

calendar

Sept 17	Reading to Cats, <i>at the shelter</i>
Sept 18	Reading to Cats, <i>at the shelter</i>
Sept 23	Best Friends Animal Society's Strut Your Mutt
Sept 24	Yoga with Cats, <i>at the shelter</i>
Sept 27	Reading to Cats, <i>at the shelter</i>
Sept 28	Yoga with Cats, <i>at the shelter</i>
Oct 1	New Volunteer Orientation, <i>at the shelter</i>
Nov 1	New Volunteer Orientation, <i>at the shelter</i>
Nov 5	Microchip and Vaccination Clinic, <i>at the shelter</i>
Nov 11	Meowsquerade Ball, <i>Le Fais Do Do</i>
Nov 28	Georgia Gives Day
Dec 3	New Volunteer Orientation, <i>at the shelter</i>
Dec 7	Meowiday Gift Market

**Please check our website to confirm dates, times, and location.*

g o o d  m e w s

3805 Robinson Road
Marietta, GA 30068

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

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purrs & prattlings

VOL. 15, Issue 3

Summer 2017

INSIDE

Strut Your Mutt

Success Story: Ruca

Meowsquerade Ball

Mid-Year Recap





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

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER STAFF

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Lori Trahan
Vice President - Elizabeth Finch
Secretary - Sarah Poland
Treasurer - Robbin Yeager
Members - Jennifer Martin, Michelle Kirkham, Cynthia Wright, Linda Yu

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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RECENT ADOPTION TOTALS

May	27
June	44
July	55
2017 Total	264

ON THE COVER

Butler

"Frankly my dear...I'd love to meet you!"



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 Robinson 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.

WishList

Some of the items we particularly need:

-  **HP 950 or 950XL Black printer cartridges**
-  **HP 951 or 951XL Cyan, Magenta or Yellow printer cartridges**
-  **Dasuquin capsules**
-  **Paper towels**
-  **Scoopable cat litter**
-  **Bleach**
-  **Feliway Diffuser refills**
-  **Copy paper**

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

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

Oct 1	Sunday	2:00 pm to 3:30 pm
Nov 1	Wednesday	7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Dec 3	Sunday	2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

The meetings last about an hour. To sign up, please call 770.499.2287 and press "4" to leave a message, or email at goodmewsvolunteer@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Adoptions

Help us find good homes for good kitties! Training/job shadowing required. Must be 21+ and commit to one shift per month.

Clean & Feed

If you really want to get to know the cats and don't mind "dirty" work, then this is the area for you! Must commit to bi-weekly shift. Kids 8+ welcome with parent/guardian.

Communications

This committee oversees all promotional materials, fundraising letters, quarterly newsletters, monthly e-newsletters, Kitty Keeper letters, etc. Tasks include writing, editing, and designing.

Community Outreach

Help us promote Good Mews to the community! Volunteers who enjoy teaching, public speaking, and working with the public are encouraged.

Grants

Assist Good Mews in securing crucial funds by researching and/or applying for grants! Strong writing skills required. Must be able to work independently and meet deadlines.

Kitty Buddy

Sometimes kitties need extra socializing before they are adoptable. Kitty Buddies work one-on-one with these cats to give special attention and hands-on care.

Marketing

This committee manages Good Mews' public image, including branding, media relations, social media, advertising, and shelter events.

Medical

Without a staff veterinarian, volunteers help medicate cats twice daily. Training/job shadowing required; must be 21+ and commit to bi-weekly shift. Experience preferred but not required.

Special Events

Do you like planning events or throwing parties? Then this is the committee for you! Volunteers are needed to organize annual fundraisers, assist with logistics, plan new events, and more.

Volunteer

Assistance is needed to help with monthly orientations and to recruit new volunteers for various committees.

From the Shelter Manager

Dear Friends of Good Mews,

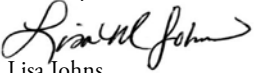
It is with great difficulty that I inform you that I have accepted the position of Chief Operations Officer at Asheville Humane Society in Asheville, NC. Leaving this incredible organization, the people, and the cats is extremely sad for me. Over the last five years I have watched Good Mews grow from a cramped storefront to our beautiful stand-alone shelter. Even though this change was daunting, I watched all of you step up to make Good Mews more successful than ever.

Through the years, I have been amazed at the level of dedication, perseverance, and pure work ethic that I have witnessed from Good Mews volunteers and supporters. It has truly been a privilege to serve at such a highly regarded rescue with this caliber of people.

I know that Good Mews will continue to be THE premiere cat shelter and I look forward to reading about all of the organization's future accomplishments and work.

Thank you all for the last five years!

Sincerely,



Lisa Johns



The Board of Directors is very grateful for Lisa's hard work during her time at Good Mews, and she will be sorely missed. Please know that the shelter residents will be well taken care of during this transition period. We look forward to hiring and then introducing a new Shelter Manager to our entire Good Mews family. Thank you for your support as our organization grows and evolves!

Strut Your Mutt by Sandra Song

Greetings! My name is Patriot, a proud resident of Good Mews, and an even prouder spokes-cat for Good Mews' Strut Your Mutt team! Sponsored by Best Friends Animal Society and held in fourteen cities all over the US, this is a mega-fundraising event and dog walk. The goal is to save the lives of homeless dogs and, yes, cats! As the name may suggest, this is generally recognized as a canine-centered event, but Best Friends works hard for the welfare of all animals.

Last year, something "CAT-A-CLYSMIC" happened at this event... Good Mews emerged as the top fund-raising team in Atlanta! I am pretty sure that my good looks and charming purr-sonality contributed to this success, but I also know it is because of the amazing support we got from our huge network of supporters and volunteers. I am purr-sonally putting my bets on Good Mews repeating last year's success!

Good Mews is one of nearly

2,000 organizations nationwide that has partnered with Best Friends Animal Society. When I learned that nearly 5,500 of my furry feline and canine brethren are killed every year because they have no home, I almost choked on a hairball. Best Friends' goal, and ours, is to reduce that number to zero!

I can't imagine where I would be without the love and care of my Good Mews team. I have been here for two years, and boy have I been through a lot! I was adopted as a kitten, but my former owners let me go outside and I was hit by a car. Good Mews took me back, and got me immediate medical care. Sadly, the accident left me incontinent and my tail had to be amputated. Thankfully, this has not compromised my good looks, or my awesome personality! Everyone at Good Mews has loved and protected me ever since. I hope to be adopted, but if I am not, I will still have my beloved shelter to call home.

The Strut Your Mutt fundraiser will culminate with a super fun event on September 23. Help me help other kitties and doggies by donating to this worthwhile cause! Visit our team page at support.bestfriends.org/goto/goodmews. After you finish admiring my portrait, please make your contribution to help us reach our \$10,000 goal. I know we can do it, with the help of supporters like YOU!



WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

Memorials/Honorariums

Honor a pet, friend, or family member

This is a great way to recognize that special person or animal in your life! Recipients and donors are listed in each issue of the Good Mews newsletter, and an acknowledgment card can be mailed if requested.

Volunteering

Give of your time

Good Mews relies on volunteer support for a variety of functions such as fundraising, adoptions, medical care, community outreach, and shifts for the upkeep of our shelter cats. Volunteers must attend an orientation meeting to determine their area of interest and time they are able to dedicate.

Kitty Keeper

Give long distance love to a cat in need

Kitty Keeper cats are overlooked because of age, personality, or medical issues; many have been waiting years for their forever home. For a monthly donation of \$20 or more, you can "keep" a special kitty who will send letters and photos!

HALO (Home at Last)

Provide ongoing medical care

HALO cats are typically overlooked because of age, medical conditions, or behavioral issues – the most common reasons for euthanasia at traditional shelters. This program pays for ongoing medical care even after adoption!

CATmitment Program

Opening your heart and our doors

The best way to sustain operations and ensure growth is to have a predictable income! Help our kitties on an ongoing basis with a recurring monthly donation of any amount. Funds help care for all residents, as well as shelter upkeep.

Honor My Vet

Give thanks for your other family doctor

For a donation of \$25 or more, you can recognize your chosen veterinarian. We'll send a letter acknowledging your gift, as well as a certificate suitable for framing. We'll even make a certificate for your favorite pet sitter too!

Amazon Wish List

Shop from the convenience of your couch

Purchase items from our Amazon Wish List and have them shipped directly to Good Mews. It's a convenient option for you to help the kitties. Don't forget to use Amazon Smile and select Good Mews as your designated charity!

Commemorative Brick

Leave a permanent impression

Recognize an important friend, family member, or feline by purchasing a brick for the walkway in front of our shelter! Good Mews has partnered with Bricks 'R Us to provide commemorative bricks starting at \$100.

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.

Success Story

Ruca *by Leigh Taylor Jose*



Sometimes the stars align and it's instantly clear that a cat is right for you. Other times, it might take a while to convince a kitty that you're their perfect human. The latter was certainly the case with Ruca, a beautiful Persian girl who courted her potential parent for over three months.

Henry Spikes first saw Ruca online in January 2016, and knew he had to meet her. From the start, Henry was aware he'd have to work to win her love. "At first she wanted to be left alone and hissed," he said. "She would hide in a kitty condo to get away from me!"

Because Henry has been a lifelong lover of cats due to their independence and charm, he was convinced Ruca was the perfect cat for him and his son – her initial hesitation didn't deter him. Henry came



to visit her every week for about three months to "love on her" so she could get used to him.

Ruca had previous litter box issues that caused her to be returned twice to Good Mews. As such, the staff and volunteers wanted to make sure that Henry was the right person for her. After months of visits and patience, it was clear that this was a perfect match for all parties involved. It was finally time for Ruca to go to her FOREVER home!

According to Henry, Ruca (aka Thunder Boots, because she bolts through the house after visiting the litter box) is a very lovable kitty and has a frisky side even though she's an older cat. She loves to play with her heart-shaped catnip toy, giving it the classic "bunny kicks". Ruca also enjoys being brushed, and gets a lion cut regularly to keep up her beautiful mane.

Henry says Ruca's litter box issues have gotten much better over time: "Ruca has been a great addition to our home and is a perfect match for us. She is so very loved by my son and me that we argue whose cat she is. She has stolen our hearts."

Ruca is loving life with her humans, and we at Good Mews are so glad to add another Success Story to the books!

Kitty Keeper Candidate

Smoke *by Leslie Cooper*

Hello, everybody. My name's Smoke, and I'm a big gray four-year-old guy. A man's man, ya know? I lost my way and wound up with Animal Welfare near Macon last year, but thankfully the Good Mews folks invited me to live with them. I'm told I am very handsome, and I'm also a gentle guy. Dozing in the sun, tummy-up, is my absolute bliss. I love it when people pet me, talk sweetly to me, and brush me. I do my rumbly purr when that happens!

I have a pretty important role as the "official" Good Mews bouncer. I like things to run smoothly, and if I see a couple of cats starting to brawl, I move immediately to break it up. I'm not having that ruckus in my shelter! I also assist the people who administer medicine. Sometimes cats say they're just not in the mood to take their pills, but the caregivers don't seem to understand them. Well, I just walk right over and tell the people to stop, or even touch their hands if necessary. They're sort of slow learners; I have to explain to them every week.



I know about medical stuff because I'm FIV positive, but that's no big thing. I'm happy and healthy! The caregivers give me Lysine to strengthen my immune system, and say I'll have a full and normal life. I dream of having a forever family to love someday, but until then you could be my Kitty Keeper and I'll send you letters about all the fun we have here. Or just come visit me. I'll even share my favorite sunning spots with you!

h.a.l.o. highlight

home at last

Sabrina *by Ashe Johnson*



Hi, I'm Sabrina! Remember me?

I was living in the bushes at an empty house when a new owner moved in and began feeding me. He noticed that I was hurt, and that's when Good Mews came to the rescue!

My injuries were treated, and it was learned that I have something the humans call "seizures". But don't let that scare you! Ever since they put me on medicine, I haven't had a single one of those scary shakes. They also tell me I'm a part of the HALO program, which means Good Mews covers my medical costs related to the seizures, even after I'm adopted.

I recently found a home when a nice lady took me and another "tough" case home from Good Mews. Unfortunately, the other kitty was a bit of a bully to me, and we soon found out I am more of a lover than a fighter. Although the nice lady tried everything to make it work, in the end I was brought back to Good Mews for a second chance at finding a happy forever home. I think I would prefer a home as an only kitty, or possibly with a laid back cat who will give me space.

I like to play, and I don't mind keeping humans company. However, I'm a little wary of being touched, so I will need a patient adopter who's willing to earn my trust and help me shine! And we can both rest easy knowing that Good Mews will be there to help along the way.

Do you like the new look of our newsletter? Wait until you see the big reveal of the BRAND NEW website - coming soon!

YOU'RE INVITED!

good  mews

MEOWSQUERADE BALL



11.11.17

@ LE FAIS DO DO

FEATURING:

DUELING PIANOS

LIVE MYSTERY

FOOD & DRINK

SILENT AUCTION

AND MORE!

TICKETS:

WWW.GOODMEWS.ORG

2017 - A MIDTERM REPORT

264
Cats Adopted

144 Adults
120 Kittens
15 Bonded Pairs
8 Kitty Buddies
2 Kitty Keepers
18 Seniors
3 HALO
7 FIV+



273
Cats Saved
Including 20 from Ocilla hoarding case and 85 from Animal Control



55

Record-breaking number of cats adopted in July



198

Attendees at new volunteer orientation

21,218

Volunteer Hours



\$127,847

Medical Expenses

\$9,094 HALO
\$45,093 Supplies
\$48,296 Vet Visits
\$4,314 Foster Care

260

Kids in our "Reading to Cats" Program



128

Kitty Keeper Sponsors

\$63,759

Amount raised at the annual Spring Market

80

Participants in the 2nd annual "Herding Cats" Virtual 5k

(January 1, 2017 through July 31, 2017)

vets with heart

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 Boozer	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
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. 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. 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. Kahrma 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. Baily 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.