

# In Memoriam

## **In Memory Of Grover – A Tale Of Two Kitties**

*Claire B. M. Proffitt*

Seven years ago, FMCA and the MCSPCA joined to rescue cats and kittens from a gruesome cruelty situation in a Rockville area. I received two red tabby boys (brothers?); Elmo, a classic tabby with gold eyes whom now looks exactly like Garfield, and Grover, a striped tabby with green eyes. After being neutered, Grover tested positive for FIV (feline aids) and Elmo developed toxoplasmosis and tested positive for heartworm. Luckily, Dr. Daniel Negola had Elmo on the only antibiotic which could save his life, and he did not drop dead from heartworm!

Both cats were very afraid when they came to their foster home – no wonder! They had been chased by juvenile gangs and eaten birds and other food they found in garbage cans – hence the toxoplasmosis.

After six months, they had become calm enough and friendly enough to go to FMCA open houses and Pet Line 9. It became obvious that the minute “aids positive” was heard, everyone freaked out. So I adopted Elmo and Grover. They both flourished. They had their own room and roamed the house during the day. (My wing cats had the run of the house at night.) Luckily, their weak immune system was bolstered by Interferon A, and Elmo’s liver problems are controlled by additional medications.

Grover became the really outgoing lover of the pair. Elmo has always been more aloof but even he comes downstairs occasionally to interact at meetings and look out the front door. Grover became a “limited” lap cat with me and was always hungry for my attention. All FMCA board members and MCSPCA volunteers were greeted by Grover’s rubbing on their legs and purring very loudly!

Grover took Reyne’s place as the official “greeter” and many have told me how much they miss him. I miss him terribly – whenever I was on the second floor, he was front and center and our evening love and lap sessions will be forever remembered.

In late spring, Marco and I noticed Grover had shallow breathing. When I reached down to pat him before I took him to the vet, his beautiful green eyes said, “Mom, I hurt.” His chest cavity was filled with fluid – it was not FIP but the rupture of a lymph node probably due to a cancerous tumor or related to his FIV positive status. His breathing was so labored he was placed in ICU. I had no choice but to send him over “the rainbow bridge” at age 9.

Grover taught me many lessons – a very traumatized cat can become a lover, FIV is not a death sentence, good veterinary care with Interferon A and yearly teeth cleaning can prolong a life. Grover, I miss you terribly, as does your brother. You touched my life as no other permanent foster has and took another piece of my heart.

## **Dolores Schulz and Robert Priddy**

*Winnie Reed*

### *Dolores Schulz*

Dolores was a longtime, active supporter of FMCA. In the early years, she also modeled for us. I cannot remember an event that Dolores did not attend. Our Spring and Fall Luncheons are NOT the same without her and her guests.

I would like to thank the following people who sent donations to FMCA in memory of Dolores:

Mrs. Florence Burn  
Mr. Curtis L. Fichter  
Mrs. Marilyn Rose  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Tyler

### *Robert Priddy*

Bob was a member of FMCA since it started in the early 1970’s. Bob and his wife Carolee, Sue Ewald (who founded FMCA to help large animals because there were no groups to support them), and Tom and I all had children in the Seneca Valley Pony Club. The Priddy’s have helped and supported FMCA all these years.

I would like to thank all the people who sent in donations to FMCA in memory of Bob:

Dr. and Mrs. Chester Anderson  
Mary K. Blandford  
Joanne M. Connelly  
Mr. And Mrs. Gregory V. Cronin  
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart F. Crump  
Mr. Randall Erdley  
Mr. And Mrs. Frank R. Fisher  
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