

Volunteer Opportunities: Disaster Response

by Ashe Johnson

If you've ever visited Good Mews, you may have wondered what would happen to the kitties in case of an emergency. Thanks to the Disaster Response Committee, there is always a plan!

The Disaster Response team hopes to never be fully needed but believes in being prepared just in case. Most often, this means organizing overnight volunteers during snow and ice storms in the winter to ensure that the cats still receive the medical care and food and water they need when the roads aren't safe to travel. The team also makes sure that safety equipment is maintained and well labeled. In some

cases, the team has even helped with animal abuse cases when extra help is needed by other rescue organizations.

Due to the nature of the work being done, members must be over 18 and be trained in both the Daily Care and Medical teams' procedures. Additionally, members must be Community Emergency Response Team trained, complete several FEMA courses online and participate in animal disaster response trainings.

If you're interested in more information, please reach out to Lori Trahan at: ltrahan@goodmews.org.



vets with a heart
for the cause

In addition to the quality medical care provided by our veterinary staff, we would like to thank the following veterinarians and specialists who have provided free or discounted services to Good Mews.

Dr. Lindsay Boozer - Cobb Veterinary Internal Medicine
 Dr. Joel Griffies - Animal Dermatology Clinic
 Dr. Callie Harris-Foley - Purina Veterinary Diets
 Dr. Megan Hilf-Reily - Shallowford Animal Hospital
 Dr. Tracey King - Animal Eye Specialists
 Drs. Laughlin and Pogue - Blue Pearl Cardiology
 Dr. Angela Mees - Atlanta Veterinary Dental Services
 Drs. Noone and Wagner - Veterinary Referral Surgical Practice
 Dr. Julia Partin - Hickory Flat Animal Hospital
 Dr. Michael S. Ray - The Cat Clinic of Roswell
 Dr. Jessica Robertson - Spalding Animal Hospital
 Staff Veterinarians - Cobb Emergency Veterinary Clinic

If you are a vet or veterinary technician and would like to volunteer at an upcoming microchip and vaccination clinic, please email vaxclinic@goodmews.org

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

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

| | | |
|-------|--------|--------------------|
| Dec 1 | Sunday | 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm |
| Jan 5 | Sunday | 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm |
| Feb 2 | Sunday | 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm |

The meetings last about 90 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
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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, one 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

| | |
|------------|-----|
| August | 35 |
| September | 41 |
| October | 50 |
| 2019 Total | 393 |

A Night in Purris

by Sarah Poland

This year's gala and auction was un grand succès thanks to our amazing sponsors, guests and volunteers! With la musique provided by Lexi Street, the Olde Towne Athletic Club served as the backdrop for "A Night in Purris" (aka Marietta) on Saturday, Nov. 9. Not only did everyone enjoy a soirée filled with delicious hors d'oeuvres and wonderful camaraderie...the amount raised for our kitties was truly magnifique!

A special presentation was given on our Community Cat Program, which provides TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) services in Cobb County and beyond. Our generous attendees donated more than \$36,000 for this initiative, including an incredible matching pledge from Lonny Ingram of Sidney's Spices.

Later in the evening, the Live Auction kicked off with a case of "A Night in Purris" custom-labeled wine from Habersham Winery, followed by an original watercolor by James Dean (of Pete the Cat fame) featuring his cat, Hermosa, whom he adopted

from Good Mews in 2004. The Live Auction concluded with the Zulu Nyala African Safari trip, which was so popular it was sold twice!

"A Night in Purris" could not have happened without our gala committee members: Sheri Blight, Julie Escarcega, Elizabeth Finch, Kristen

Moody, Lori Trahan and Cynthia Wright and our hardworking gala volunteers: Jeanette Breault, Ruth Chitwood, Scott Denton, Jim Graubard, Fred Hatch, Peggy Hellen, Michelle Kirkham, Denise LaFave, Argentina Lamas, Jennifer Martin, Sam McBe, Carole Morgan, Montyne Morris, Tricia Nates, Emily Newman, Gayle Nichols, Linda Petkus, Birthe Reimers, Linda Smith, Jessica Temple, Jasmine Tindell, Karyn Trahan, Lori Trahan, Nicole Walker and

well as les chats who benefited from your incredible generosity, MERCI BEAUCOUP!



Thank you Sponsors and Donors of A Night in Purris!

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Adrienne Frizelle | Center for Puppetry Arts | Fifth Group Restaurants | Jane Eastham | Practically Purrfect | The Atlanta History Center |
| Alliance Theatre | Chala Hand Bags | Frances O'Brien | Jasmine Tindell | Ray's on the River | The Carter Center |
| Ameris Bank | Chateau Elan Inn | Frank Tichenor | Jeanne Kostiuik | Roswell Food and Wine Tour | The Escape Game |
| Amphitheatre | Chattahoochee Nature Center | Fundamentally Feline | Jennifer Martin | Ruth Turner | The Fisher Family |
| Ann Finley Jewelry | Christina Graubard | Georja Freedman | Kathryn S. Seabolt, PC | S.A.N.E. | The Gifted Ferret |
| Ashe Johnson | CineBistro at Brookhaven | Geralyn Daniel | Keely Smith | Sarah Poland | The Punchline Comedy Club |
| ASW Distillery | Club Pilates | Gina Zaro | Lemongrass Thai | See Rock City | The Varsity Inc. |
| Atlanta Beverage Gardens | College Football Hall of Fame | Gone With the Wind Museum | Louise Pardue | Seed Restaurant | The YMCA |
| Atlanta Botanical Gardens | Dad's Garage | Grand Ole Opry | Margaret McCamish | Sharon Heber | Trader Joe's |
| Atlanta Movie Tours | DJ McPherson | HealthQuest | Marlow's Tavern | Sheri Blight | Truitt Animal Hospital |
| Aurora Theatre | Dollywood | Chiropractic Center | Medieval Times | Spa Sydell | Victory Designs |
| Blue Heron Glass Art | Dr. Lynn Bahr | Heather Mannik | Michele Bautsch | Suburban Tap | Wild Animal Safari |
| Bobby Jones Golf Course | Egg Harbor Cafe | High Museum of Art | Nancy Waldeck | Sue McClure | World of Coca-Cola |
| Bridget Szuminsky | Elite Island Resorts | Hollywood Feed | Olea Oliva | Tellus Science Museum | Xocolatl Chocolate |
| California Pizza Kitchen | Elizabeth & Hal Barnes | Hugh Hofer | Paul Larsen | Tennessee Aquarium | Zoo Atlanta |
| Cat Care of Vinings | Elizabeth Finch | Irene Schwarzer | Paula Rothman, M.D. | Teresa Knox | Zulu Nyala |
| Cat Clinic of Roswell | | James Graubard | Paws, Whiskers, & Claws | Terri Conklin | |
| | | | Picture Show | | |

Upcoming Events

Events to look for during the holidays and in early 2020

Honeybaked Ham Fundraiser
 Yankee Candle Fundraiser
 Secret Santa
 Barnes & Noble Gift Wrapping
 Festival of Trees
 Microchip & Vaccination Clinic
 Annual Spring Market
 Announcements

Yoga with Cats Reading to 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.

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purrs & prattlings

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INSIDE

Ways to Donate: In-Kind Donations
 Success Story: Ami, Scheherazade & Spike
 Cats 101 – It's Not Just for Beginners
 2019 Gala Recap





Kendra's Corner

This summer, I had the privilege of attending the Best Friends National Conference in Dallas. This annual event brings together animal advocates of all varieties to educate and inspire.

I was moved by how many shelters, most of which were up against overwhelming odds in their community, were resilient and steadfast in their commitment to their missions.



In the conference's closing session, there was a great message presented by Best Friends Animal Society CEO, Julie Castle. She reflected on the iconic (and one of my personal favorites) TV show, "Game of Thrones," and the recurring lesson of one of the main characters, Arya Stark. As Arya learns about the God of Death in their fictional world, she adopts the motto of "Not Today" as her response when faced with adversity and pending doom. The broader significance of this quote is to remind you to never give up or let anything break your spirit. Naturally, Julie Castle equated this sentiment to Best Friends' goal of the entire nation becoming no-kill by 2025.

After I came home, "Not Today" was on repeat in my mind. Then, in September when I received a call that 52 otherwise healthy cats and kittens would be euthanized for exposure to ringworm ahead of Hurricane Dorian, my response was, "Not Today." You

all know the rest: Three volunteers and I packed up to travel five hours each way to transport these kitties to us and another organization. You all pitched in with financial and in-kind donations, extra hours on your volunteer shifts and some awesome name choices. In October, when I learned another rescue group was shut down for the poor conditions of their residents, we worked alongside several other area organizations to bring 24 of these kitties to safety with us. To that situation, the entire community said, "Not Today."

As a limited-admission and fiscally responsible organization, we may not always be able to jump into every "Not Today" scenario. However, I feel so lucky to have each one of you ready to help when we need all hands on deck. Knowing this makes me incredibly hopeful for the future of our organization as we move into another new year.

Thank you all for a wonderful 2019!

Kendra Ledlow

Kendra Ledlow
Shelter Manager

Ways to Donate: In-Kind Donations

by Stacy Smith-Casteel

An in-kind donation is a great way to show the Good Mews kitties that they will have a pawsome holiday. We need shelter supplies on a regular basis so we can take the best possible care of our feline friends. Your tax-deductible donation helps us keep them happy and healthy.

You can purchase these items at your favorite retailer and drop them off here. We also have an Amazon Wish List so supplies can be delivered directly to Good Mews. Thank you for donating during the holidays – the cats appreciate your kindness and so do we!

- Cat Litter – scoopable, clumping only please
- Science Diet cat food – chicken or turkey canned, or adult or kitten dry
- Fancy Feast cat food – "classic" varieties
- High-efficiency washing machine detergent
- Trash bags – 13, 30 & 45 gallon
- Bleach
- Glass cleaner
- Paper plates
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Hand sanitizer
- Dishwashing liquid
- Hand soap
- Pill pockets for cats – available at pet supply stores or online
- Fortiflora – available at pet supply stores or online
- Feliway diffusers and refills – available at pet supply stores or online
- Copier paper
- Printer cartridges (see Amazon Wish List)
- Stamps
- Gift cards (Sams, Home Depot, Costco, etc.)



Good Mews also recycles a variety of items for cash to help support shelter operations. The cartridges and phones can be left in the shelter lobby. Aluminum cans can be left in designated bins in the parking lot.

- Printer cartridges
- Cell phones
- Aluminum cans (rinsed please)



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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
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Phone: 770.499.CATS (2287)
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ON THE COVER



Binx

Binx is a well-behaved young man with the typical orange tabby cat personality - all love, pets and purrs. This handsome guy will be able to acclimate to most any home.

Success Story: Ami, Scheherazade & Spike

by Leslie Cooper

Linda and Bruce Leopard, longtime supporters of Good Mews, once agreed to foster a mother cat and her six kittens for a few weeks. Instead, they kept all seven felines for their entire long and happy lives, gladly placing themselves in the ranks of foster failures extraordinaires.

After that, they'd planned not to have any pets for a while, until Linda saw Scheherazade and Ami on the Good Mews website in July 2017. These girls had



Scheherazade



Ami

come to Good Mews when their dad passed away. Scheherazade was nine years old and playful, while Ami was four, a little shyer and a bit of a lap kitty. They were a bonded pair and needed to be adopted together. Bruce and Linda realized that these lovely ladies would be perfect additions to their family and went to Good Mews, intending to adopt them.

What they had not planned on was a charming, handsome, eight-year-old cat named Spike. He and his brother had arrived at Good Mews over a year earlier, after their mom passed away; his brother had been adopted soon after that. Spike was very funny and sweet, loved people and was

patiently waiting for his forever family. When he saw Bruce, Spike knew that this was his family, and his mission was to convince them of that fact. He followed Bruce through the building, even scratching at doors to get his attention. He was clearly convincing, as the couple took all three cats home that day.

Their transition from shelter to home was a smooth one, and they are a happy family today. Ami and Scheherazade are still close and very loving, nicknamed Princess Royal and Royal Highness. Spike loves his sisters yet is still his own man. He's also a daddy's

boy who's been known to wake his dad in the middle of the night for a paw massage.

Bruce and Linda encourage people to consider older cats when adopting. We're confident that Ami, Scheherazade and Spike are very happy that their parents are such fans of cats of all ages!

From the top of the cat tree: Spike, Ami and Scheherazade



Spike



Good Mews Sets Sights on Targeted TNR Initiative

by Elizabeth Finch

Since the grand opening of our surgical suite in 2018, we have been able to bring the overwhelming majority of our veterinary care in house – providing spay and neuter services, routine care, and dentals to our own residents. We have also been able to expand our spay and neuter services to other rescues and Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) providers.

Our goal is to provide spay and neuter services for more than 1000 community cats in Cobb County and the surrounding areas in addition to providing ongoing spay and neuter services to other rescues in the coming year. We are working toward our surgical suite reaching full utilization in early 2020! We have recently formed a TNR committee of volunteers to assist with trapping and returning community cats to their colonies. We are also working with Best Friends to

facilitate assuming the majority of the support for the surgical and return-to-field components of the Cobb County Community Cat Program, which is a life-saving program Best Friends has created for Cobb County Animal Services. Additionally, we will be providing education to the community about the impact of TNR.

TNR is crucial to combat the overgrowth of the cat population within our communities. This effort saves lives. Georgia is within the top five states for the highest euthanasia rates, and we are committed to doing our part in lowering that. We invite you to join our efforts! To find out how you can help, visit goodmews.org/TNR.



Be Dudley's Special Kitty Keeper!

by Sandra Song

When Dudley was a kitten, he was hit by a car and sustained some serious injuries. He was cared for by a kind soul who made sure that he received the medical care he so badly needed. His tail had to be amputated and his leg repaired. Because his pelvis was crushed, he became, and remains, incontinent. This good Samaritan had other cats and eventually brought Dudley to Good Mews to receive the best long-term care possible. He came Good Mews in September of 2018.

In spite of all of his medical difficulties, Dudley's spirits remain strong. He is loaded with personality and enthusiastically befriends his fellow felines and human caregivers. Good Mews volunteer Anne Farmer said, "Dudley's charming personality will put a smile on anyone's face!" He requires several medications, which he cheerfully and cooperatively accepts. Truly a special resident of Good Mews, he is loved by felines and humans alike.

Because of his medical issues and incontinence, he will need a home that can offer him sympathetic and understanding care. Meanwhile, he is a happy



resident of Good Mews and in the best and most loving hands of the staff and volunteers.

A great gift idea, especially during the holiday season, is to be a Kitty Keeper for Dudley. For a monthly donation of \$20 or more, Kitty Keeper sponsors support the ongoing medical care these special kitties require, and receive quarterly updates on Dudley's progress, along with a photo and personal note. Please contact Harriette Bohn at hpboh@gmail.com if you are interested in sponsoring this special cat. He will surely benefit and appreciate this gesture of kindness and support.



Cats 101 – It's Not Just for Beginners

by Anne Farmer

Good Mews recently held a class that addressed common cat behaviors, the basics of caring for a cat, and how to address common problems. "Cats 101 – Basic Cat Care" was presented by Dr. Drew Weigner and Dr. Alison Bradbury from The Cat Doctor, an Atlanta-based veterinary practice that was founded in 1987. As a Good Mews volunteer, I was eager to attend this class to see what topics



Dr. Drew Weigner and Dr. Alison Bradbury

would be covered, and I was not disappointed. Two primary areas that befuddle cat keepers were addressed: (1) welcoming a new kitty into your family, and (2) the most likely behaviors your kitty may display to upset the calmness in your home.

The presenters provided much-needed information to our class of kitty caregivers and gave us insight into the reasons for these behaviors. Dr. Bradbury used her delightful sense of humor by paralleling feline behavior with human behavior in similar situations. We could then understand much better our cat's reactions to specific situations. Knowing what to expect and how to make a new kitty feel safe and confident are key to successful introductions to already present family pets. Dr. Weigner also emphasized that taking these initial contacts slow and easy will help foster future feline friendships.

Litter box issues rank as the leading problem area kitty caregivers encounter with their feline family members.

Dr. Weigner emphasized the importance of first ruling out a physical cause before deciding the problem is behavioral. Once health issues are ruled out, Dr. Bradbury discussed with the class possible reasons why Miz Kitty might be missing the mark. Observation of and making changes to current

litter box locations, type of litter, or cleaning schedule are likely places to begin when trying to solve the problem. She also stressed that a kitty needs to feel secure when handling her business, so interference from other family pets should be prevented.



I came away feeling better prepared to deal with any problems that may arise with my own clowder (collective noun for group of cats) and knowing that help is available should I need it. While I'm certainly not anticipating I will need to provide correct introductions with a new kitty in my near future, well, you just never know!

The Cat Doctor vets, in addition to holding a more informative class for us humans, brought several large bags of Science Diet and two cases of canned food for our kitties to enjoy. And I also would like to thank both Dr. Bradbury and Dr. Weigner for sharing their time and expertise with us. I enjoyed this class very much and am looking forward to future programs.

Social-ize with Good Mews

We love seeing your photos on social! Want a chance to be featured in the next Purrs & Prattlings? Tag your photo on Instagram with #GoodMewsCats or share on our Facebook Page!

@simplebeauty_art



@maryakphoto



@itsmeliz.b

