

Southeast Animal Alliance Conference

by Elizabeth Finch

On January 4, three representatives from Good Mews welcomed the opportunity to attend the Southeast Animal Alliance Conference (formerly known as Georgia Companion Animal Partnership Conference). This is Atlanta Humane Society's annual conference dedicated to sharing information and best practices in the animal care field. Attendees are comprised of shelter staff and volunteers, animal care and control agencies, and members of the rescue community. Elizabeth Finch (VP, Board of Directors), Kendra Ledlow (Shelter Manager), and Robbin Yeager (Treasurer, Board of Directors) participated for further education and to ensure that Good Mews has the latest and most effective knowledge in order to continue our mission of finding good homes for good kitties. Sessions offered included a wide scope of topics such as sheltering practices, dealing with behavior issues, fundraising and compassion fatigue.

When asked about her favorite part of the conference, Kendra stated, "I particularly enjoyed the seminar on harder to adopt animals and

hope to implement some of the strategies learned to find homes for our long-term and special needs kitties."



From left: Robbin Yeager, Elizabeth Finch, and Kendra Ledlow

This continued education and connection to others in the rescue community helps bolster new ideas, supports mission-aimed alliances, and provides Good Mews with the ability to regularly evaluate and alter our approaches as necessary.

The Southeast Animal Alliance Conference is a regional collaborative of animal welfare leaders committed to improving the lives of animals in the Southeast and developing sustainable healthy pet communities within the region.

Success Story

by Ashe Johnson

Little John

It started with a Facebook post. A Good Mews volunteer saw a picture of Little John on a post saying he needed to get out of Animal Control before his time was up.

"He looked SO much like one of my kitties, and I was instantly in love despite him being a bit of a trouble-maker!" said Sarah Poland, his rescuer and foster mom.

After coming to Good Mews, Little John was quickly adopted and spent five years with his first dad and a kitty sibling. However, his dad developed health issues and could no longer care for him. He came back to Good Mews and was again adopted, only to discover he did not get along with the family's canines.

This time Little John stayed at the shelter a bit longer, waiting for just the right family to come around. And that's when April came to Good Mews and fell in love with Little John. She knew he was destined to be a part of her life's adventure. And what an adventure it's been!

Soon after being adopted, Little John and his new mom and dad moved all the way out West to Nevada. Little John has now seen snow and mountains and chatters at the quails that congregate on the



fence outside. He enjoys his warm blanket in front of the fireplace and also likes to hog the bed at night, snoozing right between his mom and dad. He even got a cake on his birthday! Little John is thrilled with his new home, and the third time has truly been a charm.

To hear more success stories like Little John's, follow us on Facebook!

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

Want to learn more about volunteer opportunities at Good Mews? The next scheduled orientations are:

March 3 Sunday 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm
April 3 Wednesday 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

The meetings last about ninety minutes. To sign up, please call 770.499.2287 and press "4" to leave a message, or email at volunteers@goodmews.org.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@goodmewscats

facebook.com/GoodMewsAnimalFoundation

@goodmews

MISSION STATEMENT

Good Mews offers an alternative to traditional animal shelters in the Metro Atlanta area by providing a no-kill, cage-free haven for homeless, abused, or abandoned cats until placing them in permanent, loving homes. Good Mews promotes public awareness regarding the value of pets, animal welfare, pet overpopulation, and quality human-animal companionship through education and outreach programs.

SHELTER DIRECTIONS

Good Mews is located at 3805 Robison Road in Marietta, 1 mile west of Johnson Ferry Road on Roswell Road (Highway 120), behind Rick's Farmers Market.

ADOPTION HOURS

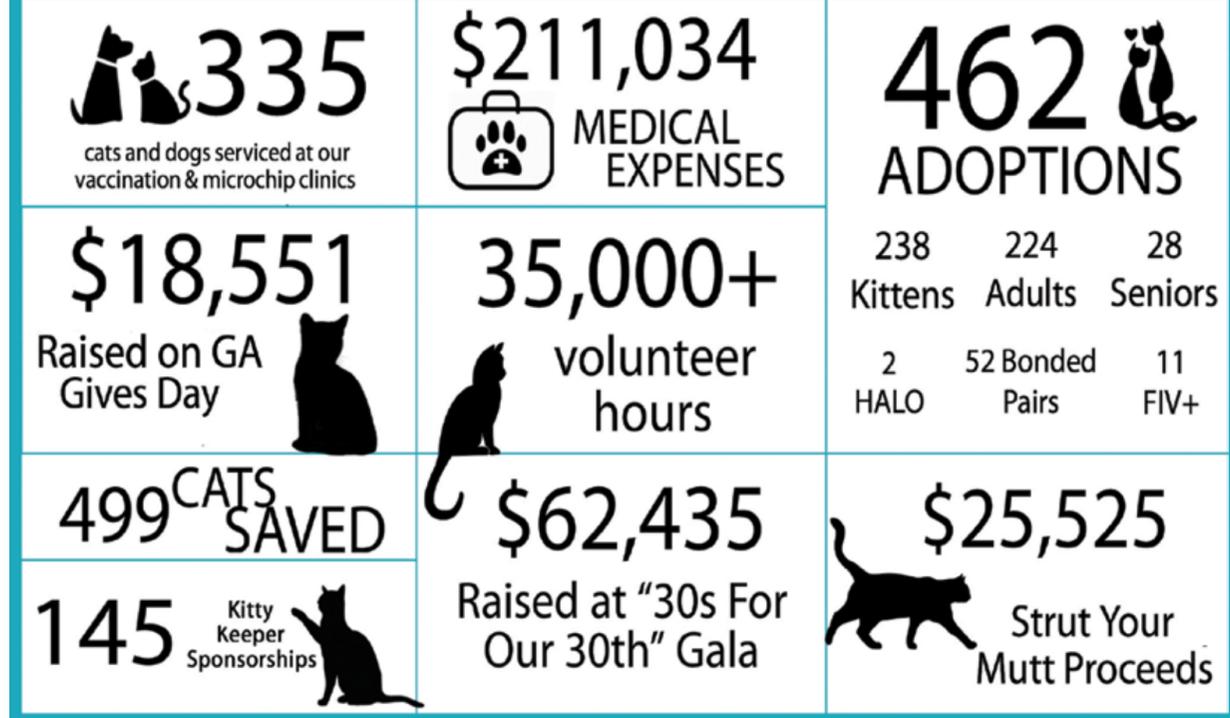
Shelter adoption hours are Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and Sundays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, except the first Sunday of the month.

For more information on adoptions, please call 770.499.2287 or email adopt@goodmews.org.

RECENT ADOPTION TOTALS

November	23
December	58
January	46
2019 Total	46

2018 - A YEAR IN NUMBERS



Thank you, vets!

We would like to thank the following veterinarians who have given their assistance to Good Mews:

NAME	LOCATION	PHONE
Dr. Lynn Bahr	---	---
Dr. Agda Barreirinhas	Montrose Animal Hospital	770.977.9000
Dr. Lindsay Booser	Cobb Veterinary Internal Medicine	678.354.7126
Dr. Jennifer Covington	East Marietta Animal Hospital	770.973.4830
Dr. James Davis	Montrose Animal Hospital	770.977.9000
Dr. Jerry Diaz	East Marietta Animal Hospital	770.973.4830
Dr. David Filer	Veterinary Referral Surgical Practice	770.424.6663
Drs. Flower, Hiff-Reilly, & Zelman	Shallowford Animal Hospital	770.926.0926
Dr. Michael Friedlander	Cat Care of Vinings	404.792.0700
Dr. Christina Fugedy	East Marietta Animal Hospital	770.973.4830
Dr. Lori Germon	Pets Premier Mobile Veterinary Clinic	678.800.2260
Dr. Tyler Huhman	Tritt Animal Hospital	770.992.8787
Dr. Judy Johnson	---	---
Dr. Tracey King	Animal Eye Specialists	770.427.3199
Dr. Patricia Lane	---	---
Dr. John Lewis	Lewis Veterinary Services (mobile service)	770.366.3880
Dr. Jeffrey Little	Veterinary Referral Surgical Practice	770.424.6663
Dr. Mary Matthews	Montrose Animal Hospital	770.977.9000
Dr. Angela Mees	Atlanta Veterinary Dental Services	770.552.8777
Dr. Michelle Mills	Mills Animal Hospital	770.903.5995
Dr. Thomas Noone	Veterinary Referral Surgical Practice	770.424.6663
Dr. Jennifer Palmer	Cat Care of Vinings	404.792.0700
Dr. Kelly Qualls	Cedarcrest Animal Hospital	770.544.0580
Dr. Michael S. Ray	The Cat Clinic of Roswell	770.552.7877
Dr. Marcus Smith	Chattahoochee Animal Clinic	770.993.6329
Dr. Kahra Wagner	Veterinary Referral Surgical Practice	770.424.6663
Dr. Allison Wansky	Allatoona Animal Hospital	678.445.1111
Dr. Keri Webster	Montrose Animal Hospital	770.977.9000
Dr. Bailey Cave Wood	Trickum Ridge Animal Hospital	770.516.1111

Good Mews benefits from Metro Atlanta veterinarians who graciously donate their time and services to provide quality medical care for our residents. We are always in need of additional vets and vet techs. Contact the Shelter Manager at 770-499-CATS if you can make a little time to help.

calendar

Begins Mar 16	Good Mews Second Chance Thrift Market, 562 Wiley Rd, Suite 24, Marietta
Apr 7	Vaccination and Microchip Clinic, at Good Mews (Appointments Recommended)
Apr 14	Good Mews Day @ The Braves, SunTrust Stadium
Apr 17	Marietta Wine Market, Marietta
Apr 27-28	Spring Jonquil Festival, Smyrna
Apr 27-28	Inman Park Festival
May 4-5	Woofstock Pet Party in the Park, Suwanee
May 4-5	Mayretta Daze, Marietta Square
Date TBD	Top Dog Paw Festival, at Top Dogs Pet Boutique, Roswell

Ongoing Events at Good Mews

Yoga with Cats
Reading to Cats
Sound Journey Classes
Spay & Neuter Clinics
*Please check our website to confirm dates, times, and location.

Vaccination and Microchip Clinic



Good Mews will be holding another low-cost vaccination and microchip clinic for cats and dogs on Sunday, April 7, at the shelter.

Individual packages and services are available.

Check our website to make an appointment, and for more info.

Yoga with Cats



Yoga with Cats and Reading to Cats are scheduled several times a month. Advanced registration is necessary because attendance is limited. Please check the Good Mews website for exact dates and times.

Reading to Cats



Purrs & Prattlings is published by Good Mews Animal Foundation, Inc., a non-profit, no-kill, cage-free shelter for cats.

good mews

VOL. 17, Issue 1
Winter 2019

purrs & prattlings

INSIDE

Surgical Suite is Open!

Spring Market Details

2018 Achievements



From the Shelter Manager

Dear Good Mews Family,
We started 2019 with a bang... or a splash, rather, as we rescued 17 cats from Paulding County Animal Control on January 4.

We chose a “fish” theme when naming these new residents, and although there are “plenty of fish in the sea” when it comes to adopting a cat or kitten, we take great pride in giving kitties a chance they may not have otherwise had when they are rescued and come to Good Mews.

We’re often asked how we choose which cats come back to Good Mews when we do a pull from a municipal shelter. There is no simple answer to this question. For the most part, the cats choose us! One cat might be at the front of a cage purring and pawing at us, while another is crouched in the back of a cage with a stuffy nose and sad expression. Both are begging for love and deserving of a chance at a better life.

One question we always ask when we arrive is “who has been here the longest?” This time around the answer was Salmon and Tuna. These two boys had been at PCAC for over 6 months. We are thankful that the PCAC staff cared for them for so long, but living in their cage condo was still no substitution for a cage-free shelter like ours – or better yet, a home. Salmon could barely see because of entropion, where his eyelids fold inward and his eyelashes scratch the surface of his eye. Since arrival, Salmon has had surgery on his eyes and is on his way to healing. You can tell by his demeanor that he is happy to literally have a new outlook on the world.

Another kitty who clearly needed our help was Minnow. She was hairless, itchy and malnourished. She was a 5-month-old kitten in the body of a 10-week-old. If you’ve had a chance to meet her, you know Minnow radiates joy despite her rough start to life. A month later, she has grown back a lot of her hair, is gaining weight and is thriving on a hypoallergenic diet. We can’t wait for her to be ready for adoption and to find her forever home.

We also brought back two FIV+ cats to Good Mews, Barracuda and Mahi. Most of you know that Good Mews is able to house a limited number of FIV+ cats. Luckily, we had space for these two handsome hunks to come home with us. Even though they picked up this pesky disease while previously living outside, they now have a chance to live an otherwise healthy lifestyle indoors instead of wondering where their next meal will come from or fighting with other big boys to survive.

In an ideal scenario we are able to take every cat or kitten in need when we arrive at another shelter, but we all know there are many limitations on achieving that goal. We appreciate all the support you all give in so many different areas to help us to continue to pursue this mission. Whether you donate financially, with in-kind goods or with your time helping at the shelter, you all are critical to us saving more kitties as we continue into this year! Thank you, and happy MEW Year!

Sincerely,

Kendra Ledlow
Kendra Ledlow
Shelter Manager



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Purrs & Prattlings makes every effort to provide information on cat health, care, and treatment that is reliable and practical. It is not intended, however, to replace diagnosis or treatment from a veterinarian or other qualified professional. *Purrs & Prattlings* does not assume any legal responsibility. Readers should always consult qualified health care providers for specific diagnosis and treatment.

Purrs & Prattlings welcomes letters and pictures from readers. All letters and pictures become the property of *Purrs & Prattlings*.

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For more information about *Purrs & Prattlings*, our shelter, how to adopt, how to contribute, upcoming fundraisers, address changes or other corrections, please contact us via the following:

Good Mews Animal Foundation
3805 Robinson Road
Marietta, GA 30068

Phone: 770.499.CATS (2287)
Web site: www.goodmews.org
Email: info@goodmews.org

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ON THE COVER

Sabrina

Lovely Sabrina was the winner of our inaugural Kitty Keeper Facebook contest, which included photos of the 16 awesome cats in the program. Sabrina received the most “likes,” winning the honor of being on the cover of this issue!



DONATE

Saturdays 10a-4p
Sundays 12p-4p
see goodmews.org/market
for a list of all goods accepted on-site

SHOP

Saturdays 10a-5p
Sundays 12p-5p
SOFT OPENING
FRIDAY MARCH 15TH 10A-5P



Good Mews Second Chance Thrift Market

Weekends Only
March 16th thru May 19th
Donations accepted
starting March 2nd



562 Wylie Rd
Suite 24
Marietta

Marietta Commercial Plaza
(behind the U-Haul on 120)

Volunteer Opportunities

Adoptions Committee

by Bridget Szuminsky

If you’ve been to Good Mews, chances are you’ve met some of our Adoption Committee volunteers. They’re there to greet you at the door, introduce you to our resident furbabies, and help you find the perfect companion. While their roles may vary, their goal is always the same: finding good homes for good kitties!

Adoption volunteers not only love talking to all kinds of people but are also amazing listeners. They’re match-making experts! Looking for a playmate for your current kitty? Want a solo cat who loves lap naps? Have a dog or young children? It’s their job to help you find the the perfect kitty for your home.

What does becoming an adoption volunteer entail?
• 6 to 9 months of training, preferably on Saturdays

• Becoming an expert on our paperwork and adoption policies

• Understanding cats and cat care to answer questions from visitors

• Committing to volunteering one Saturday (10a to 4p) or two Sundays (1p to 4p) a month

Fun Fact

You can volunteer for more than one committee!



Our beloved Bud has his own camellia in the Good Mews Memorial Garden. Aptly named “Black Tie,” this is a loving remembrance of the always well-dressed Bud. Thanks to Jeff and Lisa Powell-Huberty, Lisa Bass, Harriotte Bohn, Anne Farmer, and Linda Smith for this beautiful tribute. Bud is in our hearts forever.



by Chelsie Butler

Our successful Kitty Keeper program, which has been a mainstay at Good Mews for more than 25 years, allows you to sponsor a cat with limited adoption options because of age, personality, or medical issues. For \$20 a month (or more if you choose), your donation will go toward caring for your chosen kitty resident until he or she finds a well-deserved home. In return, you’ll receive a quarterly (snail mail!) letter written by your chosen cat, along with an updated picture.

“Kitty Keeper is one of the two donation opportunities that provides funds for the shelter on a recurring basis; money comes in regularly and can be counted on and built into the budget,” explained Harriotte Bohn, the volunteer coordinator for the program. “Kitty Keeper gives donors an up-close-and-personal view of the personalities and antics of their ‘kept’ kitties, as well as a cat’s perspective on shelter life. It personalizes donations and, by extension, the Good Mews organization.”

The program is designed to be an entertaining, meaningful and enlightening experience for donors. Volunteers write personal letters on behalf of the cats being sponsored, providing a unique view of what it’s like to live in a shelter. Some people like to sponsor more than one cat because each cat’s style and outlook is different – and getting letters from cats is fun!

“The Kitty Keeper program is unique in that it allows our donors to interact directly with the cat they support, as well as with the shelter,” said

Ways to Contribute: Kitty Keeper

Brenna Strickland, a Kitty Keeper writer. “Each cat’s unique personality is reflected in the letters, and we have fun writing on their behalf and sharing their quirks and growth with supporters!”

Fun facts about the Kitty Keeper initiative:

- The earliest sponsor on record dates back to 1993.
- Good Mews has sponsors from 18 states and internationally.
- There are 151 subscriptions distributed among the 15 Kitty Keeper cats.

Fun facts about some of the Kitty Keeper cats:

Michelle & Iggy



Michelle & Iggy are the first-ever (we think) parent-child contributors. Iggy is a little shy, but he knows how handsome he is. Michelle loves other cats and to be petted. She’s the longest-term Good Mews resident.

Amy Lee & Tanger



Amy Lee & Tanger are just one of the sibling pairs that have been a part of the program. They’re very sweet and love lap cuddles.

Jumper

Jumper is the oldest cat in our shelter at 15 years. She’s what we refer to as sweet, social and sassy.



“Gifting a Kitty Keeper donation is truly a gift that keeps on giving,” said Bohn. “It doesn’t occupy space or create clutter, and you don’t have to remember to display it when the gift-giver comes over. It’s for a good cause and is a fun program for the writers as well as the recipients.”

To learn more about the cats in our Kitty Keeper program or to sponsor a cat, visit www.goodmews.org/kitty-keeper.

Doing Our Part: Good Mews Spay and Neuter Clinics

by Leigh Taylor Jose

Did you know that approximately 1.5 million shelter animals are euthanized each year? According to the ASPCA, this staggering number includes 860,000 cats.

Good Mews is excited to expand our efforts to lower these numbers. Thanks to our wonderful donors who made our surgical suite possible, Good Mews now offers spay and neuter clinics to local rescue groups and trap-neuter-return (TNR) providers!

Available by appointment every Friday, these low-cost services include \$60 spays and \$25 neuters, including tattooing. Ear-tipping and vaccines are offered at an additional fee.

On January 18, 2019 – the first day of the clinic – Good Mews performed surger-



Christi Fisher and Dr. Braver

ies on eight cats. These successful procedures were made possible by the Fisher Family Fund, which has generously awarded a grant to assist with the cost of spays and neuters for those with a qualified need.

“We are committed to helping combat overpopulation and are especially eager to support individuals and groups trapping animals in the local community,” said Christi Fisher of the Fisher Family Fund.

Eventually, Good Mews hopes to expand this offering to the public as well – and maybe even to our canine friends!

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please reach out to ryeager@goodmews.org or visit goodmews.org.



Ways to Contribute: Shop for Good Mews

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Do you love Good Mews? Do you have an Amazon addiction (or just shop on Amazon periodically... every shopping trip counts!)? If you answered yes to these questions, you could be earning money for Good Mews while doing your online shopping – at no cost to you! Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. All you have to do is shop through smile.amazon.com and set your supported organization to Good Mews Animal Foundation Inc.

Visit the “Giving to GM” section at www.goodmews.org for complete program descriptions and instructions on how to enroll or contribute to these programs.

WishList

Feeling extra-charitable? You can also shop our Wishlist through AmazonSmile (or anywhere else you regularly shop, we’re not picky)! Here’s a few of the things we go through quickly, but you can find a full list on our website.

- Classic Fancy Feast (seafood/chicken)
- Bleach
- Paper towels
- Dasuquin capsules
- Scoopable, clumping cat litter
- Yesterday’s News cat litter
- Bleach Feliway Diffuser refills
- Copy paper
- Breakaway cat collars
- HP 902 or 902XL Black printer cartridges
- HP 902 or 902XL cyan, magenta or yellow printer cartridges