



Winter
Edition
2017



Pet Friends, Inc.

Pet Friends News

Did you know Pet Friends works hard to minimize the pet overpopulation by doing more than just altering and finding homes for abandoned animals? When we can, we apply for grants for low income families, assist with spays and neuters in desperate situations as our funds permit, and we try to educate the public about the need to spay and neuter. This year, we also organized two, all-day **Spay/Neuter Clinics** to help curb cat overpopulation.

We originally planned for just one, but because our first clinic on Sunday, May 28th was such an overwhelming success, we held a second clinic on Saturday, September



17th. Both clinics were held at Cassie's Top Dog Grooming, (70 Carpenter Lane, N. Huntingdon, Pa.) Next year, we are planning to conduct four clinics, all at Cassie's. Pet Friends, Inc. does not earn any income from these events. Through these clinics we are able to service people in our community as well as multiple local rescues who utilized these services when provided. It's teamwork to benefit that cats!

Multiple volunteers from Pet Friends, All But Furgotten, Cassie's Top Dog Grooming, and Veterinarian Dr. Becky L Morrow, owner of the mobile spay/neuter clinic which operates under the name of Frankies Friends Cat Rescue, helped to make our second clinic another huge success. We were able to spay/neuter 50 cats/kittens.

Part of the clinic was a group effort from Christie Yasofsky, Lisa Smith and Keirstin Rotharmel from Pet Friends, and Donna Priselac from HCMT (*Homeless Cat Management Team*) spent over two days setting traps and transporting cats and kittens to and from the clinic to assist with TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) efforts of a multi cat situation in North Versailles. In all, more than 20 cats and kittens were altered and returned to their caretakers. The efforts of these groups saved these cats lives and prevented future litters.

Cassie and her crew were, once again, absolutely amazing! For the second time, they donated all the supplies, water, and electricity; groomed multiple cats that were in need of severe shaving due to unhealthy matting at no cost, gave us free use of their facility for our use, worked the event without being paid, donated money to help pay for some of the surgeries, and cleaned up for us!



Pet Friends plans to continue organizing spay/neuter Clinics for our communities in 2018 by holding 4 clinics, applying for grants, and spreading the message about curbing pet overpopulation. But we need your help. When you have an opportunity, please speak out to encourage everyone to have their pet, **both dogs and cats**, altered. There are so many homeless and unwanted animals in our world who suffer sickness and premature death. Wouldn't be a better world if animals were not able to conceive in the first place?

Did you know?

Pet Friends, Inc. Board of Directors:

Betsy Walter

- President

Annie Ghinassi

- Secretary &

- Volunteer Coordinator

Lisa Cimbala

- Treasurer

Vickie Kasa

- Canine Coordinator

Pat Lydon

- Feline Coordinator

Lisa Smith

- Public Relations

Diane Betz

- Fundraising Coordinator



2017 Adoptions (so far)

177 Cats
and
45 Dogs!!!



Did you know? Pet Friends accepts donations of cars! Our first donation brought in over \$665. Call us - we'll come get it!



This summer, Pet Friends received a really nice present in the mail. It was mats and toys, for our kitty cats, personally crocheted with love by Cathy (Stotz) Coulter. They are all beautiful and cherished by are cats. Cathy started a Facebook charity effort to make the wait for a forever home warmer and softer. Through her Facebook page, she accepts donated yarn for the items she makes.

Thank you, Cathy, for such a lovely gift! Our kitties sure have been enjoying them!



Pet Friends received donations from the Internal Revenue Service, Monroeville Office, where Pam Ciccotelli works. Pam and her husband adopted our Raven now Bella.

Their office started a Feds Feeds Families and Pets donation drive. It was Pam's idea to include pets. They collected 153 pounds of food for people and 55 pounds for pets; 180 items for a personal care home; and 50 bags of items for homeless people.

Pet Friends Received: 2 bags of dog food; 2 bags of cat food, 1 bag of cat litter; 2 collars; 1 box dog treats; blankets for our cats; and 2 packages of paper towels. Thank you, Pam and your office, for all the kindness!



On Sunday, July 16, Pet Friends had its annul Volunteer Picnic at Oak Hollow Park. It was a nice day with plenty of food, fellowship, and an opportunity to say thank you to our volunteers for all they do to make our organization successful each year. Pets were welcome and all the food was donated by our volunteers!

We really do appreciate each and every one of our volunteers for the gifts of time and energy they give us day after day, month after month, year after year. Although it seems we constantly have new volunteers joining our organization while "more seasoned" volunteers leave us, one thing remains constant: The passion we share to find homes for lost and unwanted animals in our communities and the desire to help these sweethearts so they do not die from illness and starvation. We applaud and thank all of you for the difference you make in the lives these animals.



Recap of Events

Lunch 4 Lounge at Busy Beaver!

Thank you to everyone who came out to support Lunch-4-Lounge at Busy Beaver, in North Huntingdon, on July 22nd!



My foster mom told me that a lot of people braved the rain, to support me and Pet Friends. How amazing is that? I can't thank you enough for all of your support! My foster mom

said I couldn't come because of the rain and I might be afraid because of all the noise; but she brought me home a special treat. I was hoping for a cookie or maybe a donut but I got some special canned cat food. It was almost as good as a cookie!!!

Thanks again for all your love and support! We raised \$375 to help pay for the care I needed after getting one of my legs stuck in a lounge chair. It really hurt but the love you all showed me makes the pain so much easier to bear.



Second Busy Beaver Event

We had a second Busy Beaver event on Saturday, September 16th where we raised \$240. Busy Beaver is so kind to us by providing the food for us to sell and the space to hold these events and for the kind folks in our community who support us!



Lemonade Stand

For the 5th year in a row, Savannah and her brother Caleb, ran a lemonade stand during their community yard sale in Penn Woods.

Thank you, Savannah & Caleb!!! You are so kind to us. We appreciated your kindness, your continued support of our organization, and your love of animals!

Ed Skero's Benefit

Ed Skero continued his annual kindness on August 13th by providing another great night at Nino's! At this event we earned \$801. Funds were raised from a donation can, Chinese Auction, and Ed Skero's tip money. Music, talking, and laughter filled the room and everyone enjoyed the event. Thank you, Ed, for your continued support of Pet Friends!!!

Boy Scout Flea Market

One of our volunteers, Michele Albert, gathers donated items all year to sell at the Boy Scout's annual flea markets held at the community park in Export. This year's events were held on May 13th and September 9th. With the kind set-up help of the boy scouts, Michele was able to earn a total of \$669 for us. Thank you, Michele and the boy scouts!

Sam's Club Collection Event!

We held our annual collection event at Sam's Club, in Greensburg, on September 2nd. We were permitted to set up right outside the store to share information about our organization and collecting donations. Through this event, our volunteers collected \$584 in donations and spoke to numerous people about our organization! Thank you to Sam's Club and all the people who stopped by and made a donation!

Thank you, **Pet Land, Norwin Towne Square** for choosing Pet Friends as your Shelter of the Month in October! We were picked from Facebook votes and earned 15% of sales from Tuesday Oct. 31st. (Total amount TBA).



Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser!

Our annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser was held on Saturday, September 23rd, at the Greenhouse Winery, Rillton. It sold out over 2 months before the event! The event included a hot buffet and desserts, music, a 50/50 raffle, and a Chinese Auction. Wine, beer, and pop were also available for purchase and because of a generous donation, we were able to raffle a TV. We raised a record amount this year of over \$7,500! Thank you to all our volunteers for everything they did to make this event a success and to everyone who attended!

Paint Parties & More!

Pet Friends sponsored a Paint Event on November 5th at Paint Parties & More, White Oak. It was a great night that not only included painting, but a successful Chinese auction and 50/50 raffle. We were able to raise \$485. Baskets for the Chinese auction were donated by Wayward Animal Rescue, Community Angels Network and Sable Kennel. What a wonderful show of support from other local rescues! Thank you to everyone who attended.



Bushy Run Girl Scouts Collection Event!

Thank you to the Bushy Run Girl Scouts for collecting cat and dog food, treats and toys during the play "Snoopy the Musical", at the Trafford Theater Factory in November! Our animals will enjoy each and every item you collected!!!

Here is a picture of Nugget, one of our dogs available for adoption, with the items.

Dining for a Cause!

On Monday November 13th, we were awarded \$136.35 from folks eating at the Double Wide Grill in North Huntingdon and mentioning Pet Friends' name for their support! Thank you, Double Wide Grill, for this opportunity!! *We have more dining for a cause events planned. Check on the next few pages and check our web site often for more of these events.*



Pet Friends wishes all of our Alumnus, all our volunteers, and everyone who finally supports us through donations and attendance of our fundraisers a warm and wonderful December, filled with peace, love, and joy.

Because of all of you, we had a very successful 2017 and hope to have an even better year in 2018!



Upcoming Fundraisers



Visit our Cats/Kittens

Every day at the PetSmart in Greensburg during store hours
Please call our cat line at 724-863-7722 if you want to volunteer at PetSmart

Visit our Dogs

1st and 3rd Saturdays, Carwen's Kennel in Irwin, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
2nd and 4th Saturdays, Burton's Total Pet in Irwin, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Please call our dog line at 724-863-7722 if you can help transport or handle our dogs

Join us at our Volunteer Meetings

3rd Monday of each month, N. Huntingdon Townhouse Building, 7 to 8pm



Christmas Day (afternoon and evening Pa. lottery numbers) \$2 per ticket. Each ticket has 2 numbers. Call 724-863-7722 and select option 5 (fundraising) to get tickets.

We need ticket sellers!

For our quarterly PA lottery ticket raffles. If you can buy a few for yourself or sell some, it would be very much appreciated. Please give us a call!



Dog Walkers Needed!

Pet Friends is in need of dog walkers at the kennel. It has always been our practice to have a team of two people for each shift. Our shifts are 7 days a week, 8-10:30am, which includes cleaning, and 4-5:30pm, which includes feeding and walking/exercising. If you are able to help, please email me at engsetterluv@comcast.net or contact us at 724-863-7722 and leave your name and number on the volunteer line. Thank you!

Altimate Air Trampoline Park: North Versailles, Thursday December 28th. 40% of event day sales donated to Pet Friends, Inc.

Dine to Donate: Bob Evans Restaurant, North Huntingdon, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, March 7th, 8th, and 9th. Check our website for conditions/restrictions.

Spay & Neuter Clinics (cats only) at Cassie's Top Dog Grooming, Sunday April 22nd, Sunday June 24th, Sunday July 29th, and Sunday September 16th

Calendar Party: Our 2018 Calendar Party is scheduled for Sunday April 15th, the Hall at Robinson

New next year, Wine Tasting Picnic: Sunday June 24th at the Greenhouse Winery

Annual Wine Tasting Event: Saturday September 29th at the Greenhouse Winery

Memorials and Honors

- Dear Pet Friends: Thank you for helping my niece Lisa find homes for the kittens that were born on her porch. May God bless you for all you do. Greg & Sandy
- In honor of Brigid and in memory of Elizabeth & Sylvister, beloved pets of Gilbert & Loretta Pastor
- In honor of Debbie Rosevitik who is a wonderful friend and hair stylist! From Nancy Hurley Sauselein
- In honor of Faye & Tom Kuch's 50th wedding anniversary, sending best wishes to our dear friends. Love Bev & Tim Kowalchick
- In honor of Pet Friends, from Bob & Linda Finlay
- In honor of Sweetie, our 5-year-old pittie mix, as sweet as they come! From Louise Foster
- In honor of those who commit themselves, ongoing, to help our furry friends, from Linda Meyers
- In loving memory of Charlotte Astalas, from Donald & Joyce Phillips, Linda & Harvey Wetzler, Valerie Schumacher, Tom & Melinda Howells, and Kyle Murphy
- In loving memory of Robert "Bear" Balashak. We miss you, from Kim & Ray Eicher
- In memory of Abby, beloved pet of Bob Pleczynski, from Bill & Deb Parker
- In memory of Al Bilesimo, for his birthday on July 23rd, from Carole Bilesimo
- In memory of Albert Varga, from Elaine Neidigh, Gregory McCain, Helen Rugh, Kristi Nelson, Kristin Carter, Leah Farmer, the Barrow-Fisher Family, Donald & Barbara Smith. Also, In memory of Albert Varga, from the friends of Craig Varga & Noelle Brennan, T Lynne & Ben Suyfarth, Tracy Bradford, Jeff Farley, Tina Dekleer, & Lynn Kazlaukas
- In memory of Barbara Karp, mother of Bob & Linda Finlay, from Jim & Carol Thompson
- In memory of Billy, feline buddy gone too soon (2008), from Lawrence Lynn
- In memory of Carmen, beloved pet of Doug Regola, from Pam Story
- In memory of Casey, our beloved miniature dachshund and family member, from Laura Pollock
- In memory of Clover, beloved dog of David & Susan Garris, from Esther Wurzell
- In memory of Hank, beloved Bulldog of Julie & Andy Vaill, from Clair & Ron Vaill
- In memory of Harry Woloshun, from Maxine & Ronald Martz
- In memory of Judith Kamer, from Sally & Jay Shaffer & Family, JoAnn & Andy Carr & Family, and Linda & Leo Kamer & Family
- In memory of Katie, beloved cat of Dave & Nancy Arendas, from Jane Pogue
- In memory of Lucky, a sweet dog adopted by Betty & Don Grossheim
- In memory of my beloved Scoots, who saved my life, and in appreciation for finding Zoey for me, from Frances Stitley
- In memory of Ollie, beloved dog of Gary & Erna Carpenter, from Gill & Sandy Milne
- In memory of Opie, the "best dog ever, I will never forget all the love", from Barbara Massy
- In memory of Ray Eicher's beloved "sidekick" Kitty, Tiger, from Bobbi Jo & Pat Balaschak
- In memory of Raymond Varuolo, Sr, a great animal lover who requested, in lieu of flowers, a donation be made to an animal shelter, from sister Josephine Walter
- In memory of Rustie, from Patricia Williams
- In memory of Sally Todoric, from an anonymous donator
- In memory of Sox, beloved pet of Vickie Herman, from Maxine Martz



Holiday Safety Tips



The holiday season is upon us, and many pet parents plan to include their furry companions in the festivities. As you gear up for the holidays, it is important to try to keep your pet's eating and exercise habits as close to their normal routine as possible. Also, please be sure to steer pets clear of the following unhealthy treats, toxic plants and dangerous decorations:

Be Careful with Seasonal Plants and Decorations

- **Oh, Christmas Tree:** Securely anchor your Christmas tree so it doesn't tip and fall, causing possible injury to your pet. This will also prevent the tree water—which may contain fertilizers that can cause stomach upset—from spilling. Stagnant tree water is a breeding ground for bacteria, and your pet could end up with nausea or diarrhea should he imbibe.

Avoid Mistletoe & Holly: Holly, when ingested, can cause pets to suffer nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Mistletoe can cause gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems. And many varieties of lilies can cause kidney failure in cats if ingested. Opt for just-as-jolly artificial plants made from silk or plastic, or choose a pet-safe bouquet.

- **Tinsel-less Town:** Kitties love this sparkly, light-catching "toy" that's easy to bat around and carry in their mouths. But a nibble can lead to a swallow, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, dehydration and possible surgery. It's best to brighten your boughs with something other than tinsel.

That Holiday Glow: Don't leave lighted candles unattended. Pets may burn themselves or cause a fire if they knock candles over. Be sure to use appropriate candle holders, placed on a stable surface. And if you leave the room, put the candle out!

- **Wired Up:** Keep wires, batteries and glass or plastic ornaments out of paws' reach. A wire can deliver a potentially lethal electrical shock and a punctured battery can cause burns to the mouth and esophagus, while shards of breakable ornaments can damage your pet's mouth and digestive tract.

Avoid Holiday Food Dangers

Skip the Sweets: By now you know not to feed your pets chocolate and anything sweetened with xylitol, but do you know the lengths to which an enterprising pet will go to chomp on something yummy? Make sure to keep your pets away from the table and unattended plates of food, and be sure to secure the lids on garbage cans.

- **Leave the Leftovers:** Fatty, spicy and no-no human foods, as well as bones, should not be fed to your furry friends. Pets can join the festivities in other fun ways that won't lead to costly medical bills.

Careful with Cocktails: If your celebration includes adult holiday beverages, be sure to place your unattended alcoholic drinks where pets cannot get to them. If ingested, your pet could become weak, ill and may even go into a coma, possibly resulting in death from respiratory failure.

- **Selecting Special Treats:** Looking to stuff your pet's stockings? Stick with chew toys that are basically indestructible, Kongs that can be stuffed with healthy foods or chew treats that are designed to be safely digestible. Long, stringy things are a feline's dream, but the riskiest toys for cats involve ribbon, yarn and loose little parts that can get stuck in the intestines, often necessitating surgery. Surprise kitty with a new ball that's too big to swallow, a stuffed catnip toy or the interactive cat dancer.



This information was copied from the ASPCA's web site



Dee Dee's Den

Named in memory of our friend Dee Dee Anderson

Welcome to our sponsorship page. By sponsoring animals, donators help us cover operating costs.

Juniper



Sponsored by
Karen Ferri

Teddy



Sponsored by
Philip Reiche

Willow



Sponsored by
Isabella Beebout

Carmello



Sponsored by
Ventura & Theresa Krutz

Spencer



Sponsored by
Will & Leeann Steel

Stevie



Sponsored by
Doris Cipra

Murphi



Sponsored by
Tony & Virginia Donina

Lilly



Sponsored by
Tony & Virginia Donina

Nugget



Sponsored by
Tony & Virginia Donina

Please help us to give these and all of our pets the gift of a good home.
They will thank you a thousand times over!

Dee Dee's Den (Continued)

If you would like to sponsor an animal, please send your tax-deductible donation, marked "sponsorship" for \$20 (per animal) to Pet Friends, PO Box 484, Irwin, PA 15642. Thank you to all of these sponsors!

Toffee



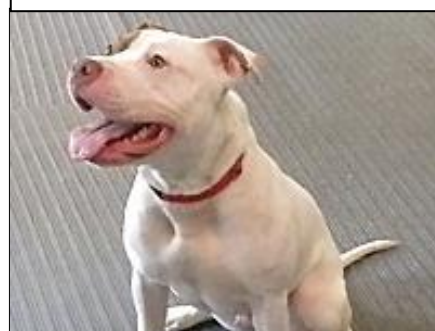
Sponsored by
Gloria Cipra

North



Sponsored by
Gloria Cipra

Daisy



Sponsored by
Laura Diaz

Shyle



Sponsored by
Will & Leeann Steel

Jasper



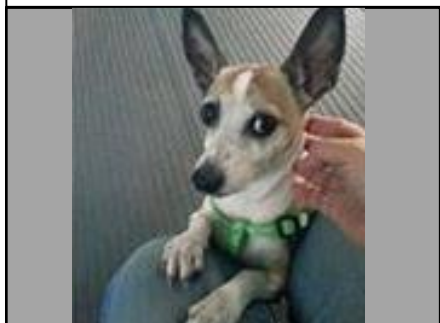
Sponsored by
Larae Basilone

Crinkles



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Ventura & Theresa Krutz

Jasper



Sponsored by
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Slater



Sponsored by
Daniel Byrd

Cooper



Sponsored by
Will & Leeann Steel

Please help us to give these and all of our pets the gift of a good home.
They will thank you a thousand times over!

Contribution Information

I'd like to make a contribution for:

☐ General ☐ Cat Fund ☐ Dog Fund

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please include an address if you wish for a card to be
sent to your gift recipient.
Send information and check to:

Pet Friends,
P.O. Box 484, Irwin, PA 15642



In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Pet or Person: _____

Notes: _____

Gift Recipient:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please include an address if you wish for a card
to be sent to your gift recipient.



2018 Memberships Welcome!

Want to be a member? The annual fee to become a member is **\$20**. Our members elect the people to sit on our Board and vote on key issues.

☐ I want to become a Member ☐ I want to renew my Membership for 2018

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Mail to: Pet Friends, P.O. Box 484, Irwin, PA 15642

Pet Friends Mission Statement

Pet Friends, Inc. is a non-profit, all volunteer animal rescue organization whose mission is to rescue, rehabilitate, and find permanent homes for lost and unwanted dogs and cats in western Westmoreland County, Pa. It is our goal to provide for the medical and physical needs of these animals; to provide educational activities and programs to help end the suffering caused by pet overpopulation; and to offer educational opportunities that will enhance the lives of people and their pets.

Want to Volunteer?

Be appreciated - become a volunteer today!

If you would like more information about how you can help Pet Friends, please call, write, email, or return this form with your contact information. You can help by simply selling or buying raffle tickets, walking a dog once a week or once a month, or fostering a cat or dog.

(Must be at least 18 to volunteer independently - can be less than 18 if accompanied by an adult)

Phone: 724-863-7722

Email: volunteer@petfriendsinc.com

Pet Friends

P.O. Box 484, Irwin, PA 15642

Name: _____ Phone No. _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____



On-line Business Partners

If you like shopping on-line, please consider the following on-line businesses as they donate a portion of the sales to Pet Friends if you list our name as your charity of choice.

- 1) **My Sister and Me**: \$10 from the sale of each necklace is donated to the shelter or rescue of the buyer's choice. www.facebook.com/michellebullington.ga or www.etsy.com/shop/chellebullington
- 2) **iGive**: Shop online at your favorite stores and select Pet Friends to be your charity of choice to get free money! www.iGive.com
- 3) **U.S. Bones**: Shop online for your pet products and Pet Friends will earn 25% of the value of your order! www.usbones.com
- 4) **Mr. Chewy's Shelter and Rescue Network**: Every visitor to Mr. Chewy's using this link automatically lands on a special page set for Pet Friends. Once you've made a purchase and qualify (1st time customer, 1 per household) Pet Friends Inc. gets a \$20 donation. <http://www.chewy.com/rp/1206>
- 5) **Bullington Baby**: Looking for a way to help shelter animals in your area? \$10 from the sale of each Paw Print necklace will be donated to the animal shelter or rescue of the buyer's choice! Show your love and support for shelter dogs and cats with a beautiful 15mm sterling silver paw prints charm on an 18" silver filled chain with lobster claw closure. Please leave a note at check-out with the name and location of your area shelter or rescue. (Please go to our web site @ <http://www.petfriendsinc.com> for Bullington Baby's web address)
- 6) **AmazonSmile**: Shop at AmazonSmile and they will make a donation to Pet Friends. Visit them at <https://smile.amazon.com/>



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Change Service Requested

Pet Friends
P.O. Box 484
Irwin, PA 15642

724-863-7722

Email: contact_us@petfriendsinc.com

Web site: www.petfriendsinc.com
www.petfriends.petfinder.com



Search for us on Facebook too!

Our Wish List

* Tax deductible cash donations to help with Veterinarian bills *

Animals

Treats (Cat & Dog - no Rawhides)
Food (Dry or Canned - dog, cat, kitten)
Jars of Peanut Butter
Scoopable Cat Litter
Grocery Store Gift Cards
Canned Pumpkin-not spiced
Pill Pockets
Durable Toys, Balls, Kong Toys
Cat Beds & Kuranda Dog Beds

Miscellaneous

Bleach, Clorox, Pine Sol
Simple Green Cleaner
Pillowcases
Large Garbage Bags for Cans
Brooms
Paper Towels
Copy Paper
Postage Stamps
Laundry Soap

* * * Safety, health, and LOVE for all animals in 2017 and every year after! * * *

The official registration and financial information of Pet Friends may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement