



- 2 From the President
- 3 An Amazing Rescue
- 4 Love Your Pets Month
- 8 AFL's Adoption Hat Trick
- 9 Does Your Dog Need a Bath?
- 10 AFL Meetings

# AFL News

*Advocating for Animals in our Community*



*This young mom, seen with two of her four kittens, was left to fend for herself by her owners.*

## It's Kitten Season Once Again!

Spring is Animal Friends of Lansdowne's busiest time because it's kitten season. The adorable kittens and their very young mother pictured are Animal Friends of Lansdowne's latest rescue. (At least, that was the case when this newsletter was printed!)

This little family's story is sadly familiar. A caring local business owner on the edge of Lansdowne began feeding the mother and her four babies after the mom's owners abandoned her when they moved away. She contacted AFL for help.

As is AFL's policy, we took the mother and the kittens to Glenolden Animal Hospital and paid for them all to be de-flea'ed and de-wormed. The kittens are about 3 to 4 weeks old. There are two

grey and white tabby females, one calico female, and a beige and white male. Their mother is very sweet and friendly, still a kitten herself.

### **How you can help**

AFL is always looking for new foster homes and fortunately, a new volunteer was ready and willing to care for our newest rescues. Foster families provide food, litter, and plenty of affection and attention, and AFL pays for all vet care.

If you are interested in the kittens and/or their mother, or would like to foster, please contact AFL at [info@animalfriendsoflansdowne.com](mailto:info@animalfriendsoflansdowne.com) or (484) 463-1277 for an adoption or foster application. AFL can't do all that we do without you! 🐾

# From the President



This past year as president of Animal Friends of Lansdowne has been bittersweet. We have grown as an organization in so many

ways but economic times are still tough and we all are feeling it to different degrees.

Personally, I didn't feel it as much until I lost my job unexpectedly in January. All this while still fostering three little cats in my home, two of which have special needs. The unfortunate reality is that 10 percent of Delaware County is unemployed at this time. But hard times tend to make us more aware of the important things in life: our families and our community. When I say "families" you know that I include our beloved furry (or feathered or scaled) friends.

Our pets are family and they offer comfort and unconditional love. If you are reading this newsletter is it likely that you are an Animal Friend and share this view with us. Pets can help us through the tough and sad times just by being there to snuggle with or to make us laugh. Or to lick your eyelids to wake you up as one of my cats, Gigi, does. This makes me laugh every morning – what a great way to start the day!

In return, pets are members of the family and a lifetime commitment. But AFL unfortunately receives many calls or emails each month from pet parents looking to give up their pets. Some reasons are financial, some due to the animal's behavior, but too often people

move someplace where their pets are not allowed.

There should rarely be any reason to surrender a pet and I hope as animal advocates you will help AFL spread this message. The state of the economy has been difficult for many – both humans and animals. The ASPCA reports that 80 percent of dogs in shelters are there because their families can no longer afford to pay for food or vet treatment.

However; there are resources available. For example, local food banks such as "Loaves and Fishes" [delcolloavesandfishes.org](http://delcolloavesandfishes.org) offers pet food to qualifying families.

In addition, plenty of apartments do allow pets and there is even a special airline, [petairways.com](http://petairways.com), that doesn't make your pet fly as cargo! Also, there are training techniques, animal behaviorists and even some pheromone sprays/collars that can help change pet behavioral issues.

AFL is available to answer questions and we have many resources listed on our website [animalfriendsofLansdowne.org](http://animalfriendsofLansdowne.org). Please help us continue to advocate for animals in our wonderful Lansdowne community that I've grown to love in the past nine years I've lived here. Help us also spread the word that a pet is a lifelong commitment.

I sincerely hope that you have hugged your pet today. Thank you for being an Animal Friend!

Sara Burns 🐾

## Livin' the Good Life in California



by Newton the Wondercat (as told to Fran Wayne)

In July 2008, I got stuck 60 feet up in a tree for several days and nearly died.

When Animal Friends of

Lansdowne found me and got help to get me down, my right leg was badly broken.

Through the generosity of AFL members and friends, both my leg and my life were saved.

When I sit, my leg kind of kicks out a bit as you can see from the photo below, but I don't even walk with a limp now! In fact, I am pretty active and sometimes get into trouble for jumping on things that are high up in the air, like when I'm watching the hummingbirds outside our window.

I have two dog brothers now and love to "share" their beds with them. My cat sister Sarabi is doing well out here on the West Coast, too. My dad, former Lansdowne resident Kevin Lee, adopted her from AFL before I came along. I love being with people and I like to hang out and watch TV, especially "Deal Or No Deal."

Thank you to all of you at Animal Friends of Lansdowne for giving me a second chance on life. It's a really good life!

Love, Newton 🐾

# Community Bands Together for Amazing Rescue

On Easter weekend, worried neighbors at East Lacrosse and Maple avenues contacted Animal Friends of Lansdowne to help a cat stranded high in a tree for days. AFL volunteers Fran and Gene Wayne requested assistance from Tom Young, Lansdowne's Fire Chief. With his permission, firefighter Larry Aliberti climbed a fire truck ladder to attempt the rescue. Though crying in distress, the cat we named Luke Skywalker was terrified and just climbed higher and out of reach as Larry got close to him.

Fast forward to Easter Sunday, Day 5 of Luke's arboreal nightmare. In desperation, volunteers went online and found AAA Emergency Tree Service in Denver, Colo. This business offers a national network of tree climbers



*The terrified cat just kept climbing higher.*

specializing in cat rescue. Enter local tree climber Mario Dippolito, who arrived on the scene that afternoon. Poor Luke climbed ever higher until rescue seemed impossible. But "impossible" is not in Dippolito's vocabulary. Two hours, many gasps, and assorted equipment later, Luke was lowered back to terra firma with nothing worse than a cold and a bit of dehydration, according to AFL's vets.

The AFL board voted unanimously to rename Luke "Mario" in honor of his rescuer. A sweet, one-year-old stray left behind by someone who moved away, he is



*Mario Dippolito, our hero, with AFL treasurer Fran Wayne*

resting comfortably (indoors!) with a caring neighbor and is available for adoption.

Special thanks go to Bob and Cynthia Kleiser, Jill Cahill, the many neighbors who served as ground crew for this difficult operation, Sandee and Bill Mozzone, Alex Chapman, Lansdowne's fire company, and the kind folks at AAA Emergency Tree Service. This was a true community effort! 🐾

To adopt Mario (the cat) please complete the adoption form on Animal Friends of Lansdowne's web page at [animalfriendsofLansdowne.org](http://animalfriendsofLansdowne.org). Or contact AFL at (484) 463-1277 or [info@animalfriendsofLansdowne.com](mailto:info@animalfriendsofLansdowne.com).



*Mario (the cat) in a rare brooding moment!*

# February: Love Your Pets Month

## Author Tells Thrilling Story of a Dog Adrift on an Ice Floe

It was story time at Animal Friends of Lansdowne's annual Love Your Pets Month at the Lansdowne Public Library. Only this story was based on a real-life incident that drew world-wide attention.

The story began two years ago, in 2010, on a cold river in a Polish town. The town of Grudziadz was up in arms over what appeared to be a little dog trapped on an ice floe on the river flowing through their town. When the alarmed townspeople had no luck coaxing the dog off the floe, they called the fire department. But the river was moving too fast for any rescue to take place. The poor little dog was headed out to sea, trapped on the ice with no food or water, and very little hope.

### Local Writer Inspired

Monica Carnesi, a librarian from the Main Branch of the Philadelphia Free Library, heard this story when it was reported on National Public Radio, and said she was gripped with anxiety for the dog. Carnesi was captivated by the tale and couldn't stop thinking about it. When she heard the happy outcome two days later, Carnesi was inspired to write



*Monica Carnesi read to a rapt audience.*

and illustrate a book about the heroic little dog called "Little Dog Lost: The True Story of a Brave Dog Named Baltic." Carnesi shared her labor of love – and a YouTube video of the actual rescue – with an entranced audience at the library.

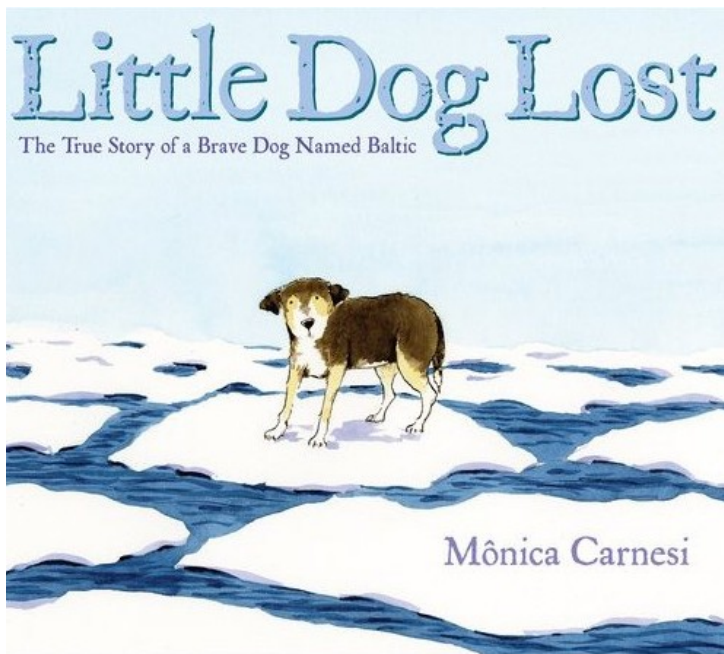
And what a story it was! No one could reach the forlorn and weakening dog as the ice floe traveled down the river. Once it reached the ocean, however, the ice floe and the dog were spotted by the Polish research vessel named "Baltic." The crew tried to rescue the dog with nets, but each time the ship came close it caused the ice to heave and the dog slipped off his ice perch into the cold water. Finally, a crew member in a life boat rescued the exhausted animal.

### Baltic's New Home

Carnesi reported that the dog, now named "Baltic" fully recovered from his ordeal and now lives with the crew member who rescued him. Her beautiful story about a dog that just wouldn't give up made us all feel even more admiration and love for these wonderful animals with whom we are privileged to share our lives.

Carnesi, who selects children's books for the Free Library, is now writing her second book, a story about a friendship between a bunny and a bear.

For more information about the book and the author, visit [monicacarnesi.com](http://monicacarnesi.com). 🐾



*"Little Dog Lost" is based on a true story.*

# February: Love Your Pets Month

## First Grader Wins AFL Art Contest

Erick Woods, age 7, won Animal Friends of Lansdowne's 2012 "Love Your Pet" art contest. He received a certificate and prizes (an AFL canvas bag and bookmark, and a paint set). Woods is in first grade at Aldan Elementary. His winning submission was a colorful painting of his turtle "Bigfoot," whom Woods brought with him. The painting was displayed at the Regency Café on Lansdowne Avenue. 🐾



*AFL president Sara Burns, left, and board member Dotti McCreary present Erick Woods with his prizes.*

### Help Wanted

We are always looking for experienced web page designers and grant writers who could devote some time to Animal Friends of Lansdowne projects. It's a great way to get some additional experience and a letter of reference while helping animals and the community. Contact: (484) 463-1277 or [info@animalfriendsoflansdowne.com](mailto:info@animalfriendsoflansdowne.com).

### Donation Drop-Off

AFL is always looking for donations of pet items (clean toys and blankets, as well as other items), food, and cat litter for pets in foster homes. AFL has a donation box at Lansdowne Borough Hall.

## Volunteers of the Year: Dawn and Scott Manning

It is a true pleasure when new volunteers jump in with both feet and don't look back.



Dawn Manning came to an Animal Friends of Lansdowne meeting in 2011 with concerns about the feral (wild) cat population in the Union Ave section of Lansdowne. Her goal was to get involved in our "Trap Neuter Return" (TNR) initiative. TNR is the one proven way to help feral cats live a better quality of life while keeping their numbers down. Dawn immediately partnered with AFL's TNR team to "take the bull by the horns" (or cat by the tail?) to provide this valuable community service.

Rarely have we at AFL seen a volunteer take such initiative. Dawn traps cats, takes them to be neutered, and cares for them while they recover in her basement. She feeds feral cats and makes outdoor shelters for them.

This recovery period is where Dawn's husband, Scott, has played a key role in nursing sick and recovering cats back to health. Additionally, Scott agreed to adopt a rescued kitten when Dawn fell in love with one and couldn't part with her.

### A Team Player

In addition to knowing all of the feral cats' names, daily habits, and personalities, Dawn's photography and writing talents have contributed greatly to AFL. Dawn has taken many of the beautiful photos of our adoptable cats featured on our website, in flyers, and the newsletter.

AFL has been blessed with the talents of many great volunteers in recent years. But Dawn and Scott Manning have truly earned the award "Animal Friends of the Year" for 2011. And AFL proudly welcomes Dawn to the board for 2012! 🐾

## February: Love Your Pets Month

### Dale Nupp Shares the Wonderful World of Ferrets

Those lucky enough to be at the Lansdowne Public Library on March 10 got a chance to meet the borough's resident ferret expert and former tax collector Dale Nupp, along with two of his unique pets, the adorable Cinnabon and Ginger.

The good-sized audience was treated to an information-packed session with Nupp and the very friendly, huggable, kissable, and good-smelling ferrets. "Forget about the 'ugly,' there is no ugly," Dale said. "But let me tell you about the good and the bad, because it is an investment of time and effort when it comes to keeping ferrets." So began his delightful story of ferret-keeping.

A relative of pole cats from the Steppes region of Russia, ferrets were domesticated about 1,500 years ago and kept as mousers in grain silos. Ferrets fell out of favor, however, once cats, the more agile and voracious mousers, were imported from Africa during the Crusades. Ferrets reemerged in popularity around the 16<sup>th</sup> century for their rabbit hunting skills.

Ferrets are now worldwide in their popularity. Nupp recommended "Ferrets for Dummies," available at the Lansdowne Public Library, as a must-read for anyone who wants to learn more about these amazing creatures.

The list of good things about ferrets is a long one. Yes, they are cute, warm, fuzzy, playful, cuddly, and like to sleep with you. They each have their own distinct personalities, and they crave attention – much more so than cats. It's not a good



*Ginger the ferret meets Bigfoot the turtle.*



*Everyone had a chance to get to know the ferrets.*

idea to give ferrets the run of the house because they love to hide away in nooks and crannies (though they will usually come out for food).

Ferrets cannot live on their own outdoors because they have lost the ability to find food and water on their own. Like cats, ferrets will use litter boxes. According to Nupp, ferrets prefer their litter boxes rectangular and placed in the corners of the room. Ferrets also love cats, and love to play with them, though cats are a bit more circumspect about ferrets.

Like their relatives the otter, mink, weasel, badger, and skunk, ferrets have a "fragrance." But all ferrets obtained from pet stores or shelters are neutered and have their odor glands removed. Ferrets also have sharp teeth, and can bite! But ferrets in the United States are bred to be less aggressive. Because ferrets like to dig, Nupp said he keeps his ferrets in a room of their own, with a big plastic tub of dirt in the middle so they can dig to their hearts' content.

So if you ever meet a ferret on the street, keep in mind that ferrets can't live outside on their own. Contact Animal Friends of Lansdowne for help finding the owner or a foster situation. Like the dogs and cats we love so much, Nupp made it clear that ferrets are pets who deserve our help, our friendship, and our love. 🐾

# February: Love Your Pets Month

## Buzz Miller Speaks Up For Pit Bulls

Buzz Miller of Buzzy's BowWowMeow in Narberth, Pa., spoke about one of his pet projects on Feb. 22 – confronting and changing perceptions and misconceptions about pit bulls.



*Buzz and Judi Miller work to change perceptions about pit bulls.*

He brought along several pit bull and human friends to the Lansdowne Public Library for Animal Friends of Lansdowne's Love Your Pets Month to address the controversial issues surrounding pit bulls.

“Half of the animals that end up in shelters are pit bulls,” Miller said, estimating that up to 1.5 million are euthanized each year. Yet, pit bulls comprise only about 5 percent of the dog population in the United States, he added.

Pit bulls have gotten a bad reputation as aggressive, dangerous animals used in dog fighting. He blames the media for giving them a bad rap because pit bull attacks make headlines.

“But in the hands of a responsible owner, this is what you have,” said Miller, gesturing to three pit bulls being petted by their new friends or lying on the floor at their owners' sides. “In the right hands they are wonderful dogs.”

Pit bulls were once known as the “nanny dog” because they were so good with children, Miller said. Helen Keller owned a pit bull, he pointed out.

Miller's wife, Judi, noted that pit bulls are not an actual breed and dogs known as pit bulls can be a mix of many different breeds.



*Like any other dog, pit bulls make wonderful pets with the right owner.*

For more information about Miller's programs and projects, visit [buzzysbowwowmeow.com](http://buzzysbowwowmeow.com). 🐾

## 'Ask the Vet' is a Learning Experience

Animal Friends of Lansdowne's “Love Your Pets Month” kicked off on Feb. 1 with “Ask the Vet” featuring Dr. Sara Sprowls of Glenolden Animal Hospital at the Lansdowne Public Library. Dr. Sprowls fielded many questions, though the larger conversation took on a feline flavor. What we learned:

**Wet vs. dry.** Dr. Sprowls explained that both wet and dry foods have their place depending on a pet's individual needs. As a general rule, dry food is better for teeth, whereas wet food is better for preventing urinary issues. It can be difficult to make sure cats are drinking enough water and wet food can provide much-needed additional hydration.

In multiple cat households, the water bowl can become a territorial base. The cat who “claims” the bowl as part of his/her territory drinks enough water, but other cats may become dehydrated as a result. Dr. Sprowls recommends having water available in multiple rooms so that each cat has their own. Getting enough water is crucial to any animal's health and can prevent constipation, blockages, and

kidney disease, among other ailments. Dry food is often best for dogs as they usually drink enough water.

**Food for thought.** Cats like routine and consistency, leading to less stress and less acting out. If you are thinking about making changes to a pet's diet, for example, do so slowly by mixing increasing amounts of the new food in with old. Dr. Sprowls recommends avoiding cheaper foods that contain a lot of dyes as these are the pet equivalent of fast food. They taste good because they are full of fat but provide little nutrition. She recommends foods that contain more meats and less (or no) grains.

**Bid for attention.** Spayed cats who cry a lot may be acting out of loneliness and boredom. Dr. Sprowls suggests using automatic toys such as a motorized mouse to provide cats with a responsive stimulus when they are left to play on their own.

**The importance of vaccinations.** Last but not least,

*(Ask the Vet—continued on Page 8)*

# Happy Tails: An Adoption Miracle!

During the winter of 2010, Animal Friends of Lansdowne took in three kittens from the cold. They were born to a mama in a feral colony in Lansdowne that we were working to spay and neuter in order to control the population. Until a foster home became available, the kittens lived in the garage of one of our board members. They had an electric heater and dedicated volunteers who would sit in that cold garage and read to them until they were comfortable around people. A few weeks later, AFL president Sara Burns took them in to foster. Despite their being older than the optimum age for socialization, AFL volunteers worked together to help the kittens learn to trust and interact with people. This was only the first miracle in the saga.

“The Castaways” were named Gilligan, Ginger and Mary Ann. These babes were true gems yet the months ticked by with no adoption interest.



*Luna starts a staring – or “stair-ing” – contest.*



*Loki, Luna and Freya are happy in their new home.*

Some people harbor superstitions about black cats and it can be difficult to take a good photograph of them that catches the viewer’s attention. Plus, they were no longer little kittens, which was yet another strike against being adopted.

## Home Sweet Home

In December 2011, the Lansdowne Borough News featured some of AFL’s adoptable pets. Gilligan was among them with a statement about black cats being last to find homes. Lansdowne residents Allison and Robert Lombardi read this and their hearts went out to Gilligan and his sisters.

The Lombardis couldn’t bear to split them up, so they decided to do something that is practically unheard of in the rescue world: they adopted all three cats!

In January 2012, the Castaways went to their new home in Gladstone Manor, ironically just houses away from the garage they shivered in as kittens the year before. The shy one of the trio, Mary Ann, miraculously bonded with the Lombardi’s three-year-old daughter Lura immediately. This home was a match made in heaven.

Gilligan (now Loki), Ginger (now Freya) and Mary Ann (now Luna) are now happily enjoying their new family and having three floors in which to run and play. These happy “tails” are the reason we pour our efforts and hearts into AFL. 🐾

*(Ask the Vet—continued from Page 7)*

Dr. Sprowls underscored the importance of vaccinating against Parvo. The cat version, Panleukopenia, is extremely contagious. Signs include severe diarrhea and vomiting, which quickly lead to death. Take your pet to the vet the instant they

show any symptoms, especially kittens, whom the virus can kill in a day.

Dr. Sprowls recommends that all cats/kittens rescued from outside be separated from each other and from other cats for 7 to 10 days in order to identify and prevent the spread of illness. 🐾



# Bring Your Dirty Dogs to AFL's Doggie Spa Day!

Join Animal Friends of Lansdowne for Doggie Spa Day Saturday, June 9, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the corner of Wayne Ave. and Plumstead Road. A wash/dry and trim is \$20 and nail clipping is an additional \$5 to spruce up your pup.

Owners can get a little pampering too! Refreshments will be available as well as chair massages from a local masseuse to relax those tired dog-walking muscles. Rain date is June 10. 🐾



*Getting a bath is actually a lot of fun!*

## Become a Member of AFL

Membership Type:	Qty:	Price:	Total:
— Good Friend		\$20 / year	
— Family Friend		\$35 / year	
— Special Friend		\$50 / year	
— Best Friend		\$100 / year	
— Student Friend (full-time student)		\$10 / year	
— Senior Friend (65 or older)		\$15 / year	
— Young Friend (12 and under)		\$5 / year	

Check here if you would like to volunteer:  Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose check made payable to: AFL and send to the following address:

Animal Friends of Lansdowne  
Post Office Box 869  
Lansdowne, PA 19050

or sign up on the web at [animalfriendsofLansdowne.com](http://animalfriendsofLansdowne.com)  
(Click on "Membership")



AFL T-shirts, mugs,  
pet bandanas,  
and bumper stickers

**on sale now at**  
**[animalfriendsofLansdowne.com](http://animalfriendsofLansdowne.com)**

## AFL's Lansdowne Farmer's Market Dates

Animal Friends of Lansdowne will be at the Lansdowne Farmer's Market on Saturday, May 26 and Saturday, Sept. 29 (Dog Day).

Stop by AFL's booth to visit our adoptable pets, pick up an adoption application, learn more about what we do, or just say hello!

The Farmer's Market is on Lansdowne Avenue across from the Lansdowne Theater.



# Save the Date!

## **AFL Doggie Spa Day**

**Saturday, June 9, 2012 (Rain date: 6/10)**

**11:00 am — 3:00 pm**

**225 Wayne Ave., Lansdowne**

Pamper your pooch and yourself, as well, with refreshments and massages while your dog gets the spa treatment.

All proceeds benefit AFL.

### **AFL Member Meetings**

Usually the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm

Lansdowne Borough Hall

Please contact us for exact dates and times.

### **Animal Friends of Lansdowne**

Post Office Box 869

Lansdowne, PA 19050

[animalfriendsofLansdowne.com](http://animalfriendsofLansdowne.com)

[info@animalfriendsofLansdowne.com](mailto:info@animalfriendsofLansdowne.com)

(484) 463-1277

### **About AFL News**

AFL News is a newsletter published by the Animal Friends of Lansdowne, an organization comprised of Lansdowne citizens who are passionate about animals and animal issues. We are concerned about the responsible management of our domestic and feral animals and about making Lansdowne a safe haven for people and animals to live in harmony.

To this end, we are committed to such issues as animal rescue and adoption, population control, health and sanitation, education and awareness, and, always, the humane treatment of all animals.

### **AFL Mission Statement**

Our mission is to advocate for animals in our community and for the people who care for and about them; to raise awareness of important animal issues through educational and promotional activities; and to foster the kind and responsible stewardship of both domestic and feral animals.

### **Contributors for this issue of AFL News:**

*Jocelyn Bolick, Sara Burns, Samantha Drake, Dawn Manning, Hazel Spears, Diana Stockdale, Amanda Villier, and Fran Wayne*

**For the latest news, be sure to visit our website at [AnimalFriendsofLansdowne.com](http://AnimalFriendsofLansdowne.com).**



### **Board Members:**

*Sara Burns, President*

*Samantha Drake, Vice President*

*Fran Wayne, Secretary*

*Adrienne Patroni, Treasurer*

*Dotti McCreary*

*Dawn Manning*