

# Animalfriends

Spring 2010 O F C O N N E C T I C U T

## BREE

We would like to give you an update on our rescue dog, Bree. She came to us in April, 2009, and our family has not been the same since her arrival. AFOC had specified a "special home" as a requirement in adopting Bree, noting her rough start in life and her need for a second chance in a loving household. We had never had a pet dog, as Jane was always so busy with her kitties, and although we had talked a little about adopting a dog, until then, it was just that, "talk."

When we saw Bree's photo in the paper, looking out at the world so helplessly, we just had to meet her. As we drove to the AFOC shelter on a Saturday afternoon, we realized we didn't even have a food dish or a leash since we weren't certain about the outcome of our visit. When Bree was brought in to meet us, she seemed as excited and curious about us as we were about her. She immediately took a liking to Jane, but was somewhat more reserved with me. However, she was so lovable and full of life that we had a hard time understanding how she could have been adopted and returned to the shelter by more than one family.

After Jane and I sat and played with her a bit, we simultaneously decided that we would welcome Bree into our family and provide her with that second chance she so deserved. AFOC gave us a leash and collar to walk her to our car and once there, she jumped in the front seat as if she'd been doing so for a long time. She sat in Jane's lap on the way home and waited with me in the parking lot while Jane went into a pet store to stock up on food and basics to get her started.

Bree has been with us a year now and though we've had some rough patches she really has been incredible. She doesn't chew the furniture (or our shoes) and she loves playing with her ball in the back yard. She waits quietly each morning for me to finish my breakfast so she can be taken on the long walk which she so looks forward to.

Bree loves riding in our car and even accompanied us on our vacation to Myrtle Beach last fall. She got to meet some "cousins" there and settled in with them as one of the



gang. She does miss us when we go out and is often looking out of the front window for us when we return, as if waiting for "mommy and daddy" to come home. There is a special spot on the top back rest of the couch where she likes to lounge and has also staked out her place on our bed, where she settles in with us every night.

The best spot she has found though is the place in our hearts, as we have come to love and adore her for the wonderful dog she is. We think that she was destined to find us and for us to find her. This

is her "forever home" and we thank AFOC for making it possible!

*Ken & Jane*

### **FLATBREAD BENEFIT**

Please join all of us at Flatbreads in the Shoppes at the Farmington Valley Mall on July 13<sup>th</sup> for the second annual Animal Friends of Connecticut benefit. The event will begin at 5:30 P.M. and last until 9:00 P.M. or possibly later. Once again, Scot Haney will be the host.

There will be a large silent auction and a 50/50 auction with all proceeds going to AFOC to facilitate its rescue of animals. In addition, a portion of Flatbread's dinner checks for the evening will also be given to AFOC. So please show up and eat a lot!

Flatbreads is located at 110 Albany Turnpike (Route 44) across from Mitchell Subaru, Canton, Connecticut. Their telephone number is: 860-693-3314.

*P.S. Over 60 items have been donated so far to the silent auction that will be part of the fun at Flatbreads on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Among other things, we have been given handmade jewelry, ski lift tickets, veterinarian services and boarding, pizzas, tennis court time, a yoga class, vouchers from local car dealers and much more. If you would like to see the complete list and if you want to bid on any of the items prior to the benefit, please e-mail llylaclama@aol.com.*

## SPRING/SUMMER MAILBAG

Dear Animal Friends of Connecticut,

Our names are Kaitlin and Emma. We are entering the third and first grade. We really love what you are doing with the Sunshine Fund. Recently, we had a bake sale and also set up a lemonade stand on your behalf. We believe that every animal should have a loving home and receive all the medical attention that they need. In our efforts, we raised \$44.60. Although this is not much, we hope that it can help in your care of the animals in some way.

Thank you,

*Kaitlin & Emma*  
*South Windsor, CT*

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Dear Alicia,

In July, 2005, my husband Bob and I adopted two eleven month old brothers from your New Britain shelter. Barbara was of great help to us. We came to the shelter with two empty cat carriers and left with Emmett and Chipper, who we renamed Sam and Frodo. I've enclosed photos of them – Sam is the guy in the window and Frodo is basking in the sun.



They have brought such joy and humor into our home. When not sleeping in the sun, they are playing with their vast array of toys or sitting on their cat perches, watching birds and neighbor cats from the window or just lounging on our laps. They have quite a life and give us daily laughs. Sam and Frodo are part Siamese, our vet tells us, so they are very talkative as well. Thank you for saving these two boys for us.



*Deb & Bob*  
*Windsor Locks, CT*

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Dear Animal Friends,

Here is an updated picture of Hilary & Hilton at 9 months. Hilary is 7 1/2 pounds and Hilton (we call him Harry) is 10 pounds. Both are doing well.

Best,  
*Jean & Stephen*  
*Barkhamsted, CT*



Dear AFOC Staff,

Beautiful Amy continues to delight and expect the unexpected. She's so funny and smart. Even now, she's looking at herself in the glass set before the fireplace (Too warm for a fire today). Thank you for this special "tortie".

*Georganne*  
*West Suffield, CT*

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Dear Judy,

Holly is a great kitten and she is enjoying life to the fullest. You may remember her better as Margie. Anyway, thanks so much!



*Tina*  
*Cromwell, CT*

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Dear Judy,

I just wanted to send you an update on Tammie, the lovely feline my husband and I adopted from Animal Friends last fall after seeing her featured on Channel 12 News. We have since changed Tammie's name to Tasha, because we felt she needed a name with more "sass" to suit her personality. Boy, does she ever have sass to spare – we've never known a more mischievous and curious little cat! Tasha gets into just about everything she's not supposed to (including the bath tub!). But she is also a very loving and intelligent little girl who's just brimming with personality. We wouldn't have her any other way!

Thank you for the work you do every day to better the lives of animals in Connecticut.



*Suzanne*  
*Milford, CT*

### SHARE YOUR STORIES!

Readers, all of us have a story about our pets and I'm sure your dog or cat would love to see their photos on the printed page. Please send me an anecdote about how you chose your particular pet, how it adjusted to your household, its particular personality traits, etc. Accompany article with a photo.

It would be great to hear from you and include your story in our Spring/ Summer newsletter. You can send me your article and photo via e-mail. I am at: alicivan@att.net or via regular mail c/o Mendelsohn, 41 Conifer Lane, Avon CT 06001.

Looking forward to hearing from you and thank you.

*Alicia*



## 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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

**BUDDY:** Please accept this donation in memory of Buddy, the family pet of the Jaworskies.

- Helen  
West Hartford, CT

**DARLA:** I would like to make a donation in memory of my neighbors' dog. Darla was the beloved pet of Jimmy and Laura of Waterbury. Darla is also missed by her dog friend, Bella, who accompanied her on their daily walks. Everyone loved her for her sweet friendly nature.

- Donna K.  
Waterbury, CT

**HOLLY:** Enclosed please find our donation as a memorial to Holly, the beloved canine companion of our friends Barbara and Roxi of Lyme.

- Marty & Ellen  
Bloomfield, CT

**MISSY:** Please accept my donation on behalf of my folk's beloved cat Missy, who lived for 22 years. She passed to cat heaven in February, joining her beloved house mates Cigan and Squeeky. They had quite a long wait for her, as Missy was not ready to leave my dad's side. The stillness in their home, which has never been cat less, is difficult to bear. I hope they can open their hearts again soon and make a home for a new generation of cats.

- Julia  
Canton, CT

**SCARLETT:** Scarlett, a beautiful male cat, was the household companion of Willa of Windsor. He led a happy feline life until his sudden passing in March. Willa misses her Scarlett.

- Diane  
West Hartford, CT

**SIDNEY:** Our family is making this gift to your shelter on behalf of Meghan & Ed of Portland, in honor of their beloved dog Sidney. He was a cherished member of their household for fourteen years.

- Barbara  
Burlington, CT

**SKYE:** Here is a contribution in memory of Skye, a very special, well-loved Golden Retriever. She and her wonderful smile will be missed by all who knew her. She lived for many happy years with my neighbors, Joan & Bill of Hartford.

- Ursula  
Hartford, CT

**TACO:** My gift is given in memory of sweet Taco, the cat who death was harsh and untimely. My offer of a \$1,000 reward for his abuser still stands. God bless you for all your work.

- Jeffrey  
Wolcott, CT

## AFOC 2010 SUMMER TAG SALES

Members, please get out your date books! Our mega tag sale events will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> this year (the weekend after Memorial Day) and on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> (the weekend following Labor day).

We have been so fortunate with our past sales record and feel very hopeful about 2010. I hope everyone will plan to come. We have fantastic bargains!

We also need your donations! They are tax deductible of course. As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, items may be brought to the garages at 159 Nod Rd., Simsbury, which are 1 1/2 miles north of Rt. 44 at Avon Old Farms Inn, 1 1/2 miles south of Rt. 185. The garages are behind the old white farm house which is directly north of Pickin' Patch Farm. Donations may be dropped off at any time. Please sign the donor book and a tax receipt will be mailed to you following the sale.

As always, items must be in excellent or very good condition. All electronic appliances must be in good working order. We gladly accept everything except the following: used clothing, furs, hangers, mattresses, large furniture, large exercise equipment or large appliances and anything with Freon, i.e. air conditioners and refrigerators.

Please consider volunteering at the sales tables. It can really be fun, food and refreshments are provided and volunteers get first dibs at buying!

Tag Sales start on Fridays from 2 PM to 7 PM. Early Birds are welcome (as early as Thursday afternoon for friends of AFOC). Saturdays, we are running from 8 AM to 5 PM, Sundays from 8 AM to Noon.

If you would like to donate, volunteer, or if you have questions, please call me at 860-833-7674. I look forward to seeing you at the sales!

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P.S. The site of the tag sales is 159 Nod Road, as noted above.

## HARVEY

You could say that AFOC is our beagle connection. Harvey is our second beagle and came to live with us this summer at the age of nine. Benny, our first AFOC beagle, died a year before, after a long illness. Losing Benny was very painful and we wondered if we would ever have another dog. But as time passed, we thought that by helping another animal, we could honor the memory of Benny, so we turned to AFOC once more. We weren't specifically looking for another beagle, but he found us.

Raised in Connecticut by his loving owner, Jim, for the first five years of his life, Harvey had difficulty adjusting to city life when Jim moved to New York. After three years of training and therapy, Harvey was still anxious and miserable. Jim decided that the best thing he could do for Harvey was find him a country home. Jim shared Harvey's story with AFOC volunteer George and sent him some adorable photos, which he showed us.

Once we saw Harvey's pictures, we knew he would be ours. Jim brought him for a visit and he was instantly right at home. Sniffing happily around our yard, Harvey then rolled in the grass and played fetch. After a week's "test run", we all agreed that Harvey had found the right family.

We have an 'open adoption' agreement with Jim. He is welcome to visit Harvey at any time and we keep him up to date on Harvey's progress via e-mail and photos. The most important thing to all of us is that Harvey is healthy, happy and much loved. Best of all, he shows no signs of the debilitating anxiety that he suffered in the city.

When it comes to finding the best beagle, AFOC is now two for two!

*Jennifer & Kevin  
Andover, CT*



## TACO

On a cold December morning, Judy Levy received a call from a waitress who worked at a West Hartford restaurant. On the previous night, a cat came to the back door looking for food. The cat had been coming to this restaurant regularly and the waitress, taking a careful look, saw that the cat had suffered serious injury. Its tail and its ears were missing.

The waitress called the West Hartford Police who, in turn, sent the Animal Control Officer to assess the problem. The Officer determined that the cat was not in distress but she did arrange for the cat to be taken to an animal shelter the following morning.

The waitress named the cat Taco, after the restaurant, and brought her home, making her comfortable for the night. The following morning she called Judy Levy.

Judy took Taco to an AFOC vet to assess the injuries. There was no doubt that the mutilations had been inflicted by a person, but Taco was very friendly in spite of all the mistreatment at human hands, enjoying the warmth and attention.

As is the case with all animals that AFOC rescues, the cat was tested for the full range of cat diseases and was found positive for Feline Leukemia. Consequently, the vet advised that the cat be euthanized.

Judy contacted the local newspapers and television stations, who ran a story about Taco. AFOC posted a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who had tortured the cat. One of



of our members increased the amount of the reward to \$2000 and soon thereafter, another person added an additional amount, making this a \$5000 reward. There were many smaller donations offered, including one from a family who wanted to donate money that they would usually spend on Christmas presents for each other. We did thank them for their generous offer, but said that the reward was now sufficient in itself.

Flyers were posted around the neighborhood where the cat was found, but no one came forward with any information. As the posters were being removed on a regular basis, they had to be put up again almost daily.

Several weeks later, Judy received a call from a gentleman who said he knew who had inflicted the damage on Taco, He gave Judy the name and address of the person but declined to accept the reward.

The West Hartford Police were notified and took appropriate action. It appears that this person was already known to the police for other offenses. As this is now a police matter, we do not have an update on the investigation, but we do know that this person will not be out there again injuring other animals in the area.

*George  
Canton, CT*

