



FMCA

FALL 2014

News



Life4Animals Thrift Shop Helps FMCA

Find Homes For Animals

The wonderful folks at the Life-4Animals Thrift Shop have graciously offered to showcase FMCA's adoptable cats and kittens. Our first featured cat was Apricot. She had a great time hanging out at the shop and greeting shoppers and visitors. Even better, she found her forever home in the first week of her stay!

We want to thank Jeanie and her staff for helping the cats and kittens in our rescue/adoption program find their forever homes, as well as taking such great care of them and showering them with attention during their stays.

The Life4Animals is an upscale thrift shop where the sole purpose is to raise much needed funds to support worthy non-profit animal causes and organizations.

Stop by the store this week and check out our showcased kitties. And while you're there, look through the wonderful goods they have for sale. By purchasing goods or donating

items, you make a difference in the lives of homeless, neglected or

abused animals.

The Life4Animals Thrift Shop is located at 15938 Luanne Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. They are open seven days a week from 10am - 5pm.

For more information, visit the website at life4animals.org.



Apricot was the first of many kitties who will call the Life-4Animals Thrift Shop home while waiting to be adopted.



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FMCA
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Friends of Montgomery County Animals, Inc. (FMCA) is an all-volunteer, non-profit, tax-exempt humane organization. FMCA does not have a shelter. All rescued animals are cared for in foster homes. We receive no government funding and are entirely dependent on private donations.

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 **Foster Homes Needed**

Message... From the President

Dear Friends,

The year is passing quickly and I want to provide you with an update on the 40th Anniversary Challenge. Last November, I asked the group to use this anniversary milestone as an opportunity to transform FMCA into the most efficient, effective group possible. The bottom line is, the better we run as an organization, the more animals we are able to save.

We've had an amazing year so far. Our Kentucky Derby Party back in May was a huge success and a very profitable event. We raised over \$7,000, which netted over \$12,000 with my \$5,000 match. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped organize the event and especially to our members and friends who attended and donated to the cause.

We far exceeded my personal challenge to TNR 100 cats this year with the proceeds. We're partnering with some of the areas most accomplished trappers to target high-impact areas and establish community caretakers, as well as heighten awareness of community cats. This has been a huge success, as at this writing our effort is close to 200 spayed or neutered cats. We believe spay and neuter is the solution to the animal overpopulation crisis.

In addition, we are committed to finding forever homes for the 110-plus cats and kittens in our rescue/adoption program. We are determined to help as many animals as financially possible as the calls for help and assistance continue to pour in.

We are also focusing on organizational growth and what it takes to make us a standout non-profit humane organization. We have added a number of fantastic fosters to our already established group of talented, dedicated individuals who open their homes and hearts to animals in need. We continue to focus on strategic planning, fundraising, community awareness and other important areas that will ensure we continue as a vibrant organization with a long-term, bright future.

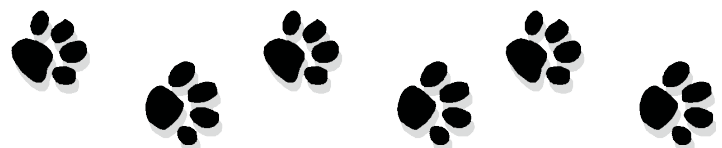
Many thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

Claire Proffitt



**FMCA President
Claire Proffitt with
Clarky, one of her
many rescued cats.**



Foster Footnotes: Fostering is the joy you feel when a cat or kitten learns to trust. - Irene

FMCA Partners With Area Trappers To Trap-Neuter-Return 190 Community Cats

FMCA has partnered with several of the areas most talented, committed Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) trappers to conduct targeted, high-impact TNR in and around our community. As of this writing, FMCA has provided funding assistance to TNR 190 cats.

We want to thank Kim Deserio (who also put together the following article) and Rita Flygar for their hard work managing the trap sessions, as well as working with the community to identify colony caretakers and raise awareness.

We also thank Life4Animals for their generous donations earmarked for TNR.

The generosity of FMCA donors has made it possible to conduct more Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) of feral cats, also known as “community cats.” Over the last nine



Just one of many friendly Community Cats that are part of the FMCA TNR program.

months, with just volunteer labor, approximately 190 cats have been trapped and vetted.

In addition to population control, spay/neuter prevents or greatly reduces the incidence of serious illnesses such as breast cancer and pyometra (a deadly uterine infection), as well as behaviors like spraying and fighting, which might otherwise prompt neighbor com-

plaints. The cats also get vaccinated against rabies and distemper and are dewormed and treated for fleas and ear mites if needed. We are able to stretch donor dollars to help as many animals as possible by using the Metro Ferals clinic or Spay Now, both of which provide services at greatly re-

duced cost. The dedicated veterinarians at these clinics also perform other procedures like hernia repair, dental extractions, and entropion repair, so that the cats are not released with unresolved medical issues.

The colonies we have helped have been large and small, in residential areas and at businesses. Successful TNR depends on caretakers coming forward to request assistance, combined with detective work to find other caretakers nearby. By coordinating with all known caretakers, food is withheld on trapping day so that the cats’ only choice is the food in the traps. In one case, a Germantown resident feeding nine outdoor cats contacted FMCA for TNR assistance. In the course of trapping her cats, the caretaker mentioned to the TNR volunteer that her neighbor also feeds. From there, two other caretakers in the neighborhood were identified, and to date 48 cats/kittens have been TNR’ed, and the youngest kittens placed in foster care. The cat popu-

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Thanks From Tip Me Frederick

Tip Me Frederick relies on the generosity of many people and organizations to accomplish our mission of helping feral cats live full, healthy and happy lives.

We’d like to thank Friends of Montgomery County Animals for their donation of \$500 that helped us buy two new traps, vet four feral cats, and rehome one barn cat.

Our TNR process vetting includes spay/neuter surgery, two vaccines, and ear tipping at our local veterinary office.

We try to find the best ways to stretch your dollars to help as many cats as we can.

It is our hope to one day see all cats have a good home and stop the cycle of overbreeding, which leads to homelessness and death in our nation’s shelters. Thank you for getting us a little closer to that goal.

~ Babbs Wratten, Founder

Foster Footnotes: Fostering fills my soul with unconditional love. - Ann

Owl Moon Raptor Center Works

To Preserve Bird Of Prey Populations



Haney is about 2 weeks old in this photo taken by Kristina Motley.

Founded in 2002, Owl Moon Raptor Center is a state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitation center specializing in birds of prey. It is located in Boyds, MD at the home of its primary operator, Suzanne Shoemaker, and serves Montgomery and neighboring counties.

Suzanne provided the remarkable story below about Haney, a newly hatched Eastern Screech-owl, rescued and rehabilitated by Owl Moon Raptor Center.

Owl Moon is a wildlife rehabilitation center specializing in birds of prey. Our mission is to preserve and increase native populations of birds of prey through 1) Rescue, rehabilitation, and release; 2) Habitat protection, enhancement, and expansion; and 3) Public education. So far in 2014, we have admitted 93 birds of prey for rehabilitation. Here I would like to share with you just one of the 93 stories of these magnificent birds.

On May 14, arborists were busy working in the campground at Fort

Frederick State Park in Big Pool, MD. With the busy season fast approaching, they were cutting down dead trees to make the campground safe for campers. They were sorry to learn too late that May is also a busy season for birds of prey, which typically have young in a nest this time of year. Eastern Screech-owls nest in cavities created by woodpeckers in dead trees, and three tiny, newly hatched Screech-owls were inside one of the felled trees. Sadly, two were killed by the impact. The third was found alive, but in critical condition. The workers called Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Officer Haney called Owl Moon Raptor Center.

Mr. Haney provided transportation to Owl Moon, and the young owlet was admitted that day. Upon examination, we learned the baby had suffered a concussion and a fractured right humerus, the upper-wing bone. We treated him with non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, and wrapped his tiny wing to his body to stabilize the fracture. Two

days later, Dr. Lonam at Village Vet Clinic in Burke, VA, took x-rays and found that the fractured bone was fairly well aligned, and though guarded, his prognosis for full recovery was optimistic.

One of the biggest challenges of raising and rehabilitating a young orphan for future release is to prevent human imprinting and keep the baby wild. To that end, we wear a “ghillie suit”, a camouflage costume designed for hunters to blend in with the habitat and hide from their quarry. It breaks up the human outline and hides the face. We dress in a ghillie suit whenever we feed, which must be done often by hand, until the baby is old enough to feed himself at about two weeks.

It is critical for orphaned young birds to be raised with role models, adults of the same species. Fortunately for “Haney” (we named the owlet after the DNR officer), Owl Moon has two resident adult Eastern Screech-owls, “RootnTootn” and “Henry,” that have played the role of foster parents several times. They willingly accepted Haney into their quarters, allowing Haney to learn how to be a Screech-owl.

Haney’s fracture healed nicely, and almost as soon as he normally would have left the



Owl Moon worker dressed in “ghillie suit” prepares to feed a rescued bird of prey.

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Foster Footnotes: The responsibility of preparing a cat to be a loving and loved member of a new family. - Emily

Foster Tales...

Kittens Teach Foster Mom Unexpected Lessons

Socks and Gracie are available for adoption as a pair.



by FMCA Foster Fawn Friedman

I've been fostering cats for a number of years, but it's sporadic and usually one adult at a time. So,

when I was asked to take in an extremely pregnant mom-to-be, I was a little hesitant at first. I've never had newborn kittens, and wasn't sure I ever wanted too. But the group was short on fosters and I was told this was a very special little girl. Of course, I agreed.

When FMCA's Foster Coordinator Ann, showed up with Jazz, I was stunned.

She was the prettiest little Siamese mix I've ever seen. And when I say little, I mean little. She was only a kitten herself, with a belly as big as a

house. Even though I knew she must have been uncomfortable, within 10 minutes she was snuggled up in my lap, purring so loud I thought the room was moving. She'd take any opportunity she could to give me head bumps. It was almost like she was trying to tell me how happy she was to be warm, dry, fed and safe. For two days, she soaked up the attention and had the chance to be a normal kitten.



In preparation for the birth, Ann had sent me YouTube videos to watch so I'd know what to expect. Trust me, if you ever have a cat about to give birth... don't watch the videos! They're extremely graphic and do not make you feel calm about the situation! But Ann kept assuring me that nature would take care of everything on its own. Well, she was right! Two days later, Jazz began panting, and by morning there were three healthy little kittens. Granted, Ann was on the phone with me the whole night while I sent her a flurry of photos and inquired if that was "normal."

I had been prepared for the worst case scenario, since Jazz was so young herself, but she ended up being an extremely attentive and patient mom. The first couple of weeks, I watched the kittens eat and grow, making sure I held and cuddled them so they'd be familiar with people, and because I couldn't help cuddling because they were so darn

continued on page 7...

Heartfelt Thanks To Our...

Volunteers: We would like to recognize our amazing group of volunteers. Each and every person's role and contribution is vital to our success; the foster parents, the Luv-A-Pet Center support group, the administrative group fielding calls and emails, coordinating animal intake and foster space availability, the webmasters managing our sites and of course, our board members! On behalf of the thousands of animals we have saved, and those we will save in the future, **THANK YOU** for volunteering!

Vets: We want to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to our veterinarians who have shown exceptional kindness and generosity to our rescue animals. Our organization would not be able to do what we do without their contributions of time, energy and veterinary medical expertise. We appreciate all that you do for our organization.

Junior Superstars: This group commits a considerable amount of time volunteering and we consider ourselves lucky to have them with us. We want to extend an extra **THANK YOU** to our Luv-A-Pet helpers Leslie, Andrea and Madison for all their hard work and help on Saturdays. We would also like to thank the young ladies above, plus Nicole, for their role in fostering kitties with their families.

Donated Spays/Neuters: FMCA would like to extend a special **THANK YOU** to Dr. Daniel Negola at Negola's Ark and Dr. Laura Page Warden at Green Valley Animal Hospital for their very generous donation of free spays and neuters. We are able to accept more cats and kittens into our program because of their donations.

Foster Footnotes: Taking a kitten without a chance and giving it the best start as a great cat in a forever home. - Lauren

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Foster Mom Lauren took in Berry (now Iris), a kitten that had to have one eye removed. Her new family writes, "Berry, now known as Iris, is the Queen of the Castle, loves her big brother cat Hurley, and constantly entertains the family--especially by meowing and chirping to let everyone know she's ready for action!"

Berry, a.k.a. Iris, with her new mom.



Lauren agreed to foster two more kittens, Brick and Peppermint, because it was thought they both had eye issues. But it was only Brick, who has no right eye and only half vision in his left eye. Even with his limited sight he gets around great! You wouldn't know he was a special needs kitty. Brick and Peppermint are pals and will be up for adoption soon. Contact Lauren at ylofish2@gmail.com for more information on these special kitties.



Foster Mom Lauren with Brick and Peppermint, who are available for adoption.



Maya and Ava cuddle Hershey and Snickers.

Hershey and Snickers were adopted on Mother's Day in 2013. Their new family has kept us posted. Both kitties are enjoying life in California where the family recently relocated. Thanks to Tamara, Maya and Ava for giving these 7-year-old siblings a great home.



Buddy enjoying his new home.

Buddy's new family is so happy to have him. Judy writes, "Things are going so well with Buddy. He's so anxious to learn! I'm glad to have the little yard for him - it makes all the difference. He's growing fast - it seems you can almost watch him getting bigger. He still has a way to go to grow into his feet though!"

"We took him for a walk on the canal yesterday, and he was fascinated with the runners, bikers, and especially the other dogs! I'm taking him with me when I go to Charlottesville to babysit my 3- and 5-year-old grandchildren; should be interesting! And, I'll be taking him to a puppy class soon. He seems to be so ready!"

"Thank you so much... we love him!"

🐾 🐾 **Available For Adoption** 🐾 🐾

An energetic mix of laborador retriever and border collie, Reggie is expected to be about 60 pounds when he grows up. He is a very sweet puppy who would like children to play with, or to go to puppy daycare if you work all day as he needs activity. He is kennel trained and doing very well with house training.



Reggie is looking for a home.

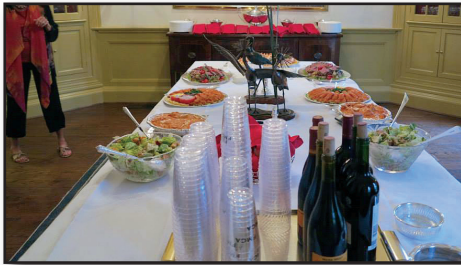
Hosts our Weekly Cat Adoptions!



Every Saturday 2 - 5 p.m. at the Luv-A-Pet Center in the Germantown store in Milestone Center

Foster Footnotes: The rewarding feeling of giving these little guys a second chance for a good life. - Nick & Brenda

Scenes From Our Kentucky Derby Spring Event



Delicious food, and viewing areas inside the house and outside in a tent, were highlights of the day. \$12,000 was raised for FMCA efforts!



Owl Moon Raptor Center... [continued from page 4](#)

nest to begin flying in the wild, he was making short flights in his enclosure. At this point, Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research Center in Newark, DE agreed to take Haney for “mouse school.” In the wild, baby owls are taught how to hunt by their parents. Wildlife rehabilitators need to make sure young raptors are capable of hunting and catching live prey before releasing them in the wild. They are placed in flight cages with live mice, and observed until the young birds prove their skills.

Haney met another young Eastern Screech-owl at mouse school and they became buddies. So on August 4, when they both passed the test and it was time for them to begin life in the wild, we released Haney and his buddy together, back in the prime habitat of Fort Frederick State Park, where Haney had begun his life just three months earlier.

THANK YOU to Friends of Montgomery County Animals for your generous contribution to Owl Moon Raptor Center.

Foster Tales... [continued from page 5](#)

cute. By the third week, big changes were happening and I remember being so excited over every first... first squeak, first step, first drink of water, first purr. It was an amazing feeling to know this young, scared, hungry kitten showed up at my home and I helped turn her into a happy and healthy mom with growing babies preparing to tackle the world!

As the weeks passed, much too quickly, the kittens grew. Their antics made me laugh out loud at least once a day. I watched them play and explore, run and jump, climb and fall, and on rare occasion, they even slept. I learned each of their unique personalities and determined (OK,

demanding) what type of home they be placed in. The kittens brought an energy to my home I didn't even realize was missing.

They also taught me a lesson I'll never forget. Fostering isn't just about giving the animal a second chance. It's about giving something back to the world. It's a small way of expressing your thanks for the beauty around you and apologizing for the damage done by others. It's about offering your help to a creature in need and giving of yourself, unselfishly. Animals don't care how big your house is, or what you drive. They only care how you act and behave and love. If only the world were full of fosters.

TNR... [continued from page 3](#)

lation in this neighborhood will no longer be skyrocketing!

FMCA funding has made a critical difference in cases where the actual number of cats exceeded the estimate. For instance, two TNR volunteers assisted a gentleman caring for a colony at a car repair shop. He estimated that he was feeding 12 cats. To date, 28 cats/kittens have been trapped and vetted. Thanks to financial support from FMCA, the volunteers did not have to stop trapping before the entire colony had been vetted. Nineteen of the 28 cats are females, so you can imagine how the colony would have grown if not for TNR.

If you know of anyone feeding outdoor cats that have not yet been vetted, please encourage the caretaker to contact FMCA. TNR clinics are held throughout the winter, in an effort to prevent the birth of kittens in the spring.

Foster Footnotes: Fostering gives you the chance to make a difference in animals' lives. - Sue

Friends of Montgomery County Animals, Inc.
14211 Dufief Mill Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-977-4833

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



Help others for free when you shop!

Win A Stay at The Inn at Little Washington!

We were the lucky winners of last year's grand prize of a night, dinner, and all accoutrements for a luxurious stay at The Inn at Little Washington.

We enjoyed a champagne cocktail and a tour of the Inn's public rooms and grounds. Prior to dinner, we spent time in the living room for a cocktail, while admiring the artwork, architecture, and "bottle bar." The dishes were beyond description, very fulfilling and all delicious. Between the servers, wine stewards, and maitre d', it was like a beautiful dance of food, plates, bottles, and people.

Throughout our stay, everything was wonderful, of exceptional quality, and superior service. We felt like royalty and really enjoyed being pampered.

Thank you Friends!

~ Dave and Laura Bivans



Join Us For
FMCA's Annual Fall Luncheon with Boutiques to Benefit the Animals!
TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm
Wednesday, November 12, 2014
Shopping begins at 10:30 a.m. • Lunch served at 12:30 p.m.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Invitation and Response Card available online at www.fmca.org

Get a jumpstart on your holiday shopping and help the animals at the same time. Please support the beautiful boutiques. Your purchases help FMCA help the animals. The vendors are donating 20% of their total sales to FMCA.

Bring your friends and encourage membership in FMCA.

YOU will be helping the animals in a big way!

Raffle To Benefit FMCA

Winning tickets will be drawn during the
FMCA Fall Luncheon/Boutique Event.

There will be three drawings!

1st drawing: \$1,200 gift certificate for The Inn at Little Washington in Washington, VA

2nd drawing: \$200 gift certificate for Renato's at River Falls in Potomac, MD

3rd drawing: Surprise Gift Basket!

One Ticket - \$10 Six Tickets - \$50

You do not need to be present to win!

Tickets will be included in invitations, and are available online at www.fmca.org, at the Saturday adoption events at PetSmart in Germantown, and at the luncheon sign-in desk on November 12.