



Kennel Connection

See Page 3 For Adoptable Pets Available Now!

Vol. 2 Issue 1

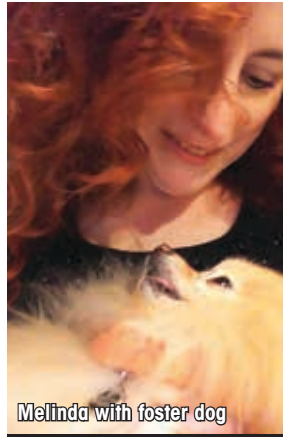
Newsletter of Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center

Spring 2016

It started with one 3-week-old kitten, spotted along the side of the road. Melinda Herndon and her daughter got the kitten to safety at Frederick County Animal Control (FCAC). But when they called to check on the kitten the next morning, they found out that the shelter's foster homes were full. So when FCAC staff asked Melinda if she could foster the kitten, she responded immediately: "Tell me how."

"By that evening," says Melinda, "I was driving straight from work to the shelter to pick this kitten back up. By the time I got there, two more had joined my pickup." In the 5 years since her first fostering gig, Melinda estimates she has fostered close to 500 kittens and mama cats. "When it's kitten season, roughly end of March through December, I always have kittens," explains Melinda. "One litter goes back, I bring another home."

In addition to kittens, Melinda fosters toy breed dogs "when there is a pressing need, like if they had surgery and need round-the-clock



Melinda with foster dog

Are You Tough Enough?



Melinda's foster dog Cowboy with his adopters



Clarabell, Melinda's first foster dog



One of Melinda's litters of foster kittens

pain medication or antibiotics.... Some are just not thriving as well in the shelter ... and need more of a

home to feel secure or to heal well?" "By far the toughest part [of fostering] is being strong enough

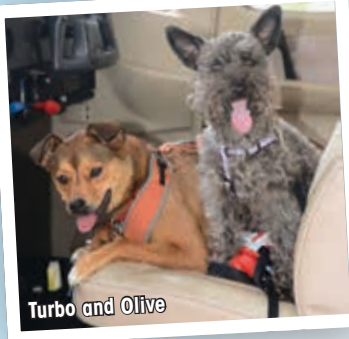
emotionally," says Melinda. "I always say, 'fostering is NOT for wimps'... I have had kittens die. I've seen a badly neglected dog." And, of course, it's hard to say goodbye when your foster animal is adopted.

But the rewards of fostering easily outweigh any difficulties. "You have to love them enough to know that there is a perfect family that wants them so much, and will give them so much love," says Melinda. "Your job is to prepare your foster animals for their forever family."

As far as the time commitment, fostering is like anything else: if it's important to you, you make it work. With the support of her family, Melinda has found time to foster while working full-time and volunteering at the shelter.

To those who are thinking of fostering, Melinda says, "please do. We need help. Very, very much so. It never hurts to at least try." Now, with kitten season just gearing up, would be an especially good time

Continued on Page 2



Turbo and Olive

Dogs on a Plane!!



as Doodle (her sister as Noodle).

Kelly and Chris Kennedy had been looking for a dog. So when they found themselves in the neighborhood, they decided to stop in and check out the shelter dogs. The couple immediately spotted the schnoodle sisters. "The shelter staff brought them both out to meet us," says Kelly. "As soon as [Doodle] was out of the crate she ran over to [Chris] and gave him kisses." That sealed the deal. Within a few days, Doodle breezed out of the shelter and into her new life with a new name, Olive.

In her new home, notes Kelly, Olive fit right in. "We have done obedience training, which I would suggest for anybody. It was a good way to learn together!"

Today, Olive has the unusual distinction of starring in the *Turbo the Flying Dog* children's books, where her character is the best buddy of Turbo (a character based on a real rescue dog of the same name). The books are fictional, but they reflect the real-life adventures of these two once-homeless pups, who actually do log many hours aboard coau-



Her story, as we know it, began on Route 40, where a good Samaritan found the schnauzer-poodle mix and her sister running loose, soaked from the rain. At the shelter, this half-grown "schnoodle" of unknown origin became known

thor and pilot Victoria Zajko's plane. "Most of the actual flying is for fun so far," explains Kelly. "But we also do events that mix [animal] rescue and aviation."

Olive has other surprising talents. One was discovered when Turbo was visiting and the dogs'

Continued on Page 4

Director's Letter: *Single Tabby Females*

by Linda Shea

A well-known shelter anecdote tells of a newspaper ad describing a Lab puppy named Daisy who loved long walks in the woods, camping, and cozy nights by the fire. The ad noted that Daisy was young, good looking, and loved to play. While the ad was factually true and contained the phone number of an Atlanta animal shelter, it ran in the "personals" section and drew a response from a gentleman looking for the companionship of a female ... just not of the canine variety.

During fiscal year 2015, Frederick County Animal Control took in 2,528 felines and 1,289 canines. There remains a large disparity between the fates of canines and felines at animal shelters everywhere. Like the Atlanta shelter that placed the newspaper ad, we try to come up with creative solutions, marketing strategies, and incentives to increase adoptions—especially among our adult cats.

Typically, we find one segment of our adoptable cat population most deserving: the cats we affectionately refer to as our "single moms." They are the adult female cats that arrived in late spring/early summer with their kittens. Most are placed in foster care to allow the kittens to reach an appropriate age and weight for adoption. Eventually, the kittens are adopted and the moms—many of whom are just beyond kittenhood themselves—are still at the shelter, waiting sometimes for months.

If we were to run a personals ad for one of our single moms, it might say "I love people and am a bit chatty," "I'm ready for someone to love and take care of me," "I'm always interested in what you're doing," and "I'm just happy to be held." How about visiting the shelter to meet one of these lovely ladies? You might just find a perfect match for your family.

■ Linda Shea is Director, Frederick County Animal Control.

Our Mission: To prevent cruelty, abuse, and neglect of animals in Frederick County by enforcing all state, county, and city ordinances to the fullest extent possible. We will shelter homeless animals and attempt to place them in safe and loving home environments. We will educate the public on all animal issues to foster a more aware and caring community.

Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center

1832 Rosemont Avenue, Frederick, MD 21702 • 301-600-1546
frederickcountymd.gov/15/Animal-Control

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Talk to Us: News from the CAWAC

by Doree Lynn Miles

The Companion Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (CAWAC) recently conducted a survey of local veterinary practices and clinics regarding Frederick County Animal Control (FCAC) services. Survey responses indicate that FCAC may be the best kept secret in town!

Over the next several issues of this newsletter, the CAWAC, in conjunction with FCAC, will provide more information regarding animal control officers, animal care, volunteer opportunities, adoption procedures, and special events. Our goal is to get the word out about FCAC's amazing staff and shelter services for homeless animals.

If you would like to learn about the laws and regulations enforced by FCAC, access Maryland Annotated Codes for Crimes Relating to Animals (Title 10, Subtitle 6) and for the Regulation of Animals (Title 13, Subtitle 1) at mgaleg.maryland.gov; the Frederick County Code of Ordinances for Animals and Fowl (Chapter 1-5) is available at www.frederick-countymd.gov/2077/Current-Codes. Or contact CAWAC.info@gmail.com to receive PDF copies of these documents via email.

Please consider attending the CAWAC's next quarterly meeting on Monday, March 14th, at 7 p.m. We meet at the shelter, 1832 Rosemont Avenue in Frederick. We want to hear from you!

■ Doree Lynn Miles is chair of CAWAC and proud momma to FCAC alumni, Chloe and Guinness.

Upcoming Events



Rabies, License & Microchip Clinic
Sunday, April 10th, 11–2



Open House
Sunday, May 15th, 11–2

TOUGH

Cont'd from page 1

to try.

Think you're tough enough to foster? The first step is to fill out a foster application. They're available online (www.frederickcountymd.gov/116/Volunteer) or you can pick one up at the shelter. Shelter staff can help you decide what kinds of animals to foster

and how to prepare. And if any problems or questions arise, says Melinda, "you will get wonderful support and direction from the shelter staff, the vet, and the vet techs."

Of course, adds Melinda, "to be a successful foster, you definitely, first and foremost, have to love animals. There is no better feeling in the world than knowing you are making a difference in the lives of these pets because you care!"

It's the Law, Part 3 Intentional Abuse and Torture

by Felicia Langel, DVM

A video posted on Facebook showing a person throwing scalding water on a cat went viral February 2, 2016. It triggered worldwide outrage. Now it has led to the arrest of a Chicago teenager. Leon Teague, 18, was charged with a felony count of animal torture and a misdemeanor count of depicting animal cruelty, according to the Chicago Police Department. Teague posted video to Facebook on Tuesday night showing him luring a cat onto his porch and throwing boiling water at it, police said in a statement. "The cat ... ran from one end of the porch to the other screaming in pain," the police report reads, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

—Niraj Chokji,
The Washington Post, Feb. 6, 2016

According to follow-up reports from the *Chicago Tribune*, the cat, now named Driver, is undergoing extensive veterinary treatment. The friendly cat is expected to recover and will ultimately be made available for adoption.

The link between animal cruelty and criminal violence has been documented. Of people charged with cruelty to animals, approximately 70% were known by police for other violent behavior. Acts of animal cruelty have been associated with a variety of crimes, including violence against people, property crimes, and drug offenses.

Animal abuse is a predictor of domestic violence and perpetuates the cycle of violence in households. For example, threats or actual violence against the family pet are used by batterers to psychologically control and coerce family members. Children subjected to such violence may attempt to

Continued on Page 4

HOMES WANTED

View all of our adoptable pets on Petfinder (www.frederick.petfinder.com) or Petango (www.petango.com/fcac). Or stop by for a visit—you never know, you might just find true love!



RUSH AND PUFF

Bonded bunny buddies in search of a soft touch. Longing for someone quiet, cuddly, and undemanding to help you unwind after work? How about two someones? If you can promise to always treat us gently and never give us up, we want to meet you! Please call the shelter and make an appointment (we are in foster care).



ROSCO

Single spotted male seeks family life. I'm fun and easy-going with a wag for everyone I see. I love long walks, interesting smells, and quiet evenings at home. You are loving and kind and ready to make this last forever. Looks not important. Let's connect—meet me at the shelter today!



HELGA

Sensitive tortoiseshell beauty seeks long-term commitment. If you're all about first impressions, you're barking up the wrong tree. But if you're the patient type, you'll see the real me; you'll see how ready I am to blossom in a home of my own. Are you the one who will give me that chance?



ROCCO

Mature brown tabby looking for life partner(s). What does love mean to you? Does it come in a classically attractive marble-striped package? Is it a purr that starts at "hello" and never quits? Does it mean you'll stick with me no matter what? Commitment-phobes need not apply. All other interested parties, stop by the shelter today.

By Bette S. Brown

It was 7:45 on a cold March evening when foster care provider Susan Sebbane got the call from Frederick County Animal Control: 2 litters of kittens—the youngest only 10 days old—had been found, without their moms, in a latched crate in a parking lot. Someone had optimistically written “free kittens” on top of the crate.

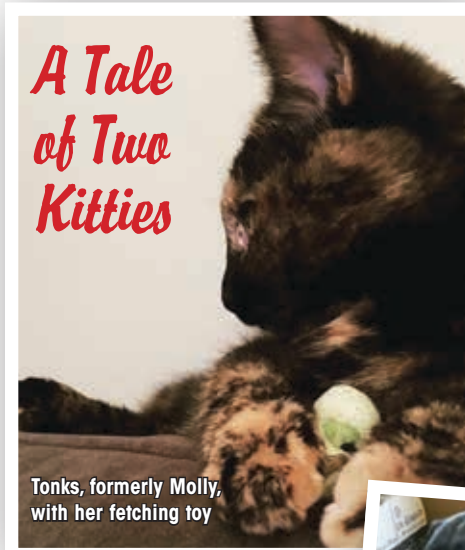
Susan took in one litter, dubbing them Susie, Ralph, Bradley, and Molly. Her neighbor, Tracey Celi, took the other litter: May, Tommy, Andy, Violet, and Charlie.

Several weeks later, Kaitlin Moore and her husband were visiting the shelter, “waiting for the perfect kitten to pick us.” When they walked by Molly’s cage, “she reached out and grabbed my husband’s finger with both paws,” says Kaitlin. “When we asked to hold her she climbed up on my chest and licked my nose.” They filled out the adoption application on the spot.

A month later, my daughter Lindsey and I stopped by the shelter. Charlie, the last of his litter still unspoken for, would not be ignored. I was reluctant to let Lindsey hold him—even the



Charlie, on right, in forever home



Tonks, formerly Molly, with her fetching toy

nicest cat may not react well to being plucked from its cage and held awkwardly by a 6-year-old. But Charlie was completely at ease in Lindsey’s arms. He looked up at her, his paws on either side of her face, as if he was just where he belonged. And he was.

In their respective forever homes, Charlie and Molly—now known as Tonks—have been post-er-kittens for a shelter-foster home-shelter upbringing. Both cats are incredibly affectionate. Of Tonks, Kaitlin says, “Every morning I wake up to her on my pillow and I go to bed with her by my side.” That both cats are expert snugglers may have something to do with being bottlefed while in foster care. “They like it and get very

chasing each other back and forth,” says Kelly, “and I guess [Olive] had had enough playing and wanted food instead because all of a sudden she was in the center of the dining room table! I have never seen a dog her size jump like that. Everyone was stunned, including her!”

horses and livestock. Due to weak protections for livestock under state cruelty laws, few cases of abuse are reported or prosecuted.

States vary in their animal cruelty regulations. According to Maryland Code Criminal Law Title 10, Subtitle 6, Crimes Relating to Animals, Section 10-606, a person may not intentionally mutilate, torture, cruelly beat, or cruelly kill an animal. Violation of this section is a felony punishable by up to 3 years in prison, a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or both. The court may order a convicted defendant to participate in and pay for psychological counseling

bonded to people,” foster mom Susan says.

Charlie and Tonks also share a love of water that verges on obsession. Both like to hang out on the edge of the tub while their humans take baths or showers, sometimes even participating enough to require toweling. This shared trait was a bit of a mystery until Susan and Tracey described their kitten-bathing routines. “When they first start to eat it makes a mess,” explains Susan. “I bathe them regularly. They seem to enjoy being under the warm water. Then they get a blow dry.”

The friendliness of both kittens toward their adoptive fur siblings—feline and canine—also may stem from their foster experiences. Susan’s cat Stubby loves the foster kittens. “He sleeps

with them, bathes them, and plays,” says Susan. And both litters of crate kittens received some serious TLC of the Labrador variety. Susan’s Lab puts foster kittens “between her front paws and puts her



Bailey nursing Charlie and littermates

head over them

to hide them from danger,” says Susan. “They also crawl up in her fur when they are tiny for warmth. Sometimes I find the whole litter snuggled up on her.”

Tracey’s Lab/pit mix Bailey is also a fan of kittens. In fact, while Charlie’s litter was in Tracey’s care, Bailey had a false pregnancy. “She totally thought [the kittens] were her babies!” says Tracey. Bailey spent weeks caring for the kittens. The dog’s hormonal discombobulation was such that she actually produced milk! That Charlie’s litter was bottlefed and dog-nursed may explain Charlie’s previously puzzling love of dog kibble.

In her own expression of a Lab upbringing, Tonks has turned out to be one of those rare retriever cats. “Tonks has a favorite little green mouse toy that she will fetch for hours!” says Kaitlin. “It’s her favorite thing to do and it’s how we play every night.”

and may prohibit a defendant from owning, possessing, or residing with an animal.

If you see or suspect animal abuse, cruelty, or neglect, report it to Frederick County Animal Control (301-600-1544 or 301-600-2558 after hours) or dial 911. You may also submit complaints related to animal cruelty online: www.frederickcountymd.gov/requesttracker.aspx.

■ Felicia Langel, DVM, is Lieutenant Colonel, US Army Veterinary Corps, and secretary of Frederick County’s Companion Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

DOGS

Cont’d from page 1

respective humans were eating dinner. “The dogs were taking turns playing tug-of-war and

LAW

Cont’d from page 3

regain control by acting out the animal abuse they have witnessed. Children who abuse animals are at increased risk of hurting themselves or others and are more likely to grow into violent adults.

In a study of media-reported animal cruelty cases conducted by pet-abuse.com, approximately 62% involved dogs, 15% involved cats, and 23% involved other animals, including