

Paws To Consider

Summer 2008

GOING THE EXTRA MILE: To help just one cat in your neighborhood!

By Kathleen MacKinnon

A very sweet cat named Phoenix is now safely off the streets because someone took the initiative to help him...and not a moment too soon!

Phoenix showed up, out of nowhere, one evening in Julie's backyard. When he tried to walk, he hobbled on just three legs. With so many outdoor cats in her neighborhood, Julie didn't know if this cat was friendly or feral. And even though she looks out for many of the outdoor cats in her neighborhood, Julie had never seen this cat before - a bright orange tabby amidst a colony of brown tabby cats. Phoenix immediately stood out in the crowd.

Julie managed to coax him onto her back porch and was horrified to see close up that his right front leg was swollen three times its normal size and he was obviously in horrible pain. Despite his condition, Phoenix didn't hesitate to climb right into her lap for comfort. Julie brought him inside her home and put him in a large cage to separate him from her cats. She took photos then contacted us for help. As

soon as we saw photos, we told Julie to immediately bring this poor cat to Columbia Pike Animal Hospital as an emergency late that evening.

My initial impression after seeing the photos was that his leg was broken and gangrene had set in.

We couldn't have anticipated what happened next. After examining Phoenix, the veterinarian told us that he had lost most of the movement and feeling in his leg. He also had a severe infection and a raging fever of 105 degrees. What was the culprit? ***Someone had wrapped a rubber band tightly around his leg just above his knee!*** This was no accident.

That night, the veterinarian was not optimistic that we could save Phoenix's leg. We decided to start him on antibiotics and pain medication, let him rest over night, and reevaluate his condition in the morning. To everyone's surprise, by the next morning Phoenix had regained a little movement in

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Phoenix

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The SPCA of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit rescue organization. We rely solely on membership dues, donations and various fundraising activities for revenue. Our Voluntary Board of Directors, committee members and volunteers are responsible for all SPCA activities. We do not have a shelter facility and depend on foster parents to care for domestic animals until adoption.

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Dear Animal Lovers,

SPCA Nova places hundreds of rescued animals into loving homes each year. Our adoption process carefully matches companion pets to the best possible home.

Because many of the animals entering our care need urgent and life saving medical care, in addition to our commitment to ensuring that each one is completely vetted prior to being made available for adoption, our vet bills have been much higher than normal. Last summer we rescued a trio of kittens with congenital defects and our supporters stepped up to the plate and donated the much needed funds to assist in covering the costs of those surgeries. This newsletter contains stories submitted by their adopters so you can catch up and read all about their road to recovery. The



adopters of these special kittens were sure to document and take pictures of the kitten's pre- and post-surgery. For two of them, additional surgeries were needed that we hadn't anticipated. (Read "Double Trouble" and "Neko: Our Girl Wonder").



Now that we are into the summer months of 2008, we will see an increase in the number of animals entering our care that without our help probably wouldn't make it to see another day. Because of the unexpected additional surgeries needed by the JRT kittens as well as the numerous other medical emergencies and miracle rescues you will read about in this newsletter we appeal to you once again.

SPCA Nova hopes you will enjoy the stories in this newsletter and support our rescue efforts by making a donation to rebuild our medical funds, thus ensuring that we are always able to help the many cats, kittens, dogs and puppies in the Northern Virginia area that need us. As many of you know, we receive no government or state funds and rely on the generosity of caring individuals to keep us operating.

We appreciate any size donation, so please, make your donation today.

Donations to Support SPCA Nova's Rescue Efforts can be made easily using the form on the back cover, or to make a donation by credit card please visit our website www.spcanova.org

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his paw and some feeling in his leg. The veterinarian recommended that we give him a few days to get the infection and pain under control so we could better evaluate whether his leg could be saved or whether it would need to be amputated. After a few days, Phoenix had regained a significant amount of movement and feeling in his leg and the infection was under control. To show his resilience, Phoenix let everyone know he didn't like being cooped up in a cage and "insisted" on being let out to hobble around the vet office. Needless to say, Phoenix stole everyone's heart!

We were lucky to have a veterinary technician offer to care for Phoenix in her



home. He would require a significant amount of care over the next several months. His leg would require regular bandage changes, antibiotics, pain medication, and careful monitoring. Since this healing process would take four long months, the veterinarian recommended we try skin grafting to



quicken the healing process. This worked like a charm! Except for stiffness in his paw and claws that won't fully retract, Phoenix has fully recovered from this ordeal. He jumps, runs and plays just like any other cat.

He even likes to "torment" his canine playmate - a German Shepherd-Doberman Pinscher mix. And, we are happy to say that the veterinary technician who cared for him for months has adopted Phoenix as her own!



The Joy Of Two Cats!

Two cats together can be like a 24 hour floorshow, which has you laughing in the aisles. Whether you're the spectator to the frolicking good game of tail chase or the ever-popular feline pastime of "let's see if we can both fit in the smallest place possible", you're sure never to experience a dull or lonely moment with two cats in your life. Have you ever considered the benefits a second feline friend can bring to your new or existing cat? So many of us lead such busy on-the-go lifestyles, that often our most loyal companions are left without the benefit of our company. But just because it may not be in your cat's nature to loudly protest, doesn't mean your feline friend doesn't pine for your company or become bored or lonely. Cat families usually play better in even numbers, so to create that balance of purrfect harmony in your home, think in pairs! Contact us today and we will work closely with you to find a compatible feline for your existing cat.



'Shadow' The Huntington Metro Dog

By Edith von Stuemmer



Shadow
(photo by Jim Poor)

He had been living in a vacant 3 acre wooded area next to the metro station for 8 months when we received the call. There was an empty abandoned house on the property. Animal Control had set a trap a few times, but the dog would not go in. They said too many people were feeding him.

We decided to take this on. Two of us went there several times to scout the area; I even took my rescued beagle "Minnie Pearl" with me as a decoy. We saw him frequently, peeking around trees, and then he would disappear into the shadows (hence his name). He was feral and no one could get near him.

During our wanderings we came across SIX feeding stations! A flyer was put up at each site explaining who we were, what we were trying to do, asking for help and requesting that the dog not be fed. Then WE set up ONE feeding station next to the abandoned house. There was quite a response - 9 people called in to offer their help. We had a meeting up on the hill by the house and everyone received instructions on how to operate a dog trap and when to feed. We left large closed containers with a supply of food and water. The trap was kept closed for a while with food put in front of it. He was seen eating, but when we set the trap he would not go in. We even put up two traps baited with dog food, hot dogs, chicken or McDonald's hamburgers - no luck. VERY FRUSTRATING!! After one month of this it was just a matter of who would hold out the longest.

Everyone in the neighborhood knew about this dog and was on the lookout for him because he often came out of the woods after dark. Then, on Thanksgiving morning (very appropriate) the call came in: he had walked into someone's garage, and they quickly closed the door. GOTCHA!!!

Now we worried about how Shadow would react, would he be wild, aggressive, a fear biter? Fortunately, he turned out to be very friendly, loved to be petted and walked well on a leash. After having received the necessary veterinary care and being neutered, our dog trainer, "miracle worker" Tony Orange, worked with him for a while. A 6 foot fence was no challenge for Shadow, so he had to be carefully watched. A young woman, who had been one of the many people feeding him daily, put in an application to adopt him and had a 7 foot wooden fence built around her backyard. She really wanted this dog!

Shadow has been in his new home for several months now. Julie has a large 9 year old collie named "Sultan" and the two dogs have become buddies. There have been some issues though - Shadow absolutely adores his new mom and is sometimes overly protective of her. Tony has been giving guidance on how to handle this.



Shadow is young, approximately 2 years old, so we are confident he will become secure with his new happy life.

Free To Good Home!

By Kathleen MacKinnon

How many times have we seen this? An ad in the newspaper. A poster at a veterinary office. A posting on Craig's List. Sadly, too often this means the pet is just no longer wanted through no fault of their own.

We sometimes browse Craig's List to see if anyone has posted a cat who might need our help. A cute little calico Persian was just one of those cats. She



Parisa

was advertised as "available" to anyone who wanted her. The posting just said they were leaving the country and couldn't take care of her. The photo said it all. This cute little cat was completely matted. And, she had a very sad look on her face.

When we contacted the person who posted this cat on Craig's List, the woman told us the cat used to be friendly. But ever since she had gotten matted over the past two years, the cat had become "mean." They could only pet her on her head. We were told they couldn't care for her and were leaving the country shortly. They told us we could take her now - no questions asked!

Needless to say, we took this cat into our care. We named her Parisa - which means "Angel Face" in Farsi. Her entire body was matted. The matting was so bad that huge clumps of hair had lifted off her sides leaving her skin completely exposed. We can only imagine how much pain this cat had been in. Once shaved, Parisa has



become the sweetest and happiest cat in the world. She can't get enough love and affection. Parisa likes to climb into your lap making biscuits and purring all the way. She loves to wrap her front legs around your neck, give "head butts," and little kitty kisses.



Parisa also had a little surprise waiting for us. She arrived pregnant - nearly full term. Soon after entering our care she gave birth to four healthy Persian kittens. This little family deserves nothing but love and affection. We are so happy they came into our care.



These kittens will be available for adoption mid-July

Little Dog Lost--And Found!

By Joan Hughes



Louie

Icy wind, frigid temperatures and trapped by a leash that was tangled in bushes. Not the expected conditions for a little dog who less than three days earlier had gone to a new home.

Louie had been found as a stray in Shenandoah National Park in September, 2007. He was taken to a rural Virginia shelter where he was rescued by Lisa Reid, whose kennel shelters our dogs, and was put up for adoption by the SPCA.

Dena Manzi saw his picture on our website and thought the scruffy little terrier mix “looked like a dog that needed a home.” She found Louie (now Baxter) to be shy at first, but friendly, as so many once stray dogs can be. After spending a good amount of time with him at an adoption day in late November, Dena applied to adopt him.

Two weeks later Baxter went home with Dena and began to settle into his “adoption pending” routine. In fact, he found the couch quite comfortable. But it was now December, and like the mail carriers, dogs and their humans must brave wind and rain and all the other conditions that cannot keep them from their appointed rounds.



Three nights later, as Dena walked Baxter before bedtime, a gust of cold wind blew the leash from her grasp as she switched it from one hand to the other. Baxter took off running, dragging his leash and managing to stay just ahead of her. He disappeared, and a frantic Dena and friends searched for him until 2:00 a.m. without success.

The next day they went out again to search the area. There was an SPCA tag on Baxter’s harness as well as an ID tag that Dena had attached. Local shelters were notified, along with Lisa Reid and SPCA personnel. Baxter was so easily spooked by wind, cars, and people that finding him could prove to be a problem. Lisa took two dogs to look for him and more than 100 flyers were posted.

As any parent can testify, teenagers will at times break the rules. Luckily for Baxter, that was the case when a girl took a forbidden short cut through the woods on her way home from school. Sounds from some bushes drew her to Baxter whose leash was tangled in them, preventing his escape. She wrapped the shivering pup in her sweater and took him home, where her grandmother called the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. The shelter, in turn, notified the SPCA that a dog fitting Baxter’s description had been found, although his tags were missing, and that he could be picked up at the finder’s home. Dena didn’t waste any time. As an added twist to the happy ending, Baxter’s rescuer turned out to be a pupil in the school where Dena teaches.

Back where he belonged, Baxter kept his tail between his legs for about two weeks but gradually recovered from his ordeal, lost some of his shyness, and became more sociable. He acts like a normal dog now, rolling in the grass, and “dancing” for treats.

Dena claims that her “little prince,” as she calls him, is smart, cuddly, and lovable and the best investment she’s ever made. When Dena was contacted for this story Baxter was cuddling with her on the couch. He was probably wagging his tail in agreement.



LOVE: A feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. The best way you can show your love is to wag your tail. If you're lucky, a human will love you in return.



Searching For Happiness:

Julius

Julius is one of those truly amazing, resilient cats! He was born in 2006 and is so sweet and trusting. He bonds with people and settles into a new home very quickly. Julius LOVES to cuddle and likes to follow you around. He is very content sitting at your feet, squeezing next to you on the couch, curling up on your lap, or sleeping next to you in bed. He's also very quiet and well-mannered. Julius is FIV+ and has a permanently damaged right eye. Nonetheless, he is a young and healthy cat who is expected to live for many years to come.



What is the truth about FIV?

FIV should not be a death sentence or a stigma that prevents a delightful feline such as Julius from coming into your home. It's time to end the fear about this virus and to spread the facts about FIV so that these cats can find the homes and the love they deserve.

What is FIV?

FIV is a cat-only disease. This immunodeficiency virus is a commonly misunderstood disease that weakens the immune system. It leaves the cat vulnerable to a wide range of diseases which would normally be harmless to a healthy animal. Nonetheless, most infected cats will live a normal lifespan without exhibiting any symptoms of the infection.

Is it contagious?

You cannot catch FIV from your pet. FIV is not contagious to humans, dogs, or any animal other than cats. FIV is spread between cats by deep, penetrating bite wounds and blood transfusions. Unless your FIV+ cat bites another cat, the virus cannot spread.

Will I need to give the cat expensive medications?

No. There are no medications commonly used in the treatment of FIV. At this time, the best treatment is preventative care: keep your cat indoors, stress-free, away from the risk of secondary infections, up-to-date on vaccinations, feed a good quality well-balanced food and at the first sign of illness, bring your cat to the vet to be treated.

How long will an FIV+ CAT live?

It's difficult to say. Many FIV+ cats live out their lives with no symptoms, and often live for 10 to 15 years after diagnosis. Many have no higher level of disease or illness than cats without FIV. Of course, there is no guarantee that an FIV cat will not develop clinical disease; but there's no guarantee that any cat won't get sick from something sooner or later!

How can I help?

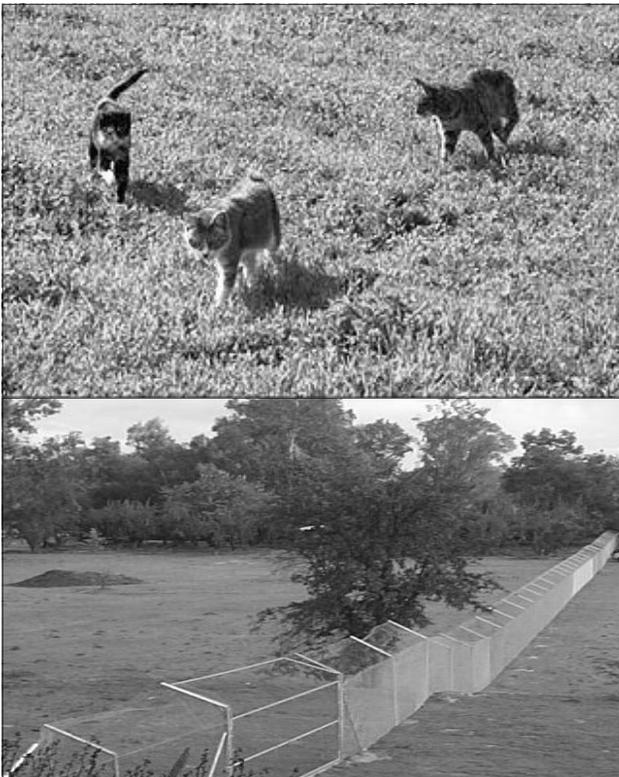
Because of the misconceptions the public has about FIV, the chances of a sweet, loving cat like Julius finding a home are low. If you are considering adopting a cat, we urge you to contact us about visiting Julius

Good Intentions Aren't Enough

By Dana Meeker

I read with a heavy heart the news stories about the raid on yet another so-called animal sanctuary, this one in Pennsylvania. We at the SPCA of Northern Virginia had a crushing sense of déjà vu because last year a sanctuary in Tennessee where we had entrusted a few of our animals was shut down and the owner charged with animal cruelty.

We thought that we had done our research. We had gone down to visit the facility before leaving any animals there and everything looked great.



Before

But due to changes in the caretaker's situation and, perhaps due to a population that was allowed to grow too large, the "sanctuary" went horribly wrong. The caretaker could no longer manage the facility. She was by herself, trying to care for more animals than she had the resources to care for. Cats starved and sickened. Some died. Some disappeared. We don't know how long the situation had been bad. We only know that when the sanctuary was raided, the poor creatures we'd taken there were not among those

saved. They are listed as among the "lost". Our volunteers still mourn.



After

With the sanctuary in Pennsylvania, some say that the neglect and horrible conditions had been reported for some time and were ignored by local authorities. I suspect the conditions were not always horrible. But even recently, individuals and animal rescue groups continued to bring last-chance cases to the sanctuary. None were turned away and the caretaker was hailed as a saint. The findings of the raid should take away that label and replace it with something more appropriate. The number of dead and dying cats found on the property show that there was something less than beatific going on. The conditions the animals were found in were horrible. Deprived of adequate food, water, or medical care, they were dying slow deaths at the hands of their "rescuer".

The Pennsylvania SPCA calls this a classic case of animal hoarding. With animal hoarding, which is a mental illness, people take on more animals than they can reasonably care for. It starts with a reasonable number of animals but then, the person can't say no. They have to "help" more animals. Suddenly there's not enough food to feed them all and not enough time to check them all to see how they're doing and, well, even if there is a sick animal, there's no money to provide the medical care it needs anyway. This can happen with individuals and it can happen with animal sanctuaries and rescues. The situation gets out of control.

If there is a moral to this story it's what your mother always told you: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. The fact is that it takes more than good intentions to rescue animals. It takes people, time, and money. If you're missing any one of those, something bad is going to happen. Sure, you can have a shortfall of one for a brief period of time, but unless you make adjustments to reduce the need or increase the resource, things only get worse. We all want to save as many animals as possible. That's why we looked high and low for a place that could handle the cats that were impossible to place and we took them to the Tennessee sanctuary. That's why people who can't bear to take their kitty to the shelter, where they're sure it will be euthanized, will entrust their kitty to

a rescue who says they are "no kill". We can feel righteous indignation at being misled by the "caretaker". But it's not just the caretakers who bring about the deplorable situations. The situations are brought about by every person who gives yet another litter of kittens to the neighborhood "cat lady" whose house reeks of cat urine and who always seems to have bedraggled adults and new litters of kittens running around with goopy eyes or by the person who leaves another load of cats at the door of the sanctuary but is not allowed to see any facilities or who sees only sickly animals on the property but leaves the animals anyway.

Do your research. Is there a ready corps of volunteers or employees around to care for the animals? Are the animals spayed and neutered? Does the organization seem to have a source of funds to support its work, not just today but for as long as the animals live there? Are people welcome to tour the facility (with appropriate notice)? Is the facility clean? Do the animals appear healthy and of normal weight? Is there enough food for the animals? After you've done your research, you're not done yet. Volunteer your time or make a donation to your local shelter, or the reputable rescue or sanctuary you've researched to help them continue their good work. Because good intentions aren't enough.

Saving the World One Cat or Dog at a Time!



If interested please call (703) 799-9390 or email spcanova@aol.com and a volunteer will contact you.

It is the hardest job you will ever have but also the most rewarding. Becoming a foster family can be a very gratifying experience! Our ability to save animals ultimately depends on caring people who are willing to open their hearts and homes to cats and dogs that are seeking a second chance at life. As a foster parent you will provide a needy cat or dog with love, nurturing, and food. The SPCA covers all medical expenses and will assign a "foster buddy" to assist you with the ins and outs of fostering. We currently are looking for people to foster one adult cat, a few kittens, or one medium or large dog.

Double Trouble

By Brooke Hinrichs

When we adopted George and Fred (formerly Ruffles and Taffy) I was fairly confident I could deal with George's special needs for his upper eyelid agenesis. His upper eyelids weren't fully formed, letting the hairs around his eyes rub against his eyeballs. After going through all kinds of treatments when my departed cat Joe Kitty was ill, the thought of putting ointments in George's eyes and nursing him through eye surgery didn't seem daunting.

He had the surgery on March 3rd, which consisted of freezing the hairs around his eyes to remove them. It went very well and George came home the same day. Fortunately I was home from work that week, because despite my best efforts to prepare the house for his arrival, he still managed to get his cone stuck several times in various places. Lesson One: no matter how much you prepare, it isn't enough. Although George HATED wearing a cone and we had to arrange lunchtime trips home from work to



George

give him ointment, his recovery wasn't that difficult otherwise. He didn't fight taking the various pills he needed, and didn't run (much) when it was time to medicate his red swollen eyes. George was a little needier when he first came home, particularly because his brother Fred was not around to distract him. For several days, he ran through the house (or bumped through with his cone!) meowing and looking for his brother. But Fred was still at the vet, recovering from his own surgery.

Yes, as it turned out, Fred was a special needs kitty

too. When we adopted Fred, he had a small limp which both his foster mom and vet thought was no big deal, just a sprain. But when the limp continued to come and go over the next several months, it was time to take a closer look. Fred had a condition called luxating patella, fairly rare in cats, which caused his kneecap to pop out of joint because the groove it should rest in wasn't deep enough.

On March 3rd Fred had surgery on his knee to correct the problem. He had to stay at the vet for several days and when he came home, we had to keep him in a crate at all times, with a few supervised outings to walk him and move his leg manually, to make sure it



Fred

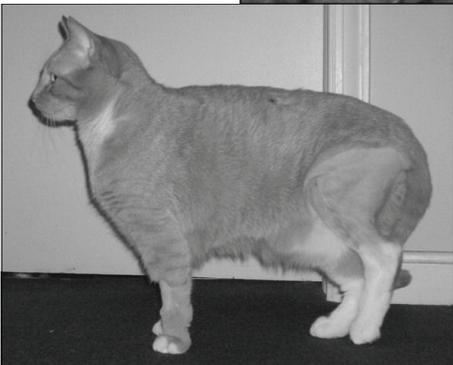
didn't stiffen up while he healed. The scar was a bit gruesome and Fred was obviously in some pain, but he was his old self almost immediately. He even purred in my arms when I visited him at the vet the day after his surgery and purred pretty much constantly when we got home.

Before Fred came home, there was a significant amount of prep work to do. We moved our couch into the hallway to make room for the big crate that would be Fred's home within home during his recovery. We also moved everything out of another room so we would have a place to let Fred take his supervised walks where there was nothing he could jump on or climb.

Despite all our best efforts, there was still a mishap. When Fred was resting on my fiancé's lap, George

came by and startled him, and Fred jumped off his lap. Lesson Two: never underestimate the mobility and speed of a three-legged cat. We called the vet right away, but he didn't seem concerned so we decided to wait until his regular appointment (in another week) to bring him in. During this check-up, the vet became concerned that Fred hadn't made more progress using his bad leg. With some additional x-rays, he determined that Fred had re-injured his knee. Whether from the jump, a weakness in the bone, or doing something on his own while in the crate, it is impossible to know exactly how/when it happened. But Fred would need another surgery, and this one was much more extensive. Lesson Three: if ANYTHING happens or if there is any doubt that everything isn't perfect, go to the vet right away to check.

After two weeks with the vet, we were finally able to take Fred home. He has been home now for three weeks and everything is going well so far.



The first week he would not let us touch his leg, but recently we were able to start physical therapy again moving his leg to keep it from stiffening up. After being

so long without the use of his leg, Fred was reluctant to try it out. The vet recommended putting weights on his bad leg, both to strengthen it and to force him to use it. I made a little pouch with a Velcro strap, and we filled it with BB's and put it around his ankle. It seems to be working. Fred still has a significant limp, but he is walking much better now and doesn't seem to be in pain. His last check up reported his bone was healing nicely.

Fred still needs to be in a crate and will for several more weeks, which is hard on all of us. We take

turns sleeping in the living room, because Fred cries if he is left alone at night. We allow limited supervised contact between Fred and George but we can't let them snuggle and wrestle yet the way they



always have—which means both of them are much more restless. George (who is pretty much recovered from his ordeal) sometimes sleeps outside Fred's crate to keep him company and runs to check on him if he meows, which is very sweet to see .



It is the sweetness of both cats that makes it all worth it. With all they have gone through, Fred and George are still the nicest cats you will ever meet. They love to be held and cuddled, they love each other. Both of them purr the instant we touch them and snuggle into our laps when we hold them. With all the extra work we have put into caring for our special needs kitties, we are rewarded with all the extra love they can give us. We wouldn't trade them for anything.

I would like to thank the SPCA for all the help they have given us. From their foster mom Sandy being available 24/7 for questions and support, to loaning us a crate for months at a time, we couldn't have had better partners in the boys' recoveries.

Neko: Our Little Girl Wonder

By Jayme Pittsonberger & Jennifer Watkins

For an established cat lover and another person who became a cat lover in a small duplex in Alexandria, VA, one special-needs cat rescued from Hurricane Katrina seemed like enough. Then, as our Mississippi-born cat (Jada) turned two it was becoming more and more apparent that she needed a friend.

Knowing that there are so many cats out there that need good homes, we agreed that we would try to choose one that didn't have a high likelihood of being adopted. We searched website after website, cat-loving group after cat-loving group.

Then, one day in the summer of 2007, we noticed that the Northern VA SPCA site had a touching story about three kittens from the same litter that were born with upper eyelid problems. As the story unfolded there were many coincidences and signs that one of these kittens was meant to be a part of our lives.

So, phone calls were made and emails were exchanged. We got to know Sandy Soto, the NoVA SPCA, and eventually Jo-Jo. As we heard more about her and her two brothers, we decided to meet Jo-Jo. She was the one of the three kittens most afflicted with a genetic disorder known as bilateral upper eyelid agenesis. This is a fancy way of saying she was born without upper eyelids. The NoVA SPCA worked hard to raise money and awareness of her disorder. Sandy told us that they would pay for corrective surgery and we were touched that there were so many warm-hearted contributors. It was amazing to see this vibrant and resilient kitten that was given this hurdle in life. It soon became clear that Jo-Jo was indeed a special creature and that even though we knew there were tough times ahead, we wanted her to be a part of our lives.

During our visits with Sandy and Jo-Jo, we were educated on her eye condition and that she required lubrication in her eyes at least 3-4 times a day. Since Jo-Jo had been receiving gel in her eyes since early in life, she had adapted well to being turned on her back to have Puralube squirted in her eyes. After our

application was approved and we were trained by Sandy to apply the Puralube, we happily took Jo-Jo home.

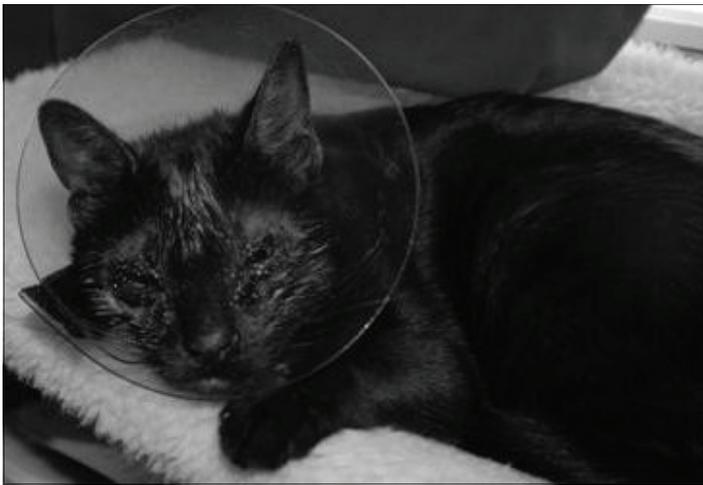
We renamed her Neko (pronounced knee-ko) and for the next seven months we lubricated her eyes and kept close watch to make sure she didn't develop eye ulcers or other complications that may have impeded her progress.

In December 2007 and early January 2008, we had some initial appointments with the Eyecare Center in Springfield, VA. We had done some research on our own for Neko's affliction and were able to talk "shop" with the vet when he explained his own surgical technique. They explained how she would look after the surgery and what to expect. On January 28th Neko went for surgery. We have to admit, nothing prepared us for what she looked like



Neko

with her stitches, swelling, post-surgery seepage and all of the medications necessary. After quickly recovering from the initial shock of seeing Neko post-surgery, all we wanted to do was get her home and make her comfortable.



In planning for her surgery, we scheduled time so we could be home as much as possible. At one point, she was receiving 7 daily medications (some oral but most ocular) and had several visits back to the Eyecare Center for various post-surgery complications. The poor thing had to wear an E-collar all the time and worst of all, she had to stay separated at night from her big sister Jada, because we knew that she would try to groom Neko's face. Sadly, even though we know that's one of their favorite things to do, we just couldn't allow that to happen.



Finally, the day came (about 3 weeks post-surgery) when the collar could come off and Jada and Neko could cuddle up together at night. Several medications were still being administered and we were

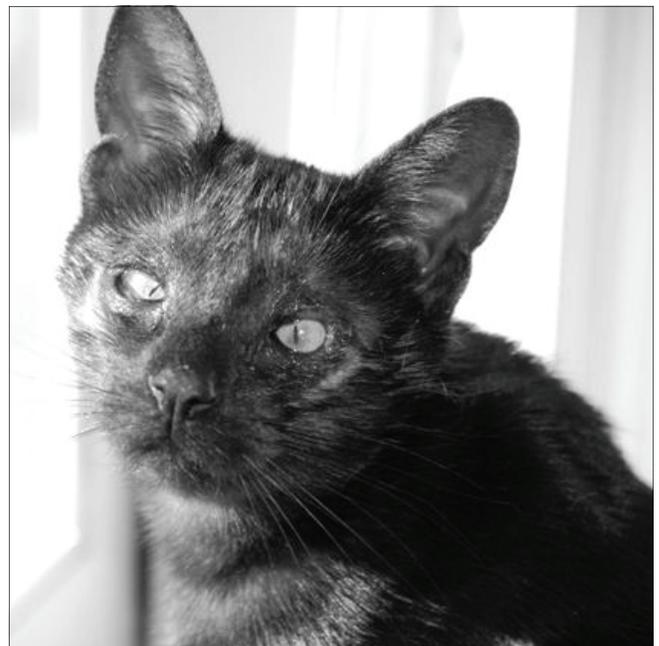
still making frequent visits to the Eyecare Center. It's been almost three months since the surgery and a new set of challenges have arisen. For whatever reason, areas of Neko's lower eyelids (a place that the surgeon took tissue from to graft on her upper eyelids) are not healing properly and are causing irritation of her eyes. It looks like she will require

another surgical procedure to correct this.

Sadly, this will mean that she will have to go through a lot of what she went through before. She will wear an E-collar, have stitches, and have to have a lot of medications again. Even though it is painful to watch this, we just want to take care of our sweet Neko, make sure that she is not in any pain, and hope that one day this will all be worth it.

It may sound to some like a lot to take on, but for us, Neko has been such an enriching addition to our family. She has strengthened our patience, diligence, and awareness of special-needs pets. She constantly amazes us at how such a small little creature can have such a massive spirit, which even during her times of pain and depression, cannot be crushed.

She has also "opened our eyes" to the fact that there are generous people out there that gave money to a kitten that they had never met for a condition that they had probably never heard of. Since she can't talk, we would like to speak for her and thank those who contributed to her cause. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Please know that she is with two loving people that are looking out for her, and a big sister kitty who loves her very much. We'll keep you posted on Neko's progress and hope that the next update will bear good recovery news for her.



Upcoming Fundraising Activities and Recent Events

- **Annual Dog Wash**

August 2, 2008
Weber's Pet Supermarket
Fairfax, VA



- **SPCA Wine Tasting**

Watch our Website for Date
and Location



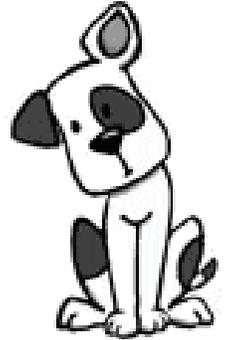
Easter Egg Hunt Provides Lots Of Fun For The Dogs In Our Care

The caretaker of our dogs whilst they are waiting for their new families to adopt them puts on a yearly Easter Egg Hunt to enrich their lives. She puts small pieces of hotdog inside plastic eggs and scatters them around the yard for the dogs to find and enjoy. This year was no exception and here are some photos of the fun:





2008 ADOPTION SCHEDULES



CATS

Our cats are available to meet you in their foster homes by appointment weeknights or weekends.

Simply email us at:

spcanova@aol.com

and let us know which cat(s) you would be interested in meeting and we'll take care of the rest.

If you do not have email, please call us at:

703-799-9390

DOGS

Our Dog adoption fairs are held at:

Weber's Pet Supermarket
11021 Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22030
(703) 385-3766
12:30 - 3:00 pm

DATES (Saturday):

June 28	September 27
July 12	October 11
July 26	October 25
August 9	November 8
August 23	December 6
September 13	

*Visit our site to
see some of the
many cats and
dogs available.*

WWW.SPCANOVA.ORG

*A new best
friend could be
waiting.*



GIFTS IN REMEMBRANCE

In Memory Of

"SHADOW" LUKASIK-BROWN

Anonymous

"ZUKI"

Lisa Bonvicini

"WEBSTER"

Peter Broida

"COLBY"

Michael & Donna Bruggeman

"STRETCH", OUR BOY CAT

Dorothy & Larry Click

"TIGGER" COCOLIS

Peter & Rebecca Cocolis

"BOO BEAR" WARREN

Robert Cox

**"GABRIELA", GENTLE GIANT
DARWIN**

Bob & Pam Darwin

"FUZZY" LAGRANT

April & Marilyn Davis

"TONY" FAGAN

April & Marilyn Davis

"DAWN" & "MIDNIGHT"

Angela & Gordon Green

"PIPSIWA"

Benjamin & Christine Hantz

"KATO"

Richard J Harris

"SAGEBRUSH"

Kyla Hart

**"SHADOW", "GUNNER", "JAKE",
"DAISY", & HEIDI**

Nancy Herndon

"ARRABELLA"

Linda Jeffers

**"HEIDI", "NINA", "CAMILLE",
"ARTIE", "ANGEL", "MIRACLE",
"ROXIE", "EBONY", "PEBBLES"**

Dana Meeker

"TIDBIT"

Marcia Miceli

**"ZORRO" BELOVED SPCA NOVA
CAT, DIED 1/13/2007**

Katharine Norris

**"CHOCOLATE MOOSE", THERAPY
DOG, CANINE GOOD CITIZEN,
DIED 3/5/2007**

Jim & Judy Norton

**"NORTON" REESE, "RIPLEY"
ALDRIDGE, "BEAR" & "PEANUT"
BARRETT**

Karla Raymond

"NICKY"

Joe & Alice Richardson

"TOFU" AND "JENNY"

John Roby

"WILLOW" GUERRE

Roger Schultz

**"MAJOR" BELOVED BLACK LAB
MIX RESCUED 10 YEARS AGO**

Anne Squire

"LEVEN" DAVIDSON

Yuliya Sysoyeva

"FESTUS"

Penny Vaughn

"HOGIE" AND "JOEY"

Brian & Michelle Vaughn

"SUJI", "TUSKER", & "DAWA"

Dana Vogel

"TUSKER"

Dana Vogel

"COOKIE"

Edith Von Stuemmer

**"MISTY" & "ZABIYAH"
CAVANAGH**

Deanna Wilson

MR A

Anonymous

DONNIE RAY BAKER

Marsha Miller

ELWOOD CHILDRESS

GE Hitachi Nuclear

Myra & Ron Kuffel

Virginia Nelson

**DR. MARTIN DELANEY III &
"SHADOW"**

Charles Bish

DR. MARTIN D. DELANEY III

Sarah Carter Delaney

John D Kling

Allan Ray & Sarah Delaney Largent

Marte Murphy

KIRA DEVIVO

Debra Hollander

LOIS HUDSON

Alan & Jackie Hawes

JENNIFER BALLARD KOCH

Anonymous

CHARLES KOTZIN

Cherie Kotzin

**TO LINDA CANTEY IN MEMORY
OF "ERNIE"**

Linda Taylor

SUSAN MORRISON MAGEE

John & Julie Seitz

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF LOLA
MATTERN**

Christopher Moser

ELWANDA MCGREW

Cathy Parks

**EDWARD J MURTY JR &
"PUDDIN"**

Edward J Murty

CLAIRE PHILLIPS

Edna L Dempsey

MARGARET REASEY

Jane F Keene

CARRIE ELIZABETH SAMUELSON

Steven D Eisenberg

EVAN THRONSON

Stephen Garber

JOHN C WILLIAMS

Bob Capra & Jona Souder



GIFTS IN REMEMBRANCE

In Honor Of

"ALLIE" & "BELLA"

Philip & Jo Anne Singley

**"CHRISTOPHER" WHITEHEAD,
HOPING FOR A SPEEDY
RECOVERY**

Karla Raymond

"HOODOO"

David A Bush

"JOSIE", OUR SPCA DOG

John & Nancy Handy

"LEXI" "HOPE"

Jerry & Larry Spellman

"SHELBY"

Stephen & Natalie Berliner

**"SISSY" & "KRAMER",
BEAUTIFUL SPCA GIFTS & BEST
CATS EVER**

Joy Ellis

**"TIDBIT'S" KITTENS BORN
EASTER 2006**

Marcia Miceli

"WALLY"

Linda Jeffers

AMY AMSLER

Jason Childers

BETH AZER

Jonathan Alfert

JESSE BOEDING

Peter O'Connor

OLIVER BYRUM

Erin Byrum

YOGI DITTRICH

Anonymous

MATT EINSEIN

Anonymous

MAX EVANGELISTI

Anonymous

FLORENCE GUBANC

Toni Farquhar

**NANCY HERNDON, WITH THANKS
FOR FINDING GRACIE A GOOD
HOME**

Doris & George Barnes

FOR JACK

M Louise Scale

CODY KERCHNER

Anonymous

**MARTHA MAINS CHRISTMAS
GIFT**

Barbara Sergeant

TIPURR MCCARROLL

Diana Mette

PRESTON MILLER

Richard Shadyac

**NINA PAGADALA AND ALEX
SOMWARU**

Jennifer Shatwell

CARIN PARKER

Anonymous

MARILYN POWERS

Karen Hermansen

LOUISE RYDER

Anonymous

JEANINE SIEVER

Christy Gouker

JESSICA SKOBEL & "DASH"

Paul & Beth Schomber

JULIET SMELTZ

Kathleen Tardiff

KRISTA STALEY SUPON

Carol Hanson

SHAY STAMP

Maxine Karlick

MOLLY SULLIVAN

Colin Sullivan

MELISSA THOMAS

David Older

NATALIE & STEPHEN BERLINER

Christopher Marotta

ELIZABETH A GLOWICZ

Marilyn Apple

TERRA

Eryn Lussier

**ANDREW & CARRIE LUTTRELL IN
LIEU OF CHRISTMAS GIFT**

Ruth Eller

ROBERT, ON VALENTINE'S DAY

Jan Novia

Gifts In Remembrance



The SPCA welcomes donations made in honor or in memory of someone special in your life. Please include the name and address of the person you would like notified of your donation along with the name of the person or pet being honored or remembered.

Third Grader Helps Animals in Need

Julia Vogel is a shy third grader at St. Bernadette's school in Springfield, Virginia. She adores animals and they adore her. So much so that typically standoffish animals will approach her wanting attention. Cats she meets for the very first time rub up against her, purring, seeking a good petting.

Nearly eight years ago, Julia's family adopted Pumpkin, a male orange tabby cat, from the SPCA. Pumpkin has brought much joy and laughter to the Vogel family over the years. He has also trained the entire family to do his bidding. Pumpkin is fascinated with water. When the Vogel family brushes their teeth at night they must put a cup of water out for Pumpkin. If they forget, Pumpkin starts meowing until they accommodate him. When any Vogel family member takes a shower, Pumpkin is waiting patiently outside the shower door, ready to pounce inside for a drink after they are finished.

St. Bernadette's is a caring school with an established record of charitable giving. The entire student body plays a part in fund raising, with each grade level (1 through 8) being assigned their own month in which they are allowed to collect money for their chosen worthy cause. The way they do this is unique. On a specially assigned day within the month, all students are allowed to "dress down" and ditch their blue and maroon uniforms to wear clothing of their choice. The price of admission to "dress down day" is \$1.00, which goes to the charity of the month. Each month is also assigned a virtue, which everyone is encouraged to emulate. This past March happened to be the third graders' month, and the virtue picked for March was confidence and courage. Turns out that confidence and courage were instrumental to making March's fundraiser a success.

The seed was planted during lunch period in December, when Julia and her friend since first grade, Megan Hoover, were talking about animals. Julia expressed a strong desire to organize a drive to raise money for animals right there at the school. Megan very much wanted this to happen and immediately approached the cafeteria coordinator,

Mrs. Barrick who suggested that Julia and Megan speak with their third grade teacher, Mrs. Mahoney. They did. Mrs. Mahoney was very supportive and recommended that they tell the school principal, Mrs. Beeks, about their plan. That was the tough part. Julia was a little nervous about approaching the principal to request her support in helping animals, but she was determined. So she and Megan did just that. Mrs. Beeks was thrilled with Julia's idea; she had just adopted a dog and wanted to give back by assisting a rescue organization. However, she thought it best to keep with tradition and wait until it was the 3rd grade class' turn for their monthly fundraiser. Their turn was coming up in March. So Julia and Megan waited patiently until March.

Their confidence and courage paid off. On March 17, St. Patrick's Day, St. Bernadette's third grade class held a fundraiser for the Northern Virginia SPCA. Students of all ages were excited to "dress down" for the day to raise money to help sick, neglected, and abandoned animals find loving homes. They were more than happy to donate \$1.00 in order to forgo their uniforms for a great cause. It was a successful day for all concerned, especially for the animals.

The Northern Virginia SPCA sends a huge thank you to Julia Vogel, Megan Hoover, Julia's mom Carole Vogel, Mrs. Barrick, Mrs. Mahoney, Mrs. Fellingner, principal Patricia Beeks, and the entire staff and student body of St. Bernadette's!





SPCA of Northern Virginia
 Post Office Box 100220
 Arlington, VA 22210-3220
 Phone: 703-799-9390
 Email: INFORMATION@SPCANOVA.org



Would You Like to Subscribe to our Newsletter?

As a newsletter subscriber you will stay up to date on our programs, upcoming events, and animal cases in and around the Northern Virginia area.

Sign up today using the newsletter subscription form available on our web site www.spcanova.org and click on the "About Us" tab.

If your company participates in the United Way, CFC or CVC you can donate to SPCA of Northern Virginia.

**UNITED WAY
 CAMPAIGN # 8155**



**COMBINED FEDERAL
 CAMPAIGN # 94873**



**COMMONWEALTH OF
 VIRGINIA CAMPAIGN # 8391**



PLEASE NOTE: The SPCA of Northern Virginia is an IRS-registered 501(c)(3) charity, EIN 54-1627788, listed under the name Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Northern Virginia.

Prevent Pet Parenthood

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For low cost spay/neuter information contact



A program of the SPCA of Northern Virginia

- Everyone qualifies for our program.
- Services available in your local area.
- Provided by participating veterinarians.

(703) 522-7920

www.spay.org

SPCA Nova Humane Investigation Services: Promoting the Protection of All Animals

Investigating reports of cruelty, abuse, neglect, and abandonment is one of our primary functions. If you see (or suspect) animal abuse or neglect, please call us at (703)799-9390, Ext. 1 and one of our two court appointed humane investigators will contact you for details as the first step in investigating the situation. All information is kept confidential and will never be released.

REPORT ANIMAL CRUELTY!





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Please fill out this form and send it to:
SPCA of Northern Virginia, P.O. Box 100220, Arlington, VA 22210

Yes, I want to contribute to SPCA Nova to help rescue animals in Northern Virginia

My check is enclosed for: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

One-year membership

Associate Membership—\$10.00

Active/Voting Membership—\$20.00

Donations

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 Other \$ _____

Special Donations

Bequest (Please send me information)

Memorial Gift (In memory of: _____)

(In honor of: _____)