

new beginnings

The official newsletter of Furry Friends Network

Help Furry Friends Network Cross the Finish Line!

On Saturday, September 20, 2008, approximately one hundred fifty humans and their canine companions came out for Furry Friend Network's Third Annual Race For Their Lives held at Gifford Pinchot State Park. The day was filled with fitness, food and fun all while raising funds so desperately needed to help orphaned animals. Thank you to all who participated as well as our generous sponsors. You helped us raise almost \$14,000.00! Animals like Lily and Spike directly benefitted from your generosity and I am happy to report they both have found homes!



Please mark your calendars for **Race For Their Lives 2009 on Saturday, September 19, 2009**, registration @ 8:00 a.m. and race @ 9:00 a.m., Gifford Pinchot State Park – We promise more of the same fun and fitness with a 5K trail run or a 2-mile fun walk to accommodate all levels of fitness! This year we will have entertainment donated by Hertz DJ Services as well as a Top Fundraiser prize of a 7 night vacation at Westgate Villas in Kissimmee, FL!. We are asking you to join us for this event and to collect pledges in support of the hundreds of animals cared for by Furry Friends Network on any given day. It is only with your help that we will be able to continue our life saving mission. In these uncertain economic times donated dollars have diminished

as the economy suffers, but the number of stray animals and those surrendered by their families sadly stands at an all time high. Furry Friends Network needs your help to care for these animals! 100% of your collected pledges directly benefits the animals under our care, and will absolutely change another life. So, PLEASE ask your friends and families to sponsor you as you try to help Furry Friends Network cross the finish line in the race to save more lives! When everyone gives just a little, it grows into something big! Race details can be found on www.furryfriendsnetwork.com

If you can't make it to our event due to distance or prior commitments, won't you please consider donating? You can visit our website and click on the Race For Their Lives page or simply complete the donation submission page contained in this newsletter. Every animal we help is a direct result of your generosity. Please help us help more animals!

Red Cross Volunteer in training...

Lazlo is a Redbone Coonhound puppy whose Mommy, Winnie was found as a pregnant stray with Lazlo's Dad Jackson in October 2008. Luckily Winnie found a warm foster home in which to birth her babies as opposed to the cold cement floor of the corn crib in which they were being housed when first found. Lazlo is training to be a Red Cross therapy dog, which means that he can attend events like Pawsabilities and the play dates, but he can't visit the nursing homes until he's certified. That cannot happen until Lazlo turns one year old. Here is another FFN dog paying it forward to help others! Keep up the good work Lazlo!



There is still Hope

Every dog has a story, so here is Hope's... Hope was a very special Basset Hound who had been mistreated as a puppy in a puppy mill. She was picked up by her back leg and lived that way in the mill for some time. Although surgery was performed on Hope after coming to Furry Friends Network at approximately twelve weeks old, Hope was never able to use that leg other than to give herself a good scratch. Despite her special handicap Hope did find a home, but we learned after a year, she was slated to be euthanized by her adoptive family because Hope had developed severe allergies. Thank goodness, Furry Friends Network became aware of this situation and was able to get her back. After many trips to the allergist, Hope found a FABULOUS home, and lived the life of a queen. Her adoptive Dad gave her the best of everything and even designed his home to accommodate Hope's special needs.

Unfortunately, Hope became ill in August 2008 and was diagnosed with Lymphoma. Although she fought bravely, on September 15, 2008, she lost her battle. She crossed the bridge and is just on the other side playing like she never was able to on this earth. Sweet Hope had so much against her, but still brought much love and laughter to many lives in the short seven years she spent on this earth. Never did she complain, and she always had so much love to give. Hope is still a very famous celebrity in our rescue and has even appeared as a calendar girl. She was a success story and had what we pray all animals get at chance at having - life, love and unbounded happiness. Hope is gone, but certainly will never be forgotten!

Furry Friends Network often receives dogs and cats, who have severe injuries, illness, and/or are in need of major surgery. Although we have

always, and will continue, to cover these costs through continuous fundraising efforts, there have been times when we have wondered how we would make ends meet while also continuing to care for our other animals. As such, we established a fund that will allow you to help us help these precious animals. We have named this fund after Hope because she gave hope to so many through her resiliency. Please visit www.furryfriendsnetwork.com to learn how you can pay-it-forward and help others receive the help they need.



A letter from Hope's Dad...

Dear Robin and the Rest of the Furry Friends Network,

Please accept this gift in memory of my blessed Hopey. It's hard to believe that she's been gone four weeks now. I still wake up at 5:00 a.m. looking to feed her. I still look to trip over her when I put the groceries away. I still try to snuggle up with her at night. And I still wait for that tackle from her when I get home from work.

Hopey was such a special little girl. She was such a little con-artist when it came to sneaking snacks or getting onto the furniture, but she would always turn it around later or show more love than I ever thought was possible from a dog. Hopey came into this world and my life with two strikes and a foul ball against her—her mangled back leg, her deformed front foot, and severe allergies. I can't imagine what FFN thought of me when I adopted her.

Life with Hope from day one was always interesting. I remember postponing her adoption because I had dislocated an ankle. Then, a week later she moved in for good... her with two bad legs and me wearing a walking cast. A couple months after that I was feeding her (and we all know how she liked to eat!), she was sitting behind me as impatient as always. Needless to say I tripped over her, split my head open on the kitchen cabinets, and sent dog

food all over the kitchen (which she cleaned up by the way).

And then there were the allergies. Her first few months in my life were miserable with the allergies and the scratching. There were a few times where I sat down wondering if I had done the right thing in adopting her. There were special diets, creams, sprays, and lastly shots to help with the allergies. But seeing how happy she had become, seeing her chase and tackle my mom's cats, seeing her somehow catch mice, seeing her play, and wrestling with her made it worthwhile. Hope had become non-stop entertainment, and I mean every single day.

Hope enjoyed everybody and everything. A trip to the vet's office which is usually torture for another dog turned into a day at the park to her. To know Hope was to love her. She always knew who to seek out in a crowd, whether it be the person she thought most likely to give her food, or the person who loved dogs the most, or the person who just needed some love from her. She was an adventurer. Every chance she could take to get outside her yard was a golden opportunity to explore. Thankfully she couldn't get very far (and thankful for helpful neighbors) because she would go wherever her heart desired. On several occasions my dad and I "dog proofed" my fence only to find her sneaking out somewhere else we didn't think possible, she was the local limbo champion.

If there's one thing I hope I learned from her it's how to lead a courageous life. For all the problems life threw at her she accepted every one of them and met the challenge and let it become a new adventure to be had.

Over the years, through a lot of hard work and sacrifice, Hopey and I were able to pretty much conquer her problems. No signs of allergies for years, a nice wagon to take rides in, and a lot of love and understanding from both of us in dealing with these problems. Hope was much too sweet to be afflicted with such problems, but they didn't seem to bother her.

I guess it was then that I became too used to her being mine when the Lord decided she was too good for this world and it was time for her to go home. We had a short but courageous fight with cancer in which she was her normal self up until the very end. I stayed up with her that last night as long as I could and she gave me that look that said it was okay to get some sleep. Sometime a little while later she passed on. But all the while the cancer was ravaging her body it couldn't affect that tail or her heart. I cherish every moment I've spent with her and wish I could get back some of the times I couldn't be with her. She's gone to a special place now where she'll have four good legs once again.

*Sincerely
Craig Wilson*

Kids making a difference



Erica S., a young artist from York County, made a beautiful sign for FFN's information table at PetSmart. Erica is pictured with FFN volunteer, Dennis and Jordan, a male German Shepherd Mix, who after four years in foster care, found his forever home!! Thank you Erica!!



Ian Ward, age 7 from Newville, Cumberland County was so upset by the recent ASPCA Commercials that he asked his Mom what he could do. His Mom replied "all we can do is help." So, as part of his Cub Scout badge requirement, Ian collected supplies for FFN's foster animals. Thank you Ian for caring enough to take action and help FFN be able to continuing its lifesaving mission!



Leah Eichelberger is a 1st grader at Carlisle Christian Academy. She recently celebrated her 6th birthday with the usual pool party that included lots of family and friends. This party was different though because there were no gifts for Leah. Instead, Leah asked for items that could be used by Furry Friends Network. Her invitations listed the "need items" of Furry Friends Network and the response was great. Leah received \$160 in PetSmart gift cards and lots and lots of toys, treats, and food for dogs and cats. Leah has also been volunteering her time to help sort supplies, put together adoption baskets, and she even helped with the flier mailing for the Race For Their Lives. Best of all, Leah and her family foster dogs for Furry Friends Network! THANK YOU LEAH for caring so much! You are making a difference in the lives of so many animals.



Erin Ulrich, Sarah Reeder and Mary Catherine Gronkiewicz from St. Patrick's Junior Girl Scout Troop 543 attended a lecture and chose Furry Friends Network to benefit from their Bronze Award. The girls collected 226.45 pounds of dog food, 95.37 pounds of cat food, 90 pounds of cat litter, 28 collars and leashes, as well as miscellaneous items such as bowls, toys and shampoo. Paws up to St. Patrick's Junior Girl Scout Troop 543 for your hard work!!

Strikes for Strays

Furry Friends Network supporters and volunteers gathered at the Trindle Bowl on Sunday, February 22, 2009 for our annual Strikes for Strays bowl-a-thon. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of good food and fun, all while raising approximately \$10,000 for the fur kids under our care. Please join us for Strikes for Strays 2010 on February 28th!

We feel very fortunate to have so many animal-loving supporters who allow us to continue our life saving mission. We could not continue without your help!

Many thanks to all our participants who joined the fun and raised the cash for our 4-legged charges; and to our marvelous

volunteers who contributed prizes, baked goods, baskets and their time and made a great day for all. An additional special thank you to our Phi Beta Lambda HACC volunteers who made set up and clean up a snap! Of course, many thanks to our sponsors! Please support our sponsors as they have so generously supported Furry Friends Network!

We are very happy to report that our Strikes for Strays 2009 poster boys, Bart and Kip, found a wonderful home in January 2009. These brothers were adopted through FFN by a wonderful family in 2004, but lost their happy home due to divorce, were returned to the foster care program and



then remained under our care for over a year before recently finding their new “fur-ever” adoptive home! Check out our website www.furryfriendsnetwork.com to read how well Bart and Kip are doing with their new fur-ever family!



Jordan is finally home!!

Jordan was in foster care with Furry Friends Network for four years. However, prior to that Jordan was in a corner pen at the Harrisburg Humane Society and was slated to be euthanized. His name then was “Bones”, and every time a volunteer went by, he would wildly beg for a walk. Jordan has come such a long way since then—thanks to many, many people. Volunteers tried a variety of venues to find Jordan the home he needed without success. It was a big team effort, but the right match didn’t come along until Jordan met Denise and Frank in August 2008. Jordan’s story is living proof that we should never give up on a dog. Thanks be to God he is finally “home!”

Community Generosity

The ESOP Committee of **Glatfelter’s Insurance** in York collected donations over the holidays for Furry Friends Network. Thank you so much for your generosity!





Reflections of a Foster Parent

Contributed by Christy Allen

When explaining to people that you are a foster parent to homeless pets, they usually reply with "I could never do that because I could never give them up." I wonder to myself if they think I hate pets or I am a cold, unfeeling individual because I relinquish them. I smile and reply that "I give them up because I love them." I then proceed to explain that if we did not place the rescued pets for adoption, our organization would run out of space and homeless pets will die. Not probably, not maybe, not perhaps – killing will be done, lives will be lost.

I cannot in good conscious state that I love my own dogs and cats without being an advocate for all dogs and cats. Empathy

is the driving force behind fostering and volunteering. Thus I am able to cut the ties and release a foster pet to its forever home. It breaks my heart every time. Once out of sight of the adopter, I cry. The tears are a strange melancholia; sad, happy, hopeful, fearful all at once. It takes a HUGE leap of faith to place a loved one in another family. There are so many unknowns. It takes tremendous, steadfast resolve to pass the leash to a stranger who will be responsible for the love and care of this precious being for the next 20 years. But I remain strong, I do surrender control and I do make a difference; one furry little life at a time.

From a Foster Parent

Contributed by Stephanie Grossnickle



These dogs that live with us never fail to amaze and touch me. Here is another story that proves they are truly angels in disguise. Big B (Brutus) is spending more time with me and the other dogs since Kathryn is in Florida for a few days with the family that she is a nanny for. I've noticed a friendship forming between Big B and Jessie, and I truly believe that they have bonded because they somehow understand that they both have a weakness in their back ends, and this has created a bond between them. Big B lays on the floor and Jessie gently plays with him. And when they are outdoors and I am throwing tennis balls, Big B and Jessie both chase the balls. Of course Big B is slower than Jessie - but Jessie always lets Big B win and get to the ball before he does. A special pair - for sure!

Jessie and Big B are special needs dogs that are being fostered by the Grossnickle family. Without their love who knows what would have happened to Jessie and Big B.

From Our Adopters...

Well, a year ago last Wednesday was our big ADOPTION DAY of sweet Finley. We had a celebration at our house this past week on October 8th, kind of like his birthday...the boys were really into it (cupcakes, of course) and we all just feel so blessed to have Finley in our life. He is an incredible dog...so easy, so calm, SO well behaved...such an easy to train pup. He is doing really well with his visits to the assisted living facility, putting his CGC status to good use!! We hit the jackpot with him!

We went to a local state park yesterday and took Finley with us, we got him into the water a bit finally! He loved it.

THANKS for all that you do. Your work with FFN has enhanced our lives so much!!!

:) Kyla



A special day to celebrate...

Happy Birthday to Baxter, Lilly, Rosie, Mason, Petey, Daisy, and Marley! And thank you, Ruby, for bringing these special pups into our world. Most of all, thanks to each of you who have adopted these doggies and have given them homes filled with goodness and love. You are the best!

Thinking of you and sending appreciation and love.
—Stephanie



Ruby's Family Reunion

Contributed by Stephanie Grossnickle

Ruby's pup reunion was a wonderful success! Six of the seven pups were there, and the families enjoyed meeting one another and the pups had a blast. The pups all look WONDERFUL! When I hear what the families went through (most of the pups needed dips or other vet care along the way—and Daisy was just diagnosed with allergies to dust mites) I couldn't be more convinced that these are dedicated people who absolutely love their dogs. Daisy arrived wearing sunglasses. She looks terrific—no bare spots—and best of all, she is happy. Baxter and Lilly, too, are doing very well. Baxter relapsed into mange several times over the past years, but his family made sure he had good vet care and he finally seems to have beaten the mange. Petey—oh my—how handsome! He was the largest of the pups, Baxter second. The entropion surgery he had made his eyes look big and beautiful and he has a nice coat of hair - no signs of any hair loss or other problems. He is such a friendly guy - loved all the people and was the ring leader of the pups in their play. Mason and Rosie looked great too. And Ruby just sat back and watched everything from a distance. She was good with her pups - not sure how much she remembered about them—but she let her "kids" romp around the yard while she kept an eye on them. These dogs are all well loved—I only wish every dog had what they have!

FOSTER HOMES ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED to save more lives! Please go to our web site for more information on becoming a volunteer. www.furryfriendsnetwork.com

Furry Friends Network's annual **Mutt Mixer and Flea Market**

Saturday, October 10, 2009 (rain date 10/11/09)
11:00 – 3:00 p.m.

@ Stumpf Field/McMinn's Park
1350 Fruitville Pike • Lancaster, PA.

This is an event for the entire family with lots of games for the dogs, such as Doggie Dash Challenge, Canine Custard Contest, Fashion Frenzy Challenge, Back to Basics Challenge, Mutt Mania Challenge, K-9 Costume Contest - \$\$\$CASH PRIZE\$\$\$, and various other dog games. There will be a LOW COST VACCINE and MICROCHIPPING Clinic, as well as a Flea Market, Adoptable Pets on Site, Raffles, Dog Treats, Pet Supplies, Food & more... Please come out to this incredible event! You will have fun and best of all your canine pal will love you for it! To register your dog, please visit www.furryfriendsnetwork.com or www.muttpalace.com or call 717-871-1118.



Want to build a shelter for your neighborhood cats? Go to www.alleycat.org/buildashelter

From a Foster Parent

Contributed by Lynn Wilson



This is Baron! He is a beagle/boxer mix that was found running the streets with about 1/3 of his body burned by what the vet thinks was scolding hot water. The shelter put out a plea for someone to take this boy and I just could not say no to him. He needed help. Baron came into Furry Friends Network in February, 2008. The first twelve hours after his arrival were very rocky as he was very lethargic and had no color to his gums. I could not get any fluids to stay in his body. The next morning after he arrived, I rushed him to the Palmyra Animal Clinic. Baron was put on 24 hour watch due to the lethargy while IV fluids were administered continuously. Dr. Clemens also performed a new laser procedure on Baron's wounds. Baron came home after being at the vet clinic for 2 weeks and he was such a different dog. We had to continue the special soakings with medicated scrub and wound cream administered several times each day to help continue the healing process. It was a lot of intensive care, but we are so thankful for the great outcome.



We kept wondering who would adopt this dog. On the outside, he was not very pretty, but on the inside he was incredibly beautiful. Baron has been very fortunate to have found a wonderful mommy that has opened her heart to him knowing that he would probably never have a full body of hair.

Baron wants to thank all of the wonderful people that donate to Furry Friends Network. Without your help, Furry Friends Network would never have been able to pay for the expensive vet care Baron needed to give him a second chance at life, love and happiness!

Here is an update from Baron's Mom:



It is hard to believe but I have had Baron for 1 year today. I thought I would give you an update. He is doing wonderful. He has gotten big and handsome even though his fur did not grow back. He loves everyone and everything. He enjoys playing ball in the back yard and lying on his chair on the patio. He goes to doggie daycare twice a week and loves being with the other dogs. He has been a wonderful addition to our family. Thanks for the care you gave him that allowed him to join our family. -Jen

Mousers Looking for Homes:

ARE YOU IN NEED OF A FEW GOOD MOUSERS FOR YOUR FARM?

If so, have we got a deal for you! Feral cats are defined as those that are unsocialized and have never lived with a human family. While they are like wildlife and are content living outside, they still need safe environments in which to live that will offer some sort of shelter for those cold, rainy nights. Furry Friends Network will fix, vaccinate, deworm and test for Feline Leukemia/Aids prior to relocating them to your farm.

These special creatures will provide you an invaluable resource as a mouser and only ask for food and water in return. Furry Friends Network will even give you a starter supply of food!

Please contact Shawna at ffncats@yahoo.com if you would like to hire some of these expert mousers!



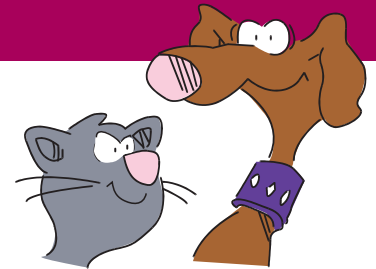
Furry Friends Network is looking for some dedicated volunteers to help in all areas including application processing, data entry, event coordination, donation collections, etc. If you have some time to dedicate to Furry Friends Network, we could sure use the help!





Furry Friends Network
P.O. Box 519
Boiling Springs, PA 17007

DONATION FORM



Thank you so much for caring about the animals. **Without your support there would be no Furry Friends Network!** We are thankful for your support, and want you to know that all donations—large and small—help your furry friends, one and all!

Here's a gift of love to help the animals and all the work of Furry Friends Network.

I'm enclosing \$45.00 \$100.00 \$150.00 Other _____

Please mail donations to Furry Friends Network | P.O. Box 519 | Boiling Springs, PA 17007

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

I would you like to sign up for Furry Friends Network's email newsletters

Email: _____

Donations are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.