

The Friends of Montgomery County Animals, Inc. is an all-volunteer, non-profit, tax-exempt humane organization. FMCA does not have a shelter. All rescued animals are in foster homes. We receive no government funding and are entirely dependent on private donations.

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Interested in sharing a heart-warming poem or article of interest to be included in our next newsletter? Contributions are welcome. Please mail your articles to FMCA, PO Box 386, Germantown, MD 20875.

Do you have friends or neighbors who you think might like to join Friends? Please feel free to share this newsletter with them. We would love to have them as new members!

**Don't forget to visit
our Friends website at
www.fmca.freeservers.com or
www.friendsofmontgomerycountyanimals.com**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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friends, family or neighbors to adopt or temporarily care for an animal. Despite the numbers of evicted pets turned over to shelters, "These days, a local animal shelter truly is your best resource and you should view your local animal shelter like any community service," says Stephen Zawistowski of ASPCA.⁶

For example, the SPCA of Central Florida will take evicted pets until placed with no give-up-fee. The Sacramento SPCA has developed an early-assistance program to help people keep their pets or make temporary-care arrangements before they reach out-of-options stage. The Pennsylvania SPCA is waiving foreclosure victim fees associated with its "good-home guarantee" program, which promises to keep the pet as long as it takes to find a new home. HSUS has created a \$15,000 seed fund that has now grown to \$80,000 to help shelters and rescue groups accommodate, in the short term, their local surge in homeless pets.

No Paws Left Behind is the brainchild of Cheryl Lang, president of a mortgage-default management company. She came face-to-face with abandoned animals and their heart-wrenching stories. She founded No Paws Left Behind to help foreclosure victims find shelter for their pets, provide monetary assistance to pet caregivers nationwide for veterinary bills or security deposits required by landlords, and generally "bring awareness to all communities of silent victims of foreclosure."⁷ In addition, they seek to change "outdated legislation which prevents the removal of pets from abandoned properties prior to the eviction process."⁸ To discuss a specific situation call 866-682-3001.

You can help! Particularly if you know or are a real estate agent! Canvas your home and work neighborhoods for abandoned (i.e., eviction) homes and check them for abandoned animals. Give a copy of this article to anyone you know in the realty or mortgage business or to a friend or work associate who can canvas their neighborhoods!

If you would like to help FMCA, send a donation or adopt Gatsby, a shy but very loving lap cat and head (or leg or arm) butter that gets along with other cats and children!

Sincerely,



Claire B.M. Proffitt

1. "Pets in Foreclosure" by Laura Daily/Source: AARP.org/December, 2008.
2. "Helping Foreclosed Pets" by Amilda Dymi, National Mortgage News Vol. 32/number 34, 7/17/08
3. "Foreclosure Victims Urged to Remember Pets When Relocating" HSUS 1/7/2008
4. "Abandoned Pets Bear Brunt of Foreclosure Crisis" by Erik J. Martin for Web.Vet
5. "Foreclosures Lead to Abandoned Animals" by Evelyn Nieves, Fox News.com January 29, 2008
6. "Pets in Foreclosure" by Laura Daily/Source:AARP.org/December, 2008.
7. "Helping Foreclosed Pets" by Amilda Dymi, National Mortgage News Vol. 32/number 34, 7/17/08
8. Ibid.