

U.S. Embassy Baghdad Kittens

Newborn kittens, Isis, Shivers and Rosco, were found by a sergeant on February 23, 2009, in an empty helmet box at the General Services warehouse on the US Embassy Baghdad compound. Thankfully, Carol Altstatt, who was working at the embassy, found out about the kittens.

Although the Embassy Baghdad's management does not allow any animals as pets and discourages the feeding and befriending of stray cats, Carol recruited four volunteers to help her care for the mom cat and



kittens. The kittens and their mom endured harsh conditions for the next three months. Dust storms (fine particles blew into every nook and cranny), alarms, sirens and at least ten mortar attacks occurred during their lives on the Embassy compound.

Carol had adopted a cat from FMCA and contacted Leigh Hughes to see if FMCA could possibly help with the three kittens if she could get them transported to the United States. FMCA agreed to take the kittens into foster care.

Carol contacted SPCA-International's Operation Baghdad Pups, and the kittens were placed on one of the last OBP flights of the season. On Sunday, May 24, 2009, Isis, Shivers and Rosco were transported to the Baghdad International Airport. Six hours later they were on a flight to Kuwait, and four days later on an international flight via Amsterdam to Washington, DC.

Upon their arrival at Dulles International Airport, Leigh Hughes and Kathy Schonely picked up the kittens and transported them to Leigh's home. After having time to recuperate from their flight and adjust to their new surroundings, Isis, Shivers and Rosco were given the necessary veterinary care, and in July they were available for adoption. Shivers and Rosco were adopted together at the end of July, and Isis found her forever home in August.

Hopefully, the kittens' mom and several other cats and/or kittens will also be fortunate enough to be transported to the United States by Operation Baghdad Pups this fall. Operation Baghdad Pups does not transport animals to or from the Middle East from June to October because it is too hot. Donations can be made through FMCA for future Operation Baghdad Pups transports.

Welcome!

FMCA's newest Board Member is Susan Cameron. Susan has been a member of FMCA for several years and is an avid animal lover.

Go Green – Protect Your Pet!

Ellie Croyder

Environmental toxins are everywhere – outdoors and in your home. These range from people pills, insecticides, rotting garbage, garden chemicals and cleaning products. Curious puppies, especially, are at risk. If your dog exhibits any of the following symptoms – sluggishness, drooling, vomiting or unsteadiness, don't take a chance, take him to your local vet emergency clinic or call the ASPCA Poison Control Hotline – 888-426-4435.

Fortunately, there are many ways that you can safeguard your pet. Keep medicine, garbage and chemical products, especially antifreeze, out of his reach. Dogs love "toilet water"! Do not use chemical sanitizers around the house. Use a mixture of vinegar and water or baking soda for cleaning, or purchase safe cleaning products at your local health food store. These products are natural and have not caused suffering in helpless lab animals – another reason to buy them.

Do not allow your dog to roam where he might be exposed to garden chemicals or to swim in water that might be polluted. Ask yourself, "Would I swim in it?" If the answer is "no", then he should not either.

You can also help your dog "Go Green" by feeding him wholesome, organic food that is free from hormones, antibiotics, pesticides, artificial ingredients, and animal by products. "Natural" doggie toys and beds are also available. You can also help Mother Nature by disposing of doggie waste in biodegradable bags or in a dog septic system.

Finally, if you are looking to buy a pet, please visit your local animal shelter. You will be saving a life! Sadly, in America alone, two to three million dogs and cats are euthanized every year. Every one of them is precious – not disposable! Lastly, have your pet neutered. You will be preventing more unwanted pets, and serving your community as well.

FOSTER HOMES NEEDED



*Interested in becoming
a foster home for
cats or dogs?*

For more information call
301-977-4833
or visit our website at
www.fmca.freeservers.com

