



LYCOMING ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY, INC.  
FELINE SHELTER AND ADOPTION CENTER

195 Phillips Park Drive  
South Williamsport PA 17702

# Newsletter

LapsShelter@windstream.net  
www.LapsShelter.org

570-327-8707

Fall 2009

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

## Casino Night

SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 17, 2009

THE HISTORIC ACACIA CLUB  
AT THE SCOTTISH RITE  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA

7 PM – 11 PM

SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS



### OPEN HOURS

Monday 9 am – 12 noon  
Tuesday 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm  
Wednesday 8 am – 10 am  
Thursday 12 noon – 3 pm & 6 pm – 7:30 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. Financial information is available upon written request.

### LAPS Board of Directors

*President:* James Cleland  
*Vice President:* Tracy Haas  
*Recording Secretary:* Charlotte Myers  
*Corresponding Secretary:* Gwen Uber  
*Treasurer:* Cyndi Eck

*Members:* Nancy Cohick  
Linda Williard  
Patti Barclay  
Holly Kline  
Brandy Kift  
Sheri Lozak  
Kristen Fleckenstein

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/DONATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

State

Zip

Annual Associate Membership is a \$15 donation, Annual Senior Membership is a \$10 donation (Seniors are 55 years and over). All Members receive the LAPS Newsletter, are entitled to vote in the Board of Director Elections and can be nominated to the Board of Directors. LAPS is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax-deductible. All donations are greatly appreciated!

Is this:  New Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Renewal of Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORIAL GIFTS, HONORARIUMS & REMEMBRANCES

In Memory of Richard Lewis, founder of LAPS

- The DeSantises
- The Kerrigans
- The Fitzgeralds
- The Mestlers

In Memory of Florence Best & her cat Baby

- Mary Ellen Bowen
- Bill & Gay McClintock
- Ann Jackson
- Ronald & Susan Cox
- Mary Fisher

In Memory of Richard Jones

- Alice & Bob Parker

In Memory of Leanne Pick

- Brodart Social Committee

In Memory of Shadow

- Janet Stugart

In Honor of Robin & John Moore

- Louis Bertino
- Joseph Ettwein

In Memory of Pooky

- Ruth Frye

AND THE WINNERS ARE.....

The winners of the LAPS Vacation Get-Away Raffle are:

First Prize: Deb Neff-Chamberlain

Second Prize: Rich Murphy

Third Prize: D. Kiley Meleski



Congratulations to our winners and thank you to all who supported this event.

# Mel's Journey

Submitted by Gwen Uber

The shelter received an email titled "Sick Cat". You always cringe when you see this because you don't know how sick the cat is, how much time the cat has left or if the cat is suffering because the person is unable or unwilling to provide care. This is one of the downsides to answering emails and phone messages. Some days you wonder if you can continue on, knowing full well that you will because, who else will do it?

The sick cat was Mel, a 6-year old orange tabby male and a newly diagnosed diabetic. Mel's family felt they couldn't offer him the proper treatment for his disease and had decided to euthanize him if they couldn't find someone that would take on the care and responsibility of a diabetic cat. Mel was a healthy boy otherwise. Unfortunately, LAPS was full and has quite a lengthy waiting list; what no-kill shelter isn't in the same situation? Plus, how could we take on a cat with a known medical condition when we need to be sure we can provide for our current residents? Then again, how could we not help Mel? After all, this is a treatable disease.

The idea to put out a plea for both financial assistance and a foster home was put into motion. Within hours we had pledges for financial assistance for Mel's care. However, two weeks later we realized we had exhausted all outlets for a foster home. Out of desperation, I decided to take Mel to work and foster him there.

Mel was surrendered to LAPS on a Monday afternoon and by Tuesday he acted like he had been at his foster home his entire life. Mel is one of the most sociable and loveable cats you will ever meet, and to this day, I cringe every time I think he could have been euthanized. Everybody who met him at work absolutely adored him. He appointed himself the people-greeter, and most days, he waited in the lobby for the scores of people that he knew would be visiting him. He is such a joy to be around and I'm glad we could save his life!

Mel was immediately made available for adoption on our website, petfinder.com and the Feline Diabetes Message Board ([www.felinediabetes.com](http://www.felinediabetes.com)). In the meantime, the course of treatment that we decided to start Mel on was Glipizide, an oral blood-glucose-lowering drug. Unfortunately, after a month, it was decided that the Glipizide would have to be replaced by an injectable blood-glucose-lowering drug. I must say, Mel was a real trooper through it all.

A little over two months after having Mel, he was adopted by a wonderful woman from New York who saw his story on the Feline Diabetes Message Board. Having already had two diabetic cats, both now diet-controlled diabetics and not requiring any blood-glucose-lowering drugs, she decided to add Mel to her family. Once again, Mel is adjusting quite well to his new home and his new family. He is once again showing people how special he really is. This, too, proves that there are special people willing to adopt "special needs" cats.

This whole experience has taught me a lot! Diabetes shouldn't be a death sentence. I was what one would consider a "needle phobic". Needles literally made me pass out! But I wasn't going to let this cat die! Anybody can care for a diabetic cat, you just have to have the ambition and the mindset to do it! Yes, having a diabetic cat does require constant and consistent care. It does sometimes get tricky. I can't praise the Feline Diabetes Message Board enough. They are a wonderful and supportive community of people owned by diabetic cats. They were a tremendous help to me, a new diabetic cat caretaker, and I can honestly say I don't think I could have done it without their help. So if you find yourself having to care for a diabetic cat, I would highly recommend visiting [www.felinediabetes.com](http://www.felinediabetes.com). There you will find the confidence and support to take proper (and confident) care of your diabetic cat.

Feline diabetes is extremely complex and variable and not a deeply studied subject as I learned while caring for Mel. We have to keep in mind that veterinarian guidelines for treating feline diabetes are based on average results achieved with large numbers of animals. It's rare for an individual animal to fit nicely into that picture, so either you or your vet has to learn a lot about diabetes in YOUR cat so that your cat can be treated effectively and live many more happy years. I can't impress upon you enough the importance of home-testing blood for glucose levels and urine for ketones. I personally feel this could mean the difference between life and death for your cat. Please don't be overwhelmed, the feline diabetic community will be there to help you and your cat.

## MEET OUR RESIDENTS

Meet some of our wonderful residents currently available for adoption. You may view more of our residents online at [LapsShelter.org](http://LapsShelter.org) or [petfinder.com](http://petfinder.com). Or, better yet, stop by the shelter and visit them in person!

### Tanner & Nemo

These two bonded brothers are absolutely gorgeous and highly entertaining. They have the most gorgeous buff tabby fur and provide hours of hilarious antics. Because they are bonded, they are to be adopted as a pair.



### Cleo

Cleo, we decided, is short for Cleopatra due to her extreme beauty. Cleo is an extremely affectionate and beautiful Siamese-tortoiseshell mix who wants nothing more than a family and forever home to call her own.



### Midnight

Midnight is a handsome and very well-mannered young gentleman. Midnight will fit perfectly into any household and provide hours of companionship.



### Baby

Baby is a young, gorgeous dilute tortoiseshell with the sweetest disposition ever. If you are looking for a lovely lady to spend your evenings and weekends with, Baby is the perfect match!



## **My Tribute to Pooky**

### **How to Deal With the Loss of a Pet?**

Submitted by Linda Williard

This is a question that I was faced with just recently. Dealing with the loss of a pet is a difficult and heartbreaking process. All too often, the pet parents feel they have nowhere to turn. Perhaps I can offer some help by telling you about my recent experience in the loss of my dear sweet cat Pooky.

My cat Pooky had been diagnosed with a bad heart. Thanks to a wonderful vet and his staff, Dr. Tom felt he could give us extra time together, with the help of medicine, if I was willing to stick to the regimen. Well, that certainly wasn't going to be hard; more time with my beloved cat. So we started the process, but about a year later, Pooky started to falter, even with regular check-ups. In June of this year, after spending all night up with Pooky, watching her condition, I knew the time had come for us to say our last goodbye. I called Dr. Tom's office and heard in the voice of the vet tech that she, too, was feeling the shock of the decision that had been made. I made the trip that morning to the office where I was given a good long time for us to say our final goodbyes. I will always remember that time as I stroked Pooky's fur and she kept butting my hand as if to say, "Please Mommy, don't stop petting me, I want to remember your touch at the bridge." And so I kept petting her. As the staff arrived, it was apparent that the time had come to assist Pooky across The Rainbow Bridge. And so we all gathered around to help ease her pain and to help her cross. After it was over, the staff hugged me and let me start the grieving process.

Please understand, it is perfectly alright to grieve the loss of your pet, your friend, your family member. Seek out family, clergy and especially your animal friends to help you through the process. I emailed all my animal friends, and in no time at all, their dear words of comfort started coming through.

There are many websites out there that will help you through this difficult process. Please seek them out. One of the best is Petloss.com. Another good source is the HSUS site ([www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)) which offers many tips on handling the loss of your pet. And please remember, it is okay to grieve for the one you loved.



## LAPS CASINO NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Plan on joining LAPS for a fun-filled night on Saturday, October 17, 2009, at The Historic Acacia Club at the Scottish Rite, 348 Market Street, Williamsport from 7 pm till 11 pm. Enjoy the evening playing Craps, Blackjack, The Wheel of Chance, Roulette or a Slot Machine. Don't worry, if you aren't familiar with a particular game, the dealers are there to guide you along. We want everybody to have a great time!

At the end of the evening you will cash in your funny money for chance tickets. (Every \$1,000 equals one ticket.) You will take these chance tickets and put them in for a chance at the prize(s) of your choice. You may take one chance at every prize (providing you have enough tickets) or you may take all your chances on one prize to increase your odds of winning that particular prize. The choice is yours!

Tickets are available in advance or at the door the night of the event. The admission fee of \$20 gets you \$5,000 in funny money, one chance at a prize of your choice and one coupon for a free beverage. Additional funny money may be purchased throughout the evening. Light refreshments will be served and a cash bar will be available. You must be 21 or older to attend this event. Visit our website for more details or to purchase tickets.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Book Sale – September 12 – 8 am to 4 pm**

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

### **Casino Night – October 17 – 7 pm to 11 pm**

The Historic Acacia Club at the Scottish Rite  
348 Market Street  
Williamsport

### **Sheetz Fundraiser – Ends October 10**

Purchase a coupon for \$4.00. (No expiration date on coupon.)  
Each coupon is good for one MTO item listed on coupon and any size fountain drink or self-serve brewed coffee.

### **Current Catalog & Online Fundraiser – Ends October 30**

Have all catalog orders and money to the shelter by this date.  
LAPS receives 50% of purchases!

### **Bon-Ton Community Day – November 14 – 6 am to 9 pm**

Purchase a coupon booklet for \$5. (LAPS gets to keep the entire \$5!)  
Each booklet contains a \$10 coupon to use on an item of \$10 or more.  
Coupons are valid on regular and sale priced merchandise.

Contact the shelter, or visit our website, for more information on any of these events or if you wish to purchase or sell items for these events. Your support is greatly appreciated!

## ADOPTEE UPDATE

Dear LAPS,

Thank you so much for the gift that is Mel. I'm so happy to have adopted him! He is the sweetest, funniest cat. I've only owned him for one week, but he has clearly made an imprint on my heart. Thanks for letting me adopt him all the way from Ithaca, NY. And many thanks to Gwen for her loving foster care for him. Diabetes is a difficult disease to treat, so I am grateful for her focus and concern. Thanks again for all your good work.



Suzanne C.



Dear LAPS,

I would like to thank you for allowing our family to adopt Isabella. We have named her Kiare (which is Celtic for the number 4, the number that was on her collar at Petco). She gets along really well with her 10-month old brother Maui. Whenever we look, at her she is either with Maui or playing with a toy. She litter-trained her first day home! We absolutely love Kiare. She's a sweet kitten who was very shy at first but is now roaming the house, playing with us and Maui or snuggling with us or Maui. Once again, thank you!



The Marriner Family



Dear LAPS,

Pictured are Inkster (shelter name Mylo) and Bear (shelter name Bear Cub). We are happy to share our home with both of them even though they think they share their home with us!

Erich & Misty





LYCOMING ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY, INC.  
FELINE SHELTER AND ADOPTION CENTER

195 Phillips Park Drive  
South Williamsport PA 17702

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Williamsport PA  
Permit No. 208

### Inside This Issue.....

Casino Night	Page 1 & 6
Memorial Gifts, Honorariums & Remembrances	Page 2
Vacation Get-Away Winners	Page 2
Mel's Journey	Page 3
Meet Our Residents	Page 4
A Tribute to Pooky	Page 5
Calendar of Events	Page 6
Adoptee Update	Page 7

### 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 (any brand)  
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)  
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.

**Karen Ives** for the Shop Vac to clean the shelter with.

**Jess Grill** for the air purifier for our isolation room.

**Chris Fry** for her "canned food campaign".

**The Burns Family** for their endless supply of cat treats.

**The First Ward Fire Company**, South Williamsport, for the use of their hall for our yard sale.

**Our Volunteers and Supporters** who make it all possible!

