

4 PAWS PRESS

ISSUE # 20 WINTER 2007

A DISTURBING TREND

ANYONE WHO ADOPTS a cat from 4Paws knows of the lifetime commitment we make to each and every one of our cats. If at any time in the future, an adopter cannot continue caring for his or her 4Paws cat, we will take that cat back into our adoption program, no questions asked. This policy has grown out of our intense desire to ensure that every cat rescued by 4Paws—every cat nurtured back to health, taught to trust, snatched from the clutches of death—receives a lifetime of care and love.

Our adoption application process is careful and deliberate with the intention of not just finding our cats homes, but placing them in the right homes. As careful as we are, as sincere as an adopter may be, circumstances arise that cannot be foreseen at the time of adoption. Child allergies, financial hardships, illness or death, these are all tragic outcomes for which we cannot always plan and for these types of situations we developed 4Paws' guaranteed return policy. As a matter of fact, the contract signed by every adopter requires that our cats be returned to 4Paws instead of being given away, turned into animal shelters or left outside to fend for themselves.

During the last several years, however, a new trend has developed...a disturbing trend. More and more often, cats are being returned to 4Paws for reasons that could have been anticipated or simply because the cat has become inconvenient or less desirable. While 4Paws will always take back a cat that we previously rescued and adopted out, this disturbing new trend saddens and concerns us.

Lately, every week, former adopters contact us to arrange the return of their 4Paws cats. These are not cats that were adopted last week or even last month, these are cats that have lived contentedly with their owners for years, often as long as 3, 6, even 10 years. Taking in returned 4Paws cats is always our priority, unfortunately, sometimes...more and more often...this means that we do not have foster space to rescue any new homeless cats or kittens. In order to honor our commitment to those we have previously rescued, we have to turn our backs on the many, many deserving cats that presently need our help.

In the past few months, some of the reasons given for returning 4Paws cats include new furniture, extensive travel, busy lifestyle, difficulty cleaning the living space, and moving to an apartment that does not allow pets (or just moving).

On page 6 is information about some of the cats currently available for adoption that previously had found their forever homes, but are back with 4Paws hoping to find love and security and hoping that this time is the last time. Any of these cats would make wonderful companions. You can get more detailed information about these cats and others

continued on page 6

4PAWS ON FOX 5 NEWS

4PAWS CATS HIT the big time... on Friday, September 7th and again on Friday, November 16th Fox 5 invited 4Paws cats to appear on their weekly midday pet segment—Pet Project. In September, anchor Gurvir Dhindsa visited with five of our cats—Molly, Zoe, Joey, Donatello and Leonardo in hopes of getting the word out about what wonderful companions these cats would make. As of early December, of this group, only Molly and Donatello (*right*) are still waiting for their forever homes. In November, TV personality Holly Morris gushed over four more 4Paws cats—Twinkie, Omar, Gypsy, and Spooky—none of which have been adopted yet. If you missed the television debuts of these furry stars, you can catch their repeat performances on our website at www.fourpaws.org.

Donatello (*right*)—one of Butterfly's kittens





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4Paws Press is published by the 4Paws Rescue Team, Inc.
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CFC # 34517

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

4Paws Rescue Team

Officers

Barbara Lipson, president
Dede Dixon, vice president
Dianna Hogan, secretary
Linda Simmons, treasurer

Board of Directors

Dede Dixon
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Barbara Lipson
DeAnna Scott
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4Paws Online Adoption Fair

is updated regularly, please visit at
www.fourpaws.org/pages/online_fair.html

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

ACCORDING TO THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES, three to four million cats and dogs are euthanized by shelters each year. The vast majority of these animals die because there aren't enough good homes for them; had they lived, they could have made wonderful pets.

Proportionately, the number of cats dying in U.S. animal shelters is much higher than that of dogs. A variety of factors contribute to this sad statistic including—fewer cats than dogs are adopted from animal shelters and fewer cats entering shelters are reclaimed by their owners. Consider that only two to five percent of cats in shelters are eventually taken home by their owners.

Pet overpopulation is a national tragedy. On a local level, it is just as devastating.



Every month, every week, even every day, 4Paws receives emails, phone calls, and in-person requests from individuals, rescuers, and animal shelters—pleas for help on behalf of homeless felines. Each request is as desperate as the last, asking for help to save the lives of deserving cats and kittens. With our limited resources—financial, foster homes and volunteers—4Paws is forced to turn away so many more needy cats than we are able to rescue.

We know that behind every request for help is a feline life in jeopardy—more imminently at the shelters where the cats we cannot save will likely be euthanized the next day. Case in point—4Paws recently rescued Romeo and Juliet, eight-week-old kittens pictured above, from a local shelter. If 4Paws hadn't had foster space available, we would not have been able to take these babies out of the shelter one Saturday morning; they would have been dead by the afternoon.

Just as deserving are the stray cats fending for themselves outside. If we cannot help, they will likely suffer in some way—exposure, hunger, injury, if not death. And each pet that we don't have room to help—that is losing his home because of owner allergies or some other change in circumstances—each one is faced with the sorrow of abandonment and an uncertain future.

This time we were able to rescue Romeo and Juliet; look at these sweet faces and know that while Romeo and Juliet's story ends happily, most will not. 4Paws can only save feline lives to the extent that we have the financial and volunteer resources to do so.

It is eleven years that I have been volunteering for 4Paws; being continuously inundated with stories of cats in need becomes overwhelming. It creates a persistent sense of urgency—a constant pressure to find our cats homes—albeit always looking for a good match and a long term commitment to the cat—so that we can free up foster space and save even more cats.

At times, their stories are so compelling, so heart-wrenching that even though we do not have available foster homes, we resort to boarding cats at a vet rather than see them die. These are difficult decisions that we make at 4Paws every day. But, you can help make those choices easier—by opening your home to foster a cat or kitten. If you think you can't foster, please see the article on page 3. If you ultimately determine that your circumstances will not allow you to foster, please send a financial contribution. Your donations will be greatly appreciated by the volunteers, but more importantly by the cats whose lives we will be able to save.

God bless.

Barbara Lipson



YOU CAN FOSTER A CAT

WE'VE HEARD ALL the excuses—I can't afford vet services for any more cats, my pets don't like other animals, I don't have room, I won't be able to give them away when they get adopted...Now, please take a minute to find out why you can become a foster volunteer. It's important—fostering saves lives.

A foster parent provides a temporary home for kittens or cats in need. The length of fostering can vary from a few weeks to several months depending on the availability of the volunteer.

The rewards of being a foster parent are many. They include offering an animal a second chance at life and the added benefit of receiving love and attention right back from the animal you nurture.

No need to worry about vet costs. 4Paws pays for all pre-authorized vet care at one of our participating vets. All of our cats are seen by a vet for vaccines and testing before going into foster care. There can be illnesses that aren't

apparent initially so a trip to the vet may be necessary in the near term. You just provide the transportation. The only financial responsibility that you will have is to provide daily care—food, litter, toys, etc. It's your non-monetary gifts that will be most important—love, safety, and hope.

You don't think that your current pets will do well with newcomers?—not a problem. We actually recommend that you do not introduce your pets to the foster cats—definitely not initially and sometimes not at all for the duration of the foster's stay. It's best if you have a room (office, spare bedroom, even a bathroom) where the cat can stay separated from other pets. Initially, it will be most important for your new foster to have a safe space of her own. There she can bond with you and other people in your household without worrying about the dog lurking around the corner or another cat eating her food.

Space is rarely an issue when fostering. Cats are most comfortable in confined, smaller spaces—we often recommend that you start a new foster in a bathroom

so that she can feel more secure, and you can interact with her more easily. Once she is comfortable, if possible, you can move her to a larger area, but if no space is available, a bathroom is fine. After all, it's only temporary and a bathroom is much better than the alternative of euthanasia.

Afraid you won't be able to say 'goodbye' when it is time to hand over your foster to her adoptive parents? This is certainly not an easy thing to do when you have nurtured and loved your foster cat during her stay with you, but it is a necessary part of the process. You certainly can't keep every cat you foster, letting her go makes space for you to take in a new foster cat and save another life.

Of course, it's important to talk to children about the reasons for fostering and prepare them for the temporary nature of the cat's or kitten's stay. As the adult, hopefully you can put aside your fears of loss and focus on the greater good that you would be providing, saving the life of your foster cat.

Fostering can be a challenging but also a very rewarding experience. Foster homes provide cats and kittens with opportunities not otherwise available to them. In your home, with your care and nurturing, your foster cat will have a chance to grow, getting healthier each day both physically and emotionally. With your help, your foster will be ready to embrace his new home when the right person comes along.

So, please consider the possibility of becoming a foster volunteer. It doesn't take much to foster, but the rewards are endless. And remember—FOSTERING SAVES LIVES!!

IS YOUR CAT A STAR?

We are now accepting photos for the 2009 4Paws calendar. Send yours in before space runs out. Mail photos in color or black & white to 4Paws, P.O. Box 2908, Merrifield, VA 22116. Or, email high resolution images to: info@fourpaws.org. Images chosen must have good contrast, contain only animals (no people), and feature at least one 4Paws cat. Please include your name and your cat's 4Paws name (if known) with the submission. Sorry, we can't return pictures. 

ADOPTION FAIR SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 15, 2007	Fairfax Petco
Saturday, January 12, 2008	Fairfax Petco
Saturday, February 9, 2008	Fairfax Petco
Saturday, March 8, 2008	Fairfax Petco
Saturday, April 5, 2008	Fairfax Petco
Saturday, May 3, 2008	Fairfax Petco
Saturday, May 17, 2008	Fairfax Petco
Saturday, June 14, 2008	Fairfax Petco
Saturday, June 28, 2008	Fairfax Petco

ADOPTION SITES

Alexandria Petco	703/660-1300
Burke Petco	703/455-2007
Chantilly Petco	703/817-9444
Fairfax Petco	703/352-3300
Tysons Petco	703/448-3401
Animal Medical Center of Springfield	703/455-1188
Potomac Valley Veterinary Hospital	703/425-7387

Available for purchase at adoption fairs: 2008 4Paws calendars featuring 4Paws cats and kittens and an assortment of T-shirts with animal friendly messages

VIRTUAL ADOPTION FAIR
www.fourpaws.org/pages/online_fair.html



FELINE TALES WITH HAPPY ENDINGS

Zoe lost her first 4Paws home of four years because of allergies. “Zoe is healthy as a horse (in fact one of our nicknames for her is “thunder-paws” when she tears though the house to play). She has made herself quite at home, and is bringing us so much joy!” –Marnie B.

Raven (now Butch) and **Sundance** (now Sunny) were rescued from the streets of Fairfax. “We are having so much fun with them and they bring so much fun and love to our household! They are full of energy and love to run from one room to the next chasing each other! And the best part is when they visit each of us at night and snuggle and purr!” –Pam and Karen H.

When his owner died, **Snap** was left behind with 35 other cats in an otherwise empty house. “Snap (aka George Clooney) has taken over the household. He’s even keeping the dog in line. Thank you again for recommending Snap. He really is the perfect addition to our family.” –Katja R.

Bert and Ernie initially found wandering in a DC alley, were adopted out, but returned to 4Paws before finding their perfect home. “They have totally adjusted to our house and it seems like they’ve been here forever, although it’s only been a couple of weeks. They are very sweet and loving. A perfect match all around!” –Stacey E.

Pictured below are **Butterfly** and her kittens at four weeks of age. A vet mistakenly identified a mark on Butterfly’s abdomen as a spay scar. The error was discovered later when her increasingly large stomach prompted a second opinion only to discover that she was pregnant. Butterfly gave birth to four kittens while in foster care. She and three of the kittens have been adopted. Donatello still waits to find his forever home.



Cody (above), a senior cat, previously adopted through 4Paws, but returned after several years, has been re-adopted into a new home. “Cody is doing beautifully. She loves to turn over on her back, like a dog, and have her tummy stroked. She is very clean, sheds very little and is very gentle. Sometimes, she is skiddish, but she is getting less and less shy as she is with us more.” –Marie-Louise D.

Born to a feral mother, **Marshall** was scavenging outside when rescued last winter. “Marshall has been such a blessing to us. Indy, although he doesn’t want to admit it sometimes, has really taken to Marshall. Just yesterday, they were giving each other a bath. Indy doesn’t seem lonely any more. He seems to be bolder since we got Marshall. He’ll come out to greet visitors, which is something he never did in the past. Marshall’s definitely been a good influence on him, which is strange because Marshall is a little scaredy cat when it comes to visitors.” –Morgan R.

Declawed and fending for herself last winter, **Margee** now knows the comforts of a loving home. “More and more each day Margee is becoming comfortable with her surroundings and talk about a snuggler! Her ‘perch of choice’—she lies across the top of my chest, furry back under my chin and her head/paws propped on my arm. If I pull my arm in to hug her, she leans her head backwards, looking up, and her little signature sound ‘ant’ comes out of her mouth. I just LOVE her to pieces!” –Claire P.

Joey and Zoe, rescued after Katrina, were adopted out, but later returned to 4Paws. They have since been re-adopted into a new home. “They are really lovely guys—curious, playful, sweet, and well-mannered. They have adjusted well to my home. I feel we have really turned a corner with my other cats. I still keep them separated, while I am out of the house—just to make certain they can feel truly relaxed in their new home. At night, I let the new and the old cats mingle. I know I am very happy they have come to my home to roost—and I feel they are happy too.” –Carolina C.

Rescued from a soon-to-be-condemned house with 40 other cats, **Jimmy** has really moved up in the world. “Jimmy is a happy member of my feline family. He loves to sit on a table by my window in the bedroom and watch the birds in the trees right outside. I’ve also found him sleeping ON HIS BACK on top of my couch in the office. He’s a well-behaved gentleman and I’m glad you introduced us!” –Vicki B.



Grace (above) rescued from a local shelter, “has settled right in and is now checking all the corners of the house to make sure things are up to her obviously high standards. She is such a busy girl. She was checking on me while I began writing this, but is already across the room making sure the couch is okay.” –Gary W.


Originally rescued by a vet, **Willow** now “likes to sleep in my lap. She still does not like to be picked up. Finally when I stopped trying that, she started sleeping in my lap.” –Ted D.





Barney (above) rescued after Hurricane Katrina was adopted but later returned. He has since been re-adopted. "Barney is really getting adjusted to his new surroundings. In the evening he comes out and stays wherever I am. He loves to be brushed and petted and is purring with his tail up. I think he is happy and I certainly am happy with him." –Mary B.

Webber was rescued from a local shelter days before he was scheduled to be euthanized, "Webber is doing great! We were amazed at how quickly Webber got comfortable with us and his brother, Zephyr, an eight-year old DSH. Webber is full of energy and mischief. He gets the night crazies and runs from one end of the apartment to the other at rapid speed, talking very loudly in his special language to all who will listen. We show him lots of love and he returns it tenfold." –Denise G.

Jasmine adopted as a kitten, was returned to 4Paws five years later before finding her forever home. "Jasmine (Depakote) has brought us so much joy and happiness. Starting out as a shy and fearful cat, Jasmine has blossomed into a wonderful loving companion. I can never thank you enough for taking care of Jasmine before her life crossed paths with ours. Without 4Paws we would never have found our long lost best friend." –Ade H. 

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR each week to care for homeless cats? Petco allows 4Paws' cats to stay in cages at five store locations while awaiting adoption. These locations include Petco stores in Alexandria (Route 1), Burke (Old Keene Mill Road), Chantilly (Greenbriar Shopping Center), Fairfax (Lee Highway), and Tysons Corner (Leesburg Pike).

While the cats are in the stores they are cared for twice each day by volunteers. Each volunteer commits to care for the cats one morning or evening each week. The volunteers provide the cats with fresh food and water, scoop the litter, clean the cages, and spend quality time with the cats at the store of their choice.


We currently are desperate for volunteers at every location, especially in the mornings. For the first shift (mornings), volunteers can arrive at the store any time between 7:30 and 10:00 a.m. while second shift volunteers (evening) arrive between 5:00 and 9:00 p.m. Training is provided. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age to participate.

Petco store cages are an excellent opportunity for the public to meet and fall in love with 4Paws cats. Without volun-

teers to care for our cats, they will lose this tremendous opportunity to be showcased. As a consequence, many fewer cats will get adopted and many fewer will be rescued. Do you have an hour a week to save a feline life? For more information, please call 703-715-6369 or send an email to info@fourpaws.org.

WANTED: BARN HOMES FOR CITY CATS

FERAL CATS, those born outside having lived outside their whole lives without much, if any, human contact, are not suited to be adopted into homes as indoor pets. The best that 4Paws can do for these felines is to vaccinate and sterilize them before returning them to their outside homes where a caretaker continues to feed them. More and more often, because of construction, busy streets or other dangers, it is not safe for these cats to be returned to their former homes.

Relocating city cats to country barns is a winning solution for all concerned. Your new barn cats will earn their keep by helping to control the rodent population, and you will be saving a feline life or two. Please call 703-715-6369 or email us at info@fourpaws.org for more information. 

SECOND HAND CAT

Anonymous

Give us a chance who are not brand new,
Who would love a home with someone like you.

We may have been around a bit,
Received many a blow and many a kick,
Starved and neglected most of our days,
Yet we are forgiving anyway.

But now's our chance to start anew,
A home with love that we never knew.
So, before a kitten you're tempted to pick,
Give us a look, but not too quick.
Look at the character in our face,
And our bodies, still full of grace.

Just think of us, day after day,
Watching people look and walk away.
But say the word 'yes' and we will know -
Our bags are packed and we are ready to go.



DISTURBING TREND

continued from cover

available for adoption at www.fourpaws.org/pages/online_fair.html.

- 🐾 **Angelina** – two-year-old spayed female, very social, loves human companionship
- 🐾 **Beau** – six-year-old neutered male, needs calm, loving environment, very interactive with people, gets along with other pets
- 🐾 **Missy** – six-year-old spayed female, intelligent with strong personality, gets along with other pets when she is allowed to be the boss
- 🐾 **Molly** – (*below, right*) five-year-old spayed female, needs to be the only cat, but will make a loving, cuddly companion for a person
- 🐾 **Mr. Giles** – eight-year-old neutered male, playful and cuddly, gets along with other pets and children
- 🐾 **Obi Wan** – six-year-old declawed and neutered male, cuddler, prefers attention of people to other pets
- 🐾 **Polly** – six-year-old spayed female, low key, talkative, very nice and interactive
- 🐾 **Shelly** – (*right*) ten-year-old spayed female, very social, gets along with other pets, especially loves people, has a very special place where she likes to be pet
- 🐾 **Spooky** – (*below*) nine-year-old declawed and neutered male loves attention from people and will stick by your side as long as you are petting him
- 🐾 **Twinkie** – three-year-old neutered male domestic long hair, friendly and easy-going



Spooky is a nine-year-old declawed male who loves people.

Remember, when taking a new cat into your home, it should be seen as a lifetime commitment. As with any worthwhile relationship there will be compromises and accommodations to be made. If you are not willing to accept the changes that will come with pet ownership you should seriously consider whether adopting a cat is the right thing for you to do.

Also, think about your future plans—does it make sense to adopt a cat now if you expect to move in a few months?...or if you are thinking of returning to graduate school?...or if you are engaged to a person that is severely allergic to cats? How will your current



Shelly is a ten-year-old female, very social, gets along with other pets, especially loves people.

pet accept the newcomer? Are you willing to spend the time and energy working through potential adjustment problems?

Taking responsibility for a cat means providing proper illness and wellness care. You should carefully consider the cost of initial vet services (especially for a kitten that will need to be spayed or neutered and receive a series of vaccines in the first year). Adult cats also require a serious financial commitment—there are the costs of annual vet visits, supplies for daily care, and the expense in the event of the unexpected accident or illness.

So often, cats are returned to 4Paws with treatable medical conditions—simply needing a course of antibiotics, change in diet, or regular brushing. Instead of taking the cat to the vet for tests and treatment, the easier solution is simply to return the cat to 4Paws.

Of course, we do not want our cats to stay in a home where they are not wanted and in such situations will gladly take back our cats. But before adopting, please think carefully about the commitment. Adopting a pet is not like leasing a car—you don't get to turn it in for a new model every few years. As a member of the family, a pet's needs should be taken into consideration before making a big decision. If you are not ready or willing to make this commitment to your pet, you are not ready to adopt a cat. 🐾



Molly is a five-year-old silver tabby who would like to be an only cat. She is very loving and cuddly.



In honor of the marriage of Julie and Rick Paisley and in lieu of gifts, donations were given to 4Paws to benefit our cats. Julie, and later Rick, have been dedicated 4Paws volunteers for several years.

In honor of: Bruno (Sandra M) • Matilda (Bruce M) • Mr. Blue '03 (Martha M) • Isis Katrina '05 (Joan H) • Otis '06 (Roy S) • Scooter, formerly Sashi '01 (Celia G) • Tip '05 (Simone M) • Saki, formerly Baby '01 (Jennifer J) • Pumpkin, formerly Angus '05 (Tracy G) • Lola '05 (Allan & Mary E) • Opie, formerly Pucker '00 (Pete R)

In memory of **Chloe** –Suzanne C.

In loving memory of **Miel** and **Gabrielle** –Lloyd G.

In loving memory of Mozart –Martin M.

In memory of **Louie** missed by Lisa O. and Andrew G.

Both **Mitsey** and **Newton** brought me such joy and I so wish I could have had a longer time with both of them. Each one has his own unique personality and after Mitsey was gone, Newton became such a lap buddy to me. –Claire P.

To my pretty girl **Mandy**—vivacious spirit and one-of-a-kind personality touched so many lives—especially mine. You filled my home and heart with joy and taught me everything I know about unconditional love. I will love and miss you always. –Kelly M.

On Wednesday I lost my sweet **Amy** (below) to heart failure. Amy came to my house on December 27th 2005 as an elderly foster cat named Lovealark. She quickly became a part of the family and on July 20, 2006 I officially adopted her. I knew we probably wouldn't have a long time together but it was much shorter than I ever expected. She had an incredibly strong spirit and was loving, affectionate, and spunky to the end. She was my little muffin and I miss her. –Pam L.




Dr. Lundquist of Singing Stones Animal Wellness Center remembers the following feline clients: **Sekhmet** and **Ashoke** Aaronson-Battenberg, **Angel2** Gallegos, and **Stormy** Burman.

Through good and bad with **Benson** (formerly Logan), he always made me smile and was always my welcoming committee when I arrived home. I miss him greatly and everyday I still expect him to run down the stairs when I come home. –Adrienne S.



Gypsy (above), my special foster, died so suddenly. The space on my lap where you no longer lie, is small in comparison to the space in my heart which is full of sadness. Time may stop the tears, but your memory will be timeless. You were my special boy whose snuggles and kisses melted my heart. –Dorothy B.

I still see a gentle, handsome, and good natured boy snuggling, 'singing,' sleeping, and playing around the house. It warms me to know that you had happiness with your new Mommy in your new home. We appreciate the good times we had together and we will always have our **Gypsy** in our hearts!!! Good bye, my dear boy, until we meet again. - Wen, Natalie, Ivy, Gracie, Mandy, and Rusty

Poor, wonderful, **Aloysios** lost his life tragically while sleeping under a neighbor's new quiet, low-riding car. He did not hear the engine start up until it was too late. He was killed...if only there had been a foster home so that we could have taken him inside. –Susan W. 

DONATE TO 4PAWS

Online at www.paypal.com Login, select "Send Money" Enter recipient's email: info@fourpaws.org Donate to 4Paws using your credit card

By mail send checks to: 4Paws Rescue Team, P.O. Box 2908, Merrifield, VA 22116

Combined Federal Campaign

Federal government employees choose CFC #34517 to designate 4Paws as your charity of choice.





Combined Virginia Campaign

Virginia government employees choose 4Paws by designating CVC #3472

CASH FOR CRITTERS

Recycle used printer cartridges and earn cash for 4Paws. Postage paid envelopes are available at adoption fairs and participating Petco stores. Or send an email to info@fourpaws.org to request that envelopes be mailed directly to you.


4PAWS WISH LIST

-  Foster homes (urgently needed)
-  Towels
-  Cat litter
-  Cardboard boxes (used for litter boxes at adoption fairs)

4PAWS WEBSITE

www.fourpaws.org

Please visit our website for updated information about adoption fairs, to download an application, or to view some of our many cats available for adoption.

Our virtual adoption fair is updated frequently, the direct link is www.fourpaws.org/pages/online_fair.html. Completed applications should be faxed to 703-560-9795. 





**P.O. Box 2908
Merrifield, VA 22116**

(703) 715-MEOW
www.fourpaws.org
CFC # 34517

Forwarding Service Requested

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

4Paws volunteers found loving permanent homes for approximately 400 cats and kittens this year. Many of those rescued would have died in overcrowded shelters or suffered cold, scared and hungry. Since inception in 1995, 4Paws, an all-volunteer organization, has found adoptive homes for almost 6,000 cats and kittens. Every cat rescued by 4Paws receives wellness vet care; many that come to 4Paws are sick, needing to be nursed back to health before they can be adopted into permanent homes.

The adoption fee of \$95 for an altered cat does not come close to covering the cost of readying a healthy cat for adoption—let alone the additional expense of caring for a sick feline. Veterinary costs continue to increase each year at an alarming rate, putting a continued strain on 4Paws' financial resources. You can trust that donations to 4Paws will be used as you intend—to benefit homeless cats. With very little overhead—no salaries or rent to pay—92 cents of every dollar goes directly toward helping the cats. More than ever, 4Paws volunteers rely on your generosity to continue our work. Please make a tax-deductible contribution today.

\$25 feeds a litter of kittens for a month
\$50 tests one cat for FeLV and FIV
\$85 spays or neuters a cat
\$130 provides vaccines for an entire litter of kittens
\$180 readies a healthy stray for adoption

YES, I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$_____ (Please make checks payable to 4Paws, mail to: P.O. Box 2908, Merrifield, VA 22116)

I have moved. Please note my new address below.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

I am interested in volunteering. Please contact me:

NAME _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

I am interested in receiving updates about 4Paws via email at _____

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

4PAWS FACTS

- Almost 400 cats were adopted into permanent homes this year
- Adult cats accounted for less than half of those adopted
- 58% of adoptions came from adoption fairs and cats staying in Petco stores
- Online resources accounted for 17% of adoptions
- The adoption fee for an altered adult is \$95
- Cost to ready a healthy adult cat for adoption is \$180
- Total adoption fees received were nearly \$24,000
- Total amount paid for vet services was more than \$135,000
- Hundreds of feral cats were neutered and returned to their outside homes. As a result, thousands of births were prevented and untold amounts of needless suffering avoided.

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