

# Paws Print

Fall 2010

[www.ffcas.org](http://www.ffcas.org)

## SENIOR PETS: SPECIAL ANIMALS IN NEED

Senior pets arrive at the shelter for a variety of reasons. Their human companions may have experienced financial difficulties making the expense of caring for their pet no longer possible. Some come to the shelter when their human companions pass away or must move into an assisting living facility. Others are picked up by animal control and never redeemed by their owners. However they end up at the shelter, we believe senior pets deserve a chance to find a loving home to live out their golden years.

The FFCAS has done much to improve the lives of senior pets. We have funded dental care and grooming, posted them on Petfinder.com to expand the search for a new home, and provided veterinary care for serious health problems or injuries.

FFCAS recognizes that much more can be done for senior pets and their human companions, and as an organization we are looking into ways to fill this need, including:

- **Educating the public on the benefits of adopting senior pets.** While many people are drawn to kittens and puppies, older animals often fit better into the household. Older pets are calmer and require less attention than younger pets.
- **Attending to the special medical needs of older animals.** FFCAS is exploring a program to provide diagnostic blood tests on senior animals once they are made ready for adoption. If a medical condition is discovered, appropriate treatment can be given. It could also alleviate the fears about the health of the animal by potential adopters.
- **Matching senior citizens with senior pets.** This can provide significant benefits to seniors in our community. Sharing your life with a pet has been shown to alleviate loneliness and enhance your feeling of well-being.
- **Developing a list of resources for citizens needing financial assistance with pet care.** It's heartbreaking to see pets given up for financial reasons. We hope by educating the public on available assistance, we will be able to help keep families and their beloved companion animals together.



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WE BELIEVE PETS, LIKE A FINE WINE, IMPROVE WITH AGE. VISIT [WWW.FFCAS.ORG](http://WWW.FFCAS.ORG) TO FIND WAYS YOU CAN HELP.

# FFCAS SUCCESS STORIES

THROUGH GENEROUS DONATIONS FROM OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, FFCAS HAS BEEN ABLE TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS SHELTER ANIMALS.

## Lucky

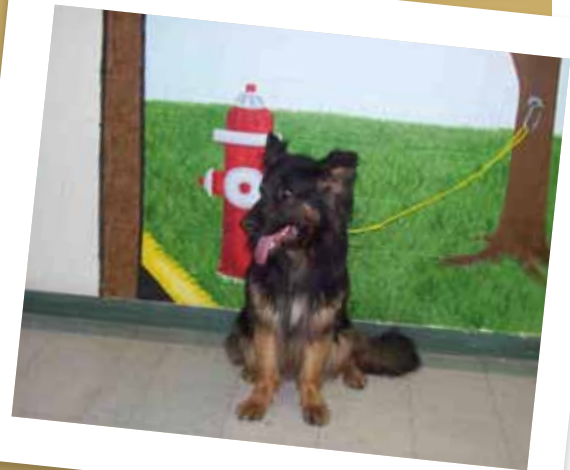
Lucky is no stranger to the shelter system, having first found herself at the Fairfax County Shelter in 2001. Thanks to her happy disposition and friendly nature, the little corgi mix was adopted. Unfortunately, Lucky found herself back at the shelter nearly 10 years later, her owner no longer able to care for her. Now in her senior years, Lucky hadn't lost her upbeat temperament or social nature. However, a severe dental condition kept her from being adopted for a second time. Luckily, with money donated from FFCAS this sweet girl was able to be treated and sent to rescue.

## Peggy

Peggy was one of 42 small netherland dwarfs, mini lops and mini rex rabbits that came to the shelter after the breeder that kept them was charged as an unfit owner. With so many rabbits at the shelter at once, it was a group effort to find homes for these neglected animals. FFCAS moved quickly to move funds so the shelter could offer subsidized spay and neuter to the rescues who took rabbits. To help the remaining rabbits be more adoptable and to prevent any more unwanted births, FFCAS set aside additional funds to have those rabbits fixed. Thanks to the dedication of shelter staff and local rescues, the majority of the rabbits were either adopted or sent to other adoption facilities in the area.

## Teddy

Teddy, a two year old Swedish vallehund shepherd, was days away from meeting potential adopters when tragedy struck. While being cared for by a foster family, Teddy managed to slip out the front door and was hit by a car. The accident left his leg badly mangled. The shelter wasn't sure if anything could be done for Teddy. His large size meant the standard method of treatment wouldn't work for him. Fortunately, FFCAS was able to donate funds for Teddy's treatment. With the help of a steel brace, Teddy is on the mend and back in foster care for the next 8 to 10 weeks until he is ready to find a forever home.





## TNR: A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO A GROWING PROBLEM

### WHAT IS TNR

TNR or “trap-neuter-return” is a program adopted by the Fairfax County Animal Shelter in 2008 as a humane method of controlling an exploding feral cat population in Fairfax County. TNR relies on volunteers to come forward in communities with colonies of feral cats. These citizens are then trained on how to safely trap stray cats and successfully manage the cat colony. Cats trapped as part of the TNR program are taken to a veterinary clinic to be spayed or neutered, vaccinated and then returned to their colony. FFCAS has purchased 20 additional traps this year to aid the shelter’s growing TNR program.

### WHY FFCAS SUPPORTS TNR

While feral kittens under 8 weeks of age can often be socialized and eventually put up for adoption, older cats—animals who are often too frightened of people to be handled—are not adoptable. This leaves animal welfare organizations such as shelters and rescue organizations few options. TNR has proven to be a humane, effective method of controlling the feral cat population. Fixing one female cat can prevent over 90 new feral kittens from becoming Fairfax County’s next generation of strays. Although there are many factors to consider, the number of stray cats being brought to the shelter is on the decline. Statistics from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services show that in 2009, 582 stray cats were brought to the shelter, a sharp contrast to the 931 brought in 2005. And by allowing the sterilized animals to return to their colonies once they’ve been vaccinated, their presence naturally keeps other cats at bay. Most importantly, these animals who would otherwise be euthanized, are allowed to live out the rest of their lives as outdoor cats.

**WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FAIRFAX COUNTY’S TNR PROGRAM?  
VISIT [WWW.FFCAS.ORG](http://WWW.FFCAS.ORG).**

## SHELTER RECEIVES CAT LITTER DONATION

On August 18, 2010, World’s Best Cat Litter™ donated 3,203 pounds of cat litter to the shelter on behalf of the FFCAS.

The company held a Facebook contest among local rescues, offering to donate 1/10 of a pound of litter per vote to the three organizations with the most votes. And because of the overwhelming support of the community, FFCAS—in partnership with Alley Cat Allies—received the most votes!



### LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

With the arrival of fall comes change to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. September 30th marks the ground-breaking on shelter renovations that will end in the spring of 2013 with a new and improved facility. Change is also happening within the FFCAS as we look for innovative ways to partner with the shelter, county officials, and our friends and neighbors in Fairfax County to broaden the types of programs we sponsor, including those geared toward senior pets. While our focus continues to be on helping those animals at the shelter with urgent needs, we understand that to further our core mission of helping animals in our community we must continue to evolve as an organization.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Grieve

## About FFCAS

The Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter (FFCAS) is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization located in Fairfax County, Virginia. Since 2006, the FFCAS has been aiding the Fairfax County Animal Shelter in its efforts to help lost and abandoned animals in our community.

More than 5,000 animals, including cats, dogs, small mammals, reptiles and livestock, come to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter each year. The shelter opens its doors — and its heart — to care for each and every animal. But, the shelter can't do it alone. Thankfully, the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter is here to help. Through donor and volunteer support, we provide medical care, food, supplies and so much more to help the shelter care for these loving animals. In doing so, we help save lives — together.

### FFCAS Board:

**Evelyn Grieve**, President

**Cynthia Kochendarfer**,  
Vice President and Treasurer

**Audra Meckstroth**, Secretary

**Karen Diviney**, Member

**Mary O'Malley**, Member



## 4TH ANNUAL K-9 KRAWL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2010

Join FFCAS in supporting this dog walk to increase awareness between domestic violence and the link to animal cruelty sponsored by the (FCPD) Victim Services Section and the Fairfax County Police Department.

Visit [www.ffcas.org/events](http://www.ffcas.org/events) for more information!

## SUPPORT THE FFCAS

Your tax-deductible donations help the FFCAS provide vital support and care to animals suffering from illness, injury, neglect, abandonment or abuse. Visit [www.ffcas.org](http://www.ffcas.org) to donate online or, to donate by mail, send a check payable to:

**Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter  
P.O. Box 2321, Centreville, Virginia 20122**



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FFCAS is a private organization, independent of the Fairfax County government. A copy of our financial statement is available upon written request to the Commonwealth of Virginia, Office of Consumer Affairs.

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