

# Paws & Print

Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter Newsletter

Winter 2017

www.ffcas.org

## Pets and Poison Prevention

National Poison Prevention Week is March 19-25, 2017. While we often associate accidental poisonings with people, household pets succumb to serious illness, even death, each year as a result of this preventable hazard. Thankfully, there are steps we can take to help minimize these incidents.

When it comes to preventing accidental poisonings in dogs or cats, being cautious to what is left out around the house, or what is being fed to pets is key. Coffee, seasonal plants, chocolate and antifreeze are toxins for dogs. Did you know that grapes and raisins are also detrimental? According to [pets.webmd.com](http://pets.webmd.com), "Grapes and raisins can cause kidney failure in dogs, and just a small amount can make a dog sick. Also indicated on [pets.webmd.com](http://pets.webmd.com), is the danger posed to cats by an excess intake of tuna. "... a steady diet of tuna prepared for humans can lead to malnutrition if fed to felines because it won't have all of the daily nutrients a cat needs." Additionally, too much tuna can cause mercury poisoning. Taking the time to research what may be harmful around the house for your pet can make all the difference in a pet's safety.

There are other pets that are susceptible to poisoning as well. Birds may enjoy seeds, but did you know that some seeds include cyanide, which would poison a bird? [A website designed for bird lovers](#), indicates what seeds are not safe. Reptiles can also fall victim to poisoning if owners are not careful. [Another trustworthy website](#) gives reptile owners a couple of poison prevention tips when feeding with live animals.

Having a pet at home can be one of the most valuable relationships we have. While one may show love with affection, please do not forget to show them love when it comes to poison prevention. If you suspect your pet may be suffering due to exposure to a toxin, please contact your veterinary center or nearest animal hospital immediately.

(Photos courtesy of FCAS Creative Team)



**FFCAS supporters want to know...**

How can I volunteer with the Friends?

See answer on page 3



*Thank you for your support!*

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



# FFCAS SUCCESS STORIES

## What a Sweet Harley

Harley is a five-year-old miniature pinscher who came to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter with a disc problem, which made him unable to use his back legs. After initial consults with veterinarians, who made a treatment plan, the call went out for help. About a dozen volunteers showed up for a Harley "physical therapy" training class to provide twice daily sessions and hot compresses for his back. The Friends is providing the funding for weekly acupuncture, also. His doctor sees definite progress and now Harley can stand on his back legs! This happy little bundle of energy is a special needs dog who is currently at the shelter looking for his forever home.



## She Bought the Farm!

As a result of a recent hoarding case, the Shelter welcomed many "barn cats" into its facility in an attempt to find them homes. Barn cats are cats who are not social enough to be placed in homes, but still deserve a place to call home. As you can imagine, it is difficult to find homes for barn cats in Fairfax County.

Timing could not have been more perfect for two of the barn cats and Friends board member Mary O'Malley! Mary purchased the farm of her dreams (equipped with a barn) just before Christmas. The next day, she went to the shelter and picked up two of the barn cats.

Tea and Crumpet have the same basic needs as other cats: food, shelter and a safe environment. Mary's first task was to acclimatize the cats to the barn (similar to how you would get a dog or cat used to its new home). In addition to any rodents that may be crawling around, Mary provides food and water. She also ensures that Tea and Crumpet have lots of hay in the barn for them to burrow into to keep warm. Mary takes them for routine care at the local veterinarian's office. Tea (pictured) and Crumpet, are enjoying life in the O'Malley barn!

The Shelter still has barn cats it needs to place. A warehouse or any other space where there are people to take care of them who understand they may never be pets would work perfectly. If you know of such a place, or have friends with a barn, please pass along the Shelter's contact information to them.

*Your donations help pets like these.*

*Make a donation today!*



Get Social! Visit us on  Facebook  Twitter and  Instagram

# HELPING PAWS HIGHLIGHTS

## SAVE THE DATE!

Join us on Sunday, April 9 for the “Break a Sweat for a Homeless Pet” fundraising walk/run. [Visit the events section of our website](#) for more information.

## Altar'd State of Mind

Mondays just got better! Every Monday, from now until April 17, Altar'd State at the Fair Oaks Mall is donating 10 percent of the day's net proceeds to the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter as part of their Mission Mondays program.

## Home for the Holidays

We are grateful to Shelter staff and volunteers who helped take Polaroid photos of all of the animals that went home for the holidays. Each adopter who took home an animal in December had the option to hang their newest family photo on the tree displayed proudly in the Shelter's lobby.



## That's an UGLY Sweater!

Thanks to your support, the Friends sponsored Ugly Sweater Day on Dec. 10 at FCAS. All adoption fees were 50-percent off and paid for by the Friends. 21 animals were adopted.

## A Heart-Warming Tail

FCAS caretaker Liz Anne was the proud adopter of Neno, her “foster fail.” The cat was found as stray by a citizen. When he arrived at FCAS, it was determined that Neno, who had an old injury to his left front leg, would need an amputation. The Friends covered the cost of the surgery. Having fallen in love with him while recovering, Liz Anne, Jake and her dog Lily permanently welcomed Neno into their home. Liz Anne said, “He's my little buddy. He's just an amazing cat...”



**From the cover ...** We are always looking for volunteers for assistance with events, our website, fundraising, etc. Fill out an application on our website, [ffcas.org](http://ffcas.org) and someone will contact you.

## FUN WAYS TO SUPPORT US!

### KARIN'S FLORIST NOW EXTENDED!

Now through June, our friends at [Karin's Florist](#) will donate five percent of the sales from their pet line to FFCAS!



### GOT EMAIL?

Help us save money on postage by sharing your email address with us [via our website](#). We NEVER share or sell your personal information.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### IT'S A NEW YEAR!

Thank you for ushering in 2017 with us. We are grateful for your support of homeless animals.

We are keeping busy by planning events for 2017, as well as looking into even MORE ways that we can provide support to the animals at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

## 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](#).



## Need a new license plate?

Want to show your support for spaying and neutering? Buy a specialty plate, and \$15 from each sale goes toward spay-and-neuter programs in your area. To order, visit [www.dmv.virginia.gov](http://www.dmv.virginia.gov).

