



## ★ Wish List ★

- Dry Kitten Food
- Kitten Milk Replacer
- Clay Cat Litter
- Dry Cat Food
- Frontline Plus
- Bleach (*we use a lot*)
- Laundry Detergent
- Paper Towels
- Baby Food (*meat only*)
- 38 Gallon Trash Bags
- Postage Stamps
- Natural Balance Potato and Duck Dog Food
- Copy Paper

## \$10,000 the Hard Way!

It was four days of sweat, aching muscles, and plenty of anxiety as more than 40 volunteers collected, hauled and schlepped electronic devices to meet the 100,000 pound goal set by Earth-e-cycle, the company that initiated the fundraiser. Caught in the middle of a media controversy that Earth e-cycle was not fulfilling its contract, WAHS participants worried they may have been duped. Though the recycler remains mired in turmoil with the EPA and with other non-profits, WAHS was fortunate to have received the \$10,000 for its efforts.

# Animal Chatter

Washington Area Humane Society **SUMMER 2009**

1527 Rt. 136 | Eighty Four, PA 15330 | 724-222-PETS | washingtonpashelter.org

A No Kill Shelter Giving Pets A New Leash On Life Funded By Your Contributions

## Timid Dogs Can Overcome Their Fears

by Tracey Campbell



It is officially one year since Velvet left Camp Bow Wow and moved in with me and her "big" brother Jonny. Some days it seems like she's barely been here ... other days I can't remember what life was like before her, even though things started out very rough!

Velvet had a horrible case of worms giving her explosive diarrhea. There were many nights she woke me so we could run outside, and quite a few nights it was too late. Then there were the few hours I was at work and the two dogs were home alone — bad days for everyone — and I wondered what I had gotten myself into. I became a pro at getting a poop cage into the backyard for cleaning — a great skill to have, but not really resumé worthy!

Velvet was also terribly shy. If you even looked at her she would run, and the only time I could get near her was when it was time to go potty, or when she knew she was visiting camp. I read as much as I could

about timid dogs, the consistent message being: It takes time, and patience, and the dog will

from avoiding people passing us in the park to leaning out to be petted by everyone. The shy dog who used to run *from* me now runs *to* me. She has become a dog that loves attention (on her own terms of course), and will often beg to be petted.

She still doesn't make much noise. Even in play she is mostly silent. Every so often, she lets out a little "Arouff" accompanied by a play bow. When she knows we're going

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***"The little shy dog who used to run from me now runs to me."***

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accept you on his/her terms, not yours. So patient I was. Slowly Velvet learned tricks, and would not run every time I walked past her. I learned that Velvet loved soft treats, bits of people food, and adored being brushed. She would even sit in my lap whenever I brushed her, blanketing me in black fur. I can now see so many changes in the little black dog that was so hard to get adopted.

At first the outside world was scary for Velvet, and on walks she stayed close. The outside world is no longer so scary, and she has gone

somewhere and not moving fast enough, she will give a little whine to get us to move faster.

Velvet and Jonny have a typical sibling relationship. They wrestle and bite each other. Jonny will lie on the ground during wrestling matches to make things a bit more fair, and Velvet loves sitting on Jonny's head!

I was not sure if shy, timid, flighty Velvet would ever improve, but I was willing to put in the effort and it has paid off big time. Velvet showed everyone that dogs can overcome their fears and leave the past behind.

## Look Who's Been Jumping In to Help



▲ Fifty volunteers from Comcast descended on WAHS in April to paint, plant and improve the shelter. All 34 inner dog kennels and ceilings were completed by Comcast.

On their heels the following day was a busload of Point Park college students to finish the job, by painting the exterior kennels. Anchoring the entire project was volunteer, Rob Simonin who coordinated, oversaw, assembled the supplies and had the unenviable job of manning the pressure washer the week before, then wielding a paintbrush the entire two days elbow to elbow with Comcast and Point Park volunteers. ►

## Volunteer Coordinator Keeping It All Moving



Taking her newly minted position at the helm of the volunteer

corps is Alice Wancowicz, a transplant from Maryland who was won over as a volunteer herself during the Zootoo contest.

Alice, who has a strong background as a vet tech, has fostered shelter animals and was quick to come to the rescue when

a new offsite coordinator was needed.

Her husband John is quick to say, "She has a heart of gold when it comes to helping animals."

Alice oversees an extensive network of volunteers who plug themselves into efforts that most interest them including dog walking, fundraising, offsites, events, tours, and many special projects that pop up throughout the year.



▲ Anna and Grace Owens had a luau party attended by some of their classmates from Eisenhower Elementary for their 6th birthday and asked for items from the shelter's "wish list". Anna and Grace were accompanied by their cousins, Andrew and Ryan Rauber, for the delivery of the donations.

Cooper Lied's request for his 11th birthday was for his buddies to bring him donations of food and litter instead of gifts for WAHS when they joined him for a camp-out party.



Inevitably volunteers wax and wane, so Alice continues to concentrate on cultivating more dedicated volunteers for WAHS. A pressing need is for volunteers to help with cats at PetSmart and Petco.

Alice, who has three dogs, two kids and one

cat of her own also holds monthly informational sessions for volunteers. Meetings are at King's Restaurant in McMurray on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Walk-ins are welcomed with plenty of appreciative salutations and smiles.

## Opening Up Pavilion Possibilities

Promised in June of 2008, benefactor and animal lover, Carl Carlson of Range Resources, sponsored the construction of an outdoor pavilion at WAHS. The brainchild of several volunteers, a pavilion could be used for fundraising events, training and education.

The project did not get off the ground right away due to the diversions of Zootoo. When construction finally started, it became obvious that many hurdles lay ahead.

What seemed like a simple job to those of us with no concept of the

beams with a roof and pea gravel floor stood inaccessible through May of this year.

Susan McIntyre, board liaison for the project was left to wrangle with the contractor fully expecting to be over budget. A contract release signed by the original contractor allowed for another contractor to get the project up and running again. Susan and her husband Arch once again sought the reliable help of contractor, John Mapel of J. Mapel Contracting, who they had employed on several other projects

overrun and added the enhancements to the original Range Resources structure. The McIntyres have also planned to have water piped to the pavilion which will add to the comfort of patrons.

Just a week before Memorial Day, the concrete pads were poured and the pavilion was ripe for use. For the first time, the shelter was open on Memorial Day. Volunteers held a yard sale, had raffles and giveaways. Clarence Butler drew

caricatures of people and their dogs. Trainers held group sessions in the pavilion and provided free advice to pet owners.

The pavilion is still a work in progress. Lighting can easily be added. Picnic tables have been promised by an aspiring Eagle Scout. Landscaping would improve the pavilion's surroundings.

We welcome all hands-on volunteer efforts to make this pavilion an increasingly useful tool for WAHS.

Do you know an Eagle Scout who wants to help the Humane Society? We always have projects to consider.

actual nuts and bolts of construction became a never ending series of challenges. First, a survey was required and then a permit. The land had to be cleared, but the site selected was too uneven. Heavy earth movers were required to re-sculpt the location. Then an access "road" (a path in reality) for hauling materials had to be created. Gravel was necessary to spread for the vehicles to climb the hill. Back ordered material added to the delays. The onset of winter temporarily halted construction, and the contractor became ever more convinced that he could not get a concrete truck up the gravel path, stalling the project for many months. A skeleton of

that they had funded at the shelter.

Because the concrete had not been poured on time, John had to realign many of the original forms that had drifted out of position. It was decided to improve the original concrete plan to reduce the chance of cracking. French drains were added to decrease water run off. In anticipation of the varied events planned for the pavilion, underground wiring was installed for electrical service access. The pavilion itself was wired to accommodate lighting and/or fans. John even braved the gravel-upon-mud "outback trail" to pour the floor. Although the budget doubled in cost, the McIntyres generously covered the



*It may not look like much to you, but to us it's a beautiful addition*

## Snip Van Adds More Capacity to Spay/Neuter

Beginning this past June, the Snip Van, a mobile operating room owned and operated by Animal Friends has been a welcome adjunct to our spay and neuter service. Our burgeoning population of cats is a reflection of what is happening everywhere at this time of year when so many unwanted litters are borne to unaltered cats.

The Snip Van operates onsite at WAHS periodically to help keep up with the demand. A minimum of 30 cats are altered in a single visit. Kittens need only be 2.5 pounds, but all cats are required to be feline-leukemia tested.

Call WAHS at 724-222-7387 to schedule your cat and help reduce animal overpopulation.



# Critical of Those Who Cash in on Craig's List

Shelters alone are not the only barometer for gauging the numbers of unwanted animals in our community. There are online arenas which are "enabling" the pet consumer, pet caretaker or pet owner to dispose of unwanted pets. Craigslist, originally launched as an affordable way to exchange community goods and services has become one of these enablers.

Breeders are not allowed to post free ads on Craigslist, but litters of teacup Chihuahuas and toy mixed breed dogs such as multi-poos and puggles surface quite often. Most of the time, the ads are cleverly disguised and price is never mentioned. The Cheyenne puppies is an example of an actual ad. The Craigslist posting below is from Wyoming.

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## puppies (cheyenne)

Reply to: see below

Date: 2009-03-26, 11:23PM MDT

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Need/want a friendly, loveable red nose pit bull pup? I am trying to get them in good homes. Mommy had more than we expected so we didn't have homes set-up for them. I am asking for a fee since they have got their 1st and 2nd shots, and have been wormed. They are doing great with potty training. As of today they are 9 1/2 weeks old and I only have 3 males left. Please contact me for pictures or any questions at XXX-XXX-XXXX or xxx@hotmail.com. Please don't flag this ad because I don't want these pups to end up in the pound.

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Craigslist allows anyone to post a free ad with photos on their community pets section of their online newspaper classifieds.

You can adopt or purchase almost any creature including hissing cockroaches, bullfrogs, alligators, exotic birds, rats, and of course, dogs and cats. Craigslist rules forbid any breeders or sellers of pets, but a reasonable re-homing fee is deemed acceptable. This *reasonable fee* is undefined and it is left up to visitors to determine what is appropriate.

After calling to inquire how much the pups were selling for, the owner wanted \$200 apiece. The puppies appear to have been bred for profit and they are were not going to be neutered or spayed before placement into new homes.

Notice also that the individual who posted the puppy ad asks others not to flag his ad. Flagging is the term used for taking action to eliminate these profiteering hobbyists or irresponsible breeders on Craigslist. Every posting has an

option for visitors to check if the ad is in violation of CL policy. The lister was probably flagged by advocates who discovered he was "selling" dogs unaltered, for a hefty profit.

Craigslist is monitored heavily by animal advocates who screen for backyard breeders (BYBs), those who will not spay and neuter (speuter) and even hobby breeders who breed dogs, cats and rabbits for profit. It takes many "flaggers" to get a posting removed, but there are some very strong, unified and dedicated animal advocacy groups and individuals who guard this section and flag when necessary.

One sneaky tactic from BYBs is to post after midnight when most people are already in

This usually angers the ad posting breeder and they give it another try. But there will always be a flagger-in-waiting for their repeat postings.

The posting below of a litter of intact bunnies was conveniently bred for sale at Easter time. This small, specialty breed of rabbit is not commonly found in shelters. Withholding the adoption fee was the giveaway that they were for sale, not up for rehoming/adoption. Most breeders on CL do not reveal their fees on the initial posting! They want customers to call or email them for details. Including a fee guarantees they will be flagged by animal advocates who resent breeders who abuse Craigslist.

For the truly desperate, Craigslist can be an ave-

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## BUNNIES (BURGETTSTOWN)

Date: 2009-03-24, 8:45PM EDT

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HELLO I HAVE SEVERAL BABY REX BUNNIES THAT ARE LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME 1 IS BLK 2 IS GRAY AND WHITE 1 IS BROWN AND WHITE. A SMALL ADOPTION FEE WILL APPLY.... GOOD HOME ONLY.....GREAT IDEA FOR EATER (sic). THANKS FOR LOOKING

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bed. The thinking is that their free ad will at least remain visible on the following day's list of animals, but at the bottom of the scrolling of pet offerings. This tactic was recognized by animal lovers and advocacy groups and these posts are repetitively flagged and eventually removed.

nue of last resort when rehoming a family pet and all other options have been expired. But the public should be both cautious and concerned that disposing of animals on Craigslist is a shaky choice at best. Choosing a pet from Craigslist robs a shelter animal of a potential home.



JOIN THE

**1,500  
CLUB**  
\$ 1.00 x 365 DAYS

It costs \$1,500 per day to run the Washington Area Humane Society. That includes utilities, building upkeep, medicine, food, veterinarian services, insurance, postage, payroll, gas, vehicle maintenance and everything else required to run a normal business. No money is spent frivolously. We re-use and recycle.

We have no steady stream of income upon which we can rely. We rely on you. When money dribbles in, it is already spent. How wonderful it would be to have money we could draw on for the whole year. That's what the 1,500 Club is meant to be — a reliable way to secure the annual budget all at one time so we won't have to decide day

to day whether to purchase flea and tick medicine or pay the water bill.

Become a member of an exceptional group of supporters who pledge a dollar a day annually to our Humane Society. Place a checkmark on the adjacent form to pledge and become a 1,500 Club annual member. Mail it back, email us, or call us with your pledge.

All 1,500 Club members will be contacted the last week in November to collect all tax-deductible pledge donations via check or credit card during that week. Just a dollar a day from 1,500 animal-loving, caring people will keep our shelter in business for another year.

## Just Wondering ...

People handle the loss of an animal very differently. Just wondering what you would do. If your dog died, would you get another one:

- ☐ Within three months      ☐ Within six months  
☐ Within a year      ☐ I would not get a dog

Please give us a little demographic info:

- ☐ Male    ☐ Female    Your Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Results from this casual survey will be printed in our next newsletter. Thank you for participating.

## Thank You For Making A Difference

*Tear off and mail back with your tax-deductible contribution.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Enclosed is my donation:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$75    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$Other

\_\_\_\_\_ Apply my donation to a WAHS membership.\*

\*\$25 Minimum. All members may vote at the annual meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_ Save a stamp. I don't need a thank you note.

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to be a Member of the 1,500 Club.

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact me about fostering animals.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to help with offsite events.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to help with fundraisers.

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact me about in-store Collection Banks.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will help with the cats at PetSmart and Petco.

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact me about including WAHS in my estate.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will "Share the Load" for injured animals.

Add me to your mail or email list. My email is: \_\_\_\_\_

### I would like to Join P.A.T.H.S. as indicated:

I pledge to send \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month to the Washington Area Humane Society's **P.A.T.H.S.** Program. My first envelope will be mailed to me the last week of the month in which I enroll. I will mail it back as soon as possible. If at any time I wish to stop my tax-deductible donation, I will contact WAHS at 724-229-0404.

Please make checks payable to: WAHS

Or pay by credit card: \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ VISA

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

Make all donations payable to WAHS.

# Wonder-Foal Ending

What makes this ending so special is that the pregnant mare who bore the stunning colt, was among the starved and neglected group of horses that were finally rescued and placed in foster homes this past February.

It would have surprised no one had the mare herself died considering her fragile state of health, so it was with amazement that her foal was born seemingly healthy. The shiny black colt with the white-washed face did require emergency surgery for a hernia, and

pled guilty to eight counts of cruelty to animals. She was fined \$100 for each, plus court costs for a total of \$1,009.00, a wholly unsatisfactory punishment in the minds of many who care deeply about animals and animal ethics. In addition to the fines, Watson has been banned from owning horses for one year and then for the next four years she can only own horses under the direct supervision of a vet which will require reports on the health and well being of the animals. She will also be subject to random inspections by



## *Many cried foul over the outcome of this high-profile case of animal abuse.*

We hope to have permanent homes for the few remaining foster horses including "Promise", who is blind, but very friendly, and for "Secret", the mare who bore the beautiful colt, nicknamed Mani.

The overwhelming outpouring WAHS received has provided us with a list of potential adopters. If you had expressed an interest and are still willing to adopt, please call us at 724-222-7387 x 403.

We also invite other inquiries so that our foster parent can see her charges placed in good homes as soon as possible. Once all the horses are placed, the story will have a real ending.

We wish to thank all the contributors who volunteered their time, lent their expertise, provided labor, hay, equipment and donated to the care and medical costs of these horses.

### Foster Mom's Brief Bios on Her Adoptable Group

**Promise:** Approx. 6 yrs old, some vision(shadows) leads, loads, social, takes her wormer, and is now healthy. We are working on standing for the farrier, and verbal commands such as woa, back, stand and no.

**Secret:** 12 yr old sorrel breeding stock paint mare. She stands for the farrier and now loads. She is nursing. Her level of training as a riding horse hasn't been determined. She is very cautious, but has never made an aggressive move toward me.

**Shaman (Mani):** born 6/12/09, black colt with 3 white stockings and a bald face. He grazes with mom and eats some of her food. Shaman loves attention. He has been on trailer rides, lifts his feet, and likes to be sprayed. He wears a halter and fly mask. We are working on leading.

that care has been provided, but the poor nutrition and condition of the mother did not result in a stillborn or otherwise medically ill-fated foal.

The case of abuse followed closely by so many animal lovers finally concluded in mid-June. Plaintiff, Jean Watson

Humane Society Police Officers to ensure that she is complying with court orders; violations would result in ever more serious charges.

We are happy to report that the majority of the horses placed in foster homes will be adopted by their foster parents.

## Split Decision

It's sad when animals return to the shelter after long, successful adoptions, but it's terrible when there is

more than one from a loving home and the prospect of splitting them up is more practical than getting them adopted together. But luckily, one family did not want to split up Mickey and Travis, two senior dogs whose owner died suddenly. Though they will not share the same home, they are owned by members of the same family who live in close proximity and will be spending a lot of time together sharing dog duties!



## Please Join Us for Our First Annual



The Washington Area Humane Society is pleased to announce the 1st Annual "Fur Ball," a semi-formal, fund raising gala to be held October 2, 2009 at Jeremiah's Banquet and Conference Center in Washington, PA. All proceeds from this event will support the Humane Society.

As a contributor you can help the shelter to save countless animals. There are a variety of sponsorship opportunities and items are needed for our Chinese and Silent auctions. Your participation is vital for a successful fundraising event. We are grateful for your consideration of this request.

For more information about sponsorship, to purchase tickets or for any other questions please email us at: [furball09@live.com](mailto:furball09@live.com) or call Clarence Butler 724.745.4960.

## Another Great Golf Outing Thanks to Our Sponsors

### DIAMOND SPONSORS

- Pool & Spa Outlet
- Henry F. Teichmann, Inc.
- Classic Limousine Transportation
- Sherwin Williams
- H & R Signs

### GOLD SPONSORS

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- Moshannon Stables
- Best Quality Painting Co.
- Superior Lawn Care
- Keevican Weiss Bauerle & Hirsch LLC

### SILVER SPONSORS

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- Hapchuk Inc.
- The Meadows Racing
- Single Source Property Solutions, LLC
- Washington Ford

### BRONZE SPONSORS

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- The Botkin Group at Smith Barney
- Burgman Chiropractic
- Jimmy G's
- Leonard Radnor, DMD
- Standard Pharmacy
- State Rep. Timothy Solobay
- State Senator J. Barry Stout
- Washington County Board of Commissioners Larry Maggi, Bracken Burns, Diana Irey

### 19th HOLE BOOSTERS

Edward Dunlap • E. Lorraine Best in memory of Jay Best • Janet Collins • Fuzzy Paws Doggie Day Care and Spa • Palermo & Kissinger and Associates PC • Hugh & Nadia Kelly • Chuck & Suzanne McAnallen • David Stein • James & Suzanne Hayden Lieker in honor of Jeffery Petz

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Henry F. Tiechmann, Inc. – Provided golfer refreshments on the course
- Dr. Nicholas G. Loutson, Canon Hill Veterinary Clinic, Inc. – Provided lunch to golfers
- John Sisson Mercedes Benz – C-Class Mercedes Benz for Hole-In-One contest
- Photographer Michael Haritan of McMurray – Provided photographs to golfers
- Jeff Nestor, H&R Signs of Washington – Provided all sponsor tee box signs

*Thanks also to everyone who donated items to our Chinese auction and their time to help with this event.*

*Finally ... this event would never have "Tee-d Off" without the planning and work of Bernadette and John Sikaras.*

## Calendars are Coming!

The caption contest is coming to a close, and judges will select the winners at the end of July. The 1,000 lottery calendars are expected to roll off the presses by the end of August. You can get your lucky numbers

now, by pre-ordering your calendars. If you can help sell some of these fun and funny full-color calendars, please let us know. Each calendar is numbered from 000 to 999 and corresponds with the 7pm Daily PA

lottery number. The number you get is yours for the entire 2010 calendar year. Makes a great gift and it helps the shelter. Total winnings payout of \$15,000!





# A Fund Raiser Firmly Planted for the Future

Only planned a few weeks in advance, Betty Robison decided to put her plants to work for WAHS. A Master Gardener with a well-known reputation in her Scenery Hill locale, she advertised the July 11 sale of her organically grown perennials for \$1 and \$2, the proceeds to benefit the Humane Society. She also offered



birdhouses, a tour of her gardens and free advice.

From 8 am to 2 pm, aspiring and hobby gardeners poured in and at 3:30 pm, Betty walked into the shelter with a 4" brick of money. The final tally was \$1,040.00! The best news of all is that Betty is all ready to do it again next year, June 5th, 2010. Mark those calendars and think spring!

## Pet Walks Not for Pets

Many non-profits see the appeal of using pets to promote their causes. Pet owners often want to strut with pride and visitors love to see so many dogs in one place. Adding cute costumes is even more beguiling. Naturally, it is often assumed that donations collected at such events help an animal shelter or rescue group and that is not always the case. The animals are the entertainment to attract donors for other causes. This subtle "bait and switch" runs under the radar of most animal lovers. Concerned individuals should check out the charity and find out if any portion of their donations is benefitting an animal organization.

If you receive more than one newsletter, please let us know by sending us an email at [washahs@fyi.net](mailto:washahs@fyi.net)

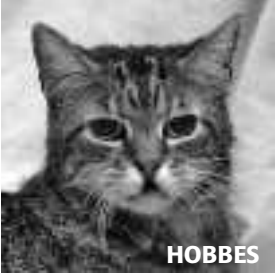
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EIGHTY FOUR, PA  
PERMIT # 4

Washington Area Humane Society  
P.O. Box 66  
Eighty Four, PA 15330

## Long Stay at the Shelter for These Three



Look at my goofy mug. No wonder they named me Kramer — reminiscent of that goofy Seinfeld character. I'm a handsome brindle boy with plenty of pep and confidence. I know "sit", "lie down" and I like treats making me a much easier dog to train. As with most of the Am-staffs, I love people more than just about anything else.



I'm a very sweet quiet lady who would love to have a sunny place or a warm lap to lay in. I was abandoned in a house and left to die, but the humane officer rescued me and saved my life. I have a lot of living left in me. I eat only dry food. Please don't look at my age and walk away. I get along very well with older, less active cats.



I was adopted quite a while ago, but my dislike of other dogs has landed me back at the shelter. I think I'm *dog-selective* and just like who I like (like most people!), and there may be a girlie dog out there I could really enjoy. In any event, I love people, I'm very friendly, housebroken, and I don't have a lot of fast moves to take you by surprise.