

AACPawPrints

SPRING 2002

Animal Adoption Center

a.k.a. Friends of Camden Animal Shelter (FOCAS)
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www.animaladoption.com



she said "I'll pay \$1,000 to anyone who can give information that leads us to my puppy." TV10 did the story, and calls began coming in from all over. After three days a call came in that sounded promising. John jumped into the van and headed into Pennsylvania, where he found Cane, loose on the streets in North Phila. He was hungry and tired, but when he heard John's voice, he flew into the van in a burst of happy, wiggling energy. He's back, he's safe, and he's waiting...waiting for a family to fall in love with.

We have taken several steps to prevent a theft like this from ever happening again. We are hoping that you will help us with funds for a state-of-the art security system.

The Healing Power of Pets

This is a true story about illness, caring, love and healing. Earlier this month I got an intestinal virus...not a regular one but a killer, down-three-days incident, complete with fever, severe belly cramps, and all the distresses associated with this kind of bug.

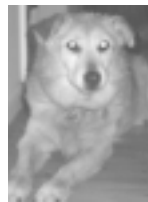
The odd part about the whole experience is that what I remember most is *my dogs*, Dominic (15) a Shepherd mix, Zazu (6) a Lab/Collie mix, Rocky (5) a Dobie/Shepherd mix, and Gussie (4), whose origins can only be guessed at.

No one else was home, and I was flattened in bed, but not alone. I didn't need a heating pad because our gentle Zazu was snuggled against my tummy, keeping me warm and easing the cramps that



sometimes came in waves. Zu doesn't normally stay on the bed, but she lay there with me for the two days I had the most severe discomfort.

When I wasn't sleeping, I was in and out of the bathroom. My Dominic can no longer get up on the bed because of his severe arthritis, but every time I got



up, so did he—like he was keeping watch to make sure I was OK. When I went downstairs, Dominic came too, laid on my feet while I drank my

tea and traveled painfully back up the steps when I went back to bed. Gussie provided her own special kind of care. She didn't stay in the room, but would "visit" periodically during the day. My being in bed clearly puzzled her. The first two times she came in she brought her mushy ball, a soft soccer ball type toy, and simply dropped it on my head. She got a response (which I won't describe here), took her ball and left. Later that day she came in, rested her snout on my ear and made rumbling sounds deep in her throat. I "patiently" told her that it was not time to go out, have a cookie, or play, an explanation that must have satisfied her because she went back downstairs. Hindsight tells me that she probably developed those little tests so that she could be sure that I wasn't dead.



Rocky, who really belongs to my grandkids, simply came up and laid outside my door for

two days, gave a gentle wag when I got up and just generally stood guard.

What is it with dogs? Mine clearly took care of me when I was absolutely out of it. They gave me comfort, warmth, and company. I knew that I was watched over, that loving beings were checking on me and guarding my safety. My dogs provided the kind of medicine that will never come from pills or bottles—they gave me healing.

Epilogue: All these dogs were rescued from a shelter. We took Dominic from a shelter in Phila. 45 minutes before he was to be destroyed. Rocky, Zazu, and Gussie all came from the Animal Adoption Center. Are they special? Yes, of course they are. Are they unusual? No. Such is the nature of dogs. Ask anyone who owns one.

Medical research has proven the following

- Pet owners, on average, live longer
- People who have pets are healthier, have fewer strokes and heart attacks
- Recovery from major surgery is faster for people who regularly interact with their pets

Pet owners are less likely to have illnesses related to stress and depression.

CANE IS BACK

On March 29, 2002, one of our own disappeared. Cane, a gentle, funny, clever Pit Bull mix puppy was taken from one of our outside runs. We try to allow our dogs a change of scene, a chance to spend some time out in the sun and fresh air. Someone was watching, waiting to sneak in and steal a Pit Bull puppy. We can only guess why. The filthy dogfight contests always need fresh "blood." Pit Bull puppies are often brutalized and tortured in an effort to change their loving, loyal natures to vicious aggression. John Richardson, our Dog Manager, tried to comfort the employees and volunteers that had rescued and cared for Cane, but he couldn't do much about the anger and fear that everyone was feeling. At an emergency meeting we decided to call TV10 news...they had helped us before, perhaps they would help us again. Then one of our volunteers, a lady who had cared for and "fallen for" Cane, did what we do not have the resources to do—she offered a reward. "We'll get him back,"

About Our Shelter

At this very moment an abandoned dog is hungry and lonely, a homeless cat is sick and frightened. Thousands of stray animals roam the streets of Camden and nearby communities.

Our non-profit organization is called FOCAS, Friends of Camden Animal Shelter. We formed in 1990 to try to do something about the animal problem in Camden County. When the old SPCA shelter in Lindenwold became available, we pooled our resources and opened the Animal Adoption Center in July, 1991.

Since then, an average of 30 animals a week show up at our door. We see to it that they get food and medical care, love and attention. We are committed to giving these waifs a happy future - but it is an expensive project and we are really struggling to make ends meet. Some months our Veterinary bills are over \$2,000.00.

Our aggressive adoption policy makes every effort to find loving families for all our pets and all applications are carefully screened... but we are a NO-KILL shelter and there are so many animals and so few homes.

Our cages are all full. We have some of the gentlest, sweetest animals in the world - throwaways who only need someone to love.

Is there room in your home and heart for one of our orphans? If you are full up, can you support us in other ways? We need people to work with the animals and to help in our fund-raising efforts. The next page contains a whole list of things you can do to help. Come join us, the animals need you desperately. Thank you and bless you for your generosity.

The trustees of the Animal Adoption Center

Sasha



Sasha had to make it on her own. She made friends with a family who took her in... and kept her until they found out that she was pregnant. They immediately threw her out. A kind neighbor took her in until her kittens were born but couldn't keep her or her babies because of living restrictions. So she came to us. We think that she's a super star with a beautiful face and soft tortoise-shell colored coat. Sasha is sleek and supple and a very well-

rounded individual for a cat. She likes kids, gets along well with other cats, and has warm and affectionate ways

The Golden Guys

Copper and Remy are 1 _ year old brothers, and we just cannot figure out what these loving, well-mannered Sheltie boys are doing here. They were left here by a family who was moving, who didn't have time, who got too busy for them. These inside dogs were forced to become outside dogs. Left alone, they begged to be in with the family, they needed attention and someone to love and play with them.

These guys know their basic doggy commands, and are good with kids and other pets. They have all their shots, and are completely housebroken. All they need is a family with a big heart and some love to share.



Miracle Dog—that's our Diamond

Diamond was locked in a building in Philadelphia for almost three months. He was accidentally discovered when the new owner of the property came to visit the site. The man was horrified when he saw

Diamond who was so emaciated and weak that he could hardly move. Diamond couldn't have lasted another day. He had no food and only stagnant water for the entire time the building was closed. The owner kept Diamond for 10 days trying to build him up and ultimately brought him to us in desperation. Diamond's health was so poor that we began a diet of several small feedings of high

quality protein several times a day as we monitored him around the clock. The miracle dog's spirit (and time and care) took over. Come and see Diamond now. He is doing extremely well, and actually seems to be no worse for wear. He has big happy wet doggy kisses to give, and would love to be your boy.



Stuff we always knew about cats..

- You cannot baptize a cat.
- Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. Cats have never forgotten this.
- Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow.
- As every cat owner knows, nobody owns a cat.
- One cat just leads to another.



- A cat is convinced it can waken you without actually disturbing you - by licking your eye lids gently, by prying them open with careful claws, or by ramming its foot up your nose.
- People who hate cats will come back as mice in their next life.
- There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast."

www.animaladoption.com

How You Can Help

Volunteer! Please, Please, PLEASE come in and pet our pets.

Because we are a no-kill shelter, some of our residents might be with us for months, especially if they need rehabilitation or extensive veterinary care. Our adult animals can get depressed and withdrawn, and our staff simply cannot give them all the attention they would like.

Come and cuddle these pets. Help us keep them socialized so that they will be at their best when they meet a family looking for a furry buddy. We never have enough laps for all the kittens and puppies that need to be held. A couple of hours a week (every other week even) will make a difference to a dog who wants to go for a walk.

Sponsor a Pet: For \$15 or \$20 per month you can sponsor the pet that you cannot take home. Calendars with envelopes will be sent to each Sponsor Family.

Dedicate a Cat Cage or Dog Kennel: Remember a loved one, a special pet, or honor someone with a gift that will make a difference every single day. Your gift of \$300.00 for a cat cage, \$500 for a kennel, or \$800 to sponsor a Cat Room or Doggie Outdoor Play yard will be acknowledged with an appropriately sized brass plaque displaying your name and message.

Employer Match: Many companies will match your gifts. We are a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. Inform your HR department that we are registered as FOCAS (Friends of Camden Animals Shelter) trading as the Animal Adoption Center.



Tributes and Remembrances



Grampop Leonard. We remember your big heart and ready smile. You always had a good joke to tell and there was always room in your home, in your heart, and at your table. Kids, Grandkids, dogs and cats, all came and felt loved. Carole and Jay

Murphy came into our lives at age 4. It was a rough beginning for this obviously abused dog.... petrified of sticks, fishermen (the poles), electric lights and the TV, wary of people, she ignored us as much as possible and never made a sound. Murphy now greets us vocally with her version of "good morning", yells at us if we are slow to get her a biscuit, and spends time each day on our laps. She is well worth the effort it took to get to know her. Carole Speechley

Blackie I was going through my checks getting ready for income tax time when I came upon it; the check I wrote for the vet the day I had to have you put to sleep. It was amazing, I started to cry just like I had on that day, only harder and longer I think. I felt as if you were there right beside me as I was crying. I told you I loved you and that I missed you and then everything seemed to be alright again, and I smiled because I knew that you were ok. Pam Smith

Anthony Cavicchia For all your hard work and great ideas. Thanks for the hours, stress, and devotion to us. Be with us always. AAC

Hi **Gabby**; Thank you so much for keeping me company while I was recuperating from surgery. I miss you and I know you miss me. Love, Mommy

Cassidy: My inspiration to do something more with my life. Carolyn D

Nike My beloved German Shepherd, came into our home and hearts after I went to look

at another GSD in the Burlington County shelter for the GS rescue group I volunteer for. His lost, dejected look, worse than any I'd seen, was enough to break my heart...so I took him home that night and can't imagine now what my life would be like without him. Quincy, our yellow Lab, was another rescued pup from Labrador rescue. His goofy personality, smiling face, and utter devotedness bring immeasurable joy to our lives. Never underestimate the power and reward of providing a second chance for a furry friend

In memory of Brandy You were my mountain of strength during a very difficult time in my life. I could speak to you when I needed someone to listen. I think of you all the time. Erica

In memory of Goody You were the best friend any kid could have. I wish you were here so I could take you to school with me. Evan

To Buddy I love to wake up in the morning and see you watching me. It makes me feel safe. Danny

In memory of Dolly who brought me many wonderful, truly needy dogs to rescue...and my cats wish to tell Socrates how much they miss his snuggling with them

Girly—you taught me how to sleep quietly because when I bounced around you'd growl at me and one time bit my butt. You were a great dog. C.

In memory of Fergie—You were with us less than five years, but left a lasting impression on us. May GOD care and keep you. Alan & Janice

To Cuddles, my little lap potato, and Jennifer, my computer cat. CP

In Memory of Nanook, the love of my life. Sid

Thank you Kitty for taking care of Uno. **Catherine E** Your kindness and generosity has helped so much. Blessings on your head.

Matilda, Sebastian, Sam, Tilly, Sophie, and Dave our wonderful pets who now live only in our hearts. Until we meet again.

To acknowledge my Dad who once carried a hurt dog over two miles in bitter cold weather because he could not leave it and we didn't have a car, and to remember my Mom, who wouldn't have expected him to do anything else. C. (Margadonna) Shankin

To our volunteers What would we do without our **Bob J, Jean S, Janet P, Nancy N, Jim C, Andrea Z, Ann D, Thaya D, Joan M, Virginia B, Carol, Kim M, Matt K, Diane W, Greg D, Kathy** ... God bless you.

In loving memory of Peanut Pinner who returned to the arms of her loving God July 9, 2001. God taught me many lessons through this petite creature who entered my life as a "senior citizen," not the least of which was "protect, be loyal and love the ones most important to you with all that you are." I thank God for the gift of my Peanuttty-Buddy - she will never be forgotten and always will be loved and missed. Rev Shellie K. Pinner

Dolly Parton the cat - she was my sweetie and whenever I walked in the door she was there to greet me with a "high five." Your Mommy Shirley

To Sully You were such a good boy, Daddy still loves and misses you. Fred

Yes, I want to help the animals and your NO-Kill mission!

Use my donation to:

- Supply food, shelter, and veterinary care for those waiting to find their homes. \$ _____
- Sponsor the pet I cannot take home \$ _____
- Support a kitten or puppy like Baby or Cane for \$15.00 per month, support a cat or dog like Savannah or Finx for \$20.00 per month (A calendar and envelopes will be sent to you.)

- Write a Tribute or Remembrance \$ _____
- ...because those who love us change our lives forever. Share your feelings for those who are still with you, or those who have passed on. We will include all submissions received by August 1, 2002. A donation of \$50.00 will allow us to print up to 25 words in our next newsletter. (Enter your Tribute or Remembrance...please print clearly)

- Honor a loved one \$ _____

- Dedicate a cat cage \$300
- Dedicate a dog kennel \$500
- Sponsor the Feline Aids/Leukemia room \$800
- Sponsor the Cat Community Room \$800
- Sponsor a Doggy Play yard \$800

We will have a personalized plaque created with your tribute. Print the words exactly as you want them to appear

Please Print Clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

Amt of donation \$ _____

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**OUR STOLEN PUPPY CANE
IS BACK! SEE PAGE 1 FOR
THE STORY**

Someday

Use your best china.

*Do not keep anything for a special occasion...
every day that we live is special.*

*Search for knowledge in books, in music,
and in the eyes of the elderly.*

Learn the meaning of life from a child.

*Sit outside and be awestruck by the majesty of a tree,
the wonder of a tiny bug.*

*Spend more time with those who make a difference,
seek the ones who bring you laughter, tears, and safety.*

*Count it a great blessing when your dearest friends
are members of your family.*

Eat your favorite foods and visit your special places.

Dance, just because...

Bask in the total love of your faithful old dog.

Delight in the antics of a new baby kitten.

Let nothing go until "someday."

September of 2001 taught us just how close "someday" can be.



Baby – It's Your Turn Now.



Life got complicated (we guess). One day Baby had a home, and the next day there was only an empty apartment. Baby scrounged for food and shelter in dumpsters and rubbish until one of our folks found him and brought him in. A few weeks of care and his super cat personality emerged. It was love at first sight when he met his new family. They took him home and within one week their little girl was

having frightening asthma and allergy attacks. Brokenhearted, the family brought this great cat back to us. We were as sorry to see him back as the family was to leave him. Baby needs you as much as you need him. He's a clown who doesn't have any bad manners. This 13 month old has been neutered and is good with kids, dogs, and other cats.

Savannah – a sweet and loving fur ball with a lot working against her.

Savannah's mom and six kittens were locked in a laundry room in 100 degree weather. The kittens were born in a laundry basket, and the basket, Mom and the kittens ended up at our door. Mom couldn't overcome her poor health and dehydration and died within a week of the birth. Our Cat Crew took the babies home and fed them around the clock and provided lots of special care but could only save three of the kittens. Our vet discovered that all members of the little family had Feline Leukemia. Savannah has been here for all of her 11 months and will spend the rest of her days in one of our cages unless she gets adopted. She needs to meet someone with a big heart who will overlook her problems and just notice the love she has to give.



This dog is allergic to what??



The allergy medicine commercial should say "Either I take my medicine or I have to get rid of my people!" Spencer is a little guy with a big heart, a sociable outgoing personality, and a very unusual condition...he is allergic to certain people dander. This condition doesn't have to get in anyone's way, as he is easily treated with 1 pill twice a day. His previous owners either couldn't or wouldn't undertake this commitment, and he ended up with us. He is an easy dog to be with and love, and

he won't take up much room, except in your heart.

Up on the Housetop...

Finx is a survivor who thinks he's a person, not a dog. Any afternoon you can see Finx sitting on top of his dog house (remember Snoopy?) or if it's too warm, he'll curl up in the lawn chair. His happy personality seems like a real contradiction to the problems he's had. His original owner couldn't keep him, and gave him to what was supposed to be a good home. These new people either ignored him or abused him, and they most often didn't bother to feed him. He came to us all skin and bones and a broken heart. Our Dog crew went to work on him and he started rallying. Just as he was really perking up, he came down with Parvo. Strike three. We thought we were going to lose him and if he hadn't gotten excellent immediate care, we would have. Finx however, had other ideas he is ready for his life to take a big turn for the better. This fit and hearty boy is ready and waiting for you. He wants to come sit on your lawn chair.



Dulana needs a lap.

This pretty kitty was rescued from an abandoned building in Camden with her eight siblings. Because their mother died at birth, all the kittens had to be bottle fed. Sometimes, when kittens are cared for this way, they imprint very strongly on people, and Dulana is a real people person who needs lots of affection. She also needs a person who understands feline Aids. (Not like the human type, cats with Aids can live 16-20 years, and the virus is only spread through mating and biting.) Dulana has been spayed, and has a very gentle nature.



We Get By With a Lot of Help From Our Friends...



A Heartfelt Thank You



Computer Associates
Evesham Veterinary (Evesham)
Rebecchi Veterinary (s.w. Phila)
PetsMart (Cherry Hill)
PetCo (Pennsauken)
Flag Service and Maintenance
WalMart (Berlin)
Sun Bank
Target Corp. (Voorhees)
Johnson and Johnson
General Electric

Boeing Vertol
Sojourn, Haddon Hts
John's Friendly Market
Taylor Made, Haddon Hts
April Robin Florist, Haddon Hts
NBC10 and WPVI (Ch 6)
PetValue (Marlton)
Bill's Wonderland of Pets
JLDCreative/JLevins Design
Jordan Graphics

Please patronize these pet-friendly businesses

E-Mail: info@animaladoption.com

www.animaladoption.com

If Your Pet is Missing

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Animal Adoption Center | 856-435-9116 |
| Animal Orphanage | 856-627-9111 |
| Animal Welfare Assn. | 856-424-2288 |
| Garden State Humane | 856-663-3748 |
| Camden Co. Animal Shelter | 845-401-1300 |
| Local Police | |
| Animal Control Officer | Call local police (not 911) for the number. |

Ask teenagers, mailmen, crossing guards; inquire at convenience stores (7/Eleven, WaWa), fast food places, and gas stations.

If You Have a Pet Emergency

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Clementon Animal Hospital Emergency Clinic | 1-856-784-2610 |
| ASPCA POISON Control | 1-888-426-4435 |
| Univ of Penna, Vet School: | 1-215-898-4685 |

Open 24/7; you can call to talk to a vet at any time.

For Other Animal Situations

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Wildlife—Red Lion Wildlife Refuge | 1-856-859-8257 |
| Advice and Referrals | 1-856-228-4411 |
| NJ State SPCA Law Enforcement | 1-800-582-5979 |

Common Pet Emergencies

— ASPCA Recommendations —

CHOKING: Try to clear the airway by lifting the animal by its hind legs. If the object is not ejected, move to abdominal thrusts by placing a fist just below its last rib and moving it in an upward shove.

CPR: The mouth-to-snout procedure is used only when the pet no longer has a pulse. The most common pulse point on a dog or cat is the inside of the lower left leg.

HIT BY A CAR: Keep the pet quiet and warm. If there is a chance of broken bones try to immobilize the animal with a splint as you transport it to a vet.

POISONING: Call a vet or poison center immediately. Try to determine what your pet has ingested. In some cases, a professional might suggest that you induce vomiting with hydrogen peroxide.

CUTS OR DEEP WOUNDS: Never remove an embedded object, such as sharp glass, nail or anything that could be sticking out of the skin because it can cause more damage. Instead, stabilize the object in place so it's not moving around and rush the animal to a vet.

BITE WOUNDS: Apply a sterile water soluble lubricant to the hair, then clip the hair gently away from the wound. Flush the area with warm water or a saline solution.

Most important, is for pet owners to pay attention to what is normal for their pet so they can detect signals when something is wrong. For instance, knowing what their heart and pulse rate is and the color of their gums and mouth.

SPAY/NEUTER



We are a **NO-KILL shelter**; therefore, we are committed to preventing the birth of unwanted animals. All pets are spayed or neutered before they leave our shelter to join their new families.

We can help you get your pet neutered; we have low-cost programs to help everyone. Contact our representative, Carol Roman at 663-1836 for information.



WARNING TO ALL PET OWNERS

Cocoa Mulch which is sold by home centers and other garden supply stores, contains an ingredient called theobromine that is lethal to dogs

Tylenol is FATAL to a cat, and aspirin can also be fatal!

Plants in your home and yard. The ingestion of azalea, oleander, castor bean, sago palm, easter lily (in cats only), or yew plant material by an animal can be fatal.

Most extermination baits contain ingredients that can attract your pets. When using rat, mouse, snail or slug baits, or ant or roach traps, place the products in areas that are inaccessible to your companion animals.

Post this page on your refrigerator or bulletin board for reference.