

Paws Print

FALL 2016

WWW.FFCAS.ORG

In Search of the Purr-fect Gift?

It is that time of year again! Families are planning their Thanksgiving Day feasts and starting to pull winter decorations out of storage. The holiday season has arrived. For many of us this begs the question, what gift should you get for that special family member of yours? Perhaps you are wondering what to get your young nephew. That new iPad has crossed your mind, or even tickets to see his favorite hockey team? Or maybe the gift of a new cat or dog would make you his new favorite Aunt? Perhaps you should think again?

Sure, a furry friend may seem like a great gift idea, but a decision to get a new family pet should be reserved for mom or dad. A family pet is a huge responsibility. There will be not only ongoing financial costs, but costs in time and effort caring for the pet's needs. Each year, approximately 7.6 million pets are forfeited because families no longer want to keep them. This number could decrease significantly if people would properly determine if their family and a new pet are a good match. So in this case maybe tickets to see the Capitals would be the best gift for your nephew!

However, perhaps you are a decision maker in your home and have responsibly decided to get a new pet in time for the holidays! There is no better place to search than the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. From cats and dogs to birds and small mammals your next pet could be just a shelter visit away. It is equally important to choose the right type of pet. Please make sure to confidently know the capabilities of your family as far as pet size, age and temperament for starters. Bringing a pet home for the holidays would not only make your season a lot brighter, but it would give an animal that lost everything a fresh start and a place to call home.

(Photos courtesy of FCAS Creative Team)



FFCAS supporters want to know...

Do holiday ornaments pose any dangers for pets?

See answer on page 3



Thank you for your support!

FRIENDS OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER (FFCAS) is a



FFCAS SUCCESS STORIES

The Pied Piper

Piper came to the shelter with her sister on Aug. 25 from the Prince William County Shelter because that shelter was low on space. Her sister was adopted shortly after their arrival. However, Piper was not lonely for long. Piper immediately stole the hearts of volunteers with her cheery smile.

After a few days at our shelter, a visible head tilt was noted—a sign that there could be possible neurological issues. A volunteer drove Piper to her consult at Bush Veterinary Neurology Service in Springfield for a consult, an MRI and a spinal tap. She was also given a genetic test to determine if she had a specific gene that would have meant a homemade diet for the rest of her life. The Friends paid for the medical expenses, which totaled slightly more than \$3,000. Luckily the genetic test came back negative for that gene. As for Piper's neurological issues, the tests showed that her problem is congenital and not due to an undiagnosed illness.

One thing was for certain—Piper's heart was as big as her smile. She continued to win over the shelter volunteers with her easy-go-lucky attitude and aura of happiness. How can you not love that face?!

Word spread about Piper's attitude and calmness around other dogs, and she was adopted in October. Her new family stated that they just want to give her a good home with lots of love. We hope that Piper has a long, healthy life with her new family.

Pet Sponsors are Needed

Not everyone is able to open their home to an animal. However, you can still help them find a forever home through our Pet Sponsorship Program. You may sponsor a pet so it has reduced adoption fees, or you may provide a media sponsorship. This allows us to “boost” a post on Facebook about an animal of your choosing in hopes of reaching a potential adopter who would not have otherwise learned about the animal.

Visit the [Pet Sponsorship](#) section of our website to learn how you can help!



Your donations help pets like these.

[Make a donation](#) today!



Get Social! Visit us on  Facebook  Twitter and  Instagram

HELPING PAWS HIGHLIGHTS

Dog Days of Summer—Clear the Shelter Event

There is power in numbers! On August 13 Missy's Farm Rescue & Sanctuary sponsored free adoptions at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Thanks to their generosity, 28 animals found their forever homes! Additionally, Frufetti was on hand, selling ice-cold treats; a portion of the proceeds was donated to the Friends.

(Not a) Lazy-Boy

A shout-out to Lazy-Boy in Fairfax who donated a portion of their proceeds to the Friends this past summer.



Spreading Awareness

We were invited by the Fairfax County Police Dept. to have a table at the 2016 K-9 Krawl. Your donations make our Pet Haven program possible, offering a safe place to house animals belonging to pet owners suffering from domestic violence. Thank you!

Trunk-or-Treat

On October 26, The Friends participated in the Fair Lakes "Trunk-or-Treat" event sponsored by Whole Foods and Let's Party. Our "Penguin House" won first prize for "Best Trunk" and we were awarded a \$500 gift card to Whole Foods. Thanks to our sponsors and all who volunteered or participated in the event!



Meow-Meow

Once again, the Friends were proud to host Meowleen on October 29. The event covered the adoption fees of 23 cats at a time when the Shelter's Kitty City was near capacity.

A Heartfelt Thanks

Thanks go out to a few very generous donors, who, as it turns out, are also shelter volunteers! One of the donations was given in honor of a wedding anniversary, and will be put toward "Black Fur Day" on November 25. On this day, all adoption fees will be waived. Who said Black Friday deals only apply to retail stores?!

From the cover ... Holiday décor and trimmings can pose choking dangers and digestion issues for your pets. Always make sure that ornaments, candy, toys and decorations are out of your pet's reach.

FUN WAYS TO SUPPORT US!

KARIN'S FLORIST

There's still time to say thanks to those you love! Karin's Florist in Vienna, Va., is donating five percent of the net proceeds from sales of their Pet Lovers line to benefit the Friends through 2016.



IT'S CFC TIME!

For those of you who are Federal Employees, consider making a donation to the Friends through the Combined Federal Campaign.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you!

We are thankful to you, for all of your support over the past 10 years. Stay tuned, as we having some exciting announcements headed your way for 2017!

About FFCAS

The Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter (FFCAS) is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) organization that was founded in 2006 to support the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, and to help improve the quality of life of companion animals in our community. FFCAS funds professional veterinary care for shelter animals suffering from illness, injury or abuse. FFCAS also offers other programs, such as funding for behavioral intervention training, to help make pets more adoptable.

FFCAS Board Members

Evelyn Grieve, President

Mary O'Malley, Vice President

Jill Westeyn, Secretary

Karen Diviney, Ex Officio Member

Rita Altman, Member

FFCAS Fact!

FFCAS continues to exceed the goal of expending well over 90-percent of donated dollars to directly support homeless animals at the shelter. To view our latest Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements, or to make a donation, visit our website at www.ffcas.org.



It's that time of year again...

If you are a federal employee, consider making a donation to the Friends through the [Combined Federal Campaign](#). This year's theme is "Show Some Love." We'd love for you to do just that!

Designate 88219 as your charity today.

