

Paws To Consider

Fall/Winter 2003

Hurricane Kitten

By Sherry Garay

All across Northern Virginia residents were hunkering down in preparation for the arrival of Hurricane Isabel. The SPCA of Northern Virginia also had prepared for the arrival of Isabel by notifying our volunteers who respond to messages left on our voice mail, to check the line frequently for animal emergencies caused by the storm.

Early Thursday afternoon, as the storm quickly approached, we received a call from a woman in Springfield whose message stated that there was a small kitten crying at her door. The woman, being unfamiliar with felines, did not bring the helpless six week old kitten indoors because she had a Doberman. It is likely that she had a fear of bringing an unfamiliar animal into her home, even a hand-sized, helpless kitten begging to be let indoors.

As the rain began, the kitten left to seek shelter. Our volunteer pleaded with the caller to search behind every bush and under any obstacles to find the

kitten, as it was unlikely that an infant cat would survive the impending torrential rains and high winds. After more than an hour, the kitten was located huddled in a flowerbed. Following the instructions from our volunteer the kitten was brought indoors and placed in a bathroom.



Isabel

Teaming up with another SPCA volunteer, the two rushed into action, driving through pounding rain to pick up the kitten and get it to a veterinarian. The volunteers were amazed to see the tiny baby that awaited their arrival was nothing but skin and bones.

The veterinarian gave her a thorough exam and noticed that her mouth had suffered trauma. One of her upper canine teeth had been broken in half and there were sores on the roof of her mouth. It was determined that it was most likely caused by the kitten trying to eat something inedible. Isabel weighed in at exactly one pound, had severe diarrhea, was

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The SPCA of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit rescue organization. We rely on membership dues, donations and fund-raising 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.

Paws to Consider is published by the SPCA of Northern Virginia. Permission must be granted for article reprints. If you would like to submit stories of interest or be added to our mailing list, please direct all correspondence to:

SPCA of Northern Virginia
P.O. Box 10504
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And Then There Were 8 ...



Please welcome the arrival of our newest feline family, a wonderful purring mommy and her 8 cute as a button kittens. Abandoned, or lost, hungry and exhausted, this little feline mommy was very happy to be rescued. All required a few nights stay at the vet hospital. Mom was running a fever and needed to regain her strength. The 8 kittens (4 girls, 4 boys, 4 black, 4 white) had unidentifiable wounds, which were infected. Now safe, happy, and healthy, she and her many children are staying with a foster family who will shower them with care and affection and prepare them for the day they will be adopted into a family of their own.



Tummy's full — they all get their first good nights rest.

This feline family is alive today because people like you cared. The SPCA of Northern Virginia is a private, non-profit organization. We do not receive any government funding or tax dollars. That is why we depend on the generosity of people just like you to contribute towards the care these cats need before we can make them available for adoption. Your donation will help others like them who need emergency medical care and our commitment to find them a loving new home. Any gift you can send will be greatly appreciated. And it will bring happy endings to the stories of wonderful pets.



Donations 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

Please be as generous as possible.

(Continued from page 1)

vomiting, and was extremely dehydrated and underweight. She was given I.V. fluids and intestinal antibiotics.

She was appropriately given the name “Isabel”, as the hurricane easily could have ended her life but instead was her savior. Weak and exhausted, she received expert care from one of our long-time foster families and made a rapid recovery. Isabel was bouncing off the walls like a normal energetic kitten before the electricity was restored.

We will never know how this beautiful little kitten ended up roaming the streets, starving, during a hurricane. We do know that Isabel already has a

wonderful family and a beautiful home waiting for her where she will live for many happy years with love, warmth and food!



Disaster Preparedness for Animals

from the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies

The best way to protect your family from the effects of a disaster is to have a disaster plan. If you are a pet owner, that plan must include your pets. Being prepared can save their lives.

- Have on hand pet carriers or crates for each pet.
- Make certain that your pet's vaccinations are current, especially for rabies. Have certificates ready to take with you if you must evacuate.
- Make sure your pet is wearing a properly fitted collar with current license and rabies tag and an identification tag. Have a leash on hand to control your pet.

Have in readiness the following supplies:

- Food and water bowls
- Ample dry pet food in waterproof containers
- Ample supply of special medications
- Litter and litter pans for cats
- Newspapers, towels, bags for disposal of pet wastes, cleaners and disinfectants
- A current photo of each pet.
- This is especially helpful for identifying your pet if you should become separated.

Leaving your pet at home alone will place your animal at greater risk for injury or loss. However, if you must leave the pets behind, take the following precautions:

- Prepare an area for your pet inside, such as bathrooms and utility rooms, well away from windows.
- Do not confine cats and dogs in the same area, even if normally they are friendly.
- Make sure all pets are wearing well-fitted collars with proper identification
- Leave enough dry food for at least three days in sturdy, non-spillable containers. Water should be left in clean, sturdy containers that will not tip over
- Place notices on doors advising what pets are in the house and where they are located
- Hang leashes where they can readily be found
- Provide a telephone number or location where you can be reached and the name and number of your vet.



2003/2004 CAT ADOPTION SCHEDULE

12:00 - 3:00
(schedule is subject to change)

WHEN

Saturday	October 18
Saturday	October 25
Sunday	November 2
Saturday	November 15
Saturday	November 22
Sunday	December 7
Saturday	December 13
Sunday	January 4
Saturday	January 17
Saturday	January 24
Sunday	February 1
Saturday	February 14
Saturday	February 28
Sunday	March 7
Saturday	March 20
Saturday	March 27
Sunday	April 4
Saturday	April 17
Saturday	April 24
Sunday	May 2
Saturday	May 15
Saturday	May 29
Sunday	June 6
Saturday	June 19
Saturday	June 26

WHERE

Alexandria
Springfield
Fairfax
Alexandria
Springfield
Fairfax
Springfield
Fairfax
Alexandria
Springfield
Fairfax
Alexandria
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Fairfax
Alexandria
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Fairfax
Alexandria
Springfield

LOCATIONS

ALEXANDRIA
 Petsmart
 Potomac Yard Shopping Center
 3351 Jefferson Davis Hwy.
 (703) 739-4844

FAIRFAX
 Petsmart
 Fair Lakes Shopping Center
 12971 Fair Lakes Center
 (703) 802-1027

SPRINGFIELD
 Petsmart
 6535 Frontier Drive
 (703) 922-4990

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



A new best friend could be waiting.



2003/2004 DOG ADOPTION SCHEDULE

12:30 - 3:00
(schedule is subject to change)

WHEN

WHERE

LOCATION

Saturday	October 25	Fairfax
Saturday	November 8	Fairfax
Saturday	November 22	Fairfax
Saturday	December 13	Fairfax
Saturday	January 10	Fairfax
Saturday	January 24	Fairfax
Saturday	February 14	Fairfax
Saturday	February 28	Fairfax
Saturday	March 13	Fairfax
Saturday	March 27	Fairfax
Saturday	April 10	Fairfax
Saturday	April 24	Fairfax
Saturday	May 8	Fairfax
Saturday	May 22	Fairfax
Saturday	June 12	Fairfax
Saturday	June 26	Fairfax
Saturday	July 10	Fairfax
Saturday	July 24	Fairfax
Saturday	August 14	Fairfax
Saturday	August 28	Fairfax
Saturday	September 11	Fairfax
Saturday	September 25	Fairfax
Saturday	October 9	Fairfax
Saturday	October 23	Fairfax
Saturday	November 6	Fairfax
Saturday	November 20	Fairfax
Saturday	December 4	Fairfax
Saturday	December 18	Fairfax

FAIRFAX
Weber's Pet Supermarket
11021 Lee Hwy
(703) 385-3766

**Remember the SPCA
with your Combined
Federal Campaign &
United Way Donations
Designate No. 8155**



Meet Our Artist . . .

By Leslie Grabowski



Have you seen the graphic on the back of our new t-shirts and sweatshirts? That graphic, as well as those for the Dog Wash and the Photo Contest, are drawn by a very talented teenager... in Germany!

Steffi Gafke was an exchange student at Oakton High School in 2001 when she first started volunteering with the SPCA.

Her host mom is an SPCA volunteer, and within two weeks of Steffi's arrival in this country, she was working alongside her host parents at the 3rd Annual Dog Wash. By November, Steffi was not only volunteering at adoption days, but also using her considerable artistic talent to help the organization.

It was only after her return to Germany in the summer of 2002, however, that her most valuable contributions to the SPCA began.

With the help of graphics software and email, she was able to design the artwork for our Friend for Life shirts, and electronically send the finished product to her former host mom.

Since that time, Steffi has done graphics featuring the cat and dog to advertise the Photo Contest page as well as the Dog Wash. She has also designed a Thank You note featuring SPCA animals, and is currently working on a project for a woman who wants to donate to the SPCA in lieu of favors at her wedding.

Steffi is in her final year of school in Germany, completing her Abitur, which is similar to a college preparatory degree. She has a 3.6 GPA, and is hoping to find an

American university that offers academic scholarships to international students. Her goal is to become an Art Therapist and combine her love of art, psychology and children.



The SPCA salutes our talented, committed volunteer artist!

*"A lotta cats copy the Mona Lisa, but people still line up to see the original."
~ Louis Armstrong*

“Do You Have Any Puppies?”

By Leslie Grabowski

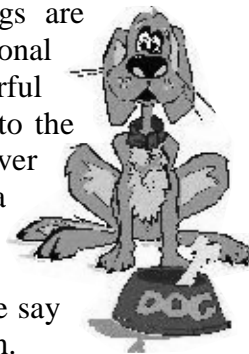


“Do you have any *puppies* for adoption?” As babies, all dogs are incredibly cute, with their little button noses and bright eyes. But cute little puppies grow up and become...dogs. Some remain cute forever, but many are just ordinary. Kind of like people.

If you're one of those ordinary dogs, it can be hard to be noticed at an adoption day, especially if you're competing against a litter of puppies. You want to jump up and shout, “Hey, look at me!” You want to remind people that you don't have to be taken outside every four hours, and you won't keep them awake at night. You might even be housebroken! And, just like humans, your attention span lengthened as you matured, and you know basic commands and learn quickly. You're more predictable; you've already reached your full size, and your temperament is set. There's so much

more you want to say, if only people could understand you; there's a long list of reasons to adopt an ordinary dog.

Best of all, those ordinary dogs are ready to give their unconditional love in exchange for a wonderful new home. Before they came into the SPCA's care, many of them never felt a gentle touch, or heard a voice that wasn't raised in anger. They want so badly to know the joy of hearing someone say “*my dog*” with pride and affection.



So the next time you go to an adoption day, take a moment and seek out an ordinary dog. Look into his eyes, beyond that ordinary exterior, and listen to what he has to say. You may just find your next Friend for Life.





The SPCA of Northern Virginia rescues many dogs and cats throughout the year that without our help would never find happiness. Some cats and dogs find homes immediately, while others remain in foster homes waiting for their chance at true happiness. Won't you please find it in your heart to offer one of these wonderful pets a home of their own forever?

Searching For Happiness:



Rebel

When I was a puppy, I was little and fluffy and cute. But now I'm grown up, and people look at me and think, "just another dog; nothing special". I came to the SPCA from a sanctuary, so I could find a home and a family, but no one seems to be interested in me. My name is Rebel, and I'm a mix of Cattle Dog and something else...maybe Catahoula Leopard Dog. I'm about 2 1/2 years old, and I weigh 45 lbs. I like people and I'm crate trained, but I'll need obedience training when I find a home. I've been waiting far too long; please think about adopting me!



Buster

Buster is a big beautiful Flame-Point Siamese mix in need of a loving home. He is creamy orange with bright flame-points and beautiful clear blue eyes, and weighs in at a whopping 18 pounds! He was born approximately April, 1995. Buster has a gentle and loving personality and is as sweet as can be! Once he has settled into a new home he will become your trusted and loving companion. Buster absolutely adores receiving human love and attention and doesn't hesitate to let out a cute "meow" with a Siamese accent! He likes to keep you warm at night so it's a "must" that he sleeps on your bed. Buster is searching for a home with plenty of human companionship. He becomes lonely when left for long periods of time, so ideally he would be happiest being placed with a family where someone is usually home.

SPCA rescued Buster as a little kitten and later adopted him into what we hoped would be his forever home. Sadly, with a second baby on the way, this family decided that Buster was disposable and returned him to our care. Buster's world has been turned upside down through no fault of his own. Won't you find it in your heart to right this wrong and provide Buster with a home where he will be loved forever?

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

Tiny Packages Of Curiosity, Love & Hope!

By Debbie Berry

I've been fostering for the SPCA of Northern Virginia for 1-½ years now. It has been a joyful, gratifying, and at times humbling, experience. I don't have children of my own, but have been a "Mother" many times over now.

Rescue organizations like SPCA NOVA do not have a shelter. We rely exclusively on the kindness of ordinary people who are willing to temporarily open their homes to cats and kittens waiting for adoption. The biggest problem is that there are more kittens born each year than rescue groups can care for and find homes. Any kittens not rescued become part of the feral cat population or, worse, die from injury, disease or starvation.

As a foster mom to kittens, I'll be asked to take a group of these babies into my home. They start out afraid and sometimes sick. My job is to help them get strong and healthy, comfortable and friendly with people, and care for them until adopted into a home where they can spend their lives in safety and love. The first order of business is to have the kittens seen by one of the veterinarians with whom we work. They get a checkup, are tested for several feline diseases, and are given vaccinations.

The most desperate kittens we rescue are "orphaned" kittens that have been separated from their mother before they are weaned. This happens for various reasons. Sometimes the mother cat is killed, or abandons them herself, or people "dispose" of them because their unspayed female cat gave birth to kittens they didn't want. I've taken care of many of these "orphaned" kittens

A few that have warmed my heart and home . . .



Cameo & Honey



Marco



Lace



Rosalee & Lily



Spices

myself, but only after they are bottle fed and nursed to health by our neonatal kitten specialist, Susan, who focuses exclusively on "orphaned" kittens.

One such litter was dubbed "Susan's Miracle Kittens" - a menagerie of 7 kittens of different shapes, sizes, and colors! It is truly a miracle that these little ones survived. At only one or two days old, they were found in a plastic bag inside a trash dumpster. One had already died and the other seven were rushed to Susan's care. After several months of neonatal care, many trips to the vet, and being placed in foster homes, all have been adopted.

The challenges of fostering kittens can be great. Some kittens are tame and easy to care for from the start. But others require patience to get them from hissing and growling to being able to accept love and affection. As much as I love the easy ones, the challenging ones can be the most rewarding. The first time they come out of their huddle in the corner to play with a toy or investigate something is a major accomplishment. The first look of affection in their eyes warms my heart. When they are comfortable enough to walk on me like a piece of furniture, I know they are on their way. When they run to the door when I open it, holding on to my pant legs and socks, I know they are there!

Please adopt a kitten, accept what they can offer, and give them a home for the rest of their lives. Or at the very least consider becoming a foster parent!



On Patrol . . .



The SPCA of Northern Virginia is the only all-volunteer, non-profit rescue organization in Northern Virginia whose court appointed licensed Humane Investigators enforce laws relating to animal cruelty. They generously volunteer their time to confront cruelty and indifference every day. The story of one of our more recent cases follows:

"Lucy, I'm Home!"

By Leslie Grabowski



When the Husky mix was a puppy, she was little and fluffy and cute, and the children loved to play with her. They named her Sugar. As she grew, though, the children became tired of Sugar, and soon she was banished to the yard, and

forgotten. The family tied her outside a garage, on a short chain that allowed her only a few feet of space in which to eat, sleep, and eliminate. When it was time to feed her, they opened a can of dog food and threw it at her. Winter and summer, month after month, Sugar was outside in her tiny space without shelter or companionship. Neglected and alone, she grew despondent.

Her plight was not unnoticed, however. In June of 2003, the SPCA Humane Investigators received a call about a dog tied outside without shelter. When the Humane Investigators arrived at the home in Great Falls, they were appalled at the sight of the dog. Matted, flea and tick infested, and caked with feces, urine and mud, Sugar barely acknowledged the arrival of the two women who were to be her saviors. Within seconds, both Humane Investigators decided that the pitiful animal before them needed to be removed immediately.

Her indifferent caretakers relinquished Sugar without a backward glance, and she was taken to a vet that day. At 46 lbs, she was grossly underweight, but amazingly, otherwise healthy. After routine

vaccinations, spaying, and much-needed grooming, Sugar was ready to join the pool of adoptable SPCA dogs.

The first thing the SPCA did was change her name to Snowy. Unlike many abused dogs, Snowy didn't cower when approached, but she seemed bewildered that she was in a safe, clean place with people who petted her and spoke nicely to her. Led by Lisa Reid, the SPCA dog trainer, the SPCA dog volunteers began to rebuild Snowy's trust in people, and lift her from her depression.

On July 12, 2003 Brian and Heidi Murphy came to the SPCA Adoption Day to see another dog. Once there, though, the Murphy's were intrigued by the beautiful white Snowy, whose coat now lived up to her name. They applied to adopt her that day, and took her home as soon as their home check was approved.



Heidi Murphy with Snowy

Snowy, now named Lucy (after Lucille Ball), shortly became a much-cherished member of the Murphy family. When Brian comes home, he calls out "Lucy, I'm home!" In the space of 2 months, the dog that the Humane Investigators called "the worst case of neglect" they'd ever seen has found her way from hell to heaven on earth.

Please, help us save the lives of more abused animals like Snowy. By sending the largest gift you can manage, the SPCA can reach out to stop animal abuse and neglect. Your financial support has never been more needed than it is today. Their only hope is caring people like you.



GIFTS IN REMEMBRANCE

In Memory Of

“LACEY” my beautiful bunny fur tabby tail girl

Sandy Soto

“MANDY” our wonderful SPCA rescued dog

Jim & Joan Hughes

ERICH DREGER

Zilpha T Bosone

Thekla Domico

John & Anna Marie Jeweler

Helen Kiser

Samuel & Ruth Lamar

Arthur & Eda Ritz

Irma Schmuck

HAZEL KING

Margo Reeves Lewis

Theresa Lint

John & Catherine Messina

Stephanie Murphy

Margarete-Rose Pagano

Philip & Carmela Reeves

Sandi Van Horn

ROBERT G. “WYNNE” WILLIAMS

Susan Bradley & Richard Barta

Jim & Lyn Fletcher

Richard Flynt

Richard & Cathleen Graszl

Larry & Ramona Jackson

Conor Keefe

George & Denise Keller

Sally Little

Tomislav & Kate Marincic

H. Michael Mogil

David & Judith Nixon

Capt. Craig Rankin, Tracie, Jeff & Ross

Hans & Anne Reigle

James Ruggles

Robert & Marlene Ryder

Ro & Leo Scott

Sandra Smith

South Lakes High School Athletic Booster Club

Potomac Steering Group dba Potomac Officers' Club

Potomac Steering Group dba Townhall Teleconference

Susan Wallace

Arthur Williams

“MISS KIWP”

Donna Beach

“JAEGER” with love from Terri

Teresa Beal

In memory of “FERRIS”, love “Shelby” & The Berliners

Stephen Berliner

“PEPPER” & “TIGER JACK”

Lolly & Jay Burke

My beloved, gentle, sweet cat “BUNTY”

Moira Cowan

“LOCKWOOD”

Mary Crosby

“T.C.” beloved cat of Clara

Clara Green

“PIXEL”

Scott & Nikki Haas

“SARAH” LUCADO-STANLEY

Sharon Hale

“KAHLAO” MILONE, a wonderful gentle giant

Barbara, Jerry & Julia Hanweck

BILL BARAGAR

John Haugen

MARY ANN CONWAY

Gloria Dente Herrity

MATTHEW & SKOOT

John & Terry Horger

WALTER BONTZ

Houseworks, Inc.

“COOKIE”

Paul & Joli Huelskamp

WARREN D. WOLFGANG

James & Nancy Hunn

“MAGIC” MILLNER

Lauren Larson

“FOXHEY”, “TAFFY” & “LILLY”

Diane McCain

“QUEEN SHEBA LORRAINE”

Terry & Susan McCallister

“STEVIE” MICHAEL

Dana Meeker

“LADY”

Joan Morgan & Patrick Mullen

“MAC” LEVIE

Barbara Mosgrave

GERALD LEE PAGE

VDOT Northern Virginia District Lake Ridge Area HQ

Mary Lewis' dog “GOLDA”

Virginia Rainey

ELLEN LOUISE HARNSBERGER

Patricia Stangler

In loving memory of “LUCKY” LARSEN, an extraordinary cat

Kathleen Tindell

“TILLICH” BURT, world's best dog

Barbara & Pieter Van Der Veer

“FERRIS”

Lori Ward



GIFTS IN REMEMBRANCE

“JACOB” a gray cat
Bernice Warrington

“LOU LOU”
Shannon Wheatman

**“CHLOE” & “CHIPPER” cherished dogs of
Karla & Warren Raymond**
Rick & Gloria Whitehead



In Honor Of

MADDY DEANE
Anonymous

“PUFF” FRIEDMAN
Anonymous

“ZACKARY CHOCOLATE LIQUOR” WEBER
Anonymous

CHRIS MARSHALL
Debra Berry

SHAWN ZELMAN
*Brenda Davis
Dave & Patty Szurek*

NANCY HERNDON
*Sharon Dyer
Joe & Leslie Grabowski
Jim & Joan Hughes
Carol Levie*

*Mary Portelly
Bill, Cheryl & Courtney Shiflet
Dave & Patty Szurek
Karen Walker
Rick & Gloria Whitehead*

JANA WACHLIN
Joe & Leslie Grabowski

DOG WASH VOLUNTEERS
Joe & Leslie Grabowski

STEFFI GAFKE
Joe & Leslie Grabowski

Dear Friend ELAINE HAASE, for her birthday
Patricia A Feller

ANNE BROWN
Raz Fleshner

“HIH, THE GRAND DUCHESS TATIANA”, beloved cat
Clara Green

The first birthday of MS. EMMA HILL
Susan E. Hill

MURPHY SONNENBERG
Sarah Howard

“PEPE” KNIGHT
Robert Knapp

EILEEN HOLWAY
Leslie & Alan Koralek

KRISTI KEELER
Kathryn Laviolette

HAROLD ALTERMAN, VMD
Carol Levie

“CHELSEA”
Pamela Mann

GUESTS AT THEIR PARTY
Len & Lisa Vraniak

**In Honor of the 8th birthday of triplets
JOHN, TONY & PEGGY COPPOLA**

Graham Liggan

“TROOP” & “CASPER” Mary Portelly’s dogs 10th birthday
Sandra Morris

DR. ERIC CHAFETZ, Vienna Animal Hospital
Lolly & Jay Burke

A birthday present for LOLLY
Charles & Maura Papas

DIANE ROADCAP
Anita Herrera

“BUTLER” a cat we took in
Eileen Fitzpatrick

“LACI” LATHAM, a kitty who got a second chance
Teresa Smith



The SPCA welcomes donations made in honor or in memory of someone special in your life. Please include with your gift 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.



When You Just Can't Turn Them Away!

By Kathleen MacKinnon

Some requests for help just can't be turned away. The email we received about Twiggy and Princess was just that kind of request. As the cat foster home coordinator, I'm usually the SPCA official who has to make the tough decision about which cats we can help, and which we can't. At this time of year, pregnant cats and mom cats with kittens are among our top priorities, as well as cats that are sick and injured. When we heard about two cats, both tortoiseshells, one very pregnant and the other severely weak and malnourished, I knew we couldn't turn them away.

A kind young woman named Jessica had been feeding a friendly stray cat, which she named Cali, for a couple of months. When she noticed the cat was putting on a lot of weight, she realized Cali must be pregnant. At about that time, she noticed another cat that began showing up at Cali's feeding time. This cat, who she named Twiggy, alarmed her because she was crying as if asking for help, and the fact that she was skin and bones made Jessica fear that she might be near death. Immediately Jessica began checking around to see if anyone could help her with these cats. She called the local animal shelter only to be informed that, yes, she could bring the cats to them but that under the circumstances they would probably be euthanized. Jessica knew there must be a better option for these two friendly cats so she contacted the SPCA of



Twiggy during hospital stay

Northern Virginia. While we didn't have any foster homes available to take them in, we knew they desperately needed our help. So, we got the ball rolling by having Jessica bring them to one of our vets. The minute I saw these cats I knew we had made the right decision in offering assistance. Both cats are as sweet as can be. It just breaks your heart that they could end up abandoned like this. My biggest fear, when looking at Twiggy, was that she might have a terminal illness. The vet had a very difficult time drawing any blood from Twiggy for testing of feline illnesses; she was so malnourished and dehydrated that they had a hard time finding a vein that could deliver any

blood. She weighed in at only 4 1/2 pounds and was estimated to be about two years old. The normal weight for an average sized female adult cat would be about 8 pounds.

Finally, they were able to draw blood and run the necessary tests. Happily, Twiggy tested negative for any feline diseases. Oh, a BIG sigh of relief!



Twiggy on the road to recovery

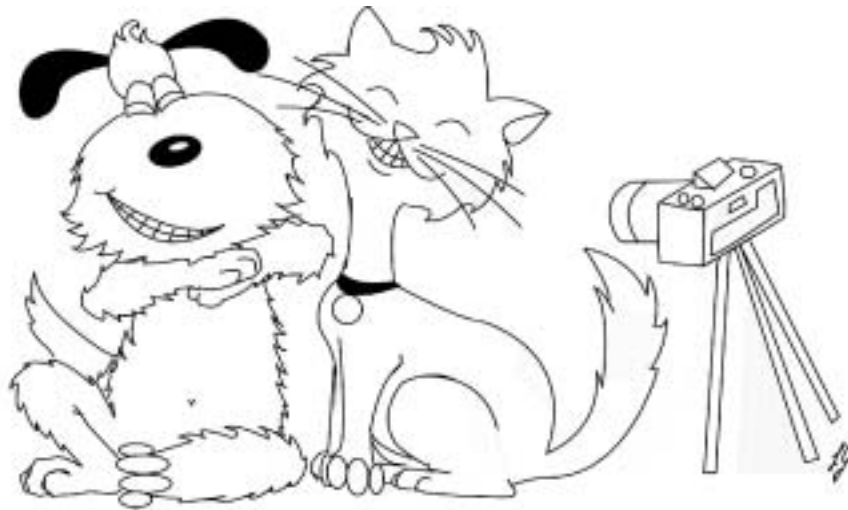
Twiggy still has a long road ahead of her. After a week of care at the animal hospital to ensure she was eating and getting enough fluids, we were able to move her into a foster home with an experienced volunteer who is also a nurse. We needed to

give Twiggy a couple of weeks to eat, in order to regain her strength, and are happy to report that she is recovering nicely and will be available for adoption soon.

Cali, on the other hand, appeared to be very healthy and at a good weight. She tested negative for those dreaded diseases, feline leukemia and feline AIDs, had a good heart rate, clear eyes, and no signs of any illness. The vet told us she was due to have her kittens any day. At this point I began racking my brain to figure out who could foster a pregnant, soon-to-be mom, cat. I contacted one of our long time volunteers, Kristi, who didn't hesitate to say she would take Cali. With six boys of her own, feline boys that is, she knew she could handle just one more cat...even if she was about to deliver kittens! And, kittens she did! A couple of days later, Cali gave birth to five babies. Cali has proven to be a very attentive and caring mother and is such a beautiful feline we have taken to calling her Princess Cali.



Princess Cali with her kittens



Friends For Life Pet Photo Contest 2004 SPCA Calendar

Want *your* Friend For Life to appear in the first-ever SPCA Calendar?

The SPCA of Northern Virginia will be printing a calendar for 2004 featuring the pets of our friends and supporters, so we're holding a Pet Photo Contest. All photos that meet our specifications are guaranteed to be part of the Friends For Life montage, and the best thirteen photos that we receive will earn places of honor on the cover of the calendar, or as one of the monthly pin-ups. To enter, send your pet's photo (see specifications), plus a check for \$15, to the address below. If you have multiple pets, you may send more than one photo, but each photo you submit costs \$15. In return for your entry, you will receive one of the finished calendars! We are also taking orders for calendars, if you want more than one.

Specifications:

- NO digital photo files. If you have digital photos, have them printed at a photo printer like Ritz Camera.
- All photos must be horizontal, not vertical, to be considered for the pin-ups or the cover.
- Vertical photos will become part of the montage, only.
- Minimum size 3 ½ x 5.
- Photos must be of pets only; no people should appear.
- No Polaroid photos.
- No retouching will be done; however, photos may be cropped to enhance the pet.
- Do not write on the back of photos. Attach a sticky note with your name and the pet's name to the back of the photo.
- Submission of a photo constitutes authorization for the SPCA of Northern Virginia to use submitted photo for fundraising purposes in the calendar.
- All photos become the property of the SPCA of Northern Virginia, and will not be returned.
- Deadline for submission of photos is **October 31, 2003**. Entries must be postmarked by this date to be eligible.

Send your photo, with your check for \$15, to:

SPCA of Northern Virginia
P.O. Box 10504
Arlington, VA 22210-1504

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Fundraising is such an essential part of the SPCA. We are not just raising money — we are raising awareness. Each function or event we attend as a group spreads our message. These events also bring the volunteer network closer together on a common level of interest — the animals! Several fundraising events are in the works. We need your help to make all this happen. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer for an event. Give us a call—(703) 799-9390 Or sign up for an event via our website—www.spcanova.org

The SPCA's 5th Annual Dog Wash Was A Resounding Success!

We held this year's Wash in the rear parking lot at Weber's Pet Supermarket in Fairfax, which proved to be an ideal location, and although the day dawned grey and threatened rain, by the time we started it was bright and sunny. We washed almost 100 dogs of all sizes, from Chihuahuas to Bernese Mountain Dogs. For the first time this year, we also offered nail trims and ear cleaning, which proved to be a popular service as well. And inside, the talented pet photographer from Studio 2 Photography had a steady stream of dogs waiting to strut their stuff as canine Cindy Crawford's. Thanks go to our sponsors, Weber's Pet Supermarket and Hydrant Dog Barkery & Boutique, which provided the raffle prize won by Tom Cowperthwaite of Herndon. And of course, we thank our wonderful dedicated volunteers, as well as all those who brought their dogs out to support the SPCA of Northern Virginia.



Upcoming Events

- We will be holding our twice-yearly **Pet Tattoo Clinic on Saturday, November 15 at Weber's Pet Supermarket in Chantilly**. Tattoos will be performed by Tommy and Nancy Mantlo from Richmond, well-known pet tattooists with over 25 years' experience. This is a great opportunity to protect your pets from theft, or in case they get lost. You'll choose the alphanumeric combination to be tattooed on your pet, and you'll choose the service to register it with. Watch the Events page of our website at www.spcanova.org for exact times and reservations.
- **The deadline for our Photo Contest has been extended to October 31.** Don't forget to send in your pet's photo!

Upcoming Events . . . continued

- Because we had such a great response to the pet portrait photographer at the 5th Annual Dog Wash, we have another session with Studio 2 Photography (now called Images4View). **Images4View will be doing pet portraits to benefit the SPCA on Saturday, November 22, from 11 until 5 at the Weber's Pet Supermarket in Chantilly.** This is your chance to have portraits done of your pets (not just dogs!) that can appear on your holiday cards. For \$35, the package includes 1-5x7, 4-3½x5, wallets, and a CD that you can take to any photo printer for greeting cards. And you have the option of a Christmas or Chanukah border. Plan to join us at Weber's and see just how good your pet can look in a photo!
- The creative and talented volunteers of the SPCA **will be doing holiday gift-wrapping at Zany Brainy in Fairfax Towne Center on Sunday, December 14.** Take the drudgery out of the holiday season... bring your gifts to us for wrapping, and benefit the SPCA animals at the same time! Watch the Events page of our website at www.spcanova.org for exact times.
- **The SPCA has two new fundraising programs, the SPCA MasterCard and a partnership with 1st American Mortgage.** Check the How You Can Help page of our website at www.spcanova.org for more information.

SPCA NOVA
(703) 799-9390
www.spcanova.org



AnimalSafe, Inc. is a non-profit social welfare corporation dedicated to developing new sources of no-cost fundraising for the care and well being of all animals. More than two thousand animal shelters, SPCAs, humane societies and other animal welfare and humane education associations are beneficiaries.



Now, an easy no-cost way you can help save animals!

By applying for and using an *Action For Animals*TM or *Morris*[®] MasterCard[®], you will provide additional funding for the SPCA of Northern Virginia (at no extra cost to you). This is a really great way to help us save and care for abused, neglected, and abandoned cats and dogs.

Please complete the application, and mail it to 5Star Bank.



Visit www.AnimalSafe.org for more information.

Action For Animals MasterCards and *Morris* MasterCards are issued by 5Star Bank in Colorado Springs, Colorado. 5Star Bank is owned by a non-profit association (Armed Forces Benefit Association founded by Dwight Eisenhower after World War II). It provides bank-related and other consumer services (such as checking accounts, loans, mortgages, mutual funds and insurance) to supporters of animal organizations affiliated with AnimalSafe. Additional income is earned from those services for animal organizations designated by their supporters.

For more information about 5Star Bank, visit www.5StarBankUS.com, or call 1-800-776-2265

Morris says, "Thank you for helping my SPCA friends. Your support is vital to their safety and well-being."





Disclosure Information
Please retain a copy for your records

ANIMALSAFE MASTERCARD® APPLICATION

Mail this Application to: Card Services, PO Box 35430, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-3543

Approval of your Application and use of your MasterCard will provide income for:
SPCA OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA #1629
 If you work for this organization, please indicate: ___ Volunteer ___ Employee ___ Board Member

Please Select Your Card: ___ Action For Animals™ MasterCard ___ Morris® MasterCard

- ___ Individual Account: You alone will be obligated to repay the debt, and credit information will be reported in your name only. If you are relying on the income of another person to establish your own creditworthiness, you must provide information about that person in the co-applicant section of this application and have that person sign this application.
- ___ Joint Account: You and the co-applicant will both be obligated to repay the debt, and credit information will be reported in the name of each of you. You must provide information about the co-applicant on this application.

Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for Purchases:	5.9% for the first 6 billing cycles, after that a fixed rate of: 14.9%.
Other APRs:	Balance Transfer APR: 5.9% for the first 6 billing cycles, after that the APR is 14.9% Cash Advance APR: 14.9% Penalty APR: 21%. See details below*
Grace period for repayment of balances for purchases:	25 days when your new balance is paid in full by the due date
Method for computing the balance for purchases:	Average Daily Balance (including new purchases)
Annual fees:	None
Transaction fee for cash advances:	2% of the amount advanced (\$3 minimum, \$10 maximum)
Balance transfer fee:	None
Convenience check fee:	None
Late payment fee:	\$18
Over-the-credit-limit fee:	\$18

Please tell us about yourself (print clearly)

Your E-mail Address Is:

Name (First, Initial, Last)		Social Security Number		Date of Birth mm/dd/yy	
Mailing Address		Apt#		Time in Residence yrs. Mos.	
City		State Zip		Monthly Housing Payment \$	
Home Phone ()		Street Address (If mailing address is a PO Box or General Delivery) City State Zip			
Previous Home Address		Apt#		City State Zip	
Employer		Position		Annual Salary \$	
Work Phone ()		Time There yrs. mos.		Other Annual Income*\$	
Do You Have A Checking Account? ___ Yes ___ No		Name of Checking Account Bank		Checking Account #	
Do You Have Health Insurance? ___ Yes ___ No					

Please tell us about co-applicant (if any)

Name (First, Initial, Last)		Social Security Number		Date of Birth mm/dd/yy	
Relationship to Applicant (If any)		Address (If different than applicant)		Apt# City State Zip	
Employer		Position		Time There yrs. mos.	
Work Phone ()		Home Phone ()		Other Annual Income*\$	
				Source of Other Income	

**Alimony, child support or separate maintenance income need not be revealed if you do not wish to have it considered as a basis for repaying his obligation.*

Please read Disclosure Information at left for rate, fee and cost information before signing.

I understand that this credit card is issued by 5Star Bank, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and that the information I provide is given to obtain credit from 5Star Bank. I attest that I am a U.S. citizen or have legal permanent resident status in the U.S. and am of legal age to contract. I also attest that the information I have provided in this Application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I agree that 5Star Bank may investigate my credit, including requesting a current credit report and otherwise verifying my employment and income history, and credit and deposit account responsibility, and may report to others its credit experience with me. I also agree to be bound by the terms of this Application and Disclosure Information along with the Customer Agreement, which 5Star Bank will send me if my application is approved. I understand and agree that information about my account may be shared with AnimalSafe, Inc.

Morris says,
“Thank you for caring about my animal shelter friends.”
“Please Apply Today!”

X _____ **Applicant’s signature** _____ **Date**

X _____ **Co-Applicant’s signature** _____ **Date**

*If you fail to make the minimum payment during two consecutive billing cycles, the APR for your Account may increase to a fixed rate of 21% on all balances.

The Disclosure Information above is accurate as of 08/31/03. This information is subject to change. To find out what may have changed, please call us at 1-888-277-0444, or write to us at Card Services, P.O. Box 35460, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-3546.

California Residents: After approval, each applicant shall have the right to use the

Credit card account up to the credit limit of the account. Each applicant may be liable for amounts extended under the plan to any joint applicant. The applicant, if married, may apply for a separate account. **Ohio Residents:** The Ohio laws against discrimination require that all creditors make credit equally available to all creditworthy customers, and that credit reporting agencies maintain separate credit histories on each individual upon request. The Ohio Civil Rights Commission administers compliance with this law.

New York and Vermont Residents: By signing this application, you (applicant and co-applicant) authorize 5Star Bank to obtain your credit reports at any time for any legitimate purpose associated with the account or your application or request for an account, including but not limited to reviewing, modifying, updating, renewing, or extending credit, or collecting your account. Upon your request, you will be informed whether or not a consumer credit report was ordered, and if it was, you will be given the name and address of the consumer reporting agency that furnished the report. **New York Residents:** You may contact the New York state Banking Department at 1-800-522-3330 to obtain a comparative listing of credit card rates, fees and grace periods. **Wisconsin Residents:** Wisconsin law provides that no provision of an agreement, unilateral statement or court decree applying to marital property will adversely affect a creditor’s interest unless the creditor, prior to the time credit is granted, is furnished a copy of the agreement, statement or decree or has actual knowledge of the adverse provision when the obligation to the creditor is incurred. **Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee Residents:** After approval and use of the account, if the applicant’s 5Star Bank credit card account balance exceeds the applicant’s credit limit for the account, 5Star Bank will not charge the applicant an over-the-credit-limit fee.

1006-1490-0803-1629



SPCA of Northern Virginia
 Post Office Box 10504
 Arlington, VA 22210-1504
 Phone: 703-799-9390
 Email: SPCANOVA@aol.com



Receiving more than one copy of our newsletter? Moving?

Mail forwarding greatly increases the cost of our mailings. You can help us keep our administrative costs down by notifying us directly of changes in address. Please call or write us so that we can update our records. You may also use the newsletter subscription form on our web site www.spcanova.org to notify us of changes.

Do you have a vehicle that you no longer want or need?



Would you like to dispose of that vehicle, gain a tax deduction, and benefit the SPCA at the same time? Donate it!

It's easy, and your unwanted car can help us save animals' lives. For more information, please visit our website at www.spcanova.org, or send an e-mail message to spcanova_cars@yahoo.com. You may also call the SPCA at (703) 799-9390 and leave a message.

We accept most vehicles—in almost any condition—and your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. We will arrange for pickup at a convenient time. All it takes is a call!



Thank you!

SPCA of Northern Virginia
www.spcanova.org
 (703) 799-9390

Looking For A Home Loan Or Re-Finance?

Call Judy White at 1st American Mortgage



Local: 1-703-443-2608
 Toll Free: 1-866-443-2608

For every loan that is referred by the SPCA of Northern Virginia, Judy will donate \$250 to us at closing! Get a great rate, and help save abused, neglected and abandoned animals!

Prevent Pet Parenthood!

Neuter and Spay, It's the kindest way.
 For low cost spay/neuter information contact:



Spay, Inc.

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

(703) 522-7920

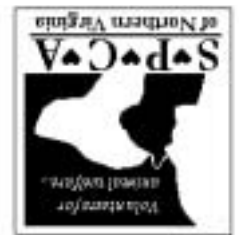
Your Dog Could Save A Life!



For more information, see the EVBB website at www.evbb.com, or call Barb Vernon, Donor Coordinator, at (800) 949-EVBB



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PO Box 10504



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Permit No. 1185

THE ANIMALS NEED YOU

Please fill out this form and send it to:

SPCA of Northern Virginia, P.O. Box 10504, Arlington, VA 22210-1504

Yes, I want to help the animals. My check is enclosed for: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

I am interested in volunteering. Please send a volunteer form.

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: _____)