

Animalfriends

Fall 2009 OF CONNECTICUT

PEARL



Pearl wasn't the first stray cat that I adopted but she was certainly very special to me. It all began in the summer of 1998 when two kittens, about three to four months old, began coming around my apartment complex looking for food. With the help of AFOC, I was able to catch them but picking up their mother was not that easy.

My neighbor informed me that the cat we all referred to as Pearl (or "Mama" as I affectionately thought of her) was coming around while I was at work, looking lost, searching for her babies. I felt terrible but the summer would soon be over, so I thought it was best that we had taken the kittens in before the cold weather arrived.

Pearl ate the food I set out for her but wouldn't enter any trap or carrier. She did begin to look a little fat but I couldn't imagine that she was pregnant again. Then came the day when I found her under my neighbor's porch with four more kittens. We fed them and tried to keep the kids in the complex at a safe distance. Judy suggested I wait six weeks to bring the new kittens to our shelter in case I couldn't catch their mother.

After considerable comings and goings of both the kittens and mama, Pearl returned again, looking distinctly malnourished. Even after eating the two cans of moist cat food a day plus kibbles, she still seemed drained from the exertion of nursing and hunting for food for her growing kittens. Finally, with the help of Jenny, my kind neighbor, I was able to catch Pearl and one of her kittens. Two college students in our complex assisted us in picking up the other three in her litter, which insured that none of the cats would be left out in the night, unprotected and alone.

As it turned out, Pearl was suffering from extreme dehydration, so my bringing her to our vet did save her life. My only regret is that I did not catch papa. He had stopped coming around.

Finally, in November, Pearl became part of my own family. I had hoped that Pearl would be company for Jewell, my nine-year-old calico cat, because I worked outside the house for long hours, but unfortunately that didn't happen. Jewell couldn't accept her and Pearl's presence continually upset her. After many trial and error attempts

to reconcile the two ladies, I finally realized it was hopeless. I either had to keep them completely apart or else bring Pearl back to the shelter. I had grown too attached to her to do that.

I was able to keep Pearl and Jewell in different rooms of my apartment for years. It wasn't an ideal situation and I wished for a happier resolution but I overcame my anxieties after a while. Pearl had obviously been so frightened by her previous life outdoors that when she heard a voice in my home that she didn't recognize, she hid under the bed. My family tried their best to show their affection but Pearl would never let anyone but me pet her or even come near.

Every night, after lights out, Pearl came up on my bed and lay on top of me, purring for about ten minutes before retiring to her own bed. She began doing that the very first night she spent with me and every night since. It seemed like she was telling me that her world was in order and she was happy.

It's hard to believe she has gone now. This April, she had a stroke and I had to let her go. I said my goodbyes to her and thanked her for all she gave me. Her trust, which gradually increased over the years, is something I will always remember and for which I am very grateful. Hopefully she has crossed the Rainbow Bridge to a place where she is no longer frightened and where she feels comfortable and loved.

Eileen "
Rocky Hill, CT

AFOC MAILBAG

Dear Barbara,

I wanted you to know that Tiaramisu, who I picked up at the shelter on May 30th, is doing great! She has settled in just fine and has been enjoying the view of the birds from the window. In fact, she spends a great deal of time at the window. I had two guests visiting yesterday and she wasn't at all timid. She jumped right up on the chair and sat with my niece. It's a treat sharing our home with her. Thanks so much!

*Laura
Amston, CT*



Dear Judy and AFOC Volunteers,

In December, 2008, I had to put my beloved dog Ronit down. We spent thirteen years together and she was the love of my life. I was sure I would never be able to love another dog the way I loved her. But along came Shoshi. Wendy, at Veterinary Specialists, called to let me know that they had rescued a mother and her puppy. I wasn't at all interested but I thought I'd just look in on them. No puppies for me at my age! The mom was okay but just not for me. Somehow I did end up returning to Vet Specialists the following day with a good friend. She thought the mom was adorable and finally, I decided to adopt her. After treating her to a makeover, she looked like a princess. I named her Soshi. She quickly learned to live like a princess as well as look like one. She sleeps in my bed, which I said would never happen, and you melt when you feel her eyes on my face. Soshi is a love and I am thrilled that she became part of my life.

*Yvonne Beatrice
West Hartford, CT*



Dear Judy,

As I write this check in support of AFOC's great work saving animals, I realize that it's been ten years since I adopted Little Nell from your organization! I thought you might like an update. Since losing her eyes in an accident back in October 1999, Nellie has continued to do well. Though slowed down by heart disease and slippery knees, she is quick, active and charming as ever. The other day, I caught her climbing on a chair to reach a basket where I'd hidden her rawhide two days earlier.

My other dog, Leo, is also well, though slowing down with age and losing his teeth.

Thank you for all you do and keep up the good work!

*Pam
Enfield, CT*

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc. would like to you consider donating your unwanted car, boat or motorcycle to help save animals in distress. Over the past many years, we have been donated countless motor vehicles which have been sold to raise money to help us with our mission. I am sure that many of you have been reluctant to donate your vehicle because you think it would be of no benefit to us, due to mechanical or cosmetic problems. That is not the case. Of course, we prefer vehicles that are drivable but we can accept vehicles in any condition, including those that do not run. Any vehicle will be picked up at its location at no cost to you. All you need to have is a valid title for the vehicle and we can pick it up within a few days. Any vehicle, no matter what its condition, has value to us. If you or a neighbor have a vehicle you are considering getting rid of, please call us. You will receive a tax deduction for the amount the vehicle sold for.



*George Murtha
Canton, CT*



UNITED WAY

You can donate while at work by making a contribution to THE UNITED WAY. Just specify that your donation is intended for AFOC. Please use the following letters and numbers on the form: AG 0640.



Sunshine Fund

Sunshine was a dog that came to us many years ago. She was a Shepherd Husky cross and was found in a project in Hartford with one eye poked out by a stick. The owners signed the dog over to AFOC. We had her injuries treated and we found her a wonderful home. She lived to be over 14 years old. What happened to Sunshine was just the beginning of many years involved in rescuing injured and abused animals. This fund is in her memory.



Sponsorship Program

We have many cats that are not adoptable or hard to place. We are looking for sponsors willing to sponsor a rescue cat by helping to cover the cost of food, litter, and basic medicine. Our goal is to sponsor every cat.

Judy Levy, Director
Alicia Mendelsohn, Editor
Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc.
P.O. Box 370306
West Hartford, Connecticut 06137-0306
(860) 827-0381

www.afocinc.org

To inform you of upcoming AFOC events, we are starting an e-mail service for those of you who have e-mail capability.

Any e-mail address that you supply will be used only by AFOC. It will not be published nor will the list be supplied to an outside source.

If you'd like to be on our list, send your name and e-mail address to webmaster@afocinc.org.

Thank you.



I-GIVE MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

Register with I-Give on line. Shop on line with major retailers and help AFOC at the same time! All consumer transactions will contain a percentage donated to AFOC.

ANOTHER CONVENIENT WAY OF GIFT GIVING!

You can now use your credit card and make a donation on-line through PayPal. Just go directly to our website for further details (www.afocinc.org).



We would be happy to accept any donation of a car, van or truck in good running condition. They are a charitable tax deduction and help us continue our daily work.

Support our fund raisers!

IN LOVING MEMORY

BILL: Bill, the beloved English bulldog of Mary and Gordon Nelson, unexpectedly passed away at a young age this past June. He was the Nelsons' constant companion, whether on daily walks (where everyone had a friendly pat for Bill) or traveling with the Nelsons on their vacations. During the winter months, on the beaches of Hilton Head, South Carolina, Bill became a legend. Everyone knew him and he was welcomed back every year. Bill accompanied the Nelsons to Parris Island Marine Corps Depot, where Gordon was greeted with "Once A Marine, Always A Marine," a special day with parades, bands and good cheer. Bill became the focus of attention and many Marines asked to be photographed with him. After all, the English bulldog is the unofficial mascot of the US Marine Corps! He will be greatly missed, but as I was writing this tribute to him, I heard from the Nelsons. They have, in honor of Bill, brought a new bulldog puppy into their home.

*Helen
West Granby, CT*

BUDDY: Buddy was the grey kitty who brought so much joy and love to Georgette Gjerpen of Newington, and to her daughter Laurie, over the years. This donation is given in Buddy's memory.

*Janice
New Britain, CT*

MICHAELA: Please accept this gift in honor of Michaela, a sweet Yorkie, who was the beloved companion of Sidney Goodwin. Michaela had the heart and courage of a dog ten times her size. She was very much loved and will be very much missed.

*Willa
Windsor, CT*

PUMPY: Please accept this contribution in memory of my beloved Pumpy who passed away peacefully on a beautiful summer afternoon. Her sweet and gentle nature in that all too brief time she shared with me has given me a deeper understanding and a love that will always be a part of me.

*Robert
West Hartford, CT*

SHOOGY: We are sending this donation in memory of our beloved orange tiger cat, Shoogy. After months of medication and home-administered subcutaneous fluid injections, kidney disease finally claimed our sweet boy's life. But never during his sad decline did he lose his loving nature. He filled our home with joy for two weeks shy of twenty years and was an inspiration to all who knew him.

Dennis & Roxanne

BAKE SALE!

Please mark Saturday, October 24th in your calendars. It's our annual AFOC bake sale and the familiar faces of our dedicated volunteers will be behind the tables. The place is the 530 Bushy Hill Super Stop & Shop starting at 9:00 A.M. and going until we run out of goods in the afternoon. We will be happy to accept your cookies, breads, cakes, pies, muffins, etc. Sales soared last year and netted a surprise windfall for our shelter. We hope to break that record in 2009. Bake something yourself and stop by to try a delicious treat made by a fellow member.

If you can't make a drop on the morning of the bake sale, please call me at (860) 673-8801 and I'll try to arrange an alternative plan for your convenience.

Alicia Mendelsohn

BANNER EVENT FOR AFOC!

Flatbread Pizza, in the Shoppes at Farmington Valley, is one of several area restaurants hosting benefit nights for non-profit organizations. Several months ago, acting on the suggestion of our Director, I contacted them and we took advantage of the opportunity to schedule a benefit for June 10th. I thought the benefit would be especially successful if we could get Scot Haney of Channel 3 to host the event for us. Scot is an animal lover who has done so much to get shelter animals adopted and to unite owners with their lost pets. The manager of Flatbread was very pleased to learn that Scot was going to attend. She was certain that his presence would make a big difference in drawing customers for the event.

The first step in the many months of preparation began with Flatbread's requirement that AFOC provide a banner to be hung in the restaurant entrance way for a week prior to the benefit. My wife, a retired art teacher, made our shelter a banner which turned out to be very dynamic and eye-catching.

A flyer had to be designed that could be posted throughout Farmington Valley. Joanne Wacht designed the flyer and several days later, it was ready to be duplicated and mounted. I doubt that there was a bulletin board in Canton, Avon, Farmington or New Hartford that didn't have a bright yellow notice on it.

The next, and most challenging project, was acquiring items for a silent auction. I contacted many area businesses asking for a gift certificate or animal related object for the auctions. While many of the smaller businesses willingly donated, few of the large companies were as generous. However, by the night of the benefit we did receive a total of 62 items.

We also decided to have a 50/50 auction and knew the ideal person to sell the raffle tickets – volunteer, Anneliis Koiv whom you may know as hostess of our

annual mega spring and summer tag sales.

The benefit was advertised on several television channels, a half dozen radio stations, in animal magazines, and on the sign in front of The Sport House in Canton. This was in addition to the hundred flyers that we posted throughout the Valley.

My wife and I went to Flatbread's mid afternoon of June 10th to set up and people started arriving at 5:00 P.M. The restaurant was filled by 5:30, everybody waiting expectantly for Scot Haney, who arrived at 6:30. Scot went from table to table, socializing with the diners, having his photo taken with them, and generally just having a good time. He had originally said he had to leave by 8:00 but stayed way beyond his deadline. He was enjoying himself and everyone was enjoying him. Just before he said goodnight, Scot drew the winning ticket for the 50/50 raffle and the lucky person was Cathy from West Hartford.



The evening was a great success and raised about \$2,348 for our shelter. I would like to thank the volunteers who assisted in the many, necessary chores and made sure that everything went smoothly. They are Pat Hirschy, Marianne Heymann, Ruth Woodford, Donna Neary, Karen & Paul Wendhiser, Betsy Eskay, Marilyn Beebe, Carol Donagher and Pattie and Morgan Piotrowski. We are so grateful to all of them.

We are hoping to make this an annual event. In order for this to happen we need dedicated volunteers who are able to approach donors and help with other details. If you can give us your time please call our Director, Judy at (860) 827-0381. We are anticipating an event date in late June or early July of next year.



OUR ANNUAL AFOC TAG SALE REPORT

I am happy to report that the summer AFOC benefit tag sales broke all past records in 2009! Our May event brought in approximately \$5,200 and the September sale (still counting) has already added up to \$3,400, despite the rainy weather.

We continued to receive high quality donations and we extend our thanks to all of our donors, many of whom traveled some distance to bring their items to us. We also appreciate our loyal customer who, undaunted, showed up despite torrential rains.

Our volunteers worked long, hard hours to put these successful events together. Thank you to:

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|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Marianne Heymann | Willa Nemetz |
| Nancy Miller | Nancy Miller |
| Donna Neary | Jerry & Jane Hikel |
| Ron Carubba | Ed Paquette |
| Sandra Pouliot | Dot Young |
| Ruth Woodford | Kim Chagnon |
| Olga Coffey | Vivian Elba |
| Lucy Temperilli | Vicki Kayser |
| Hamad & Lynne Elfeky | Brenda Rock |
| Paula Kkrutsky | Eileen Perry |
| Rise Cappadona | Barbara Korzendorfer |
| Nicole DeLong | Pat Hirschy |
| Lauren Allison-Fisher | George Murtha |
| Karen Wendhiser | |

We appreciate the ongoing support of the First Church of Christ, Simsbury, and the Master's School for their tag sale donations, Paine's for the generous discount on their dumpsters, Simsbury Library for the use of a conference room for our planning meeting and Deepwater Lobster Company for providing a delicious lunch to our volunteers during the fall tag sale. Also thank you Pickin & Patch for seeing to parking space for our customers.

Our 2010 sales are tentatively scheduled for the weekends after Memorial Day and Labor Day. Donations will be accepted any time after May 1st, 2010 at the tag sale site. Please call me with any questions you may have or to sign up for either (or both) summer events.

Anneliis Koiv
Tag Sale Coordinator



Please reach into your heart and give what you can afford to help these animals get a second chance in life.

Your gift is tax deductible.

We would be happy to talk with you about endowments, grants, gifts-in-kind, corporate sponsorship or other long-term support. Please call us at (860)827-0381

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc
P.O. Box 370306
West Hartford, Connecticut 06137-0306

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00 Giving | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Helping | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00 F t ` q h m |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 Supporting | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Other |

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Animalfriends
OF CONNECTICUT

- I'd like to help. Volunteers please call 827-0381.
- I am interested in becoming a member. Please add me to your mailing list to receive the newsletter (new members only).