

# Spay and Save

## Volunteer Newsletter



### ADOPTIONS

Jan/Feb

Cats 29

Dogs 2

## How Cage Care Starts It All

By Toni Dougherty

This month the Spay and Save Newsletter will be honoring some of our couples that have worked so hard to help our organization. Many of them are involved in the Cage Care Program and this program is usually the very first way we find the volunteers. Back in 2018 I did an issue about the closing of the King of Prussia Petco which is where I began my career with Spay and Save and many of the volunteers sent me stories about their experiences there too. So, I decided that along with honoring our couples volunteers I would reprint some of the cage care experiences and talk about the process that starts it all for most of us at Spay and Save

**Nick and Donna Desantis:**

"One night when I was cleaning the cages at Petco, maybe 3 years ago, I heard a woman saying in the kitty toy aisle, "pick out what you want, and I'll put it in the cart." Continued Page 2



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## Other Volunteer Opportunities

By Toni Dougherty

Cage care is not all we do at Spay and Save and we are continually looking for people to step up and help us out. For years now we have been expanding our footprint into other Petco, Pet Valu, and some independent retailers like Perk Valley Pet Eatery. We would do more but finding volunteers who are willing to Coordinate the Cage Care Duties and Adoption Days has been our major stumbling block. We also need people to help with Fundraising and setting up off site locations for Pet Fairs, Expos, Farmers Markets etc. Sometimes these activities might not result in adoptions, but they give us credibility with the public. It shows that we are a serious organization willing to take any opportunity to eliminate the unwanted pet population. They are also an important fundraising opportunity. I always counted them as a success even if an adoption opportunity was missed if I came home with a robust donation for the organization. Continued page 5

## A How Cage Care Starts It All

As she came out of the aisle towards me, she had a beautiful savannah cat in her cart standing up looking out. She let me hold her for a little while. Then she put her on the floor, and she was running around in the toy aisle jumping around all over the toys. She finally grabbed her and put her back in the cart where she stayed liked a good kitty. I guess she couldn't decide on which toy she wanted or maybe she wanted them all."

### Joanna Ewing:

During my first Spring with Spay and Save and while cleaning cages at Petco KOP, I remember the first time that I heard a chorus of kittens waiting to be fed! It was challenging to learn how to open the door without any of them falling out as they stepped on top of each other to smell my hand with food. Customers and employees could not resist their cuteness. We couldn't help but to witness and laugh with delight as they sang together and then got very quiet while eating. Love those fur balls, senior and newbies!

### 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! That was my first and last escapee!

### Toni Dougherty:

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. 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.

## Cage Care Procedures

By Amy Shaw

### Daily Cleaning:

- ♥ Scoop or remove soiled the litter
- ♥ Sweep and wipe all surfaces with the disinfecting wipes
- ♥ Shake out bedding to remove any trapped litter or food.
- ♥ When a kitty leaves and before a new kitty is put in:
- ♥ Remove all bedding and toys to be cleaned

Use the bleach cleaner to thoroughly wipe down all surfaces of the cage, including the ceiling, door, and under the ledge

### Daily Feeding:

- ♥ Always rinse water bowls and give fresh water; use your judgment as to how much to give kittens, who would rather play in it than drink it, as we all know
- ♥ Give the kitties only enough dry food to last the day. Kittens eat and drink more than adult cats. Giving wet food at your determination.
- ♥ If there are any problems with the kitties either behavior-wise or health-wise or if supplies are needed, call the site coordinator right away.
- ♥ All volunteers are responsible for finding coverage on days they can't make their shift. Call your site coordinator or Chris Daniels only if you can't locate anyone yourself.

# Spay and Save Dynamic Duos



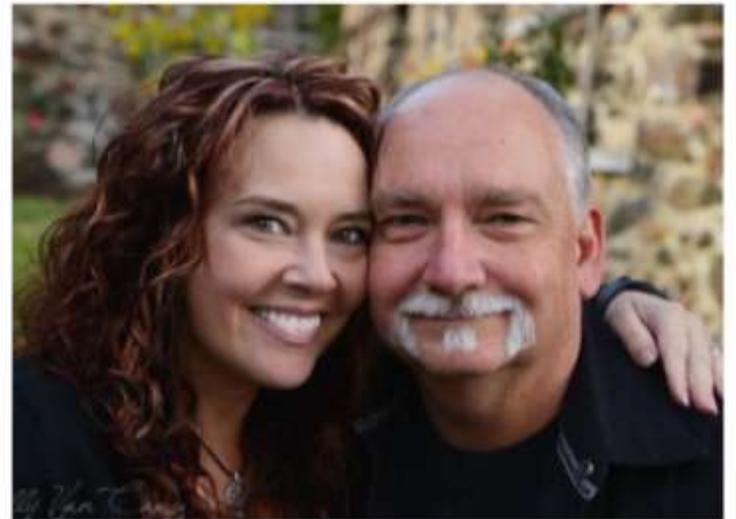
*Left: John Rebstock and Rachel Dellon have been volunteering for Spay and Save since October 2018. They have been diligent and dedicated in caring for our kitties at Pet Valu in Conshohocken.*



*Above: Despite only being with Spay and Save for 5-6 months, Wendy and Kevin Flannery have been very faithful in covering cages at Conshohocken Pet Valu. In addition, Wendy and Kevin have taken it upon themselves to create flyers for each kitty at the Conshy store and post them around the neighborhood, thereby giving the store some much-needed help in increasing adoptions.*



*Left: Jennifer Barrile and daughter, Olivia, have volunteered at Roxborough Pet Valu each Saturday evening for two years, giving back to our organization after they adopted their cat, Cookie, from Spay and Save.*



*Above: Sarah Sikora and hubby Bob have been with Spay and Save for over 15 years. Sarah handles our Facebook page, our Events Page, Success Page and acts as a liaison between Critter Care Vet and Spay and Save. Sarah is responsible for many of the donations that come through the clinic and through Facebook. Even after heart surgery, hubby Bob STILL played Santa at the Exton PETCO.*

*Right and Below: We started out as a volunteer duo that is now a trio. My daughter and I, Gwen Gatto & Camellia Mueller, started volunteering a few years ago at the Roxborough Pet Valu, and then my husband, Chuck Mueller, wanted to join in on the fun, so we take turns volunteering with our daughter. I love how gentle she is with the kitties and how seriously she takes her volunteer responsibilities! The only problem is that I now have quadruple the amount of cat photos on my phone ; ) Thx, Gwen*



# Spay and Save Dynamic Duos



*Left: In Taylor's words, "My fiancé, Ed Leslie, and I have been volunteering with Spay and Save about a year and a half. He just sort of slipped in because I needed to stop on the way somewhere and he now will not let me go alone!"*



*Above: Guy and Shelly Homer are quite a team. They not only foster kitties, take photos and do postings for our website, they also help with the dog division. They devote a part of every weekend to walking our dogs at Steinbach's kennel.*

*Right: When Trish Rieger and hubby found a litter of abandoned, 4-week old kittens at her father's home in the Poconos four years ago, she contacted Spay and Save and has remained as a volunteer helping with cages at the Conshohocken Pet Valu.*



*Left: "Kathy O'Brien and hubby, Charlie Ashley have been with Spay and Save for over 20 years. Kathy has fostered, edited the newsletter, thank you letters and now follow-up calls and records.*

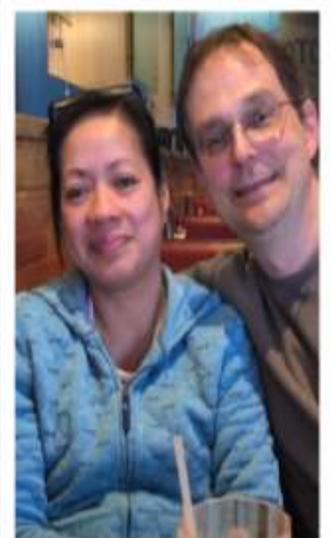


*Left: Mike Laskey and Kim Kay have done an amazing amount of transports, help with cage cleaning and in general, do whatever is needed at the time.*



*Left: Susan Coyne and Pat Falco. They prepare cages for Roxborough adoption events, as well as picking up food, litter and transporting for our kitties in need.*

*Right: Mylene and Bob Wilson have been with Spay and Save for over 12 years. Mylene is a foster mom for many of our kittens.*



## Other Volunteer Opportunities

Just as an example, I have cleaned cages, written this newsletter, sponsored adoption days and hosted the Spay and Save Volunteer Holiday Party. Trapped and fostered and found homes for probably over 50+ cats and kittens. Set up numerous tents at the Farmers Market here in King of Prussia and even did one at a Hot Air Balloon Festival in Chaddsford. I represented us in a Holiday Parade in Ambler where we were the featured rescue sponsored by Stienbach Animal Hospital and Ciavarelli Funeral Home in 2014.

## Other Volunteer Opportunities Continued

You can have a lot of fun if you are willing to do more ... You can also get in free to some nice events. It just requires some extra volunteer time.

*Ambler Holiday Parade with a photo of the check presented to Spay and Save for the winning float.*



*King of Prussia Farmers Market Halloween Adoption Day*

## Volunteer Corner

## A New Way to Find Homes for Cats and Dogs



By Janet Lynch

A Spay and Save Kitty will be featured as the Main Line Neighbors Shelter Star of the Month.

All about Luna:

Luna is a gentle, tortoise-shell female with striking green eyes. This sweet 4-year old will fall asleep in your lap and if allowed, will sleep with you all night. Although she has a good appetite, food is secondary to her love of attention from humans. Luna co-exists with other cats, but she is better suited to a single-pet household.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event Location	Coordinators
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	Gateway Pet Valu (Dogs)	Thresa Lare
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	Limerick Petco	Alicia Ferraioli
5 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Paoli PETCO	Kathy Tierney
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	Paula Wenke
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Perk Valley Pet Eatery	Susan Trombadore
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Roxborough Pet Valu	Chris Daniels

### **Cat Anti-slip Doormat for Cat Lovers**

**From 14.95 at**

<https://deliteshopping.com/collections/cat-series/products/cat-anti-slip-doormat-for-cat-lovers>



Somewhere, in a parallel, opposite universe, there's a weird cat who lives alone with his eleven little old ladies...

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Toni Dougherty  
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- ♥ **President:** Chris Daniels
- ♥ **Vice President** Naomi McCarron
- ♥ **Secretary:** Morag Steskal
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