



ANGEL
By Barbara R.

**My cat gives me orders and I obey,
Whenever she wants, night or day.
I love her a lot, but just the same.
She is an angel and that's her name.
She likes to be brushed Whenever I'm free.
What a wonderful life For my cat and me.**

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About Us, Adoption, Fostering, and Volunteering

About Us

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc. is a nonprofit, no-kill shelter dedicated to the protection of animals. It's an all-volunteer organization that rescues stray, abandoned, abused, and handicapped cats. All animals are given needed medical care, vaccinations and spayed or neutered, then cared for at our shelter until an appropriate placement can be found.

Pledge to Adopt Your Next Pet

Although AFOC may have kittens available for adoption, we encourage all potential adopters to consider the rewards of adopting an adult animal.

Interested in adopting?

- Check our website and discover the pets that are up for adoption.
- Please call **(860) 225-1339** for more information.

Experienced Fosters Still Needed for Adult Cats

Fostering is an important part of the adoption process. With the help of an amazing group of foster volunteers, we give animals that aren't yet ready for adoption a chance to be placed in foster homes.

Fostering is one of the most rewarding things you can do for a homeless pet and for yourself, fostering gives an animal the love and attention they desperately need, greatly increasing their chances of being adopted.

As a foster you should be comfortable with:

- Daily feeding, playing & attention
- Administering medications
- Following special dietary needs
- Handling cat in & out of carrier
- Transporting cats to vet appointments as needed

AFOC provides food, supplies, medications and pays for all vet care.

Please call the main shelter number at **860-225-1339** and leave a message.

Volunteers Still Needed

AFOC is run entirely by dedicated volunteers. There are plenty of opportunities to help! AFOC volunteers are people like you, who love animals. If you can donate your time, your help will be gladly appreciated! For more information call us at **860-225-1339**.

When:

- Monday through Saturday **mornings from 7:30 – 9:30am**
- Monday through Saturday **evenings from 5-7pm**
- One day per week or more if your schedule permits.

Responsibilities:

- Feeding (Fill water and food bowls)
- Light housekeeping

IN MEMORIAM

- Donna Annunziata - in memory of Joe Annunziata from Carrie Shaw & family! Love you Papa Joe.
- Kevin Concannon - in memory of Beatrice Deresienski. May her love for all living things inspire others.
- Amy Stafford in memory of Thomas Wells, a lifetime lover and protector of all animals.
- Joseph Pilver in loving memory of my grandma Michele Pilver, who would have been celebrating her 76th birthday this year.
- Elaine Kotler in honor of Gilligan's 6th Homecoming Anniversary.
- Lucy Spakauskas in Memory of Alice Longstreet
- Copper Hill Women Golf in memory of Alice Longstreet
- Chris Dunbar in memory of Alice Longstreet
- Philip & Suellen Roges in Loving Memory of Alice Longstreet
- Ellen Lowenstein in memory of Alice Longstreet

Benny

Benny was a sweet, scared boy that came to AFOC after suffering significant injuries from an attack by a wild animal. He was fighting to save his life, but luckily a good Samaritan found him and brought him in so he could receive the extensive medical care that he needed.

Here's what Benny's injuries looked like while he was recovering at AFOC.



Despite everything Benny has been through his spirit couldn't be broken. He was so grateful, understood he was rescued, and showed his appreciation with his very loving personality.

Benny was thriving at AFOC, got better, stronger, and was extremely trusting despite being neglected and left to fend for himself. We're so very happy to share that Benny has since been adopted and is so very loved by his new forever family.

Here's what Benny has to say:

Hello, my name is Benny aka 'Ben-Purr' and I love my new home.



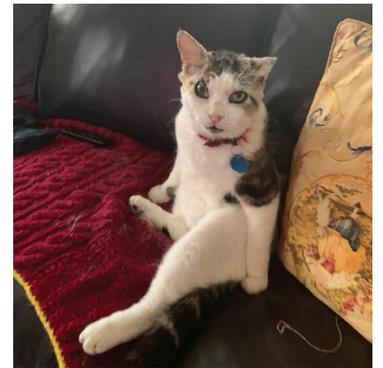
My new parents visited the shelter one rainy Saturday and met many cats that day, they really came to meet Duff and Curtis. On their way out they stopped by to meet me, well I seized the moment turned on my charm and dazzled them by begging for a belly rub and showed off my best smile.

In the car all they could do is think of me and two weeks later I was living in my forever home. I quickly settled into my new home which is the coolest place with many big windows to look outside and the wildlife outside in the open field is amazing albeit sometimes scary. So far, I have seen lots of deer, turkeys, and bears. Truly not a fan of the turkey and bears are big.



My favorite things to do are to watch Red Sox games with my dad on my own blanket that my grandma knitted just for me. I also enjoy helping my mom work on the computer which is best done when you're on her lap and I am also very good at helping to do puzzles.

I am also a great traveler and enjoy going to my Cape Cod home where I can hear waves and seagulls from my window perch, very exciting. But I leave the best for last, my ultimate favorite thing, sleeping on the bed huddled up between mom and dad and being told how handsome I am and feeling very loved.



My battle wounds are continuing to heal well, and I still get eye drops everyday which makes my eye feel better, a few treats afterwards are always yummy. I have also been enjoying my summer as a Cape Cod kitty and told in the fall we are going to watch UConn basketball and prepare for the holidays. I think I'm going to love sitting under my very first Christmas tree.

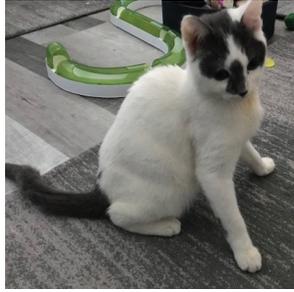


Willow Update

Willow (formerly Petra the CH kitten) is now 8 months old and weighs a whopping 3 ½ lbs. at her last vet appointment. Carolyn says, "She's grown so much but I expect she'll always be "petite" and she'll always be my baby!"

Her appearance has developed in more ways than just size. Her coat has grown to be so thick and soft. The white that covers most of her body has remained miraculously white with gray markings which in some areas give a heathered appearance.

Her Feline Cerebellar Hypoplasia has left her with some digestive issues but overtime Carolyn with the help of her vet has worked on a balance of feeding, pumpkin /wheatgrass supplements, healthy amounts of warm water and probiotics has helped to stabilize her bouts.



Willow has gotten very social, active, playful, and intensely independent. There was a long period of time when Willow was just happy to be held and cuddled. Now she wants to be in on the "action". She has her own plans and if cuddling is not on her agenda, she's become quite the little escape artist. She loves to explore and like to see how long she can play with the tails of the other pets in Carolyn's multigenerational household before they take exception.

For Christmas, Santa brought Willow the most wished for item on her list: a super fancy outdoor windowsill bird feeder with a 2-way mirror so that Willow can watch the birds without disturbing them. It took a long time for the birds to find us, but after many attempts to lure them in by tossing handfuls of birdseed out the window to try to create a trail that would lead them to us... we finally started to get some winged visitors. Last week we had huge Blue Jays and striking Cardinals. I filled a basket full of blankets and placed it on my bed by the window to give Willow a lift for a better view... and she monitored the birds until her eyes blinked close for a nap.

Willow graduated to big girl litter boxes. After some experimentation as to what size and type of litterbox along with litter type would make life easy for Carolyn and Willow, they arrived at the perfect combination of box and litter making it very low maintenance, and easy to monitor for signs of digestive distress. "It definitely changed our lives! Now we have more time for playing, bird-watching, and cuddling- together".

Feline Idiopathic Cystitis (FIC) - Carrie Ellsworth DVM

Have you ever brought your cat to the vet for peeing outside the litter box? The veterinarian ran multiple tests and diagnostics to figure out what was going on, and ultimately, they told you that your cat was just stressed. This is a condition called feline idiopathic cystitis (FIC). It's usually a diagnosis of exclusion. This is the diagnosis we come to when all tests have been run and no other cause for inappropriate urination outside the litter box can be found.

The clinical signs we see with FIC are bloody urine, straining to urinate, painful urination or vocalizing while urinating, passing frequent small amounts of urine, urinating outside the litter box, or the complete inability to pass any urine. It has been found that Persians and long-haired cats may be more predisposed to developing this condition, as well as male, indoor cats who are also overweight. Risk factors for this condition include neutering, living in a multi-cat household, and cats experiencing increased stress.

There are many different short-term and long-term treatment options for FIC. If you visit your veterinarian when your cat is experiencing feline idiopathic cystitis, they will often prescribe pain medications, anti-inflammatories, anti-spasmodics, or anti-anxiety medication as a short-term fix to help relieve pain or inflammation in the urinary tract. However, the most effective treatment option is environmental enrichment and changes in the household to decrease your cat's stress.

If you have a multi-cat household, you're supposed to have one food bowl, one water bowl, and one litter box per cat PLUS one additional of each. This decreases competition for food and gives your cats plenty of space to do their business in peace. Cats enjoy having plenty of places to perch in the household especially by windows so they can see outside. They also love having scratching posts, hiding places, and plenty of toys for enrichment. Setting aside 10 minutes per day for petting, grooming, play time, or trick teaching can help lower your cat's stress levels. If there are outdoor, stray cats, or even wild animals that visit your yard, do your best to eliminate them so that your cat is not being stressed by their presence. Likewise, if you are experiencing inter cat aggression within your home, do your best to eliminate the cat's interactions with each other. Pheromone

diffusers and sprays, like Feliway, can be used in the household to help decrease stress and aggression between cats.

Changes to diet can also help decrease the frequency of cystitis flare-ups in cats that are more prone to FIC. Switching your cat to a strictly wet or canned food diet can help increase their water intake, help flush the bladder, and dilute their urine. There are also many prescription urinary diets that may be effective in altering the pH of your cat's bladder and the likelihood of crystal development in the urine. Try to encourage your cat to drink more water by providing them with plenty of fresh water sources including water bowls and cat fountains. Supplements that you can get from your veterinarian called glucosaminoglycans (Dasuquin, Cosequin, and Adequan) help improve the health of your cat's bladder wall and may make them less prone to cystitis flare ups.

Most cases of feline idiopathic cystitis are self-limiting and typically resolve within 5 to 10 days despite treatment. However, some cats are prone to recurrent episodes of FIC. If your cat is demonstrating any of the clinical signs mentioned earlier, please schedule an appointment with your veterinarian. They will be more than happy to help you navigate this often-frustrating disease.



Jasper



This is Jasper! He may look like you've seen him before- it's just that his injury looks almost identical to Benny's. Benny has since been adopted to a happy home after he recovered at the shelter from very severe injuries suffered from an attack while living outside.

Jasper, although from another area of the state, has similar injuries to the face, that show this boy was in a fight for his life.

The vet performed surgery and did

his best to pull together what flesh there was to close this gap ripped out above his eye. Jasper is a very friendly boy and although his injuries have "maimed" his good looks- it's what's inside that counts.

Many displaced cats just as Benny and Jasper come through our doors each year. It takes lots of time, rehabilitation, and veterinary care to place them into new homes.

Please consider donating! Every contribution goes towards helping AFOC continue to rescue and shelter homeless or injured pets such as Benny and Jasper

Why do cats love boxes?



Have you ever found your kitties curled up in a box? Or snoozing in the bathroom sink? Ever wonder why they do that? We found these two interesting articles on the topic. Why Cats Love Boxes and Why Cats Love to Sit on Squares.

Confined spaces like cardboard boxes remind cats of when they used to be huddled together with their mom and siblings. Scientists believe the close contact in the box releases endorphins, causing pleasure and reducing stress. A study found that shelter cats given cardboard box hiding spots adapted more quickly to their environment change than cats without boxes.



Sometimes it is their hunting instinct that attracts them to the box, where they can hide and pounce on their prey. It can also be just for fun. After all, they can bite and scratch on the cardboard without getting in trouble!

The instinct can be so strong that some cats will sit inside a square marked on the floor with tape! Even that "virtual" box provides a feeling of enclosed space and comfort.

Try it with your cat!

Why it's Important to Keep Cats Indoors

After conversations with potential adopters and current pet owners, we've come to realize that people are unaware of the dangers of having "outdoor" cats.

Unlike dogs, who are outside on leashes or watched in the backyard, cats who are let outdoors are often allowed to roam freely until they feel like coming home.

This leaves your pet cat vulnerable to lots of preventable outdoor accidents.

Here are our top seven reasons to keep your cat indoors.

1. Cars

Cars kill about 5.4 million cats each year, making them the deadliest killer to outdoor cats.

Most of the time, these accidents are fatal. If your cat does survive a car accident, they usually have severe injuries that will require surgery or other intensive procedures.

You may feel that your pet is careful enough to avoid cars, but it only takes one moment to become a disaster. Both drivers and cats can become distracted or simply misjudge distance.

2. Cat Fights

If you've ever been a cat owner, you know that cats are very territorial and solitary animals. Letting your cats roam around outside can lead to getting into territory disputes with other cats in the area. Those disputes can even turn violent. Cat fights often result in bites, scratches, infections and even abscesses. Abscesses form when a bite becomes infected and are extremely painful for the cat. Some of the symptoms of abscesses are fever and decreased appetite. To treat

these, you must consult your vet, have your cat undergo a surgical procedure, and take oral antibiotics.

3. Viral Infections and Parasites

Outdoor cats are at a much higher risk for contracting both viral infections and parasites. Some of those infections are: Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), Feline Leukemia (FeLV), Panleukopenia (Feline Distemper)

Additionally, outdoor cats are exponentially more likely to come into contact with parasites such as heartworm, hookworm, roundworm, toxoplasma, whipworms. In fact, we frequently have cats brought to us that have heartworm or other parasites. If not treated, parasites can cause serious and fatal diseases in cats.

Luckily, we are often able to treat these parasites and prevent cats from developing other more severe issues.

4. Poisons

While roaming outside, your cat is also likely to come across poisons. The most common types of outdoor poisons that your cat can encounter are anti-freeze, fertilizers, insecticides, paint, rat poison, and rodenticides.

The most dangerous poisons are the ones used to attract and kill pests and smaller animals, because they are often scented or sweetened to draw in animals. Unfortunately, that can include your pet cat.

5. Becoming Lost or Stolen

By keeping your cats inside, they are less likely to become lost or stolen. Even with all the precautions you may take as an owner, tragedies can still strike. Collars can be break or be removed. Not everyone will see your "lost pet" signs. Someone who steals your pet is not going to check with a veterinarian if they are microchipped or not.

It is safer for your cats and less stressful for you as an owner to keep your pet inside.

6. Weather and Temperature

In places with unpredictable weather, such as CT, you never know what the day will hold. In just a week it can go from 70 degrees and sunny to 20 and snowing.

Cats left outside in rapidly changing weather can suffer heat stroke and dehydration in hot conditions and hypothermia or frostbite in the winter and at night.

7. Wild Animals

When outside, your pet cat can be both predator and prey. Outdoor cats are known to kill birds, mice, rabbits, and other small wildlife animals. The danger here is that these animals could be carrying diseases that are dangerous to cats and to humans. They could also try to bring these small animals into your home.

Outdoor cats can be killed by larger predators such as dogs, coyotes, foxes, snakes, and alligators.

Hopefully these seven reasons have made you reconsider having an outdoor cat.



- Diana Winter in loving memory of my niece Jessica Winter. She loved her cat Coonie so much
- Sheryl Larson Mortensen in memory of Eleanor Larson
- Krista Larson Hampsch in memory of Eleanor Larson
- Grace and Thomas Lyons in memory of Gracie my daughter's Boston Terrier
- Pam Hastings in memory of Joanna Wacht-Delphia
- Pam Hastings in memory of Sally Pascus
- John and Theresa Farmer in memory of Alize Van Riper Longstreet
- Shirley and Lew Segal in memory of Vera Klein



This is Jane. She is very curious and will approach our volunteers very cautiously, yet some of them haven't had the pleasure of being able to touch her yet. She's such a pretty girl that requires lots of patience.

The measure of a cat's comfort around humans is known as socialization. Each cat falls somewhere along a vast socialization continuum. To socialize a cat means to gradually acclimate them to human touch, human spaces, and human sights, smells, and sounds.

It's a process that is influenced by many factors of a cat's life and takes time and effort from compassionate people like our very dedicated AFOC volunteers.

Have you considered adopting a Spirit Cat?

They're great companions for a resident cat, but they take people on their own terms!

We don't always know what a cat's life was like before they were brought to the shelter. They may have had difficult or limited experiences with people. Whatever the reason, some cats are fearful and in need of a special family.

Spirit Cats are likely to spend their time hiding and might not like a lot of attention. Spirit Cats are very shy with people. They live in your home but may be rarely seen. Visitors will probably never see them. They are cats who live with you, and who may sometimes grant you the opportunity to touch them. Or, they may not. You may only hear the pitter-patter of their feet for days at a time.

But one day, when you've earned their trust, a spirit cat might rest on the couch next to you. Spirit Cats can also make great friends for other cats in your home. There are no guarantees. But one thing is certain, these special cats need someone like you to love them, even if it's at a distance.



What to expect

- They're great with other cats! They are used to living with many cats and are excellent companions for other cats.
- Over time, they will most likely get used to one or two people who will be allowed to touch them. They may choose to hang out near you, or sleep on the bed with you at night.
- They are a great choice for people with a quiet household, who want to make a difference for an individual cat. Your greatest gift to a Spirit Cat is your patience and understanding.
- They are a fine choice for situations where you don't have a lot of time to devote to a pet - most of these kitties do not need or want much attention from people.

More about Spirit Cats

- They won't magically turn into normal acting cats; what you see is what they will be like for a long time, maybe always. Some will change more than others but be prepared for what you see now.
- They will not be a good choice for busy homes, including those with children.

Give a Spirit Cat such as Jane a home today.

Please call the shelter at **860-225-1339** to learn more!



Charlie's quest for a Permanent Foster Family

One of the challenges faced by no-kill shelters is management of cats with special needs, such as diet, medical conditions, older age, or possible behavior issues, such as needing to be an "only" cat rather than share a space with other felines. These kitties can spend months or even years at the shelter, waiting for their forever families. Barriers to adoption may be concern about ongoing medical costs, cost of specialty food, or fear related to the grief of potentially losing a pet friend who is senior.

At AFOC, we looked for creative ways to meet these challenges and remove these barriers. What matters most to our shelter is finding a loving, supportive home for the cats in our care; when the shelter environment becomes stressful for them, we need to find an alternative.



Charlie is a senior boy who's being treated for autoimmune disease and is still looking for permanent foster placement in a quiet home. His medical condition sometimes makes potential adopters hesitate, so he'd do best in long term foster care.

When he arrived at AFOC, Charlie's teeth were in such bad shape due to his autoimmune condition, that he needed to have nearly all of them extracted. Charlie is also FIV positive.

Charlie is on a special diet and is doing well on steroids and other medications. He is looking for a family that will stay faithful to keeping him on his special diet & medication to help prevent future flares.

He is a friendly, laid-back cat who loves to get lots of attention and petting. Charlie should be your one and only to ensure that he's properly cared for

to manage these serious issues.

Potential Permanent Foster families must complete an application to confirm they have appropriate housing and available transportation to the AFOC veterinarian of choice, that they will stay in regular contact with the shelter staff to provide updates and share any concerns immediately. The commitment of these families is strong, and the commitment of our shelter team is strong--we are all in it together for the welfare of our cats.

Please call the shelter at **860-225-1339** to learn more!



If you'd like to contribute to Charlie's medical care, please consider donating.

Your donations help us in our mission to increase the quality of life of all cats such as Charlie in the communities we serve.

Bowie & Bowser Bonded pair



Just like peanut butter & jelly and cookies & milk!

These two kitties are still looking for their forever home.

They have been in foster and are ready for their new life in their new forever home.

Bowie and Bowser are shy at first, but patience will bring out their sweet and lovable personalities.

Their favorite pastimes include mealtimes, naps, wrestling, and watching critters out the window.

Seeking a quiet home with adults or mature teens.

Please call the shelter at **860-225-1339** to arrange a meet & greet.



Bowser-female



Bowie-male

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc.

P.O. Box 370306
West Hartford,
Connecticut
06137-0306

Phone
(860) 225-1339

E-mail
afoc@afocinc.org



We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.animalfriendsofct.org

Remember Donations Save Lives

Our organization depends, and always appreciates, the generosity and involvement of people like you. Every contribution goes towards helping Animal Friends of Connecticut continue to rescue and shelter homeless pets.

Every little bit counts! Here's how you can donate!

Ways to Donate

Mail-In Donations:

Complete the donation form below and mail your tax-deductible check. Please make checks payable to:

Animal Friends of Connecticut
POB 370306
West Hartford, CT.
06137-0306

PayPal:

It is fast and convenient, and safe! You can now use your credit card and donate on-line through PayPal.

United Way:

Please specify that your donation is intended for AFOC.

Please use the following letters and numbers on the form: AG

0640.

I-GIVE Matching Contributions:

Register with I-Give online. Shop online with major retailers and help AFOC at the same time! All transactions will contain a percentage donated to AFOC.

Amazon Wishlist:

Consider donating an item from our Amazon Wishlist. Everything helps us continue our duty to our furry residents.

Please reach into your heart and give what you can afford to help these animals get a second chance in life.

Your gift is tax-deductible.

We would be happy to talk with you about endowments, grants, gifts-in-kind, corporate sponsorship or other long-term support. Please call us at (860) 693-0303

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc.
P.O. Box 370306
West Hartford, Connecticut 06137-0306

Name _____
Street/P.O.Box _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
E-mail _____

- \$5.00 Giving \$100.00 Sustaining
 \$10.00 Helping \$250.00 Sponsor
 \$25.00 Contributing \$500.00 Patron
 \$50.00 Supporting \$ Other

- Please send information on automatic transfer donation
 Name/address changes: (please print clearly)

- I'd like to help. Volunteers please call 860-827-0371
 I am interested in becoming a member. Please add me to your mailing list to receive the newsletter (new members only)

Animalfriends
OF CONNECTICUT