that may arise. Visits take about twenty minutes and are limited to the geographical location requested by the volunteer.

Store Volunteers Individuals commit to one evening or morning each week to care for the cats that are temporarily housed at Petco stores. Volunteers give the cats fresh food and water; scoop the litter; clean the cages; and provide love and attention to the cats at the store of their choice.

Transportation Volunteers transport cats that need to be moved from a store to the vet; or from one Petco store to another. Requests are flexible to fit the volunteer's schedule. Most frequent need is on the weekend and during the day on weekdays.

Voicemail Volunteers return calls from people who need help placing pet or stray cats. Volunteers check voice three times per week and ret approximately five (5) calls each time.

WANTED: COUNTRY BARNS FOR CITY CATS

We often find cats that are too shy or skittish to be adopted into homes. We vaccinate and sterilize these animals, but unfortunately, often they cannot be returned to their original location due to any number of dangers—marauding dogs, construction, busy streets.

Do you know a cat lover who keeps horses? These sweet, but shy, city cats have few options for a decent life—and they would love to move to a warm barn in the country!

Please call (703) 715-6369 or e-mail us at info@fourpaws.org if you or someone you know can provide a barn for some of these cats. We'll be happy to deliver these cats (altered and vaccinated) and provide advice on how to integrate them into the barn.

Placing city cats in country barns is a winning situation for all concerned. Your new barn cats will certainly earn their keep by helping to control the rodent population, and you'll be saving a life or two.



MAKE A DONATION TO 4 PAWS ONLINE!

For those with Internet access, you can make a donation to 4 Paws quickly and securely through Paypal. Visit www.paypal.com, create a login, and instantly send a donation from your credit card.

4 PAWS WEBSITE

Please visit our site at www.fourpaws.org for updated information about adoption fairs and cats available for adoption.

OUR WISH LIST

Foster homes
Cat carriers
Cat/kitten food
Stamps
Cardboard gift boxes (to be used as litter boxes at adoption fairs)

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Your financial support is critical to our success. Kitten season has been very busy this year and we are facing extremely large vet bills.

- \$15 will pay for a rabies shot or feed a cat or kitten for a month
- \$20 will pay for a distemper shot
- \$40 will pay for a feline leukemia/AIDS test
- \$50 will pay for a neuter
- \$85 will pay for a spay

- YES**, I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to 4 Paws Rescue Team in the amount of \$_____.
- I can't make a financial contribution at this time, but please keep me on your mailing list.
- I have moved. Please note my new address below.

Name _____

Address _____

- Please take me off your mailing list.

Please make checks payable to 4 Paws Rescue Team, P.O. Box 2908, Merrifield, VA 22116.

4 Paws Rescue Team is a 501(c)(3) organization and all contributions are fully tax deductible as allowed by law.





4 Paws Rescue Team
P.O. Box 2908
Merrifield, VA 22116

(703) 715-MEOW
www.fourpaws.org

D E D I C A T I O N S & A P P R E C I A T I O N

In memory of Smoke, who has slept in 49 states, traversed the length of Alaska Highway, and died purring knowing how much he is loved.
 —Joyce Harrell

In memory of Nicholas who was put to sleep after becoming ill with cancer. While we are very sorry for the loss, we have many wonderful Nicholas stories and memories.
 —Leslie Sindair & Debbie Woods

In memory of the beloved cats of Manual Frías, whose names were Thimi and Shalmar. They both died during the past year after long, happy lives.
 —Robert Simmons

In memory of Chelsea and Boo who were much loved companions of Carol Lander.
 —Catherine Sasek



Thanks to Girl Scout Troop #4256 who donated part of their proceeds from the sale of Girl Scout cookies to 4 Paws in order to help homeless animals.
Thanks to Scuffie, Agatha, and Butterscotch Wilki.
Thanks to Panther Thompson, adopted in March, 1999. He made a donation to 4 Paws in order to help another kitty find a happy home.

Janet Hotell, a 4 Paws volunteer, passed away June 17, 2001. She had volunteered helping to take care of the cats at the Springfield Petco store. 4 Paws would like to offer our condolences to her family for their loss.
 In memory of Virginia Simson —Dave and Belinda Shapak
 In memory of Michael Goshaney —Kathie Karmazin
 Zorro—our most favorite boy, we miss you—Tove, your hummymom, calmom and sister.

In memory of Harry —Joanne Eldridge
 In memory of my cat Chloe —Suzanne Cosme
 In memory of Toby and Bj —Fatma Corinne
 Zubeck-Mears

A D O P T I O N F A I R S C H E D U L E

Sunday, Oct. 7, 1:30 pm. Herndon Petco
 Sunday, Oct. 14, 1:30 pm. Herndon Petco
 Saturday, Oct. 20, 1-5 pm. Tysons Petco
 Sunday, Oct. 21, 1:30 pm. Herndon Petco
 Sunday, Oct. 28, 1:30 pm. Herndon Petco
 Sunday, Nov. 4, 1:30 pm. Herndon Petco
 Saturday, Nov. 10, 1-5 pm. Tysons Petco
 Sunday, Nov. 11, 1:30 pm. Herndon Petco
 Saturday, Nov. 17, 1-5 pm. Fairfax Petco
 Sunday, Nov. 18, 1:30 pm. Herndon Petco
 Saturday, Dec. 1, 1-5 pm. Tysons Petco
 Sunday, Dec. 2, 1:30 pm. Herndon Petco
 Sunday, Dec. 9, 1:30 pm. Herndon Petco
 Saturday, Dec. 15, 1-5 pm. Tysons Petco
 Sunday, Dec. 16, 1:30 pm. Herndon Petco
 Sunday, Dec. 30, 1:30 pm. Herndon Petco

A D O P T I O N S I T E S

Alexandria Petco
 Chantilly Petco
 Fairfax Petco
 Herndon Petco
 Laurel Petco
 Leesburg Petco
 Springfield Petco
 Tysons Petco
 Virtual Adoption Fair
 www.fourpaws.org

Cats are always available for adoption at the following stores