

A quarterly newsletter for Volunteers, Friends & Supporters of The Oasis Animal Sanctuary, Inc.

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Spring 2010

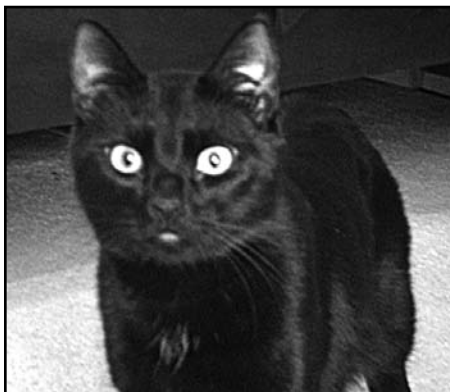
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ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

In animal welfare, every day is an adventure.

A call came in from the Camden County Animal Shelter one cold, dreary February afternoon. A woman who had adopted two Oasis kittens in 2007 left them at the shelter – along with the adoption contracts which clearly state that adopted animals are to be returned to Oasis in the event the caregiver must surrender them. When the shelter volunteer reiterated the contract clause to the owner she replied that she didn't care, and she walked out. It took a few days for Oasis President Pam Brighton to arrange for a foster home for the cats. Unbeknownst to her, the two felines formerly known as Calvin and Hobbes had some health issues. Hobbes had a completely blocked urinary tract and was literally dying; Calvin had developed an upper respiratory infection. Sadly, the shelter had humanely euthanized the terribly suffering Hobbes before Pam went for them. He wasn't even 3 years old! Calvin, a/k/a **Licorice**, was taken to the foster home where he was nursed back to health. Turns out this little guy is quite a nice companion! Although still grieving over the loss of his buddy, he is now in good health and ready for a new loving, permanent home.

Licorice



During one of the several big snowstorms in February, our registered quarterhorse mare **DiDi Impressive** went off her feed. By mid-afternoon she spiked a fever of 104.4. Foster Mom Denise made calls to our equine vet who was inundated with emergencies and stymied by the extreme weather conditions. Urgent calls to other local equine vets had the same results – emergencies and roadblocks. It didn't look good for DiDi, who was going downhill fast. Denise took matters into her own hands and fought the elements herself to pick up some powerful antibiotics from the vet's office. Within a few hours of administering the drugs, the fever broke. Denise stayed with the horse until nighttime and then checked on her every two hours until the vet and Pam arrived the next morning. During the exam, Pam noticed a slight puffiness in DiDi's face, and the vet found a bad tooth which was the root cause of the life threatening infection. It was pulled and the horse began to heal. A week and \$900 later, DiDi was again a happy healthy equine, and back to eating, well, like a horse!

DiDi Impressive



Born in 2006, **Molly** was one of three Oriental shorthair kittens adopted out in 2007. Her caregiver was a nice woman who cared very much for her; however, circumstances changed and the woman had to move. Molly was unable to go with her. Oasis took her back but since she was a bit of

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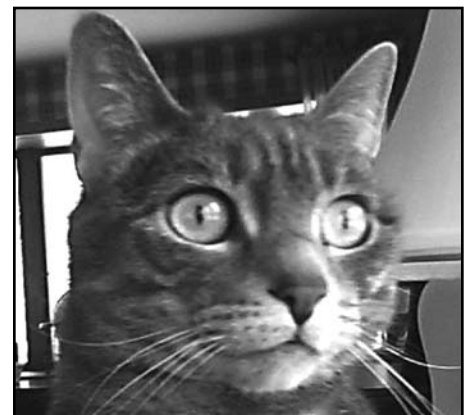
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"scaredy-cat" Pam scrambled to find a foster home with no other animals and a quiet environment. She was soon placed in a volunteer's home as a foster. Poor Molly was very scared, even though she was treated with patience and kindness. It took a while, but Molly has gone thru the healing process and is now content and comfortable in her new environment. She is up for adoption and given a little time to adjust, will make someone a very nice pet.

Molly



In mid-February Pam was visited by an acquaintance, a local woman whose very distressing situation eventually made waves throughout the entire New Jersey animal welfare network. Due to a completely unexpected and unfortunate turn of events in her family, the woman was losing her farm. Her main concern was that the multitude of animals she had rescued over the years were now going to need new homes – and almost immediately. Goats, dogs, horses, cats, ferrets, pigs, donkeys, mini horses, among others were all facing a very shaky future. Pam and some Oasis volunteers went to work - telephoning, emailing, and otherwise communicating about the animals in need. Other agencies also got involved, and with them doing the same, many of the animals have already found new homes.



Two of the dogs that have found new homes

In early March Oasis was asked to assist in a desperate search to re-home a 6 year old declawed male cat. His caregiver passed away last November, and the animal was left living alone in the house ever since. Family members would stop by and feed him, but no one would take him home. **Muffin** was very much alone. Meanwhile, the estate work was progressing and the house needed to be closed up. Some of the family members figured the easiest solution of “what to do with the cat” was simply to have him put down. An Oasis volunteer who knew the deceased woman contacted Pam for help. With no foster homes available and no time for evaluating the animal, Pam networked and found a possible contact looking for a declawed cat. The connection was made and the woman offered Muffin a new beginning in her quiet home. But because of Muffin’s emotional trauma, he is having difficulty adjusting. Time usually heals all wounds, and we are hopeful Muffin will come to accept his new home, complete with a live-in companion person.

Animal welfare is a very tough job, with long hours, low pay, heart wrenching situations, emergencies at the most inopportune times. One learns to persevere, get creative, dig deeper for solutions when there are none obvious. The field is full of opportunities to learn, grow and create; sometimes painfully. But knowing that another life has been saved, an animal’s future is brighter, or simply that the healing process has begun for an unfortunate critter, is the best reward one can have in this field. Yes, every day is an adventure.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

When the going gets tough, the tough got going! Oasis would like to recognize and thank all of the folks that reached out to help a friend and fellow Gloucester County resident who was in dire need. So many animal lovers can relate to the sad eyes, sad stories, whimpers, meows and neighs that cross our paths. It is hard to say no and turn your back, but, all too frequently, that does happen.

BUT NOT THIS TIME!

When one owns a farm, loves animals, and acquires many of those sad eyes and sad stories due to a very large heart; then finds their world changing too rapidly to comprehend, re-homing the animals becomes the top priority. As heart breaking as it was, it was the woman’s only option.

This winter, Oasis and its volunteers assisted in the re-homing of many animals - horses, goats, ferrets. There is still more to do. We are all effected by the struggling economy, but a number of fellow animal lovers “stepped up to the plate” to help place these animals either in their own homes or reached out into their network for additional placements.

We have been extremely impressed with the effort and outpouring of concern, from ALL around the State of New Jersey, to help these animals. **Many KUDOS** to these folks here in our great state!

Thank you to **ALL!**

For the critters,
Pam Brighton
President

VOLUNTEER WITH OASIS

If you would like information about becoming an Oasis volunteer, please drop us a line at oasisanimalsanct@yahoo.com or call 856.262.1222

SAVE THE DATE!

The Annual Animal Lover's Dinner & Silent Auction will be held Thursday, June 3rd, 2010.

This is our biggest event of the year. Held at the Winslow Villa Manor in Winslow NJ, the event is 4 hours of food, fun, a large "silent auction" and an accompanying "Tricky Tray". A massage therapist will be on hand to knead your cares away. There's also beer and wine, a 12' x 12' dessert room, live soft music, bingo and door prizes. Please help us make this our best event yet! Tickets are just \$35 each, and reservations are necessary. For more information or to reserve your ticket, please call the Oasis office at 856-262-122. Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

If you would like to donate a "new" item or service for the Auction, please call our office. We will be happy to pick up the item from you. All persons, vendors or businesses that donate are recognized at the Auction.

Donations are 100% tax deductible too!

WHERE IS OASIS

The first Saturday of every month:
Tractor Supply
 643 Cross Keys Road
 Sicklerville, NJ 08081
 10AM – 3PM

The second Saturday of every month:
Hot Diggity Dog
 425 Salina Road, Sewell, NJ 08080
 12PM – 4PM

The third Tuesday of every month:
Bob Evans Restaurant
 3841 Route 322, Turnersville, NJ
 4PM – 8PM

The third Sunday of every month:
Petco
 1730 Clements Bridge Rd
 Deptford, NJ
 12PM – 4 PM

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

You may be aware that Oasis is working on acquiring property on which to build a facility. Until this is accomplished, we are limited as to the number of animals we can physically accept. We can only rescue as many animals as we can place in foster homes. Local animal shelters euthanize many healthy, friendly animals each day to make space for new ones. With your help, we can reduce the number of animals euthanized in shelters simply because of overcrowding. If you want to make a real difference in the lives of New Jersey's homeless animals this year, here are a few suggestions:

1) Become a foster family for Oasis

Foster families provide short-term, in-home care for friendly pets in need until they are adopted. You can select the type of animal(s) you want to foster – kittens, cats, dogs, puppies, ferrets, rabbits, farm animals, or "pocket pets". All veterinary care is paid by Oasis, and we will provide supplies. Fostering can last from a few days to several months. There is currently a dire need for foster homes for adult cats. Every foster home we add to our network means another life saved! **If you are interested in becoming a foster home for Oasis, please contact Pam at 856-262-1222.**

2) Spay or neuter your pet

Oasis provides a low cost Sterilization Assistance Program for New Jersey pet caregivers. The focus of this initiative is to reduce the number of homeless companion animals that enter southern New Jersey shelters and are then killed due to time or space constraints. On a State level, the New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services reports that in 2008 (the most current statistics available), 100,529 dogs and cats were impounded in 90 of the state's animal facilities, of which 37,673 were destroyed. From 2006 to 2008, the overall "kill rate" decreased from 41% to 37%, so the efforts of our organization and many others are making a difference in this distressing statistic. However, the fact remains that, on average, **103 companion animals are still being killed in New Jersey EVERY SINGLE DAY.** The following chart was created from data provided by the website of the New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services for the latest five years in which statistics have been finalized. The chart represents three of the twenty-one New Jersey counties; these are the counties in which Oasis concentrates its efforts. (Please note that assistance is not limited to only these counties.) It clearly illustrates that there is a continuing need for change in the manner in which homeless dogs and cats are handled.

		Impounded		Destroyed		Percentage	
YEAR	COUNTY	DOGS	CATS	DOGS	CATS	DOGS	CATS
2004	Camden	3,056	4,408	579	1,436	19%	33%
2005	Camden	4,435	4,883	1,250	1,934	28%	40%
2006	Camden	3,822	5,058	694	1,763	18%	35%
2007	Camden	4,086	6,346	636	2,120	16%	33%
2008	Camden	4,101	6,895	508	1,784	12%	26%
2004	Gloucester	2,160	4,915	731	3,977	34%	81%
2005	Gloucester	2,037	4,594	602	3,802	30%	83%
2006	Gloucester	1,969	4,826	616	3,969	31%	82%
2007	Gloucester	1,789	4,546	529	3,710	30%	82%
2008	Gloucester	1,673	4,186	499	3,380	30%	81%
2004	Salem	2,253	2,200	1,228	1,646	55%	75%
2005	Salem	1,966	2,202	1,122	1,822	57%	83%
2006	Salem	1,796	2,187	1,085	1,793	60%	82%
2007	Salem	1,593	1,957	843	1,424	53%	73%
2008	Salem	1,614	1,939	988	1,430	61%	74%

Oasis also assists with the financial aspect of getting feral cats sterilized. Please contact the Oasis office for more information.

ADORABLE ADOPTABLES

Aside from the animals whose stories are on page 1, there are other Oasis animals that need a kind, loving family. Please note that if you adopt two animals Oasis offers you a 20% discount off the fee for the pets. Here are a few more to choose from:

Kalliope was the mama of 5 adorable kittens, all of whom have been adopted. Just a youngster herself, she is now ready for her new permanent, loving family. She is between 1-2 yrs old, and tested negative for Feline Aids and Leukemia. She was found as a stray in Newfield, NJ. "Kallie" is up to date on shots, spayed, and gets along with children and other animals. Too beautiful a pet to be without a real home!



Kalliope

Squiggy is just the sweetest little girl! She and her siblings were born in a barn wall in Salem County NJ. Something must have happened to Mom, because she never came back to care for her kittens. All except two - "Lenny" & "Squiggy", did not survive. She is healthy, spayed, up to date on shots, & gets along with other cats. If you are looking for a real lap cat, here's your feline!!



Squiggy

*"There are few things in life more heartwarming than to be welcomed by a cat."
~Tay Hohoff*

IN APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO

... **The Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation** for its generous funding of \$1,500 to our Sterilization Assistance Program. The Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation is committed to making life more bearable for children, families and pets in need of a helping paw. With the sale of each full-sized Bearemy's Kennel Pals "friend" - a collection of Build-A-Bear Workshop "plush dogs" - one dollar is donated to domestic pet programs including local animal shelters, stray pet rescue and rehab organizations, and pet education programs around the country. These funds are available to qualified non-profit organizations in the U.S. and Canada through a quarterly grant process. Visit www.builda-bear.com for more information.

... the family and friends of the late **Mr. Axel Von Borsig**, who made donations in memory of his recent passing.

... the family and friends of the late **Mrs. Clarabel Brown**, who made donations in memory of her recent passing.

... **Sharrott Winery** in Winslow, NJ for hosting another successful Wine Tasting Event in April, generating revenue for our Sterilization Assistance Program.

... **the Bob Evans Restaurant** in Turnersville, NJ for their monthly dinner fundraiser for Oasis. Curtis Lightsey, the manager there, has arranged for the dinner every third Tuesday of the month. Please print off the flyer from our website (or call Oasis and we will send you one!) and hand it in when you pay your bill; **Oasis will receive 15% of the proceeds!**



Oasis President Pam Brighton shares a laugh with Biscuit and Gravy, Allison Münch (Oasis Board member), and Store Manager Curtis Lightsey at one of our recent dinner fundraisers.

WAIT... HELP STOP!

Do you really want to help the animals, at NO cost to you?!

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Just sign up for their **Affinity Program**, select **Oasis Animal Sanctuary** as your charity of choice. The more people that sign up, the greater TD Bank's donation will be to Oasis. **CALL NOW!!**

Please Help the Animals!

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