

THERE IS CHANGE. AND THEN THERE IS TRANSFORMATION. *Page 4*

 AnimalFriends'

FREE!

Petsburgh

Magazine

SUMMER 2023
Volume 5, No. 2

*Be an
Animal Friend
All Summer
Long!*

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**A LIFELONG
LOVE**

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**ARE YOU READY
TO ADOPT A DOG?**

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THINKING OUTSIDE THE CAGE



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For more than 80 years, Animal Friends has continually set – and raised – the bar for humane programming in the Pittsburgh region. Our 75-acre campus serves as a center of compassion and hope for thousands of homeless pets annually. Our full-service companion animal resource community serves our region by providing tens of thousands of affordable services, and impacting more than 100,000 lives through humane education, pet behavior classes, pet therapy and our pet food bank each year. Animal Friends is proud to continue to save lives ... simply put, because it’s what we do.

MISSION STATEMENT

To rescue, rehabilitate and rehome animals in crisis, ensure healthy pets through education, advocacy and affordable services, and inspire a community where the animal-human bond is celebrated and nurtured.

VISION STATEMENT

A humane and compassionate future for every animal friend.

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There is change.

And then there is transformation.

By Kathleen Beaver, President & CEO

Change is one of those tricky little words. It strikes fear in some and energizes others. But transformation is the deep end of the pool. It's not just tweaking this and that. It's big, foundational change.

Animal Friends is all about transformation. Our life-affirming mission and progressive programming are built on the belief that transformation is indeed possible. Consider the thousands of animals who come to us each year. So many arrive fearful, displaced, confused and broken. But we know this isn't who they really are. It's our job to uncover their true potential buried inside. And with an experienced staff and a corps of truly amazing volunteers, the **transformation of these lives happens** – every day.

There are other transformations happening within Animal Friends, too.

Dr. Miguel Ortiz, DVM, has joined us as our new Chief Lifesaving Officer. Dr. Ortiz will take on the critical role of providing leadership and guidance to our animal operations departments – from when an animal enters our doors, through the care process and supporting successful outcomes and new homes. A graduate of Purdue Veterinary School and Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, Dr. Ortiz looks forward to



putting his leadership, out-of-the-box thinking and strategic planning skills into practice to support Animal Friends' future. Of course, he is also a seasoned veterinary professional and is passionate about the opportunity to advance animal welfare in an equitable and sustainable way.

Earlier this year, we welcomed two others into leadership positions at Animal Friends.



Patty Maurer has joined us as our new Chief Development & Communications Officer. A highly experienced non-profit professional, Patty's experience ranges from broad fundraising skills to event



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management and strategic planning. From working for large higher education organizations to small community-based non-profits, her knowledge, energy and passion for Animal Friends' mission will certainly serve her well.



We are also pleased to announce the promotion of **Stefanie Zukowski** to the role of Chief Administrative Officer. Since joining us in 2021, Stefanie has transformed our technology landscape, overseen numerous internal facility

upgrades, established a new Sustainability Committee and perfected the logistics of key projects and events like Black Tie & Tails. With her broad experience in leadership in the private sector along with her (seemingly) tireless energy, we look forward to Stefanie also providing oversight of our People and Culture Departments – Volunteer Services and Human Resources.

I know first-hand the power of our team and the potential to save even more lives in our communities. From staff and volunteers to donors and community partners, ***we are always stronger together.***



I encourage you to visit Animal Friends this summer to see the many transformations that are happening.”



I encourage you to visit Animal Friends this summer to see the many transformations that are happening. From new, redesigned spaces, to lives healing and thriving, to new faces joining an already excellent team who will continue to transform the landscape for the region's pets and those who love them.

Feed their fun.

Let's do good for good pets everywhere.



**FEED YOURS.
HELP MORE.**

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Success Story:

Cleo

By Dr. Donald Consla, Lead Wellness Veterinarian

In October 2022, Warren and Sonja Snyder brought their large mixed-breed dog, Cleo, to the Animal Wellness Center following their veterinarian's diagnosis of her bladder stone. The then-8-year-old suffered from frequent urinary tract infections (UTIs) and when treatment with antibiotics, painkillers and a special diet failed to alleviate Cleo's symptoms, her veterinarian recommended surgical intervention.

"She's so spoiled, and we love her so much," Sonja said of the dog she and her husband found as a stray. "We just did not have the money they asked for the operation."

After researching options, the Snyders found Animal Friends' Howard Ash Animal Wellness Center. The Clinic Services team examined Cleo and performed an ultrasound that revealed a 4-centimeter stone irritating and thickening her urinary bladder wall. Given the right circumstances, such as a change in urine pH, minerals form bladder stones.

The team recommended a cystotomy, the surgical removal of the stone via an incision in the urinary bladder. Knowing the financial constraints facing the family, we utilized the Save My Pet Fund to cover a portion of the surgery.

Dr. Amanda Zetwo, Medical Director of Clinic & Community Services, performed the cystotomy and flushed the urinary bladder to ensure that no debris remained. Since the procedure went so well, Dr. Zetwo and the clinical staff also spayed Cleo while she was under anesthesia.

Cleo recovered nicely, and her incision fully healed. A post-op analysis of the stone determined that it consisted of phosphorous- and magnesium-based struvite crystals. This often occurs when the urine pH is elevated, often secondary to a UTI.



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Cleo was placed on a specialized diet that decreases the pH and balances the minerals of urine to prevent stone formation. While Cleo will need to remain on the diet long term, we are hopeful that it will prevent her from needing another surgery.

Today, Cleo is fully able to enjoy life with Warren, Sonja and her canine sibling, Foxy (formerly Gypsy), whom Warren adopted last year through the Animal Friends for Veterans program.

Sonja credits Animal Friends with saving Cleo's life. "Animal Friends has so many great programs, events and training," she said, also noting the shelter's friendly staff and employees.

Visit ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/SaveMyPet for more information or to make a contribution to help other pets like Cleo.

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Cranial Cruciate Ligament Tears in Dogs

By Dr. Donald Consla, Lead Wellness Veterinarian

The most common soft tissue musculoskeletal injury in dogs is a tear of the Cranial Cruciate Ligament (CrCL) which is the same ligament as the ACL in people. Cruciate means “x” and there are two of these ligaments in the knee, one that goes from front to back and one that goes from back to front and they cross forming an “x”. The CrCL serves to keep the tibia (shin bone) in line with the knee and femur (thigh bone).

Injuries usually occur in well-muscled, active dogs although they can happen to any breed. Typically, a dog will be running and take a sharp turn or dip in elevation, cry out and then pull up the affected rear leg. The lameness is usually dramatic, and they will not want to put any weight on the leg.



When this ligament is torn, we can identify a few different things on exam, both related to the CrCL's normal function. The first is a cranial drawer where the veterinarian can move the tibia back in line with the knee because it slides back and forth like a drawer. Sometimes sedation is needed to feel this in strong or tense dogs. The second is a tibial thrust when the hock (ankle) is flexed and the tibia pops forward. After the exam, x-rays are taken to assess the knee. While we cannot see the CrCL on x-ray, we can see evidence of inflammation within

the joint space secondary to a CrCL tear. All of these indications are strongly suspicious of a tear of the CrCL.

There are two main options for treatment. Surgical correction is ideal especially in large, active dogs. The standard procedure is a Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy or TPLO. This is done by a specialty surgeon and has the best chance of getting the dog back to normal activity. Another common

The Cranial Cruciate Ligament (CrCL) is the same ligament as the ACL in people.



Injuries usually occur in well-muscled, active dogs although they can happen to any breed. Typically, a dog will be running and take a sharp turn or dip in elevation, cry out and then pull up the affected rear leg. The lameness is usually dramatic, and they will not want to put any weight on the leg.

procedure is Lateral Suture Repair. This is less costly but not a good option for larger dogs as they can break the hardware used for the procedure. With either surgery, it is important to strictly adhere to postoperative physical therapy regimens.

Medical management uses pain medicine, joint supplementation, laser therapy, physical therapy and other non-surgical modalities to keep the patient comfortable while the body deposits scar tissue in the knee to try and stabilize it. While healing will eventually occur, it will never be complete, and the joint will never be stable, so arthritis is more likely to develop. However, some sedentary small breed dogs will return to normal function with this approach.

Seeing your dog hurt themselves during play or limping in pain can be frightening but knowing it could be a common injury with treatment options can give you piece of mind when dealing with this situation. Call your veterinarian if you suspect a CrCL injury in your dog.



Featured Adoptable Dog:

Yogi

By Laura Wittman, Animal Friends Volunteer

Say "hello" to Yogi! Yogi is an adorable almost three-year-old boy who came to Animal Friends through our Humane Investigations Department in 2020 as just a weeks-old puppy. Unfortunately, due to Yogi's case he grew up in the shelter, but along the way he's warmed the hearts of many volunteers and staff and quickly became one of my good friends. As I've watched Yogi grow, I've marveled at the great strides he's made during his time at Animal Friends.

Because Yogi's world has been limited to the shelter every new experience is very exciting for him but at times, he can get overwhelmed. When my husband and I first took Yogi on a car ride he was very nervous and apprehensive. With the help of Yogi's other friends, we worked persistently to slowly acclimate Yogi to the car by taking short trips and slowly increasing the distance over time. Now Yogi is an absolute champ in the car! He loves looking out the window to watch the world go by and take in all the smells. It's amazing because Yogi is now so relaxed in the car that he falls asleep. His car rides and walks off campus always end in a trip for his favorite treat – vanilla ice cream!

When he's not out and about off campus, Yogi loves to play and do enrichment activities. One of his favorite places to spend his time is in the Enrichment Suite where he loves to do treat puzzles, sniffing mats and play "find it" all of which help keep him mentally engaged and stimulated. He also loves to spend an afternoon walking in the woods taking his time to enjoy the different smells of every blade of grass. Plenty of physical activity and mental workouts are essential to keeping Yogi happy, calm and relaxed.

Yogi has come so far with his manners and knows sit, down and walks very well on a leash. His new adoptive family will need to remain committed to

“

He loves looking out the window to watch the world go by and take in all the smells. It's amazing because Yogi is now so relaxed in the car that he falls asleep. His car rides and walks off campus always end in a trip for his favorite treat – vanilla ice cream!”



his training. Not only will this reinforce the positive foundation that Yogi has built with his training, but it will help establish a special bond between Yogi and his new family. You'll have plenty of help as Yogi is part of our foster-to-adopt program which means for four weeks our trainers at Animal Friends will work with you and Yogi on his behavior and training within his new home.

Because Yogi is a high-energy boy, he is looking for an adult-only home who can keep up with his activity and training. If you think Yogi is the missing piece to your family, please stop by Animal Friends and talk to the Adoption team. Yogi is a wonderful, loving dog who will certainly be an amazing addition to your family!

Rosie's Rule

Rosie's Rule dogs have been outfitted with GPS-enabled collars from Fi Smart Dog Collar. Animal Friends has teamed up with Fi to provide collars for our canine residents who are at an increased risk of becoming separated from their handler and not being safely reunited. Once outfitted with a Fi collar, Rosie's Rule dogs will keep their collar after adoption along with a one-year subscription to the Fi App — at no cost to their new family!



Learn more
and support
Rosie's Rule



BOOKIE

Bookie is an energetic and loving dog with expressive eyes, soft ears and a wiggly bum. Volunteers affectionately refer to him as a "land seal" due to his love of relaxing in the sunshine and observing his surroundings. He is working hard with staff and volunteers on learning manners and appropriately channeling his high energy. Bookie seeks an adult-only home with adopters who will work with him daily to ensure he blossoms into a well-behaved gentleman. Bookie may be able to live with a canine sibling, pending a successful meet-and-greet at the shelter. It's not a gamble to say that Bookie will win your heart!

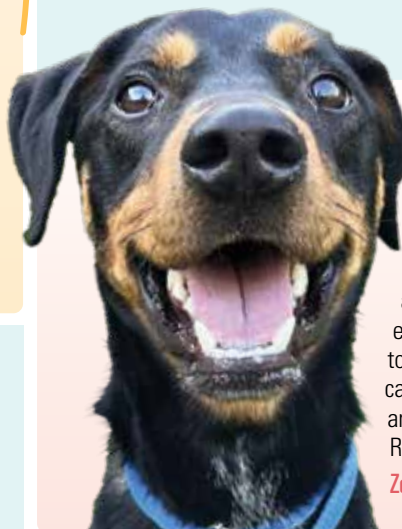
Bookie would like to thank Rosemary Mitsch for her generosity.



TIKI Meet Tiki! This sweet, 3-year-old girl came to Animal Friends through a Humane Investigations case. Although Tiki was living with many dogs in her past, she may be a little hesitant when meeting new dog friends, but pending a successful meet and greet, Tiki could potentially have a canine sibling. She is learning how to trust people and build her confidence, so Tiki would benefit from an adult-only home or with children 13 years or older who can be patient and respect her space.



JOHNNY Meet Johnny! This 4.5-year-old boy came to us as a stray, but despite living outside for most of his life, he has a whole lot of love and attention to give. Johnny spent some time in a foster home where he was able to learn some basic manners and how to live in a home environment. Johnny is a playful, high-energy boy who can live in a home with kids at least 13 years old. He could potentially live with another dog pending a successful meet and greet but would prefer no feline roommates.



ZEUS

Meet Zeus! He returned to Animal Friends when he was no longer the right fit for his family. This pup has a strong nose and playful personality! He is energetic and eager to explore his environment through walks and enrichment training. Zeus needs an adopter dedicated to utilizing positive-reinforcement training to improve his canine manners and loose-leash walking. He would prefer an adult-only home or one with children 13 years and older. Ready to meet the almighty Zeus?

Zeus thanks Maryann D. Balish for her gift in memory of Maya Moo.

Are you interested in adopting? Visit ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/Dogs to learn more about adopting from Animal Friends and to meet more adoptable dogs!

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ADOPTABLE DOGS

I'm a
**Resie's
Rule**
dog!



TANGO Tango will make your heart dance with joy! Since coming to Animal Friends through our Humane Investigations Department, he has worked with staff and volunteers on gaining confidence. Once this shy guy warms up to you, he will show you his loving and gentle personality. He loves walks with his canine friends and may be able to live with dogs in the future, pending a successful meet-and-greet. Tango seeks a quiet, adult-only home or one with children 13 years and older where he can continue to work on positive-reinforcement training. Tango is ready to take the lead in your life! Are you ready to be his partner?

Tango barks "thank you" to Tracy Barber for her gift.



PEACE

Meet Peace! This playful and energetic boy came to Animal Friends through our Humane Investigations Department. He will shower you with love and make you smile when he gets the zoomies. As part of our SCI Fayette Training Program, he is residing with selected inmates at the State Correctional Institution at Fayette, where he enjoys enrichment activities and positive-reinforcement training. His ideal adopter will continue to teach him how to be his best self. He would do best in a home with children at least 13 years old. Won't you give Peace a chance?



LUCILLE Meet Lucille! She first came to Animal Friends in 2020 as a transfer from a partner organization. She returned to the shelter in 2022 through no fault of her own. This affectionate, social dog hopes to find her perfect match this time! Lucille loves walks, car rides, play and enrichment activities. She gets excited to see her favorite people and loves snuggling with them. Lucille seeks a home where she is the only pet, so she will be the center of your attention! Schedule an appointment to meet Lucille, and you will be saying "I love Lucy!"

Lucille is grateful to Joseph E. Barbusio for his gift in memory of Amelia.

I'm a
**Resie's
Rule**
dog!



VENTURA Ventura is a sweet and handsome boy who came to Animal Friends through our Humane Investigations Department. He enjoys belly rubs, tennis balls, walks and car rides. This energetic pup will happily slow down to get brushed. Ventura is working on his manners and crate training in a foster home. He would do best in a house with children at least 6 years old. Ventura could potentially live with a canine roommate, pending a successful meet-and-greet. He would prefer not to live with a cat or small animals. Ventura deserves a fresh start with a loving family. Could it be yours?

Ventura thanks Carolyn M. Schrader for her support.



JUNO Meet Juno! He was returned to Animal Friends due to no fault of his own. Gentle Juno excels at treat-based enrichment training, which redirects his energy when his arthritis makes physical activity challenging. Juno would prefer to be the only pet in a quiet, adult-only home where he can have all of the love to himself. His perfect match would continue his positive-reinforcement and enrichment training. Meet this gentleman and you will understand why he is named after the goddess of love!

Juno would like to thank Charles Bossong Jr. for his gift.

Not only do in-kind donations benefit our homeless dogs, cats and rabbits they also benefit the hungry pets whose owners are clients of dozens of our food pantry and Meals on Wheels partners. Through your generosity, we're able to serve as many pets in need as possible.

And, for that, we cannot thank you enough.





Studies show that one of the many reasons pets are surrendered to animal shelters is due to behavioral issues. Our Pet Retention team came across a discussion thread on Maddie's Pet Forum about community-based behavior support and decided to explore it to get ahead of the problem."

Need help?
Contact our Pet
Retention team at
412.536.3885

GoodPup + CUDDLY + Animal Friends

By Cecilia Oliveros, Community Resource Coordinator

Studies show that one of the many reasons pets are surrendered to animal shelters is due to behavioral issues. Our Pet Retention team came across a discussion thread on Maddie's Pet Forum about community-based behavior support and decided to explore it to get ahead of the problem. We started by creating a Free Behavior Resources handout that we could distribute at events to our onsite Chow Wagon clients and other members of the public in need of free training support.

We also reached out to GoodPup, an online training platform, to learn more about their services and how we could utilize them to assist community members in need. We became shelter partners with them in April and we are now thrilled to offer their services as an option for people with transportation and scheduling barriers that make an in-person class unfeasible. Shortly after we became partners with GoodPup, they partnered with CUDDLY, a fundraising and wish list platform our team already utilizes. Now, the public can buy GoodPup training scholarships for our Pet Retention Department on CUDDLY to assist pet owners in need!

The last stage of this puzzle was organizing a free behavior event in Allentown in

partnership with local business owner Andrew Marrangoni of All Together Better. This event was truly a group effort with multiple Animal Friends' dog trainers volunteering their time and Andrew volunteering his time and training studio at no-cost. We were very thankful to host the event in Allentown which is more centrally located and accessible to folks with transportation barriers. We were very pleased with how the event went especially since this was our first time organizing a free community-based behavior event. We had three different sessions focusing on

jumpy behavior, enrichment and loose-leash walking and there was ample interest and attendance in all three sessions. We are excited to provide more community behavior events in other Pittsburgh communities in the future!

In our Pet Retention Department, we work hard to meet people where they are because we know that pet owners have a lot on their plates. Not only are they struggling to afford pet food and veterinary care, but they may also be struggling to afford their own food and medical care. We hope this new branch of our Pet Retention programming can be another key resource. In order to care for the pets in our community, we must also care about their people too!



**Sponsor a week
of FREE GoodPup
training!**

EVENT *calendar*

To register or learn more about upcoming events at Animal Friends, visit ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/Events.



Use the QR code
to view our Event
Calendar!

SATURDAY, JULY 8



AWARENESS EVENT

1-5 p.m. | Cobblehaus Brewing Co. at the Falls, 1015 Leesburg Station Road, 16137

Come for the brews and learn more about Animal Friends' lifesaving work. We'll be onsite at the gorgeous 7-acre lot of Cobblehaus at the Falls where you can enjoy beers on tap, food and live music!

SATURDAY, JULY 15

JAM ON WALNUT – NO BAD JUJU

7-11 p.m. | Shadyside, 5442 Walnut Street Pittsburgh, PA 15232

The most anticipated block party of the summer is back! Jam on Walnut is an outdoor concert series, featuring No Bad Juju. Make a day of it and enjoy some shopping followed by a visit to the local bars and restaurants! Proceeds from this concert will benefit Animal Friends.



FRIDAY, AUG. 18



BUNNY YOGA

6-7 p.m. | Animal Friends

Wind down from the week with a relaxing hoppy hour of Bunny Yoga with Jen, from Jen's Yoga Zen! Practice your Sasangasana, or rabbit pose, with the professionals – our very own rabbit residents.



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

My Dad will donate a percentage of his commission on every transaction back to Animal Friends when you mention this ad.

Sophie the Treeing Walker Coonhound
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Featured Adoptable Rabbit:

Hoppy

By Natalie Shearer, Animal Friends Volunteer

Hoppy is a six-year-old New Zealand mix who sure has a story to tell. She was first brought to Animal Friends as a baby in the spring of 2017 with her mother and siblings. Hoppy and her family went into foster until they were old enough to be made available for adoption. Everyone was adopted except for Hoppy and her sister Hoppers. They ruled the BunRuns with their sassy behavior for a year and a half – and all of the other rabbits knew they were in charge. Hoppers was adopted after one year and 10 months and Hoppy was finally adopted after almost two years at the shelter.

Unfortunately, Hoppy was returned to Animal Friends about two years later when her owner was no longer able to care for her. She was only with us for a

few months when she was adopted again. About two years later, she was returned again when her new owner could no longer care for her. Now she is six years old and back at Animal Friends for the third time. Since rabbits can live 10 to 12 years (and sometimes even longer), she has quite a lot of life left to live!

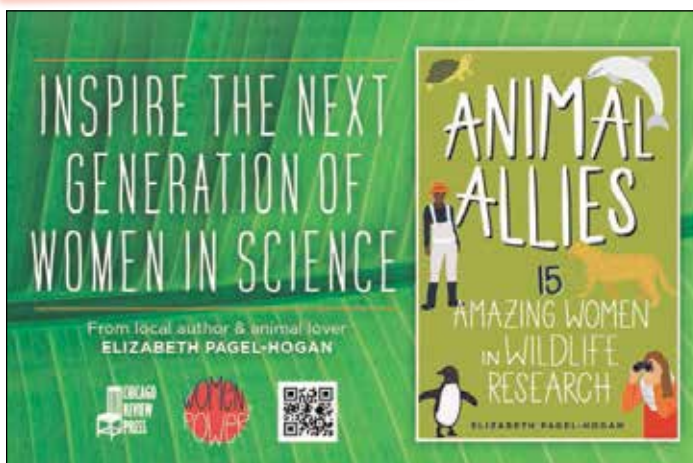


She was only with us for a few months when she was adopted again. About two years later, she was returned again when her new owner could no longer care for her. Now she is six years old and back at Animal Friends for the third time.



Hoppy is a rabbit who knows what she wants – and she is not afraid to tell you. Her breakfast and dinner must be on time, or you may be greeted with some angry grunts. She prefers to be out and about so she can explore her surroundings, so it is important to bunny-proof your home if you want to make her a part of your family. She lived with cats in her foster home and was not afraid of them, in fact, she thought she was their boss. Loud noises and a lot of commotion can stress her out, so a quiet household with children 13 years or older is preferred.

While she is quite a sassy and opinionated girl, once she gets to know and trust you, she will let you see her sweet side. Hoppy enjoys being petted, lounging on the couch and watching TV. She deserves the best life, and a family who can appreciate and love her, just as she is.



The Stained Glass Cellar

I can turn your pet photo into a Stained Glass Window portrait. Prices starting at \$250.00. For info contact me, David at The Stained Glass Cellar 412-613-8088 or E-Mail at DNS8110@AOL.com or Facebook Page The Stained Glass Cellar



ADOPTABLE RABBITS



RAIN Rain came to Animal Friends when his family could no longer care for him. He has a sunny disposition in addition to a sassy side. He likes running around and exploring his surroundings. He appreciates affection and will climb into your lap once he knows you. Rain is a family-friendly rabbit who can live with children and potentially a rabbit-friendly cat. Do you hope Rain is in your future?

Rain thanks *The Nourishing Life LLC* for their generosity.



ARCHIE Meet Archie, an adorable bun who came to Animal Friends because his owner had too many rabbits. He loves to receive pets and will gladly eat greens straight from your hand. Archie literally jumps for joy by binky high in the air. He seeks a quiet, patient home where his lovely personality can blossom. Are you ready for Archie to hop into your life and heart?

Archie is grateful to *Melissa Dolan* for her support.



THUMPKIN Thumpkin came to Animal Friends as a transfer from a partner organization. He is an active bun who loves to explore and often gets the zoomies. The saying "curious as a cat" could apply to this rabbit! Thumpkin will communicate what's on his mind by thumping. He seeks a family who can keep up with his adventures and give him the love he deserves. Could it be yours?

Thumpkin would like to thank *Maryann D. Balish* for her support in honor of Bailey.



DUSTY Meet Dusty! Dusty is a 1-year-old Holland Lop who was surrendered to Animal Friends when his previous owner had too many rabbits. Dusty is a bun who would rather explore than play, but does enjoy some head scratches when he's comfortable. Is Dusty the boy for you?



REX

Meet Rex! This friendly bunny came to Animal Friends when his owners had to move and couldn't take him. Rex is an active man who loves to zoomie and binky until his heart's content. He appreciates having access to yoga mats, which protect his sensitive feet and provide him with exercise space. He is very inquisitive and enjoys exploring. Once Rex gets to know you, he will lie down and accept pets. Want to welcome Rex to your family?

Rex binkies in excitement for *Susan Zytneck's* gift.

Are you interested in adopting? Visit ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/Rabbits to learn more about adopting from Animal Friends and to meet more adoptable rabbits!

Get to know our rabbits by coming to our BunRuns every Saturday from 2:30-4 p.m. where their personalities really shine!

SPONSOR AN ANIMAL! >>

Pittsburgh Magazine sponsorships are a great way to honor or say thanks to a friend or pet. And, they make perfect gifts! If you would like to sponsor an animal, please complete the form to the right.

x \$100 FOR AN ANIMAL SPONSORSHIP

I would like to sponsor a ...

☐ CAT ☐ DOG ☐ RABBIT ☐ WHOEVER NEEDS IT MOST TOTAL \$

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Send this form with your donation to Animal Friends, 562 Camp Horne Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. All donations are tax-deductible. Or, make your donation online at ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/DonateNow.

Ready to adopt a dog?
Visit our website at
ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/Dogs

Are You Ready to Adopt a Dog?

By Veronica Rigatti, VSA-CDT, Canine Behavior Specialist

A dog's unconditional love is rewarding on its own, but studies also have shown that interacting with animals decreases stress, lowers blood pressure and boosts one's mood. And when you adopt a dog, not only are you helping your new pup, but you are opening shelter space for another canine in need.

Nonetheless, adopting a dog is a big responsibility. Consider the following factors to find out if a dog is the right fit for you and your family:



1 Review your day-to-day schedule

What is your current schedule? Do you work long hours without much free time, or are you newly retired with a lot of time on your hands? How will a dog fit into your life? You need to determine the type of dog who will best fit into your daily routine.

2 Plan ahead

Do you have big upcoming plans, like a job change, move or vacation? Will you welcome children in the future or start caring for older relatives? It is important to find a dog who can transition to your lifestyle changes.

3 Consider your hobbies

Are you a homebody who enjoys cuddling on the couch or a weekend warrior looking forward to hiking in the park? Choose a dog who fits your lifestyle.

Would you like to take your dog to the dog park or dog-friendly events? You should find a dog who is relaxed riding in the car and interacting with other dogs and strangers.

4 Examine your household

Does your home thrive on chaos or stability? Do you regularly invite guests to your house? Then, a dog who is fearful of strangers probably is not the best fit. Do children reside at or regularly visit your home? If so, choose a dog who is comfortable with people of all ages.

5 Accept the amount of training you are willing to do

While all dogs benefit from training, some require it more than others. Are you willing to adopt a dog with behavioral challenges who you will work with utilizing positive-reinforcement training?

6 Listen to the professionals

Animal Friends staff and volunteers are very familiar with our adoptable dogs and can match you with the pup who is the best fit for you. They will also help you navigate your dog's transition from the shelter to your home. Adoption Counselors strive to set both you and your dog up for success!

Animal Friends' support doesn't end with adoption. Counselors are available at any point during your new family member's lifetime to answer questions or, if needed, refer you to other resources such as the Behavior Department or Animal Wellness Clinic. We want to do everything we can to make your lives together the best yet!

If you are ready to adopt a dog, visit our website at ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/Dogs to view our current available dogs or contact our Adoption team at AdoptionInfo@ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org or 412.847.7002.



It Was Only a Handshake:

How to Greet a Cat

By Suzanne Denk, CSB-C, Dip.FBST, Animal Enrichment Specialist

One of the most significant things we can do for our pets and their quality of life is to offer them choices. This includes the choice to be touched and handled. Giving your cat control in these situations can build trust, reduce stress and prevent nips.

Cats are always communicating with us by using their bodies. Ears, tail and whisker position may indicate how your cat is feeling at a given time. Dilated or constricted pupils may be dependent on lighting but can also show your cat's mood. Notice what they are saying with their body before reaching to pet them.

Offering an extended finger towards your cat and letting them choose to touch your finger with their nose is a great introductory hello and like offering a handshake! A friendly cat-to-cat greeting is to touch noses. If your cat wants more interaction, they will sniff or touch your finger. If they don't touch their nose to your finger or they move away, they don't want to be touched at that time.

As you continue petting, pay attention to your cat's behavior. Cats prefer petting on the cheeks, chin, chest and ears. Are they asking for more pets? Do they lean in for more? Pause with the handling and see if they move away. Is their body language signaling they don't

want any more petting? If we offer a stranger a handshake and they try to hug us, we would not be comfortable! Offer your cat the same respect.

Letting your cat choose how much handling they receive and when they are handled builds trust with you. It also allows your cat to feel comfortable in their home and space. Your cat may even seek more attention when they trust that they are in control!

Cats are always communicating with us by using their bodies. Ears, tail and whisker position may indicate how your cat is feeling at a given time. Dilated or constricted pupils may be dependent on lighting but can also show your cat's mood. Notice what they are saying with their body before reaching to pet them."

For more behavior help, visit ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/Behavior



Hot x Buns

By Jade Perry, Behavior Specialist

For some of us, summer is a long-awaited time of year, and we dream of lounging under the sun in the blissful heat. Something to consider though, is that your four-legged friends may not feel the same! Summer heat can be very dangerous and uncomfortable for pets, so it's important to know their limits and what to do as responsible pet owners to keep them cool and healthy. It is especially important to think of your rabbits when summer comes around. Although they most likely don't spend their time outside in the summer heat, it can still be dangerous for them inside!

The normal body temperature for rabbits ranges from 101.3-104°F. They use their ears to help regulate their body temperature, but only to a degree. They cannot sweat or pant to cool off, so this combined with their thick fur coat makes them at high risk for overheating. When the temperature reaches 77°F it becomes dangerous for rabbits, and they risk hyperthermia. Hyperthermia in rabbits is much easier to prevent than it is to treat, so housing is especially important during the summer. They should be housed in a well-ventilated space where there is ample shade. Ideally the temperature of the room should be between 60-70°F. If the space you

normally house your rabbit in is too warm, you may need to consider moving them to a cooler space or setting up oscillating fans with the cords out of reach. It is also helpful to have a large ceramic tile for them to lounge on which you can chill in the fridge beforehand – this helps them regulate their body temperature. Rabbits should also have access to plenty of water, and you can even add some ice cubes for extra cooling. If these precautions are not enough to keep your bunny cool, consider freezing some



water bottles to keep in their area. Mist their ears with cool water or even get them a fresh summer haircut. It is also extremely important and beneficial to keep them as low stress as possible.

Prevention of hyperthermia is important because treatment is tricky. Hyperthermia can be fatal for buns – it is considered a medical emergency if your rabbit is experiencing hyperthermia, so you need to act quick! Signs to look out for include increased breathing rate, open mouthed breathing, warm ears and feet, blue-tinged mouth and nose, lethargy, seizures and collapse. If you notice any of these signs or behaviors call your vet immediately. Do not dip or submerge your rabbit in cold water as this can cause them to go into shock. Instead move them to a cool ventilated location, wet their ears and mist their belly and back legs with cool water. Hyperthermia is scary but preventable, which is why it is important to be proactive and protect your rabbit to set them up for healthy summer living!

The normal body temperature for rabbits' ranges from 101.3-104°F. They use their ears to help regulate their body temperature, but only to a degree. They cannot sweat or pant to cool off, so this combined with their thick fur coat makes them at high risk for overheating.



Foraging Games

By Suzanne Denk, CSB-C, Dip.FBST, Animal Enrichment Specialist

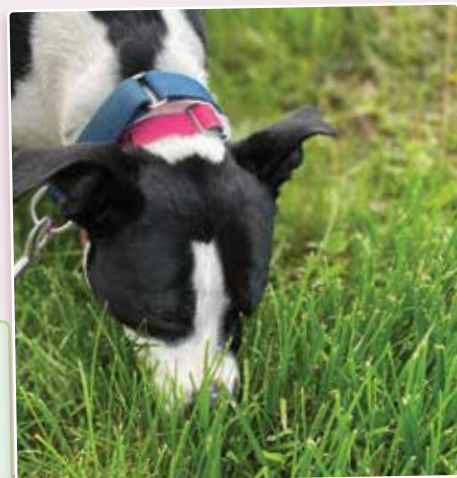
With warmer weather finally here, there are easy foraging enrichment games you can play with your dog outdoors! Foraging and sniffing are both natural behaviors for dogs and the opportunity to use these behaviors can be very satisfying for them. The only supplies you will need are some treats and your dog's sniffing nose. Try the games in your own yard, at the park, on a hike, on daily walks or indoors.

For more enrichment ideas, visit ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/Enrichment



Scatter It!

1. Toss the treats to scatter all over the floor or yard.
2. Treats in the grass or in leaves are more of a challenge!
3. Scattering treats is an easy activity to do on a walk.
4. Searching for scattered treats is a good break between physical activities.



Preparing a few simple steps before a walk outside can provide your dog with an enriching activity that uses their senses, stimulates the mind and fulfills the instinct to forage. For more enrichment ideas, visit ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/Enrichment.



Trail of Treats

1. Create a trail of treats for your dog to follow with their nose. For them to understand they are following their nose, the treats can initially be placed close together so they can see the treats.
2. Once your dog is familiar with the game and using their nose, space the treats farther apart.
3. The trail can twist or loop back on itself for added fun.



Hide and Seek

1. Hide small piles of treats in a single location or multiple spots for your dog to find.
2. Lead your dog to the pile of treats the first couple of sessions so they understand there are treats somewhere in the space.



Sniffing Mat Stroll

1. Place multiple sniffing mats, rolled dish towels or fleece squares out in the yard. Place treats in each item for your dog to discover.
2. It will be a surprise for your dog to find that indoor puzzles are outdoors, too!

“Foraging and sniffing are both natural behaviors for dogs and the opportunity to use these behaviors can be very satisfying for them.”



Register Online!
ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/AFU

WELCOME!

Welcome to Animal Friends University, home of the region's most exciting selection of courses offered for, about and, sometimes, even with your pet.

To view our complete course catalog, visit ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/AFU.

Classes fill quickly, so we encourage you to register online. If you have any registration questions, please call 412.847.7035 or email DKlingelhofer@ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org.

Cancellation Policy

If a class/event must be canceled due to insufficient enrollment, refunds will be issued. Notice of cancellation by a student must be received no later than three business days prior to the class/event in order for a refund to be issued.

Weather-Related Class Cancellations

Please check our website's homepage, ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org or call 412.847.7035 for class cancellation updates during inclement weather.

Dog Socials

For dogs 4 months or older who are both people- and dog-friendly.

Check our website for the schedule at ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/DogSocials.

Select
Wednesdays
and Sundays

Teacup Hour

A special time for the tiny dogs to play and for their people to mingle at our Outreach Center. This social is also suitable for other small dogs who prefer a less-active play style.

Small Dog Social

Join other small dogs and their people for an hour of social time. Dog play increases social skills and provides lots of exercise and fun for the small dog crowd!

Hiking Hounds

Including **Mount Washington Grandview Park Sunset Hike** with ice cream stop!

Training Classes

To register, visit
ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/DogTraining



KinderPuppy

BOGO
ELIGIBLE!

For puppies who have had their 2nd DHP vaccination and are 20 weeks of age or younger. Small breed and/or shy puppies may attend until 24 weeks of age.

New puppy? Join us for AF 301 Kinderpuppy class – have fun with your pup while learning!

- Socialization with people and pups.
- Relationship building with puppy and family.
- Positive-reinforcement, reward-based training techniques.
- Puppy raising advice by experienced, certified instructors.
- Weekly classes with flexible, pay-per-class format.
- Eligible for the Birthday BOGO special for classes scheduled between now and Aug. 31, 2023.

Limited spots available – we expect this offer to be filled quickly!

Puppy Manners

For puppies ages 5-9 months.

Basic training for the older puppy will include household manners, manners for interacting with new people and places and playtime to increase dog-dog social skills. Cues to be taught include sit, down, come, walk nicely on leash, wait politely, drop it and leave it.

Companion Dog Manners

For dogs who are both people- and dog-friendly and 9 months or older.

This first level class gets your dog started with the cues of sit, down, stay, coming when called and loose-leash walking. Laying a solid foundation with these skills is the key to living happily with your four-legged friend. As well as good manners, class discussions will give you an understanding of why dogs do the things they do and how to build a strong relationship with your dog.

Dog Training Class Scholarship



In our partnership with Edgar Snyder & Associates, we are pleased to offer scholarships for AFU Dog Training Classes! To apply for a scholarship, please visit EdgarSnyder.com and then search Animal Friends and let them know how your dog could benefit from an Animal Friends University training class. Scholarships will be awarded quarterly.

Training Fun Single Sessions

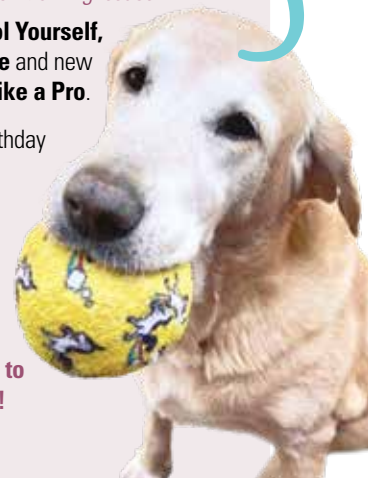
BOGO
ELIGIBLE!

Each session is packed full of fun ways to learn about common training issues!

Including Control Yourself, Senior Dogs Rule and new offering – **Train Like a Pro.**

Eligible for the Birthday BOGO special for classes scheduled between now and Aug. 31, 2023.

Limited spots available – we expect this offer to be filled quickly!





Dog Sports

Agility, Levels 1 and 2 and
Lure Coursing.

The Nose Knows, Levels 1 & 2

For dogs 6 months and older who are both people- and dog-friendly. Dogs should be comfortable and non-reactive in a group class.

Looking for a sport that can be done indoors with dogs of all ages? **Level One** - Have fun while building skills through new search activities each week. **Level Two** - Build on scent work foundation skills with challenging new sniffing activities each week. Come and find an exciting way to channel your dog's natural talent for sniffing!

The Nose Knows Single Sessions

Including **Primary School Search Games** and **Mini-Series – Water and Buried Hides**

Play Yard Rental Program

Does your dog love to run? Our large Play Yard with agility equipment is available for people and their pooches to enjoy some one-on-one, off-leash fun! Online reservations are now available at ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/PlayYard.

Check out our Play Yard Rental Program memberships – buy ten, get two free!

Birthday BOGO Special

To celebrate Animal Friends' 80th Birthday we are offering a **buy one, get one free on select \$25 Animal Friends University classes** including Kinderpuppy, Intro to Nose Work for Puppies and Training Fun Single Sessions scheduled now through Aug. 31, 2023. Limited spots available – we expect this offer to be filled quickly! Check out our class schedule at ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/DogTraining.



Pet CPR & First Aid

This class will teach you the lifesaving skills and knowledge that will enable you to be there for your pets when they need you the most! Topics include, but are not limited to, rescue breathing, bleeding protocols, choking management, heat and cold injuries, bites, stings, poisoning, seizures, fractures and limb injuries. Class size is limited to 15 students to allow for individualized instruction. Certification provided upon completion of class. Tuition fee includes all training materials, training certificate and light refreshments. A portion of the proceeds from this class benefit the residents of Animal Friends. To register, visit ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/AdultClasses

Bashful Buddies

For dogs who are shy, non-reactive and 6 months or older.

In this five-week class we will explore a variety of exercises to build confidence in your shy/fearful dog. This will include meeting new people, confidence in new situations and making positive associations with vet visits and grooming activities. Space availability is limited.

Bunny Grooming

To participate, your rabbit must be fully vaccinated for RHD.

Visit ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/Events to schedule your appointment!

Class Spotlight

Saturday Morning Behavior Series

JULY

Cooperative Care: Help Your Dog Be a Willing Participant in Basic Care

Cooperative care involves training an animal to not only tolerate handling, but also to be an active and willing participant in experiences such as proper nail care, dental care, brushing, grooming, cleaning of eyes, ears and more. We will review what consent is, how to get our dog's consent and how important it is to respect their choice if they remove consent.

AUGUST

Resource Guarding: It's MINE!

In this class, we will review what resource guarding is, how to manage the situation should you live with a resource guarder, how to prevent the behavior from developing and review the most common resources a dog may guard. We will also talk about human-directed resource guarding and dog-to-dog guarding.

**Featured
Adoptable
Cat:**

Dan Levy

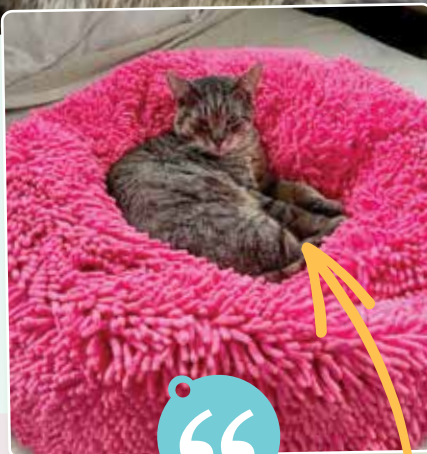


By Julie Galli, Animal Friends Volunteer

Who loves cats more than you? Dan Levy the cat! He will jump through hoops to be with his fellow felines. No, really. While in foster, Dan effortlessly jumped over two baby gates to be with his feline roommates. Fortunately, they welcomed this sweet, happy newcomer and treated him like a lifelong friend.

Dan is a cat's cat. He is very shy with people and must live in a home with another cat. In his former homes, he hid and was too timid to interact with his owners. He shares his current foster home with three other cats who give him the confidence to allow petting and the courage to always be within a few feet of humans.

At Animal Friends, no one ever heard Dan make a peep. It was an exciting, yet confusing moment when Dan finally communicated in his foster home. Dan barked. Yep, a barking cat. He barked for a few weeks and now it is more of a bark-tinged meow.



Who loves cats more than you? Dan Levy the cat! He will jump through hoops to be with his fellow felines. No, really. While in foster, Dan effortlessly jumped over two baby gates to be with his feline roommates. He shares his current foster home with three other cats who give him the confidence to allow petting and the courage to always be within a few feet of humans."

If Dan had to pick his favorite song, it would have to be "Splish Splash" by Bobby Darin because he loves playing with water. He bats at the water in his fountain and drinks from his cupped paw.

Dan is always in a great mood as evidenced by the delightful spring in his step when he trots from room to room. When he's lounging, he enjoys gentle head and cheek pets. He loves spending his time looking out the window and enjoying nature. On warm days, he relaxes on the screened porch watching the birds and chipmunks play in the backyard.

Dan is FIV positive. Since FIV is transmitted through deep bites that penetrate the blood stream, his future cat mates need to be gentle and noncombative. With proper care, FIV-positive cats will have a normal lifespan. In foster, Dan shares food dishes, litter boxes and toys with his non-FIV-positive feline friends. They spend hours snuggling and grooming each other.

Dan continues to improve while in foster and we know he has a bright future in a new loving home. If you would like to meet handsome Dan Levy, we will schedule a time that is convenient for you to meet him in his foster home.



ADOPTABLE CATS



NIXI

Since Nixi came to Animal Friends through our Humane Investigations Department, staff and volunteers have helped this shy guy improve his social skills. Positive-reinforcement training with treats and toys – he loves pipe cleaners and wand toys – are the keys to his heart. This bookworm also enjoys having volunteers read to him. He needs a patient, cat-savvy adopter who will allow him to adjust at his own pace and respect his personal space. Handsome Nixi may like a feline friend to help him gain confidence in his new home. Nixi hopes to build upon the progress he has made at the shelter. Are you ready to give Nixi the love he deserves?

Nixi would like to thank Jessica Guarini for her gift in memory of Major Ben Follansbee.



ECHO Say "hello" to Echo! This beautiful kitty is sweet and shy. She takes her time warming up to strangers, but once she does, Echo will respond with affection! She will thrive in a quiet, settled home where she is given the time and space to acclimate at her own pace. Echo has enjoyed living with another cat in her loving foster home and may be able to live with a feline friend in her new home with the proper introductions. Does Echo sound like the right cat for you?

Echo meows "thank you" to Linda E. Heaton for her gift in memory of Buffy and Biscuit.



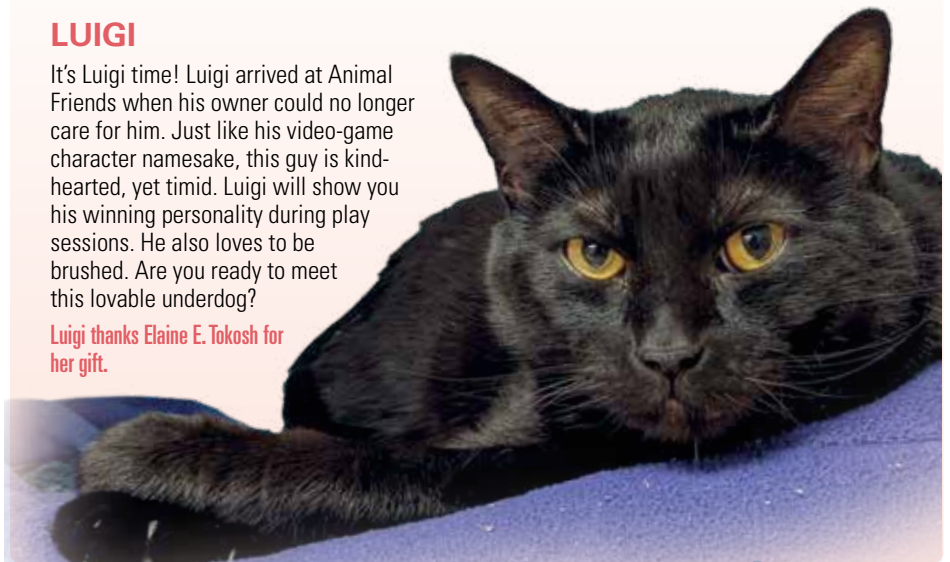
NARNIA Meet Narnia! This boy can't wait to welcome you to his magical world. Narnia came to Animal Friends from a house with too many cats. As a result, he would prefer an adult-only home without feline roommates. Staff and volunteers are helping this shy guy come out of his shell through positive-reinforcement training using treats. Narnia also finds soft classical music calming. He requires a calm, patient family willing to spend time gaining his trust. Over time, you will discover that life is a fantasy with Narnia!

Narnia is grateful to Louise Greenan for her generosity.

LUIGI

It's Luigi time! Luigi arrived at Animal Friends when his owner could no longer care for him. Just like his video-game character namesake, this guy is kind-hearted, yet timid. Luigi will show you his winning personality during play sessions. He also loves to be brushed. Are you ready to meet this lovable underdog?

Luigi thanks Elaine E. Tokosh for her gift.



Are you interested in adopting? Visit ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/Cats to learn more about adopting from Animal Friends and to meet more adoptable cats!

SPONSOR AN ANIMAL! >>

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x \$100 FOR AN ANIMAL SPONSORSHIP

I would like to sponsor a ...

☐ CAT ☐ DOG ☐ RABBIT ☐ WHOEVER NEEDS IT MOST **TOTAL \$**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Send this form with your donation to Animal Friends, 562 Camp Horne Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. All donations are tax-deductible. Or, make your donation online at ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/DonateNow.



To help these special cats find the right families, their requested adoption donations have been underwritten and each of them will be sent home with an individualized starter kit of supplies and other support based on their unique needs.

ADOPTABLE CATS



Use the QR code to learn more about Yana's Fund.



EBBIE AND MAISIE Meet Ebbie and Maisie! These two beautiful senior gals are sweet and gentle. Curious Ebbie likes exploring and looking out the window. She loves rope, string and teaser toys, as well as sitting in her loving foster's lap. Meanwhile, Maisie is fond of catnip, laser pointers and teaser toys featuring toy mice. When she isn't playing, you will often find her using her ramp scratcher or lounging inside her cardboard house. Like many kitties at the shelter, this pair may seem shy until they adjust to their surroundings. Since they are incredibly food-motivated, their adopter should remain mindful of their weight. They have lived with dogs and a cat and could potentially live with another pet. Do you have room in your home and heart for this dynamic duo?

NUMA NUMA Meet sweet Numa! Staff and volunteers are working on building Numa Numa's confidence. She likes when people sit nearby and speak softly to her. She also is receptive to head pets, and she will make eye contact and slowly blink at her favorite people. Numa Numa would appreciate a calm, dog-free home with patient adopters willing to give her time to warm up to her surroundings. Numa Numa will make your heart sing!

AnimalFriends

Black Tie & Tails

Presented by FRAGASSO FINANCIAL ADVISORS

Our 75-acre campus will once again be transformed as we celebrate at Pittsburgh's most playful gala featuring the best party animals in town ... our dog, cat and rabbit residents. We promise, you won't want to miss all the fun!

Scan the code to learn more or visit ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/BTT!

Saturday, Sept. 23
Save the date!

Volunteering for My Very Own Animal Friend

By Kristyn Miller, Volunteer Program Manager

Animal Friends has over 1,800 volunteers who collectively donate more than 300,000 hours of volunteer service each year. Animal Friends volunteers touch every part of our organization with their hard work, dedication and passion for animal welfare. Our volunteers have found inspiration for their continued service through the friendships formed here, supporting the impact of our programs and for some, the inspiration comes from helping our residents just like their own pets. Below are the stories of just a few volunteers who have found their very own four-legged friends at Animal Friends.



**Joshua Turner and
Wendy Turner**

"Our family had been looking for a dog for several months. My mom came to Animal Friends to see a dog from the website, [but when she arrived] she saw Igneous and fell in love with his beautiful face and immediately felt a connection looking into his eyes. He was a 4-month-old Treeing Walker Coonhound who was a transfer from San Antonio, Texas because of Hurricane Harvey. We adopted

him in September 2018 and named him Alamo. We didn't volunteer at that time but started as dog walkers in 2019 because of our love we share with Alamo."

"I have been volunteering for Animal Friends for many years, in different capacities. These days, you most likely see me in [the] laundry room washing blankets, towels and toys! My husband and I have adopted from Animal Friends twice.

Our first adoption was a pug named Mabel. She was a sweet and spicy little puglet! Our second alum is Ollie, who was known as Cannoli when he was at the shelter. Cannoli, a shih tzu mix, wore a little tux to last year's Black Tie & Tails, capturing the hearts of everyone he met. I first met Cannoli while I was doing laundry. He had arrived at the shelter with his coat completely matted up. Staff shaved him down and brought him back to the laundry room for a bath. I was smitten instantly and helped out by giving him a warm towel from the dryer. When I got home, I immediately submitted an adoption application online. Small, senior dogs are our favorites! After getting the call that he was available for adoption, we brought our other two pups – Nickie and Bella – to Animal Friends for the meet and greet. These three have been best buds since that day."



Jen Stratakis

"My story begins in February of 2013. Our kitty, Gidget, passe[d] from Chronic Kidney Disease after a yearlong battle. She was very much loved by [our family]. I was [a cat volunteer] at the time and my wife and myself decided it was time to share our home again. Christine, who is now our Pippin looked so much like Gidget that my wife would eventually call her Gidget on occasion.

Pippin made friends with us immediately and we knew she would be the one. Our journey has been blessed with much happiness and love. Thank you to everyone at Animal Friends for all that you do to make our world better for both us humans and our animal friends."



Dr. David Jaskiewicz

Valerie Krasneski-Schreiber



"I had not previously been a foster, but during the pandemic Animal Friends rescued a group of 20 [rabbits]. Because everything was shutting down and all animals had to go to foster I decided this was the

time. The bunnies were all named after celebrities (celebunnies) and I met Marilyn Bunroe. [One day] I came home to find some of the blankets I had in her room piled on top of her litter box and filled with fur and hay that was slightly moving. Inside were [four] babies! Throughout the next [four] months I watched Marilyn tend to her babies and they grew quickly. I spent a lot of time with her, and we became very close, especially since I lost my bunny Marvin. When it was time for them to be spayed, I struggled with returning them. After Marilyn was gone for 24 hours, I knew I had to adopt her. She had become so close to her daughter I adopted her as well and named her Lilac. They are my best buddies and I love when they give me bunny kisses. If I hadn't decided to foster, I would have never experienced all the wonderful things Marilyn has brought to my life!"

To become a
volunteer, visit
ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/Volunteer

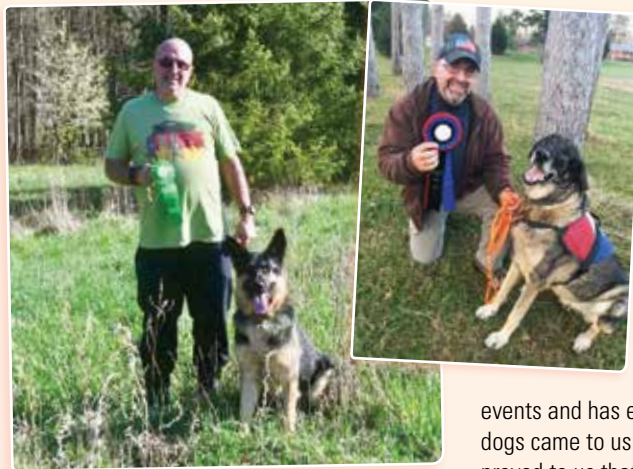


Tank: *Animal Friends Alum and AKC Tracking Dog*

By Thomas Snee, Maintenance
Coordinator

There is a saying, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." I can tell you, that is not true. Especially when it comes to rescue dogs. Almost a year ago, I met Tank while he was walking across Animal Friends' parking lot with a volunteer during the early morning hours. After seeing him for the first time, I knew he needed to be a part of my family. I called my wife and told her about this skinny boy with kennel cough. After a couple of meet-and-greets with our two other dogs, we took Tank home as a foster-to-adopt.

Things at home went very well and needless to say ... we adopted him two days later!



test in Cleveland. I am very proud to say, he did a beautiful job and passed. This earned him the American Kennel Club title of Tracking Dog. Tank is our second dog from Animal Friends to earn performance titles. Our other male, Sabre, has competed in National Association of Canine Scent Work

events and has earned several titles. Both dogs came to us completely untrained and proved to us that you cannot underestimate a rescue dog.

No matter their background, it is possible to teach a dog many different skills all while forming a bond with you. Join a class and have fun with your pup! Both of you will enjoy every minute of it. And I will tell you, it is true you can teach a rescue dog new tricks!



Tracking isn't an easy thing to teach a dog. They must work independently from the handler and use their sense of smell to follow where a person walks in a field."

Tank came to us at 2 ½ years old, knowing virtually no canine manners, but he had no trouble learning the house rules and fit in perfectly. Once he was recovered from the kennel cough, I introduced him to the sport of tracking. Tracking isn't an easy thing to teach a dog. They must work independently from the handler and use their sense of smell to follow where a person walks in a field. All through our training, Tank loved this game and was, in my eyes, becoming great at it.

In November he was certified by an American Kennel Club judge, allowing him to enter a tracking test. Finally in March, I entered Tank in a tracking



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How I'll Spend My Summer Vacation

We all know that time off is better spent with friends. Here's how to entertain your pets this summer by using items from around the house and by simply spending time together.

Scent Games

Dogs are great at detecting smells! Scent games allow a dog to use their instinctive skills. Using their nose makes your dog think and requires them to concentrate.

Seek and Find Randomly toss treats or kibble in the grass, or onto a blanket on your dog's bed and let them sniff and search. The challenge is greater when the treats are not easily visible requiring them to use their nose.

Scent Trail Lay out a trail of tiny treats. This game may be played inside or outside and in any size space. Some treats may be placed on a bench, around a tree, up on a branch, on the bumper of your car, around the perimeter of a room or under a couch cushion. Use your imagination. A jackpot (a small pile of treats) should be placed at the end of the trail.



Don't Forget Dog-Friendly Establishments

From pet stores, restaurants and even a night at the ballpark, more and more places are welcoming Pittsburgh pups! Most restaurants and breweries need to have a patio, but don't forget bakeries and ice cream shops. Some only cater to dogs! We've even seen people training their pups in home-improvement stores. Always be aware of your pet's body language to be sure your best friend is enjoying themselves.



Bring the Outside in for Rabbits and Cats

Introducing a bit of the outdoors inside for enrichment can be very intriguing for your pet. Wheat grass is beneficial for both cats and rabbits, and it's easy to grow. Here's how:

- Soak the grass seeds for 8 hours or overnight.
- Fill the containers with potting soil.
- Plant the seeds in the soil and water well.
- Place in a warm, dark location and keep the soil damp, not soggy.
- When the grass sprouts, place the containers in a sunny window. When the grass reaches an inch or two, give it to your pet to enjoy.

The enrichment grass will introduce something new to investigate and provide the opportunity to graze for pets who choose to indulge!

Wading Pool Enrichment

Anything new and interesting in the environment is beneficial to your pet. An assortment of objects to discover can give them an opportunity to think, explore, use their senses, stimulate the brain and provide fun.

The Wading Pool Enrichment Activity features different discoveries each day. A plastic wading pool can be filled with different items to explore each day, with or without water, and placed where they can discover it in their area or in the yard.

Herbs Animals are great at detecting smells! The nose is the strongest sense for most animals and stimulates the most important part of their brain. Allow them to sniff the pet-safe herbs in the pool. The herbs may include basil, parsley, rosemary, mint, oregano, sage and thyme.

Ball Pit Balls are irresistible! Toss some species-specific treats in the pool and let them search through the balls to discover the treats.

Ice Bar The coolest thing to do in the 'burgh is to check out the sensory excitement of the ice. Toss some ice cubes in the pool for a chill activity.



Treat Puzzle Game

A puzzle activity can provide enrichment by stimulating your pet's mind.

Supplies:

Muffin tin, cardboard beverage container or egg carton

Tennis, ping-pong balls

Treats

Place a few visible treats in the individual compartments and let your pet find them. When they are easily getting the treats out of the cups, cover a couple treats with a tennis or ping-pong ball to provide an extra challenge.

Boeing *Lifts Up Their Employees' Passions*

By Liz Moser, Development Coordinator

At Animal Friends, there is an opportunity for anyone who is interested to get involved with our lifesaving work – whether you choose to donate time to our residents or our programs, foster, attend classes or even fundraise, everyone can help support our mission.

For some, volunteering and fundraising go hand-in-hand. Our friend Lance Cooper, a current volunteer and dog dad of Autumn and Finnegan, got involved with Animal Friends after participating in a group volunteer event at a different rescue. His experience helped him realize that animal rescue was the perfect field to bring together his passion for animals and his lifelong commitment to serving others. After researching nearby animal organizations, Lance found Animal Friends – and the rest is history!

In addition to fostering (Autumn is an Animal Friends alum from a Humane Investigations case back in 2021) and attending Animal Friends University classes with his pups, Lance volunteers with our Chow Wagon Pet Food Bank regularly, making pet food deliveries to families in need and assisting with our on-site pet food pantry. Lance is passionate about the impact of this work, saying “each time I complete a Chow Wagon delivery of donated supplies and see the relief and gratitude in the client’s eyes, the moment is powerful and it reaffirms in me the importance and impact of the work accomplished by just one department within Animal Friends on any given day.”

Helping to make his volunteerism even more impactful, Lance’s employer, the Boeing company, also steps in with their Gift Match program, which was implemented to help support the causes that matter to their employees. The program offers up to \$10,000

in matching donations for each employee’s individual charitable contributions. This includes a volunteer match – for every 10 hours employees volunteer, the company also donates \$100 to that organization!

“I feel very fortunate to work for a company that is willing to support and invest in efforts that contribute to the communities where their employees live and work. They want their employees to live a fulfilling, enriching life beyond normal working hours. This program makes me that much more eager to volunteer at Animal Friends because I know that the impact of the time I spend volunteering will be amplified to such a worthwhile organization.”

In 2021 alone, Boeing employees donated more than 290,000 volunteer hours and millions of dollars to nonprofits nationwide. On a local scale, this still represents a huge impact. As Lance says, “each Chow Wagon delivery is so gratifying for me because of the triple-impact. A pet is avoiding food insecurity and remaining in a home where [they are] happy and loved, a family who is experiencing financial difficulties has an enormous stressor temporarily removed from their life and a future family will be positively affected by Boeing’s matching generosity.”

There are so many ways to support Animal Friends through your employer, whether through company matches or by volunteering. Please consider asking your employer if they have a matching gift or volunteering program so that you too can increase your lifesaving impact – the people and pets that we serve will thank you!



Each time I complete a Chow Wagon delivery of donated supplies and see the relief and gratitude in the client’s eyes, the moment is powerful and it reaffirms in me the importance and impact of the work accomplished by just one department within Animal Friends on any given day.”

– Lance Cooper

Major

By Krista Koontz, Humane Investigations Coordinator

On a Friday afternoon in February 2022, Animal Friends' Humane Officers received a call for assistance from Harmar Township Police Department. Sgt. Fechke reported that he had received a call from a landlord about a dog who was left abandoned in a house. Upon investigation, he found a dog locked in a crate with the door turned towards the wall so the dog couldn't escape. The crate was unsanitary, and the emaciated dog had no food or water. Sgt. Fechke rushed the dog to a veterinarian to get immediate treatment. In the meantime, he reached out to another police department for assistance in how to proceed with the investigation. He was directed to Animal Friends' Humane Investigations Department and Officer Galvin immediately responded to the scene and began assisting with the investigation.

The dog, who officers named Major, was brought to Animal Friends to receive much needed care to help him recover and gain weight. Major frequented the Humane Investigations Department where he got to spend time with his rescuers and receive the love and care he desperately needed. The team worked closely with Sgt. Fechke to investigate who was responsible for neglecting and abandoning Major and together, we were able to identify a suspect.



If you have witnessed animal cruelty in Allegheny County, call 412.847.7066.



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Only the suspect was nowhere to be found. Officer Galvin remembered a small detail he had come across during the investigation and was able to locate an address connected to an acquaintance of the suspect, and provided that information to Sgt. Fechke. This location is where the suspect was ultimately located and taken into custody. After a long court case, the suspect was convicted of multiple counts of animal cruelty and neglect and was sentenced to prohibition and probation.

Major was surrendered to Animal Friends and was quickly adopted into a loving home. During the 2022 Black Ties & Tails gala, Sgt. Fechke was recognized by Animal Friends' Humane Investigations team for his work on the case and his devotion to seeking justice for Major. Animal Friends' Humane Investigations team frequently works with many different law enforcement agencies throughout the county to help combat animal cruelty and neglect. We are so grateful for the collaboration among law enforcement to help animals in crisis.

If you have witnessed animal cruelty in Allegheny County, contact our Humane Investigations team to give your eyewitness report at 412.847.7066.

Envigo Beagle Update

By Kathleen Beaver, President & CEO

Last summer our news feeds were filled with images of beagles being rescued from a breeding facility in Virginia that serves the laboratory industry. Upon several inspections by the US Department of Agriculture and an investigation conducted by the Humane Society of the United States, dozens of violations of federal regulation and hundreds of dogs who were sick, suffering and dying



Senator Develin Robinson with a beagle friend.

testing. The Beagle Protection Act would prohibit the sale of dogs and cats bred by a person with certain violations under the Animal Welfare Act and ensure that dogs and cats used for testing are made available for adoption. These bills would be a significant step forward towards ending the horrible conditions that animals like the Envigo beagles were subjected to in research breeding facilities

and would have been subjected to in testing facilities.

As Rep. Ryan Bizzarro, chairman of the House Majority Policy Committee remarked, "We're going to do everything we can to protect them ... to ensure they are not being tested on ... that they're able to be on someone's lap not in a lab."

– Representative Ryan Bizzarro



Photos of the Erie beagle reunion with State Rep. Ryan Bizzarro



were found at the Envigo facility. This led to a massive effort to find foster and adoptive homes for the more than 4,000 beagles who were removed from the breeding facility. Shelters and rescues from across the country stepped in to help.

Animal Friends, working collaboratively with Humane Animal Rescue of Pittsburgh (HARP)

and Beaver County Humane Society, Butler County Humane Society and Washington County Humane Society, brought several dozen of the dogs to our region for treatment, socialization and, ultimately, adoption.

But the story can't end there. And in Pennsylvania, it doesn't!

Thanks to the committed work of the Humane Society of the United States, members of the state legislature, local animal welfare organizations and animal lovers, the plight of the Envigo beagles and the need for protection for animals from inhumane breeding and testing is getting attention.

Reunions of the rescued and adopted beagles are popping up across the state and they are not simply to show off these cute pups! The Beagle Reunions are in support of the **Dogs and Cats Taxpayer Protection Bill** and the **Beagle Protection Act**. The Dogs and Cats Taxpayer Protection Bill would end the use of state funds to support painful experiments on dogs and cats and require state-funded institutions to make healthy dogs available for adoption after testing, as well as increase transparency about the amount of state funding institutions have received for animal

Visit pahouse.com/beaglebills for more information

The outcome for the 4,000 beagles from the Envigo case was thankfully a positive one. But we know there is still so much work to be done and so many animals to be saved from this kind of existence. Please use your voice, a stroke of your pen or a click of your mouse to make a critical and lifesaving change for the animals.

For the future of these and so many more animals, it's the least we can do.

For more information about these bills and to show your support, visit pahouse.com/beaglebills.



Kindness Corner

Be an Animal Friend All Summer Long!



Scan the QR code to learn how to become a Humane Helper.

No matter if the animal is big or small, has fur, feathers or neither, for both their safety and your safety, observe with your senses of sight, smell and sound! If you see an animal who is acting as if they may be sick, be sure to tell a trusted grown-up.

By Lindsay Woge, Humane Educator

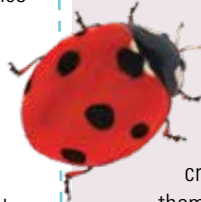
Summer is the perfect time for anyone to form bonds with all kinds of critters. Being a friend might mean snoozing with your pup on a breezy summer afternoon, setting up a pet drinking fountain to entice your cat to stay hydrated or bringing in leafy greens or bunny-safe blooms from the garden for your rabbit. Being an animal friend can also mean hitting the trails to discover a butterfly you've never seen before, planting a pollinator container garden on your balcony or deck or maintaining a hummingbird feeder for our ruby-throated friends. Consider these adventures for more ways to show off your animal affection this summer!

Play Animal Friends I Spy in your backyard or a nearby park!

Spy a Song! Set a timer for two minutes. How many different bird songs can you hear? Use an app like Merlin Bird ID to help you learn which birds make which calls. Who are your most frequent bird visitors? Brainstorm ways to provide them with food, water and places for them to find safety.



Be a Bug Buddy! Place a piece of white paper on the ground. See if any insects crawl on past. Try this activity at different times of the day and notice what new friends pass by. Though insects are sometimes called creepy crawlies, the more you learn about them, the more you'll notice that they have important jobs to do and even have families just like us!



Hunt for Evidence! Search for proof that an animal was in the area by seeking

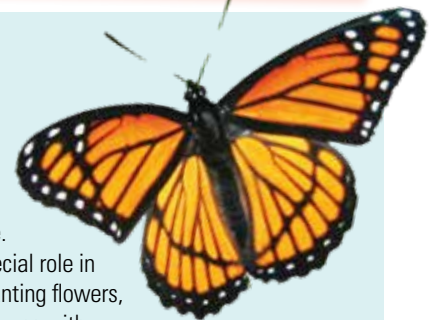
holes, burrows or tracks in the mud, droppings or even owl pellets, chomp marks from mouths of animals with or without teeth in leaves or markings on tree trunks. You may even find the shed skin of a snake or insect. Make guesses as to which animal friend left the evidence. Keep a list of your backyard friends and watch it grow over the summer and into the fall!

Sketch the Season! Start a nature journal to keep a record of your findings. Draw the sights of summer. Visit johnmurlaws.com for inspiration. Keep the drawing going all year round for an added challenge!



Get outside!

Wild animals are friends too! Spend some time getting to know the local animal crew, including earthworms who aerate the soil, bumble bees who pollinate beautiful flowers or birds who spread flower seeds all around. Friends like groundhogs, squirrels and chipmunks should only be admired from a distance. Think about how each of these hardworking creatures has a special role in our ecosystem and how you can be a good friend to them by planting flowers, shrubs and trees! Many families are choosing to replace their lawns with gardens or meadows, to compost food scraps to return nutrients to the soil and to use no, or very little, pesticides. Learn more by checking out Doug Tallamy's latest family-friendly book *Bringing Nature Home (Young Reader's Edition): How You Can Save the World in Your Own Yard*.



Visit Animal Friends!



View four-legged friends when you visit Animal Friends with your family! To go the extra mile, before you visit, consider becoming a **Humane Helper!**

While there are many ways young people and families can help animals in need, a seasonal favorite is hosting your very own neighborhood lemonade stand just for Animal Friends. Then, schedule an activity-filled **Empathy Walk** around the Adoption Floor as our special thanks to you!



All visitors are welcome to explore the family-friendly Humane Education & Engagement Center to dive into the worlds of dogs, cats and rabbits through games, art projects and play. Young people and families can drop in all year long to explore questions like, "Am I right for a rabbit?" or "What is a dog's work?" or "What's it like to be a cat?"

“Of course, no visit to Animal Friends would be complete without seeing the resident cats, dogs and rabbits. Even if you aren't ready to search for a new family member, a trip to Animal Friends – and an opportunity to increase your compassion quotient – is a valuable experience for animal lovers of all ages!”

Play Animal Friends I Spy in the Caryl Gates Gluck Resource Center!

Behold the Buns! Explore the Rabbit Retreat by visiting each rabbit resident. Can you find a rabbit with upright ears? Lop ears that flop down? Notice how the rabbits' ears change positions. Rabbits can rotate their ears to hear sounds better, or their ears can tell us how they feel. Staying quiet and calm while visiting the rabbits will allow them to relax. How do their ears look? A super relaxed rabbit will "flop," rolling their body to one side and stretching out. Can you find a flopping friend?

Consider the Canines! Step up to the dog-viewing windows. Not all dogs will want to say hello, and that's ok! Some dogs will love the attention and may even bark. Being an animal friend means letting a dog choose when to come to you for a visit. If a dog is sleeping, eating or chewing on a toy inside their kennel, it's best to move on to the next window. Knocking on the glass can be very loud and scary to dogs. Like their sense of smell, a dog's hearing is very sensitive and powerful!



Find a Feline! Take a stroll around the cat condos. Keep track of what the cats are doing. How many cats are sleeping? Who is tucked away in a cubby? Is anybody eating, drinking or using the litter box? As cats do much more than sleep, eat and use the potty, look around for evidence of cats playing or hunting. What objects do you see inside the condos that might make interesting playthings to work a cat's brain and body?

Draw your dream pet! Make a sketch of your favorite adoptable animal. Pick up paper and drawing tools from the Humane Education & Engagement Center. Leave your drawing in our gallery or take it with you as a memory of your visit.

Be summer-wise with your pets at home!

You don't have to travel far to have a summer adventure with your pet. Dogs, cats and rabbits can enjoy special summer activities and games with you.



Soggy Towels for Dogs

Wet towels cool the paws and the nose. They are a great option for dogs who do not like a lot of water. Searching for treats in the folds of the wet towel provides a different texture and feel for your dog.

Cool Tiles for Rabbits Place ceramic tiles in the refrigerator until they cool, then gently place them in your rabbit's enclosure for a cool place to lounge on hot days. Ceramic stays cooler than other surfaces when temperatures rise. Watch to see how a curious rabbit reacts.

Fresh Greens for Cats On a sunny windowsill, grow a small container of cat grass from seed. A digestive aid, cat-safe grasses such as oat, wheat, barley, alfalfa and rye can also provide your kitty with boredom-busting enrichment to help pass those dog ... err, cat – days of summer! Take it to the next level by growing catnip. Planted in a garden, this herb can come up year after year much to your cat's delight.



THINKING OUTSIDE THE CAGE

HAPPY Tails

A Lifelong Love

By Kidareo Bayer-Carlos, Adoption Coordinator

Earlier this year we had the opportunity to see Jersey, Jeopardy and Jude, three of our resident cats who had been living in our shelter for over a year and a half, finally find their new home. They were part of a group of cats rescued by our Humane Investigations team in September 2021 when they were abandoned after a house fire. The three especially became very close friends and all resided together in one of our free-roam cat cottages.

When 2023 came around, they were some of the few remaining cats left from this group until a young woman came in looking to adopt two

cats. She recently lost both of her childhood cats who had been a prominent part of her life since she was 6 years old. Now as an adult living on her own, she was more than ready to start the next chapter of her life with two cats who she could share her love with.

At first, she came in only expecting to meet Jersey and Jeopardy, who she knew were a bonded pair and thought they could be the perfect fit for her home. She not only fell in



At first, she came in only expecting to meet Jersey and Jeopardy, who she knew were a bonded pair and thought they could be the perfect fit for her home. She not only fell in love with both, but with Jude too!"

love with both, but with Jude too! Although Jude was incredibly shy and didn't interact much with her, she felt a strong sense of responsibility to keep the three of them together and decided to adopt them.

Once officially home, Jersey, Jeopardy and Jude's new mom created a safe space for them in a quiet room where they could settle in. The transition was difficult for the trio, but with patience and dedication they began to make progress. She slowly socialized with them by spending time in the room and getting to know their personalities. After about a week in her home they finally started to explore more of the house, but only in the late hours of the night. With the help of treats, toys and plenty of positive reinforcement, Jersey, Jeopardy and Jude were finally beginning to open up more each day.

At three weeks, Jude allowed her to pet him for the first time and from that point forward, he became more sociable and affectionate. Around this point, Jersey and Jeopardy also became more receptive and showed their affection and trust by lying down next to her throughout the day. Although Jersey and Jeopardy are more timid than Jude currently, the progress they have made is a testament to the hard work of their adopter. She became the cat owner she had always aspired to be.

