

Animalfriends

Winter 2010 OF CONNECTICUT

MORTICIA & LILY

August 4th, 2009 was one of the saddest days of our lives. Toby and Ninja, two of our favorite cats, died on the same day. Toby was adopted from AFOC fifteen years ago. This was my first contact with the rescue organization and since that day, I have been a committed, full-time volunteer.

Toby was a small kitten who had been hit by a car. The man that found her brought her to Animal Friends so that she could receive appropriate medical care. She became my constant companion and was never more than a foot away from me. Toby had her own chair next to my computer and she slept on my pillow at night.

This past July, we noticed that she was having trouble walking and the vet diagnosed a possible infection behind her eye or, worst case, cancer. Optimistically, we started treatment on the infection and soon after, found that cancer was the reality. Toby's health declined very rapidly from then on.

Ninja was a very tiny kitten when we found her in a cane field in Hawaii. Someone had abandoned five kittens in a box. We spent our vacation finding homes for four of them and brought Ninja back to Connecticut with us. That was nineteen years ago. Ninja's health had been failing for the past six months and on August 4th, she went into a coma from which she never regained consciousness.

We debated adopting two cats but decided to wait, still having five cats to look after. Both Toby and Ninja

were beautiful black cats and while looking at Petfinders one day, I saw an all black cat available for adoption at Animal Friends. She bore a striking resemblance to Toby so I called Judy Levy to say I wanted to see her. Judy felt that the cat, while being a very good pet, would not be a good choice for us because it didn't do well with other cats. She needed to be in a one cat household.

The following day, Judy called to tell me about a woman evicted from her house, leaving behind a large number of cats. Most of them had been adopted but there were two black cats left that needed homes. They were currently in foster care and I went to see them that afternoon. I was hoping to bring one home with me.

When I arrived, I was told that if at all possible, the cats should be adopted together, as they were inseparable. I said I

would consider it and after watching them for a while, I knew she was right. They did everything as a pair and were totally affectionate, both to each other and to people. On Halloween, after having Tabitha and Matilda retested to be sure they were disease free, we brought them home. We renamed them Morticia and Lily.

From the first day in their new home Morticia and Lily reminded us so much of Toby, seeming to share the same lovely spirit. But now there were two of them. They are irresistible, play together all the time and have taken over the house. And somehow have managed to dispel our sadness.

*George M
Canton, CT*



AFOC MAILBAG

Dear Judy,

Here is the photo of Gracey which I had taken at Petco. You are doing a wonderful thing for all of the animals. We absolutely love Gracey.



*Lisa
Wolcott, CT*

Dear Animal Friends of Connecticut,

We would like to thank you for the joy you have brought to us through the adoption of our cat, Picasso, several months ago. Wilson was the name you gave him but we thought that Picasso better suited him. He is doing well and is a valued member of our family. He follows us everywhere (even into the shower) and enjoys all of the attention and affection we so love to give him. He sleeps with us at night and even plays fetch with us in the morning before we get out of bed, carrying his prized stuffed mouse in his mouth.



We cannot wait to get home from work to see Picasso waiting at the window when he hears the garage door open. Needless to say, he is loved beyond words.

We would especially like to express our deepest gratitude to Linda and her daughters in Simsbury for giving Picasso so much love and care as his foster family. We thank you, AFOC, for your commitment and your kindness.

Best,
Mark , Taylor and of course Picasso !

Dear Judy & Barbara,

I adopted Estella – a tortie – now known as Emma on February 7th, 2009. She is a delight and has become a real friend to me but also loves everyone else around me – a real people pet. Emma and I enclose this gift to your organization. You do great work. Please continue to help all of the other dogs and cats.

Love,
*Charlene Southergill
Manchester, CT*

Dear Friends,

Five years ago I took Kayla home from your shelter and she has been a wonderful friend ever since. Enclosed is a gift to help you continue your work in giving animals a second chance in life. Thank you so much.

*Ingrid
Plainville, CT*

Dear Judy,

We adopted Cici on December 3rd, 2008 and changed her name to Lily. She is truly a beautiful flower, with silky fur as soft as the petals of a lily. She loves to sit in our large bow window and in summer, pays special attention to the many birds, bees and creatures that visit our rose bushes.



Lily has developed a strong bond with our son, who is away at boot camp. She goes into his room, hoping to find him. She also climbs on top of the microwave, the better to watch out of the kitchen window for his car. Lily will really be surprised when he comes home for Christmas.

Lily is #1 in our house. We want to thank you so very much for the joy she's brought to our lives. The enclosed check is to help other cats find a forever home.

This is Lily all dressed up for the holidays. And happy holidays to all of you!

*William and Nary
East Hartford, CT*

Hello AFOC members and staff,

It's Christmas time once again and I am delighted to send you a gift. I've also enclosed a photo of my Timmy – do you remember him with his little white toes on his back feet? It is his third Christmas with me and he is a very special joy! I thank you for all the hard work you do.



With gratitude for my little boy,
*Suzanne
Coventry, CT*

Dear Judy,

Here are pictures of Hilary & Hilton. They are growing in size and curiosity by the day. Hilton likes to sit in my husband, Stephen's, lap when he's in his rocking chair. Hilary is always exploring. We've really had to "cat proof" sections of our house.

Thanks for your help in my adopting them. The cats are fortunate to have you there. Take care.

Sincerely,
*Joan
Barkhamsted, 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

ABBE: For Abbe, who crossed the Rainbow Bridge on October 9th of this year to join her sisters Buggy and Badger. We miss all of you and will see you again. This donation is made in your honor.

- Michele & Joe
Union, CT

BABE: Babe, best buddy of Ann & Richard of Barnard, VT, was a rescued Tibetan spaniel. Having lost her battle with life in the winter of her years, she is deeply missed. The enclosed check is given in her memory.

- Constance
Southington, CT

BEN: Ben was a loyal, sweet, gentle dog who enriched the lives of our friends Mimi and Harvey of West Hartford. Ben and his companion Jerry were present when we sat shiva for my mother and I know that my mother was taking pleasure in their every bark. This donation is made in loving memory of Ben.

- Richard & Joan
Boynton Beach, FL

BUSTER: This donation is in memory of my very beautiful golden cocker spaniel Buster. He was originally from the local pound, passed on to successive owners who couldn't keep him. He came to me without hesitation. I took him gladly and kept him by my side for ten years until cancer took his life. He was my shadow and I miss him terribly. Buster went to doggie heaven on July 9th, 2009 but he will always be with me.

- Elaine
St. Johnsbury VT

GABE: I am making this donation in memory of Gabe, the beloved dog of Sally and Tom of West Hartford. He was a part of their family and lived a long, wonderful life.

- Connie
West Hartford, CT

JESSE: Please accept this gift in memory of Jesse, faithful beautiful lab and best friend of Barbara & Kevin of Rocky Hill. He will also be sadly missed by his furry family Brandy and Trek. We smile as we remember his love of those special cookies.

- Constance
Southington, CT

KITTY LUKE: We would like to honor the memory of Kitty Luke, the beloved cat of our very good friends, Dan & Deborah of Hartford, with the enclosed gift.

- Leslie & David
West Hartford, CT

MAGGIE: The enclosed gift is given in tribute to Maggie, the beloved dog of our good friends, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Larcheveque of FL. They miss her terribly.

- Leslie &
West Hartford, CT

MIDNIGHT: After nineteen years of accumulating wonderful memories we lost our beautiful black cat Midnight. She will be in our hearts forever. This gift to you is in her memory.

- Arlene
Manchester, CT

MORRIS: My gift is given in tribute to my beloved companion Morris. He was a beautiful orange tiger cat who brought so much joy and love to my life. Morris passed away peacefully in his sleep on October 3, 2009 at the age of eighteen years, leaving a love that will always be a part of me.

- Joan
Southington, CT

SANDY: We adopted Sandy from AFOC late in the last century. She was a long-legged shaggy schnauzer with the grace of an angel, but wild and untrained. Nobody wanted her. Several dog schools rejected her. Lots of TLC and long sessions of leash training in the woods worked in the end. She came to love the water and we swam together. Maggie was also an ongoing comfort to my wife during her two year bout with cancer. Of the many dogs I loved, and will always love, Sandy, who died from an invisible tick bite, was most memorable. I am now in my 90's. I shed tears in this moment of reminiscence. AFOC, thank you for the memories.

- Wesley P. LTC USA (RET)
Danbury, CT

SHEENA: My gift to you is in memory of my daughter's cat Sheena, who passed away on December 31st of this past year. I was considered her "Grandma" and she was a "Little Princess", quite the show-off. She loved to pose for pictures. We will all miss her.

- Mary
New Britain, CT

SECOND ANNUAL AFOC BENEFIT AT FLATBREAD PIZZA

Due to the success of our first benefit, AFOC will again hold a summer benefit at Flatbread Pizza at the Shoppes in the Farmington Valley, on Tuesday, July 13th. We have arranged for a local celebrity to host the event and we have a tentative commitment from our local (well known) weatherman.

We would be grateful for any donations for the silent auction, either from you or from stores and restaurants. Please ask your local merchants to donate merchandise or gift certificates for this worthy cause. Either would be most appreciated. Please contact George Murtha at llylaclama@aol.com or at 860-693-0303 for details.

For other related information, contact our Director, Judy Levy, at 860-827-0381. Thank you.

AFOC 2010 SUMMER TAG SALES

Members, please get out your date books! Our mega tag sale events will be held on June 4th, 5th and 6th this year (the weekend after Memorial Day) and on September 10th, 11th & 12th (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 1st, 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 Rte. 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, 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!

Anneliis Koiv

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

TUCKER: It is with great sadness that we write this letter to inform you of the passing of our son, Ken's, beloved cat Tucker on November 23rd, 2009. Tucker adopted us almost nineteen years ago. She came to us as a kitten of eight weeks, when Ken found her in an Ellington home, amidst a lively bunch of litter mates. He caught her in a scramble and gave her a home. Thinking that she was a he, he named her Tucker. Tucker became a greatly loved member of our family, sharing her love and companionship with our other girls, Patches and Molly. We miss her so very much. Ken has had a most difficult time these past weeks without Tucker at his side. She was a constant friend and companion. You never know how much God's "cat people" mean to you until they are lost. Our home is barren and empty in her absence. Enclosed please accept our memorial donation in Tucker's honor. We are certain that AFOC will find this useful in your efforts to improve the lives of our best friends.

- Kurt, Mary Ellen & Ken
South Windsor CT

WILLOUGHBY: This contribution is in memory of Willoughby, a beautiful orange tabby, who was the cherished pet of Diane of West Hartford. Like his namesake in "Sense and Sensibility", he was a bit of a hell-raiser, but underneath he was sweet and loving. He died much too soon and will be missed.

- Willa
Windsor, 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

TWO FUND-RAISERS FOR AFOC

GREEN DREAMS

Jan Nickel opened her exquisite gardens to visitors once again this year, under the auspices of the Garden Conservancy's Open Day Program. AFOC receives a portion of the admissions fee from the two events, which amounted to \$375.00 this summer. As always, we thank Jan from the bottom of our hearts for her annual gift to our shelter. Visitors to Jan's gardens are always grateful for the opportunity to share in Jan's imaginative work.

BAKE SALE

Unfortunately, the fall newsletter announcing our annual October Bake Sale came out a little late this year and most of you weren't given sufficient notice. Also, if you recall, after a beautiful stretch of autumnal days, the heavens opened up and it rained heavily all day. In spite of this, our fund raiser was a smashing success.

Our regular volunteers, Erika Elbert, Ruth Woodford and Ed Paquette hosted the Saturday, October 24th event. Kim Chagnon of New Britain contributed her divine home-made cupcakes, pies and other goodies, as she has been doing in past years. We were lucky to find the Cake Gypsy, Deanna Damen of Avon, a custom cake maker, who provided charmingly decorated cupcakes. A shelter volunteer, Jill Perault, from Simsbury, dropped off four of her delectable pound cakes. Doug Grosch of Avon sent over a couple of boxes of his home-made cookies. Also from Avon, we had lovely baked goods from Sue Jansen, Joann O'Connell, Susan Riley and Marjorie Wills. Maryanne Heymann, another long-term volunteer, added her culinary confections to this delightful assortment.

Thanks to all of you who dropped cakes and cookies, but didn't leave their names, and to all of you who stopped at the tables to make donations, often without making a purchase.

AFOC netted proceeds of \$790.58 for the day, about \$250.00 of which had been given by shoppers without making a purchase. It was encouraging to see people of all ages taking time to express their love for animals and their willingness to support the shelter.



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 Guardian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 Supporting | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Other |

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Name _____

Street/P.O. Box _____

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- 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).

Animalfriends
OF CONNECTICUT