

Spay and Save

Volunteer Newsletter

ADOPTIONS

March/April

Cats 48

Dogs 8

A Story of Two Black Cats One Lost and One Found

By Toni Dougherty

April 10th 2017; today I put Pepper down. My guess he was born in 2001 and I got him in the spring of 2002 from the SPCA. I found him at a Pet Expo where I had gone to volunteer at the SPCA, but they told me they didn't use volunteers but just a few tables down was a rescue I could volunteer with. The rescue was Spay and Save. After filling out an application as a volunteer I wandered back to the SPCA table. I asked; "Did anyone adopt the black cat yet?" they said "No" and I said: "I will adopt him". I could not leave that building without taking him home. No way was he going back to the SPCA.

Pepper proved to be quite a handful. He grew into a large male weighing about 18 lbs. and very friendly to humans but not too fond of the other cats in the house, especially the females. He would greet any person that passed by my house and continually chased the females off the property.

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Interview with a Cat Colony Caretaker

By Toni Dougherty

Over a nice lunch one day this February I interviewed one of the many cat colony care takers in our organization. This person shall remain nameless and the places where the cats are fed shall also remain secret. Probably these two things are most important for the anonymity protects the cats from complaining humans. Actually more cats are killed by humans than probably any other source. So stealth is a very important factor in being a good colony care taker, whether it is in your backyard or near the dumpster next to the local bodega. So if you're up for a bit of mystery, you too might like to be a Colony Caretaker. Continued on Page 5



A Story of Two Black Cats One Lost and One Found

After two of my females died from injuries probably as a result of leaving the property to get away from Pepper I tried to confine him but I felt it unfair so I attempted to adopt him to my sister-in-law. He lived with her for two months and then she called one day to tell me he did not come home for a couple of nights. With most cats I would not hold out a lot of hope in finding them but I knew my cat Pepper. He was savvy in the wild and he was friendly, actually, too friendly with humans. So I told my sis-in-law he was probably in some neighbor's house. After months of posters in mailboxes, signs in local delis and vets a lady called to tell us she had Pepper. It was him alright and he was several miles from his home turf so it was obvious a neighbor had been involved in his disappearance.

I gathered him up and brought him back to my home and here he stayed for the rest of his life. He changed a lot after this experience. He never was a friendly with people and he refused to go out and he stopped bothering the other cats. Yet that innate trust and love for humans and me never went away. It always amazed me that of all the things that happened he never lost his devotion for me.

This story is one about never giving up and to find him I persisted for months. Just recently a similar event surprised me. A foster kitten of mine, named Guy, spent most of 8 months hiding under the sofa or hidden deep in the recesses of a recliner chair never to come out, not even to eat. He would only make his way to the food and litter in the dark of night. I knew he would never make a good pet and as soon as he found his way out of my house last summer I knew he would never return here and yet he surprised me recently. I had him microchipped because of his timidity, and a year later I got a call from a local vet he had been found by a neighbor. Happily they wanted to adopt him. I do hope after a year on his own he understands what he once feared was far better than what the cruel world can sometimes dish out.

I have my regrets about some things I did to both Pepper and Guy (Stevie is his new name) and I guess with every loving relationship regrets are part of the fabric of the relationship. I do hope the T Shirt I have is right. It says that "Heaven is the place where all the animals you ever love run to greet you" Hope to see you again soon Pepper. Stevie have a long life and prosper.

Pepper, left, in his favorite basket. Guy, right, in a rare appearance in the bow window.



Our Day at the Community Music School

Spay and Save was invited to attend a "Performathon" at the Community Music School in Trappe Pa.

Thanks to Ginny Shaffer, Kelly Sabatino and Paula Ulrich from our dog division, three of our adorable pooches attended the event.

Jason Bizich and Marcia Cook stood watch over our cats and as of this writing, one of them has found a forever home with one of the students and her family.

Thanks to Morag Steskal for aiding in setup and providing all the decoration that brightened our tables.

It was a great success, and we have been given an open invitation to hold adoption events there again.



Adoption Success Stories



To the Left: Debra Whitney and husband, Adam, are very unusual folks! Not only were they willing to take an older, arthritic Siamese (the vet aged Venus to be between 10 and 16 years), but they were also willing to travel from Lewisburg to East Norriton to get her (2 to 4 hours depending on traffic). Debra also suffers from debilitating arthritis, so she will give Venus special care. As you can see by the photos, Venus has finally found her forever home. We are grateful to the Whitney's.

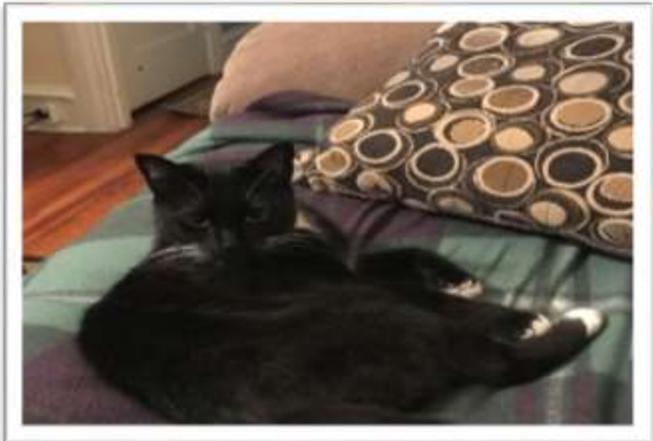
To the Right: A message from Karen Chung regarding a recent Barn Home adoption:

Happy Easter! We've had an exciting day here already, so I wanted to share a quick update. Shiloh is a lot more comfortable in her new home and she's getting very close to letting me pet her. Both cats have a few favorite spots (none of which are the nice, cushy ones I created :-), and they pretty much ignore the chicken noises and could care less about the eggs. We opened up the barn door today and it took Bart a few hours to even come close to it. After about 1/2 hour at the door, a bumble bee and a butterfly finally enticed him out. Shiloh slowly followed after a couple of hours. They are both loving life today!!



To the left: From Ed and Buffy Blunt in Philadelphia. Just a quick note to let you know that Nicholas and Pearl (now Pirate Pete and Polly) have settled in and have taken over the house. They continue to play together and both love chewing on Dad's sneaker laces. When they get the laces they race up and down the stairs and hang out on the windowsills. Nicholas got the name Pirate Pete for he is blind in one eye and Pete needs a parrot so Pearl became Polly.

Thanks so much for rescuing them and having them at the right place at the right time for us to find them.



To the Left: Robin had been found, one cold March day, in the engine of Toni Dougherty's neighbor's car. She took her in and tried to get her adjusted to home life but all she would do is hiss at everyone. She earned the name of Hissy Missy but Chris felt that Robin would be a better name since she came to us with the return of the Robins in the Spring. Robin, now Precious, was quickly adopted by Tim Oberholtzer and seems to have adjusted well to her new lifestyle.

FYI: Kawaii Kitty Café in Philadelphia

"In Japanese the adjective Kawaii translates to "Cute, Pretty, Charming, Dear, and Pet" and has sparked an entire colorful "Kawaii Culture" based on all things adorable; pastel colored inanimate objects with cute happy faces, doll-like fashion and music straight out of a Hello Kitty cartoon.

About ten years ago the first cat cafes began popping up in Tokyo and since, the concept has spread to countries worldwide including England, Australia, Canada, Taiwan and recently, the United States with the first locations opening in Oakland, Portland, and New York City. When it came time to start planning Philadelphia's first cat cafe, it only seemed appropriate that we pay tribute to the roots of the concept and honor the Japanese "Kawaii" culture that started it all."

LEARN MORE AT:

<http://www.kawaiikittycafe.com/>



An Interview with a Cat Colony Caretaker

I asked the Caretaker a series of questions:

What prompted you to be a Colony Caretaker? A woman in a shop where I was working was taking care of a cat colony on the grounds. When the shop closed the land owner would not allow anyone to continue feeding the animals or even remove the colony using a local rescue. As an employee, our colony caretaker to be, had access to the property and spent much time helping the local rescue trap the cats. I continued to care for this colony after all that could be placed where.

How do you find the cats and the colonies you care for? Sometimes from a call from the local Animal Control agent and often from a restaurant owner or from other rescuers and home owners.

If you find a colony do you contact the property owner or neighbors? Generally no, I prefer to work on removing the colony and caring for it without interference from outsiders and it protects the animals from complaining humans by keeping what I am doing low key. I will approach the neighbors if I feel the colony might be threatened.

What is the first thing you do when working with a colony of cats? I set up feeding stations and as I develop the cats trust I attempt to trap them and get them fixed and get rabies shots. There is the danger not only for me but for the surrounding community should the cats have or contract rabies. So making this my first goal protects me.

What other goals do you have? My goal is to eliminate the colony all together and in the 15 years of taking care of colonies I have managed to get 5 colonies down to one through spay, neutering, and finding homes for cats that are friendly.

Can you define the steps you take to eventually eliminate a colony? Find a colony and set up regular feeding and in some cases build foul weather shelters. Trap, spay and neuter using the ear tip to allow determination of neutering and rabies vaccination. Friendlies and small kittens are kept in a sheltered area in my home and I work with them to prepare them for adoption. I return to the colony animals that are not candidates to become house pets and continue caring for them. Generally I will feed until all the animals in the colony matriculate or die.

Do you attempt to find the owners of any of the cats just in case a friendly cat in your colony is just an indoor/outdoor pet who has found an alternative food supply? No. (This is often the case with rescuers. Trying to find owners requires a lot of extra effort and most are unwilling to take the time.)

What are the reasons or the benefits of feeding, neutering and rabies vaccines for colony cats? It keeps them healthy and warm and reduces reproduction and wandering great distances for food and sex.

About how long do you think some of your more feral cats live in the wild when they are cared for in a managed colony? Most house pets live about 15 to 18 years. Cats in the wild average about 5 to 8 years. Some of mine have lived long lives. ("A number of cats in managed colonies in the U.K. died of old age. In the U.S., the last cat in a managed colony in Washington, D.C. died at age 17, and Zorro, the last cat of a colony at the Merrimack River in Newburyport, Massachusetts, died in 2009 at age 16." From Wiki.) Continued on page 5

Interview with a Cat Colony Caretaker Continued

Do you monitor the health of the animals in the colony? Yes I use flea treatments, antibiotics for injury's and Drontal in their food for worms. I will euthanize if the animals are severely injured or suffer from life threatening diseases.

Do you keep data on the animals in your colonies? (Keeping track of births deaths and cats removed for adoption purposes can demonstrate TNR effectiveness especially where feeding strays is illegal in some towns and cities) Generally I keep a photographic record of the animals in my colonies and adoption records for those that have found homes.

Can feeding the cats lead to predation, human intervention or attract unwanted animals to the feeding area? Yes this can happen. I have designed a feeding station made from plastic storage boxes that allows the cats to enter and eat undisturbed. I feed at a specific hour each day so the cats become aware of the availability of food and do my best to keep the area clean and free of feeding supplies to prevent attracting other animals.

Do you provide shelters for the cats to winter in? Yes I take a Styrofoam container, cut an opening about cat size and fill it with straw. I try to place it somewhere unseen by outsiders for the protection of the cats I care for. I find they do use it.

Have you had any community conflicts with animal control or neighbors as a result of your feeding? The Animal Control doesn't generally bother the Colonies but there have been problems with land owners and neighbors and in one case I had to move a colony to another location.

What are the financial considerations of taking on the job of Colony Caretaker? It is an expensive time consuming hobby and a lifetime commitment, not just your lifetime but the cats that are cared for. The Spay and Neutering and Rabies shots are often provided for by local rescues. Often there are food donations but generally count on several hundred dollars a year to supplement. Flea treatments, veterinary care, medications, shelters and feeding station expenses will often come from your own pocket.

Volunteer Corner

Morag Steskal; Every time I volunteer to help out at the Exton Petco I often run into Morag Steskal who just loves adoption days and never passes up an opportunity to make the place festive. She loves to decorate and just like me can't pass up a holiday like St Patrick's Day. I know she does it because besides the others who enjoy her efforts it makes her happy too.

Morag has been volunteering with us for easily 20 years and is now acting secretary for the organization. Morag is the proud Mon of three Spay and Save cats. Bonnie Jean, Teddy, and Annie who has cerebellar hypoplasia.



Jerri Sueck; On Thursday April 20th Jerri was invited to Unisys by one of the legal counsels, Andrea Thomas to give a talk on Trap Neuter and Return (TNR), and other aspects of rescue that Spay and Save is involved in. Jerri hoping to corner some donations and volunteers had a nice display to show the folks at Unisys how they could get involved in helping us. She was met with enthusiasm and appreciation. Some employees also promised to help acquire donations for our organization.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event Location	Coordinators
1 st Saturday	Gateway Pet Valu (Dogs)	Ginny Shaffer
1 st Saturday	Limerick Petco	Alicia Ferraioli
2 nd Saturday	Exton Petco	Morag Steskal
2 nd Saturday	Gateway Pet Valu	Janet Lynch
3 rd Saturday	Limerick Petco	Madelyn Ferraioli
3 rd Saturday	KOP Petco	K.Tierney/B.Tracy
4 th Saturday	Perk Valley Pet Eatery	Susan Trombadore
4 th Saturday	Exton Petco	JGallager/RClements
5 th Saturday	KOP Petco	Barb Tracy
TBD Saturday	Ardmore City Line Pet Valu	Rachel Loev
TBD Saturday	Ivy Ridge Pet Valu	Chris Daniels

Spay and Save Fundraising and Adoption Events

- ♥ *Saturday May 20th Noon to 4PM Boscovs 500 Germantown Pike Plymouth Meeting Pa.*
- ♥ *Saturday June 10th Flea Market at Jeffersonville Presbyterian Church 8AM to 2PM 1921 West Main Street Norristown Pa.*

Not all Cats Eat Birds



Newsletter Editor:
Toni Dougherty
Spay and Save Officers

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



Spay and Save Inc. Pet Adoption, Rescue and Education

P. O. Box 122
Lafayette Hill Pa 19444
Phone: (610) 279 9714
Phone: (610) 277 6187
Fax: (610)278 6020

WWW.SpаяndSave.Org

On Facebook and
the Web

Volunteers In Action



King of Prussia Kathy Tierney	Exton Arraceli Wakil	Limerick Madelyn Ferraioli	Gateway Janet Lynch	Roxborough Kathy Plover	Conshohocken Volunteer Needed	Dog Care Ginny Shaffer
Tim Martin	Birdie Bufford	Dana Hein	Ann Slowik	Katharine Avarese	Beth Licata	Alex Masterson
Carol Anthony	Celenia & Olivia Kufta	Alicia Ferraioli	Beth Liuzzi	Chloe Major	Emma Hinnerschitz	Jamie Aronow
Elizabeth Fox	Colleen Bane	Ava & Tricia Hawks	Camille Kurtz	Clare Morrison	Gloria Sutryn	Jenn Armstrong
J. Light	Deb Gaynor	Gavin & Jeanie Bednar	Adrienne Washington	Donna Felker	Jason Bizich	Judy Gallagher
Jean Kowalski	Diana Rothenberg	Brianna Talbot	Christine De Bonis	Heather DiGiacomo	Kelly Sabatino	Linda and Art Edwards
Jennifer Fugo	Jennifer Biddle and Dava Janas	Kathy Letofsky	Erica Roselli	Interact	Kerri Dorn	Lorine /Carter Forman
Joanna Ewing	Jodie Rapp	Leah Pro	Jamie Richman	Janette Neal	Melissa Hentz	Nikki Passanante
Kathy Yeremeshian	Karen & Samantha Anderson	Mary Krivulka	Maggie Lejeune	Kristin Richter	Trish & Ted Rieger	Shelly and Guy Homer
Krista Neidig	Laura Labiak	Nicole Simpson	Michele DiCristofaro	Lauren Burke	Vivian & Tony Wiemelt	Paula Ulrich
Patti Cunnane	Leslie Barringer	Rae Theodore	Pebbles Zell	Lauren-Alice Lamanna		Theresa & Sam Lare
Pebbles Zell	Lisa & Amanda Snyder	Sandy & Evan Croxton	Shannon Ehret	Natalie Frantz		Kathy & Kristi Natalini
Sue Cott	Matt Lauer/Eleanor McCardell	Susan Trombadore	Stephanie Garrett	Carmela & Joe Ferris		Annie Carrozza
Sue Gassen	Mindy Everly	Victoria Delgoletto	Adrienne DiMino	Tabitha Enfinger/Gwen Gatto		
Susan Goldberg	Pat Layman			Erin Dicesare & Lindsae Goguloski		Volunteer ALWAYS Needed
	Rachel Dill			Jen Barrile & Sabruba Babsteek-Bunt		Perk Valley Altheda Anduze
	Robin Resnick					Madelyn Ferraioli
	Sylvia & Sarah Cooperman		Volunteers Needed Tuesday Morning and Wednesday and Friday Evening			Susan Trombadore
Volunteers ALWAYS Needed	Volunteers ALWAYS Needed	Volunteers ALWAYS Needed		Volunteers ALWAYS Needed	Volunteers ALWAYS Needed	Volunteers ALWAYS Needed