



# Kennel Connection

See Page 3 For Adoptable Pets Available Now!

Vol. 1 Issue 3

Newsletter of Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center

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Gentle and affectionate, fearless, loyal, aggressive toward predators and protective of those most vulnerable. This is the Great Pyrenees, a supersized breed of dog that has worked alongside shepherds and ranchers for hundreds of years, protecting sheep and other livestock.

But a willingness to stand up to hungry wolves couldn't protect one local Great Pyrenees when his owner left him confined to a crate, without food or water, for what must have been several days.

On August 4th, 2014, Frederick County animal control officer Deborah Norris received a phone call from a woman who was concerned about her son's dog. "Officer Norris was familiar with the caller,

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dog, and owner from previous calls for service," explains Sergeant Dave Luckenbaugh, animal control officer supervisor at Frederick County Animal Control (FCAC). "The dog owner was said to have been admitted to the hospital for substance abuse-related issues, and there was no one to care for the dog."

During previous encounters, Officer Norris had always found the dog to be in good condition. But this time, the dog now known as Charlie was in trouble. "Strong odors from urine and feces were present, and the house was in complete disarray," says Sergeant Luckenbaugh.

When Officer Norris removed Charlie from the crate, she found that he was emaciated. He had pale

gums, which is indicative of dehydration; a matted coat; and overgrown toenails. "Due to the critical condition of the dog, 'Charlie' was impounded and immediately transported to a local veterinarian for evaluation and treatment," continues Sergeant Luckenbaugh.

As an adult male Great Pyrenees, Charlie should have weighed about 100 pounds; instead he weighed only 48 pounds. The vet confirmed that he was dehydrated as well as anemic. "The attending vet stated that this was an extreme case of neglect," says Sergeant Luckenbaugh. "Due to the seriousness of neglect in this case, no owner education or conditions for return were considered." But before

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## Crossing Paths



*If a black cat crosses your path, it signifies that the animal is going somewhere.*

—Groucho Marks

Yes Groucho, but do you know what it means if Dave Jordahl crosses your path? If you're a homeless cat, especially a photogenic black cat, such an event could be a particularly good omen.

First there was Nipper, a short-haired black cat Dave took in when her previous owner died, and Sally, a long-haired black cat he adopted from Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center (FCAC) after spotting her picture in the Sunday newspaper. He hadn't been looking for a black cat in particular, but Sally was gorgeous and friendly and, at 7 years old, was in the age range Dave thought would work best for him and for Nipper. Two years later, Nipper was diag-



nosed with a rapidly spreading cancer and had to be euthanized.

When he felt ready to move on, Dave started thinking about adopting a companion for the now "only child" Sally. He zeroed in on a cat at FCAC named Jasmine, who looked very much like Sally, though without the brown highlights, and had been waiting at the shelter for a few months. Just as he was preparing to adopt Jasmine, a friend told Dave



about a cat named Neeka—who also happens to be mostly black—who was in urgent need of a home. Her first owner had moved and had simply left the cat outside to fend for herself. A kind neighbor took her in but was told that she couldn't have a cat in her apartment and was given 30 days to get rid of Neeka.

When he heard about Neeka's abandonment and her new owner's plight, Dave came to the rescue. But

by now, he had invested considerable time and thought into Jasmine—he couldn't just leave her at the shelter. Besides, adds Dave, "I wanted to see if I could confuse friends and neighbors with two very similar looking cats."

Now, after a long work day and an impressive commute, all three cats greet him, each with her own distinct voice. Sally and Neeka sleep on or near Dave's bed at night, while Jasmine sleeps on a chair in the bedroom (or sometimes in the bathtub). Neeka and Jasmine follow him around during the day, supervising his projects in the house. "They all get some play time in," says Dave. "Even Sally, the old gal at 10, likes to play." And it's clear they miss him when he's out of town because when he comes home, "they have what appears to be a complaining tone in their meows."

# Letter from the Director

by Linda Shea

**R**abies is serious business. The deadly disease is caused by a virus that is transmitted when an animal bites, scratches, or otherwise shares saliva with another individual. Because rabies can be transmitted to humans and to pets such as dogs, cats, and ferrets, it is important to comply with the law (Maryland State Law 10.06.02.10) and ensure that your pets are up to date on their rabies vaccinations.

Bats are beneficial to humans in that they eat insects, and most bats are not rabid. However, bats can transmit rabies and do occasionally enter human residences, increasing the risk for transmission between bats and humans or between bats and pets. If you find a bat in your home, whether dead or alive, please call us—Frederick County Animal Control—to collect and test the animal for possible rabies virus. In fact, if you see *any* animal—especially common rabies vector species, such as raccoons, skunks, bats, or cats—that is behaving oddly or in an obviously sick manner, please call us. A rabid animal might display the stereotypical symptoms of foaming at the mouth or aggression, but it could, instead, be lethargic or display neurologic abnormalities; rabid wildlife may seem unusually tame.

Last year, we tested 111 animals for possible rabies; 35 of these animals tested positive for rabies. As of July 17th this year, 20 animals have tested positive for rabies in Frederick County.

In addition to being responsive to potential rabies situations, the shelter is proactive in addressing this health risk by hosting two low-cost rabies clinics each year. Our next clinic is Sunday, October 11th, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. No appointment is needed, but we ask that dogs be on leashes and cats in carriers. For more information, give us a call at 301-600-1546.

Thank you in advance for complying with the law to ensure public health and safety.

■ Linda Shea is Director, Frederick County Animal Control.

## Shelter Stats at a Glance

From FY2014 to FY2015, the community made great progress in animal welfare:

- 6% increase in adoptions
- 10% increase in rescues
- 1% increase in stray animals returned to their owners
- 7% decrease in intake
- 20% decrease in euthanasia

## Frederick County Animal Shelter & Pet Adoption Center

1832 Rosemont Avenue, Frederick, MD 21702 • 301-600-1546  
<http://frederickcountymd.gov/15/Animal-Control>

### Frederick County Animal Control Supervisory Team

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## Talk to Us: News from the CAWAC

by Doree Lynn Miles

The mission of the Companion Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (CAWAC) is to ensure that County programs and policies adequately address the welfare of companion animals. To do this, we need to hear from Frederick County residents who have concerns, comments, or questions regarding the shelter and other companion animal welfare issues.

The CAWAC meets at least once each quarter, on the second Monday of March, June, September, and December. Our next meeting is September 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the Frederick County Animal Shelter, 1832 Rosemont Avenue, in Frederick. All meetings are open to the public, and we encourage citizens to attend. If you would like to ask questions or provide input but are unable to attend a CAWAC meeting, you may contact us via email: [cawac.info@gmail.com](mailto:cawac.info@gmail.com). **We want to hear from you!**

■ Doree Lynn Miles is chair of CAWAC and proud momma to FCAC alumni, Chloe and Guinness.

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FCAC could guarantee Charlie a happily ever after, we had to complete our investigation, and the case had to go to court.

During his time in FCAC's care, Charlie doubled in weight. Volunteers eager to give him the affection he deserved were in abundant supply. And many people expressed interest in adopting the handsome dog who'd been through so much. Among his admirers were Sandy and Dan Brock. They already had two dogs and hadn't been looking for another, but when they came across Charlie on the internet, says Sandy, "we both decided we had room for another pet."

When they first met Charlie at FCAC, continues Sandy, "he was very shy and so skinny you could feel his ribs." The Brocks were ready to adopt Charlie, but because the dog's owner refused to relinquish ownership, they had to wait about three months.

"At the conclusion of the investigation," Sergeant Luckenbaugh notes, "the dog owner was charged with five misdemeanor, criminal counts of cruelty to animals under the Annotated Code of Maryland

10-604." In early December 2014, the man was found guilty of all five counts of cruelty to animals; finally, Charlie became the property of FCAC and was available for adoption.

On December 27th, 2014, Sandy and Dan took Charlie home. The big dog needed time to come out of his shell, so the Brocks kept him in their bedroom at first. It took several weeks for Charlie to feel comfortable enough to bark and several months for him to feel comfortable with the family's other dogs—7-year-old English bulldog Brandy and 1-year-old Great Pyrenees Bear.

Finally, Charlie's personality is coming out. "Now," says Sandy, "his bark is the loudest in the house!" He gets along with the other dogs and loves to go outside. "Charlie is a great dog," says Sandy. "We are happy we were able to adopt Charlie and give him a good home that he deserves."

Cruelty to animals takes many forms. The individual responsible may be struggling to deal with his or her own health, psychological, or financial issues. In many cases, such as Charlie's, the animal's life may depend on whether someone close to the situation—a friend, a neighbor, or a family member—is brave enough to speak up.

# It's the Law

by Felcia Langel, DVM



In a boost to animal protection laws nationwide, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) recently listed animal cruelty as a "Group A" offense and now considers it a "crime against society." Previously, animal cruelty was classified in an "all other offenses" category along with a variety of lesser crimes, making it difficult to find, count, and track cruelty.

Like murder, arson, and assault, animal cruelty now has its own category in the FBI crime database, known as the National Incident-Based Reporting System, or NIBRS. Beginning in 2016, law enforcement agencies will have to report incidents and arrests in four areas: simple or gross neglect; intentional abuse and torture; organized abuse, including dog-fighting and cockfighting; and animal sexual abuse.

Animal cruelty is an early indicator of violent crime. Young people who torture and kill animals are more likely than others to commit violence against people as adults. Particularly egregious examples are detailed in FBI studies of serial killers such as Albert DeSalvo, aka the "Boston Strangler," who, as a child, trapped cats and dogs in wooden crates and killed them by shooting arrows through the boxes. Tracking animal cruelty statistics in NIBRS will allow police and counselors to learn where and to what extent animal cruelty is occurring, which will enable law enforcement agencies, community groups, and animal welfare organizations to better target efforts to prevent animal cruelty and other violent crimes.

The new classification of animal cruelty as a Group A offense has the added benefit of elevating crimes against animals in the eyes

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## Featured Shelter Pets



View all of our adoptable pets on Petfinder ([www.frederick.petfinder.com](http://www.frederick.petfinder.com)) or Petango ([www.petango.com/fcac](http://www.petango.com/fcac)). Or stop by for a visit—you never know, you might just find true love!



### ZEUS AND HERCULES

Hello. I'm Zeus in the dapper grey and white. The big guy is my bodyguard Hercules. Before we got to the shelter, we were living on the streets—dodging dangerous cars, chasing suspicious cats, testing the wind for trouble. What were we doing out there, and why are we microchipped yet untraceable? Unfortunately, that story is classified, so we can't reveal it here. Adopt us, love us, promise to keep us forever, provide squeaky toys, and we may decide that you have a "need to know."



### CECIL

Hi! Name's Cecil. I had a family once. They gave me lots of food (yay!), but not much playtime outside my cage (boo!). So I got kind of hefty. Anyway, one day they took me for a car ride and I ended up at the shelter—I'm not sure why. I'm doing ok here, eating healthy food, getting lots of attention from the humans. But it sure will be nice to have a loving family of my own someday. And hey, if you need a diet buddy, I'm your guy!



### GIGI

Hi there! Gigi here. I've been at the shelter for quite a while, and you know, it's not too bad. I've gotten to sit on lots of laps and have shown all the people here how much I love petting and attention from humans of all ages. I've even had a chance to get to know one of my fellow felines in the Kitty Kabana. While I've been here, several of my neighbors have left; word is, they've been adopted. I bet it'll be my turn soon, and I'm so excited! I had a home once before, so I know how wonderful it feels to be part of a family. Just thinking about it makes me purrrrr.



### MOCHA

Howdy. My name is Mocha. I was adopted from the shelter as a kitten, but then my family had to move, and I guess they couldn't take me with them. People here tell me I'm sure to find my forever home this time around. It's taking a while though, probably because I'm surrounded by adorable kittens. I was one of those little balls of fluff not too long ago. Back then I didn't know what a family was. Now I've had a taste of family life, and I miss it. I hang back in my cage, sometimes hiding under my bed. But if you ask one of the humans here to open my cage door, I'll come right over and you'll see I'm as nice as any of those kittens! Anyway, I can be patient if it means I'll find that perfect someone—the person who will love me forever and promise never to leave me behind.





## Dear Tabby: Advice for Pets and Their People

### Kids beg for puppy, then don't help with care

Dear Tabby,

The kids are back in school and Maisy, the puppy our kids begged us to adopt this summer, is having trouble adjusting to time alone. So far she's eaten a shoe and a video game controller and she's been knocking over the trash can. When the kids come home from school, they let her out but they don't play with her enough and I think she's lonely. How do people with full-time jobs raise puppies?

—*Regret Impulse Adopting*

Dear Regret,

Ah, the puppy and the kids who promised to take care of her but don't. Classic! Happens with kittens too—I can tell you that from personal experience. Although I dare say, we cats generally deal with it a bit better than dogs.

I'll let you in on a little secret: Raising a puppy is hard work whether or not you have a full-time job. But don't worry. All you really need is a plan. A plan and some cat-like cunning.

#### Plan A. Help out or face the consequences

**Situation:** The kids don't want to walk Maisy. Response: Say, "Ok, you guys put the groceries away and chop vegetables for dinner while I walk the dog. Oh, and if you don't do that, then we'll have to eat leftovers—you know, that casserole from last night that you hated?" Then you enjoy a nice evening stroll with your faithful companion.

**Situation:** Maisy is practically bouncing off the walls, but the kids don't feel like playing with her. Response: Say, "Ok, I'll play with Maisy out back, but that means you guys will have to do your own laundry so you have something to wear tomorrow." If you come in after a stress-busting session of zoomy dog and your kids haven't done what you asked, then their laundry won't get done and they'll have to wear something *totally uncool* the next day.

The kids can choose: They can walk and play with Maisy—which is supposed to be fun, right?—or they can take over some of the household chores that you would normally do. Yes, you'll have to deal with some whining over that Casserole à la Yuck. But isn't this the kind of life lesson you wanted them to learn when you agreed

to adopt that little bundle of canine energy?

You might think that giving Maisy away would punish the kids for not stepping up. That *would* punish Maisy—and you, what with the guilt you'll feel—but the effect on your kids will probably be temporary at best. They'll have managed to get out of the responsibility of owning a dog just by refusing to do the work. As a cat, I have to respect that—I mean, have you ever seen a feline work? But you humans with your silly *work ethic* (now there's an oxymoron!) might worry your kids will learn that quitting is easier ... am I right?

#### Plan B. Take your pup with you

This strategy should work even if your kids aren't old enough to do laundry without causing an unnatural (and very soapy) disaster: Include your pup in some of your daily activities. Can you bring her with you to your daughter's soccer game? Maybe work on her obedience skills while you're watching. Can she go with you when you take your son to the park? It may take time, but she will learn to just chill while he swings, especially if you give her lots of praise (and the treats you remembered to put in your pocket) when she lies down quietly. Soon you'll start thinking of more and more ways to include her when you're out and about in those precious few hours when you're not at work (or commuting) or asleep. You might even find a way to take her to work with you, especially if your job involves a lot of time driving or working outdoors.

#### Plan C. Exercise for body and mind

The key to a well-behaved pup is to be sure she gets enough exercise that she'll sleep while you're away. This may mean getting up early for a run or a long walk, hiring a midday dog walker, or even finding a doggie daycare. Use food puzzle toys to stimulate her mind—put her breakfast in a treat-dispensing toy just as you head out the door in the morning and she'll busy herself with that rather than deconstructing your shoes. Crating Maisy while she's home alone—or just confining her to a single puppy-proof room—can help keep her (and your belongings) safe while you're away during the day. Don't know how to crate train a dog? Just ask us! Finally, remember that any dog would benefit from an obedience class (call the shelter for a list of local trainers).

■ *Tabby Cat van Purrin is ready to pounce on your pet behavior problems! If you need help, contact the shelter's humane educator (and my translator), Didi Culp (dculp@frederickcountymd.gov, 301-600-1735).*

## LAW

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of judges, prosecutors, and legislators. The cruelty statistics will demonstrate to state and local officials that they have no choice but to acknowledge the seriousness of animal cruelty and that, if not properly dealt with, such crimes can lead to greater violence within their communities. As such, this new classification should lead to more appropriate sentences and plea bargains and should, ultimately, add more

clout to animal cruelty laws in all 50 states.

According to the FBI, the definition of animal cruelty will be "intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly taking an action that mistreats or kills any animal without just cause, such as torturing, tormenting, mutilation, maiming, poisoning, or abandonment." Neglect is included in this definition, described as a failure to "provide care, e.g., shelter, food, water, [or] care if sick or injured," as is "transporting or confining an animal in a manner likely to cause injury or death; causing an animal to fight with another; [or] inflicting excessive or repeated

unnecessary pain or suffering, e.g., [the use of] objects to beat or injure an animal." The definition excludes "proper maintenance of animals for show or sport; use of animals for food; or lawful hunting, fishing, or trapping."

If you see or suspect animal cruelty, report it to Frederick County Animal Control (301-600-1544 or 301-600-2558 after hours) or dial 911. You may choose to report animal cruelty anonymously, though doing so may hinder the investigation. You may also submit complaints related to animal cruelty online: <http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/requesttracker.aspx>.