

Paw Prints

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SCFA meetings are held the first Tuesday of each quarter: January, April, July and October at the Senior Citizen Community Center.

The next meeting will be held 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6

President's Message

Ahhhh, 2004 - A whole new year of dreams, challenges, wishes, disappointments and victories. How we deal with each determines our future, but more importantly, the future of the animals at the Franklin Township Animal Shelter.

Five years ago, SCFA had a dream: a new shelter to improve the lives of the sometimes overwhelming number of animals at the shelter. It presented challenges, but we faced them head on and now, 5 years and countless Frank-



lin Township Council meetings later, that dream is almost a reality.

On December 18, 2003, the Township Council approved the 2004 capital budget, which includes nearly \$600,000 for a shelter expansion. Without the determination of SCFA and support from Katie and the shelter staff, we would not have come this far. Thank you to every volunteer who attended the meetings. Whether it was

one meeting or many, your presence was noticed and our voices heard.

The challenge is not over. The budget approval was only the first step. Next is the preparation and introduction of a bond ordinance by the bond attorney and then a public hearing and adoption of that bond ordinance. Then, bidding and finally construction can begin.

I urge each of you to come to the February 10th council
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The Loss of an Animal Friend is Never Easy

This column is dedicated to the memory of Phat Girl, a longtime shelter mascot who died on Oct. 8, 2003 at the age of 16 due to complications from diabetes. She was an independent and food-loving cat who gave joy to the shelter staff, visitors and volunteers. Because of her unique character, she inspired this column and has helped improve the lives of animals in shelters and those



lucky enough to find loving adoptive homes. This column will continue her mission to educate and entertain.

The loss of a pet is never an easy one. An unexpected loss

or having to face the decision of whether to humanely euthanize a family friend can make this experience even more painful. Unfortunately, as pet owners, we have to eventually deal with the loss of our animal companions, whatever the circumstances may be.

But there are some suggestions that can help make this
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Shake-A-Can

We can use your help for the following Shake-A-Can Events. People are needed for either shift 10 to 12:30 or 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Stop N Shop (Easton Ave., Somerset):

September 11 November 20

Stop N Shop (Rt. 27, Franklin Park)

April 3 August 28
November 13

Please contact Alicia Bottari at (732) 846-0311 to sign up.

\$15K Grant Received



Second Chance For Animals recently received a \$15,000 grant from PetsMart Charities for spay/neuter.

Carol Prevoznak's hard work in an arduous application process really paid off for the animals. Thank you Carol! The PetsMart management team's support also was instrumental to our receiving this grant.

With \$16,228 spent in 2003 to spay/neuter 353 animals in 2003, this money is greatly appreciated.

Help Needed For Gertrude Hawk

It's that time of year again – for chocolate, chocolate and more chocolate! And it's another chance to raise money for SCFA and the shelter animals.



tay at (732) 873-0853.

All orders money must be given to Joyce by Feb. 20.

Orders will be ready for pick up on March 20 at Lynn Lawson's parents' house.

We need your help!

To obtain catalogs, contact Joyce Co-

Any questions or to make arrangements regarding orders, contact Joyce Cotay.

Collection Cans Earn \$3,698

Thank you so much to the businesses whose support generated \$3,698 for SCFA.

Our top business owner is Skip Nelson, lifelong Franklin resident and owner of Nelson's Bar and Liquors on Easton Avenue for 27 years. He has rescued countless cats over the years, with many of them finding a loving home with him and his partner, Diana. We don't know how he managed to

collect so much money with his collection cans, but we suspect that Skip helps to fill them himself each night with those gold dollars that always turn up in his cans. However he does it, his store has single handedly made it possible for us to help countless shelter animals.

Thank you to our other top businesses (see Page 7) whose help has been valuable to our mission.

Santa Paws Raises Nearly \$2,000

Two big snowstorms during two weekends of Santa Paws weren't welcome, but we still were able to give 378 clients and their pets memorable photos with Santa.

More importantly, we were able to raise \$1,890 for the shelter animals.

Thank you so much to all the volunteers who made this possible: Amy Anderson, Chuck Augello,

Peter Call, Sarah Christiano, Amanda Crow, Alicia DeSordi, Eileen Ferreri, Jim Geis, Pam Glantz, Jessica Guglich, Gerry Harris, Barbara Heath, Jamie Hodge, Claire Hughes, Nancy Indri, Sharon Larson, Allison Li Calsi, Marianne Mason, Stacey Merz, Patrick Murray, Jennifer Peppe, Carol Prevoznak, Leo Prevoznak, Elizabeth O'Grady Richards, Kathy Rodenberg, Brenda Rutschi, Donna Urban-Aumack, Alane Vogel and Dan Vogel.

Volunteer Spotlight - Gerry Harris

Since November of 2000, Gerry Harris has been an active member of SCFA, but his fondness for animals is nothing new. His first encounter with a homeless animal began in the Piceance Basin in western Colorado, a place Gerry describes as "the middle of nowhere." While a student at Colorado State University, Gerry was doing fieldwork in vegetative sampling when he met a stray young German Shepherd in the Colorado town of Meeker. Gerry played with the dog, and though initially he did not think much about the dog's fate, he had enjoyed his time with the dog and had begun to worry that the dog might not have a home. During his next trip to Meeker he tried to find the dog, eventually visiting the Meeker animal shelter. "It was about the size of a utility shed and had a couple of small dog runs attached to it," Gerry recalled.

Although he never did find out what happened to that German



Shepherd, he decided to adopt a dog of his own. "They didn't have any German Shepherds, but they had a litter of Labrador puppies," Gerry said. "I chose the first one that came bounding up to me."

Gerry named her Jessica. You hear people talking about special dogs," Gerry said. "Jessica was one of them. She was far more adept at dealing with people than I was. It wasn't that she was always super friendly or playful; she just had a sense about people and how to act around them. She knew how to charm people."

When Jessica passed away from cancer, Gerry's grief was so intense he thought he would never adopt another dog, but
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Dues for 2004 are Due by January 31

Second Chance For Animals (SCFA) membership dues will increase to \$10.00, effective January 2004. These dues help SCFA defray the cost of insurance coverage. Therefore, to remain an active SCFA member and volunteer with Franklin Township Animal Shelter, we must receive your annual dues by January 31, 2004. Please mail to P.O. Box 5172, Somerset, NJ 08875.

SCFA Welcomes New Volunteers

We are pleased to welcome the following new volunteers who attended the October, November and January training seminars:

October

Amanda Crow
James Geis
Mark Rogasky

November

Kasia Bzdula
Julie Fowler
Jessica Guglich
Patricia McBride
Liesl Marelli
Diane Phillips
Jennifer Powers
Jaime Quigley

January

Elisabeth Alexander
Anne Bosch
Roslyn Cowan
Diane Nicole Hein
Ginger Hendricks
Lori Hover
Margot Hutchins
Susan Jordan
Jenny Ann Kershner
Judith Lord
Rachel Lyon
Krista Rogasky
Lori Sherman
Fred Voigt
Judy Werensky

The next general volunteer training session will be 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Sun., Feb. 8 at the library. If you would like to attend, please call Alicia Bottari at (732) 846-0311.

Remembering Special Friends

Second Chance For Animals gratefully acknowledges these gifts made in memory or in honor of a much-loved person or pet. We are honored to carry out our important mission in their names.

IN HONOR OF – (DONATED BY)

In Honor of
Phat Girl – Carol and Leo Prevoznak

Celebrating
Murphy and Julianna – Sandra Hallman

THANK YOU

SCFA would like to thank the following individuals for their generous donations (monetary and non monetary) to the organization:

Jack Dolan Plumbing & Heating (Buck-a-week club)

Katie's Korner

The shelter can use donations of the following items. Please contact Katie at (732) 873-2500 ext. 255 if you plan to drop off large donations at the shelter.



the shelter gets overrun with kittens, kittens – and more kittens. Many kittens are too small to be ready for adoption and need care. If you are interested in learning more about fos-

- ◆ Dry cat and kitten food
- ◆ Cat Toys
- ◆ Catnip
- ◆ Bleach
- ◆ Pine Sol
- ◆ Pigs Ears
- ◆ Large Dog Toys
- ◆ Q-Tips
- ◆ Paper Towels
- ◆ Sponges
- ◆ Frontline Flea Products

ter care or if you want to foster this year, please contact Katie at the shelter.

Maggie

Maggie is an 8-year-old Akita who came to the shelter recently. Maggie has mange, worms and has tested positive for heartworms and will begin treatment shortly.

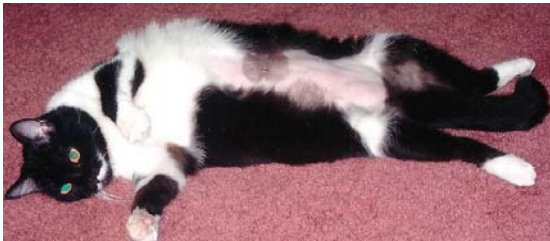
Maggie is adjusting well to the shelter environment. We will keep you posted on her progress.

Foster Care...

It's almost that time of year when

Happy Ending

Roseanne was left in a carrier outside the Franklin Shelter but now she lounges happily in her new home.



hurricane because she was adopted at that time.

She is now named Isabel, after the

Isabel's new family, which includes two boys and a black lab, Possum, says, "She's a great cat!"

Cat New Year's Resolutions –

- * I will not play "dead cat on the stairs" while people are trying to bring in groceries
- * Screaming at the can of food will not make it open itself

Adoption Statistics

Below are the adoption statistics from January through December 2003:

	<u>PetsMart</u>	<u>Shelter</u>
January:	9	22
February:	9	18
March:	8	20
April:	9	9
May:	10	24
June:	5	17
July:	20	26
August:	17	36
September:	19	21
October:	10	21
November:	17	24
December:	8	33
Total:	141	271

Saying Good-Bye



Sadly, the shelter staff and volunteers lost two wonderful residents in a short time. Audrey, a 10-year-old Rottie who greeted everyone with a "smile" and sometimes a bark, passed away peacefully on Jan. 12, 2004.

We will remember the joy and love Audrey and Phat Girl gave to their big, adoptive family.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP ANIMAL SHELTER

475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873
 Phone: (732) 873-2500 ext. 255
 Email: franklinShelter.475@juno.com
 Hours: M-F 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.;
 Sat. noon to 3 p.m.

SECOND CHANCE FOR ANIMALS

P.O. Box 5172, Somerset, NJ 08875
 Phone: 732-748-SCFA (7232)
 Email: scfa1998@aol.com
 Website: www.secondchanceforanimals.org

Local Vet Offers Tips on Pet First Aid

SCFA volunteers welcomed Dr. James Bacon of Cedar Lane Animal Clinic (1760 Easton Ave., Somerset) to the January general meeting. Bacon's tips, and a video from the HSUS, gave volunteers key information about keeping pets safe and what to do in an animal emergency.

Dr. Bacon warned against giving ibuprofen, aspirin or similar products to your pets without veterinary advice. "Things we don't always think about are toxic (to animals)," he said.

Dr. Bacon said in his practice, he used to see trauma injuries, mostly resulting from being hit by cars. He said today pet owners are being more careful and now his most common medical emergencies involve diarrhea or vomiting.

Other Resources:
www.avma.org
www.redcross.org (pet safety)
www.hsus.org
 24-Hour Poison Control Hotline:
 888-426-4435 (\$45 per case)

Here are some tips for pet owners from Dr. Bacon and a video from the HSUS:

- ◆ If your pet breaks a nail or you cut it too close, you can stop the bleeding by mixing flour and water into a paste and applying it to the nail.
- ◆ If wrapping a potentially frac-

Suggested Items for a Pet First Aid Kit:

- ◆ Muzzle
- ◆ Benadryl or antihistamine
- ◆ Peroxide
- ◆ Rectal Thermometer
- ◆ Tweezers
- ◆ Gauze Pads
- ◆ Instant Cold Pack
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Antibiotic Ointment
- ◆ Pet First Aid Book

tured leg, do not wrap the tape or bandage too tightly or circulation could be cut off. When applying tape to hold the bandage on, avoid taping on the fracture site.

- ◆ If your pet has an allergic reaction that causes the face to swell, remove his collar so his breathing is not constricted.
- ◆ If an animal is injured, make sure the scene is safe before administering first aid. You don't want to be injured in an attempt to help.
- ◆ Any injured animal, even your beloved pet, can bite or scratch. Before applying first aid, restrain your dog with a muzzle and wrap your cat in a towel.
- ◆ Apply flea and tick repellent to the appropriate pet. Do not apply dog repellents to your cat or vice versa. It can be toxic.

The two HSUS videos on pet first aid (for dogs and cats) were purchased by Chuck Augello. Thank you, Chuck. To borrow the tapes, contact Chuck.

We need help for the Health and Safety Day in Dunellen on May 8 from 10-3. Please call Alicia (732) 846-0311.

Animal Spotlight



My name is Charlie and I am a handsome and playful retriever mix who is 8 years young. I was a little timid when I first arrived at the shelter as a stray, but now I've learned to be more comfortable. I enjoy attention and petting. I would prefer an adult home that can provide me with moderate exercise.



My name is Goldie and I am a gorgeous kitty who was brought to the shelter because my owners were moving. I am 5 years old and I'm looking for a quiet, adult home as your only feline friend.

Pampered Chef

Two Pampered Chef Fundraisers earned \$491 for the shelter animals. A Pampered Chef sales drive netted \$134 and a Pampered Chef party raised \$200 (plus the Pampered Chef rep donated her commission of \$157!).

Thank you to volunteers Amy Anderson, Michelle Corbo, Jes Marusiak, Anna Miles and Mary Ann Vastino. Thank you also to Frances Graham and Melinda Koehler.

Coping with the Loss of a Pet (Continued)

difficult time more bearable:

- ◆ Hold a memorial service – being able to remember your pet and, more importantly, say good-bye with the support of understanding family and friends can be healing. It doesn't have to be fancy. It could simply be an informal gathering at the park where your dog loved to play or at your home.
- ◆ Write your feelings and memories – perhaps you'd like to honor your pet in a more private manner. Try writing your favorite memories or your feelings. Or perhaps write a poem honoring your pet or a letter to your pet to express your thoughts.
- ◆ Make a scrapbook – create a photo collage or scrapbook of photos and memorabilia belonging to your pet. You might want to include your journal writings.
- ◆ Create a memorial – a memorial to your pet could take many forms. Plant a tree and a memorial plaque in your yard. Or make a donation to an animal charity in your pet's name.

The International Association of Pet Cemeteries has designated the second Sunday of September as National Pet Memorial Day. Many pet cemeteries observe this day with ceremonies and open houses. For more information, call 800-952-5541.

If you would like more information

Dog New Year's Resolution – I will remember the garbage collector is not stealing our stuff.

on coping with the loss of a pet, check out the following websites:

- Petfinder – www.petfinder.com
- Pet Loss Grief Support – www.petloss.com
- Pet Loss Support Page – www.pet-loss.net/resources/NJ.html
- Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement – www.aplb.org

If you're still looking for information or feel you need more support, here are more resources:

Friends of Nikki (Somerset) - This support group meets every other Sunday 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Contact Donna at (732) 246-2124 or friendsofnikki@rcn.com

St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center (Madison) – Free group sessions are held the first and third Tuesday of the month 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Madison Shelter. Contact the professional counselors or arrange a private session - Ken Dolan-DelVecchil at (908) 918-1853 or Nancy Saxton-Lopez at (201) 447-1409.

Davison Counseling Center (Basking Ridge) – Director Deborah Antinori (908) 766-0110.

ASPCA Counseling Services – Director Stephanie LaFarge, PhD. can be reached at (212) 876-700 ext. 4355 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To contact her evenings or weekends, page her at (800) 946-4646 and enter pin number 140-7211 and then enter your phone number when you hear the beep. She'll call as soon as she can.

President's Message (Cont)

meeting for the public hearing and adoption of our bond ordinance. It is another chance for us to show the Township that we are determined in our fight for the animals.

The future of SCFA and the animals of the Franklin Township Animal Shelter depends on us – the volunteers. We, along with Katie and the shelter staff, help to create the dreams, face the challenges, and revel in the victories.

Renew your commitment to the animals and to SCFA. Share your dreams, hopes, and wishes with us...be a part of the future.

Calendar of Events

February

Feb. 10 - Council Meeting; 8 p.m.; Municipal Building

Feb. 17 - Fundraising Meeting; 7 p.m., Library

Feb. 20 - Gertrude Hawk Orders Due

March

March 16 - Fundraising Meeting; 7 p.m., Library

April

April 6 - SCFA General Meeting; 7 p.m., Senior/Community Center

April 20 - Fundraising Meeting; 7 p.m., Library

May

May 1-2 - May Adoptathon

May 18 - Fundraising Meeting; 7 p.m., Library

To find out when other committees hold meetings or upcoming events, check the calendar at www.secondchanceforanimals.org regularly.

Volunteer Spotlight (Continued)

eventually he adopted two dogs from the Idaho Falls Humane Society. Cooder (formal name: Mr. Cooder Sapperticker) is a 13-year-old collie and Mylitta (formerly Ms. Myles the Merciless) is a lab who, according to Gerry, is mixed with a Category 4 hurricane. While three knee surgeries and a hip problem have slowed Mylitta down to a tropical storm, she still loves to run and play. Fortunately, so does Gerry. He tries to run consistently to keep in shape, and while he has yet to do a full marathon, he has run several 35K (21 miles) races.

Gerry is completing his PhD in epidemiology (the study of diseases and populations) at UMDNJ and hopes to finish his dissertation this summer. He has a BS in Botany/Plant Ecology and a Master's Degree in Statistics.

Gerry's work involves studying the relationship between race, work and health in a cohort of older men. He also is researching ways to use GIS (Geographic Information Systems) technology to improve the evaluation and identification of cancer clusters.

Having grown up in a military family, Gerry moved around a lot with

his family and has lived in Texas, New York, Idaho, Massachusetts, Colorado and New Jersey. His favorite place to live was Colorado, and Gerry misses the outdoor activities that are so much a part of the Colorado lifestyle.

When Gerry started volunteering with SCFA, he worked exclusively with dogs, but since then Gerry has become a team leader as well. His work ethic and dedication to the animals was demonstrated during his time as a Leader-in-Training. Gerry came in on Thursday Socialization nights to work with President Nora Breen so he could become more comfortable with handling cats. Gerry also takes digital photographs of the shelter animals and has created an attractive album of available dogs and cats for the leaders to bring to PetsMart.

Gerry learned about SCFA through Volunteer Match on the Internet. "I enjoy working with the animals," Gerry said, "and the SCFA members are great, too."

Although Gerry has lived many places, one thing remains the same: his affection for animals and his willingness to help. SCFA is certainly glad to have him.

Checks for a Cause

Buy checks, labels and other products from www.messageproducts.com and help out a nonprofit organization. There are several animal, environmental and social organizations listed on the site.

By purchasing these products, you help raise awareness of participating organizations and a portion of your order will go to the organization of your choice.

Collection Can Businesses

Thank you also to our top local businesses for their support:

- Nelson's Bar and Liquors**
(Easton Ave., Somerset) — **\$899.37**
- Cedar Grove Liquors**
(Cedar Grove Lane, Somerset) — **\$290.49**
- Bagel & Deli**
(Easton Ave., Somerset) — **\$174.58**
- Pets Pets Pets**
(JFK Blvd., Somerset) — **\$160**
- Cafe 1**
(Executive Drive, Somerset) — **\$133.05**
- Bagel Express**
(Route 27, Franklin Park) — **\$121.63**
- Deli Stop,**
(Davidson Ave., Somerset) — **\$116**
- Buy Rite Liquors**
(Easton Ave., Somerset) — **\$108.56**
- Cafe Amici**
(New Brunswick Rd, Somerset) — **\$102.59**
- Pepperidge Farm,**
(Cedar Grove Lane, Somerset) — **\$97.15**
- Zee Best Bagels**
(Cedar Grove Lane, Somerset) — **\$97.07**

Imagine how many animals we could help with the support of more local businesses. Maybe your favorite deli? Or store? To help with collection cans, please contact Alicia Bottari at (732) 846-0311.

Spring Jewelry Fundraiser - just in time for Mothers Day. Thurs, April 15, 7 p.m. at the Senior Community Center, next to the shelter. Call Lynn Lawson (732) 271-1291 for more information.