



In Loving Memory of a True Animal Friend

If we're really lucky, we've known one or two during our lives; those very special souls on this earth who seem to shine from within. They possess an inner light that makes us smile just to be in their company. We can't help it; it's a natural, involuntary reaction. Amanda Villier had such a light inside her, coupled with a joyful innocence that made her one of those rare people whom everyone loved.

So we were shocked and devastated along with so many in her Lansdowne community when we lost her so suddenly last November 23rd at the tender age of 40. How was this possible? Her family and friends have had great diffi-

culty getting their minds around what is an unthinkable loss.

Amanda was one of our very first volunteers 11 years ago when we founded Animal Friends of Lansdowne. She continued to help out often, gracing us with her pure love of animals and her amazing talent as a photographer. She was our friend, star events and pet photographer, and one of our very favorite humans (this says a lot since some of us admittedly prefer the company of pets).

In addition, Amanda worked as a pet sitter for local residents and was adored by both her two and four-legged clients.

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From the President

Be Part of the Solution



I'll admit it. There are some things that drive rescue people positively bonkers.

At the top of that list would be people who regard pets as *optional*. I know that isn't you, gentle reader, but please humor me since we're on the subject—there are ways to help.

We steadfastly hold that when one adopts a companion animal, we make a lifelong commitment. In sickness and health. Through good times and bad. Till death do us part. We should no sooner desert a pet because “we're moving and can't take her with us” than we would think of leaving behind any member of our family.

Sure, sometimes bad things happen—we lose a job, lose our home, move in with relatives who can't or won't allow our beloved pets to come with us. People become ill and may not be able to care for a pet; they might die without having made future arrangements.

But sometimes, pet owners seem simply to choose a place to live that won't accept pets when there are other options. Lots of places take cats and some allow dogs. Rehoming a pet when there are options is inconceivable to many of us, who would rather live in a car with our pets than move without them.

Rescues get lots of calls from people who want to surrender pets. Sometimes, they say they want to “donate” a pet. A small rescue like AFL is limited by our few foster homes, so it is our policy not to take owner surrenders, but to speak with people in hopes of helping them to find a way to keep their pets with them. In cases of extreme hardship, we will do more if we are able, but given the number of animals who are presently homeless, they must be our first priority.

How can one person help? You can foster by opening your heart and home to a needy animal, and always adopt your pets rather than buying them. If you have a friend who can't afford to spay or neuter, please offer to help. There are low-cost (sometimes free) alternatives.

Perhaps you could volunteer your time helping a rescue or shelter care for or socialize their animals. And donating supplies or money helps defray the cost of food and medical care for rescued animals.

If you know anyone who has fallen on hard times and feels they need to give up a pet, help find someone to foster the pet until their owner can get back on their feet, or help look for a place where they *can* stay with their pet. You will be doing a “mitzvah” for that pet, his or her human, all the homeless animals waiting to come inside, and even for us rescue folks who are pulling our hair out at the other end of the phone.

Thank you for your kindness. We're all in this together. 🐾

Fran Wayne

Scoop the Poop! Help Keep Lansdowne Clean

Summer is upon us! What finer way to enjoy the warm weather than to walk around our beautiful community of Lansdowne. That nice summer walk is quickly marred when your path is blocked by dog waste.

If you're one of those owners who believe it's no big deal to simply leave your dog's feces in the street, on the sidewalk, on the grass near the street, or near or in a storm drain, then you are part of the problem.

Dog owners should always pick up dog waste with a plastic bag or other suitable non-leaking container and dispose of it in a proper trash or litter receptacle.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, dog waste may contain parasites such as hookworms, ring worms, tape worms, and bacteria such as *E. coli* that can create a health hazard to humans and animals. Dog waste left on the street or the sidewalk is likely to be swept into a storm drain and dumped untreated in our waterways.

The borough recently put up signs reminding dog owners to be considerate about removing dog waste, says Chief of Police Daniel Donegan. Not cleaning up after your dog also violates the Borough of Lansdowne Code. “It's very hard to enforce,” he admits. Residents who call the police must be able to describe the person and his or her dog so the police can identify them. Police will first give a warning to those who don't pick up after their dogs, followed by the issuance of a citation, then fines up to \$100.

The Code is available at <http://lansdowneborough.com/code-enforcement/codes/>



Bird Lovers Flock to See Exotic Parrots

Colorful beauties of the feathered variety posed and preened to a full house at the Lansdowne Public Library on February 28.

Bird enthusiasts from local rescue organizations shared the pleasures, challenges and responsibilities of lives that intersect with those of parrots and other pet birds. Animal Friends of Lansdowne hosted members of Jojo the Grey Adoption and Rescue for Birds Inc. and the Delco Bird, who shared their exotic pets.

More than 70 attendees of all ages had the opportunity to feed, pet, hold, and admire the beautiful birds and ask questions about their care and behavior. The event was part of AFL's annual Love Your Pets Month.

AFL thanks the library staff and all of the presenters for their contributions to this enjoyable and educational event. 🐾

Don't Give Fleas a Biting Chance

With longer summer days come pool parties, bright flowers ...and fleas. Those little pests can be a problem throughout the year, but warmer, more humid weather speeds up their life cycles and causes a surge in flea activity. A few fleas can turn into an infestation in a very short time—a female can start laying eggs at just two days old, and can carry up to 2,000 eggs in her lifetime.

Fleas are external parasites which bite through the host's skin and feed by sucking your pet's (or your) blood. Left unchecked, those bites can lead to illnesses such as flea anemia, flea allergy dermatitis (skin infections and hair loss), tapeworms or Bartonella, a bacterial infection that can lead to a number of diseases in susceptible humans including cat scratch disease.

Dogs are exposed to fleas every day on their walks. But even if your pet stays indoors, fleas can hitchhike in from the grass on you and become a problem. Look carefully in the short hairs of your animal's muzzle, on their stomach, and in any white hair and you might see black spots scurrying away. Look too for clues such as excess scratching and tiny black particles in fur and on furniture. Those flecks, known as "flea dirt", when dropped on a wet paper towel will stain it a rusty color.

So now that we have your attention, here are a few prevention tips:

- Check with your vet about using a topical or pill-based flea treatment. Some will kill the fleas within 24 hours. The cost of treatments is minimal compared to the cost of treating flea-related illnesses. Flea treatments are strong insecticides! Be sure to use only flea control products designated as safe for the type, age and size animal you have. Always read the label and do not apply more often than specified. More is NOT better!
- Mow your lawn regularly, clear brush, leaves and tall grass which harbor fleas. Encourage ants, spiders and birds, as they all happily eat fleas.
- Put a flea collar in your vacuum bag. Flea collars don't really work on animals and can even cause illness, but they work great in vacuums! Clean floors, rugs and furniture frequently to pick up eggs and larvae. Empty the vacuum after each use, discarding bags often.
- Wash bedding in water 600 degrees C or higher to help prevent an infestation.

So, don't wait until your pet is scratching, start prevention efforts now! 🐾

Abandoning a Pet is Never the Answer:

Too many people believe that though cats have lived their lives indoors, they will be able to fend for themselves outside. But it's not true at all.

Far too often, people take the drastic step of abandoning their pets by simply leaving them behind or even dumping them and driving away. We hear these stories daily and have rescued many animals because of this cruelty. And make no mistake, it is cruelty.

Problems and Solutions

People abandon their cats for a variety of reasons. Most common are the development of behavioral problems, lack of financial resources and housing issues. But for every problem, there's often a solution; sometimes all you have to do is reach out for help.

Ready for His Own Home



Alfalfa (we call him Alfie!) is a handsome little devil. He's a light tawny color mixed with gray tabby and has gorgeous eyes. Alfie is very friendly and readily offers his belly up for endless rubs. He's a bit of an acrobat and loves to climb his cat tree from bottom to top—he's determined to get that feather hanging from the very top! Alfie is neutered, up to date on his vaccines and gets along well with other cats. This little lovebug is more than ready for a home of his own. 🐾

Behavioral problems. With cats, behavior issues most often center on not using the litter box. Unfortunately, experts say, too often cat owners wait until a behavior issue becomes an unmanageable problem to address it. Many rescue organizations offer advice and information on how to address behavior problems on their websites.

Some owners of newly adopted cats have difficulty introducing the new addition to other pets, particularly other cats. Animal Friends of Lansdowne offers step-by-step instructions on how to make the transition easier on everyone involved and is happy to answer questions along the way.

Financial issues. There's no denying that pets can be expensive, especially if the animal gets sick. Some situations are impossible to predict, of course, but the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) identifies several ways prospective pet owners can plan ahead, even when money is tight:

- Before choosing a pet, research the cost of owning and caring for the many different types. For example, the annual cost of feeding a small dog good-quality kibble is much lower compared to feeding a large dog. The ASPCA offers information on comparing pet-care costs, including recurring medical expenses, training, and accessories at <http://www.asPCA.org/adopt/pet-care-costs>. You may find a dog or cat just isn't feasible right now, but another type of pet might be the perfect fit for your family.
- Plan for emergencies. Potential illness and injury are part of owning a pet. Saving for an emergency may mean setting aside money on a regular basis for such costs, or it could mean looking into pet insurance.
- Don't forego annual vet checkups. Pets need regular vet exams to stay healthy. Failing to ensure pets get necessary vaccinations and treatments can lead to serious and costly medical problems. Animal Friends of Lansdowne provides information about low-cost spay and neuter services. We are fortunate to have such resources in our area.
- Seek help to prevent or address behavior problems. Investing in training a puppy pays off in a well-behaved dog. Likewise, consulting an expert in cat behavior as soon as a problem arises is far more effective than waiting until the pet's behavior can't be ignored.

Housing concerns. When relocating, some pet owners believe they must give up or even abandon their pets due to housing policies that prohibit or discourage pets. Local animal rescue organizations like ACCT Philly offers a list of pet-friendly rental housing.

(Abandoning a Pet—continued on Page 5)

Hope and Help are Available

(Abandoning a Pet—continued from Page 4)

Real estate websites like Rent.com and Zillow.com provide apartment hunters with the ability to search for pet-friendly properties.

Helping Each Other

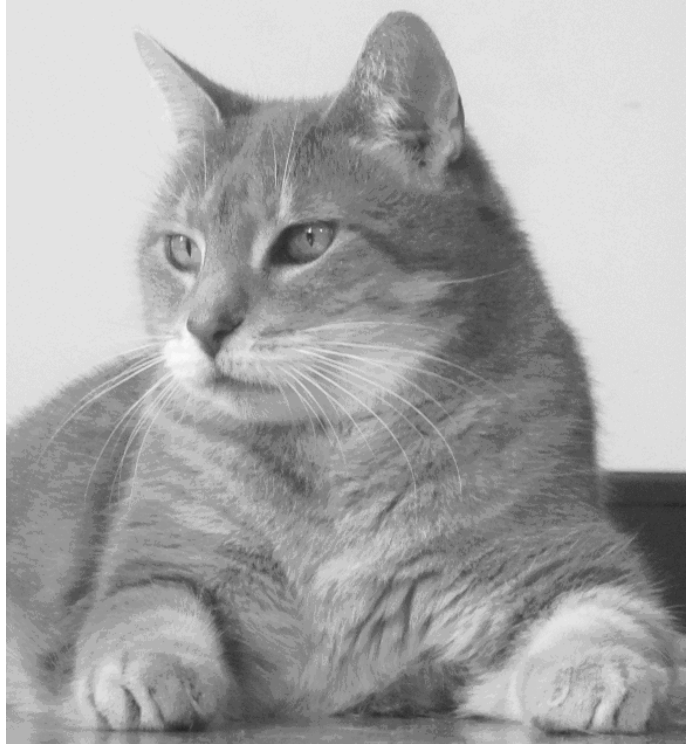
Plan for your pet's future in the event of your death or a situation in which you can no longer care for an animal. Talk to family and friends to determine who would be best able to provide the best home for your pet and who would be willing to do so. Ensuring that your pet will be cared for will help ease everyone's minds during a stressful time. At the same time, give thought to whose pets you would be willing to take in and care for.

Families and friends are also invaluable allies in helping elderly pet owners and those with ongoing health problems to keep their pets. Do you know someone who needs help caring for his or her pet? This might involve transporting the pet to the vet or talking about what will happen to the pet when the pet owner is no longer living. Help vulnerable pet owners research the assistance available in his or her area. Don't wait until they are no longer able to care for their beloved companion and the animal has no place to go.

Are You Ready to Adopt a Pet?

To learn more about the pets available for adoption and to download an adoption application, please visit www.animalfriendsoflansdowne.com. Animal Friends of Lansdowne is an all-volunteer non-profit organization comprised of people who are passionate about animals and animal issues. Not quite ready to adopt? Loving foster homes are always desperately needed!

Ready for a Home



Bugsy, a handsome, clever young male cat was eager to be rescued after struggling to live on his own outdoors. Bugsy wasted no time when he spotted an AFL member who had been sent to rescue another cat. Bugsy jumped right into the open pet carrier, all set to be taken in. A devoted lap kitty that has learned to live with the other cats and dogs in his foster family, Bugsy is neutered, vetted and healthy, up-to-date on his shots. 🐾

AFL Needs Your Help Now More Than Ever

Do you love animals? Would you like to help animals and your community?

Animal Friends of Lansdowne is seeking dependable volunteers to help strays, feral or homeless pets in the Lansdowne area. Our annual events include the AFL Yard Sale, a Love Your Pets Month presentation, a National Night Out booth and Dog Day at the Lansdowne Farmers Market, which are great opportunities to meet new people and get involved in the community. We also maintain our own website and Facebook page, print *AFL Newsletters* such as this one, and publish articles in *The Lansdowne Borough News* and other local papers.

We especially need a volunteer coordinator, rescue, web, and event-savvy volunteers to help us out.. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, although we have activities that the younger kids can participate in with a parent or guardian.

Volunteering is a great way to work with others while making a difference in the community. Our monthly meetings are held at Lansdowne Borough Hall, at the corner of Baltimore Pike and Lansdowne Ave, generally on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7 pm. Please feel free to drop in, contact us on the Animal Friends of Lansdowne Facebook page, or call us at 1-484-463-1277.

AFL Takes 1st Prize in 4th of July Parade



Members of Animal Friends of Lansdowne had a ball marching in the borough's Fourth of July parade on July 5 and even took home first place in the contest for best interpretation of the "Arts in Lansdowne" theme.

Special thanks goes to Appligent for creating our "paintings"—reproductions of famous works with a very distinctive canine or feline twist — and to John and Tracy Schwab for providing our fabulously tricked-out ride, complete with loud purrs and meows! Thanks also to the Union AA for inviting us to march! 🐾

Red Paw to the Rescue

Philadelphia-based group helped pets displaced in Stratford Court fire

When Lansdowne resident Dotti McCreary returned to her home at Stratford Court Apartments on June 11, 2015, the fire trucks had just arrived. Soon, she would see black smoke pouring from the building and flames shooting from a basement window.

"It all happened at once," says McCreary, a longtime Animal Friends of Lansdowne board member. "I just stood there and watched." She had no idea if her three cats were safe.

Hours later, McCreary found herself at the Twentieth Century Club where the Red Cross was assessing people's needs, and Red Paw Emergency Relief Team and Delaware County Animal Control were reuniting residents with their pets and collecting information about those still missing.

Red Paw Emergency Relief Team is a nonprofit emergency services organization that partners with the Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management, the Philadelphia Fire Department, the American Red Cross, and other disaster relief groups to provide assistance including search and rescue, emergency transport, shelter, and veterinary care to animals involved in fires and other residential disasters. Founded in 2011, Red Paw temporarily cares for displaced pets through a network of foster homes.

Red Paw emergency responders rescued three birds and six cats from the building, including two of McCreary's three cats. But the rescuers saw no sign of the third. Thankfully, when McCreary was allowed back in, she found her third baby scared and still hiding.

With water and electricity cut off for the foreseeable future, McCreary



Dotti McCreary and her cat Charlie are glad to be reunited.

stayed with Lansdowne friends and a Red Paw foster family generously took in her three cats until they could be reunited with her. McCreary says she is very grateful for all that Red Paw did to rescue her family from tough circumstances.

For information about Red Paw, visit www.redpawemergencyreliefteam.com.

In Loving Memory...

(Continued from Page 1)

There are many beautiful pictures of Amanda, but the one on the cover is our favorite. Wearing her bright red AFL tee shirt, with ever-present camera and contagious smile, she was photographing AFL's Doggy Spa Day when this was taken. A year before her passing, Amanda photographed our 10th anniversary gala and once again she positively saved the day when our slide show wouldn't work. It worked for Amanda; she spent hours making sure of it.

She volunteered for other causes that were dear to her heart, as was her lifelong affection for her hometown. Most recently, she lent her considerable talents to the Lansdowne Theatre restoration project.

Amanda is survived by her mom, Eileen Brumbaugh, brother Rob and sister-in-law Gina Villier, her beloved nephew Cole, and her dog and constant companion, Bella. Our community shares their loss. We are so grateful and fortunate to have had Amanda in our lives and our rescue. We miss her and her beautiful light. We will remember and miss her always. 🐾

Thank You to Animal Friends Here and Absent

We at Animal Friends of Lansdowne consider ourselves most fortunate to have friends who, directly or through gifts from their families, have donated to AFL in their names. Be it as birthday remembrances, thank yous or memorial tributes, the contributions honor that person, make a difference in the world, and continue their legacy and love of animals in a meaningful way.

We would especially like to publicly thank some very special animal lovers who have continued their love and support beyond life on this earth, and whose families and friends have shared that love into the future. They include:

Paula Weber
Glenn Hafner
Walter Clements
Olivia Garcia
Joan Trotta

Dot Saylor
Marian Implazo
Mark Walton
Gerri Jackson

AFL is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation. Gifts to honor special events and memorial contributions may be made through friends and family or included in your will. For more information, please contact AFL or your financial advisor. 🐾

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 contact information: 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. 24, 2016

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
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Board Members:

Fran Wayne, President
Adrienne Patroni, Treasurer
Melanie Peterson, Secretary
Dotti McCreary, Education Chair
Rose Fagan
Susan Holmes

Samantha Drake, Newsletter Editor
Jocelyn Bolick, Membership Director

About AFL News

AFL News is a newsletter published by the Animal Friends of Lansdowne, an all-volunteer 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, Rose Fagan, Susan Holmes, Melanie Peterson, and Fran Wayne

To keep up on all the latest news, be sure to like us on Facebook!