

FORGOTTEN Cats

AUGUST
News

Forgotten Cats, Inc.



2017



ADOPTION UPDATE: From Forgotten to Forever

Happy Endings!

Many of you will remember Henry, the super affectionate FIV+ kitty we featured a few months ago on our Facebook page. He had been found during our Sussex County TNR efforts and turned out to be so sweet, we just knew he would find a home. After a few months with Forgotten Cats, Henry went to his forever home.

His new family is really special. The couple has eight other cats. Three are

special needs, two are blind, and one has FIV just like Henry.

Henry fit into his new home right away. He became best friends with two of his brothers, Cooper and Finneus. They love playing, chasing, and grooming each other. Henry's new mom says they are brothers from another mother.

Henry's mom shares, "Henry is an amazing soul full of life and love and FIV has no bearing on his ability to love and be loved. It breaks my heart that so many cats with FIV are passed over day in and day out because people are uneducated about FIV+ cats living with non-FIV cats. I have never had a sweeter, more affectionate cat in my entire life...Henry is so very loved and seems quite happy in his new home. We couldn't imagine life without him. I will continue to help educate people on the absolute importance of spay & neuter, the cohabitation of FIV+ and FIV- cats and adopting the senior and specially-abled. Thank you again for our Special Little Man!"



August Volunteer Spotlight Shines On... MARIELLA ROSS

by Anne Meddings

This month we get to know volunteer Mariella Ross from the Christiana Adoption Center. Mariella has been a volunteer with Forgotten Cats for approximately 10 years. She began as a foster parent while still working full-time. After retiring from a succession of executive positions at AAA Mid-Atlantic, where she worked for over 20 years, she began covering shifts at the Christiana adoption center. Eventually she became a co-manager, but had to scale back due to health issues in 2013. She produces a colorful newsletter for the Christiana volunteers each month, and has been doing so for several years. She does all the laundry for the center, and we know how much dirty laundry messy kitties can generate! She also serves as the first point of contact for potential new volunteers, and schedules volunteer training.

She was born in Missouri, lived in Colorado for many years, then New Jersey, and has now been a Delaware resident since 2005. She loves to garden, focusing on flowers for pollinators. In fact, her property is a Certified Wildlife Habitat. She also enjoys Tai Chi, crafts, and reading - especially books about cats. A recent book she recommends is *Call of the Cats: What I Learned about Life and Love from a Feral Cat Colony* by Andrew Bloomfield.

Mariella is married to Don and has an adult son named Chris. She and Don currently share their home with six cats: Sophie (a Marble Bengal), Tom & Jerry, Simba, Tabby, and Layla (a Ragdoll). She has welcomed all varieties of cats into her home, including many strays, but has a soft spot for the stunning beauty of Siamese and Bengal cats. At one point she bred and showed Siamese cats, and also volunteered with a Siamese rescue group. Mariella says her husband Don is very much her partner in all her cat-care adventures, and that she couldn't do it without him.

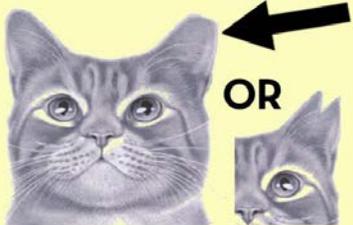
Mariella learned about Forgotten Cats when a black male cat with a tipped ear kept visiting

her yard. She assumed he belonged to a feral colony and wanted to get him back where he belonged. In her quest to locate the colony she learned about the work of Forgotten Cats. She never did find out where the mystery cat came from, so he stayed and was named Midnight. Unfortunately, Midnight was diagnosed with FIV+ and FeLV, but he did bless their lives for six years before succumbing to complications from his illnesses. Midnight was a particularly special cat in her life, and she sought an Animal Communicator to understand more about him, and in fact, all the cats in her life. She has found working with an Animal Communicator to be very comforting, informative, and helpful.

I really enjoyed chatting with Mariella and hearing about the many special felines who have enriched her life. She is obviously a wonderful cat mom who goes "above and beyond" for her pets, and has more than enough interesting experiences and anecdotes to fill a book. In fact, she has not ruled out penning her own book at some point. I'm sure it would make a great read.

Thank you Mariella for all you contribute to the Forgotten Cats organization!

Have you seen cats with ears like this?



These cats have been "ear-tipped" or "notched". This is a surgical alteration showing that a free-living cat has been spayed/neutered. It's part of "TNR", which means "Trap", "Neuter", "Return".

These cats should never be re-trapped or brought to a shelter, unless sick. Instead, they should be left in their neighborhood to provide cat population control. Studies have shown by just being there, they prevent other cats from moving into the area. And, because they have been fixed, they will never have litters of kittens.

Even if you don't like cats, TNR ear-tipped cats have an important job to do in keeping your neighborhood a nice place to live.

FUN FACT:

Eartipping is the universally accepted method to identify a spayed or neutered and vaccinated community cat. Eartipping is the removal of approximately 1cm of an adult cat's left ear and proportionally smaller in a kitten.

FOREVER HOMES ...

There are several components to Forgotten Cats' work to help felines. This month our focus is the adoption center operations. Presently, there are a total of eight adoption centers operated by Forgotten Cats. Currently there are five in PetSmart stores, in Wilmington and Christiana, DE, and Jenkintown, King of Prussia, and Levittown, PA. We are also in two Petco stores, in Stowe and West Chester, PA, and we have a presence in the Pet Supplies Plus store in West Chester.

Each year Forgotten Cats adopts out between 1000-1300 cats, for a total to date of over 10,000 cats into loving homes. While our core mission has always been TNVR, we learned that our trapping operations often yield friendly stray cats and kittens that have been

abandoned by their owners. There is a need to find homes for them, and establishing adoption centers is the best way to do that. Since the adoption centers cannot handle all the adoptable cats and kittens that we encounter, many go to loving foster homes to wait their turn in the adoption centers, and also into our clinic shelter space (Trainer, Willow Grove). While our clinics are not open to the public to visit adoptable cats, pre-approved applicants are welcome to visit our clinic cats through a scheduled meet and greet. Applications can be filled out at an adoption center or on our website.



Of course, none of our adoption center operations could function without groups of dedicated volunteers to staff the centers and meet with the public to acquaint them with our adoptable cats and kittens. Most of our centers are staffed with volunteers throughout store hours. Our goal is to have 100% staffing, and we are always looking for volunteers who can give two hours a week to help us. The cats and kittens in the centers need exercise, and their cages kept clean. Volunteers provide an invaluable link to adopters, and help keep our adoption numbers high. These all-volunteer staffs handle the transporting of cats, processing applications, adoption counseling, scheduling, laundry, administrative work, etc. Some of our volunteers spend well over 20 hours/week running our adoption centers, and we are extremely grateful for their efforts.

Our adoption center volunteers are very dedicated to the cats in their care, and have a common goal in mind-find the cat his/her forever home. The cats under their care are cared for as if they were the volunteers' own, and each adoption is celebrated, while those cats still waiting are showcased by caring volunteers to help them find their homes.

STATUS UPDATE:

In July, we sterilized 803 cats and placed 110 cats in loving forever homes.

**Visit our website at
www.forgottencats.org**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at these upcoming events to socialize.

September 16/17, 2017 - PETSMART National Adoption Event

Christiana, Brandywine, King of Prussia, Levittown, and Jenkintown PETSMARTs will be participating.

September 30, 2017 - Woodside Creamery, Hockessin, DE

11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Forgotten Cats & Autumn Leaf Fundraisers will be at the Woodside Creamery Arts & Crafts Fall Festival.

Lets Keep in Touch!

**302-429-0124 (DE)
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