

Animal Adoption Center

Friends of Camden Animal Shelter Inc.

A No-Kill Shelter for Companion Animals

501 N. Berlin Road, P.O. Box 4017, Lindenwold, New Jersey, 08021 • 856-435-9116

CARING HANDS

What do you do?— It's 6:30 pm and the last of the lights have been put out in the shelter. Late summer, hot, sticky, and time to go home. How good to just sit back for a quiet minute in your own cool room. As you go over to pull the big gate closed, you notice a beat-up cardboard box in the trees by the fence. A small sound is coming from somewhere. Not the box??? You really hope that it's not the box... You get closer, and the box moves, very slightly. Open the box to find a tiny kitten snuggling close to her Mom, making small mewling noises as she instinctively seeks food, but, there is no comfort here, Mom has passed on.



Now what! This little baby cannot fend for herself. Her life is clearly in danger. How long was she in the box?? Was she getting enough air (she seems to be breathing so fast now)? When was the last time she was able to nurse? Was she able to nurse at all? You know that without a regular supply of mother's milk, a newborn kitten cannot survive for more than a few hours.

But, there she is, a tiny, perfect gray and white kitten, small enough to fit in a teacup. Eyes aren't even open, but the little mouth is. *So much for the quiet minute.*

Nothing to do but do it. Back into the shelter, wrap the kitten up, find a tiny carrier, feeding syringe, some cans of

KMR (Kitten Milk Replacement), blankets, and pack it all up, and the two of you head home. Now the battle begins. Kittens this tiny must be fed every three hours until they are at least 3 weeks old. They cannot eliminate without assistance, and they must be warm and out of drafts. So, you take out all the paraphernalia, set the alarm clock, and snuggle down with your new buddy.

Wow, that's hard work. Is it? Is it really? Just look at her. She's sound asleep after having her first good meal. Her breathing is soft and regular. Contented, secure, a whole little life, a heart still beating because of you... Three weeks later, precious, healthy, a little spunky and showing some personality, her favorite spot is right above the pocket on your shirt where she can wiggle her way under your collar near your hair.

What would **you** do? Would you walk away? Ignore the box?... Somehow, we don't think so.

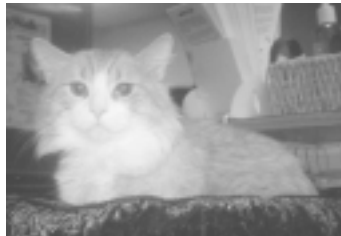
If you are wondering who found the box, it could have been any one of us. Employees, board members, and volunteers have all opened their homes to kittens and puppies that are too young to be properly cared for at the shelter. This baby is not the only one. We have others now and we know that more are coming. We don't have anywhere near enough "caring hands" to meet the need, especially for kittens. If you can make a short-term commitment that will change (maybe even save) a life, become part of our Caring Hands program.

All we need is your time—we will provide the supplies and any necessary veterinary care. Stop in any day and we can discuss this together. *Special thanks to photographer Judy Cohen who took this picture of BK outside our shelter.*

If you can't help us give the care, help us to pay for it. Babies are expensive, and our funds are running low.

Fuzzy

Fuzzy's story is a heart-breaker. Don't continue if you're not tough. Fuzzy lived with Bill, an old gentleman who had very little money, just enough coming in for him and Fuzzy. When a fire swept through their apartment building, Bill escaped with only the clothes he was wearing. His home, furniture, and clothing were destroyed, and although he searched frantically, he could not find Fuzzy anywhere. With nowhere to go and no money, Bill found a place in a shelter for the homeless, some distance from his original home. Every day he walked back to the apartment looking for some sign of Fuzzy. Firefighters had not found a cat, and the neighbors hadn't seen him either.



On the fourth day, as Bill was leaving, he saw Fuzzy's little face peeking out of a pile of rubble. The cat was in pretty bad shape, cowering, skinny, and covered in soot and dirt. It was impossible to tell where he had been, but Bill knew that Fuzzy had been terrified. He had gotten so thin—in that quick way that cats have of losing weight when they have trouble. Once he was in Bill's arms, Fuzzy didn't want to be put down so Bill just held him. Now the problem changed. When Bill went back to the shelter they told him that animals are not permitted under any circumstances, What was going to happen to Fuzzy? Bill has no family and no one who could take his cat, and he was determined that Fuzzy would not be "put to sleep" or left to fend for himself.

Someone told him about the AAC. Bill borrowed some new clothes and carrying Fuzzy in his arms, walked through our door.

Fuzzy couldn't be left alone; he was traumatized and had breathing problems from smoke inhalation. One of our Board members took him home, and brought him around. Come see him, you'll fall in love. Caring Hands.

Betty

Betty's story can best be told using the words of our Dog Manager. "Betty is a young adult female Pit Bull/Sharpei mix. A couple found her running loose in a nearby county. Due to a previous unhappy experience, they didn't want to turn her in to the local animal control shelter. It was then explained to them that since anyone looking for the dog would be directed to

look there, by law the dog had to be taken there for the mandatory one week stray time. But as a fail-safe, the AAC's dog manager gave the couple a signed note on AAC letterhead informing the director of the animal control shelter that AAC would accept Betty for intake if and when her stray time expires. The couple took Betty to the animal control shelter, where she was never reclaimed, but was quickly adopted. Happy ending, right? WRONG!!!! The people who adopted her quickly returned her for a frivolous reason (they realized once they got her home that she was too big??!) and since she was now technically a give up, she was not entitled to any stray time and was subject to immediate euthanasia. Thanks to the worker at the animal control shelter who made a "heads up" call to the couple who had originally found her, tragedy was averted, though only after several panic-stricken calls went back and forth to arrange Betty's transport and immediate intake at the AAC.

COMMENT: *This case gave us the sort of adrenaline rush we would rather not ever experience. But until the policies are radically changed, these "races against the needle" will continue to occur. Betty's story shows the urgency for animal control reform.*



Tiger

It was a dark and stormy night... Those words usually begin a tragic tale, but not this time, not for Tiger. Sometime between midnight and 8:00 am during a sleety winter storm, someone put Tiger in a cat carrier, stopped by our gate, pushed the carrier out of the car and drove off. We came in to find the carrier on its side and this gray and white tabby soaking wet and shivering in a frigid puddle. She was so cold that once we got her out of the carrier we literally couldn't put her down—she kept jumping back into our arms and laps. Our cat helpers warmed some food in the microwave got her to eat. At first all she did was cuddle in a

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blanket. Then she started to get warm, and curious and began to look around. Next she jumped down and ran over to investigate some of the other cats. Then one quick pounce brought her back to the desk, scattering papers everywhere. That pounce (not her gentle personality) got her named Tiger.

This Tiger is not fierce at all. She is gentle, gets along well with other cats, and is very playful. Tiger is about three years old and has been spayed and has all her shots. She would love to meet you.

Dexter

Dexter's story is not dramatic. Indeed, it is quite common. All too common: Family brings a puppy or young dog into their home. The puppy has a good basic personality, but receives little to no real training and one or more members of the family enjoys rough-housing. The dog, (in this case Dexter) began growing up, and all of a sudden, he was more than the family wanted to deal with. Suggestions about dog training and regular exercise were ignored and they just dumped him. Besides, summer is over, and a dog is a commitment... Now Dexter is in our shelter, and he doesn't know why. He didn't break any rules. We realize that the family was giving up a perfectly good dog just because they didn't want to be bothered. Dexter is here simply **because he isn't a puppy anymore.** Our Dog manager worked with Dexter, and found him to be lovable and shy.



Dexter's nose is NOT as big as it looks in this picture, but his heart is huge. He is mostly Labrador Retriever, on the small side. He has had all his shots, and has been neutered.

Lizzie

Lizzie and her two kittens were found under the overpass of a highway in Camden. It's clear that she has seen some rough treatment—we suspect that she was deliberately abused. She sometimes has equilibrium problems, and tilts her head in such a way that we know she is feeling some kind of sharp pain. Three different scopes have not been able to determine what is causing her problem. She was dirty and all "skin and bones" when she came in but somehow she had taken good care of her kittens who were fairly healthy and clean.



We cuddled and fed her and Lizzie bloomed. Now her green eyes are clear and her coat is sleek—unrecognizable compared to how she looked when we first saw her. This three year old spayed female is great with kids and other cats. Her kittens have both been adopted, and Lizzy needs a lap to sit on. If you have a lap, and are willing to give her gentleness and love, come meet Lizzy.

Roxie (another Caring Hands story)

This is Roxie, one of the underage puppies that survived because of the foster home that was found for her and her siblings. All the puppies are expected to be placed soon, however, their story should be told.



The mother dog and her eight puppies were left to languish outside in the heat and elements. All of them were covered with ticks and fleas. All had bad worms and intestinal parasites. Four had fallen down a hole in the floor of the doghouse that they and their mother were left in and ended up in a ditch that was teeming with insects.

Our ACO got the owner to agree to surrender the then three-week old puppies. The rescued puppies, four male and four female, had to be bottle fed around the clock. It was major work simply to get all the ticks off of them. All rallied at first, then all but two of them began to falter after a week or so due to complications of anemia, diarrhea, and persistent intestinal parasites. Despite medication, veterinary care, and continued forced feeding, one puppy rapidly succumbed. The other five were placed in intensive care at a veterinary hospital and eventually were fostered by two of the vet techs employed there. Despite all these efforts, two more puppies succumbed. The good news is that each of the vet techs ended up adopting one of the survivors in their care! Roxie, the surviving "ICU puppy" was returned to join the two that were still happily flourishing in the foster home. We expect that very shortly all three will be in loving homes, with the horror that they lived through a distant memory. Caring Hands

Lolly



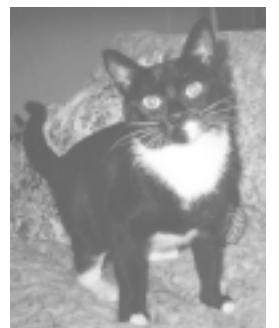
Lolly was brought into AAC under emergency conditions when her owner reported that Lolly was being abused by another member of the household whom she (the owner) herself feared. Lolly was covered with fleas, and was extremely hand-shy (she would cower whenever someone raised a hand in her vicinity). She also had an umbilical hernia that had never been treated. After a few weeks at the AAC, Lolly became calmer and much more confident, we cleared up

her flea infestation and got her severe hernia treated - a complicated operation that required lots of care during her recovery.

Lolly needs kindness and affection, which she will happily repay with years of love and devotion.

Luna

Luna and her brothers and sisters were born into a family that just didn't care. No shelter was provided, and the cats had to depend on neighbors for food. Regardless of the weather, they were never permitted indoors, never had medical attention, and two of her siblings were killed by cars. Second generations of this cat family were on the way. Luna was thin and frightened when she was rescued by one of our people. At first, she seemed depressed and stayed in the back of her cage. That didn't last long though. Now she plays and bats at her toys and is a real twinkle-toes (notice her white "shirt and shoes". Luna has been spayed, is gentle, affectionate, and good with children and other pets.



NOTE: Tributes and remembrances will be printed in our December Newsletter. Write your message after your name and address and return it to us in the return mail envelope.

WHY SPAY/NEUTER?

The pictures on these pages depict only a few of the tragedies that occur because there are too many pets and not enough homes.

Every day we have to look into the eyes of neglected, abused, injured and abandoned animals that should NEVER HAVE BEEN BORN in the first place.

The solution is simple, and it is our most important project: our SPAY/NEUTER program.

A low-cost program (sponsored by the Animal Friendly license plates of the State of NJ) is available to ANYONE who adopts from an authorized shelter.

**Contact our representative,
Carol Roman at 663-1836 for information.
Spay or neuter your pet...put us out of business.**

USE MY DONATION FOR

- To Feed and Care** for all those waiting to find their homes.
- Sponsor-a-pet.** For only \$15.00/month you can support the pet you can't take home. We'll send you a calendar with envelopes for your monthly contribution. You can even visit the shelter and select the animal you would like to sponsor.

Write your tribute here:

Please Print Clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

Amt of donation \$ _____