



THE SCOOP

POPE MEMORIAL FRONTIER ANIMAL SHELTER NEWSLETTER

Adopt A Friend Today!

Charlee is a 9 year old lab mix. Charlee does not let age or disability slow her down! She loves going for walks and cuddles and is good with smaller dogs and cats! Charlee weighs 45 pounds.



Dixie is a 3 year old tuxedo short haired cat. She loves to play and then take a nice nap next to her favorite person. Could that be you?

Willow loves other dogs and ignores cats. She is house trained, knows many basic commands, and has fairly decent leash skills when using a front clip harness.



Willow weighs about 55 lbs, is a little over a year old, and has a long gorgeous coat.



Kentucky is about 4 years old and has so much love to give, that you would not need any other pet in your life! Kentucky would do best as the only cat in the household.

Levin is a year and a half old coonhound. He is good with other dogs and cats and is house trained. Levin loves going for walks, hikes, snowshoeing. You name it, he is up for it. He is also a great snuggle buddy!



Farmer is a local stray. He loves playing with other cats or toys. He is about 2 years old and would love to have a lap to help keep warm in the winter.

Paige is a sweet and loving cat and is about 6 years old. She would like to be the only cat in the household and she loves to be petted and warm your lap.



Finding Forever Homes for Some of Our More Challenging Furry Friends

It's no secret that some dogs and cats in shelters across the country are among those that are "hardest-to-adopt." Some of these animals live in shelters for two years or more. Here at PMFAS, we've cared for both dogs and cats for up to four years before they were fortunate enough to find a home with couch or pillow of their own and a loving human to care for them.

So why is this? Surveys done by petfinder.com and other reliable organizations reveal that, by far, the least likely pets to find new homes are older pets. Next are animals with medical problems, dogs that experience breed prejudice (such as pit bulls), shy pets, or those that need to be the only pet in the home. Last but not least, black dogs and cats are also among the hardest-to-adopt, a trend known throughout shelters and foster homes as "black dog syndrome." For areas in the country where shelters are not no-kill, this means that the euthanasia rate among these animals is much higher than others that are more easily adoptable. Meanwhile, staff and volunteers at no-kill shelters become creative in finding forever homes for these animals. Some hold special adoption events or offer lower adoption fees. They educate the public about the advantages of older pets – of which there are many! (www.friendsforpets.org/olderdog.php) Shelters also have learned to find the most attractive photo of their black dogs and cats, such as in bright light or outside, and even with a brightly colored scarf.

PMFAS follows some of these strategies with special adoption rates for senior animals, and even a super-special for senior humans adopting senior pets! You can find details at www.frontieranimalsociety.com/index.php/adopt. By the same token, we at PMFAS are very fortunate to have some extraordinary adopters. Such is the case with Kerry.

Over the past few years, Kerry and her husband have adopted some 10 cats that were older or had been at the shelter for a long time, some up to four years. Of course, some of those have since passed over the Rainbow Bridge. "I can tell you about *Ghost*," writes Kerry in a recent e-mail, "AKA Reba, who was at the shelter for just under four years. She just sat on the shelf and didn't want to get down. I felt bad for her and when I went to reach for her I felt a claw, so I turned around and saw a very skinny calico, named Dina. So I adopted Dina instead. When my husband came home and saw her sitting in a basket on the counter, she looked quite pathetic and all he did was



Ghost ~ Nap time in her own special place.

continued on next page.....



roll his eyes!" Dina was so skinny she could fit through a small gate that Kerry set up to give Dina some space all to herself. Kerry looked into getting special food for Dina, and "within three days she was doing better. She started gaining weight and getting a shiny coat and she is my husband's love. He adores her and she is roly-poly and soft and beautiful."

At that point, Kerry and her husband had seven cats, and yet within a few weeks her husband asked "what about that poor cat that has been at the shelter for almost four years?" And so Reba, now known as Ghost, was adopted. A medical problem, worsened by Reba's nervousness in being at the shelter, was easily treated with a diet change, and Reba was able to become the elusive cat she chose to be, and thus was named Ghost. For a long time, Ghost would seek out the more quiet places in the house. She eventually came to realize that humans are not such a bad species, finally allowing petting and hugging, even begging for more, and making the basket on the counter her favorite spot as well!



Fancy hopes she can catch whatever went up that tree.

And then there is *Fancy*, who was at the shelter for over three years. As an older cat that required asthma medication, Fancy was always overlooked by adopters. After Kerry adopted her, she began to notice that Fancy was acting more anxious and even aggressive towards the other cats, often hissing at them. Thinking there was a new medical problem, Kerry brought her to the vet who advised that the asthma medication causes irritability. Taking her off the meds proved to be successful.



Fancy enjoys the warmth of the sun.

"Fancy is calm and sweet and lives for the sun, where she will roll for hours in a sunspot.

She loves to be outside. No more hissing. She hardly coughs at all anymore and she is happy and beautiful."



Mr. Bates hunting safely in his fenced-in back yard.

While the stories could go on with the list of older and less-adoptable cats that Kerry has brought into her loving home, there is one more that should be shared – that of *Mr. Bates*. Mr. Bates lived at the shelter for quite a long time. Having experienced a very rough and tough life outside of the shelter, he was for months very shy and fearful of humans and other cats. He spent much time keeping to himself in one of the cupboards at the shelter. After a lot of patience and TLC by staff and volunteers, Mr. Bates decided that the shelter was not a bad place, and eventually became a free roamer – able to have freedom to roam around some of the open rooms on the cat side of the shelter. Still, because of his age, and perhaps his appearance, he was never considered by any adopters. Kerry empathized with him, of course, and adopted him into her household where he blossomed into being her "shadow."

"He NEVER left my side and walked in the woods with me and sat out in the kitchen with me while I cooked supper and begged for treats. We gave that little thing everything his little heart desired. He was so odd and so special. He loved it outside and grew healthy and strong for a while. He even ran with joy, even with his crooked little back and back legs that never worked properly."

Mr. Bates died this past spring, following an illness and kidney failure. He had lived a long life, and while not much was known about his early years of having to fend for himself and fear everything, his last several years, first at the shelter, and finally in Kerry's caring home proved to be joyful, loving years. Not only did Mr. Bates learn to trust and enjoy attention from humans, but his humans received lots of love from him as well. "His passing left a huge hole in my life. I still miss him terribly," writes Kerry. Thank you, Kerry, for sharing these stories. And we know you have many more to be shared.



Mr. Bates always enjoyed relaxing among the flowers in his backyard.

So you see, there's a lot to be learned from older animals, shy animals, less social animals. While they can sometimes be a bit of a challenge, once you get to know them, and make sure their health is optimal, learning their special characteristics can be very rewarding, for both you and your new furry friend. The next time you decide to add a new member to your household, consider an older, shy, or special needs pet. The reward you receive in return from the love they give you will be lasting.





Volunteer Spotlight . . .

Scoop readers and PMFAS supporters have often heard us say how much we value the efforts and generosity of our volunteers. Our volunteers are crucial in helping us fulfill our mission and we know that without them, we would not be successful in caring for and finding “forever” homes for so many animals each year. We also realize that it’s important to recognize our volunteers and we like to do this by spotlighting someone in each issue of The Scoop. This winter we’re spotlighting Janet Roberge!

Almost a year ago, Janet started visiting the shelter several times each week to help walk and feed the dogs. She easily establishes a good relationship with each dog and strives to spend some individual time with each one to show them some human caring and help minimize their stress levels. It may have been because of her volunteer work at the shelter that she fell in love with and adopted “Princess” a few months ago. Even though she started out as primarily a “dog volunteer,” Janet has not hesitated to step in to help answer questions for any potential adopters as well as assist with caring for the cats. “She enjoys spending some one-on-one time with a few of them each time she volunteers to help socialize them, ensuring that they each get as much love as possible,” reports Toni, a PMFAS staff member. “She is a wonderful volunteer and we are very happy to have her here at the shelter,” states Shelter Manager, Amy. Another staff member, MaryKate adds, “When the cats see Janet coming, they start walking in circles around the room, and rubbing up against her leg, especially one of our Senior Cats, Lucy. They know she is going to give them treats.” MaryKate explains that Janet always talks to the kitties, saying “Oh, don’t worry, I didn’t forget you.”

Well, we didn’t forget you, **Janet Roberge!** This time the Spotlight is on you!
Thank you very much for all you do at PMFAS.

We appreciate your time, effort and all the love you give to our animals until they find their forever homes.



Left: Janet Roberge often spends time with the PMFAS animals, showering them with lots of TLC.



Right: “Princess” – formerly a PMFAS resident - found a loving forever home earlier this year with Volunteer Janet Roberge.

www.frontieranimalsociety.com

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Pet Safety Tips for the Holiday Season

'Tis the season for friends and family, eggnog and other treats, and good times! During this busy time it can be a challenge to juggle everything that needs to be done -- including caring for your four-legged friends. Here are a few tips to help keep your furry friends safe for the holidays:

No Chocolate, Please

Although Fido and Fluffy may be attracted to the smell and taste of chocolate, in sufficient quantities, chocolate can make her very sick. The result? Vomiting, diarrhea, and a lovely holiday spent at the emergency vet clinic.

Be sure to store chocolate well away from pets. Open counters or ledges are not good places -- some dogs may 'counter-surf', and cats easily reach counters (what's worse, they can knock chocolate off the counter-top and straight into the path of enthusiastic dogs!).

Tinsel's Pretty, But...

Although it's a popular decoration for trees, it can pose a danger if your pet swallows it. It's possible for it to cause an intestinal blockage -- and again, no one (least of all your pet!) wants to spend the holidays undergoing surgery!

What's That? Who's There?

Holidays are often filled with friends and family going in and out of the house. If your pet is excitable or tends to get stressed with noise and crowds, consider placing her safely in a crate or a room that's "out-of-bounds" to guests. Give her blankets, food, water, toys ... and check in with her regularly to make sure she's okay. This will help to ensure your pet stays safely with her family, rather than accidentally slipping out the door.

Mmm mmm! Extension cords!

With all the pretty lights during the holiday season, you probably have a variety of extension cords running every which way. Some pets have a real 'taste' for extension cords -- keep an eye on them to prevent chewing, or they could be in for a real 'shock'! Where possible, tie cords out of the way. Some hardware stores also sell a plastic tubing into which you insert cords to keep your gnawing little pet from hurting herself.

Happy Holidays to you and your family -- both two-legged and four-legged!





Keepers of the Kitties and Kennels

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses who graciously support our kitties and kennels each month:

Blanchard Oil
Julie Mountain & Al Brissard
Jean Arcangeli
Brenda Butler-Smith
Carol Piper

Janet Roberge
Colleen King
Betty J. Maloney
Cindy & Amber Davio

Aydin & Mary Kate Lathari
Tom & Cheryl Wright
The Conrad Family
Ashraf Eassa & Katherine Mansfield
Peter & Barbara Bell



Please put the PMFAS on your holiday gift giving list!

The Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc. is financed entirely by adoption fees, fund raisers, and donations from towns and animal lovers like you. Because we are a primarily volunteer organization, almost every penny goes directly toward the rescue and care of the animals.

In 2016, we know that well over 300 pets will have been adopted from our shelter. Please help our dogs and kitties this holiday season. The average cost to provide medical care, shelter and food, before being adopted into a home and family, is in excess of \$350 per animal.

Please help us with a holiday donation.



YES! I would like to support the PMFAS in caring for the unwanted, abandoned, stray, neglected and abused animals. Here is my tax deductible gift.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

No letter of acknowledgment of this gift is necessary. **TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** _____

Mail to: Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc., 502 Strawberry Acres Rd., Newport, VT 05855

In Memory Donations

Donations received
June 15 - December 15, 2016

James Noyes
John Vining
Jean Pierre Roberge
Robert Jaquish
David Keefe
Shirlene Geoffrey
John Brown
Marrianna Erho



A Time to be Thankful . . .

With the holidays upon us, and the New Year ahead, we at PMFAS again realize we have much for which to be thankful. We want to take this time to acknowledge all our friends and supporters, from individual volunteers and families to local businesses, schools and towns throughout Orleans and Northern Essex Counties. We especially thank community members and businesses that donated to our raffle fundraiser this fall, as well as all those that purchased tickets. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! Ongoing thanks to Northeast Kingdom Online (www.northeastkingdomonline.com) for their skill and dedication in designing and maintaining our website. It's a great way to keep potential adopters up to date and help the animals find homes of their own! Whether your support comes in the form of time, work, kind words or donations of many varieties, we appreciate it all! We don't want to overlook our adopters! A BIG thank you goes out to this year's adopters from near and far who made new forever homes for over 300 homeless dogs and cats.

*A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all from
Board, Staff, and all our furry friends
at PMFAS!*

Frontier Animal Society
Wish List
Dish Soap
Laundry Soap
Everyday Household Cleaners
Paper Towels
Peanut Butter
Large & Small Dog Biscuits
Kongs
Cat & Dog Toys & Canned Food



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