

# Spay and Save

## Volunteer Newsletter

### "Should Old Acquaintances be Forgotten?"

Another Spay and Save Newsletter year begins and I realized with the typing of the Volumes that I have been writing and producing this newsletter for 15 years having started in 2003. That's a long time and I still have every single one of the old newsletters on my computer.

It's good to look back and take stock of how things have changed. With the closing of the King of Prussia Petco store we are saying good bye this year to the birthplace of Spay and Save as we know it today. Yes, Peg Banes, our founder who passed away in 2007, and her dedication to finding homes for unwanted cats is the reason the organization of Spay and Save exists. So, I think as the new year begins it is time to remember and thank some of the people, the Pet Stores and Vets whose dedication have been instrumental in making Spay and Save what it is today.

By Chris Daniels

My heart-felt thanks to all who donated their time, effort and finances to the Spay and Save orphans to make their holidays brighter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who makes the operation of Spay and Save possible including our officers, our veterinarians and our entire staff of dedicated volunteers. **Continued Page 4**



### King of Prussia Petco Memories

By Toni Dougherty

When you have lived, as long as I have, the brain seems to get backlogged with lots of old memories. It always surprises me what one keeps stored up there. Some things come to mind so often that my friends are beginning look askance at me. Then something happens in my life and my memories seem to fill with old stories that, and my friends are thankful for this, are new.

With the closing of the KOP Petco I began to remember the weekdays I visited the store to take care of the cages. This is going back to some 15 years ago when Petco was located where the WAWA is today. I was new to the cage care activities and sorry to say I do not remember who trained me (probably Carol Anthony). I remember rolling those big cages into the community room and letting the cats run free during the cleaning process. **Contd. Page 2**



### ADOPTIONS

For 2017  
Cats 335  
Dogs 38

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## King of Prussia Petco Memories (continued)

I scrubbed down the cages with bleach and replaced the litter and carefully folded newspaper into the bottom of the cage. Towels were used to cover the shelves and I cleaned and filled the food and water bowls. Now the fun part began. Somehow, I had to catch those kittens and many of them did not want to go back into the cage. Sometimes I had help because employees and even customers would come into the community room to play with the kittens. I am sure it was quite comical watching grown adults running around the room after the little guys.

On Saturdays we would set up additional tables right in front of the cashiers and Chris Daniels, Kathy Tierney, Barb Tracy, Morag Steskal, Mary Duncan, Sue Wix, and Val Nave, just to name a few, would arrive with their fosters and we all would munch on doughnuts and drink soda during the adoption day and discuss CATS. Somethings really do not change but for some reason these memories of adoption days are special. I guess it was that adoption days and cage care would become the main activities of Spay and Save, but for us we were treading new ground.

Out of all the organizations I have worked with I have never enjoyed the people I worked with more and I never felt that I made more of a difference, in this case, the lives of the animals I was trying to help. I could go on and on, but I reached out to some of our long-time cage care volunteers and asked them to reminisce so follows some of their memories:

Krista Niedig:

"One Saturday morning during cage duty a little black kitten escaped while I was holding her. I began searching with no success. I called Chris and she drove to the store to help us search. By that point Sherman was deploying the official Petco "animal lost in store" plan which required employees to do a zone search of the store. After about two hours the kitten was found, and another 20 mins was spent trying to reach her. I vividly remember Chris laying on the store floor using a broom of some sort and her gloved hand to grab the Kitty who had holed up in the back of deep shelves. I was so impressed...and grateful! Needless to say, that was my first and last escape!

Petco holds a special place in my heart because it's the reason I have my snuggly Foster Failure Lottie. Lottie was a Spay & Save cat and in Dec 2014 she was in the cages as Christmas approached. S&S was asking for volunteers to foster a few cats for Christmas when the store was closed. I had a spare bedroom and offered to host Lottie for the 2 days. I picked her up Christmas Eve and spoiled her for 2 days. Dec 26th arrives, and she seemed a bit sick, so Kathy asked me if I could keep her a few days. She was so sweet, but I really didn't want a third cat. I tried bringing her to an adoption day. Apparently, she misbehaved and was not very social. When I came to pick her up, Kathy gave me an update on Lottie's behavior and joked that she had a feeling Lottie had already decided on a home - MINE! A week or so later I decided to keep her, stinky breath and all. Three years later, \$3k for removal of all but 3 of her teeth (stomatitis) and she's still as sweet as ever. My days would be a little less joyful without her snuggles so I will always remember Petco,"

Kathy Tierney:

"What I most remember is the last Adoption Day in the old store. Petco was preparing to move to it new location and the owner of the building seemed to lack interest in some of the basic repairs that needed to be done like leaks in the roof. We spent this particular adoption day surrounded by buckets of water from the rain dripping from the ceiling. The first day in the new store, I fared little better for this day I watched Andrew, a long time KOP Petco employee, handling a fistful of snakes for the Serpentariums, i.e. aquarium for the snakes. My Worst Nightmare!

Andrew, worked in both stores and is still with Petco to this day. He used to help me capture the kittens in the community room after I cleaned the cages. Toni Dougherty remembers him as sort of the all-around maintenance man buffing the floors and stocking shelves and maintaining the mice. I did evening cage care, so I remember mostly that he loved the Simpson's on TV and I would often catch him sneaking a peek on his break in the lunch room."

## King of Prussia Memories

Carol Anthony:

"One of the most significant memories I have happened in our old store while I was in the events room cleaning cages. A new cat had arrived who had been adopted from us about six months before. He was a tuxedo and an absolute sweetheart, despite what he must have been through in the past year. Needless to say, Chris et al. welcomed him back willingly and with great patience and respect for the woman who "changed her mind." I, however, was not so generous in my thoughts about this person and am sure I shared that with anyone in earshot. While cleaning the cages, I saw this quite handsome, athletic looking young man about 30ish standing at the glass doors to the room with a number of papers in his hand. He pointed to this new cat and mouthed something. As I welcomed him in, I was delighted as I assumed he wanted to see this cat for possible adoption. I welcomed him in and asked him if he was interested in adopting him. His eyes welled up and he showed me one of the pictures in his hand. He told me it was his wife's and his beloved cat, and they were devastated when he disappeared about 8 months before. Their grief was so deep and prolonged, they couldn't even entertain the idea of getting another. Their neighbors, he said, shared their loss as he was also famous in their neighborhood because he would go visit many of the neighbors and even watch them play tennis. In short, he was one of "those" cats that were truly exceptional. On her way home from work one day, his wife just happened to stop by this Petco, a store they never frequented, and saw their cat in one of our cages. She called her husband to verify it was indeed theirs and they then called Spay and Save. Their reunion was totally amazing and just one of the many thousands of gifts that Spay and Save has given over the years. It has been a blessing for me to be part of this organization." Continued on Page 5

# Holiday Doings

*To the right: Ray Daniels preparing the lights for the Christmas Holidays.*



*Not only did Dennis and Linda O'Neill have the compassion to adopt a special needs kitten from our organization, but they also took it upon themselves to do a fundraiser for us in the form of a "Photos with Santa."*



*Below Right: Maria Robb at Plymouth Meeting Mall during Photos with Santa with Santa*

*Below is: Ian Goodrich at the Exton Petco during Photos with Santa and Petco donated all the revenue to Spay and Save*



*This is a little boy who put a dollar of his own money into the donation holder. It was at the Limerick Petco*



*Spay and Save Volunteer Donation Party held at Toni Dougherty's on December 22, 2017*



## "Should Old Acquaintances be Forgotten"? (continued)

I would like to acknowledge:

- ♥ **Petco** for donating all the "photos with Santa" proceeds to Spay and Save.
- ♥ **Pet Valu** for their generous donations of food and litter.
- ♥ **Perk Valley Pet Eatery** for their patience and care with all our kitties and for supplying food and litter for them.
- ♥ **Pet Valu Roxborough** for hosting gift wrapping and photos with Santa on their own, for providing refreshments at these events and for raising \$440 for Spay and Save. We would especially like to thank Michael Dugan, the manager and his staff, including Janice, Abby and Kathy. Special thanks to MaryAnn Bradford of everlasting moments pet photos for donating her entire proceeds from this date to our organization.
- ♥ **Toni Dougherty** for the *amazing* holiday party she hosted at her beautiful home and to our volunteers who brought cat food, litter, gift cards and cash, so that we may feed some very hungry little mouths!
- ♥ **Maria Robb** for giving up many hours of her time to raise funds, the most recent of which was photos with Santa at the Plymouth Meeting Mall.
- ♥ **Joann Morgan** for doing our Christmas mailing.
- ♥ **Our coordinators** who spend so much of their time helping kitties and dogs get homes for Christmas and all through the year, and especially Beth Licata, our newest co-coordinator who has done so many transports, vet visits and fill-ins for cage cleaning in her brief time with spay and save!
- ♥ **Our clerical staff** who post with great care and attention to detail on Facebook, our website and especially Barb Hardy who enters data daily into our website and sends thank you's.
- ♥ **Ginny Shaffer & Paula Ulrich** who go the extra mile in our dog division.
- ♥ For whatever you have done to help our kitties and dogs obtain forever homes, our heart-felt thanks!

### New Horizons:

We look forward to 2018 as an opportunity to stop animal suffering, to help more dogs and cats find forever homes and to expand the spay/neuter program. New volunteers are bringing new energy, new ideas, and new leadership into our organization while still cherishing and preserving our founding values

Auld Lang Sine from the Scottish song may be translated into English literally as "old long since", or, "days gone by" or "old times." We are moving into a new year and I will continue capturing Spay and Saves activities but in doing so I am also capturing the organization's history. I know I won't forget the old acquaintances and with the continuation of the newsletter into 2018 you won't either.

Toni Dougherty

**HOW TO REMOVE PET HAIR FROM EVERY SURFACE**

- From Pets**
  - 1. Prevent and treat pre-existing skin diseases that cause shedding.
  - 2. Cut off excess hair.
  - 3. Brush consistently to remove loose hairs.
  - 4. Bathing your pets often can lead to healthier hair and less shedding.
- Clothing**
  - 1. Using a lint roller is a great way to get small batches of hair in a pinch.
  - 2. Washing your clothes with white vinegar loosens hair and makes it more likely to come off in the wash.
  - 3. Drying your clothes with a dryer sheet gets rid of pet hair and static cling.
- Upholstered Furniture**
  - 1. Using a lint roller or handheld vacuum makes spot cleaning a breeze.
  - 2. Run a damp rubber glove or sponge over furniture to easily remove embedded fur.
- Non-Upholstered Furniture**
  - 1. Run a microfibre cloth along the surface of your wooden furniture to use static electricity to remove fur.
- Car Interior**
  - 1. Use a lint roller or handheld vacuum to remove hair.
  - 2. Run a pumice stone carefully along your car's interior to pick up fur for a permanent solution.
- Hardwood**
  - 1. Use a microfibre mop to easily capture hair on non-carpeted floors.
  - 2. If hairs get caught in the cracks of your hardwood apply a fresh coat of sealant to make future cleaning easier.
- Carpet**
  - 1. Rubber brooms require work but they can get out fur that's nestled in your carpet.
  - 2. Robot vacuums make cleaning up pet hair incredibly easy and do it without you even thinking about it!
  - 3. Sprinkling baking soda over your carpet before your vacuums loosens hair and deodorizes as a bonus.

**neato** The best robot vacuum for pet hair. Old problems. New fix.

## Deja Vu All Over Again

By Sue Wolf

I have pretty much transitioned from a walker (ugh!) to a cane and am hobbling around with that now. So, this is progress. The cane I have is not one of the metal adjustable kind that people get at therapy, it is different-- kind of cool looking, maybe hand made from knotted wood. I got it from Patrick, who used it with a Halloween custom a few years ago when he was an old lady. He had it stored in his bedroom. He said he got it from Jason, John's middle son, who had gotten it from somewhere. I was curious where it came from so asked Johnnie, the oldest son who was here on Saturday. He told me that Jason saw it at that cat lady's house we cleaned out after she died -- PEG!!!!

He did not remember her name, but just remembered that I took the two of them over to her house to see if they wanted any of the computer stuff. We ended up taking a few monitors and other things, but Jason saw the cane somewhere and brought it home also.

So, I am now using Peg's cane to get around to feed my cats. I hope she's watching!!

Just thought that was an interesting tale to tell you on this bitter cold day. I will likely hold onto this cane just in case I have use for it in the future!

(Peg Banes was the founder of Spay and Save and she died in 2007. The Picture is of Sue Wolf a former longtime Spay and Save Volunteer who founded Cat Crew of Norristown.)



## Volunteer Corner

### King of Prussia Petco Memories

Carol Anthony Continued:

I started volunteering with Spay and Save "at the turn of the century" (I had to say that as it sounded so funny) and have watched it grow tremendously over those years. In those early years, I realize how much was done with so little. In the original store where we had our cages, the space and equipment were really make-shift. The tall cages with one or more cats in them were pushed out into an aisle near the front of the store or close to the big events room where we could clean them. Letting the cats/kittens out to clean the cages in that space often resulted in a rather stressful scramble to get them back in the cage, especially if they were not quite socialized or hated the cage. There would be numerous things in there to make it worse: stacks of chairs, folded tables on the floor, and even a pile of wooden pallets that were all perfect for hiding. We prevailed, however, often with the help of the Petco staff. I must say that the staff and management at that time were very friendly, helpful, and supportive. I have to single out Michelle Demers who worked there for over 10 years as one of their groomers. She was always friendly and eager to help us, often donating a free wash and grooming of some of our dogs with her own time and money.

Val Nave:

These were the days when email wasn't even out, or it was very new. Fax machines were used. Cell phones were not part of our attire yet. You could leave home without them and we weren't crazy busy. It had its good and bad points. We called Chris on the Petco phone for every emergency.

Jean Kowalski:

A couple of Novembers ago a friend of mine, who had just gone through a divorce and moved into a new home, mused on Facebook about adopting a cat. My reply was: Hey! What are you doing this afternoon? She agreed to meet me that afternoon at Petco at our adoption fair, where she immediately fell in love with Mickey and Minnie, filled out the application form, and within a couple of days the cats were snuggling in their new home. As for my memories of KOP, I was thinking how grateful I was that there was a trash can in the back room, or that I could even get access to the floor sink ... I will miss going to King of Prussia Petco every week, frustrations aside.

SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE MEMORIES

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

| Date                     | Event Location          | Coordinators       |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday | Gateway Pet Valu (Dogs) | Ginny Shaffer      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday | Limerick Petco          | Alicia Ferraioli   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday | Sears Hardware (Dogs)   | Paula Wenke        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday | Gateway Pet Valu        | Janet Lynch        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday | Exton Petco             | Morag Steskal      |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday | Limerick Petco          | Madelyn Ferraioli  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday | Exton Petco             | M Steskal/CDaniels |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday | Perk Valley Pet Eatery  | Susan Trombadore   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday | Roxborough Pet Valu     | Chris Daniels      |



*Only nine more days left before the KOP store closes, and our kitties still wait patiently hoping to find their new home. Goodbye KOP thanks from all the cats and kitties that came through your door in 15 years and went on to loving homes.*



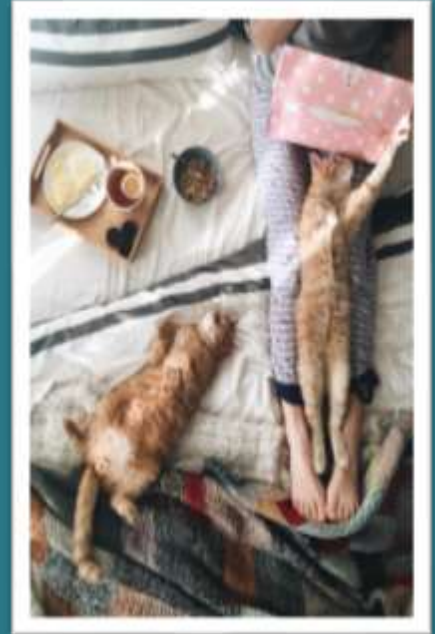
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On Facebook and  
the Web

## Best Use of a Cold Winter's Day



**Newsletter Editor:**  
Toni Dougherty  
Spay and Save Officers

- ♥ **President:** Chris Daniels
- ♥ **Vice President** Naomi McCarron
- ♥ **Secretary:** Morag Steskal
- ♥ **Treasurer** Kathy Orlando