



Chesapeake Cats

News



“Working to provide a life of love
and dignity for all cats.”

Premier Issue

Dear Friends,

November 12, 2006

Introducing Chesapeake Cats, a non-profit animal rescue organization registered with the State of Maryland and seeking 501C3 status with the IRS. We are organized in Queen Anne’s County by Sheila Wentzel and a dedicated, talented group of volunteers. Our mission is to rescue cats and kittens and place them in permanent homes once they are old enough and medically ready.



Officers and Board

The President of Chesapeake Cats is **Sheila Wentzel** who has 6 years of experience in animal rescue groups. Sheila and her husband Ken have resided in Queen Anne’s County for 20 years and currently have 3 dogs and 7 cats, all rescued. Sheila graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a B.S. degree. Her past employments have included flight attendant, REALTOR opening the Champion Realty office on the Eastern Shore, and as a nurse at Anne Arundel Medical Center. Sheila and Ken enjoy travel and boating.

The vice president is **Kathy Thomas** who owns 2 Stevensville based businesses and does small business consulting. Kathy is in her ninth year in animal rescue work and is currently a volunteer with another rescue group. She has a BS degree from the University of Maryland. In the past, Kathy has taught school, coached and has 20 years experience in the spirit industry. She resides on Kent Island with her husband Jay and several rescued cats and dogs.

The treasurer is **Cynthia Harden** who is a local REALTOR® and GRI with Long and Foster for the past 2 ½ years. Cynthia earned a BS from the University of Maryland. She also has a MEd from Loyola University. She taught school and was a school administrator for 22 years. She instructed at Catonsville Community College for 10 years. Later she developed a tutoring company in Columbia, MD. Cindy enjoys downhill skiing and the Washington Nationals. She is the proud guardian of several rescued stray cats.

Phyllis Lee, with 3 rescued cats in her home, is the secretary. Phyllis has always loved animals and has had many Labradors. She is a retired medical social worker and also was the Maryland state director of a non-profit adoption and foster care agency for over 7 years. She has an MSW from the University of Maryland.

Mary Giolitti is the Director of Fund Raising. Mary has been a successful Annapolis business owner of Giolitti Deli for the past 14 years. She enjoys fostering for Great Dane Rescue, the Bull Dog Rescue, the Boston Terrier Rescue and Queen Anne County Animal Control. Mary’s husband Gene enjoys the many animals that enter their home. The Giolitti’s have 2 daughters and 3 cats.

Other Board members include **Bill Barnes**, a semi-retired estimator for Champion Improvements. Bill has a BS degree from St. John’s College in Wisconsin. He loves fostering kittens in his home along with his wife Joyce and their 3 cats. Joyce has a Broker’s license and Appraisal GRI. She formerly owned a Century 21 franchise. This couple enjoys time spent with



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their grandchildren. **Carol Fordonski** is originally from New Jersey and graduated from Newark College of Engineering. She is retired from AT&T and lives with her husband Don, a local attorney, one dog, one cat, and one foster kitten. Carol has long been a civic activist concentrating on the environment, the arts, and animal welfare. Carol is a newly elected Queen Anne County Commissioner. **Kathy Hunter** has a BS degree in journalism from South Dakota State University. Before moving to Maryland, she owned and operated 2 ice cream shops in Western Pennsylvania. She is the proud owner of 3 rescued cats. **Peter Lee** is active in the community as chairman of the County Planning Commission, Lion's Club member, church choir member, and barbershop chorus member. He has a BA degree from the University of Minnesota and is a retired executive from the National Security Agency after a 35 year career. He and Phyllis enjoy travel and time with family.

We are looking for additional persons to serve on our Board. If you are an Attorney or a CPA or just plain interested in animal rescue please contact Sheila (410-827-3148).

The people named above have worked together to develop a letterhead and a mission statement, created an adoption application and contract, opened a checking account and obtained a post office address. We have worked on By-laws, a Founder's Circle donation opportunity and an upcoming fundraiser. We are attempting to locate a small office space. If anyone could help us identify a small office where we could have a cat room and desk, we would be most appreciative.

Foster Families

We currently have several cats and kittens in foster care. Mickey and Mandy are in foster care at **Cynthia Harden**'s home. They are friendly, young adult cats who were found abandoned in Sudlersville. Mickey is a black and white male and Mandy is a gray tiger.

Will, Jack, Harriet and Wally are at **Mary Giolitti**'s home. Will and Jack came from Queen Anne's County Animal Control as young, bottle fed babies. Their first foster mother was **Joyce Barnes**. They are still young but very playful and lovable. (They are seen at the top of the Newsletter on the far right.)

Harriet was found in someone's back yard along with her brother. The brother has already been adopted into his permanent home. Harriet is a beautiful white kitten who is very active. Wally is a gorgeous buff and white 5 month old kitten. He entered **Diane Bedlin**'s foster home from Last Chance, a rescue group near Washington D.C. He had been in an adoptive home but became very sick and needed medical care and fostering until he is ready to be placed again. He was recently moved to Mary's home so that he would have some kittens to play with.

Diane does have another foster kitten named Layla. She is a 6 week old orange tabby who needs to be bottle fed. Layla has a new home identified for her when she is old enough and eating well. Diane's family has put lots of love into this kitten helping her survive her early weeks without a mother cat.



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First Placement



Great news!! Henry's foster family has decided to make him a permanent part of their home. He now resides with Megan, Jeremy, Georgia and Daphne Eckman of Annapolis. Megan said Henry has really come out of his shell, and he seems to enjoy their family as much as they do him. Congratulations to all of them! Henry got an awesome family. See how alert and handsome he is in his new home. What a success story from a frightened, hungry, homeless kitten to this content, loved cat.

Legal Status of Chesapeake Cats

Kathy Thomas has been busy filling out paper work and driving to Baltimore on the 9th of November 2006 to file the papers that made Chesapeake Cats and Dogs a registered corporation in the state of Maryland with the stated intention of a non-profit status. (Editor’s note: The filing papers included dogs for possible future expansion of our mission.) She has also obtained the federal EIN number required by the IRS. Kathy is working on the papers to obtain a 501C3 non-profit status. Thank you Kathy for your expertise in these areas.

Founder’s Circle

Chesapeake Cats is seeking people to join our Founder’s Circle. The donation levels are:

\$1,000. – Tuxedo Cat \$250. - American Shorthair Cat \$ 50. – Polydactyl Cat
\$ 500. – Himalayan Cat \$100. – Maine Coon Cat

The first members of the Tuxedo Cat Founder’s level are Joyce and Bill Barne’s grandchildren. Brian (11) and Jamie(8) Glueck and their parents saved change for the year. They are seen rolling their money into coin rolls to take to the bank. Thank you Brian and Jamie!



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Web Site

Jay Thomas, Kathy’s husband, has designed and opened a website for our new organization. Check it out at www.chesapeakecats.com. It is a valuable asset in spreading the news and keeping people current on our events. Thank you Jay!!

The Board and Officers of Chesapeake Cats are thrilled with the progress we are making. If you have any questions or have an interest to work within this organization, please contact any of the Board of Directors. Phyllis Lee, Editor (410-643-9351)

NEWSFLASH..NEWSFLASH..NEWSFLASH

We are having a Bingo/Christmas Party on Sunday December 17 , 2-6 PMat the Giolitti Deli in Annapolis. There will be great food, prizes and raffles and of course, SANTA .

Tickets are \$25 and available from Sheila at 410.827.3148 or Phyllis 410.643.9351

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www.chesapeakecats.com