

Mulan's cooking class.



welcome

Our logo, the paws on either side of ZFF as quotation marks with the middle pad x'd means "paws crossed," as I very often sign off my abbreviated emails – and I like puzzles so hope to make people stop and think and, better still, remember!



I began fostering for different rescue organizations, primarily Stray from the Heart, while volunteering at the Animal Care & Control of New York City (ACCNYC), New York City's municipal pound (www.nycacc.org). I was volunteering in the upstairs adoptions ward, but found myself drawn to the dogs downstairs who were not going to make it out alive without some other kind of intervention — rescue! What began as simply fostering for other groups and volunteering at the shelter would egress into the formation of Zani's Furry Friends.

I continue to volunteer at the ACC NYC to this day and not only foster animals, but have also been adopted by a lovely Cocker Spaniel named Folly. Folly, 5 at the time, was dumped as a stray after being used as a breeder and having had multiple litters. We were introduced on my first day of volunteering at the ACC NYC and after a rescue group reneged in taking her, she came home with me. We have now been together for four years and one bout of mammary cancer.

From rescuing dogs we soon expanded to cats. This came about after a ZFF volunteer asked if she could foster an ACC cat, Rabbit, in whom another rescue group expressed interest in, but was unable to take. Rabbit got adopted almost immediately, so I said, fine, let's do cats too. Shortly after, I named the spay/abort program for the ACC NYC, "No new kitties, no new puppies initiative" and of course, they insisted that I take home a "no new kitty," Tiger Lily. I am very allergic to cats, but took home Tiger Lily and stuck her in my bathroom, washing my hands religiously after every pat. She proceeded to yowl for the next twenty-four hours until I came home the next afternoon with a very sick kitten for her to nurse. From there, I just kept coming home with more and more cats. Tiger Lily is still with me.

The key to our rescue efforts is that we pull almost exclusively from the ACC NYC – Manhattan, Brooklyn, Staten Island and the two holding centers in the Bronx and Queens, which together have an intake of close to 50,000 animals per year, of which half do not make it out alive. Our rescues consist of those who came very close to being a sad statistic.

— GISELLA McSWEENY

Issues

In each newsletter, we will focus on one or more issues that directly affect the health and well being of your cat or dog. This issue we focus on cats and the truth about declawing and the benefits of keeping your cat indoors.

THE TRUTH ABOUT DECLAWING

Declawing is actually multiple amputations comparable to the removal of human fingertips at the first knuckle. Sensory and motor nerves are cut, damaged and destroyed. Recovery from surgery is slow and painful. This procedure can hamper the sensations and enjoyment involved in walking, running and springing.

Without their #1 defense system, many declawed cats may resort to nipping and biting with little warning. They often use oral means to express their insecurity and this may also result in destructive chewing problems.

Declawing is a horrendous, barbaric and unnecessary procedure. While it is a popular and lucrative practice in North America, it is against the law in many European countries, including England, Germany and Switzerland. Cats, like people, react differently to physical handicaps. Some appear to be unaffected and others become nervous and defensive. When a dramatic temperament or behavior change occurs, the cat's owner may decide to take the cat to a pound or shelter or have it euthanized.

**“First their fingers,
then their lives.”**

INDOOR CATS LIVE LONGER AND HEALTHIER LIVES

Cats are no match for the many perils outside. The average life span of an outdoor cat is only 1 to 5 years, while an indoor cat can live approximately 18 to 22 years.

Consider these dangers:

DISEASES

Even if your cat is vaccinated, there is a significant risk of deadly disease from other cats.

- Feline leukemia and feline distemper are only two of the many fatal diseases transmitted by infected cats.
- FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) will shorten the life span of your cat considerably.

Outdoor dangers

- Vehicles
- Predators such as coyotes, foxes and raccoons
- Injury or disease from cats defending their territory
- Poisons such as antifreeze, pesticides and rat poison
- Viruses left on back yard grasses by raccoons or skunks
- Illness from eating garbage or drinking contaminated water
- Frostbite in winter or dehydration in summer
- Fleas, ticks, worms or other parasites
- Traps
- Intentional cruelty by humans

For their own safety, please keep your cat indoors.



Excerpt from A Stray Cat's Prayers

*They've chased me with sticks and hit me with straps
While I run on the street just looking for scraps.
I'm not really bad, God, please help me if you can,
For I have become a victim of man.
I'm wormy, dear God, and I'm ridden with fleas;
And all that I want is an owner to please.*

Ways to Contribute

Financial donations are always great, but we would also appreciate any of the following to be used to care for our fosters: blankets/towels · crates/carriers · leashes/harnesses (dog/cat) · litter/litter boxes · canned and dry cat/dog food · scratching posts · feliway for cats · D.A.P. for dogs



Books for Animal Lovers

Whole Health for Happy Cats – Sandy Arora. This attractive, easy-to-browse book is packed full of helpful hints on natural cat care.

Cat vs. Cat: Keeping Peace When You Have More Than One Cat – Pam Johnson-Bennett. Really useful for those of us with larger furry families! Johnson-Bennett provides detailed suggestions on various tricky multiple-cat situations. Highly recommended.

Why We Love the Dogs We Do: How to Find the Dog that Matches Your Personality – Stanley Coren. Fascinating! Coren, a psychology professor, surveyed dog experts about the personalities of various dog breeds. Then he surveyed thousands of dog owners on the breeds of dogs they've owned and what they liked or didn't about them. They also completed a personality survey. Coren presents the results in this book: what types of dogs tend to do best with what types of personalities.

Clicker Training for Cats – Karen Pryor. Think training is just for dogs? Think again! Pryor demonstrates how cats can be trained to do tricks from the useful—sitting politely in the kitchen while you're making their dinner—to the goofy—sitting next to you while you play the piano & hitting the right key to end the symphony!

Woman's Best Friend: Women Writers on the Dogs in Their Lives – Edited by Megan McMorris. This collection is full of heartwarming and funny stories, guaranteed to make any dog lover smile.

Cat Women: Female Writers on Their Feline Friends – Edited by Megan McMorris. The companion to *Woman's Best Friend* is equally inspiring and tear jerking.

One at a Time: A Week in an American Animal Shelter – Diane Leigh & Marilee Geyer. This book is a tough read. It profiles, in words and text, some of the animals that pass through a California animal shelter in one week. Not all of them are profiled, of course: there are too many (363—117 of which were euthanized). A real tearjerker, this shows why it's so important to spay/neuter your pets, & to choose adoption when finding a new furry family member!

Your Cat: Simple New Secrets to a Longer, Stronger Life – Elizabeth M. Hodgkins, D.V.M., Esq. In this new book, Hodgkins does a great job explaining the complex world of cat nutrition and cat care. Recommended!

Shadow Cats: Tales from New York City's Animal Underground – Janet Jensen. Jensen follows the world of feral cat colonies in NYC, as well as the advocates of TNR (trap-neuter-return) to help control their population.



Foster Corner

Hi. My name is Lisa Faro. I first got involved with Zani's Furry Friends over two years ago. I have always been an animal lover and only five years ago adopted my Chihuahua mix, Roxy, from the ASPCA. I remember when I first saw Roxy: she was listed as unadoptable due to her skittishness and male aggressive behavior. With some love, affection and consistency, Roxy turned out to be a wonderful, confident and loving dog. It was really Roxy that lead me to Zani's Furry Friends. I

searched different shelters for foster programs and eventually looked on craigslist.com and found Gisella McSweeny, the founder of Zani's Furry Friends.

I remember the first dog I fostered. I was so in love with her and it was the most difficult thing to give her to a new home. I remember crying when she left and felt that I could not foster again. Later that night I spoke with Gisella and she reminded me of why fostering is important — not only to save animals from a shelter system where death is a reality, but also to enrich the lives of their new adoptive families. Over the last two years I have fostered many kittens, puppies, cats and dogs and have fallen deeply in love with all of them, wanting to adopt them until I remind myself of my far reaching purpose.

For every moment I feel sad about giving up my foster, I am blessed by the magnitude of happiness from the loving families who have adopted from us with their updates. Knowing I have changed someone's life, changed someone and some animal's world, is something so incredibly special.

There are good, bad, happy and sad times that come with not only fostering but dealing with the shelter as well as the adoptees and adopters. Being a volunteer, foster and secretary of this organization has changed my life. There is no more time to feel lazy, depressed, selfish and unloved when a sweet loving animal is kissing my face as soon as I walk in the door. People tell me these animals are so lucky to have me and yet I couldn't disagree more: these animals as well as Zani's Furry Friends have molded my life and existence into a better and more rewarding one than I could have ever asked for.

Links of Interest

Zani's Furry Friends on Petfinder

See our latest fosters!

www.zff.petfinder.com

www.happytails.org

Mayor's Alliance for NYC Animals

www.animalallianceny.org

Animal Care & Control of New York City

www.nycacc.org

Humane Society of NYC

www.humanesocietyny.org

ASPCA New York City

www.aspca.org

Pethealth.com

www.pethealthinc.com

A great site for interesting pet articles.

PetPlace.com

www.petplace.com

Another good resource for pet information

Maddie's Pet Rescue Project in New York City, Zani's Furry Friends 2006

	Dog	Cat	Total
A BEGINNING SHELTER COUNT	8	18	26
INTAKE FROM ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL NYC - (Live Dogs & Cats Only)			
Healthy	5	107	112
Treatable - Rehabilitatable	30	304	334
Treatable - Manageable	0	17	17
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	18	18
B Subtotal Intake from Animal Care & Control NYC	35	446	481
INTAKE FROM PUBLIC - (Live Dogs & Cats Only)			
Healthy	1	10	11
Treatable - Rehabilitatable	1	0	1
Treatable - Manageable	0	1	1
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0
C Subtotal Intake from the Public	2	11	13
TRANSFERS IN FROM MADDIE'S PET PARTNERS (List each seperately - Live Dogs & Cats Only)			
Healthy	0	0	0
Treatable - Rehabilitatable	0	0	0
Treatable - Manageable	0	0	0
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0
D Subtotal Incoming Transfers from Maddie's Pet Partners	0	0	0
TRANSFERS IN FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS - (Live Dogs & Cats Only)			
Healthy	0	0	0
Treatable - Rehabilitatable	0	0	0
Treatable - Manageable	0	0	0
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0
E Subtotal Incoming Transfers from Other Organizations	0	0	0
TOTAL TRANSFER IN	0	0	0
F TOTAL INTAKE [B + C + D + E]	37	457	494
ADOPTIONS (only dogs and cats adopted by the public)			
ADOPTIONS Involving Dogs and Cats from Animal Care & Control NYC			
Healthy	12	145	157
Treatable - Rehabilitatable	30	180	210
Treatable - Manageable	0	4	4
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0
Subtotal Adoptions Involving Dogs and Cats from Animal Care & Control NYC	42	329	371
ADOPTIONS Involving Dogs and Cats From the Public and Other Organizations			
Healthy	1	7	8
Treatable - Rehabilitatable	1	0	1
Treatable - Manageable	0	0	0
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0
Subtotal Adoptions Involving Dogs and Cats From the Public and Other Organizations	2	7	9
G TOTAL ADOPTIONS	44	336	380
OUTGOING TRANSFERS TO MADDIE'S PET PARTNERS (List each separately)			
Healthy	0	0	0
Treatable - Rehabilitatable	0	0	0
Treatable - Manageable	0	0	0
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0
H TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS TO MADDIE'S PET PARTNERS	0	0	0
OUTGOING TRANSFERS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS			
Healthy	0	0	0
Treatable - Rehabilitatable	1	0	1
Treatable - Manageable	0	1	1
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0
I TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	1	1	2
TOTAL TRANSFERS OUT	1	1	2
J RETURN TO OWNER/GUARDIAN	0	0	0
DOGS & CATS EUTHANIZED			
K Healthy	0	0	0
L Treatable - Rehabilitatable	0	0	0
M Treatable - Manageable	0	0	0
N Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	6	6
O TOTAL EUTHANASIA	0	6	6
P DIED OR LOST IN SHELTER/CARE	0	39	39
Q TOTAL OUTCOMES [G + H + I + J + O + P]	45	382	427
R ENDING SHELTER COUNT	0	93	93