

Paw Prints

Animal Adoption Center a.k.a. Friends of Camden Animal Shelter (FOCAS)

A No-Kill Shelter for companion animals

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Spring 2004

SENIOR FOR SENIORS Matchmaker Program

Spring is for falling in love, and at AAC, in the spirit of the season, we're introducing our **Senior for Seniors Matchmaker Program**. In here we have lonely dogs and cats waiting patiently for someone to love—out there are mature adults who have big empty spots in their lives. We want to bring these pets and people together. We know that senior matchmaking works...here are just two of our success stories...

Tony and his cat Bubbie are best buds. They are a team. "She's my watch-cat" says Tony. "I don't always wear my hearing aid, and when she gets in my face or crunches my newspaper, I know someone is at the door. Tony is an 87 year-old who lives alone with Bubbie his 14 year old companion. "I don't know what I would have done without her after my wife passed away" he says.



Marsha and her dog Gonzo go everywhere together. She takes him on pet therapy visits to local senior citizen facilities, and he takes her on long regular walks. Both are slim and energetic. Marsha, at 50 something, doesn't have time to train a puppy, and Gonzo at 12 is a mannerly, intelligent companion. "We're always going somewhere together" says Marsha, "and at night, I feel safer knowing he's there."

Tony and Marsha and Bubbie and Gonzo are what our program is all about. Put very simply, we want to make it easy for older pets and people who have a lot in common to get together.

Right now we have several pets who will be wonderful lifestyle companions, and our animal experts are ready to do some matchmaking. We'll find the pet that will fit perfectly into your lifestyle. Age is not the issue. We'll find an easy-going cuddler for a sedentary senior, and a lively stepper for someone who wants a jogging companion. Come on in, and meet our gang. You've got a *whole* lot of livin' to do...and so do they.

Rules for the 5/50 Seniors for Seniors program...

Here is how to participate.

- You must be a *senior who is willing to adopt a senior – 50/5 *senior in pets varies by species and size; senior in people varies by attitude, lifestyle, and health, so we've created our own definitions...To us, senior means people who are 50+ and pets who are 5+. We match according to circumstance, not years, and if you want to bring a pet into a family where someone is **disabled**, we'll ignore the age of the adopter.
- You must be able to provide a home and proper care for the pet you adopt, and the adoption must be agreeable to your landlord and/or housemates.

We will provide the following:

- A reduced rate adoption fee (half price)
- Veterinary care assistance for one year.
- 50/100 lbs of dry food and a case of canned food for a dog or 20 lbs of dry food and a case of canned food for a cat— to get you started
- A healthy pet who has been waiting for a home. The pet will be spayed or neutered, be up-to-date on shots, and have been tested for FIV/Feline Leukemia or heartworm.

The Wonderfulness of Older Pets

Older Dogs are housetrained (smaller dogs can be litterbox trained), have learned what NO means, are no longer teething (won't chew your shoes) are settled and can focus well so that they learn quickly.

Older Cats are settled and are as eager to nap as to romp, have learned what NOT to use as a scratching post, are less athletic.

Older pets are:

- **Good at giving love**, once they get into their new, loving home. They are grateful for the second chance they've been given
- **What You See Is What You Get:** Unlike youngsters, older pets have grown into their shape and personality so there aren't a lot of surprises.
- **Instant companions** and quickly adapt to the things you like to do.
- **Leave you time for yourself**, because they don't make the kinds of demands on your time and attention that youngsters do.



Mickey is a 6 year-old male domestic shorthair. He is a very vocal cat and with his sleek black coat and beautiful green eyes, he's stunningly handsome, and he knows it. He is a live-and-let-live kind of guy who is a bit independent and undemanding. Mickey doesn't

mind the occasional hug, but he will climb up onto your lap when he needs to snuggle and connect with you.

Pookie is a 6 year-old female domestic shorthair. This charmer is a pretty little tabby with a great personality. She loves to take long leisurely naps in a basket, but will quickly jump up and out of it for your pets and kisses. She's good with other cats and loves to play. This girl will keep you entertained and nurtured.



Pebbles is an 8 year old female domestic shorthair calico. She has a pretty face and beautiful calico markings. Pebbles loves to climb up on your shoulder and perch there, or curl up in a ball on your chest or lap. She has quite a unique personality, and will have you giggling at her antics.

Annie is an 11 year old domestic shorthair. This dark gray female is a very pretty senior with beautiful green eyes. She loves to be petted, and, like most cats, she does need her personal space now and then. She's ready to have her own window to look out of and a bed to call her own...and you as her new Mom or Dad.



Rocky is a 6 year old male Beagle of medium size. He LOOOOOOOVES walks, and prefers to stroll at a leisurely pace. He LOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOVES to play with chew toys and squeaky toys. Rocky can be a bit "talkative" (it's a Beagle thing!), but he is a good conversationalist! Originally,

Rocky came in as give up due to abusive handling by young kids. He is therefore not really good with kids, and is a little hand shy. He is however, very friendly and affectionate with other people. Rocky will be best with a somewhat experienced owner.

Fluffy is a 10 year old female toy Maltese mix. She came to us when her owner died and the family couldn't keep (due to landlord issues). She is very timid and was skittish when she first came in, but she has blossomed into an affectionate fun loving senior gal! She is very small and dainty, and will be an "easy keeper" for quiet homes.



Seniors who have pets have lower blood pressure, less incidence of depression, live longer, and are better able cope with problems and unexpected situations.



The big guys:



Eldredge is a male Lab mix who first came in as stray. He has been here over 2 years, and is a favorite with the staff. This is one big guy who loves walks and cuddling. He is strong and active for his age. Eldredge is great with people, and can be somewhat dominant towards other animals.

He is actually a great big baby who loves his blankie!

Sebastian is a fairly large male Lab/Shepherd mix who came in when his family had to give him up due to a military transfer. Sebastian is a bit skittish around young children, but he is great with other people. Sebastian has a wonderfully expressive face, and if you watch him you are certain that you know what he is thinking. He loves walks and “romp time” and is positively overjoyed whenever someone spends a little extra quality time with him. Sebastian is fairly strong and active and will happily accompany you wherever you want to go.



Comet is an 8 year old male Shepherd/Boxer mix. This lively, dignified gentleman is quiet and reserved, but friendly with all people. He loves to take long walks, and just one really nice chew toy makes his day! Comet does not mix well with other animals, and should have a fenced yard and an

owner who knows how to manage a dog when in the presence of other animals. Comet is the kind of dog that makes you feel good just to be around him.

***“We do not stop playing because we grow old;
we grow old because we stop playing.”***

Does Your Dog Own You? See how many of these statements apply.

- You believe every dog is a lap dog.
- If you are cold, you put a sweater on your dog.
- You have a picture of your dog in your wallet, but not one of your kids.
- You often claim that it was love at first sight with you and your dog.
- You have your dog talk to your friends on the phone.
- You can't fully enjoy yourself without your dog.
- No matter how large your bed is, it is not large enough for you and your dog(s).
- You spend more on clothes and food for your dog than you do for yourself, and your vet and grooming bills exceed your rent.
- You have no reservations about kissing your dog on the lips, even when you know where his lips have been.
- You believe it is your duty to talk to, pat, and even feed every dog in the neighborhood. You know their names.
- You let the neighbor dog sleep over.
- You believe there is no such thing as a naughty dog.
- When you need someone to talk to, your dog is your first choice.
- You sit on the floor if the dog got in the chair first.
- You talk to your dog when you are driving. He answers.

Answers to the test:

5 to 7 checkmarks—you're pretty bad.

Over 7 and you're hopeless, just like the rest of us.

Dear Friends;

Our feline friends are asking for your HELP. During our major renovation project, when we got to our community cat rooms, we realized that we had to throw away almost all of our cat furniture because much of it was old, shabby, or broken. Our cat rooms are now very bare and we are asking for donations to refurnish them.

We have three rooms which need to be remodeled. They are: our general population community room (25-40 cats), our FIV room (appx 10 cats) and our FeLV room (10 cats).

If you can find it in your heart to help us, we really need the following:

- Scratching Posts
- Deep Litter Pans
- Beds and baskets
- Cat stands and climbing towers
- Toys such as fur mice, jingle balls, catnip anything, small stuffed animals
- People Benches (not wooden which retains bacteria)
- Cages, also not wooden

We are requesting new and unused donations. Please call 856-435-9116 if you have any questions.

2004 Calendar of Events

Shady McGruff's (see mini poster)	Sat., Mar 27	Somerdale, NJ
Pets w/Easter Bunny	Apr 3 and 4	Petsmart in Cherry Hill
Short Hills Deli Feast for the Animals	May (tbd)	Cherry Hill
Coffee Works Music and yummys	60's 70's stuff	Voorhees
	Sat., June 12 Sat., Dec 11	
Singles Night at Coral Reef	Summer (tbd)	Bellmawr
Mini Golf	June	(tbd)
Auction - "Chinese"	Autumn	(tbd)
Dog n Cat Shelter Birthday Party	Sun., June 27	
Open House for AAC's 13 th Anniv.		
Bowling Party	July	(tbd)
Fashion Show	August	(tbd)
Golf Outing at Valley Brook Golf Club	Sun., Sept 19	
Dog Walk	Sun., Oct. 3	Haddon Heights Pk
Harvest Social (Beef /Beer)	October	(tbd)
Mystery Night	tbd	
Pets w/Santa	Dec - 2 Wk Ends	
Pet Therapy Visits	Ongoing	
Pet Psychic Readings at Dogwalk	Oct 3 and Pets w/Santa in Dec	

If I had a hammer... AAC's Shelter From the Storm Project

Last year when the ceiling fell in and our pets were in danger, this project was born. Since then some angels have donated landscaping, carpentry, plumbing, masonry, insulation, painting, and design skills, and the money and materials to make it all work. Our animals had a new roof, and we were able to keep them safe, warm, and dry. Now we have Phase Two going on. We are painting and refurbishing the cat rooms and the front lobby to provide a bright, healthy home for our cats and a great meeting place for adopters and their future furry family members.

Come on down! and roll up your sleeves... have some breakfast and make a difference. Everyone is welcome. We're working on the weekends of **April 10, 24, and May 15** Interested helpers please call **856-767-2776**.



CLIF WYCK FARMS Boarding Kennels



Marlton, NJ

is offering friends of AAC

10% off on a Three-day stay for your dog

This can be any three days including Fri-Sat-Sun.

Call 856-083-3050 to make your reservations

AAC would like to thank Jackie Lantry and Clif Wyck Farms Boarding Kennels for providing free boarding (and grooming) services to several of our dogs while the shelter underwent renovations as part of the on-going **Shelter from the Storm Project**.



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 kitten or puppy for \$15.00 per month, or support an adult cat or dog for \$20.00 per month (A calendar and envelopes will be sent to you.)
- Other _____ \$ _____
- 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 () _____

E-Mail Address _____

Amt of donation \$ _____