

PET SAVERS

Improving the lives of companion animals



Fall/Winter 2008

MY FOSTERING EXPERIENCE By Cyndy Messineo

Several years ago my daughter came home from her part time job at PetSmart and announced that she had volunteered, and been approved, to foster kittens for our local animal shelter. But, not to worry, she'd do all the work. Seven years, and many litters later, my daughter has moved on, we've adopted two kittens and I'm now the one doing the fostering. To be honest - I can't imagine my life without it.

The joy my kittens bring me more than compensates for the work involved; the constant litter box cleaning, the inevitable spills and accidents, the scratches and occasional flea bites, dealing with sickness and medication and sometimes the heartbreak of losing a kitten to an unforeseen illness.

People tell me what a good person I am to do this and how lucky the kittens are to have me. I've known, from the start, that I'm really the lucky one. I always have a kitten to play with - what could be better than that? When I'm feeling sad or lonely I snuggle a kitten and when I'm feeling stressed there is nothing more relaxing than to be surrounded by silky, purring bundles of love and fur.

Litters comes in all shapes, sizes and colors. I've had kittens from the moment of their birth, watched them nurtured by their mother through all stages of development, helplessness to complete independence.



Most kittens are around six weeks old when I get them and really only need socializing and handling. But, whether I have them for 12 weeks or only two or three I love each and every one of them.

A piece of my heart goes with every kitten I leave with the volunteers at PetSmart. This is why, for me, the hardest part of fostering is giving them up.

However, with each new litter I get, I am reminded why I do this and why this is the best volunteer job I never volunteered for. As long as there are kittens who need to be fostered, I'll be there. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have some kittens to cuddle.

THANK YOU!

**Bryan & Dana O'Donnell
of Y-By Rental and
Louise & Jack Heritage
of Heritage Dairy.**

PetSavers would like to thank these very special people who helped make our "Meowgarita" a success this summer with their generous donations!

**PLEASE DON'T CONTRIBUTE
TO THE OVERPOPULATION
SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PETS!**

HELPING ADOPTED PETS STAY IN THEIR NEW HOMES

Thanks to PetSavers, recently adopted animals are being helped to stay in their new homes as welcome additions. The caring staff at the Gloucester County Animal Shelter start the process by trying very hard to match people with the pet that's right for them.

Many times people come into the shelter with an image in mind of the perfect pet. While that is one option, it's better to have an open mind about these things and look for the best match for your family. If you don't keep an open mind you may miss out on a loving companion who looks a little different than what you thought you wanted.

Also, too often, many of the animals have had a hard life before being taken to the shelter and other animals find it difficult to adjust once they get there.

Both situations can cause adjustment problems with a family and their new pet. Enter PetSavers, a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the lives of companion animals through education and community outreach.

To help make good adoptions better, PetSavers has made an arrangement with Mr. Carl Johnson, a well known trainer in Gloucester County. Mr. Johnson trained dogs for the Glassboro police department and is known for his gentle and successful training methods. He comes highly recommended and we are thankful for his dedication.

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COUPLE ADOPT OLDER PETS by Barbara Spector

Laurie Colburn went to PetSmart in Deptford this past June to look at some of the cats up for adoption from the Gloucester County Animal Shelter. She had lost her beloved older cat Calli several months before and was in no hurry for a new cat. She and her husband George already had three other male cats at home, all animals they had rescued.

Laurie didn't count on meeting Gertrude, a 16 year old female cat who had been surrendered to the shelter. Gertrude was so sweet and affectionate (and adorable!) that Laurie fell in love with her. Gertrude reminded Laurie so much of Calli that she knew she'd be a great addition to the rest of her animal companions.

When Laurie adopted Gertrude, George decided to adopt Lily, a nine year old female cat, from the same PetSmart (a terrific "buy one get one free" deal). Lily has now adapted gracefully to the entourage of three males and one female (Gertrude) at the Colburn home. Lily is skittish and a bit of a loner, though she is especially fond of George.

Gertrude has taken the role of the cat family matriarch and is very spry for her 16 years. She is a diva with particular likes and dislikes. She needs to hear "good-bye" when her folks leave for the day and she likes the radio left on. She also has special cat food requests and some she'll turn down. Laurie says that even though she seems spoiled by her past owner Gertrude is very loving and a great

companion. The Colburn's philosophy is to adapt to the needs of their cats, not the other way around.

CRAIG HARRIS

KLAYMAN, ESQUIRE

**WILL DRAFT A SIMPLE WILL
FOR ANYONE WHO DONATES
\$75 TO PET SAVERS**

**70 S. Broad St.
Woodbury, NJ 08096**

856-853-1918

OSCAR by Barbara Solem-Stull

This is a photo of Oscar on his first kayak trip taken shortly after we adopted him. In September 2005 Oscar came to live with my husband, Gordon and I and our two cats, Bubba and Reds.

Oscar was a stray who had been found with a terrible eye injury. Because he seemed to be suffering the Delaware shelter who had him considered euthanizing him.

I met Oscar at a Pet Smart after inquiring about another dog. It took about two minutes of interacting to realize he was the right dog for me. It was not clear whether Oscar still had sight in his injured eye so we took him to see an animal ophthalmologist in Medford. He had not lost his sight but did develop a "cherry eye." After several operations the problem was corrected and Oscar hasn't had further problems.

Oscar adjusted well to our household and became friends with our younger male cat, Bubba. They chase each other around the yard and house and sleep curled together. It took a few weeks but Oscar soon learned to use the dog door that led into our large fenced backyard. We take him hiking in the Pine Barrens. He goes to doggie day care at least once a week and the dog park to play with other

dogs. Oscar is the sweetest-tempered dog in the world and gets along great with our grandchildren and friends. He is a little dreamboat who has stolen our hearts.♥♥♥



PET SAVERS, INC
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THE BEST PETS COME FROM SHELTERS



HELPING ADOPTED PETS STAY IN THEIR NEW HOMES con't from pg 2

Mr. Johnson is meeting with new pet parents at the shelter to discuss the best way to integrate new pets into the family and avoid training problems before they begin. His insight into how one should start off with a newly adopted pet can help everyone adjust to the changing dynamics in the house.

No one wants to see animals returned to the shelter because of a problem that could have been avoided in the first place. Learning the best way of integrating your new best friend into the family will insure everyone is happy.

Successful adoptions are a good thing. Visit your local shelter and look for a faithful companion to make your life better. The perfect partner for you is waiting patiently for you to take him home. Make someone happy - adopt.

KEEP CHEWING DOGS SAFE

Chewing is a natural and normal habit all dogs have. When they are between the ages of 4 months and 1.5 years they need to chew to ensure their teeth and jaws grow strong and straight.

They will seek out various items to chew and unless you supervise them, will often choose your favorite shoes, children's toys, books, or anything else you really did not want them to have. This is why it is extremely important you decide what they may or may not chew and that you provide a variety of puppy safe items for them. Some recommended chew items are: rubber bones and balls (Nylabone and Kong brands are great); rope pull toys; rawhide chews; tennis balls

Whatever toys you select, make sure they are the right size for your dog, not small enough for them to swallow and choke on. Things that you do not want them to chew: hard plastics, aluminum cans or wrap, chicken, turkey, or any bird bones, old shoes (they can't tell the difference between these and your favorites), or children's toys.

It should seem clear that for your dog to learn what to chew and what not to chew, you need to be with him. When you cannot, try spraying the things you do not want him to chew; furniture, electrical cords, etc. with bitter apple solutions. Pet supply stores usually carry several brands of bitter apple sprays. The sprays are distasteful to pets and do not stain furniture.

When the puppy is very young and you are away and unable to supervise, use a training crate. This crate should be large enough for the dog to sit, stand, lie down, and still have a corner for food and water. They should always have a soft blanket and plenty

of toys while they are in their crate. As they get older and their behavior improves, the crate should be used less. As a control for unwanted chewing it should only be used when all other methods have failed.



Training will help you enjoy your puppy more. ♥



LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS & RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS

Gloucester County Animal Shelter

1200 N. Delsea Drive
Clayton, NJ 08312
856-881-2828

Animal Welfare Assoc. -

856-424-2288

Animal Orphanage - 856-627-9111

Animal Adoption Center -

856-435-3058

Almost Home Shelter -

856-663-3058

COMING EVENTS

PHOTOS WITH SANTA

Dec. 6th & 7th 11 am - 4 pm
Dec. 13th & 14th 11 am - 4 pm
Dec. 20th & 21st 11 am - 4 pm

Saturdays & Sundays at the following PetSmart Locations:

PetSmart Mantua -
637 Woodbury Glassboro Rd
Sewell, NJ 08080

PetSmart Turnersville -
5857 Route 42 Turnersville

PetSmart Deptford (old store)
1800 Clements Bridge Road
Deptford, NJ

Watch our website for news of PetSavers' 2nd Annual Bark 'n Bid coming next spring at Adelphia's in Deptford, NJ

www.petsaversnj.com

Camden County Shelter -

856-401-1300

Cumberland SPCA - 856-691-1500

Animal Oasis Sanctuary -

856-262-1222

Paws and Claws - 856-498-9010

Furrever Friends Rescue -

856-845-8554

Save Animals Foundation -

856-582-3661