

Greetings from the Executive Director

What an adventure it has been! Since joining Friends this past March, I have had the opportunity to be part of two highly successful events: Wine, Whiskers & Wags and Putting for Pets, and many community fundraising projects. In partnership with the Shelter, we have also initiated several new programs to help ensure pet wellness and increase pet adoptability: Dentals for Adoption, Forever Home Training, PawFax, and Pet Spotlight. Learn more about each of these on the next page, and thank you for your support which allows our work to happen.

As the Shelter's nonprofit fundraising partner, our important work is only possible with the generosity and compassion of individuals like you. Over the months, I have witnessed our collective power to save lives, eliminate pain and discomfort, foster healthy relationships between humans and pets, and limit new populations of animals that might likely end up in shelters or worse. Our lives are enriched by the pets we call family, and we are grateful that you offer the same love and respect to pets seeking a place to call home.

As 2017 comes to a close, please consider a final heroic gesture in support of the more than 5,000 displaced pets that come through the Shelter's doors each year. This holiday, you can take comfort in knowing that with your support, many former shelter pets will enjoy the warmth of the season with a loving family. Only together can we continue our good work.

As a pet-lover yourself, please let me know what's on your mind with an email to celia.flye@ffcas.org. I'm happy to receive a picture too!

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I wish you a joyous holiday season with family and friends, including the furry ones!

Thank you for your ongoing and life-saving support,

Celia Flye, Executive Director



Friends Hero: Artful Paws Photography

Thank you to Annie Ballentine of Artful Paws Photography for donating her time and talent for our November *Friends Holiday Pet Pics*, and for the beautiful shelter pet portraits that make up our 2018 calendar. Proceeds from both the photo event and the calendar benefit pets at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.



Calendars are available at www.ffcas.org/calendar.

If you missed us this year at *Friends Holiday Pet Pics*, we hope to see you next November with your canine cuties!



Amira's Healing Body and Spirt

At only one-month old, an injured Jane Doe black and white kitten was transported to the shelter by a caring motorist. Jane had been hit by a car, and left with a broken leg and pelvis. Her much-needed surgery was beyond what the Shelter's budget could provide, but without surgery, she faced a lifetime of pain and disability. Such a dilemma is exactly why, in 2006, Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter came to exist. Friends was able to fund the surgery for not only one darling kitten, but over the years has funded necessary and often life-saving medical care for thousands of innocent animals affected and sometimes neglected by humans.

Today, with a proper name, Amira is recovering in a loving foster home surrounded by other family pets. According to foster mom Alyssa, "She's super sweet and super cuddly. She's such a good girl! She loves my other cats and my dog."

Thank you to our generous, pet-loving community for making our work possible.



Amira is enjoying some quality snuggles with her big foster brother Buddy. Three years ago, Alyssa agreed to foster Buddy until he was adopted; and she did foster him until she herself adopted him ♡

2017 Program Highlights

Friends closely collaborates with Shelter leadership to ensure your support and our efforts are making the greatest impact. Together, we help provide pets with the best opportunity to find and stay in loving forever homes. We do so by identifying pets that will most benefit through a variety of strategic programs. In 2017, Friends began funding a few new adoption-inspiring programs.

Dentals for Adoption Too often, cats and dogs come to the Shelter with neglected teeth. According to the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, periodontal disease will likely become evident by the time a pet is three years old. Without treatment, the disease can cause severe pain and affect kidney, liver and heart function. At the Shelter, a potential adopter may be deterred for worry over medical expenses, and the pet's personality may be affected by pain. Friends recently began funding dental care for shelter pets with periodontal disease graded at three or higher based upon a scale of zero (normal) to four (severe). After a thorough cleaning, required extractions, and any other necessary treatments, dogs and cats are now putting their best-face forward for potential adopters.



Fritz is in his forever home with dental woes behind him.

Forever Home Training It happens. Well-intended families sometimes bring a dog to the Shelter after deciding the dog's behavior is not making for a happy home. To help ill-mannered but otherwise awesome dogs find a true forever home, Shelter leadership believed training was the answer. Starting this year, to help reduce adoption returns, Friends is funding both pre- and post-adoption training. Now when the Shelter identifies a great dog that is mouthy, jumpy, noisy or anxious, Friends is able to help.

PawFax The Shelter saw many wonderful pets being overlooked due to age. They asked Friends to consider funding a more thorough medical exam to offer potential adopters a true health overview. PawFax, which consists of a series of tests including blood work, urinalysis and x-rays, has proven a great success. In most cases, tests helped highlight a pet's good health, and in some cases tests identified critical health issues which were then addressed. With more than two dozen PawFaxes complete, it would appear that more pet health data is encouraging more timely adoptions.



Chika's PawFax revealed life-threatening uterine disease, that without the subsequent surgery, would likely have killed her in days. Instead, this little sweetheart is living large with a new family.

Pet Spotlight By making a donation in honor of a shelter pet, you bring attention to a special pet that might otherwise be overlooked. Donors who choose to "Spotlight" a shelter pet can even tell us why the pet deserves a second look. The pet receives a Spotlight Badge on its cage, kennel or condo, and the pet is featured on Facebook. If you prefer, the knowledgeable Shelter staff can make the pet selection on your behalf. www.ffcas.org/spotlight





2017 Putting for Pets—a Great Success at Twin Lakes



On October 12, more than 80 golfers and 20 sponsors joined in the fun: 18 holes, lunch and dinner, visits from adoptable dogs, fun prizes and great company! Proceeds are already impacting the lives of shelter pets.

Friends Board Member Michael Frey showed his support by hosting a FURsome! Picture are Taylor Holland, Michael, Mark Abbott and Bob Carlson.



2018 Putting for Pets

Save the date:
September 20
Twin Lakes Golf Course

Terry Walter, pictured with Friends President Evelyn Grieve, organized a FURsome and not only won closest to the pin, but won the putting contest with a hole in one!

Creativity and Compassion: Kids, Companies and Clubs are Lending a Paw



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1) Megan visited with Evelyn and Eddie when she dropped off the money she raised.

2) Karin's Florist donated a portion from their pet-themed selection sales. Pictured are Friends Vice President Rita Altman, ED Celia Flye, Karin's President/CEO Maris Angolia with Lexi, and President Evelyn Grieve.

3) Rita with longtime supporter Karen Elsbury of the Rotary Club of Bailey's Crossroads.



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✓ Yes! I will join in the effort to save lives and help pets find forever homes.

Please accept my gift of \$200 \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 Other _____

YOUR NAME(s) please list as you wish to be acknowledged

EMAIL ADDRESS (we never share or sell your email address)

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

I have enclosed a check payable to FFCAS. Please charge to my MC/VISA/AMEX/DISCOVER:

CREDIT CARD NUMBER EXPIRATION DATE CSC (# ON BACK) CARD HOLDER'S SIGNATURE

Optional Please accept my gift In Honor of -or- In Memory of: _____

Send notification of my gift to: _____

Please mail this form with payment to: Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, PO Box 2321, Centreville, VA 20122
Or, make your gift online at www.FFCAS.org/give



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Choose the Adoption Option

An endless variety of pets can be found at shelters and through rescue leagues. A perfect example is Murphy (pictured right), who came to the Shelter in critical need of immediate life-saving medical care. He was among a brood of sick puppies that were seized from deplorable conditions at a now-closed pet store. According to the ASPCA, dogs sold at pet stores are likely from puppy mills where profit is given priority over pet well-being. By adopting rather than buying, you reduce the demand fulfilled by puppy mills.

As a municipal shelter, Fairfax County Animal Shelter's limited budget is unable to support the kind of around-the-clock care that saved the lives of Murphy and many of the other sick puppies rescued from the pet store. Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter is able to fund this kind of specialized care only with the support of our generous and compassionate community. Now in a loving forever home, Murphy is living the sweet life he deserves.

About Friends

Friends is the 501(c)(3) nonprofit fundraising partner of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. By funding emergency medical care, behavior training, parasite prevention, dental care and spay/neuter, Friends joins in the Shelter's effort to ensure every shelter pet is offered the best opportunity to find and remain in a loving forever home. Thank you for all that you do to make our work possible.

Board of Directors

- Evelyn Grieve, President
- Rita Altman, Vice President
- Jill Westeyn, Secretary
- Michael Frey, Member
- Karen Diviney, *Ex Officio* Member
- Celia Flye, Executive Director



“*Murphy is a great addition to our family. We are so happy with him!*

Because he loves to cuddle so much, his veterinarian suggested he become a therapy dog. We are looking into making this happen.

Thank you so much to the Friends for saving his life!”