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AFL News

Advocating for Animals in our Community



Left unspayed, these two females and their offspring could produce more than 400 kittens.

Community Cats and Community Effort: One Shining Example

A local business we'll call the Pinnacle Company* has been helping feral cats for about five years, and is a heart-warming example of community members caring for community cats. It all started with a company picnic when a starving cat smelled the tempting aromas and came looking for food. Someone tossed a sausage to the poor cat, who was so hungry she devoured it and stuck around for more.

"I knew I had to do something to help when she showed up later with kittens. How can you see animals in need and do nothing?" says a long-time employee we'll call Felix.*

Before he knew it, Felix learned to help by doing—he provided food, water and shelter for the cats and gradually his colleagues, the staff and owners at Pinnacle began helping, too. A neighbor built a strong, multi-story outdoor

shelter to house the cats and shield them from the elements. Felix routinely came in on weekends to make sure the cats were safe and well-fed.

Local Resources

Felix soon realized how quickly one cat could become a dozen and that he could use some assistance in controlling the population of the growing colony now in his care. So he contacted Animal Friends of Lansdowne. AFL taught Felix about TNR (trap-neuter-return) and how to humanely trap the cats. AFL also shared with him the excellent resources at its disposal, including the kind and expert vets at Glenolden Animal Hospital (GAH) and the Clinic at the Spayed Club in Sharon Hill, which provides low-cost spay and neuter surgeries.

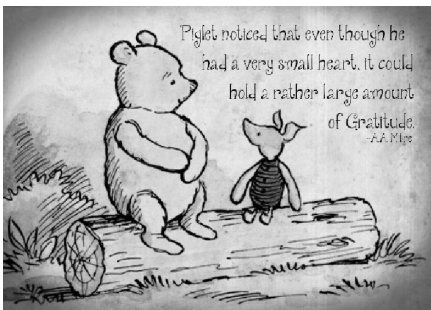
Both GAH and the Spayed Club are happy to treat feral cats as long as they

(Community Cats—continued on Page 4)

From the President

Thank you!

As many of you may know, this year marks Animal Friends of Lansdowne's 10th anniversary. So many times, I have used this space to talk about the importance of volunteers and fosters, our need for more of them, and the fact that it takes a village to do rescue. Put simply, we would not be able to do what we do without the collaboration of this amazing community.



When I began thinking about this message and our 10 years of work, one word kept coming to mind; that word is gratitude. I am feeling very grateful that we have come this far and despite many bumps in the road, we are now continuing on into a new decade in AFL's history as what we like to think is a vital part of Lansdowne.

While it is true that we always want and need more so we can save more animals, I am extremely grateful for the committed fosters, adopters, volunteers, leaders and members of our wonderful community who help us do what we do to save the ones we can. As anyone in rescue can tell you, we want to do more and so often tend to focus on what we cannot do. I would like to take this opportunity to ask us all to step back and focus on what we can do and have done.

Because AFL exists and our community supports us, many hundreds of animals have been rescued and are now in loving homes. Many more are being cared for on their own terms as community cats, and are better for being spayed or neutered, receiving vet care and inoculations, food and shelter from the elements. Because there are good people in our community who take responsibility for the lives of the needy animals who land on their doorsteps or in their yards, so many are living safer, longer lives, and they know what it is to be loved and to matter. There is much for which to be grateful.

As a case in point, take a look at this issue's featured story of a business, its staff members and owners who have invested their time, money, and emotions in some homeless cats who now have a home. We are grateful for them and others like them who cannot turn away from a creature in need of their help.

Look also at the Lansdowne Friends School 5th and 6th graders who, after learning about what we do from a board member, decided to make some shelters for our community cats. Last year, a wonderful resident made a large donation to AFL—one that has made a very big difference in our ability to help cats with special needs. Every day, there is something more for which we can be grateful.

Thank you for standing with us, for caring about animals, and for doing what you can to help us help them. We are grateful for your kindness this 10th year and every year.

Fran Wayne

Mayor Tony Campuzano Spotlights AFL's Efforts

As a resident of Lansdowne, I've watched Animal Friends of Lansdowne help many animals over the years and help educate the community about animal issues. It's a comfort knowing this valued resource exists in our community and that stray or abandoned cats and dogs have the opportunity to find loving homes.

As mayor, I'd like to express my appreciation for everything this volunteer group does. AFL has given residents ways to express and share their love for animals, and participate in enhancing the community as a whole. AFL's events have served as both a resource and an outlet for animal lovers.

The group is also a significant resource for the borough on animal issues and their intersection with public health concerns, including managing feral colonies of cats, and the importance of neutering and immunizations for all cats and dogs. Lansdowne is fortunate in that many smaller communities don't have their own animal rescue resource.

AFL's website and Facebook page serves as a focal point for communication about lost and found pets, sightings of stray animals, and general pet-related information. AFL's social media outreach has helped build and perpetuate the feeling of a close-knit community in Lansdowne.

On behalf of the borough, I thank AFL for all its hard work and dedication on behalf of animals in need. The borough supports all your many efforts. Congratulations on a very successful and productive 10 years. 🐾

Thelma and Louise Are 2 Girls Who Know How to Have Fun

The adorable Thelma and Louise were born on a porch in April 2014 and were pretty wild little girls. They are now well-socialized sweethearts who enjoy cuddling on their foster parents' laps, purring loudly like little motors. A favorite pastime is tormenting the other kitties in the house.

Thelma is a gorgeous dilute tortoise shell and Louise is a sleek black beauty. Believe it or not, both cats have one quirky white whisker in the very same place.

Like their cinematic namesakes, Thelma and Louise are closely bonded to each other—in addition to sisters they're also BFFs—so they really must go to their forever home together. Thelma and Louise are happiest when they're in the same room.

But that doesn't mean Thelma and Louise only prefer each other's company. The girls warm quickly to new people, especially when toys, treats, and petting are involved. They're also quite entertaining. Watching them chase, wrestle and bounce off each other is pretty comical.

These girls have nearly everything—looks, personality, and charm. The one thing they don't have is



Thelma and Louise have everything but a home of their own.

their own forever family. Those interested in learning more about adopting Thelma and Louise, or any of Animal Friends of Lansdowne's other adoptable cats, please visit www.animalfriendsoflansdowne.com and click on "Our Adoptables." 🐾

Skippyjon Jones Author Returns for New Book Reading



Kids dressed like Skippyjon Jones characters were one of the highlights of the event.

Swarthmore author Judy Schachner returned to the Lansdowne Public Library on Feb. 8 to read *Snow What*, the latest book in her famous Skippyjon Jones series about a Siamese cat who thinks he's a dog. Schachner also told tales of the real-life inspiration for the books. The event was part of Animal Friends of Lansdowne's annual "Love Your Pets Month".

Schachner's reading captivated the large group of her young and young-at-heart fans. Following her presentation, attendees lined up to meet *The New York Times* best-selling author/illustrator, purchase Skippyjon Jones books and have Schachner autograph their books. Schachner generously donated the proceeds to AFL.

Many children came dressed up as characters from the Skippyjon Jones series. Every costumed child went home with a prize. 🐾

Community Cats and Community

(Community Cats—continued from Page 1)

arrive inside a trap, which enables staff to administer anesthesia and safely handle feral cats that are not socialized to humans. The cats are examined, tested, spayed or neutered, treated for medical problems, and given rabies and distemper shots. They are also “ear-tipped,” which means the tip of each cat’s left ear is painlessly removed while it is under anesthesia to identify it as part of a managed colony and no longer able to reproduce. After recovery, the cats are returned to their colony to be fed and sheltered permanently.

Over time, some of the cats in the Pinnacle colony grew more comfortable around people and spent time indoors, though they preferred to go back out at night after everyone goes home. Life outside is very hard on cats. Without the kind of care provided by colony caregivers, a community cat’s average lifespan is only about two years. Some of the Pinnacle cats have lived more than four years so far, illustrating that not only is their quality of life much improved; so is their longevity. The opportunity to sleep peacefully indoors, away from the stresses and dangers they face outside, became very attractive to some of the cats.

Contagious Dedication

Like any pets, these cats are quite spoiled. Staff members have been known to manually move materials rather than disturb a cat sleeping on the seat of a forklift! Some of the cats—totaling about 20 over the past five years—even let Felix remove ticks and give them flea medication.

When Felix and his wife, who adopted a cat from AFL some time ago, recently sold their house and moved further away, they made sure to buy a pet-friendly condo and yes, Felix still travels to Pinnacle on weekends to make sure the cats are cared for and fed. His dedication is definitely contagious. When he can’t be there to feed the cats himself, Felix says he has to appoint someone so that fellow employees don’t fight over who gets to do the honors!

“People think that one person can’t do much, but one person can do a lot of things,” says Felix. “And over time it’s become not just one person, but our entire company working with the cats.”

Want to Help Outdoor Cats?

Do you have community cats living near your home or workplace? Contact AFL for information on how to care for them. Call 484-463-1277 or email info@animalfriendsoflansdowne.com.



Life outside is hard for community cats, especially in the winter.

Felix describes Pinnacle’s owners as true animal people who fully support these efforts. They and staff members bring in yummy leftovers for the cats and everyone contributes to the donation jar that helps purchase quality food and vet care. Not long ago, a fox, which is a mortal danger to cats, found its way to the property so Felix researched creative ways to deter him from hanging around. Everyone pitched in and the fox has moved safely on.

Benefits to Business

Caring for the cats has not only improved the animals’ lives; it also benefits the business by boosting staff morale through a shared love of animals and a bond fostered by a company culture of helping animals in need. And let’s face it—it never hurts to have a grateful kitty wrapping itself around your legs or purring contentedly at your feet.

There are other advantages for the company, too. No mice, snakes or squirrels invade Pinnacle’s warehouse space these days! No wonder these wonderful people describe

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Effort: Every Bit Helps Needy Animals

(Community Cats—continued from Page 4)

the colony residents as “their cats and their responsibility.”

Happy moments have included when a staff member recently adopted and took home one lucky cat to live the cushy, indoor life. There have been some sad times too—occasionally a cat falls seriously ill and Felix has to take him to the vet to be euthanized. This is such a kindness considering the alternative. A couple of cats have been hit by cars on a busy nearby street—just one of the many perils that community cats unfortunately face. But there’s no doubt that the Pinnacle cats are far better off than most, thanks to this very special group of people.

"There is a place for cats in the workplace," says Felix. Clearly his employers and colleagues agree. And so does AFL. 🐾

**Note: The names of the colony caregivers and their company have been changed to protect their privacy and that of the cats.*



Pinnacle's cats enjoy a deluxe shelter, courtesy of Felix.

Why We Do It



Adult community cats usually can't be socialized.

This is the Story of 4 Kittens and Why TNR Is So Important

It's hard to recall now, with the temperatures in the humid, high 80s, but February was cold. Very cold with wind chills well below zero for much of the month. You probably bundled up and scuttled from your heated house to your heated car ... or muttered to yourself if your bus or train was five minutes late.

This past winter, Animal Friends of Lansdowne rescued four community kittens (likely unrelated, all less than one year old and terrified of people) that had banded together to try to survive.

The two tortoise-shell females, both about 9 months old, were already carrying a total of 12 babies between them, due to be born in March and destined to continue the legacy of a ragged existence outdoors. At five months old, the orange male was relying on ice for water and occasional food from big, scary people. The black-and-white tuxedo female, at three months old, was statistically destined to become pregnant with her own litter of babies soon.

All four have been spayed and neutered—which not only helps control the community cat population, but prevents most potentially fatal fight-related injuries as well.

AFL ensured the four kittens were de-wormed and free of fleas, as well as up-to-date on all necessary shots. Because the kittens were too old to be socialized, they were returned to the outdoors but now have a warm shelter and regular meals provided by someone who cares for them. Even when the weather turns unbearably hot, life is so much better for them.

The average life span of a cat in the wild is just two years, and usually ends in suffering from a miserable infection, being hit by a car, or a mortal injury from another animal. This is why AFL does what we do... and why caring humans must help break the cycle. 🐾

AFL Celebrates 10th Anniversary in Style

On Oct. 25, Animal Friends of Lansdowne celebrated 10 years of helping animals in need with an anniversary gala at the Twentieth Century Club in Lansdowne. Attendees enjoyed a cocktail hour, dinner catered by the Black Cat Café including vegetarian choices, and dessert.

The silent auction was a highlight of the gala. Among the attention-getting items were Clark Gable's pipe, earrings worn by Cher, a basket filled with chocolate goodies, and a variety of artwork. Local businesses generously donated 173 items in 10 categories: Artists and Artisans, Baskets, Collectibles, Jewelry, Local Attractions, Pampering, Restaurants, Sports, Vacations, and Miscellaneous. All proceeds go toward the care of animals in need, including spay and neutering, and health care expenses.

AFL thanks all who contributed items and services to the silent auction including Lansdowne businesses: Ann's Dressmaking, Avenue Deli, Before Our Time Antiques, Bonnie's Wondergardens, Handyman Matters, Modern Nails, Patrone Italian Restaurant, Que Bella Salon, Regency Café, 7th Avenue Grill, Todaro's Music, and Vinyl Revival.

AFL also thanks artists Marta Bartolozzi, Brandi Fitzgerald and Debbie Spinelli Goushian; musician Tracy Mace; massage therapist Jane Sanders Miller, Corner



AFL President Fran Wayne thanks auction coordinator Nancy Hill for coordinating the silent auction.

Cuts and Curls, Massage Envy, Michelle Armour Soul Source Massage, and Nicholas Sebastian Salon and Spa; Elaine Borden Antiques, East Falls Glassworks, and Community Art Center in Wallingford; Bartram's Garden, Brandywine River Museum, Delaware Art Museum, Hagley Museum, Longwood Gardens, Morris Arboretum, and Winterthur; Applebee's, Pinocchio's Pizza and Yang Ming; Drexel University Athletics, Temple University Athletics and University of Penn Athletics; the Philadelphia Phillies; and WHYYY. 🐾

Pumpkin is a Fighter But Still Needs Help



Pumpkin was a star attraction at the annual AFL yard sale.

Back in April, two children found a tiny kitten alone in a parking lot, struggling to breathe. Animal Friends of Lansdowne agreed to bottle-feed the two-week-old kitten and gave her to a very capable foster home. To everyone's amazement, the kitten, named Pumpkin by the children who found her, survived the first several days. Then she survived pneumonia, but not without a stay in a veterinary hospital. Pumpkin received oxygen, antibiotics, tube feeding, and round-the-clock expert care. This little girl is a fighter.

The grandmother of the children who rescued her has agreed to give Pumpkin a forever home when the kitten is well enough. Pumpkin is eating well and continues to improve. With help from many generous people, AFL has already raised about half of the more than \$3,000 needed to pay Pumpkin's medical bills.

Please consider contributing to Pumpkin's medical fund. Any support is much appreciated; AFL couldn't rescue animals in need like Pumpkin without the community's help.

Visit <http://www.youcaring.com/pet-expenses/please-help-animal-friends-save-baby-pumpkin-s-life-/334166> to make a donation and follow Pumpkin's progress. 🐾



Students presented AFL with two well-made shelters.

Friends School Students Build Shelter for Cats

Lansdowne Friends School students got into the animal rescue spirit by helping Animals Friends of Lansdowne build shelters to protect community cats from the elements.

AFL Education chairperson Dotti McCreary talked to fifth and sixth graders on Feb. 12 about animal rescue and the importance of providing cats living outdoors in the area with warm, safe shelters, particularly during the winter. The students then constructed two shelters in April as a community service project.

The students presented AFL with two beautifully made shelters, which the students all signed.

Thank you, Lansdowne Friends School, for helping AFL help animals in need! 🐾

Help Wanted

We are seeking experienced **web page designers** and **grant writers** who can 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: info@animalfriendsoflansdowne.com or (484) 463-1277.

Become a Member of AFL

Membership Type:	Qty:	Price:	Total:
— Good Friend		\$30 / year	
— Family Friend		\$50 / year	
— Special Friend		\$75 / year	
— Best Friend		\$100 / year	
— Student Friend (full-time student)		\$20 / year	
— Senior Friend (65 or older)		\$20 / year	
— Young Friend (12 or under)		\$10 / year	
— Forever Friend (Lifetime)		\$500	

To volunteer, please provide the following 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
(Click on "Membership")



AFL shirts, mugs, tote bags, and bumper stickers

on sale now at animalfriendsoflansdowne.com

Save the Date!

Dog Day at the Lansdowne Farmer's Market

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015

30 N. Lansdowne Ave. Parking Lot, across from the Lansdowne Theater

Bring your dog in costume for the parade, costume contest and general silliness. All dogs must be on leash.

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.
All are welcome!

Animal Friends of Lansdowne

Post Office Box 869
Lansdowne, PA 19050
animalfriendsofLansdowne.com

About AFL News

AFL News is a newsletter published by the Animal Friends of Lansdowne, an organization comprised of 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 the greater Lansdowne community 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, Samantha Drake, Susan Holmes, Dotti McCreary, Melanie Peterson, Amanda Villier, and Fran Wayne

Be sure to like us on Facebook!



Board Members:

Fran Wayne, President

Melanie Peterson, Secretary

Adrienne Patroni, Treasurer

*Dawn Manning, Board Member and
TNR Chair*

*Dotti McCreary, Board Member and
Education Chair*

Jocelyn Bolick, Memberships Chair