

# Newsletter

LapsShelter@windstream.net wwwLapsShelter.org

570-327-8707

Summer 2011

"One at a time, we will make a difference!"

# WANTED

# **A Few Dedicated** - Volunteers -

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in volunteering time helping care for the cats and their daily needs within the shelter or assisting with fundraisers outside the shelter, please contact us! We would love to hear from you, answer any questions you may have, and get you started with this rewarding job. Appreciation is given in the form of purrs, head bonks, and the occasional love bite!

# June is Adopt-A-Shelter-Cat Month

And LAPS is partnering with the ASPCA and the makers of Fresh Step litter to help find loving homes for cats. On Sunday, June 19 and Sunday, June 26, we are waiving the fee to adopt adult cats, ages 3 and older. All other adoption policies and thorough match-making procedures remain in effect. Learn more at www.LapsShelter.org/June

#### Join LAPS at an upcoming event:

LINE SHELTER AND ADOPTION CENTER 195 Phillips Park Drive

South Williamsport PA 17702

Sunday, June 5 - Pet Expo, 12pm - 4pm at Indian Park Sunday, June 12 - Petco Adopt-a-thon, 11am - 3pm at Petco Sunday, June 19 - Open House & Adoption Event, 12pm - 4pm at LAPS Sunday, June 26 - Open House & Adoption Event, 12pm - 4pm at LAPS \*June 19 is Father's Day...make a donation in honor of Dad!



# **OPEN HOURS**

Monday 9 am - 12 noonTuesday 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Wednesday 8 am - 10 amThursday 12 noon – 3 pm & 5:30 pm – 7 pm Friday 12 noon – 3 pm & 7 pm – 9 pm Others by Appointment

LAPS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible. The official registration and financial information of Lycoming Animal Protection Society may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement

### LAPS Board of Directors

President: Vice President: Recording Secretary: Corresponding Secretary: Treasurer:

Brandy Kift Patti Barclay Holly Kline Gwen Uber Patti Barclay (A)

Members:

Debbie Berry

Nancy Cohick Nanci Giacomi Tracy Haas Jenn Jacobs Charlotte Myers Kerri Reardon

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/DONATION FORM				
Name				
Address				
Street	City	State	Zip	
Annual Associate Membership is a \$15 donation and over). All Members receive the LAPS News be nominated to the Board of Directors. LAPS deductible. All donations are greatly appreciated	sletter, are entitled to sis a registered 501(d	vote in the Board of Dir	ector Elections and can	
Is this: □ New Membership	\$			
□ Renewal of Membership	\$			
$\Box$ Donation	\$			
TOTAL	\$			
Memory of Norma, mother of Jill Webb. - Irene Wood	specia			
Honor of Joanne Cromley's Birthday. - Nancy Cohick	- In Ho	JoAnn & Maurice Par		
Memory of Emily Gleckner.	-	Jackie Carson Nancy Cohick		
<ul> <li>Harold &amp; Ginnie Houseknecht</li> <li>Daughters of the American Revolution</li> </ul>	-	Joanne Cromley		
Maria (D. 1	In Me	mory of Wendell Kelly,	Boots Paulhamus, and	
Memory of Digby. - Jeff Wagner	Brews	Brewster.		
- Jeli wagner	-	Kathleen Marabella		
Memory of Judy Plankenhorn.	In Ho	nor of Dan Mosso's Birth	dav	
<ul><li>Cheryl, Jim, Alex &amp; Luke Plankenhorn</li><li>Donald &amp; Patricia Caldwell</li></ul>	-	Pat Bailey	luay.	
N 60	In Ho	nor of Mickey's 1 <sup>st</sup> year v	with us.	
Memory of Oscar. - Frank & Linda Page	-	Ellen Houser & Ray M		
YOU	NG VOLUNI	TEERS		
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their fellow students at Hepburn-Lycoming Elementary School (with the school's approval) the opportunity to donate \$1 to be put towards purchasing canned cat food for the shelter. Participating students filled out a printed shamrock with their name and these shamrocks were then displayed at LAPS for the Month of March.

A total of \$193 was raised to purchase canned cat food. Thank you to all who donated, Dr. Robert Williams, Principal, for allowing this fundraiser, and especially Shana & Zoey for organizing this wonderful fundraiser for LAPS!



## FAREWELL

As is the cycle of life, three more of our beloved residents crossed the Rainbow Bridge since our last newsletter. Godspeed, our furry friends.

### 🕈 Custer 🕈

Custer was a handsome orange boy who lived all but the first few months of his life at LAPS. Until his last few years with us, Custer was an extremely timid and fearful cat who wouldn't let anyone touch him. It took a very long time, but Custer finally did warm up to people and we were able to pet and hold him. Custer started having health problems and was diagnosed with cancer. He was assisted across the Rainbow Bridge on March 11, 2011. He was approximately 15 years old.

### Simone

Sweet, beautiful Simone came to LAPS in June 2010 at the age of 16 years, after her elderly owner passed in February 2010 and the friend who took her in for a short period of time afterwards had to relocate for her job. Simone was diagnosed with kidney failure and passed quietly in her sleep on March 21, 2011, just a few days after her diagnosis.

### ♥ Oscar ♥

Oscar was a large, handsome orange boy. His large build complemented his large personality! Oscar was taken into LAPS as a stray. Even though he tested positive for FIV, Oscar lived a relatively normal cat life. Over the past year or so, Oscar was hit with a double whammy of heart failure and kidney failure; and unfortunately, treatment for one complicated treatment for the other. After a long battle, Oscar was assisted across the Rainbow Bridge on March 23, 2011. He was approximately 15 years old.







## **•** THE EULOGY **•**

Look not where I was For I am not there My spirit is free I am everywhere

In the air that you breathe In the sounds that you hear Don't cry for me Mom My spirit is near I'll watch for you From the other side I'll be the one running New friends by my side

Smile at my memory Remember in your heart This isn't the end It's a brand new start

© Copyright Carol Kufner

Dear Neighbor,

During any give year, over 6 million animals\* (more than the entire human population of Missouri) enter shelters and become homeless. Over 50%\* of them are euthanized due to overcrowding or health issues related to abuse and neglect. The sad animals you see in the t.v. commercials, which are so difficult to watch, are real. Those animals, and many more like them, really do exist. I know, because I spend much of my time as an animal rescue shelter volunteer and see the abused and abandoned animals first hand. All are scared and many are traumatized and must be taught to trust.

Purchasing from a pet shop or even from a "reputable" breeder takes homes away from shelter animals, and perpetuates the use of animals for profit. When a dog is purchased from a pet shop the transaction keeps an animal abuser in business, as most pet shops get their puppies from puppy mills. Puppy mills are businesses specifically created to breed puppies for sale. Unfortunately, the breeder animals spend their entire lives in small cages, often lying in their own waste. They never receive any affection. They are never allowed to walk outside their small cages (except to breed). They are never allowed to play, and most don't even know how. They are only fed enough to allow them to continue breeding. They are matted, filthy, lonely, hungry, scared, depressed and usually sick. They have been emotionally and physically abused and neglected. Their living conditions are deplorable and when they can no longer breed, they are killed. If you were to see the condition of just one of these animals when it is rescued from a puppy mill, your life would never be the same. So if you plan on purchasing that happy little puppy from a pet shop, keep in mind that you will be leaving its parents behind to be abused, and then perpetuating their misery by putting more money and more motivation into the pocket of the abuser. The highest concentration of puppy mills is in Missouri and in Lancaster, Pennsylvania (Google "Amish animal abuse" or "Amish puppy mills"). Isn't it time we stop using animals to fill our pockets with cash, or to satisfy our egos?

There is a rescue group for just about every breed (and species) of animal you can think of, and a good amount of animals in shelters are pedigreed. You need only to know the traits of the breed you are looking into to be sure it is a good fit with your family, and so will stay for a lifetime. The shelter staff can help with that.

This letter is intended to raise awareness. If you care about animals at all, here are some things you can do to help:

- Don't breed animals for fun or profit. Remember there is "NO NEED TO BREED".
- Don't buy animals from pet shops or breeders (including on-line breeders).
- Do please adopt a shelter or rescued animal (www.petfinder.com is for rescue group animals only).
- Donate to a shelter or rescue group if you can (cash, blankets, towels, food, pet toys).
- Donate pet food to a local food bank. Many food bank patrons have pets that are in need too.
- Volunteer your time to a shelter or rescue group. The animals need love, affection and fun!
- Spay and neuter your pets so the population doesn't increase even more.
- Know that animal hoarding is not love. Take an animal only if you can give it a proper home.
- Remember that animals feel, even though they can't cry or express in words.
- Remember that animals are like toddlers. They need our help to survive, and they need love.
- Speak up, be a Voice and a defender for the animals. Share this letter. Teach empathy.

Thank you for caring. When we know better, we do better!

\*Humane Society & ASPCA estimates. © Copyright Kathleen Fitzgerald 2010 – This letter may be reprinted only in its original form and entirety.

# LAPS Veterinary Expense

Our total veterinary expenses reached an all-time high in 2010 of \$45,143.97. This would have a lot to do with our aging cat population as well as a few incoming cats whom required extensive care: an eye removal, a leg amputation, etc. All incoming cats are isolated until they are seen by a veterinarian where they are tested for FeLV/FIV, vaccinated against rabies and distemper, spayed or neutered, treated for parasites and any other health issues. All shelter residents are then kept up to date on their vaccines and treated for any health issue(s) that may arise while they are a resident of LAPS.

As a no-kill shelter, we provide housing and care to the cat for an indefinite period of time, perhaps the rest of its life. Some of the cats at LAPS may be hard to place in good homes due to a variety of problems including age, temperament, or chronic disability. As long as a good quality of life including comfort and care can be given to the cat, it has a home at LAPS. Our commitment is to offer the cat proper veterinary care, regular vaccines, a healthy diet, a variety of stimulating activities (grooming, play and exercise) and of course, spaying and neutering. This can be a very costly endeavor, but it is our commitment!

LAPS is funded solely by the generosity of our supporters and volunteers. This funding takes place by adoption fees, donations, sponsorships, memberships, and our various fundraising events. We have an awesome group of supporters and volunteers alike, and we can't begin to thank every one of them enough for their dedication and support!

If you are interested in helping to defray the cost of this year's veterinary expenses, you may either make a check out to LAH and mail directly to the shelter's veterinarian, Loyalsock Animal Hospital, 1900 Northway Road, Williamsport, PA 17701 or to LAPS, and mail to the shelter, 195 Phillips Park Drive, South Williamsport, PA 17702. Be sure to put LAPS Vet Bill in the memo line so your tax-deductable donation is properly applied. We cannot begin to express our gratitude for even the tiniest bit of help!

## **Our Most Recent Big Spenders**

As a no-kill shelter, LAPS has a lot of expenses that other shelters do not, such as veterinary bills. Our latest big spenders are cats that needed a little extra medical treatment to bring them back from an illness that, if left untreated, would have ended their lives. With treatment, these cats are back to the quality of life they enjoyed before their illness.

**Zoe** is a senior cat who was diagnosed with herpes virus & chlamydial infection of the eye which resulted in an ulcerated cornea. Although treatment was intense, it has been successful and Zoe's eye is on the road to recovery.

**Jenny** is a senior cat who just went through a bout with pancreatitis, liver/gallbladder infection. Her treatment was pretty intense as well, however, she, too, is on the road to recovery thanks to the support of the veterinarians at LAH and our wonderful and dedicated volunteers!

**Wally** is a one year old male cat who suffered a urinary tract blockage. This required a couple of days of hospitalization and professional medical treatment to relieve the life-threatening obstruction.

# Help LAPS Save Money!

To help LAPS reduce the money spent on postage and printing (and to help save the environment), please consider visiting our website at LapsShelter.org and filling out our Online Newsletter Request Form so that you may receive our newsletter electronically. You will have the ability to print any of our online newsletters at your convenience, and the money you help us save can be used to care for our residents!

# Adopting a Cat From a Shelter

By Abby Reid

Animal shelters bear the consequences of reckless breeding practices, the failure of pet owners to responsibly spay and neuter their pets and the heart-wrenching acts of neglect and abuse. In addition, abandoned pets and strays are taken in at a rate that often exhausts the capacity of the shelter. Reputable animal shelters deserve our attention and financial support.

It is advantageous for a cat lover to adopt a pet from a shelter. Shelters offer a wide array of companion pets for all sorts of individuals and families. While animals receive adequate care in a shelter, nothing compares to the everyday comforts of a warm and loving home.

Adopting a cat at a shelter is the best possible way of ensuring the mutual satisfaction and love that both the pet owner and the pet deserve. In addition, cats in shelters have developed personalities that allow a person to more accurately choose one that will best suit one's lifestyle. It's tempting to want to start with a kitten. However, in addition to the unexpected inconvenience, chores and energy of dealing with a kitten, there's no guarantee that the ultimate personality will suit your lifestyle or home situation. Contrary to your first inclination, kittens are not the best choice for young children. A cat that is at least one year old offers the best chance of giving a young child a positive experience with their first pet. Mature cats are much easier to care for, and more predictable in their behavior. Shelter workers are genuinely interested in helping you find the right cat for your personality, demeanor and home situation, and will assist in helping you make a wise decision and investment.

Adopting your cat from a shelter is also substantially more economical. A majority of shelter cats are of a mixed breed, without the inherited health issues many times associated with particular full breed cats. Shelter cats are usually spayed, neutered and vaccinated. Special discounts are often available for spay or neuter programs if your cat is adopted at a young age. You can also adopt a set of cats that have bonded, or litter mates at a lower price. This is often a very rewarding experience that enhances the quality of life for the cats, as well as the companionship one ultimately enjoys. The price of adoption can vary. Certain shelters ask for approximately \$100 for a cat, but it can be substantially less. In addition to spay and neutering, the adoption fee from a reputable shelter will usually include vaccinations for distemper and testing for both feline AIDS and feline leukemia. The average cost for feline AIDS and leukemia treatment is \$45-\$75 for each disease. Spaying or neutering can run up a bill of \$45-\$90 and vaccinations typically cost \$150-\$300. Adopting a cat from a shelter not only relieves the burden of overcrowding that many shelters experience, but it's obviously the more cost effective choice.

If one is insistent about a particular breed, the selection at a shelter includes most every breed at one time or another. In addition, there are many organizations that specialize in the rescue and adoption of specific breeds. Most of these can be located online or by referral of your local shelter. The employees and volunteers of the shelter want what's best for the cat and will work together to help you find the best possible match.

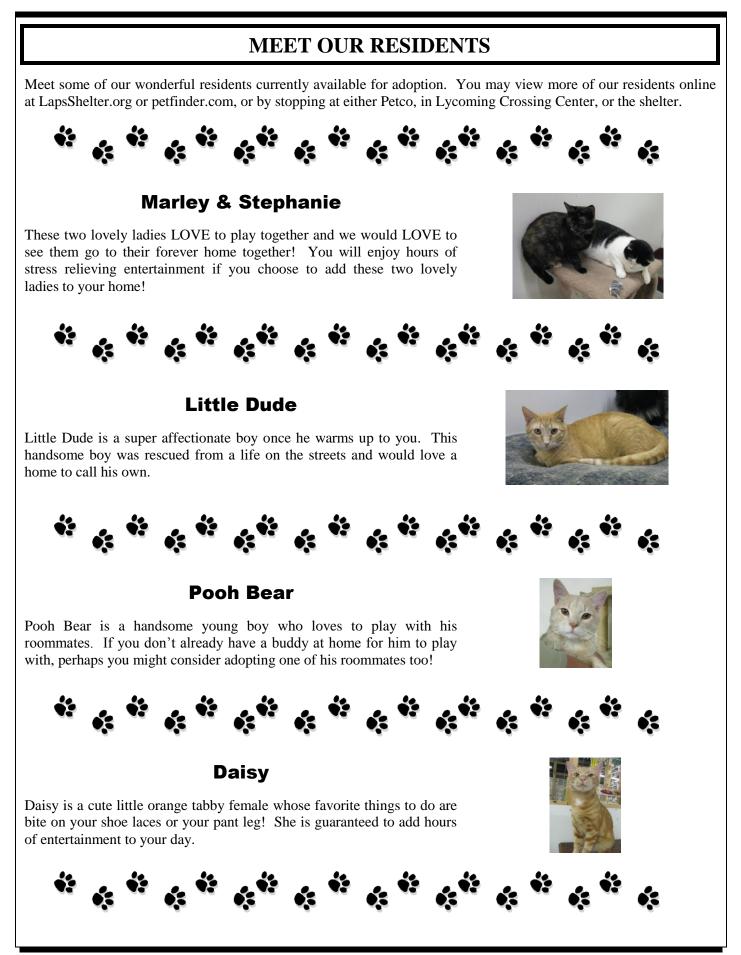
Shelters are in special need during the spring and early fall seasons. These are the breeding seasons, and shelters are generally overrun with kittens that need homes. If you're an experienced cat owner, capable of the responsible ownership of a kitten, and committed to the life-long care of a cat of uncertain personality and health, a kitten can be a very rewarding and enjoyable experience.

To locate an adoption center in your area, check your phonebook or with a local veterinarian; or contact the Humane Association of the United States. Millions of cats who do not get adopted are humanely euthanized annually in the United States. By taking a feline companion into your home, you will be saving a life, and making room for other cats to have a chance of living a full life in a nurturing environment.

Remember: pet ownership is a life commitment. Consider the long-term care and expenses of the cat, and be willing to accept the difficult times as well as the memorable experiences and priceless companionship your cat will return to you.

Finally, support local and national shelters as well as the many organizations that provide badly needed services and ensure the humane treatment of our valuable animal friends.

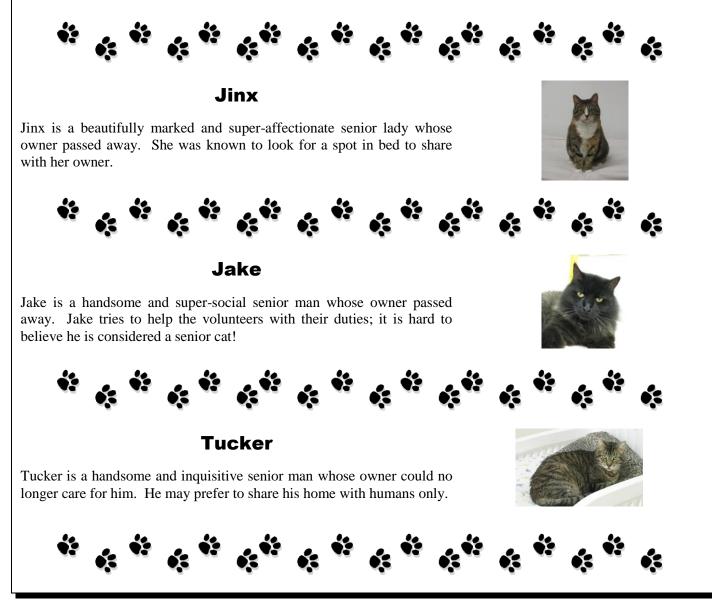
Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/1378844



# MEET OUR SENIOR RESIDENTS

Generally speaking, a cat 7 years of age or older qualifies as a senior. LAPS rescues many senior cats; we believe that no matter the age of a pet, they are deserving of a life and a home. We give our senior cats, like all of our cats, the loving care they need, for as long as they need, until the right home comes along. In some cases, our senior cats live out their lives with us as we shepherd them into their twilight years. Because our senior cats stay with us longer, we incur more expense as a result. That is why we ask you to consider sponsoring, fostering, or better yet, adopting, a senior pet!

Senior pets have a disadvantage because most people wanting to adopt tend to overlook them due to their age. But senior pets are just as affectionate, loyal, and personable as any other pet, if not more. The advantages of adopting a senior pet are plenty – they are generally calm, laid back, and easy to please. They do not make attempts to climb the tree at Christmas, nor do they play romper room at three in the morning. They make perfect companions for any family, especially a senior person looking for a companion, or a couple who works long hours. Their senior status alone is not indicative of their health status. Most seniors are very healthy, or have easily managed conditions. If you are considering adopting a senior cat, however, be prepared to cover any costs associated with age-related illnesses. Generally speaking, a yearly check up, or preventative health care is all that is necessary to keep them in good health.



## MAKE A DONATION AND HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN CASH!

Help raise much-needed funds for the LAPS cats and give yourself an opportunity to win cash, just in time for Christmas! Send completed tickets, along with your check, to the shelter's mailing address.

NAME ADDRESS CITY STATE/ZIP	First Christmas Cash Raffle\$1 each1st PRIZE: \$300Drawing Date: November 21, 20112ND PRIZE: \$200
PHONE	www.LapsShelter.org <b>3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE: \$100</b> 570.327.8707
NAME ADDRESS CITY STATE/ZIP PHONE	\$1 eachChristmas Cash Raffle\$1 each1st prize: \$300Drawing Date: November 21, 20112ND prize: \$300SGC License #5462ND prize: \$200www.LapsShelter.org3RD prize: \$100570.327.87073RD prize: \$100
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# LAPS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## September 2011

Saturday, September 17 8 am – 4 pm

### **BOOK SALE**

First Ward Fire Co. (across from Dairy Queen) South Williamsport

October 2011

Saturday, October 8 8 am – 4 pm

## YARD SALE

Young Men's Democratic Club (across from Robert M. Sides) Williamsport

# October 2011

Saturday, October 22 7 pm – 11 pm

## **CASINO NIGHT**

Grand Banquet Hall at the Scottish Rite 348 Market Street Williamsport

## November 2011

Friday, November 11 9 am – 10 pm Saturday, November 12 6 am – 10 pm

### COMMUNITY DAYS

Bon Ton Stores

We have an awesome selection of both hardback and paperback books with nothing being priced over \$1.00! Stock up now for winter.

Handicap parking, drop off & pick up available at the door. All others, please use AAA parking lot (across the street) or Fire Co. parking lot (behind the Fire Co.) accessible via E. Mountain Avenue then Main Street.

Most items are priced "donation only". Kindly remember the kitties in our care when paying for your items.



Join us for an awesome night of fun, food, socialization, games, and chances to win some fabulous prizes! This is a **do not miss** event!

Advance tickets are on sale now for \$20 each for Casino Night. Tickets purchased at the door will be \$25 each. Call or email the shelter for your advance ticket purchase.

Bon Ton Community Day has been expanded to a 2-day event. Your \$5 donation gets you a special coupon booklet filled with great saving coupons and exclusive bonus offers including:

- 1 \$10 off on a \$10 or more item.
- 1-20% off shopping pass use over & over.
- 1- 30% Early Bird Coupon, valid Saturday only from 6 am 10 am.
- 11 Bonus Buys.
- 2 Web Exclusive Offers.

Call or email the shelter for your coupon booklet.

## WINE & DESSERT TASTING EVENT A SUCCESS!

LAPS held its first Wine & Dessert Tasting fundraising event on Sunday, May 1, 2011, at the Historic Acacia Club at the Scottish Rite in Williamsport.

The event featured wines purchased from local wineries, paired with a variety of desserts ranging from chocolates to cookies to petit fours. The participating dessert vendors included Heavenly Cookies by Joyce Casale, Fagnano's Tasty Pastries, Charmed Cake Creations, Dove Chocolate Discoveries, and Lang's Chocolates. There was no shortage of sweets, as there was also a chocolate fondue station with a variety of treats for dipping.

After enjoying some wine and sweets, guests visited with vendors and perused the various items for sale. Participating vendors included C&C Tree Service, featuring flowers from Fort Muncy Garden Center, and who generously donated all proceeds from their event flower sales; Silpada, Mary Kay, Miche Bags, Tastefully Simple, Wild Mountain Gourmet, Arbonne, Country Vale Design, and Sweet Sally's Soaps. Arbonne donated 15% of sales from the event and sales through the month of June for anyone mentioning LAPS. Rose Wood Flowers designed a special Mother's Day floral arrangement in a keepsake LAPS mug which were sold at the event as an additional fundraiser.

Throughout the afternoon, guests also had the opportunity to bid on fabulous Silent Auction items donated by the participating vendors and event sponsors, which included jewelry, a variety of gift baskets, gift certificates, a flower arrangement, and more!

The keynote speaker for the event was renowned local health and wellness expert, Beth McMahon, Ph.D., who spoke about reducing stress, balancing life and making time for what is really important to you - which seemed to really strike a chord with many of the guests.

The event also featured a canned cat food drive, and boy did our guests deliver! The drive resulted in 494 cans of food for the LAPS cats, along with additional donations of dry food and various supplies.

This inaugural event was a great success with over 100 guests in attendance, raising nearly \$2500 for LAPS. The event was so well received that LAPS has decided to make it the annual spring fundraiser!

Many thanks to all of our guests who helped to make the event a success, as well as our vendors and sponsors, including: Weis Markets, Giant Food Stores, Grace Buffet & Grill, Subway, The Print Shoppe, The Scottish Rite, CRS Advanced Technology, Fort Muncy Garden Center, Rose Wood Flowers, Williamsport YMCA, MadLibs Petsitting, Wire-N-Whimsy, Cheri's House of Flowers, Jennifer Engel Designs, Great Escape Theatre, Gustonian Gifts, and all of our above mentioned participating dessert and other vendors. In addition, thank you to the featured wineries, Eagle Rock, Bastress Mountain, Four Friends, and Spyglass Ridge, for providing the wine at a discount for our event.

And finally, our gratitude to our individual donors and volunteers who contributed to the success of our event: Dr. Beth McMahon, Patti Barclay, Dennis Chestnut, Fred & Debbie Berry, Holly & Rob Kline, Michele Gauger, Jason & Brandy Kift, Patty Kift, Tracy Haas, Nella Storm, Rhonda Wertz, Jim Gibson, Pam Breon, Bill Ungard, Justin Brown, staff of the Scottish Rite, and our family, friends, and many supporters.

## **Premier Designs Jewelry Show to Benefit LAPS**

### Thursday, June 30, 2011 7 pm – 9 pm Acacia Club at the Scottish Rite

Consultant Ashley Steward will be holding a fundraising event to help raise money for LAPS. All jewelry shown at the event will be sold cash & carry (credit cards & checks will be accepted). Orders will also be taken through the catalog. Please come out for some great jewelry and to help out a great cause, too!



South Williamsport PA 17702

#### **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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### Shelter Wish List

If you are able, please donate any of the following items used in the everyday care of the shelter residents. All donations enable us to stretch our precious dollars much further than would otherwise be possible.

Bleach (must contain 6% sodium hypochlorite) Paper Towels Laundry Detergent Dish Detergent Antibacterial Hand Soap Copy Paper Tall (kitchen) Garbage Bags First Class & Post Card Postage Stamps Cat Food (dry & canned: Pate-style) Dried Catnip Gift Cards (Wal-Mart, Giant, Target) Scoopable Cat Litter Brooms

### Purrs & Head Bonks to:

**Loyalsock Animal Hospital** for their continued care of our residents.

Our committed **Foster Families** for opening their hearts and homes to our special needs kitties.

**Dr. Beth Crombie, DVM** from **Lewisburg Veterinary Hospital** for administering the vaccines at our April Rabies Clinic.

Sandy and the Young Men's Democratic Club for their assistance and the use of their facility for our May Yard Sale.

**Diane** and **Cupp's Auto Service** for their assistance with the rental of the Penske Truck for our March Book Sale.

Fred Berry for driving the Penske truck.

Wain Schroeder, our webmaster, for maintaining and donating our website/domain name.

Beiter's for helping us get our new dryer at a fair price.

Petco for their food donations.

Our Volunteers & Supporters who make it all possible!