



# Kennel Connection

See Page 3 For Adoptable Pets Available Now!

Vol. 1 Issue 2

Newsletter of Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center

Summer 2015

## There's No Place Like a Forever Home

Thinking of adopting a puppy? Awww, I bet he'll be cute. And who does goofy better than a puppy? Of course, the little guy will need to be house trained. And he'll probably chew up a few shoes ... and maybe your furniture. But that's ok, it'll be totally worth it, right?

If you're thinking, "Er, not so much," then maybe an adult dog would be a better match for you.

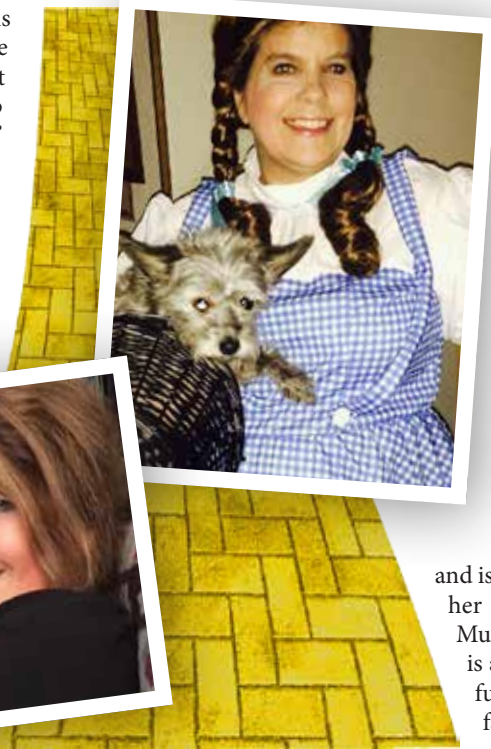
Cindee Miller is one of many people who actually prefer to adopt *older* adult dogs (as in 6 years and up). This isn't only about "doing the right thing;" it can also be, at least in some ways, a nicer experience for the adopter.

"Older dogs bond very well because they recognize that you gave them another chance," Cindee explains. And, of course, older dogs usually have been house trained and are past the "chew-up-everything-in-sight phase."

Last December, Cindee adopted Dusty, a 7-year-old terrier, from Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center.

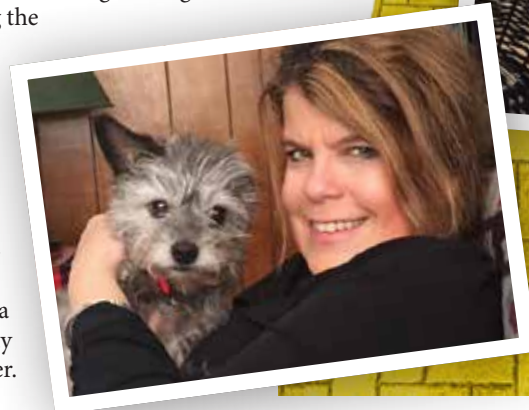
When she first saw him, his hair covered his eyes and he was clearly frightened. "But then he jumped into my lap and started licking my face," says Cindee. "I lifted up his long hair and looked into his eyes and I knew I wanted him."

Thanks to Cindee's knowledge about proper dog-to-dog introduc-



tions, Dusty's integration into Cindee's existing "pack" of two dogs went quite smoothly. He even shares Cindee's lap with one of his feline siblings.

To begin his new life, Cindee gave her pup a new name: yep, you guessed it, Toto. Already, Toto has joined Cindee in performing singing telegrams and is now the mascot for her company, Nilson Music Company. "He is a joy and a wonderful addition to our family," says Cindee.



## Picture This



Ever notice how beautiful and professional our shelter pets' photos are? We don't mean to brag, but we think you'll agree that their fabulousity is off the charts! As a window into the soul of a homeless pet, each picture helps us get to know the animal as an individual and imagine it becoming a member of our own family.

You may be surprised to learn that our photographer is a volunteer. That's right. Mary Bernard has been devoting her time and considerable talent to the shelter since 1999.

Though she'd previously learned "people" photography, Mary found that animal photography requires a completely different approach. "It was, and remains, an evolving learning process," she explains. Mary is quick to point out that each photo session is a team effort: "I can't

do my work without other volunteers to help handle the animals for me, and I must also have close support from the staff!"

Are you inspired yet? If you can volunteer an hour here and there at the shelter or a rescue organization, you'll be making a difference for homeless animals. As Mary notes, "if you walk the dogs or socialize with the cats or small animals, you have given them relief and hope" while they wait to be adopted. "Fostering, dog walking, cleaning, writing, planning functions ... whatever you do helps bring each animal closer to the happy ending we all work for.

"The important thing to realize," Mary continues, "is that we each have our own particular gifts, and when we join all of our gifts toward a common goal, great things can and have been done."

Don't miss an issue! To have the electronic version of this newsletter delivered to your inbox each quarter, email Shawn Snyder ([ssnyder@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:ssnyder@frederickcountymd.gov)).

# Letter from the Director

by Linda Shea

As an open-admission shelter, Frederick County Division of Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center is the recipient of various species, ranging from hamsters to Havanese, from Bengals to beagles, from parakeets to plecostomus.

Among our population, inevitably we have seniors who capture our hearts. We imagine their lives prior to arriving here—as treasured puppies and kittens whose family members valued the opportunity to play with and care for them. We envision the years these animals spent with a loving family, picture their tolerance as priorities shifted and the novelty of their existence wore off, then see their acceptance as they are brought to the shelter. This common scenario is hard to witness—the animals often express an unconditional, seemingly unreciprocated loyalty for their humans—but it is, unfortunately, a reality in animal sheltering.

Adopting a senior pet has a number of benefits. Although they may require more veterinary care, they tend to be established in their personality and behavior patterns. They may be less active than younger pets, making them more appealing to less active families.

Like beauty, adoptability is in the eye of the beholder. We consider our senior animals to be both beautiful and adoptable, and we applaud adopters who are willing to open their hearts and homes to our older pets.

■ Linda Shea is Director, Frederick County Animal Control.

## Shelter Stats at a Glance (March–May 2015)

<b>1,112:</b>	Number of animals taken in by shelter
<b>347:</b>	Number of animals adopted or taken by rescue groups
<b>166:</b>	Number of stray animals returned to owners

**Our Mission:** To prevent cruelty, abuse, and neglect of animals in Frederick County by enforcing all state, county, and city ordinances to the fullest extent possible. We will shelter homeless animals and attempt to place them in safe and loving home environments. We will educate the public on all animal issues to foster a more aware and caring community.

## 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

Linda Shea, *Director*

SGT Dave Luckenbaugh, *Animal Control Officer Supervisor*

Didi Culp, *Humane Educator*

Shawn Snyder, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Kelly Spurrier, *Office Manager*

Dr. Sharon Thomas, *Shelter Veterinarian*

### Newsletter Volunteers

Bette Stallman Brown, *Editor*

Mina Forsythe Rempé, *Graphic Designer*



## Dear Tabby: Advice for Pets and Their People

### Cat Shuns Box, Targets Rug

Dear Tabby,

My cat, Lennie, has always been good about using the litter box. But lately, he's been peeing on our living room rug. I don't know what to do. I keep his litter box spotless and I always use his favorite litter. Please help!

—Losing Patience in Whittier

Dear Patience,

Thinking outside the box is one thing, but peeing outside of it just won't do! I'm glad to see you already know the litter box attributes important to the feline set—cleanliness and consistency.

Let's start by making sure Lennie isn't suffering from any medical causes of pain (like a bladder infection, which can be deadly to boy cats) or anxiety (like hearing or vision loss). Loath though I am to admit it, we cats have a tendency to blame the litter box for discomfort experienced while—ahem—eliminating.

If the doc gives Lennie a clean bill of health, then let's take another whiff of that litter box. Sure it smells clean to you. But let's face it: you humans are olfactorily challenged. To Lennie, the box probably smells like an outhouse. Try replacing the litter box with not one but *two* new ones: (1) the same type of box, with the same litter, in the same location, and (2) a different type of box, with a different litter, in a new location. Restrict him to certain rooms (that include the boxes) until he's back to normal.

If that doesn't solve the problem, it could be anxiety. Consider any recent changes, such as new pets, human guests, or the possibility of a stray cat outside. Offer Lennie more control by giving him new perches and hiding places, or by moving him to an area of the house from which other pets are restricted. Try calming him with synthetic cat pheromones. Or find time every day to sit quietly with him while you read—when you relax, he'll relax.

I'm glad you're asking for help. I can't tell you how many people relinquish their cats to the shelter with "litter box problem" listed as the reason. With that on your record, it's hard to convince a new family to give you a second chance. So purrs to you for working with your furry family member to solve this problem!

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



# Talk to Us: News from the CAWAC

by Doree Lynn Miles

**Attention local businesses!** Show your support for shelter animals by displaying a Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center (FCAC) poster in your lobby or front window. Each poster features a high-resolution photo printed on poster board and laminated for durability. To order your FCAC display poster, email Doree Lynn Miles, Chair of the Companion Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (CAWAC), at [cawac.info@gmail.com](mailto:cawac.info@gmail.com). Donations are welcome, but not required, to offset printing costs.



**Attention Frederick County residents!** Contact the CAWAC with any concerns or questions about companion animal welfare. Email us at [cawac.info@gmail.com](mailto:cawac.info@gmail.com) or attend a meeting (go to [frederickcountymd.gov/2261/Companion-Animal-Welfare-Advisory-Commit](http://frederickcountymd.gov/2261/Companion-Animal-Welfare-Advisory-Commit)).

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



## 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!



**SISSY & BEAU**

**Approx. ages:** 11 & 14 years  
**Occupation:** Security guards (semi-retired)  
**Hobbies:** Playing; competing (nicely) for our human's love  
**Seeking:** A loving family that will welcome us both and not hesitate to spoil us in our golden years  
**Have waited at the shelter for:** 7 weeks



**ARIANNA**

**Approx. age:** 2 years  
**Occupation:** Tennis ball exterminator  
**Skills/hobbies:** Giving kisses; walking nicely on a leash; pursuing tennis balls  
**Seeking:** A loving forever home; and tennis balls  
**Have waited at the shelter for:** 3 months



**SNICKERS**

**Approx. age:** 2 years  
**Attributes:** Extremely pettable; friendly with kids and adults  
**Interests:** Long petting sessions; sleeping on my human's bed  
**Seeking:** Someone who will love me and keep me safe; a family that wants only one cat—me!  
**Have waited at the shelter for:** 5 weeks



**KATYE KAT**

**Approx. age:** 6 years  
**Skills:** Playing, once I get to know you a little  
**Interests:** Sleeping under your bed, where I feel safe; enjoying a good head rub  
**Seeking:** A family that will love me enough never to leave me behind  
**Have waited at the shelter for:** 2 months



**BUGATTI**

**Approx. age:** 2 years  
**Interests:** Ear rubs; playing with my human  
**Hobbies:** Exploring; entertaining my family  
**Seeking:** A loving human who will pet me a lot (love it!) but won't try to pick me up too much (scary!)  
**Have waited at the shelter for:** 2 months



**IT'S KITTEN SEASON!**

**Approx. ages:** Young!  
**Occupation:** Professional cuties  
**Hobbies:** Pouncing, batting, racing around for no apparent reason  
**Seeking:** A forever home; someone who will play with us each day until we collapse in purring balls of fluff



# Reading, Rabbit, and Arithmetic

Pop quiz: What was the first thing the Velveteen Rabbit did after he became Real and realized he had hind legs? Author Margery Williams described his dance moves using words like *jumping sideways*, and *whirling around*. But those in the know call it *binking*. The leap with a twist. The rabbitian jump for joy.

Before Cinnabun came into her life, teacher Colleen Street never would have imagined that a rabbit could employ such an unmistakable expression of happiness or that she would join that select group of individuals who regularly use terms like binking—with confidence, if not with a straight face.

It started about 3 years ago, when Colleen's 2nd-grade students at the Trinity School of Frederick read a newspaper story about rabbits at the shelter who needed homes. The kids were determined to help. Before long, they and Colleen had received permission from the head of the school and their parents to



adopt a rabbit for the classroom.

Keeping a rabbit as a classroom pet often isn't advisable. Rabbits are easily stressed (think shrieking preschoolers) and easily injured. But Colleen and her students have made it work, and Cinnabun is thriving.

When he sees one of the people he knows best, Cinnabun puts his paws up on the side of

his cage, practically wagging his tail. When he's out of his cage, he'll approach children for petting and play. And during storytime, Cinnabun goes into ultra relaxed rabbit mode: stretched out on his back, feet in the air.

Of course, he's not fond of every subject. Math, for example, always puts him to sleep. But he may just be bored. After all, Colleen notes, "he's a rabbit; he already knows how to multiply."

This past year, Colleen's 3rd and 4th graders impressed her by taking more responsibility for Cinnabun's care, even the daily cage cleaning. And, with Cinnabun as inspiration, 2nd graders at the school annually collect and donate needed items to the shelter to help homeless animals.

As for Colleen, she's clearly devoted to Cinnabun. "He's a once-in-a-lifetime bunny," she says, and you can hear the smile in her voice.



## RESPONSIBLE REHOMING

by Felicia Langel, DVM

On May 27, 2015, in North Charleston, SC, a 15-month-old Staffordshire terrier mix named Caitlyn was found with black electrical tape wound tightly around her muzzle, her tongue caught between her teeth. When doctors removed the tape, her muzzle swelled to double its normal size. She may need surgery, and she could lose her life.

"This is the most malicious case of animal abuse I have seen in my entire career," wrote the Charleston Animal Society's Director.

Caitlyn's previous owners contacted the authorities with information on the man who'd bought their dog 2 days earlier. According to the couple, the dog was a rambunctious puppy who was destructive in their home. They couldn't give Caitlyn the time and training she needed and were afraid they might be evicted. They sold her for \$10 on Memorial Day. They say it's one of the biggest mistakes they've ever made.

If you are unable to keep your pet, you can take steps to prevent this type of tragedy and ensure that

your pet finds the loving forever home it deserves.

First, consider whether you could keep your pet if you had a little help. Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center (FCAC) has resources such as a pet food bank, useful advice for solving behavioral issues, and information on programs that can assist with veterinary costs.

If you must rehome your pet, decide whether to contact a rescue group, search for a loving forever home on your own, or bring your pet to FCAC. If you choose to contact a rescue group, make certain that it is reputable and not a cover for illegal animal trading (see "Rescue Me," *Kennel Connection*, vol. 1, issue 1).

If you decide to try to find your pet a forever home yourself, first do what you can to prepare your pet for adoption. Have it spayed or neutered, update its vaccines, obtain a copy of your pet's veteri-



Felicia Langel, DVM

nary records, bathe your pet or have it groomed, and take several flattering pictures.

Advertise your pet through your network of family, friends, trusted neighbors and coworkers, and your veterinary clinic. Provide a photo and a detailed description, including any health or behavioral issues. Also, state your adoption fee. A fee may discourage abusers from considering your pet; and, as long as it's a reasonable fee, it won't deter legitimate adopters. *Never* give your pet away "free to a good home."

Screen applicants with a telephone interview. Questions could include: Why are you interested in my pet? Can you have pets where you live? Where will the pet sleep and how long will it be left alone during the day? Who is your veterinarian? Can I visit your home? Can you provide references? If you're satisfied with the applicant's answers, arrange a meet and greet in a neutral public place. The appli-

cant should bring along all family members, including other pets. Observe how the potential adopters interact with your pet. Trust your instincts. If you are not completely sure that you've found the right match for your pet, *keep looking*. If your situation is such that you can't keep looking, it's time to get in touch with FCAC or a rescue organization.

If you find the right match for your pet, have the adopter sign an adoption agreement that includes his/her contact information, the adoption fee, transfer of ownership, and a stipulation that if the adopter can no longer keep the pet, you will be notified. Provide the new owner with the pet's veterinary records, toys/beds, medications, and food.

Above all, remember to take advantage of the resources available to you through FCAC. If you need help, just ask.

■ Felicia Langel, DVM, is Lieutenant Colonel, US Army Veterinary Corps, and secretary of Frederick County's Companion Animal Welfare Advisory Committee