

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.

WishList

Some of the items we particularly need:

- 🐾 **HP 902 or 902XL Black printer cartridges**
- 🐾 **HP 902 or 902XL Cyan, Magenta or Yellow printer cartridges**
- 🐾 **Dasuquin capsules**
- 🐾 **Paper towels**
- 🐾 **Scoopable, clumping cat litter**
- 🐾 **Yesterday's News cat litter**
- 🐾 **Bleach**
- 🐾 **Feliway Diffuser refills**
- 🐾 **Copy paper**
- 🐾 **Classic Fancy Feast (Seafood/Chicken)**
- 🐾 **Breakaway cat collars**

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	
March	34
April	28
May	32
June	48
2018 Total	209

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

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

Aug 1 Wednesday 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
 Sept 5 Wednesday 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
 Oct 7 Sunday 2:00 pm to 3:30 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 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, printed 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
In addition to shelter staff, 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.

Good Mews Celebrates Turning 30!

by Elizabeth Finch



Good Mews recently celebrated 30 years of finding good homes for good kitties with a big birthday bash! On Sunday, June 10, we hosted a large crowd of supporters bearing gifts and hugs for the kitties at a drop-in party. This was also a celebration of the opening of our brand new surgical suite. Visitors got the first look at our fully equipped, state-of-the-art medical suite and even got to see an ultrasound picture of a mama kitty with babies in her belly! This suite will allow us to utilize our own equipment, along with contract veterinarians, to provide ongoing care for some of our residents on-site as well as perform medical procedures such as dental cleanings, x-rays, ultrasounds, and spay and neuter surgeries.

We were able to collect many donations of food, litter, and other shelter necessities due to the generosity



Left: entering the suite, you see the examination area. Top: in the background, you can see the x-ray room.

Below: Doctor Judy Johnson, our contract veterinarian, demonstrates the donated ultrasound machine.

NAME	LOCATION	PHONE
Dr. Lynn Bahr	---	---
Drs. Agda, Matthews, Davis, & Webster	Montrose Animal Hospital	770.977.9000
Dr. Lindsay Boozer	Cobb Veterinary Internal Medicine	678.354.7126
Drs. Diaz, Covington, & Fugedy	East Marietta Animal Hospital	770.973.4830
Dr. Mark Dorfman	Blue Pearl Internal Medicine	404-459-0903
Drs. Filer, Wagner, Little, & Noone	Veterinary Referral Surgical Practice	770.424.6663
Drs. Flower, Hiif-Reilly, & Zelman	Shallowford Animal Hospital	770.926.0926
Dr. Michael Friedlander	Cat Care of Vinings	404.792.0700
Dr. Lori Germon	Pets Premier Mobile Veterinary Clinic	678.800.2260
Dr. Lisa Hillier	South Forsyth Animal Hospital	770-889-0737
Dr. Tyler Huhman	Tritt Animal Hospital	770.992.8787
Dr. Judy Johnson	---	---
Dr. Tracey King	Animal Eye Specialists	770.427.3199
Drs. Laughlin and Pogue	Blue Pearl Cardiology	404-459-0903
Dr. John Lewis	Lewis Veterinary Services (mobile service)	770.366.3880
Dr. Angela Mees	Atlanta Veterinary Dental Services	770.552.8777
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
Staff Veterinarians	Cobb and Cherokee Emergency Vet Clinics	404-424-9157
Dr. Allison Wansky	Allatoona Animal Hospital	678.445.1111
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.



Thank you, vets!
We would like to thank the following veterinarians who have given their assistance to Good Mews:

Vaccination and Microchip Clinic



Good Mews will be holding another low-cost vaccination and microchip clinic for cats and dogs on Sunday, August 5, at the shelter.

Individual packages and services are available.

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are encouraged. For more details, visit goodmews.org.

Strut Your Mutt *by Stephanie Butler*



On Saturday, September 8 at Atlantic Station, there is something exciting happening that you won't want to miss! Strut Your Mutt is a fundraising walk sponsored by Best Friends Animal Society. It's held in 14 cities around the country, and this is the third year the event has been held in Atlanta. Like many other fundraising walks, our team members raise money for the Good Mews team. There will also be challenges with opportunities to earn bonus dollars along the way. The teams that finish in the top three earn bonus dollars as well - \$1000, \$500, and \$250!

Registration is \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids ages 6-12, and the fee includes a cute t-shirt! Although Best Friends puts on the event, they do not keep any of

the money; all proceeds go to the fundraising teams (like Good Mews!) including the registration fees. There are many pet-related vendors, as well as games for the dogs. Best Friends does a great job celebrating all the lives saved through the organizations involved. You wouldn't think that an all-cat shelter would do so well at a dog-centric fundraising event like Strut Your Mutt, but you would be wrong! Good Mews finished in first place the first year and in second place last year. Help us continue to raise awareness, represent Good Mews, and save kitties by joining our team! To register, just visit support.bestfriends.org/goto/goodmews then get ready to strut. Stop by Good Mews before September 8, and Patriot will show you just how it's done!

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

purrs & prattlings

good mews

VOL. 16, Issue 2
Spring/Summer 2018

INSIDE
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30th Anniversary Gala

From the Shelter Manager

Dear Good Mews family,

Thank you all for your support and kindness over the past few months as I've transitioned into my new role as Shelter Manager. Many of you already know that I have been working in veterinary care for nearly 13 years. Two years ago, I began volunteering at Good Mews to bring some extra happiness into my life and to balance out the stress of working in veterinary emergency. I had treated Good Mews patients in the ER and saw firsthand the top-notch care and compassion that is gifted to every Good Mews kitty, whether it's a simple chin scratch or a life-saving procedure. For this reason, I knew early on that this was an organization that I could stand behind.

In April, I had to say goodbye to my dad as he lost his battle with cancer. At his memorial service, I explained to the attendees that one of the greatest gifts he gave me was teaching me that a pet is not just an animal, but a family member. This notion is what guides me in my work each day and I know it's what makes you all volunteer for years, or even decades. Good Mews' many volunteers are instrumental in making these kitties feel at home.



Whether we have a cat at the shelter for 2 weeks or 7 years, we are their family until they find their forever home.

So far this year, we've already rescued over 245 cats and kittens and had over 200 adoptions. As we move forward together, I promise to lead by providing the best care to our residents and advocating on their behalf, helping local

and regional communities by saving more cats and kittens, and continuing to expand upon many of the amazing ideas already in place. Good Mews' long legacy of providing only the best for their kitties is why we all can celebrate a very happy 30th birthday this year, and set forth on many more years of finding good homes for good kitties!

Sincerely,

Kendra Ledlow
Kendra Ledlow

Kitty Keeper Candidate

Sasha by Alice Shen

Hello everyone – it's so nice to meet you! My name is Sasha and, as you can see, I'm a calico. There's a common misconception that calicos are feisty and sassy with big attitudes, but I can assure you that I am very sweet and loving! However, it takes some time for me to warm up to people. You see, I lived in the same home with my owner since I was just a tiny kitten. I never imagined that one day my owner would move out of the country and leave me behind.

It's been a while since I've come to Good Mews. While it was hard for me at first, I think I'm starting to get used to this change of scenery! I've discovered that I get along quite well with all the other cats. I like Good Mews a lot, but I'm still looking for my real forever home. I would prefer someplace quiet but filled with love.

While I may not be as young as I used to be, I can assure you that my beauty has not faded at all. Stop by and see for yourself, and maybe even consider making me a part of your family! I know I may seem shy and nervous, but that's just because I'm not great around new people. However, with



time and patience, I promise my true (beautiful) colors will shine. I will be a sweet and loyal companion to warm your life...and lap!

Even if you can't bring me home just yet, you can virtually "adopt" me through the Kitty Keeper program. Read more at goodmews.org.



h.a.l.o. highlight
home at last

Drew by Bridget Szuminsky



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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:

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ON THE COVER

Audrey

"I'm a fair lady with some wild whiskers!"



Hi readers! Drew here checking in from my furever home! Harper (my sister-from-another-mister) and I were adopted from Good Mews about a year ago. Our humans thought they were coming in "just to look" but we all know how that turned out. While all the other little ones were running around begging for attention, I let the people come to me. I turned on the charm, they showered me in pets, and the rest is history!

You see, I knew I had to find just the right human because my first home didn't stick. Soon after being adopted, my human discovered I was prone to seizures and wasn't able to take care of me. Don't worry, my friends at Good Mews welcomed me back with open arms and found a medication that kept my seizures at bay. They even inducted me into their HALO club so my next human would always be able to keep me happy and healthy.

Luckily, I didn't have to deal with the late-night kitten room yodeling concerts for long (and not just because I couldn't hear them to begin with – a perk of being deaf!) Because of the HALO program, my seizure disorder didn't seem so intimidating, and the aforementioned "just lookers" knew they could handle my medical needs. Now I spend my

days people-watching from my window, cuddling in a warm lap, or napping in my favorite sun spot. And when I'm feeling feisty, Harper helps me chase unidentified flying feathers.

To learn more about the HALO program, and how you can help other kitties like me find their own piece of sunshine to nap in, head to goodmews.org.



Success Story

Spike, Ami, & Scheherazade by Sandra Song

Cinematic poet Jean Cocteau once said, "I love cats because I enjoy my home, and little by little, they become its visible soul." In many ways, the life of Bruce and Linda Lepard reflects the essence of this statement.

They came to Atlanta in the late '90s, along with their two pet cats. When the cats passed away, Bruce and Linda decided to foster, perhaps as a way of avoiding the pain of losing a beloved pet. They took in a family of six kittens and their mother, who must have been feral. Unfortunately they could not keep her in the house, and she eventually disappeared. Bruce and Linda could not part with their little brood, and what started out as a temporary foster situation became permanent. They ended up caring for the six cats over a span of nearly 20 years.

When the last "foster failure" passed away last year, there was no question about bringing another cat into the Lepard home. "The house was so lonely without our cats around" said Linda. She and Bruce went on the Good Mews website and selected Ami and Scheherazade before ever stepping through the shelter doors. When they entered the main cat room, they were immediately greeted by Spike. After spotting these new visitors, he would not leave their side. Linda said they "couldn't leave that big wonderful cat" so they headed home with not two, but three new family members – big and friendly Spike, timid and beautiful Ami, and sweet little Scheherazade who is literally half the size of her new brother.



Left (from top): Spike, Ami, and Scheherazade

Right: Ami Below: Scheherazade and Spike



by her former owner in a dumpster. Despite all of this, the three have adapted seamlessly to their new home. Although none of them likes to be picked up, they are happy to come to Linda or Bruce's lap on their own terms, and they always want to be in close proximity to them.

Of course, Ami and Scheherazade bonded long ago and are happy in each other's company. Spike started off on the outside, and his tendency to use his size to push his way around did not endear him to the bonded pair. But over time, they have come to accept one another as mutual members of a blended family. Now that is what we call a big success for everyone involved – both feline and human!

Save the Date

"30's for our 30th"



The Good Mews 30th Anniversary Gala will be held on Saturday, November 10 at the Villa Christina Hyatt Regency. In order to make this important fundraiser a success, we need your help!

We are seeking donations for the silent and live auction and we invite you (or your business) to support our worthy cause with an item or gift certificate for attendees to bid on. By doing so, along with the joy of knowing you have helped to save the lives of homeless cats and kittens, you receive:

- Your name (or business name) listed in the event program/signage
- The opportunity to provide take-home materials to event attendees
- Printed recognition in an upcoming issue of our newsletter

Please email Sarah Poland at spoland@goodmews.org for additional information about event sponsorship opportunities and donating auction items.



Stay tuned for ticket details coming soon!