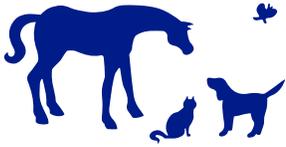
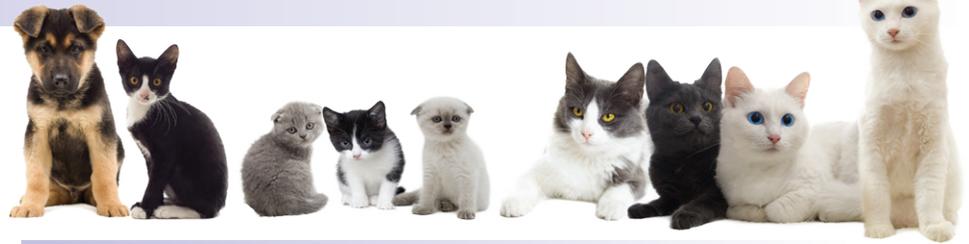


FMCA

FRIENDS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY ANIMALS



Dignity for Animals



FMCA News

Winter 2015

FMCA APPEAL

Friends of Montgomery County Animals (FMCA) is a 100% volunteer, no-kill animal rescue. We have been saving and improving the lives of animals for 41 years.

Today FMCA's primary programs are a thriving Rescue/Adoption program which enables us to place stray, abandoned and homeless animals in permanent and loving homes, and continued efforts geared to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

We are honored to be a PetSmart Charities In-Store Adoption Partner at the Milestone Center PetSmart in Germantown and have held open house adoption events in the store for the past 18 years. We hold adoption events nearly every Saturday of the year. Because we do not operate a shelter or facility, we do not have the burden of 'overhead' costs. 100% of your contribution goes directly to helping animals in the greater DC metro area.

FMCA collaborates with other rescue groups and partners to provide funding and support for Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) for community cats. They are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, dewormed and provided ear mite treatments if necessary. We also provide food and shelters when we are able.

Bellini

Some of you may know Bellini, a beautiful, sweet lilac point one-year old Siamese, who came to FMCA in 2015. She came to us from the the Antietam Humane Society Shelter in Waynesboro, PA, after being dropped off in their night box. Little Bellini was very pregnant when she arrived, underweight and not in the best condition to give birth.

Bellini delivered 3 kittens just a couple of days later. Unfortunately, she developed a deep chest cough, which progressed to bronchial pneumonia. Her foster, Fawn Friedman, took on the task of bottle-feeding the newborns every

Thanks to your generous support, nearly 8,000 animals have been placed in loving homes since the inception of the Rescue/Adoption Program in 1991.

- In 2015 - **200** animals entered the rescue/adoption program. 95% percent of these animals needed full vetting
- In 2015 – **232** animals were placed in permanent, loving homes through the Adoption/Rescue Program
- In 2015 - **223** community cats were vetted through the TNR program
- In 2015 – over **250** cases of food provided by PetSmart Charities were distributed to community cat caretakers

Because of your support, these lives have been forever changed.

Thank you for your commitment to helping animals in Montgomery County and beyond.



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Contact Information

Friends of Montgomery County Animals, Inc. (FMCA) is an all-volunteer, non-profit, tax-exempt humane organization. FMCA does not have a shelter. All rescued animals are cared for in foster homes. We receive no government funding and are entirely dependent on private donations.

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Message From the President

Dear Friends,

2015 has been a great year for FMCA! As a result of your generous contributions, and the hard work of FMCA volunteers and our colleagues, 232 animals were placed in permanent, loving homes through the Adoption/Rescue Program and 223 animals were spayed or neutered as part of our Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program. TNR improves the lives of feral cats, and decreases the size of cat colonies. FMCA continues to work with colony managers and caretakers to better the lives of community cats.

FMCA fills a critical need, serving as a non-profit, tax-exempt humane organization that not only facilitates adoptions, but also provides essential financial support to humane groups and to organizations assisting in disaster relief emergency situations.

We continue to grow and have set the bar high for 2016. It is our goal to expand our foster program and increase adoptions in 2016.

Thank you for your continued support as we move forward to reach our goals.

Sincerely, Claire Proffitt

Bellini continued...

2-3 hours. Fawn and AWLFC foster Dru McAllister worked together to care for the kittens, fighting to keep them alive. Sadly, they were too little and sick to survive. They succumbed to the same disease their mom was fighting.

Bellini was treated by Dr. Sara Hoewing, of VetTrek. This caring veterinarian watched over Bellini day and night at her clinic. Because Dr. Hoewing felt Bellini was not responding well enough, she suggested that FMCA transfer her to VCA, in order to have the best chance to recover. Bellini was transferred to VCA and at that time was given only a 40% chance to survive.

But Bellini would not give up. This little cat fought back. She continued to eat even though she could not breathe. She spent 5 days at VCA and was released to the care of her primary vet. Thanks to our generous friends and donors, we raised \$3,000 for her care.

Bellini is currently living with her foster, Ann Virts. Although her lungs are scarred, she is a loving and sweet cat. She loves to play and her prognosis is good. After the first of the year, Bellini will be available for adoption. Thanks to you, Bellini will have a brighter future.

Trap-Neuter-Return

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the only proven method to humanely and effectively control the free-roaming cat population. It often directly reduces a community's euthanasia rate by lowering the number of births and reducing intake into already over-crowded shelters. That's why it is critically important for FMCA to work with trappers and other rescue groups to support TNR. FMCA works with talented, dedicated TNR trappers to conduct targeted, high-impact TNR efforts in and around our community. In 2015 FMCA provided funding assistance to TNR 223 cats.

Additionally spay/neuter reduces the incidence of serious illnesses and behaviors like spraying and fighting. While being altered, cats are also vaccinated against rabies and distemper and are dewormed and treated for fleas and ear mites if needed. Trappers are able to stretch donor dollars to help as many animals as possible by using dedicated clinics such as the Metro Ferals clinic or Spay Now, both of which provide services at greatly reduced cost.

FMCA assists with colonies of all sizes, in both residential and business areas.

The complex task of trapping, vetting and releasing community cats is only part of what our TNR partners accomplish. They also work to establish relationships with business owners and the community. They provide support and assistance, such as setting up feeding stations and shelters, to colony caretakers. In some cases, the

actual number of cats trapped far exceeds the estimated number of cats requiring vetting. Because of FMCA funding, trappers are able to conduct the vetting for all unaltered cats in the colony rather than having to stop to establish additional funding.

If you know of anyone feeding outdoor cats that have not yet been vetted, please encourage the caretaker to contact FMCA. TNR clinics are held throughout the winter.

Tips for helping outdoor cats.

It's getting cold out there! Here's what you can do to help.

- Build outdoor cats a shelter from the cold and provide food and water
- Avoid dripping antifreeze, puddles of gasoline, or oil in your driveway – these are fatal to cats
- Before starting your car, give the hood a sharp knock – and check between the tires — cats will sometimes crawl into the engine or hide underneath the car for warmth



- To de-ice a walkway in the vicinity of a feral colony mix 1 teaspoon of Dawn dish detergent, 1 tablespoon of rubbing alcohol and half a gallon of warm water. The mixture can be sprayed or poured. It melts snow and ice in seconds and unlike some chemical formulas, is completely safe and non-irritating for cats to walk on
- Plows often push snow up against storm drain openings - Please clear storm drain openings after significant snowfall to prevent trapping animals
- Educate your local officials
- Hold a fundraiser, coordinate a food drive, or a set up a collection of shelter supplies for outdoor cats!

Want to help community cats through FMCA? Contact us at info@fmca.org or 301-977-4833.

Litterbox Issues

Many cat owners have experience with a cat who has stopped using the litterbox. Sometimes this can be the issue that lands a cat in a shelter. In many cases, litterbox problems can be resolved by cleaning the litterbox more often, adding extra litterboxes, or changing a cat's litter. Other times there is a medical problem that needs to be dealt with before the cat can be retrained to use the box. With patience, most litterbox issues can be resolved.

Inappropriate elimination

One of the most common complaints veterinarians hear from pet owners is that their cats won't use the litterbox. The first step in solving this problem is to have your vet examine your cat to make sure there are no medical reasons for their behavior. If your cat is healthy, look at environmental

factors causing the behavior.

Location matters to your cats when using a litterbox. Litterboxes should be in a quiet, private and safe place. "High traffic," or noisy areas such as hallways, or furnace rooms are not good choices. Litterboxes should also be far from your cats' food and water dishes. Cats don't like to eat and drink in the same vicinity where they go to the bathroom.

To ensure cats feel safe when using a litterbox, make sure they have plenty of escape options from their litterbox. Cats need to know they have a way to get out. They can feel trapped in covered litterboxes.



If you have a multi-cat household, keep litterboxes in different areas throughout the house to prevent any one cat becoming territorial over a litterbox.

Heartfelt thanks to:

The incredible FMCA volunteers. Every volunteer's work is vital to FMCA's success; the foster parents, the Luv-A-Pet Center support group, the administrative group who handle calls and emails, the coordinators who manage animal intake and foster space availability, the webmasters managing our sites and Facebook page and of course, our board members!

On behalf of the thousands of animals we have saved, and those we will save in the future, THANK YOU for being an FMCA volunteer!

The wonderful veterinarians who show exceptional kindness and generosity to our rescue animals. FMCA could not accomplish what we do without these contributions of time, energy and veterinary expertise. We appreciate everything you do for our organization.

PetSmart Charities. PetSmart Charities' goal is to end pet homelessness. PetSmart Charities has helped more than 6 million pets find forever homes. Thank you PetSmart, Germantown, for helping animals to find safe, loving homes every day and for hosting FMCA's adoption events.

Ernest

In 2010 former board member Ellie Brown received a call from a real estate agent about a large, declawed, medium-hair orange tabby that had been abandoned in a house that was being put up for sale.



Ellie adopted the handsome cat and named him Ernest. Ernest was part of Ellie's life for five beautiful years, and she wrote this wonderful poem prior to him passing away last June.

Ellie served on FMCA's board from 1993 until 2013. On behalf of the entire organization, we want to thank Ellie for her many years of hard work and dedication, as well as her continued support that enables FMCA to make a difference in the lives of animals in our community.



The Importance of Ernest

Ernest is my big orange kitty –
 Only his mom thinks he's pretty!
 He has wide green eyes and a stuffy nose
 That wheezles and sneezles wherever he goes!

Ernest spends much time on his hair –
 Still it flies off everywhere!
 He's a little bit wild and a little bit tame
 In his pantaloons and fluffy mane!

Ernest is a "foreclosure cat" –
 His people left him, but he's over that!
 He's retired now, living with me
 Enjoying the view from his balcony!

Ernest is proud of his ancestry
 He descends from the Hemingway Cat Family Tree
 He has the "extra Hemingway toe" –
 Thumbs are very handy, you know!

He can hold a pencil or a ball –
 Scale the counters and climb the walls!
 Ernest is right to be proud of his paws –
 Never mind that he has no claws!

What Ernest loves are papers rustling –
 Door bells, naps and toilets flushing!
 Doggie kisses and steeplechases –
 Surprise attacks and hiding places!

Ernest likes his life in the condo
 With the dog he is quite fond of!
 But sitting on me is his favorite thing –
 He is my Baby Lion King!

By Ellie Brown

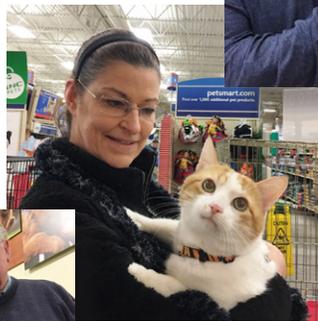
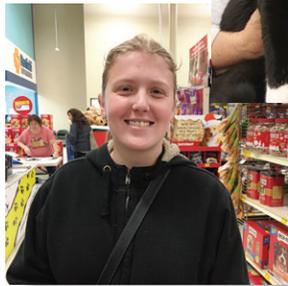
Fostering Provides Rewards for pets and people

Fosters volunteer their time and home to homeless animals in need. Fostering is an activity that is filled with benefits, not only for the animal, but also for you! Fostering cats or kittens is a critical link in the adoptions process at FMCA. Fostering provides animals opportunities for socialization, exploration, and the expression of a wide range of normal behaviors that are difficult to achieve when the animal lives in a shelter environment.

By opening our hearts and homes to a homeless animal, we feel a sense of accomplishment. When that animal has been adopted, we can be happy knowing how much of a difference we made.

The commitment to fostering is as important to you as it is to the animal. You have shown compassion in ways most people only wish they could.

Give a homeless cat or dog a brighter future through fostering. To learn more about fostering a cat or kittens, contact info@fmca.org or (301) 977-4833.



Single and Looking

I am Puck - a gorgeous male orange/white domestic short hair/tabby! I am a big guy, and love to play. I will also happily climb into your lap and make biscuits. My favorite place is a cat tree, where I can sit and watch the world go by. Not only am I a loving lapful, but I have a BIG personality as well.

I generally get along with other cats. I can play rough with other big boys. But ... sometimes I can be a bully. My foster mom hasn't really figured out why I play with some cats, and bully others. So, I am looking for a home where I can be an only cat.



No one knows how I would get along with dogs. I would probably do okay with older kids.

I have many amazing qualities. Come meet me to see how wonderful I am. I want a companion to love me and I need someone that I can love.

Do you have room in your heart and home for me?

For more information about me, contact Kathy at 301-528-7679 or katlady61@hotmail.com.

Adopting a rescue pet might be the best thing that ever happens to you

- FMCA pets come spayed or neutered and are fully vetted
- They are extremely affordable
- They have unconditional love to share
- They are trained and socialized
- Rescue pets come in all shapes, sizes and breeds
- Millions of healthy pets are still losing their lives in shelters each year
- Make a difference in the life of an animal

For more information on fostering, volunteering, donating or adopting – contact us at info@fmca.org or call 301-977-4833.

Pretty Boy Home at Last

Pretty Boy is an intelligent, handsome male gray cat, around 8 years old. Pretty Boy came to FMCA, when his owner had to give him up. She lost her job due to an injury and had to give up her beloved pets because she could no longer care for them.

Pretty Boy was raised in a house with his brother, two kittens, a dog and two little girls, so his world was turned upside down when he lost his family.

It was clear that he loved to play and be snuggled and needed reassurance



that the world was still a safe place, even though his humans and his fellow pets were no longer with him. Luckily, destiny drew his wonderful adopter to him. Now he lives at home with his new "sister" Bambi (pictured on the right).

Here's what his adopter says about him: "He is wonderful! So happy and sweet...he even plays with Bambi now! They play a lot and never get too rough. He is such a good kitty. I'm the lucky one! I've never known a cat as sweet as PB."

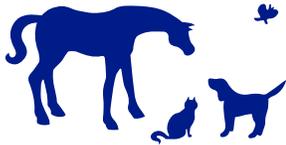


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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

F M C A

FRIENDS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY ANIMALS



Dignity for Animals



Attention Federal Employees!

The Combined Federal Campaign allows federal employees to donate to charities of their choice with pre-tax dollars! To read about charities or find out more, visit www.cfcnc.org.

Friends of Montgomery County Animals (FMCA) is participating in the Combined Federal Campaign National Capital Area.

Please make Friends of Montgomery County Animals your Charity of Choice!

Our CFCNCA number is #44491

100% of your donation is used for FMCA Projects!

