



# Kennel Connection

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Vol. 2 Issue 2

Newsletter of Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center

Summer 2016

## Road Dogs



Picking up stray dogs is nothing new for animal control officers (ACOs). But on a single cold night in February 2009, Frederick County's ACOs, responding to a call in the wee hours of the morning, collected 32 small dogs who'd been dumped and left to fend for themselves on the streets of Walkersville. One dog was killed by a car before ACOs arrived.

Days later, based on information learned during the investigation of this case of dog abandonment, ACOs discovered an additional 76 toy breed dogs and puppies at a Thurmont residence. When the caretaker relinquished those dogs to Frederick County Animal Control, the shelter was bursting at the seams.

Once the pups were ready to find their forever homes, dog lovers lined up outside the shelter, eager to meet the abandoned dogs. Among these kind-hearted folks, Patricia Fogle waited; she knew she could give one of these neglected dogs the love and stability it had

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## Marty's Match

When a small black kitten turned up at the shelter all by himself, fearful and unsure of his surroundings, foster care provider Melinda Herndon knew he was special. Spooky, as he was known at the time, required extra handling during his time in foster care to help him learn to trust humans.

Lured by shelter kitten photos online, the Bankert family—who'd recently lost the second of their two shelter kitties—visited the shelter one evening last December. That was the day they met Spooky, who was to become Marty. "Our son



Nate was the first one to notice Marty," says Debbie Bankert. "When Nate asked if he could hold him, Marty held onto Nate like a baby and purred. That was it! We saw how happy Nate was with Marty, and we knew he was for us."

Melinda remembers how gently the Bankerts' sons held the kitten at the shelter. "These young men held him so perfectly and made him feel so secure," says Melinda. "These guys were amazing, and their parents were equally wonderful." Clearly, a match of the type we wish for every pet had been made that evening.

In his forever home, Marty loves to be held, especially when family members first come home, and seems to always want to be with his humans. "He is such a sweet little kitty," says Debbie. "He likes helping Nate with his home-

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# Director's Letter:

## Balancing Law and Compassion

by Linda Shea

Working at an animal shelter—especially *our* shelter—is a unique and rewarding experience. We love animals and walk in every day to fur, feathers, and sometimes even hooves. Though many times it doesn't even feel like work, reflecting at the end of each day produces thoughts of cleaning cages, feeding animals, changing litterboxes, non-stop laundry, and washing dishes piled high from 100–200 residents. In addition, of course, working with animals inevitably means working with people throughout the community.

On a routine basis, we explain our role in the community—to enforce existing laws and ordinances. It is not our place to modify the law. Nor do we exaggerate intent, extrapolate facts, or arrive at a decision without evaluating situations in a fair manner. For example, we can ensure that a pet owner is providing “nutritious food in sufficient quantity for the species, breed, and condition of the animal.” However, we cannot mandate which brand of food to buy.

We do our best to be effective as we balance law and compassion, especially considering that some pet owners simply do not know the law. Sometimes we run into disagreement with citizens who want to see more done; even some who broach vigilantism. We take those opportunities to educate and reassure people that we are on the same page—but we approach every situation thoughtfully, thoroughly, with decades of experience, and in compliance with existing laws and ordinances.

Our mission at Frederick County Animal Control includes preventing the mistreatment of animals, sheltering animals in need, rehoming pets, and educating the public. Though our mission revolves around animals, our successes often revolve around people. We try every day to build relationships with pet owners, volunteers, and people in the community who are also animal welfare-minded. We appreciate the opportunity to serve our community, and we appreciate those who understand what we can—and cannot—enforce.

■ Linda Shea is Director, Frederick County Animal Control.

**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 Control & Pet Adoption Center

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[frederickcountymd.gov/15/Animal-Control](http://frederickcountymd.gov/15/Animal-Control)

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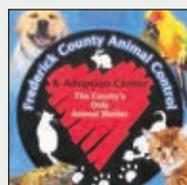
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## Talk to Us: News from the CAWAC

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 questions or concerns 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 June 13th, 7:00 p.m., at Frederick County Animal Control, 1832 Rosemont Avenue, in Frederick. All meetings are open to the public, and we encourage citizens to attend. If you 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.

## ROAD DOGS

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never known. And she'd had good experiences with shelter dogs. “The best dogs I've gotten have come from the shelter,” notes Patricia.

One sad-eyed toy poodle caught Patricia's eye. “She looked dejected and pitiful and very dirty,” she says. Though she applied to adopt the tiny apricot-colored dog, Patricia didn't think she had a chance because she was third in

line behind two other families. But when the other two applications fell through, Patricia got the good news and took the little dog home.

Willow, as she became known, was transformed into a happy, confident dog and a beloved member of the family. “Believe me,” says Patricia, “her eyes aren't sad anymore.”

Patricia hopes others who adopted a “Walkersville Road Dog” will get in touch with the shelter and share their dogs' stories. Maybe, she suggests, a reunion could be arranged.

## MARTY'S MATCH

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work... Also, whenever we are working on our computer or printing, he is right there.” He's extremely vocal, continues Debbie. “He ‘talks’ with [my husband] Jeff every day.”

The undisputed family clown, Marty makes everyone laugh. For example, Marty loved to “derail” the model train that was set up under their Christmas tree. And then there was the mirror. Early on, explains Debbie, “he got

scared when he would see his reflection. He thought it was another cat. His tail would puff up and he would walk back and forth, checking himself out.”

Although Marty's kittenish ways can, at times, be a little much for his more mature feline sister Sally, he is, nevertheless, winning her over. “Sally does not like it when he chases her,” says Debbie. “She looks for a high place to jump to get away. When Marty gets tired of waiting for her, he will walk away, ... and then she goes looking for him!”

# HOMES WANTED

View all of our adoptable pets on Peffinder ([www.frederick.peffinder.com](http://www.frederick.peffinder.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!



**BLACK OLIVE**

**Sweet neat freak** looking for soul mate(s). Ok, "neat freak" is an exaggeration, but "sweet" is not. I don't care how clean your home is, but if you can keep my litterbox reasonably tidy *and* if you're looking for a friendly feline furbaby, we might be a purrrfect match!



**YETI**

**Mature, blue-eyed Himalayan** in search of stable family life. Are you ready for some serious feline lovin'? Well, you're in luck, because I am off the streets and on the market, ready to learn what family means. Get ready to be me-wowed!



**SPICE**

**Lop-eared lagomorph** looking for life partner. I'm laid back and undemanding, born a country girl but more than willing to put down roots anywhere, as long as I'm with my forever family. Let's connect today—come meet me at the shelter!



**COCO**

**Young supermom** seeks lost puppyhood. I was an attentive, loving mom to my six pups, even though, at 10–11 months, I'm still a puppy myself. My sweet babies have all been adopted, and now I'm ready to settle down with a family of my own. Could I be *your* puppy?



**CARTER**

**Orange eye candy** seeks play, exploration, and love. Do you own, or are you willing to obtain, a string or feather toy? Will you love me forever while respecting my independence? Yes? Then would you please come get me out of this boring cage and take me home with you?



**ALEX**

**Fluffy former stray** looking for ... *home*. I was out on the streets, living by my wits until I made it to safety at the shelter. The people here are nice, but it's not a home. I want love. I want forever. I want to be part of a family. And I want to give my human all my devotion.





# It's the Law, Part 4 — Organized Abuse, Including Dogfighting and Cockfighting

by Felicia Langel

Animal-based blood sports are as old as human civilization itself. But what was once thought of as entertainment is now recognized as cruel and exploitative. In *Maryland Code Criminal Law Title 10, Subtitle 6—Crimes Relating to Animals, Section 10-606*, it is a misdemeanor to attend a dogfight or cockfight as a spectator; active participation in such an event is a felony.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, dogfighting and cockfighting account for millions of dollars in unreported income due to illegal gambling, admission fees, and animal breeding services. Other crimes associated with dogfighting and cockfighting include possession of illegal drugs and weapons, rape, and homicide.

Worldwide, many breeds are used in dogfighting. In the United States, however, fighting dogs are almost exclusively “pit bull” dogs. These dogs are derived from several recognized breeds—most commonly the American pit bull terrier. Pit bulls are not bred to be aggressive to people, but rather to be obedient and athletic. They are also bred for “gameness”—a degree of courage and determination that can, through training, be translated into a willingness to engage in combat with another dog.

Fighting dogs are schooled and conditioned for about 18 months before entering the fight pit. They are typically kept on short, heavy chains, isolated from other dogs or just out of their reach. This prevents early socialization with other dogs. They are trained using smaller dogs, cats, or other animals as bait. Dogs who succeed in the pit are bred, while dogs who fail are killed, either during the fight or afterwards by their owners. Eventually, all fighting dogs, regardless of their success in the pit, are disposed of to make room for the next generation of fighters.

Gamecocks are among the oldest breeds of domesticated chickens. Fighting birds are roosters whose comb, wattles, and earlobes have been cut off to prevent these appendages from hemorrhaging during a fight. The natural spurs on each heel of the bird are either left



Felicia Langel

intact, or are sawed off to create an anchor point for attaching a metallic weapon. Though naturally aggressive, fighting birds require training and conditioning to be successful in the fight pit. Fighting birds almost always die in the pit.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals estimates that hundreds of thousands of dogs are involved in dogfighting. Cockfighting is similarly widespread. These violent and

secretive activities may even be rebounding, facilitated by social media.

If you see or suspect animal abuse, cruelty, or neglect, report it to Frederick County Animal Control (301-600-1544 or 301-600-2558 after hours or online at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/requesttracker.aspx](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/requesttracker.aspx)) or dial 911. You may report animal cruelty anonymously, though doing so may hinder the investigation.

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

## Upcoming Events

### Adoption Day at Shockley Honda

(7400 Shockley Drive in Frederick)  
Saturday, June 11th, 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Join us and meet some of our adoptable pets!

### Save the Paws Saturdays at The Blue Side

(6 S. Bentz Street in Frederick), every first Saturday of the month, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Help Frederick Friends of Our County Animal Shelter support the shelter! For details, see [www.facebook.com/ffocasonpets](http://www.facebook.com/ffocasonpets).

One of the most common reasons people offer for surrendering a pet to the shelter, “moving” is also one of the most heartbreaking. In most cases, it’s hard to understand why a once-cherished pet would be left behind at moving time.

“Moving” was the reason given for the surrender of Abe, a 4-year-old golden retriever, to the shelter in 2007.

When Holly Damren and her family visited the shelter, their attention was drawn to Abe as well as a 9-month-old, energetic Rottweiler mix named Buster, who’d arrived as a stray. The family left the shelter with both dogs, fully aware of the commitment they were making ... and the adjustment required when one brings home not one, but two large dogs in a single day.

In their forever home, Buster and Abe quickly became best buddies. Their sensitivity for one another became especially apparent when Abe was injured chasing a rabbit. “Buster must have known to be a little more [careful with] him because they played so well even for Abe having his injury,” explains Holly.

Abe had 7 years to learn the true meaning of “forever home” before he passed away at age 11 due to cancer.

Now, sharing his home with a young rescue dog named Venn, Buster appears to have recovered from the loss of Abe. “Buster warmed up very quickly to Venn,” says Holly, noting that Buster and Venn are now quite close.

Asked whether she would encourage others to adopt a shelter dog, Holly says, “I have loved all of my shelter dogs. I haven’t had any doubt with [any of them] not being *the one*.” Or, in the case of Buster and Abe, *the two*.