



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

Winter 2010

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

MIRACLE IN MOTION

In the equipment yard of a local manufacturing plant, a worker put out some food for a stray mother cat and her litter of almost-grown kittens. He'd been feeding them for a while now, but that day, he noticed that one of the kittens had been badly injured. The worker was afraid she would die before he could catch her to get her help since the cats had learned to be fearful and distrustful of people. Luckily, his wife knew our volunteer Cathy and enlisted her help.

After obtaining a Have-A-Heart or live trap, Cathy set it up in the equipment yard with the hope of capturing the injured kitten. On the first attempt, the mother cat was caught instead of the injured kitten. The second try was successful, and the injured kitten was trapped. Her front leg was hanging useless from her shoulder. She was angry and wild, lashing out and hissing, so Cathy took her off to the veterinarian, trap and all.

At the vet's office, they decided to give her some time to calm down a bit before removing her from the trap and assessing her injuries, but gave her some medication to ease her pain. Someone remarked that it was a miracle that this partly wild and injured kitten was able to be captured in time to save her, and thus the kitten was named Miracle.

It was obvious that the injury to her front leg was severe, so the first decision to be made was whether to amputate or to repair the leg by surgically pinning it. Once the veterinarian determined that the prognosis was good for Miracle's leg to heal correctly, LAPS decided to have the vet save the leg.

The surgery was scheduled, but after looking at the x-rays, the vet decided that the breaks in the bones could not be pinned. Miracle's leg was put in a cast which would have to be changed every three days at first, since Miracle, who is only 7 or 8 months old, is still growing. Miracle stayed in the hospital for about 10 days and has now started to get used to being cared for and handled. One of the vet techs said she even heard Miracle purr once.

In addition to the challenge of her physical mobility, Miracle has also challenged LAPS financially. The medical costs are overwhelming, and we are now facing vet bills which are above and beyond our normal budget. LAPS is asking for your help to put "Miracle in Motion." Donations toward her medical care would be greatly appreciated. Just mark your donation "Miracle" to help LAPS defray those costs.



Miracle with her cast (above) and an x-ray of Miracle's broken leg (below).



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: Linda Williard
Recording Secretary: Debbie Berry
Corresponding Secretary: Gwen Uber
Treasurer: Cyndi Eck

Members: Nancy Cohick
Sandy Rigby
Patti Barclay
Holly Kline
Brandy Kift
Sheri Lozak
Shelly Sheppard

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 Honor of Nancy Cohick's & Jackie Carson's birthdays.
 - Joanne Cromley

In Honor of Daniel Mosser.
 - Pat Bailey

In Honor of LAPS volunteer Joy Jones. She has such dedication to our shelter.
 - Anonymous

In Recognition of All Volunteers - especially those I work with on Wednesday AM (Nancy C., Joanne & Susan).
 - Jackie Carson

In Honor of Steve Styers & Kathryn Kopchik – their generous donations assist homeless and shelter cats.
 - Bob & Darlene McBryan

In Memory of Barb Switzer.
 - Carl & Beverly Hieber
 - Rita Albarano
 - Ellsworth & Ann Switzer
 - Rose Read

In Memory of Loved Ones and Pets.
 - Jim & Mary Miele

In Memory of Squeek.
 - Rita Albarano

In Honor of Harry & Linda Felton.
 - Jason & Bethany Mickel

In Memory of Allan R. & Betty J. Miller.
 - Jane A. Miller

In Memory of Grace Robinson.
 - Dr. Eugene Gaudet
 - L-3 Communications Electron Devices
 - Trudy Milliken
 - Dennis & Dorothy Godin

In Honor of my father Richard Lewis, founder of LAPS, who would have celebrated his 84th Birthday on Friday, October 2.
 - Karen Lewis Young

In Memory of Dick Jones.
 Art Cipriany

In Memory of Tuppy.
 - Ginny Butler

In Memory of my son Matthew Ellison.
 - Rebecca Simmers

In Memory of Sylvester.
 - Robert & Shirley Smith

In Memory of my beloved and faithful companion of more than 15 years, my beautiful little Mitzi.
 - Joyce Little

In Memory of Troubles.
 - Mary Seese

In Loving Memory of LAPS Founder, Mr. Richard Lewis.
 - Bonnie, Philip, Lindsay & Benjamin Kift

In Memory of Sable.
 - Joy Jones

In Honor of Maryanne Rossello.
 - Rhonda Elliot

In Honor of my 2-year old grandson, Damien.
 - Bonnie Bryan

In Honor of Susan Mann & Jackie Carson.
 - Nancy Cohick

In Honor of Richard Lewis.
 - Gloria Lewis

FAREWELL

LAPS Volunteers had to say farewell to three long-term residents over the past few months.

Sable

Sable spent most of her fourteen plus years as a LAPS resident with her last year being spent in a foster home. She was an easy going and extremely large girl whose size ended up creating health problems for her. She is greatly missed by her foster mom.



Troubles

It seems everyone knew Troubles as the girl that LOVED to drink from a running spigot (even though she had a cat fountain in her room). She had most volunteers wrapped around her little paw and she almost always convinced each shift to let her on walk-about. The first place she ran to was a sink and, of course, the volunteers knew enough to follow her and turn the spigot on. What a spoiled girl! Troubles succumbed to kidney failure at the age of seventeen.



Zorro

Zorro spent most of his eleven years as a LAPS resident, too. He was a handsome boy who stayed out of trouble and enjoyed the company of his roommates.



The Journey

By Crystal Ward Kent

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When you bring a pet into your life, you begin a journey – a journey that will bring you more love and devotion than you have ever known, yet also test your strength and courage.

If you allow, the journey will teach you many things, about life, about yourself, and most of all, about love. You will come away changed forever, for one soul cannot touch another without leaving its mark.

Along the way, you will learn much about savoring life's simple pleasures – jumping in leaves, snoozing in the sun, the joy of puddles, and even the satisfaction of a good scratch behind the ears.

If you spend much time outside, you will be taught how to truly experience every element, for no rock, leaf or log will go unexamined, no rustling bush will be overlooked, and even the very air will be inhaled, pondered, and noted as being full of valuable information. Your pace may be slower – except when heading home to the food dish – but you will become a better naturalist, having been taught by an expert in the field.

Too many times we hike on automatic pilot, our goal being to complete the trail rather than enjoy the journey. We miss the details – the colorful mushrooms on the rotting log, the honeycomb in the old maple snap, the hawk feather caught on a twig. Once we walk as a dog does, we discover a whole new world. We stop; we browse the landscape; we kick over leaves, peek in tree holes, look up, down, all around. And we learn what any dog knows: that nature has created a marvelously complex world that is full of surprises, that each cycle of the seasons brings ever-changing wonders, each day an essence all its own.

Even from indoors you will find yourself more attuned to the world around you. You will find yourself watching summer insects collecting on a screen (How bizarre they are! How many kinds there are!), or noting the flicker and flash of fireflies through the dark. You will stop to observe the swirling dance of windblown leaves, or sniff the air after a rain. It does not matter that there is no objective in this; the point is in the doing, in not letting life's most important details slip by.

You will find yourself doing silly things that your petless friends might not understand: spending thirty minutes in the grocery aisle looking for the cat food brand your feline *must* have, buying dog birthday treats, or driving around the block an extra time because your pet enjoys the ride. You will roll in the snow, wrestle with chewie toys, bounce little rubber balls till your eyes cross, and even run around the house trailing your bathrobe tie – with a cat in hot pursuit – all in the name of love.

Your house will become muddier and hairier. You will wear less dark clothing and buy more lint rollers. You may find dog biscuits in your pocket or purse, and feel the need to explain that an old plastic shopping bag adorns your living room rug because your cat loves the crinkly sound.

You will learn the true measure of love – the steadfast, undying kind that says, “It doesn't matter where we are or what we do, or how life treats us as long as we are together.” Respect this always. It is the most precious gift any living soul can give another. You will not find it often among the human race.

And you will learn humility. The look in my dog's eyes often made me feel ashamed. Such joy and love at my presence. She saw not some flawed human who could be cross and stubborn, moody or rude, but only her wonderful companion. Or maybe she saw those things and dismissed them as mere human foibles, not worth considering, and so chose to love me anyway.

If you pay close attention and learn well, when the journey is done, you will not be just a better person, but the person your pet always knew you to be – the one they were proud to call beloved friend.

I must caution you that this journey is not without pain. Like all paths of true love, the pain is part of loving. For as surely as the sun sets, one day your dear animal companion will follow a path you cannot yet go down. And you will have to find the strength and love to let them go. A pet's time on earth is far too short – especially for those that love them. We borrow them, really, just for awhile, and during those brief years they are generous enough to give us all of their love – every inch of their spirit and heart, until one day there is nothing left.

The cat that only yesterday was a kitten is all too soon old and frail and sleeping in the sun. The young pup of boundless energy wakes up stiff and lame, the muzzle now gray. Deep down we somehow always knew this journey would end. We knew that if we gave our hearts they would be broken. But give them we must for it is all they ask in return. When the times comes, and the road curves ahead to a place we cannot see, we give one final gift and let them run on ahead – young and whole once more.

“Godspeed, good friend,” we say, until our journey comes full circle and our paths cross again.

Our Young Supporters

Too many times we hear negative stories of how selfish and spoiled today's youth are, however, there are those that are extremely selfless and they deserve to be recognized. Here are two of those selfless youngsters:

Jamie Ulrich

Jamie Ulrich of Mifflinburg celebrated her 13th birthday at a party with friends and family on Saturday, August 22. In lieu of birthday gifts, she requested dog and cat food for homeless animals. She donated the cat food to LAPS and the dog food to Haven to Home Canine Rescue. Representatives from each organization accepted the donations.



Pictured are (L-R) Robin Montgomery from Haven to Home, Jamie with her dog Taco, and Linda Williard from LAPS.

Alli Sheppard

Eleven year old Alli Sheppard of Trout Run used \$117 of her Christmas money to buy food for the cats at LAPS instead of a gift for herself. Alli also volunteers weekly at LAPS on both Friday and Saturday nights.



Alli Sheppard with her donation to LAPS.

Name that Kitten Contest

Gigi was surrendered to LAPS when her elderly owner, who rescued her from the streets as a stray, could no longer care for her. Unfortunately Gigi, an indoor/outdoor cat, was not spayed, so she arrived at LAPS expecting a litter of kittens. LAPS will have Gigi spayed after her kittens are weaned and then Gigi herself will be available for adoption. In the meantime, Gigi's litter will need names. This is your opportunity to have a chance at naming a kitten and helping LAPS at the same time. You may submit one name for a quarter or five names for a dollar.

Gigi gave birth to three orange kittens on Monday, January 25. When the kittens are old enough to determine their sex, names will be drawn randomly. If you wish to be notified that you were a winner and receive a picture of the kitten you named, please include your mailing and/or email address. You may either drop off your suggestion(s) at LAPS or mail to Attn: Name that kitten. Entry deadline is March 19.



Gigi and kittens

LAPS Calendar of Events

March 2010

Saturday, March 13
8 am – 4 pm

BOOK SALE

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

April 2010

Saturday, April 10
8 am – 4 pm

YARD SALE

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

April 2010

Saturday, April 24
9 am – 11 am

RABIES CLINIC

Clinton Twp Fire Co.
Route 54
Montgomery

July 2010

July 15 – July 24
1 pm – 9 pm

LYCOMING COUNTY FAIR

Larrabee Building
Lycoming County Fairgrounds
Hughesville

October 2010

Saturday, October 16
7 pm – 11 pm

CASINO NIGHT

The Grand Banquet Hall at The Scottish Rite
348 Market Street
Williamsport

January 2011

Sunday, January 2
2 pm – 4 pm

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

LAPS
195 Phillips Park Drive
South Williamsport

LAPS will be out and about in the community showing our support at various community events and for other organizations that share our interest in helping animals. You may check our website to see what other events you can visit and show your support for LAPS.

Casino Night a Huge Success!

A heartfelt thank you to the following businesses and individuals who donated cash, merchandise and/or assistance to help make Casino Night a huge success. Please plan on joining us at our 2010 Casino Night for an evening filled with fun.

Businesses

AAA North Penn
Alley Cat Hair Shop
Any Event Party Rental & Sales
Beiter's Home Center
Bittner's General Store
Dr. Joseph E. Campana
Cheri's House of Flowers
Crate and Freight
Cuzzo's Construction
DeWald Chiropractic
Gary's Furniture
Freshlife
Hair by David Vaughn
The Historic Acacia Club at The Scottish Rite
J & S Embroidery
Keystone Furniture Galleries
Kimball's Pub
Kriger Fence Company
KSL Designs
LaChic Total Image Salon & Day Spa
Lyon Camping & Supply
Rick Mahonski Goldsmith
McBryan Contracting
Montour Beverage
Mr. Sticky's
Malcolm S. Mussina, Attorney at Law
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co.
Pompeii Street Soap Company
The Print Shoppe
Sam's Club
Shop Vac
Snyder's Country Pet Food
Staples
Susquehanna Trailways
Tebbs Bros Landscaping
Weis Markets
DJ Wheil
White Deer Golf Course
Wolyniec Construction

Individuals

Helen Bakay
Bonnie Bennett
Janet Bennett
Michele Bennett
Fred & Debbie Berry
Ginny Butler
Janice Dieffenderfer
Megan Dively Lehman
Cyndi Eck
Bob Frangione
Gary & Chris Fry
Connie Funk
Nanci Giacomi
Linda Godfrey
Daphne Herrold
Rob & Holly Kline
Kathy Loftus
Kay Lohman
Sherri Lozak
Bob & Darlene McBryan
Ellen Montis
Charlotte Myers
Kerri Reardon
Jeff & Sherry Reeder
Dona Reynolds
Iris Rifkin-Gainer
Dave Roush
Diane Salamone
Wayne & Shelly Sheppard
Patty Stroble
Teresa Stropp
Harry & Marie Trump
Gwen Uber
Linda Williard





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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
Fabric Softener Sheets
Dish Detergent
Antibacterial Hand Soap
Tall (13 gallon) Trash Bags
First Class & Post Card Postage Stamps
Cat Food (dry & canned – pate style)
Dried Catnip
Store Gift Cards (Wal-Mart, Giant, etc.)
Scoopable Cat Litter
Brooms

Purrs & Head Bonks to:

Loyalsock Animal Hospital for their continued care of our residents.

Wayne Sheppard for weather-proofing the shelter and completing the various construction projects we gave him.

Refrigeration Service Co. for locating and installing our heating/air conditioning unit.

Penske Truck Leasing in White Deer for the use of a truck to move our books for our book sale.

Ralpho Township Library for their donation of books.

Steve Styers & Kathryn Kopchik for their generous food donation.

Karen Ives for her donation towards our canned food drive.

The Employees of Jersey Shore State Bank - Williamsport Office for their donation towards our canned food drive.

Our Volunteers and Supporters who make it all possible!