

## KIDS CARE

*Kids of All Ages Organizing, Collecting and Recycling to Raise Money for Our Companions*



**Inside:**

*Matching Pets with People Since 2003*

*Good Dogs Gone Bad*

*Open Wide and Say Meow*

*Gardeners Wanted*

*Remembrance Wall and Reflection Garden Inspire Visitors*

# Something to Chew On

Dear Friends,

At Our Companions, we love to dream about tomorrow. We dream of building more cottages at the Sanctuary – 13 more to be exact.

We dream of opening a veterinary clinic to make medical care accessible to those who cannot afford it. We dream of widening our rescue and humane education initiatives in underserved communities. We dream of playing an even more influential role in ensuring that Connecticut and the entire country has laws that adequately protect animals. And that's just the start.

Yes, we have big plans for Our Companions. However, the nature of our work keeps us focused on today.

Given the dire circumstances facing those we serve, it is understandable that our attention defaults to the immediate tasks at hand. While it may sound dramatic, in many cases our work is a matter of life and death.

Whether addressing pressing medical needs or removing an animal from an unsafe or abusive situation, crises emerge daily at Our Companions. And we are committed to always doing the right thing, regardless of the challenge or cost.

But meeting those needs comes at a high price, which in turn creates the urgency to raise a significant amount of money every year.

One hundred percent of our funding comes from Annual Fund donations which are put to immediate use. To continue serving the people and pets who have come to rely on our ever-expanding programs and services, we must meet our goal every year. There is no room for failure.

However, as a relatively young organization, we would be disappointing those who have invested in us if we did not plan for the future. Ensuring that Our Companions thrives for generations to

come - long after those of us who currently lead the organization are involved - is critical. In fact,

it is something that our Board of Directors is challenging itself to address more and more.

One way in which we have addressed the future is by paying more attention to planned giving. As such, we are encouraged and truly inspired by the recent growth of our Forever Home Society.

Comprised of loyal supporters to OC who have generously included Our Companions in their estate plan, the Forever Home Society, which now boasts 70 members (see listing on pages 9-12), is building a bridge to the future. And with every new addition to the Forever Home Society, our future becomes clearer and more assured.

If you have included OC in your estate plan or would consider doing so, we thank you. By joining the Forever Home Society, you are helping to ensure that our ambitious dreams for tomorrow will become a reality.

If you would like to learn more about the Forever Home Society, please contact the OC offices at 860.242.9999 Ext. 301.



Valerie Friedman,  
Board Chair

Susan Linker,  
Chief Executive Officer

## About Our Companions News

*Our Companions News* is published three times per year by *Our Companions Animal Rescue*, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

### Our Companions Officers

Valerie Friedman, *Board Chair*  
Andrea Dobras, *Secretary*  
Leigh Ann Kissner, *Treasurer*

### Our Companions Directors

Maria das Neves  
Risa Davidson  
Diana Garfield  
Marie Joyner  
Mitchell Linker  
Susan Linker  
Chris Shivery  
Kathleen Sullivan  
Tom Weidman  
Kim Zimmermann

### Our Companions Advisory Board

Janet Bailey  
Patricia Foley  
Jamila Hadj-Salem  
Linda Hatten  
Lisa Holzwarth  
Gretchen LaBau  
Anne Llewellyn  
Lauren Mascola  
Alex Oldershaw  
Damon Scott  
Maneesh Shanbhag  
Ed Young  
Adam Zweifler

### Our Companions News Editorial Board

Jennifer Barrows, *Editor*  
Kelly Alver  
Jessica Beganski  
Mary deManbey  
Andrea Dobras  
Lyn T. Garson, CVT, *Assistant Editor*  
Julie Stankiewicz

### Graphic Design

Mandy Wieting



860-242-9999  
OurCompanions.org

P.O. Box 956  
Manchester, CT  
06045-0956





*“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”*  
- Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*

Did you know that some of Our Companions’ most stalwart and enthusiastic supporters are kids? Whether they are hosting bake sales or pet food drives, or requesting cash donations instead of birthday presents, young people are helping to make possible all the wonderful work we do.

Teaching kids about philanthropy early on allows them to embrace causes that are meaningful to their young lives. As luck would have it, animals seem to hold a special place in the hearts of many young people, and we here at Our Companions couldn’t be happier!

Following are just a few ways in which kids are using their energy and creative talents to improve the lives of homeless pets.

### **Celebrate and Help Animals**

Amie and Chris Meacham, parents of Cameron (three years of age) and Jillian (a one-year-old), wanted to start their children early with the idea of philanthropy. The Meachams asked friends and family to donate items or pet supply gift cards (which were then given to Our Companions) in lieu of gifts for Cameron and Jillian’s birthdays.

Amie sees many upsides to asking for donations instead of gifts for the kids. “The kids are learning at an early age that it’s important to care for others and give. We hope this is a lesson that will carry through the rest of their lives.” Amie also says that her friends and family now expect the donation request in lieu of traditional presents for the kids’ birthday parties, which takes the guesswork out of gift giving.

How do the kids feel about it? “Cameron is only three but he understands that he has a lot and he’s okay with sharing and giving to someone else,” says Amie. The lesson of compassion and giving reaches the kids, and



*The students of Woodstock Academy’s Construction Class show off the feral cat shelters they built.*

in addition, the guests get involved through their donations – it’s a win-win scenario. Amie stresses to her guests that “even a couple of bucks makes a big difference if we’re all giving a little.”

### **Many Acts of Giving**

The girls of Girl Scout Troop 10476 in West Hartford carefully considered many worthy causes for their service project. The group of 13 enterprising fifth-graders ultimately decided that they wanted to help animals and selected Our Companions as the organization their efforts would benefit.

Inspired by a visit from Paula Fischer, an Our Companions Humane Education volunteer, the girls came up with a variety of ways to help the pets served by Our Companions, including:

- Collecting food and supplies. Our Companions suggested items and then each girl attached a list of desired items to paper bags, along with a note about who they were and their reason for requesting donations. They left the bags with family, friends and neighbors, with a promise to return in a week.
- Asking attendees at their school’s fifth-grade dance to bring donations of pet food.

- Setting up a booth to sell cookies and collecting monetary donations for Our Companions.
- Visiting the Sanctuary and drawing portraits of some of the adoptable pets. These portraits were to be auctioned off later, with the proceeds going to Our Companions.
- Participating in a humane education session at the Sanctuary where they also had the opportunity to visit with some of the adoptable residents.

Troop Leader Maria Rodriguez says the girls learned many valuable lessons. “They learned that you can’t always give what you want to give. You sometimes have to give what’s needed. When Our Companions’ staff said they needed paper towels and detergent, we had to respond to that need.” Rodriguez added proudly, “The girls really put themselves out there to collect donations for the animals.”

### **Teaching Compassion**

When Keith Landin, Vocational Technology teacher at Woodstock Academy, heard about feral cat shelters through a neighbor and Our Companions volunteer, he thought that would make an ideal project for his Construction

*Continued on page 4*

## Kids Care (continued)

Class. Homemade shelters are supplied to volunteers in our Sterile Feral Program to set up refuge in the cold winter months for the feral cat colonies they manage.

Landin borrowed an existing feral cat shelter from Our Companions for the students to reverse engineer. Over the course of a week, 11 students drew up their own set of plans and then built a total of six feral cat shelters. According to Caroline Gaetano, who oversees the Sterile Feral Program, the shelters were greatly needed during this extremely harsh winter and continue to be used. Landin liked the fact that this project presented a design and building challenge, as well as provided a functional item; he plans to repeat the project with another class.

### How to Get Involved

According to Stephanie Montemerlo, Director of Programs for Our Companions, the organization is open-minded when kids, their parents or other adults call to become involved. "Sometimes an individual or group of kids contacts us and has an idea of what they want to do and we try to accommodate that. Or, they contact us to ask what we need. We can tailor the opportunity so that it works both for the kids and for Our Companions."

Sometimes groups even want to have a humane education component, where representatives from Our Companions' Humane Education program will speak to a class or group. In the example of the Girls Scout Troop, the girls were very happy to learn about the work Our Companions does and it encouraged them to come up with many creative ways they could help.

### The Benefit Goes Both Ways

Through acts of giving to animals in need, kids learn how important it is to care for others; they also experience empathy and learn to value and respect animals. Furthermore, they discover that animals depend upon humans to be their advocates. Amie Meacham says it best: "It's cool to care. That's the lesson we want everyone to hear."

We want to thank these young philanthropists on behalf of all the animals at Our Companions.



Maddy Coles making a felt blanket for the Sanctuary kitties (with helpers Siri and Maggie). Sanctuary guest Maurice is shown above enjoying the blanket during his naptime.

ions. They are not only providing food and supplies to our residents, but also are helping to spread the word about Our Companions and the issue of pet homelessness to a broader audience, while realizing important lessons in altruism, fundraising and public relations.

"Our Companions relies on its community to

support the work we do, and that need is only likely to grow in the years ahead," says CEO Susan Linker. "These kids are the future of OC. We love working with them – their energy is contagious." If their current dedication is any indication, as these children grow into caring and conscious adults, Our Companions will be in good hands.

### Ways Kids Can Help

- Request donations in lieu of gifts at your birthday party or Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
- Plan Scout Troop activities that raise money and awareness.
- Build feral cat shelters.
- Collect items on Sanctuary Wish List.
- Collect pet food (we always have a great need for cat food).
- Fundraising at school events.
- Donate money from recyclables.
- Spread the word about Our Companions.
- Or get creative!

## Remembrance Wall and Reflection Garden Inspire Visitors

By Julie Stankiewicz

At Our Companions Sanctuary, there exists a spirit of compassion – not just for the many dogs and cats who come into our care, but for all sentient beings. When Our Companions received 43 acres of property in Ashford, Connecticut in 2002, this land was the site of an abandoned factory farm where hundreds of thousands of laying hens suffered under intensive farming conditions. By 2012, this property had been radically transformed into a sanctuary for animals, where homeless dogs and cats receive love, rehabilitation, and the hope of fulfilling futures.

After volunteering at Our Companions for about six months, I approached Our Companions CEO, Susan Linker about my desire to help farm animals. As it turned out, Susan had been thinking about utilizing a piece of concrete slab that comprised the foundation of one of the original factory farm buildings. This section was purposely preserved to house some sort of historical tribute. We agreed that this structure could be incorporated into an educational piece that would inform visitors about the history of the land.

The Remembrance Wall provides historical documentation of the land and explores the current system of factory farming and what can be done to improve the lives of farm animals. It also includes inspirational quotes, photos, and original artwork. Fellow OC volunteer Paula Fischer created the paintings for the project.

“Paying tribute to the thousands of hens who once existed in harsh conditions on this land, and who are suffering in inhumane conditions throughout our country today, gave me the sense that I was freeing them through my painting,” says Paula.

Volunteers Liz Nyczak and her brother Paul Gudelski are now expanding upon the Remembrance Wall project by adding a tranquil Reflection Garden where visitors can contemplate the history of the land while immersed in natural beauty. Their design for the Reflection Garden includes a birdbath, bench, and



*Above: Paul Gudelski with Liz and Jay Nyczek stand proudly in the garden they created.  
Below: Sanctuary visitors read about the inhumane practices of chicken farming.*



flowering shrubs. They expect to complete the project by the end of this summer. The garden was made possible through a generous special gift from longtime donors Joleen Nevers and James Larabee.

As a former landscaper, Paul had noticed that the property had an abundance of beautiful stones, and he knew how to utilize them artistically. His stone craftsmanship can be seen in front of the canine cottages, where he and Liz also added additional gardens.

Annie and Neil Hornish, who generously funded the Remembrance Wall project in 2013, are

hopeful that its continued development will draw greater awareness to the cruel system of factory farming. Having been involved with Our Companions since its inception, they have seen the transformation of the land firsthand and describe it as “a beautiful miracle.”

When the factory farm structures on Our Companions property were demolished, Annie and Neil distributed the battery cages to schools across the country. Through their efforts, students gained a sense of the confinement and suffering of laying hens who live in such conditions. As Connecticut State Director of

*Continued on page 6*

### Remembrance Wall and Reflection Garden Inspire Visitors (continued)

the Humane Society of the United States, Annie is working to help pass legislation that will free the 4.7 million birds still trapped in battery cages in this state, as well as legislation that will prevent gestation crates for pigs from ever coming to Connecticut.

“When people understand that nonhuman animals, no matter what type, have their own needs, desires, and the right to live their lives without interference, it opens up their hearts in an important and meaningful way,” says Annie.

As we watch companion animals flourish at the Sanctuary, the Remembrance Wall and the Reflection Garden inspire hope for a brighter future for all animals. We appreciate the many people who have contributed, and who continue to contribute in so many ways to this important educational and historic project.



Above: L to R, Neil Hornish, Julie Stankiewicz, Annie Hornish stand proudly in front of the Remembrance Wall.

## Gardeners Wanted!

Want to use your gardening talents to help create and maintain beautiful gardens at an animal sanctuary?

Volunteers needed to help with the design and maintenance of our 40-acre sanctuary in Ashford.

No experience necessary.

Mowing help also needed.

Any amount of time would be appreciated!



**OurCompanions.org**  
46 Floeting Road  
Ashford, CT



**Any questions?**

Leave a message at **860-242-9999 x317**  
or email: **Krystal@OurCompanions.org**

# B.Y.O.L. { BRING your own LINT ROLLER }



*Fuzzy Butts Guaranteed  
When You Visit  
Our Companions'  
Ashford Sanctuary*



*Come visit*

and experience the joys at our Ashford Sanctuary and learn how you can become a part of our organization that promises to do the right thing for animals.



*Experience our unique form of animal rescue and rehabilitation in a loving, warm, homelike environment.*

**Tour the Sanctuary every Saturday from 1-3pm**

*Visit us*

**46 Floeting Road  
Ashford, CT**



## Meet these special friends waiting for their forever home...



### **Kaylee**

It's springtime and Kaylee is looking for her forever home. Kaylee is a sweet and smart two-year-old, 45-pound Australian Shepherd/Hound mix. With lots of energy, she needs a home where her people have flexible schedules so she doesn't have to be crated for too long. A fenced-in yard would be a huge plus for Kaylee; an active home would be ideal, especially one with older children or teenagers who can give her lots of attention, exercise and training. She is living at our Ashford Sanctuary and taking behavior classes; she would benefit from continuing with her training after she is adopted. Kaylee has a fun, happy personality and loves to play with tennis balls, Nylabones and Kongs, and go for long walks. Please consider giving this adorable bundle of energy a new start in your loving home. Call Our Companions at 860-242-9999 or email [Annmarie@OurCompanions.org](mailto:Annmarie@OurCompanions.org).

### **Snickers**

Cuddles, kisses, and snuggling – these are a few of Snickers' favorite things! He is an affectionate boy who will leap into your lap and lovingly nuzzle you. Snickers is easy to please – just give him a treat and some pats, and he'll be your friend for life. He also gets along with strangers, other cats, and even dogs – he's very friendly. While he is FIV+, he does not show negative effects from this condition. Cats with FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus), a feline-only virus, can live long, normal and healthy lives. They can safely live with FIV-negative cats as long as a proper transition/introduction is done. To learn more about Snickers, please call Kim at 860-242-9999 x 302 or email [KimA@ourcompanions.org](mailto:KimA@ourcompanions.org).



# Matching Pets with People Since 2003



## Why You Should Adopt From Our Companions

By Mary L. deManbey

There has been a subtle shift in thinking by the general public when it comes to adopting abandoned pets. Perhaps due to the influence of the media and the “moral imperative” of rescuing these animals, more people than ever are choosing to adopt from shelters.

It is a priority of our adoption program to find the right match from the very beginning. A bit of extra effort up front gives both the owner and the animal a better chance for a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

“At OC, every potential adopter and every pet is treated as an individual,” notes Stephanie Montemerlo, Director of Programs. “We support adopters every step of the way – assigning them a case manager and getting to know their needs and desires, and doing the same for each of our adoptable animals. Our involvement includes post-adoption support as well.”

All of OC’s adoptable pets are carefully evaluated both at the time of their initial entry into our program and over the weeks or months that they are under our care. Many are healthy and well-adjusted and relatively easy to match with interested adopters. Others, however, may have physical and/or emotional limitations. Some have been abandoned more than once and need special attention to regain trust. Others have special physical needs that require an owner who is patient and willing to take care of those needs.

### Think You Might Be Ready?

If you are interested in a particular pet available through OC or if you just want to find out about all of our adoptable pets, the first step is calling our Helpline. The advantage of making this initial contact is that you will be speaking to someone who has personal knowledge of the many pets waiting to be adopted. After submitting an application, you will be assigned a caseworker who will review

your application, contact your personal and veterinary references, and work with you to find the best match possible.

Once an appropriate match has been identified, the caseworker will set up a meeting at either OC’s Program Center in Manchester or the Ashford Sanctuary. If, for some reason, the match doesn’t feel quite right, the caseworker will make other suggestions.

“Adopters should not be discouraged if they do not end up adopting the pet they initially sought. This is not uncommon, and is an important element in ensuring the right match,” says Stephanie.

If all goes well and the match seems right, then the paperwork is completed and a date is set up for you to pick up your new family member.

### OC’s Guarantee

If for some reason the adoption doesn’t work out, the pet can be returned. Having to return an adopted pet can be heartbreaking for both the owner and the pet, which is another reason why so much care is taken, especially during the early stages of the adoption process. The more care given to finding the right match initially, the less likely the pet will be returned.

Our Companions’ philosophy has always been to do the right thing for animals, regardless of the challenge, time or cost. This commitment extends to potential owners, whose lives can be transformed when the right pet becomes part of their lives.

In addition to visiting adoptable pets at the Program Center and Sanctuary, they can be viewed at [www.ourcompanions.org/pages/adoptions.htm](http://www.ourcompanions.org/pages/adoptions.htm)



**Adoption Update:** “Buttercup has settled in wonderfully! She is friendly and outgoing, she loves people, and will greet visitors once they have settled in on the couch. She purrs with the smallest provocation, and has learned that my alarm clock means that I am awake and she can climb onto my pillow for belly rubs.

She and Simon get along most of the time, they alternate between grooming each other and wrestling to be king of the cat climber. She loves to play and be scratched under the chin, and even tolerates being hugged and kissed. By all indications, she feels safe and at home with us, and she is well loved.”



Former Sanctuary guest Allie takes a dip with her new people. Many of you may remember how Allie loved to jump in the doggie pool after her walk - now she has a whole lake!





## Henry and Katharine K. McLane Society Members

Established in 2007, in memory of Our Companions' first donors, the Henry and Katharine McLane Society honors a distinguished group of individuals, businesses and organizations who generously support our programs and services in a leadership capacity.

Below is a listing of current McLane Society donors. The event photos are courtesy of Lorraine Fox Costanzo.

*Left: The late Katharine, known to her friends as K.K. with her dog Jenny.*

### Our Companions Circle, \$20,000 +

Ms. Ora Avni and Mr. Josue Harari \*  
Ms. Barbara Erskine  
Ms. Valerie Friedman  
Gerald and Claire Gerath Foundation  
Mr. Peter and Mrs. Alexandra Oldershaw  
Perna-Rose Foundation for Hope  
The Perkin Fund

### Founders' Circle, \$10,000 - \$19,999

Mr. Samuel and Mrs. Janet Bailey  
Ms. Maria R. Das Neves and Mr. Frank Hawkins  
Ms. Gale Epstein  
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Linda Forrester  
Ms. Ann R. Hardy  
Mr. Rob and Mrs. Susan Mason  
Ms. Joleen M. Nevers and Mr. James Larabee  
Newman's Own Foundation, Inc.  
Mr. Leon and Mrs. Bernadette Olivier  
Ms. Lida Orzeck  
Mr. Stephen D. and Mrs. Suzanne Petke  
Mr. Douglas and Mrs. Julie Reid  
Ms. Barbara Ruben and Ms. June Roy

### Guardians' Circle, \$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous  
Aetna Foundation, Inc  
Elinor Patterson Baker Foundation  
Ms. Sandra A. Bass  
The Bloomberg Sisters Foundation  
Ms. Georgina Bloomberg  
Ms. Fanchon Cartin  
Cigna Foundation  
Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut

Mr. Ronald and Mrs. Nancy Compton  
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred V. Covello  
Ms. Joy Daentl  
Mr. Marvin Fried  
Mr. Frank T. and Mrs. Caroline Gaetano  
Mr. Mark and Mrs. Linda Hatten  
Hoffman Auto Group  
Mr. & Mrs. I. Bradley Hoffman  
Ms. Dottie Kern  
Ms. Leigh Ann Kissner  
Ms. Christine Knuth  
Mr. Irwin Linker  
Mr. H. Richard McLane  
William and Alice Mortensen Foundation  
Mr. Henry and Mrs. Helen Savage  
Mr. Charles W. and Mrs. Christine Shivery  
The Shuskus Family  
Sweetheart Invitational  
Travelers  
Mr. George and Mrs. Lynda Trumbull  
United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut  
Mr. Paul Volpe  
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Rita Weidman  
Mrs. Betty Willis

### Caregivers' Circle, \$2,500 - \$4,999

America's Charities  
Ms. Laura Baker  
Ms. Cindy Bergner  
Farmington Miniature Golf Course  
Ms. Patricia Foley  
Ms. Jamila Hadj-Salem and Mr. Joshua Ochs  
Hanky Panky Ltd.  
Hartford County Veterinary Medical Association



Canine co-host Archie.

Ms. Lisa Holzwarth and Mr. Evan Schiller  
ING Foundation  
Ms. Jeannie Kitchens  
Mr. Andy Leitao  
Ms. Anne Llewellyn  
Middlesex United Way, Inc.  
PETCO Foundation  
Ms. Ruth Rollin and Mr. Henry Petrofsky  
Mr. Frank and Mrs. Penny Petrone  
Mr. Patrick and Mrs. Kathleen Sullivan  
UNO ALLA VOLTA's Terri Alpert  
United Way of Pioneer Valley, Inc.  
Ms. Jennifer Whitlow  
Dr. Gordon and Mrs. Kim Zimmermann

### Companions' Row \$1,000 - \$2,499

Mr. Charles W. and Mrs. Claudia Ayer  
Bank of America Matching Gifts  
Mr. Bruce and Mrs. Carol-Ann Barlow  
Dr. George and Mrs. Jennifer Barrows  
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Batchelder  
Mr. John and Mrs. Mary Ann Biella  
Mr. Curtis and Mrs. Patricia Blake  
Bridgewater Associates, LP  
Mrs. Joan Brodeur  
Ms. Janice Cartin  
Mr. Mickey Cartin  
Cats Limited Veterinary Hospital  
Chippens Hill Veterinary Hospital  
Mr. Brandon and Mrs. Kimberly Clonch  
Ms. Margaret Collins  
Connecticut Convention Center  
Mr. John and Mrs. Carol Coulton  
Mr. Alan and Mrs. Risa Davidson  
Mr. Dudley Day  
Ms. June Day  
Ms. Patricia Denno  
Ms. Carole DiBiasi  
Ms. Louise C. England  
Ms. Shirley Galka and Ms. Susan Fabian  
Ms. Pamela Farnham  
Mrs. Lisa Fekete  
Mr. James and Mrs. Jennifer Fitzsimmons  
Ms. Kim Gabler  
Ms. Diana Garfield  
Ms. Lois George  
Mr. Steve and Mrs. Blanche Goldenberg



CEO Susan Linker and Mitchell Linker, OC Development Committee Chair, with Board Chair Valerie Friedman and hosts Linda and Mark Hatten.



*OC Board Chair Valerie Friedman enjoying the slideshow.*

Harry E. Goldfarb Family Foundation Fund  
 Mr. Alan and Mrs. Wendy Gorfain  
 Mr. Ian and Mrs. Kimberly Green  
 Mr. Robert and Mrs. Susan Hart  
 Dr. Jo Nol and Dr. Nancy Humphreys  
 Mr. Albert and Mrs. Kathleen Jaffe  
 Ms. Janet Jandreau  
 Mr. Wallace and Mrs. Hedy Jarvis  
 Mr. Theodore P. and Mrs. Ellen S. Jennings  
 Ms. Ann Jones and Mr. Stephen D. Ramsey  
 Mr. Randall and Mrs. Marie Joyner  
 Ms. Catherine Kulak and Mr. Kevin Sheehan  
 Ms. Marta Jo Lawrence  
 Ms. Angela Lennox-Kay  
 Mr. Mitchell and Mrs. Susan Linker  
 LMEPAC  
 Ms. Kerri Mansberg  
 Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Jo Marinello  
 MassMutual  
 Ms. Terri Messina- Linder and Mr. Herve Linder  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Millar  
 Mr. Greg and Mrs. Regis Miller  
 Mitchell Auto Group, Inc.  
 Ms. Holly Billings and Ms. Marianne Nelson  
 Dr. Eric Orzeck  
 Mr. Gary Paradee  
 Ms. Laurie A. Paternoster  
 Petcare Veterinary Services  
 PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
 Ms. Barbara Prine and Mr. Cyprian Martin  
 Mr. Robert and Mrs. Judith W. M. Prohaska  
 Ms. Patricia Purdy  
 Ms. Beth Hillson and Dr. Joel Reich  
 Ms. Victoria Ricciuti  
 Ms. Susan Smith Rubin  
 Mr. Anthony C. and Mrs. Sharon Scussel  
 Mr. Mark Sinatra  
 Specialty Transportation, Inc.  
 Tails of Joy Inc.  
 Ms. Lynda Thornton  
 Truist  
 Ms. Sandra Tullius  
 Mr. Jim and Mrs. Whitney Vose  
 Ms. Georgiana White  
 Mr. Michael Wiseman

Ms. Cinnamon Young  
 Mr. Edward and Mrs. Kathleen Young  
 Ms. Maureen Armstrong and Mr. Adam Zweiffer

### **Rescuers' Row, \$250 - \$999**

Anonymous (5)  
 Ms. Natalie Abraham  
 Mr. John and Mrs. Christina Altier  
 American Express  
 Ms. Ellen Andrews  
 Ms. Deborah Anger  
 Mr. Craig and Mrs. Vivian Asche  
 AT&T United Way Employee Giving Campaign  
 Ms. Jeanne Auerbach  
 Mr. Shep Baker and Mrs. Beverly Buckner- Baker  
 Ms. Mary Baker  
 Mr. Brett and Mrs. Wendy Barczak  
 Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Melanie Barnes  
 Mr. Gary and Mrs. Kathleen Bartholomew  
 Ms. Jane Batton  
 Mr. Brian and Mrs. Nicole Baummer  
 Ms. Sandra Bean  
 Mr. Joe and Mrs. Pat Beaudin  
 Ms. Susan Beaupre  
 Mr. Leo and Mrs. Audrey A. Belanger  
 The Benefits Group  
 Mr. Whit and Mrs. Jarre Betts  
 Ms. Lynn Biella  
 Ms. Gail Billet and Ms. Mia Sullivan  
 Ms. Sylvia Bissell  
 Mr. Andrew and Mrs. Amber A. Bordley  
 Mr. Robert and Mrs. Anne Borg  
 Mr. Mark and Mrs. Susan Bottomley  
 Mr. Normand and Mrs. Sharon Boulanger  
 Mr. Paul Bourdeau  
 Mr. John and Mrs. Kim Bowen  
 Ms. Jane Boyle and Mr. Michael Galonska  
 Dr. Sharon Bremner  
 Ms. Marguerite Brennan  
 Mr. Rob and Mrs. Kelly Britt  
 Mr. Craig and Mrs. Paula Brown  
 Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Doreen Brown  
 Brownstone Bakery for Dogs  
 Ms. Shari Brunell  
 Ms. Janet Brunton

Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Jenny Bucci  
 Mr. David A. and Mrs. Susan E. Bucci  
 Dr. Ruth Buczynski  
 Mr. Edward and Mrs. Mary Budd  
 Ms. Jen Rilla and Mr. Michael Cafasso  
 Ms. Gail T. Cahill  
 Ms. Allison Calvello  
 Ms. Elizabeth Cameron  
 Ms. Susan Cannon  
 Ms. Marijane Carey  
 Mr. Chip and Mrs. Bobbi Carleton  
 Ms. Nancy Carlson  
 Ms. Colleen Carroll and Ms. Debra Kempton  
 Ms. Jennifer Carter  
 Mr. Richard and Mrs. Ellen Cartun  
 Mr. Angelo and Mrs. Susan Casagrande  
 Mr. Rob and Mrs. Jill Casey  
 Mrs. Ellen L. Cassady  
 Ms. Kathleen Cassidy  
 Ms. Jennifer Cavaliere  
 Mr. Robert and Mrs. Lois Charron  
 Mr. Gerard and Mrs. Dawn Chartier  
 Mr. Arnold and Mrs. Sandy Chase  
 Ms. Penni Cheatle  
 Ms. Annie Chittenden  
 Citizens Charitable Foundation  
 Citizens National Bank  
 Ms. Candace Clark  
 Ms. Debra Clover  
 Mr. Keith and Mrs. Madeline Coakley  
 Coast to Coast Produce  
 Ms. Jennifer Coffey and Mr. David Vorchheimer  
 Mr. Edward and Mrs. Joan Cohen  
 Ms. Linda Coleman  
 Mr. Jim and Mrs. Tina Collias  
 Ms. Jessica Collis and Mr. Victor Belenchia  
 Ms. Jenny Colucci and Ms. Jane Holt  
 Dr. Joyce Comer  
 Companions and Home Makers  
 Compassionate Care Veterinary Hospital  
 Ms. Sandra Conlin and Mr. Joseph Puzzo  
 Mr. Wayne and Mrs. Concetta Conlogue  
 Mr. William and Mrs. Ellen E. Conlon  
 Ms. Patricia Connolly and Mr. William Tomlinson  
 Mr. David and Mrs. Rita Conrad  
 Ms. Bridget Cooper  
 Ms. Colleen Cooper  
 Ms. Lynne L. Cooper and Mr. Russ Pekrul  
 Mr. and Mrs. Tim Corbett  
 Cornerstone Real Estate Advisers, LLC  
 Ms. Susan C. Barnes and Mr. Daniel Cosgrove  
 Dr. Coleen and Mr. Thomas Cosker  
 Mr. James and Mrs. Jessica Couzens  
 Ms. Anastasia Crosswhite and Mr. Shawn Mullen  
 Mr. Bill and Mrs. Ilona Crosswhite  
 Mr. Wyatt Crosswhite  
 Ms. Elizabeth Cullen and Mr. Martin Lilienthal  
 Mr. Michael Cunningham and Mr. Steven Lubin  
 Mr. Harry and Mrs. Joan Curry  
 Mr. Charles and Mrs. Nancy Curtiss  
 Ms. Tammie Cutler  
 Ms. Joanne Cyr and Mr. Todd Collin  
 Ms. Tammy Schondelmayer and Ms. Wendy Davis  
 Ms. Amia Della Mura  
 Mr. Robert and Mrs. Ann M. DeMaio  
 Ms. Mary DeManbey  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Derr  
 Mr. Steve and Mrs. Jean DeVito  
 Mr. Craig Diangelo  
 Mr. Ronald and Mrs. Penny Dionne  
 Dog Days of West Hartford

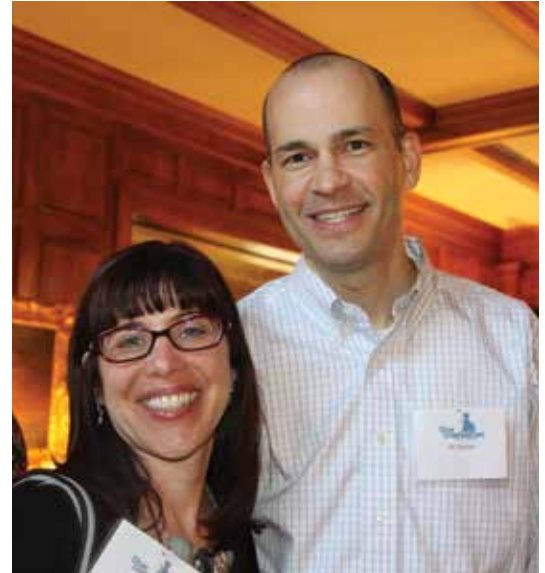


# GIVING

Mr. John Domijan  
 Mr. John and Mrs. Carole G. Donagher  
 Mr. Lenny and Mrs. Beth D'Onofrio  
 Mr. Thomas F. and Mrs. Dorothy J. Dorsey  
 Mr. Victor and Mrs. Jody Dowling  
 Mr. Roger and Mrs. Sandy Dubiel  
 The EASTER Foundation  
 Ms. Laurie Egger and Mr. Robert Deutsch  
 Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. F. Libbey Farrell  
 Mr. William and Mrs. Lynda Fee  
 Ms. Eileen Fenton-Gondek  
 Dr. Judd and Mrs. Bella Fink  
 First Church of Christ, Congregational  
 Ms. Paula Fischer  
 Ms. Lori Stevenson and Mr. Gordon Fishell  
 Mr. Robert and Mrs. Tracey Fitzpatrick  
 Ms. Karen Flanders  
 Mr. Robert Fochi  
 Mr. and Mrs. Nat Follansbee  
 Dr. Alexander and Mrs. Carol Fortier  
 Mr. John and Mrs. Jennifer Fortin  
 Ms. Kelly France  
 Mr. Ray and Mrs. Taryn Fredericksen  
 Ms. Susan Gagnon and Mr. Theodore J. Urbanski  
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin Gavin  
 GE Foundation  
 Mr. Chris and Mrs. Diane Gent  
 George Weiss Associates, Inc.  
 Ms. Jane Giguere  
 Mr. John Gilberto and Ms. Lillian Gilberto  
 Mr. M. Andrew Glass  
 Mr. Brian and Mrs. Erin Goldman  
 Ms. Martha Goldman  
 Ms. Carol Goodstein  
 Ms. Barbara Gorr  
 Ms. Nina Graham  
 Mr. Arthur and Mrs. Zabelle Greenblatt  
 Mr. David Gregorski  
 Mr. Lindsey and Mrs. Jane Gruson  
 Mr. Bill and Mrs. Eva Gurley  
 Mr. Bernard and Mrs. Linda Halligan  
 Mr. Michael J. and Mrs. Karen Hanrahan  
 Mr. Douglas and Mrs. Denise Harned  
 Hartford Union of the King's Daughters and Sons  
 Ms. Elizabeth Hartzog  
 Mr. Matthew and Mrs. Renee Hartzog  
 Mr. Charles and Mrs. Laime Hattenbach  
 Mr. Neale and Mrs. Carol Hauss  
 Mrs. Jane Henderson  
 Ms. Alice Hendrickson  
 Mr. John and Mrs. Debra B. Hernandez  
 Mr. Carl and Mrs. Carolann Hernberg  
 Ms. Jane Hewitt  
 High Grade Gas Service, Inc.  
 Dr. Donald and Mrs. Susan Hight  
 Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Gina M. Hoag  
 Mr. Michael and Mrs. Katherine Holcomb  
 Mr. Steve and Mrs. Jill Honeycomb  
 Mr. Mark and Mrs. Laurel Houle  
 Ms. Lindsay Hughes  
 Mr. Michael Hughes  
 Mr. Paul Hundley  
 Mr. Hobey and Mrs. Debby Hyde  
 Ms. Julita Isidro and Mr. John Sullivan  
 Ms. Judith Ivie and Mr. Jorge A. Parra  
 Mr. George and Mrs. Livia Jacobs  
 Ms. Deborah Jawin-Sheak  
 Ms. Frances Jedrzejczyk  
 Dr. William A. Jellison, Ph.D.  
 Mr. Bernard Johnson  
 Mr. Frank and Mrs. Cheryl Johnson



*Forever Home Society member Joanne Singer and Sharon Apostol.*



*OC Donors Wendy and Al Gorfain.*



*Russell's Creative Global Cuisine made the evening delicious!*

Ms. Kristen Johnson and Mr. Martin Azzolina  
 Mr. Paul and Mrs. Lyn F. Johnson  
 Ms. Judith Jordan  
 Ms. Llyn Kaimowitz  
 Dr. Marian Kellner and Dr. Timothy McLaughlin  
 Mr. Tom Gromak and Mr. David J. Kenison  
 Ms. Nancy Kirk  
 Ms Katherine Kosmaler  
 Mrs. Gretchen LaBau  
 Ms. Doris Lake  
 Ms. Jayme Lamphere and Mr. Phuc Phan  
 Ms. Donna Landerman  
 Mr. Keith and Mrs. Judy Landin  
 Ms. Karen R. Laski  
 Mr. Martin and Mrs. MaryBeth Lavelle  
 Mr. Alan and Mrs. Marcia Lazowski  
 Mr. Robert Lazzarini  
 Ms. Karen Fraser and Mr. Ronald LeBleu  
 Mr. Walter and Mrs. Irene Lesniaski  
 Ms. Lisa Levasseur  
 Mr. Damon and Mrs. Beth Linker  
 Ms. Sara Linsley

Mr. John Loge  
 Mr. Robert Lukawicz  
 Mr. Mark and Mrs. Tracy Lunenburg  
 Ms. Dolores Magraw  
 Mr. Peter and Mrs. Isabel Malkin  
 Ms. Jeanne Coppola and Mr. Paul Manson  
 Ms. Susan Marai  
 Margo Vivero Counseling  
 Ms. Leah Martin  
 Ms. Sarah Lee Martin  
 MassMutual Financial Group  
 Mr. David Matheson  
 Mr. Fred and Mrs. Kay McCarthy  
 Mr. Dermot and Mrs. Patricia McDermott  
 Ms. Patricia McGuinness  
 Ms. Roberta McLean  
 Mr. Donald and Mrs. Kathleen McMahon  
 Ms. Janice Melvin and Mr. Jeffrey Friedman  
 Mr. William and Mrs. Linda Mester  
 Metayer Bonding Associates, LLC  
 Mr. Michael Metayer  
 MFUND, Inc.

Mr. Brian and Mrs. Kim Michalewicz  
 Ms. Jacqueline Mickiewicz  
 Microsoft Matching Gifts Program  
 Ms. Beverly C. Miller  
 Ms. Arlene Mirsky-MacNamara  
 Modern Woodcrafts, LLC  
 Ms. Mary Morenz  
 Mr. Albert and Mrs. JoAnna Morris  
 Ms. Wendy A. Morris  
 Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Kelli Mullaney  
 Mr. Brian Mullen and Mr. Stephen Shura  
 Mr. William E. and Mrs. Elisabeth Neff  
 Mr. Kenneth Nelson  
 Ms. Nancy Nelson  
 Dr. and Mrs. Tony Ness  
 Mr. Matthew and Mrs. Deanna L. Nickels  
 Mrs. Elizabeth and Mr. Jay Nyczak  
 Ms. Susan Osborne and Mr. Tim Reed  
 Ms. Jennifer Overman  
 Mr. Raymond and Mrs. Patricia Overton  
 Ms. Kathleen Pacholski  
 Mr. Mark and Mrs. Luanne Paley  
 Mr. Michael A. Park and Ms. Janet Beatty  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Patricelli  
 Pat's Pampered Pets  
 Paws for a Cause  
 Mr. Richard Pelletier  
 Ms. Susan Pennington and Mr. James Randazzo  
 Ms. Laura Perlotto  
 Mr. Leonard and Mrs. Caroline Peterson  
 Mr. Scott and Mrs. Gail Petras  
 Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program  
 Mr. Francis Pierce  
 Mr. Jerome Pollitt  
 Ms. Cathy Popp  
 Ms. Martha Porteus  
 Ms. Laura Post  
 Ms. Jessica Greenebaum and Mr. Devin Pray  
 Pressure Seals, Inc.  
 Ms. Laurel Rabschutz and Mr. Paul Pribula  
 Ms. Esther Pryor  
 Mr. Bill and Mrs. Kelly Pucci  
 Ms Marguerite Purnell  
 Mr. Michael and Mrs. Cheryl Radzvilowicz  
 Mr. James W. and Mrs. Sheila Randall  
 Mr. John and Mrs. Susan Rathgeber  
 Ms. Jacqueline and Ms. Megan Rheiner  
 Ms. Nikki Richer  
 Ms. Sandy Richmond  
 Ms. Sheila Riffle and Ms. Linda Riffle-Iacobellis  
 Mr. Robert and Mrs. Lori Robert  
 Mr. Nathan Rochette  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rogala  
 Mr. Ken Rosenblatt  
 Mrs. Mary Rounsavall  
 Ms. Barbara Rubin  
 Dr. Karen Rubinow  
 Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Julie Saffir  
 Ms. Diane Samuels  
 Ms. Zellene Sandler  
 Mr. John and Mrs. Cathleen Sassu  
 Mr. Tony and Mrs. Alison V. Scherer  
 Mr. George Schiebel  
 Mr. Steven and Mrs. Mary Schinke  
 Mr. Jochen and Mrs. Katherine Schuele  
 Mr. Hy and Mrs. Remy Schwartz  
 Mr. Leonard and Mrs. Freda Schwartz  
 Mr. John and Mrs. Cathy Scuto  
 Ms. Lorraine Semnoski  
 Ms. Donna Seremet  
 Ms. Sandra Benedict and Mr. Maneesh Shanbhag



Board members Mitchell Linker and Chris Shivery with Kathy Young.

Ms. Robin Shannon  
 The Shelter Hill Foundation  
 Ms. Joyce Shipley  
 Ms. Sharon Sideranko  
 Ms. Melissa Simonik and Ms. Valina Carpenter  
 Ms. Vi R. Smalley  
 Ms. Judy Smith  
 Mr. William Smith  
 Ms. Joyce Snyder  
 Ms. Su Spiewakowski  
 Mr. Peter and Mrs Judy Spring  
 Stanley Black & Decker  
 Mr. Robert and Mrs. Gillian Steel  
 Mr. Gabe and Mrs. Audrey Stein  
 Ms. Christa Sterling  
 Dr. George and Mrs. Nancy Stimac  
 Mr. Morris and Mrs. Nancy Storck  
 Ms. Sandy Strain  
 Ms. Tera Jenson and Mr. Jeremy Strange  
 Studio Central LLC  
 Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Jan Sweitzer  
 Mr. Evan and Mrs. Susan Taback  
 Tails U Win  
 Mr. P. Ross Taylor and Mrs. Anne B. Taylor  
 Mr. William and Mrs. Harriet Teichert  
 Ms. Natalie Teply and Ms. Pamela Wells  
 Dr. Jeffrey and Mrs. AnnMarie S. Tepper  
 Mr. Wayne and Mrs. Kim Thomas  
 Mr. Michael and Mrs. Elizabeth Thornton  
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Tremblay  
 Mr. Alexander and Mrs. Judith Trzcinski  
 Ms. Nanette Tummers  
 United Way of Greenwich  
 United Way of Rhode Island  
 Verizon Foundation  
 Veterinary Specialists of Connecticut  
 Ms. Lois Voisine  
 Mr. Edward and Mrs. Debbie Voyer  
 Mr. Terry and Dr. Mary C. Wakeman  
 Ms. Denise Wakim  
 Mr. James and Mrs. Donna Wakim  
 Ms. Susan Wallace  
 The Walt Disney Company Foundation  
 Mr. Adam and Mrs. Holly Wanegar



Devin Pray and Jessica Greenebaum.

Mr. Forbes Warren  
 Mrs. Mary Washburn  
 Ms. Karen Wassell  
 Mr. Bruce and Mrs. Pamela M. Wentworth  
 Ms. Sally Westcott  
 Mr. Frank and Mrs. Ann Weston  
 Mr. Wayne and Mrs. Yvonne Whiten  
 Dr. Mary White-Roath  
 Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Joanne Wholey  
 Ms. Eva Wickwire  
 Mr. Scott and Mrs. Amanda Wieting  
 Mr. Alfred and Mrs. Helen Wilke  
 Winthrop Wealth Management  
 Ms. Jaime Wisneski  
 Mr. James and Mrs. Jasmine E. Wolf  
 Mr. Gordon and Mrs. Candy Yeager  
 Ms. Vanessa Yi and Mr. Kevin Mounts  
 Ms. Anita L. Zlatev and Mr. Paul S. Szwed  
 Ms. Carolyn Zolty

\*Deceased

## OC's Forever Home Society

Choosing to include Our Companions in your estate plan ensures that we will always have the resources to fulfill our promise to do the right thing for animals, regardless of the challenge or cost, for many generations to come.

The *Forever Home Society* honors those who have included Our Companions in their estate plan through charitable bequests, trusts, or other provisions. Following is a list of our current *Forever Home Society* members; we hope you will consider adding your name to this list.



If you have already included Our Companions in your estate plan, please let us know so we can welcome you as a member of the *Forever Home Society*.

To learn more, please contact Susan Linker at 860-242-9999, ext 301 or email [SusanL@OurCompanions.org](mailto:SusanL@OurCompanions.org).

The language to include Our Companions as a beneficiary of a charitable gift through your estate (will) is as follows: "I give (x dollars/ x percent or all of the residue of my estate) to Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary (DBA, Our Companions Animal Rescue) organizing and existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut, and with a principal business address of P.O. Box 956, Manchester, CT 06045-0956. TAX-ID # 41-2047734

Anonymous	Ms. Karen A. Ellsworth	Mr. Mitchell and Mrs. Susan Linker	Ms. Karen Beaulieu
Ms. Elizabeth Aaronsohn	Ms. Karen Ericson	Ms. Mary Mansfield	Ms. Karen Scucchi-Carr
Ms. Mary Jean Agostini	Ms. Barbara J. Erskine	Mr. Robert and Mrs. Susan Mason	Ms. Lorraine Semnoski
Mrs. Janet Bailey	Ms. Paula Fischer	Ms. Mari Merwin	Mr. Charles and Mrs. Chris Shivery
Dr. George and Mrs. Jennifer Barrows	Mr. Marvin Fried	Mr. Roger and Mrs. Barbara Orsie	Ms. Joanne Singer
Mrs. Deborah Batten	Ms. Valerie Friedman	Ms. Lida Orzeck	Ms. Vi Smalley
Ms. Joan Oppelt Brodeur	Ms. Lyn Garson and Ms. Tara Martin	Ms. Nancy Parker	Ms. Joyce Snyder
Ms. Lana Burchman	Ms. Michele Greaves and	Mr. William and Mrs. Eleanor Peters	Mr. Michael and Mrs. Patricia Starace
Ms. Pamela Cabrera	Mr. Joseph Popovitch	Mr. Henry Petrofsky	Ms. Christa Sterling
Ms. Donna Canalis	Ms. Jamila Hadj-Salem	Mr. Neil and Mrs. Kathy Pierson	Mr. George and Mrs. Nancy Stimac
Mr. James and Mrs. Jessica Couzens	Mr. Bob and Mrs. Susan Hart	Ms. Barbara Prine and	Mr. Patrick and Mrs. Kathleen Sullivan
Mrs. Carol Covello	Ms. Harriet Hersh	Mr. Cyprian Martin	Ms. Ginny Tennison
Mr. Harry and Mrs. Joan Curry	Ms. Kim Hoffman	Mr. Robert and	Ms. Lynda Thornton
Ms. Christina (Tina) Davies	Ms. Kathy Hucks	Mrs. Judith W.M. Prohaska	Mr. Albert Toro
Ms. June E. Day	Ms. Kathie Hunter	Ms. Rajeshwari Punekar	Mr. Tom and Mrs. Rita Weidman
Ms. Mary June Day	Ms. Lisa Ireland *	Mr. Robert J. and Mrs. Eileen Rau	Mr. Edward and Mrs. Kathleen Young
Ms. Heather Dennis and	Ms. Dottie Kern	Ms. June Roy	Dr. Gordon and
Mr. Kevin Gillespie	Mrs. Gretchen LaBau	Ms. Barbara Ruben	Mrs. Kim Zimmermann
Ms. Christine Durrer	Ms. Estelle Langlois	Ms. Lisa St. Germain and	*Deceased

## Our Companions Spring Fund Drive

Animals are transformed by the individualized care and attention that Our Companions offers them.

Whether it's the physical and emotional rehabilitation transpiring our Ashford Sanctuary, or one of the many services offered at our Valerie Friedman Program Center in Manchester, each program is tailored to meet the specific needs of the animals we are so committed to helping.

As you can imagine, providing all these programs and customized care requires significant resources. For this reason, I am asking you to consider making a generous gift to our Spring Fund Drive via the enclosed envelope, or making a secure donation at [www.OurCompanions.org/giving](http://www.OurCompanions.org/giving)

In doing so, you'll be playing a critical role in helping us fulfill our mission to do the right thing for animals regardless of the challenge or cost. Since nearly 100% of our funding comes from donations, you make our programs possible. I thank you in advance for your critical support of our work.



Dillon is currently a guest at our Ashford Sanctuary - he'd love to meet you!



Have you had the chance to meet Our Companions' Feline Sanctuary Director, Laura Jordan? If not, you absolutely *must!* I first met Laura while I was volunteering for Our Companions at an adoption event at Petsmart back in 2006. Together we shared a table and helped spread the word about this very new, cutting-edge animal rescue organization. It was in those four hours that I realized that Laura would become my go-to guru for all things "cat" for the rest of my life. Since then, we've wrangled cats in the swamps of New Britain, been inside more hoarding houses than I care to remember, and at one time even thought we could pull off a reality TV show highlighting our unbelievable cat adventures (before reality shows were what they are today). So here we are almost ten years later, still working together, along with Sanctuary Feline Behavior Manager, Karen Aseltine, to help pet owners with challenging cat conundrums.

In this issue of OC News, we'll be addressing the topic of cats who bite. As we will see, cats bite for a variety of reasons. It is a way of communicating that, when effective, can quickly get out of hand and become their favored method of communication. There are two main points to consider in your efforts to break biting behavior: (1) Why is my cat biting? (2) How do I stop the biting?

There are four main types of activities that induce biting. They are easy to remember as the 4Ps: Petting, Pain, Play and Prey. Petting-induced biting is caused by overstimulation due to excessive petting. Clearly, you've missed her warning signs telling you enough is enough. Did she twitch her skin, thump or lash



her tail, vocalize her displeasure, stop purring, rotate her ears back, shift her body position or glance at your hand that is petting her? If so, I hate to say it, but you had it coming.

I hear ya, "Holy high-maintenance!!! You mean to tell me that I have to watch out for all these behaviors as she sits on my lap when I watch TV?" Yes, sorry. In fact, for your own safety, we recommend not absentmindedly petting your cat if she's a biter. Another thing to watch out for is where on your cat's body you are petting them. Most cats have areas of caution which include the stomach, rear area and feet. It's also important to stroke the fur in the direction it lays; no one likes a messy 'do!

Pain-induced biting is self-explanatory. If you suspect that your cat may be injured, or her biting behavior is completely new and unex-

plained by any of the other causes, it could be a health issue, and having her evaluated by a veterinarian will be your best bet.

Play-induced biting takes place when you are engaging your cat in play. Let's step back a minute and take a look at how you play with your cat. Are you being too energetic with your style, frustrating her by never letting her catch the toy bird on the end of the string, irritating her by putting it right in her face, or using your hands/fingers as the moving object? If so, let's take it down a notch. We all need a little self-esteem boost every now and then. Let her win and follow her lead in setting the pace of her own activity. You may also want to increase the number of play sessions you have per day. Perhaps she has an overabundance of energy and she takes her level of play too far. A quick fix for play biting is to stop the game, walk away, let her calm down and then return at a more low-key level.

Prey/Hunting-induced biting is something that we've all probably seen or experienced at one time with our cat. There you are, settling in for the night and you move your foot a little too quickly from one side to the other under the comforter. Pouncing and stalking are normal, healthy behaviors that are fine during a play



Andrea Dobras is an Our Companions Board member and one of our animal welfare professionals. She specializes in the placement of cats with FIV. In this regular feature, she helps others with the most complex cat conundrums.

*The Scoop*

To submit a question for consideration in a future edition of *The Scoop*, call us at 860-242-9999, ext. 301, or e-mail [editor@ourcompanions.org](mailto:editor@ourcompanions.org).

session or when using a toy, but not when it comes to your ankle. Prey/hunting biting has the potential to quickly turn aggressive, and finding a proper outlet to satisfy their prey drive is key. Solutions to help manage their need to hunt include having several daily play sessions, amusing them with contraptions such as collapsible tunnels (cats are natural-born investigators), toys hidden in boxes or paper bags, and puzzle feeders (also called exercise feeders, which replicate the stimulation that naturally comes with working for food, with food being the end reward).

While the 4Ps address the most common issues that cause cats to bite, I would be doing you a disservice by not mentioning that there are cats whose behavior is based on aggression.

Fear aggression is the most common type of feline aggression. Some cats are inherently shy and react aggressively every time they become frightened. It can also result from poor socialization, and in such cases, punishment actually exacerbates the situation. Cats can be fearful of people, places, other cats, traveling, unsettling noises, and even odors.

Redirected aggression occurs when a cat is aroused and agitated by an animal or person he cannot directly respond to, due to their being some sort of barrier, such as a window, between them. His frustration at being unable to get to the trigger of his agitation causes him to lash out at whomever approaches him, whether it be another cat, dog, or a person. Interestingly, there can be a significant time interval between the initial arousal and the

redirected aggression – sometimes hours – which explains why some pet parents characterize the cat’s aggression as “out of the blue.”

If your cat is showing signs of fear aggression or redirected aggression, these are potential biting situations, and you should consult a behavioral professional immediately.

In our next issue, and for future issues, I will be reporting on feline issues along with Karen Aseltine, who will be serving as the new column expert. We are sure readers will enjoy the many tips Karen has to share, based on her experience as our Ashford Sanctuary’s Feline Behavior Manager.



**FUN  
Enrichment  
IDEAS  
For Your  
Cat!**

With a little imagination, everyday items like toilet paper rolls, balled-up pieces of paper, and empty water bottles can easily transform into inexpensive cat toys.

Frozen cubes of low sodium chicken broth (without garlic or onion), tuna or clam juice make simple tasty treats and are a great way to satisfy cats who are on a weight-loss regimen. Bringing the outdoors in with fast growing cat grass or catnip is also a favorite for many cats.

Adding a few doors, windows and a soft blanket to any box creates a nice napping spot and provides hours of simple entertainment.





Wouldn't it be wonderful if our animals could talk? They could tell us exactly what is ailing them. Imagine engaging in casual conversation with your cat over dinner, "Fluffy, why aren't you eating your grain-free shredded beef and fish filet? It's your favorite."

"I'm not really hungry today," Fluffy responds, hunched over in pain. "I feel nauseous after snacking outside on your prized petunias."

Obviously, Fluffy is not able to actively speak with you in this manner, however she does have the ability to effectively communicate – by meowing.

### **The Meaning of Meow**

Kittens communicate with their mother by meowing for food and warmth. Interestingly, once full grown, adult cats do not meow at each other at all. Adults meow only to communicate with people. The meaning of meow takes many forms. Meowing is typically used by cats for gaining attention to their various daily living needs. Cats will meow for food; usually this occurs in the kitchen accompanied by pacing at your feet or jumping up on counters. They meow for human affection and social interaction. Meowing at doors indicates kitty wants to go outside or come back in. Constant meowing by young healthy cats is typically a sign of females in heat attracting the attention of males. Elderly cats may meow regularly at nighttime should they become confused or disoriented due to feline dementia.

Some cats normally meow more than others. Siamese cats in particular are known to

be non-stop "talkers" and sometimes sound as though they are actually speaking words. But excessive meowing may signify potential medical conditions. Increased hunger or thirst may cause cats to become more vocal if an underlying disease process is developing. Changes in normal routine or behavior such as restlessness or irritability may prompt intensified meowing and alert you to an impending health problem. Cats meowing while using the litter box can be a serious concern if they are straining to urinate. A male straining to urinate (even if not meowing) is an immediate medical emergency as he may be blocked and unable to pass urine. Straining females should be examined for urinary tract infections. Constipated cats may also spend additional time in the litter box meowing due to difficulty passing stool.

### **A Case of the Missing Meow**

Cats may become less vocal than usual during certain circumstances or changes in their environment such as additions to the family (cat, dog, human baby), or a recent move to a new home. But if you notice a sudden inability to vocalize at all, and attempts at meowing with little or no sound coming out, there is typically a medical cause to investigate involving the larynx (voice box), mouth or tongue. Infections are the most common problem seen in cats with missing meows, which can be a result of a bite wound around the neck, an upper respiratory infection, or infected teeth, gums, or mouth. Growths or tumors could present a cause. Foreign objects lodged in the mouth or throat can suddenly prevent a cat from meow-



ing and may also obstruct normal breathing. This warrants an emergency clinic visit especially if the cat is gagging or frantically pawing at their face or neck.

### **Pass the Me-ouse**

As versatile as "meow" can be, it is important to be observant to any changes or inconsistencies in your cat's overall behavior or vocal expressions. Until cats learn to talk we can only count on their meows as a peek into their minds.

"I'm feeling much better now after vomiting petunias all over the oriental carpet," Fluffy announces. "Can you pass me the mouse please?"



Technically Speaking is written by Certified Veterinary Technician, Lyn T. Garson, to address basic information on animal health issues and how they needn't be barriers to adopting a great pet.

*Technically Speaking*

To submit a question for consideration in a future edition of *Technically Speaking*, call us at 860-242-9999, ext. 301, or e-mail [editor@ourcompanions.org](mailto:editor@ourcompanions.org).

**Do you have an idea  
for a future article in  
Our Companions News?**

Email us at  
[susanl@ourcompanions.org](mailto:susanl@ourcompanions.org)





Even the best behaved dog cannot be perfect all the time. We have heard of situations where dogs that have been generally well-behaved can start to exhibit unexpected behaviors, such as repeatedly soiling a spot indoors. We sat down recently to discuss this issue with Canine Operations Director Marie Joyner to get her perspective.

There can be a variety of reasons for a dog's behavior change. A new pet or baby, a different schedule or a move to another home are all stressful for a dog, and can cause him to suddenly begin misbehaving. Lack of exercise, anxiety, and illness can also be contributing factors. Then again, sometimes dogs get into mischief for no obvious reason.

Whatever the case may be, it is important to rule out any medical concerns for your dog. Before contacting a dog trainer or behavior specialist, speak to your veterinarian and have your dog thoroughly examined. Full blood work, including thyroid levels, is usually recommended, not only to gauge current readings, but also to provide a baseline, even if results are within normal limits. A 4DX blood test is performed routinely to rule out the possibility of several tick-borne illnesses and heartworm disease.

If your veterinarian determines that your dog is healthy, then it is likely a behavioral issue that needs to be addressed. To help your dog get back on track, it may be necessary to have them re-learn some basic skills. We all need a refresher sometimes – and remember to use positive reinforcement and reward your dog for demonstrating appropriate behaviors.

When your dog has mastered these skills, con-



sider a higher level of training, such as agility training or classes that help dogs learn tricks or improve their ability to focus. Our Companions offers both Tricks and Focus classes, and soon will be offering Rally Obedience, which combines characteristics of sports car racing, dog agility, and traditional obedience into a new fun sport for people and their dogs.

Tighten up the rules with your dog and take away privileges temporarily, if necessary. For example, don't allow your dog in the room he's been soiling until he earns the right to go back

there. Secure him in his crate as needed. It's also important to ensure that your dog is getting enough exercise. Extend your daily walks, take a trip to the dog park or bring him to doggie daycare to help burn off energy.

For a dog that is soiling in the same spot, it's important to clean the area with an enzyme cleaner to prevent him from recognizing that location as a place for him to relieve himself. In young male dogs, you can also use aluminum foil to cover a problem area. Dogs usually find the rustling sound of aluminum foil to be very disturbing and it should curb their interest in using that spot.

Sometimes canines will test negative for certain medical conditions because they may not yet be detectable. Be sure to continue talking with your veterinarian about any changes in your dog's health.



Our Companions Canine Operations Director, Marie Joyner, receives questions every day about dogs and their behavioral issues. Marie's Den answers some of the more commonly asked questions.

*Marie's Den*

**To submit a question for consideration in a future edition of Marie's Den, call us at 860-242-9999, ext. 301, or e-mail [editor@ourcompanions.org](mailto:editor@ourcompanions.org).**



**Your Cat's Family Doctor  
for over 20 years!**

**COMPLETE HEALTH CARE  
FOR YOUR CAT  
INCLUDING  
HOUSECALLS!**



**AAHA** ACCREDITED  
Cats Limited is proud to be the first feline-only hospital in Connecticut that is accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association



1260 New Britain Ave  
West Hartford, CT  
(860) 561-9885

[www.CatsLimited.com](http://www.CatsLimited.com)

[Facebook.com/CatsLimited](https://www.facebook.com/CatsLimited)



## FRONTIER MEDICINE

*A Broader View of Your Pets Healthcare*

A professional office with experienced veterinarians who are certified in veterinary acupuncture and chiropractic and accomplished in many effective holistic modalities.

**Allys Maybank, VMD  
Amy Matthews, VMD PhD**

**860-653-7831**

17 South Main Street, East Granby, CT

[www.frontiervetmed.com](http://www.frontiervetmed.com)



*Leaving Again?*

**Do you have someone to care  
for your pet when you're away?**

We offer: Pet Sitting Services  
Vacation Services • Mid-Day Dog Walks

Call for a free consultation

**860-231-0494**



*"We treat your pets like family"*

[WestHartfordPetSitters.com](http://WestHartfordPetSitters.com)

whpetsitters@yahoo.com • Bonded & Fully Insured

## Custom software applications and database systems

to help your business compete in a demanding marketplace.

Sales Support • Ordering Systems  
Reporting Applications

Information solutions that enhance efficiency,  
save time and reduce costs.

**JTechWorks, LLC**  
Rocky Hill

**860-563-5930**

[JTechWorks.com](http://JTechWorks.com)





## Volunteer with your dog!

Therapy Dog Training Classes Now Forming  
Manchester, New Britain, Willington

Sponsored by **Tails of Joy, Inc.** Animal Assisted Therapy



Sharing Through  
the Comfort of Animals

Contact **Sue Gagnon** 860-487-0001  
smgagnon@charter.net

[www.TailsOfJoy.org](http://www.TailsOfJoy.org)

**LIBERTY  
TAX  
SERVICE®**

Income Tax Preparation • Bookkeeping

**TAX  
EXPERTS**

*We can help!*

**860-432-9494**  
290 Main Street, Manchester, CT

## Journal Inquirer

**The JI Tells It Like It Is. Somebody Has To.**

*Serving the following communities with local, state and national news, weather and sports*

**East Windsor, Enfield, Somers,  
Suffield, Windsor, Windsor Locks,  
Andover, Bolton, Coventry,  
East Hartford, Hebron, Manchester  
Ellington, South Windsor,  
Stafford, Tolland, Vernon**

---

**306 Progress Dr., Manchester, CT 860-646-0500 • 800-237-3606**

**Life is easier when you can count on someone. *Driven by Trust* is not simply our slogan, it's our way of life.**

600-750 Connecticut Blvd., East Hartford, CT 06108  
36-46 Albany Tnpk., West Simsbury, CT 06092  
490 Broad St., New London, CT 06032

800.225.7266

[www.hoffmanauto.com](http://www.hoffmanauto.com)



P.O. Box 956  
Manchester, CT 06045-0956

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HARTFORD, CT  
PERMIT No. 1754



## ***Hazel & Pippi***



Hazel and Pippi formed a close relationship when Hazel took orphaned baby Pippi under her wing. They would love to be adopted into a calm, quiet forever home, perhaps with older children. Previously they lived in a multi-cat household and can get along with most other cats, especially males. Hazel, an

affectionate sweetie, and Pippi, a shy but loving calico, are happy to be close to their humans when they are relaxing. Pippi has a slight neurological disorder that gives her an amusing gait, but this doesn't hold her back at all, and she has no health problems associated with the disorder.

If you would like to learn more about these beautiful girls, please contact Kim at 860.242.9999 extension 302 or [KimA@OurCompanions.org](mailto:KimA@OurCompanions.org).