

Paws To Consider

Winter 2012

Paws Across the Sea

By Joan Hughes

The United States is known to be a dog-loving nation. We know that cruelty to animals exists here--puppy mills and dog fighting come to mind--but even more people regard their canine companions as members of the family.

Other countries, Yemen in this case, leave a lot to be desired. There, feelings toward dogs approximate our feelings toward rats, although we don't treat rats as cruelly as they do dogs. Children kick and stone them, break their tails and burn their whiskers. The preferred method of animal control is to toss food laced with rat poison to the ravenous dogs, resulting in agonizing death. Spaying and neutering is unheard of as is adequate vet care. The dogs keep breeding.

The SPCA of Northern Virginia recently has formed a liaison with U.S. State Department good Samaritans in an effort to save some of these dogs. In the last few months SPCA president Dana Meeker and dog committee chairperson Barbara Cohen have driven to Dulles airport to meet the incoming flights carrying them. The first two to arrive were Morgan and Winnie. It was a long and

arduous journey but when they arrived at a local animal hospital both dogs ate a little and drank a lot and finally slept. They received physical exams and all necessary vaccines. After a few days they were taken to Lisa Reid's Ragged Mountain Kennel, a haven for all our dogs, and awaited their first adoption day.



Morgan

When that day came, Morgan was well behaved and pleased with the attention he received. He is an extremely smart dog and eagerly adjusted to his forever home.

Poor Winnie didn't fare as well at her first adoption event. She had been car sick on the drive from Lisa's kennel to Weber's Pet Supermarket, and that can ruin anyone's day. She was shy, but her tail kept wagging. A point in her favor was that in Yemen she had shared food with the stray cats and even played with them. We felt that a cat in a new home wouldn't be a problem and might even be beneficial as a companion for Winnie. Wrong. Or maybe not. She has been adopted by a wonderful couple who possess compassion and determination. Winnie growled at their cat and had him cornered; the situation was doubtful but with helpful suggestions

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The SPCA of Northern Virginia is a volunteer based 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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Help the SPCA Continue Its Work In The Coming Year 2012 Annual Appeal



Former SPCA Kitten Marley

It's hard to believe that 2012 is nearly over. It's easy to lose track of time because we're responding to phone calls and emails, helping all the people who reach out to us, and rescuing animals throughout the year. But that's how we measure our success and we have been very busy indeed, rescuing hundreds of cats, kittens, and dogs, and referring thousands to spay/neuter services.

We couldn't have done it without our foster homes, the staff of Spay, Inc., our incredibly caring and dedicated volunteers, the veterinarians and specialists who provide discounted services, Lisa at the kennel, and most of all, our wonderful donors. At this time of year, when we look back at all we've accomplished, we just have to say Thank You!

Despite all your help, though, our coffers have been seriously depleted by the unexpected emergency surgeries of some of our charges, the trips to eye and cardiac specialists to ensure that our animals are healthy enough for adoption, the spays and neuters of so many kittens and dogs, and, of course, all the regular exams and vaccinations that all well cared-for animals need. We hope that you'll remember the SPCA of Northern Virginia with a generous year-end donation to replenish our accounts to prepare for all the important work that the New Year will bring.



Former SPCA Kitten Scarlet



Donations to the SPCA 2012 Annual Appeal are 100% tax-deductible. Please make your gift using the form on the back cover, or make a donation by credit card by visiting our website www.spcanova.org

Your generosity will make a lasting difference.

(Continued from page 1)



Winnie

from Lisa, dog/cat relations have improved. They love Winnie (“a total love bug”) and enjoy her antics, undeterred by the loss of remotes, cameras or anything else this pup claims as hers.

The situation with Simba, a third Yemeni street dog and a favorite among his rescuers, proved more problematic. After he was examined, we found that he had a medical condition that required several months of treatment to resolve. Simba has since completed his treatments and has been adopted.



Simba

The latest arrivals are Blondie and Snickers, litter mates as sweet and friendly as their predecessors.



Blondie



Snickers

Rescuing Yemeni street dogs is not something the SPCA sought out and their rescuers know that not all Yemeni street dogs can be saved. But these Americans serving overseas had invested their hearts and money to raise the puppies and to keep a few adults safe in an environment that was dangerous not just for the dogs, but for themselves as well. When it was time for the rescuers to leave their posting in Yemen and return home to Virginia, they couldn't turn their backs on the dogs and leave them behind after all they had been through. We are proud to have helped bring these few dogs to safety and give them a chance at a coddled American dog's life.

Collaboration Counts

By Leah Kaiz and Cyndy Unwin

We all know what happens when a pair of stray cats breed. They multiply, exponentially! When a concerned citizen, Leah, called SPCA of Northern Virginia this past March about a colony of strays near her neighborhood, it sounded like a typical feral situation that had gotten out of hand. There was a wonderful twist to this story, however, because many of these kitties were friendly! Here's what happened, in Leah's words:

I live in a cushy middle class neighborhood right on the edge of the railroad tracks. But step past the boundaries toward the dilapidated houses lining the tracks and you have a different world.

Last fall a young stray cat started hanging around our house. We would have kept this friendly soul, but we already have three of our own. I campaigned to everyone and finally found him a forever home. I thought that was the end of the story.

On Halloween, two women from the ramshackle houses by the tracks were trick-or-treating with their kids, and four little stray tabby cats trailed behind. I asked about the cats, wondering if anyone had a plan to get them fixed. One said she was getting a job with a vet and would arrange to have them neutered. I took her at her word.

Meanwhile, my neighbors were feeding an orange tabby. In March, they told me nonchalantly that she had gone into heat. My heart dropped.



Tangerine & Kittens

I walked over to the houses near the railroad and started counting cats and talking with neighbors. At least 11-12 stray cats were apparently in the area. An elderly woman was putting food down for them three times a day, but did not have the means to get them spayed and neutered. I noticed four pregnant females.



Audrey & Kittens

I seemed to be the only one who could imagine the severity of this population explosion. I called the SPCA and they came out to evaluate the temperament of the group. Almost all the cats were tame enough to be homed. It was then that we realized that there were not four pregnant females, but six, with at least one other about to go into heat! The SPCA only had space to take in three of the females, so I needed to enlist the help of some other rescue groups, including one that could assist with the more feral cats in the bunch.

Tails High in Alexandria was able to assist with one more friendly pregnant female, but we still had several cats left. I contacted Feline Network, Inc, a local feral group. I asked their advice on trapping the remaining cats and getting them neutered. I was in luck: one of their volunteers was running a spay-neuter clinic in a week and provided me with all the trapping supplies.

I told Feline Network's volunteer that I was trying to find foster homes for the friendly cats. She went into action and let other rescue groups know that we were looking for foster homes. I also put the word out to my friends and family. Instantly I had a flood of donations and offers of help. One person was even interested in adopting. This helped immensely in the process.



The day of the trapping, we were able to catch both remaining pregnant mamas, two young females, and two of the boys. With six cats in my garage for an overnight stay, one of my friends came by and decided to adopt the grey male tabby. Yay! Then, thanks to Feline Network's plea for foster homes, on the day of the clinic, the remaining five cats were brought into foster care by Fancy Cats Rescue Team and PW/Raleigh County Animal Rescue, Inc.

In total, five mama cats and two young males were rescued, 24 kittens were safely born, and five rescue groups got involved.

The SPCA, along with other rescue groups, threw me a lifeline and made all the difference in our neighborhood. I discovered that people are willing to help keep a bad situation from getting worse when you are patient, share kind words, and let them know you need help (without expecting them to do the work for you).



Leah's story is a testimony to the power of collaboration between caring community members and volunteer rescue groups. Without Leah's willingness to jump in and become part of the solution, this mammoth rescue effort would not have occurred. Thanks to her, over 30 cats and kittens will now enrich families' lives as beloved pets.

Saving just one animal won't change the world but, surely, the world will change for that one animal."

~Unknown

Boo

By Cyndy Unwin

It was an unusually quiet week on the SPCA NOVA phone lines, that first week of July, 2012. But it wasn't a quiet week in the Mid-Atlantic. Millions of people were struggling to cope with the aftermath of the June 29th derecho, enduring triple-digit weather in powerless homes, and coping with additional challenges of storm damage, injury, or loss.

A few days later, a Fairfax woman who had found a sick gray cat in her backyard called SPCA for assistance. The cat was quite emaciated and was having trouble walking. Toni had contacted her own veterinarian, but they sadly turned her away because the cat "was a stray and his vaccination history was unknown." We were very surprised to hear that Toni's own veterinarian would not see this cat who was obviously in need of medical attention. One of SPCA's priorities is assisting sick, injured or suffering animals; so we made arrangements for me and our cat coordinator, Kathleen, to meet Toni and the cat at a local vet office we work closely with. Upon examination, the cat, who was between eight and ten years old, weighed less than seven pounds and was extremely dehydrated and weak (despite having been brought inside by Toni, her husband, Mike, and their son, Dylan, earlier in the week and given food and water). Blood was drawn at the visit, the cat was given fluids and a high-calorie diet, and he was returned to Toni's care. Normally, a cat like this would be brought into one of our foster homes, but we were full at the time. So we were very grateful to Toni and her family for being willing to temporarily assume care of the cat under our supervision.

Meanwhile, we asked Toni to report the cat to the local shelter and communicate with her neighbors about having found him. Toni sent an email out on her neighborhood listserv. A man who read her email had recently talked with a young man, Jason, who'd

been searching the neighborhood for his lost gray cat. The man knew where Jason lived, so he gave this information to Toni, and she paid Jason a visit.

And so begins Jason's story about his lost cat, Boo.



On Friday, June 29th, Jason and his cousin, Tika, returned home after the derecho to a dark, powerless house. It wasn't until the next day, when daylight returned, that Jason noticed his sweet cat, Boo, was missing. Boo must have been frightened by the storm and run out the door when Jason entered in the dark. Jason combed the neighborhood, asking neighbors if they had seen Boo. Jason posted signs to no avail. He began losing hope, until the

following Friday, when Toni came knocking on his door. The sick cat she and her family had taken in was, indeed, Jason's cat, Boo! He had wandered a couple of blocks from his home and managed to survive for five days in the scorching heat before Toni, Mike, and Dylan found him and brought him inside.

But the story doesn't end with Boo's happy reunion with Jason. Despite Jason's efforts over the next couple of weeks to help Boo gain weight, he still wasn't eating or drinking enough and was quite lethargic.

Then, Boo had a strange episode in the middle of the night where he was disoriented and appeared to be blind. Jason called us, very concerned. We arranged for Jason to meet Kathleen back at the vet office for an additional evaluation. The veterinarian indicated that there were a range of things that could cause severe neurological symptoms, such as rabies or a brain tumor. Luckily, however, Jason had brought copies of Boo's vet records from his prior owner showing that Boo had been consistently vaccinated for rabies since he was a kitten. Kathleen also

wondered what the chances were that Boo had a brain tumor that just happened to show symptoms now. It seemed more likely that something had happened to Boo outdoors that was now causing the neurological symptoms.

Kathleen asked the veterinarian whether toxoplasmosis could cause such severe neurological problems. This blood-borne bacteria is sometimes found in birds and rodents and can cause neurological symptoms in cats if they eat contaminated prey. After discussing treatment options with the veterinarian, Boo began treatment with steroids and a 30-day regimen of antibiotics for possible toxoplasmosis. Almost immediately, Boo responded to the treatment. Jason states, "Kathleen was such a great help to me at the vet. They were discussing all the different ailments and possible causes of Boo's condition and it was like watching two people speaking another language. Had I been there alone with Boo at the vet, I would have been totally lost and not asked the right questions. I seriously believe had Kathleen not been there, Boo would not be here right now. I got the right medications and the right treatment plan to give Boo, and he's doing great." As of press time, Boo has gained two pounds, his vision has returned to normal, and he has had no signs of neurological problems.

Recent natural disasters have called attention to the increased need for animal rescue efforts in their aftermath. Boo undoubtedly is still alive because Toni, Mike, and Dylan took it upon themselves to take him in and ask for assistance from an experienced rescue group. Most animal rescue groups consist almost entirely of volunteers. Many of these volunteers are experts, yes, but still volunteers (many with full-time jobs not related to animal rescue). We need and welcome the support of "ordinary" citizens like the family that rescued Boo. Jason and the SPCA of Northern Virginia send sincere thanks to Toni, Mike, and Dylan for opening their hearts and their home to save this sweet kitty from certain death.

Final thoughts from Jason: "It's an unbelievable feeling when you lose a pet that you love. When I lost Boo, it was like losing a part of me. The people in my neighborhood were so nice and really helpful. Boo is a valued member of our family and we will be forever grateful to Toni, her family, and the SPCA for everything they did to bring Boo back home. It's comforting to know that, during such a crisis, there's an organization such as the SPCA that will love and care for your pet as their own. Cyndy and Kathleen from the SPCA have been terrific. I never felt alone at all with them behind me. God bless them."

Some lessons to be learned from Boo's "lost cat" experience:

- Some *stray cats* are actually *lost cats* that can be reunited with their families! Use all of the communication tools at your fingertips—including electronic ones! In Boo's case, the Internet, signs, and word-of-mouth were the keys to reuniting him with Jason, his owner.
- Be friendly with your neighbors, and understand your neighborhood. In today's busy world, it's easy to come and go without getting to know the people who live around you. Toni knew her neighborhood well enough to understand that a wandering gray cat was unusual. Black strays were common in her neighborhood; gray ones...not so much. She also knew how to communicate with the greatest number of her neighbors quickly—through her neighborhood listserv. While Jason was not on the listserv, he took the initiative to go door-to-door asking people about his cat. These two forms of caring communication resulted in a happy reunion!
- The animal shelter is NOT your enemy! Whenever you find an animal or lose a pet, immediately report the pet to the animal shelter. The shelters maintain databases of lost and found pets, and this can be the easiest way to match owners with their lost pets.
- Pets react in unpredictable ways during weather events. Before Boo went missing, Jason reports that his cat never approached an open door...he was too scared. Clearly, something happened the night of the derecho to make Boo react in a way that was totally uncharacteristic. Be aware that your pet may have a "fight or flight" reaction to being frightened during a storm. Take necessary precautions!



GIFTS IN REMEMBRANCE

In Memory Of

"TIGER BAILEY" BOOTH

Anonymous

"JUNIOR"

Jo Bennett

"LUCY" ROBBINS

Bylle Callahan

"JAKE", "DALLAS", AND

"AMBER"

Michael & Linda Lea Carter

"GINGER"

Donna Chauvet

"MIDNIGHT" LOMKER

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Mary Dewree

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Tim & Angie Elder

"LUCY" & "MOLLY"

Virginia Ferdensi

"MICKEY" BELOVED DOG OF OSBORN & MILDRED ALDRIDGE

Otis & Louis Hall

OUR 3 SPCA NOVA DOGS, GUNTHER, GABI, AND TIGGER

Barbara & Jerry Hanweck

"DAISY", "HEIDI", & "HOLLY"

Brenda Herndon

"CHARLIE", RELEASED FROM A WORLD OF SILENT DARKNESS

Joan V & Jim Hughes

"MADDIE" SIMMON

Julie Khani

"JERSEY"

Diana McColgan

"BOOTSIE", "BRANDI", &

"MISTY" SOTO, &

"JAGUAR" HERRERA

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"CHELSEA"

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"EDWARD"

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James Overdahl & Janis Johnson

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TERRY DAVIS

Albert Bryan

GIFTS IN REMEMBRANCE

In Honor Of

"GRETA", MY ROTTI

Lisa Jenkins

"MOLLY" & "TWIX"

Heather & Stephen Walrath

"TARA" AKA "ROSA" FYE

James & Renee Fye

"WINNIE" - RESCUED BY

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Amy Boyd

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Susan Crawford

Kelly Parkhill

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LISA DUNN

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FROM THE CHOREO CREW

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Kenneth Feldman

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Nora Burke

MEGHAN EILENFELD

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PENNY EASTMAN

Anonymous

PENNY ROCKNE-BOYNTON

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REAGAN

Anonymous

REAGAN NINO'S BIRTHDAY

Grace & Noah Grossmann

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Anonymous

SANDY VONBREDOW

Anonymous

SUSAN JORDAN

Lisalyn Roth

SUSAN WARRINGTON AND

DAVID WAGMAN

Suzanne Brach

THE DEDICATION OF NOVA

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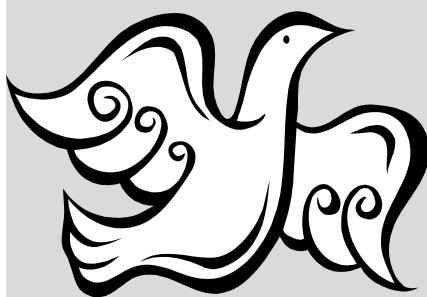
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Anonymous



GIFTS IN REMEMBERANCE—The SPCA NoVA 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.

Special Thanks

- Thank you to the following corporations for their Matching Gifts
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 - * Red Hat
 - * The Pew Charitable Trusts
 - * Toledo Community Foundation
- Thank you to Petco customers, vendors, and associates for their contributions during the Petco Foundation/Petco 2011 Tree of Hope fundraiser and to the Petco Foundation for sharing those contributions with us.
- We are very grateful to the Petco Foundation, our local Petco stores, and their customers for selecting the SPCA to receive crucial funds for its spay/neuter program. The money was raised during the “Spay Neuter Drive” held in Petco stores.
- Kitty “tummies up” to thank the Youth Program of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Arlington for the wonderful catnip tackle sacks they made for our foster kitties.
- Kudos to Anya Walker who canvassed her neighborhood requesting pet supply donations for the SPCA as her community service project.
- A big “Wow!” to Olivia Raimondo who requested donations for the animals in lieu of birthday presents for her 5th birthday. The items collected and donated were very impressive, indeed.
- A big “woof woof” of thanks to Sarah Beecy and the girls in St. Marks 5th grade class. Sarah asked her class to make a donation to the SPCA’s guardian angel program instead of bringing gifts to her birthday party. With the money raised, they will be Gareth, Lena, Gypsy, and Sue’s Guardian Angel for 3 months.
- Enormous thank you to all of our supporters who make monthly donations, online and via check, as well as the many people who support us through United Way, CFC, and other workplace giving programs. We absolutely could not help the animals without your support.
- The SPCA gratefully acknowledges a grant by the First Solar Corporate Charitable Fund of the Toledo Community Foundation at the suggestion of Kathleen Weiss and Bryan Crabb
- Emily (7) and Megan (10) Slater and neighbor Caroline McLean (11) ran a very successful lemonade stand and raised a tidy sum to help the SPCA animals.
- Brownie Troop 6561 donated the proceeds from their cookie sales to become Guardian Angels for Peter, the cat who gets himself in trouble by eating things he shouldn’t, and Sue, a lovely hound looking for a new home.
- We give special thanks to Weber’s Pet Supermarket for donating \$10 to us from every self-serve dog wash purchased during the 1st two weeks of September.
- Thank you to these businesses for providing gift certificates as prizes for our Dog Spa:
 - * Uncle Julio’s Rio Grande Café
 - * Appalachian Spring
 - * Clyde’s
 - * Paolo’s
 - * Longhorn Steakhouse
- Special thanks to Jessica Gigliotti, who organized a huge pet supply donation drive as her community service project for South County High School. She sent out hundreds of flyers to surrounding neighborhoods, soliciting donations of all types of supplies for pet rescue. The flyers resulted in an SUV-full of great donations.
- Patricia Leininger has once again supported the Spay, Inc. program by donating all proceeds from the Canine Good Citizen certification tests she administers.



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

If your company participates in the United Way, CFC or America's Charities —Please Designate SPCA of Northern Virginia

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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.



Need Help Getting Your Pet Spayed or Neutered?

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SPCA NoVA Humane Investigation Services:

Investigating reports of cruelty, abuse, neglect, and abandonment is one of our most important functions. If you see (or suspect) animal abuse or neglect, please call us at (703)799-9390, Ext. 1 and our court appointed humane investigator will contact you for details as the first step in investigating the situation. Our court appointed humane investigator is only certified in Fairfax County but will be glad to assist with guidance and advice for other areas. All information is kept confidential and will never be released.



REPORT ANIMAL CRUELTY!

2013 Adoption Schedules

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):

- January 12
- January 26
- February 9
- February 23
- March 9
- March 23

CAT Adoption Fairs are held at:
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 Annandale, VA 22003
 12:00 - 3:00 pm



DATES (Saturday):

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| May 4 | October 5 |
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CATS & KITTENS are also 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.

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