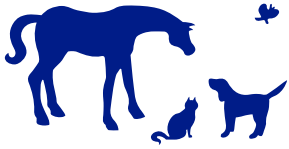


FMCA

FRIENDS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY ANIMALS



Dignity for Animals



FMCA News

Summer 2016

Community Cat Coalition

Friends of Montgomery County Animals (FMCA) is pleased to be part of a newly formed Community Cat Coalition. The Coalition is made up of several local and nationally recognized organizations with the purpose of uniting public and private sector resources to develop a comprehensive, community-based approach to managing the issues and concerns related to community cats in Montgomery County.

Members include the Montgomery County Animals Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC), the Humane Society of the United States and Alley Cat Allies. Local humane groups include MCPAW, Metro Ferals, Rock Creek Cats, Second Chance Wildlife Center and FMCA. A steering committee has been formed and is in the conceptual design and organizational development phase of the initiative. Stay tuned for future updates on this much-needed initiative designed to help control the population and improve the quality of life of community cats in the county. Please contact FMCA at info@fmca.org or (301) 977-4833 if you are interested in becoming involved.

FMCA & Community Cats

Julie Falconer is a long-term supporter and advocate of trap-neuter-return (TNR) who moved to Maryland several years ago. Still involved in a TNR program in her Central Virginia hometown, she says....

“When I moved to Maryland, I told myself I couldn’t take on more community cats, because I was so busy with the Virginia program. But then you stumble across a colony and....you have to help. I feel that money and time spent on TNR is the most powerful tool we have in the movement to end the senseless deaths of healthy cats in our shelters. When you spend a weekend trapping 10-plus cats for spay/neuter, you’re preventing the births of dozens of future generations of cats and the suffering of countless kittens [some estimate 50% of outdoor kittens do not survive]. Some caretakers try to manage cat numbers by grabbing what kittens they can and giving them away or taking them to already overwhelmed shelters. TNR puts an end to that. TNR saves a community from inheriting breeding cats when a long-time community cat caretaker passes away, and the cats remain. TNR improves the lives of existing cats and has such an impact on these individual animals.”

Julie has received funding from FMCA to resolve several large-colony situations in Montgomery County. FMCA’s financial assistance was critical to success. “I couldn’t have possibly have fixed all these cats without FMCA stepping forward to cover the spay/neuter costs,” she says. In a recent Maryland initiative, funded by FMCA, a friend asked for help after a feral mom cat gave birth to 5 kittens in his backyard. The man adopted 3 of the kittens and paid to have them spayed; Julie found homes for the other two, but Julie knew the family didn’t appear from nowhere. She walked the neighborhood, and found a woman feeding 20 cats. Unfortunately they had not been spayed or neutered.



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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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Message From the President

Dear Friends,

It's kitten season and FMCA is working hard to keep up. FMCA is collecting food for fosters and raising awareness about FMCA (see back cover), networking with partners and actively seeking new fosters. FMCA is working to place more cats and kittens in permanent, loving homes than ever before.

FMCA meets critical needs in the county and beyond. We serve as a non-profit, tax-exempt humane organization that facilitates adoptions, and provides essential financial support to humane groups and community members.

Please consider contributing to help us achieve our goals. The fact that we do not have a physical shelter

facility means that every single dollar you send to FMCA goes directly to save animals, whether it is to pay for an animal's surgery like Annie's (page 4), provide funding to spay and neuter community cats or save the lives of cats and kittens through our Rescue/Adoption program.

The stories in this newsletter demonstrate what success looks like to all of us. You'll finish this issue by being proud of what you accomplish by being a part of or supporting FMCA. Thank you for your continued support as we move forward to reach our goals.

Sincerely,

Claire B. M. Proffitt

FMCA and Community Cats Continued...

Nearby, Julie found another woman in her 80s who feeds cats and watches them for hours to see how they are doing. She knows all of them and calls her daughter to keep her posted on their activities. The daughter says the cats have been a godsend for her mom, who was lonely after the deaths of her husband and her best friend.

A third neighbor, Sandy, cares for more cats. Her dad has been feeding these cats for years. When he was dying, he made Sandy promise she would care for them after he was gone. The cats were doing well, but were not spayed or neutered.

In a 3-mile area, Julie's work led to the trapping, spaying/neutering of nearly 60 cats. She worked with

children to monitor and trap some of the cats. They were excited to be a part of such important work, and now the next generation in this neighborhood has a new understanding of caring for outside cats.

Fellow TNR advocates and trappers Kim Deserio, Rita Flygar and Babs Wrattan of Tip Me Frederick, as well as others, are valued partners and play a critical role in the TNR equation. TNR is the solution that FMCA believes best addresses the overpopulation of homeless felines.

Want to help community cats? Contact info@fmca.org or 301-977-4833

News we can all use

FIV Positive and Negative Cats Can Happily Live Together

A new report has come out of Purdue University's College of Veterinary Medicine that offers remarkable information pertaining to FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus). Dr. Annette Litster headed a long-term study conducted in cat shelters and came to the two following conclusions:

- FIV-positive cats can successfully live with FIV-negative cats and the FIV-negative cats will not be infected during normal day-to-day activity
- Mother cats infected with FIV do not pass on the virus to their kittens

The feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) is a slow virus that affects a cat's immune system over a period of years. FIV is a cat-only disease **and cannot be spread to humans or other non-felines.**

FIV cats often live long and relatively normal lives with no symptoms at all. Sadly, there is still so much misinformation about FIV that some veterinarians will recommend euthanizing cats who test positive.

A new study in *The Veterinary Journal* written by Annette L. Litster of Purdue University's College of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, presents Litster's conclusions about FIV positive and FIV negative cats living together, based on research of the cohabitation of cats living in separate rescues.



[Two separate rescues were the basis for this study].

In the one rescue, Litster discovered that FIV was not passed between infected and non-infected cats during normal day-to-day interaction in a shared living environment. In the second rescue, Litster's studies also showed that FIV was not transmitted to kittens when their mothers were already infected prior to birth.

People often confuse FIV, for FeLV (the feline leukemia virus), which is transmissible through cohabitation and casual contact. These two diseases are retroviruses and both affect the immune system. The difference? FIV does not easily cross the mucous membranes (the lining of the mouth, nose, eyes, genitals, and intestines), which is why it's so difficult for FIV to be transmitted to other cats. There's no need to fear FIV, and we

now have an official veterinary study to confirm it. FMCA looks forward to this knowledge spreading, so cats with FIV will be adopted and have the futures they deserve.

For more information, read this article: <http://www.lifewithcats.tv/2016/03/31/good-news-about-cats-living-with-fiv-for-everyone/>

Four on the Floor – Annie

Annie, a retriever mix, is a very lucky dog. She was rescued from a high kill shelter in Alabama through PA Caring for K-9's (Pac 9 Rescue) when she was less than a year old. Her forever mom said: "When I first saw Annie on the shelter website, I just knew she was my dog."

At about a year old, Annie started limping. The vet discovered that Annie suffers from elbow dysplasia, caused by the abnormal growth of cells, tissue, or bone. The condition leads to malformation and degeneration of the elbow joint. Annie desperately needed an expensive surgery, a challenge for any family. Thankfully, Annie's family reached out to FMCA, which was able to pay for part of the procedure and post-operative care.

Annie's superstar surgeon opened her elbow joint and cleared out bone fragments, which had lodged there. Now Annie is looking forward to a pain free life! Her vet predicts 100% use of her leg –a prognosis we love to hear.

Annie is "one of those special dogs that only comes along once in a while." She is known and loved by all adults and children in her community. We all want to make sure that Annie is around to take care of her family and her neighbors for a long time to come. Annie is a service dog in training for her mom. Because of the severe pain she was in, she had to take a break, but we know she'll receive an A+ when she completes training. Her family is even considering training Annie to be a therapy dog, so she can work her special magic on at-risk children.

Here's a quote from Annie's mom. *"Without FMCA's help, Annie would still be waiting for surgery. I never thought this could happen for her. Our vet said eventually she would have lost the use of her leg. I will always feel blessed that FMCA helped Annie. She is a very special dog and she has opened up the world for me. She came into my life and transformed it. I am so happy to have her by my side."*



Annie's favorite toys are her colored balls



Annie in her training harness

Days End Farm Horse Rescue

“Let a horse whisper in your ear and breathe on your heart. You will never regret it.”
 ~ Author Unknown

FMCA is proud to assist Days End Farm Horse Rescue (DEFHR) with financial funding for horses in need. FMCA donated to assist DEFHR in two separate cases of horse abuse.

Quest and Rio, two emaciated horses—one full-sized stallion and one miniature stallion--were removed from a stall piled high with 3-4 feet of manure, where it is suspected that they were locked up for at least 15 years on a Washington County farm without necessary farrier or medical



Rio before



Rio, now looking so much better

care. They were brought to DEFHR for critical and rehabilitative care. Rio is currently undergoing rehabilitative care and is not yet available for adoption. Quest has completed his rehabilitation and is currently undergoing evaluation and/or training with the professional staff at DEFHR and once ready, will be made available for adoption.

FMCA also donated to support DEFHR in a February animal cruelty case against animal veterinarian, Clyde “Renny” Shoop and his wife Kimberly Shoop of Poco West Vet Clinic in Jim Thorpe, PA. 16 horses and numerous other animals were seized by Pennsylvania State Police. In District Court 56-3-02, Palmerton, PA, each of the Shoops were charged with 11 counts of animal cruelty. 3 horses were transported to DEHFR.

Unfortunately, the first of the three horses arrived in such a weakened state that he could not get up. Rescuers worked through the evening to get him upright with the help of a sling, but he could not put weight on his legs and seemed to be neurologically compromised. Sadly, he had to be humanely euthanized.

It was last reported that the other two horses began critical and rehabilitative care with DEFHR and are going through recuperation, rehabilitation and evaluation. FMCA is proud to have contributed to their care and rehabilitation.



Quest before



Quest, needing attention and love on arrival, now flying high

Ella and Evie

Ella and Evie were not born in a comfortable nursery. They were found outside with 3 other kittens shortly after birth. Luckily for them, their rescuer brought them home and got in touch with FMCA. (Of course, she couldn't resist the lure of the kittens and ended up adopting one of them, but that is another story). Two of these lucky kittens were adopted by a couple living in Sligo Creek. These two beautiful dilute calicos have been bonded since they were rescued and because of the compassion and generosity of their adopters, they went home – together.

Their new home, overlooking Sligo Creek Parkway has windows that stretch across the back of the house. They can often be found curled up together in front of the windows,

waiting for deer and other wildlife to wander by. They also love to share their toys by placing them on the bed, dropping them inside shoes, or moving them from room to room, wherever a playmate can be found. They are adored by their adopters – as it should be. Ella and Evie starred in a photo shoot when they first arrived and you can see from these blissful pictures, that life has simply gotten better and better for them. Thanks to FMCA donors, fosters and volunteers, these little girls represent the wish we have for all animals, a happy and loving home.



With Gratitude to....

FMCA donors and all those who contribute to animal welfare. We couldn't do it without you. Because of your generosity, FMCA literally changes the lives of hundreds of animals each year.

FMCA volunteers. Without you, FMCA couldn't exist; foster parents, the Luv-A-Pet Center support group, the administrative group handling calls and emails, the coordinators who manage animal intake and foster space availability, the folks managing our website, Facebook page and Twitter account, and of course, FMCA board members! THANK YOU for being an FMCA volunteer!

FMCA partner veterinarians who give their time to our rescue animals and share their compassion with animals. FMCA could not accomplish what we do without your contributions of veterinary expertise. We appreciate everything you do for our organization.

TNR partners. Thank you to the hard-working trappers who do so much – such as Kim Deserio, Rita Flygar, Babs Wratten and her crew at Tip Me Frederick as well as Metro Ferals and Spay Now who work with us to provide vet services.

A special thank you to Dr. Laura Page Warden of Green Valley Animal Hospital for donating 30 spay/neuter surgeries to FMCA in 2016!

PetSmart Charities. More than 400,000 dogs and cats find homes every year through PetSmart's adoption program and their sponsored adoption events. PetSmart Charities has helped more than 6 million pets find forever homes. Thank you PetSmart, Germantown, for your day-to-day support and hosting our weekly adoption events, which allows FMCA to help animals find safe, loving homes.

FMCA Provides Funding for Tip Me Frederick's "Lucky 13" plus 7!

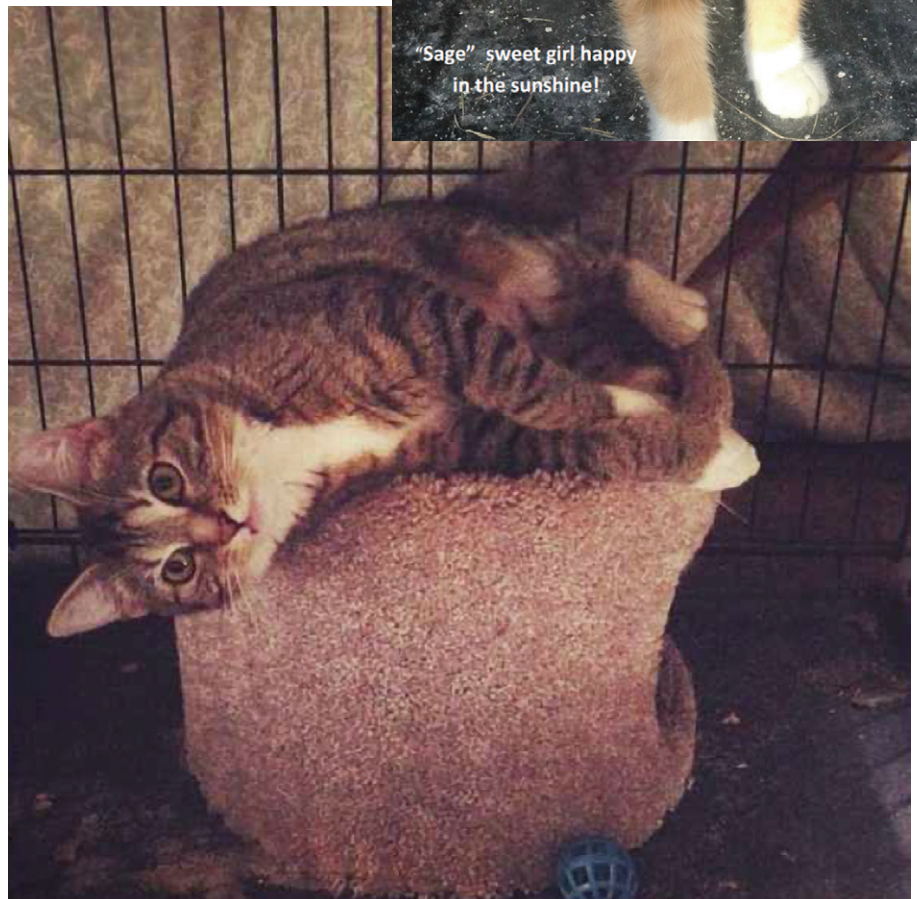
FMCA supported Tip Me Frederick in a rescue case involving a hoarding situation in Frederick County. More than 40 cats were rescued from a home after the owner had been evicted. The cats were taken to Frederick County Animal Control center where veterinarians treated them.

Frederick County Animal Control asked Tip Me Frederick for help finding alternative homes for 20 cats who were too timid to be adopted through traditional humane/rescue group methods but enjoyed human companionship and needed a safe place to call home. Tip Me Frederick subsequently re-homed the cats into barns and other safe havens, including an equine barn that hosts horse shows (see quote about King below).

FMCA provided funding for the vetting of the original "Lucky 13," plus 7 more - for a total of 20 cats. Here's an example of the fantastic result of this collaboration:

"King," the most senior of the cats (adopted with 2 other kitties), now lives on a wonderful horse farm. King sleeps in the house at night (or whenever he wants to). He is being taken care of and loved. Here's what his adopters say: "Thank you Arlene Atkins for this wonderful cat!! He is our new horse show mascot! We could not keep him out of the ring!! He has an important job as Scorekeeper!"

Here's a quote from Babs Wratton at Tip Me Frederick!
"Thank you so much! We always try our best to get these high-risk cats into good barn homes. We are fortunate to have such good friends at FMCA to help out when needed. We truly appreciate your offer, help and friendship. I can't say thank you enough!"

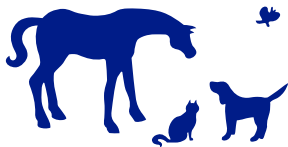


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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

F M C A

FRIENDS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY ANIMALS



Dignity for Animals



Friends of Montgomery County Animals

We're Expecting... It's Kitten Season!

Support FMCA's efforts to
rescue as many cats & kittens
as possible this year!



Join us for Saturday adoptions

PetSmart - Milestone Center,
2-5 pm
20924 N Frederick Rd,
Germantown, MD

www.fmca.org
facebook.com/fmcainfo

Please
consider
fostering



Help us stock our shelves
for the little ones