



## The Rescue That Truly Aged Me

By Virginia Van Norden, Forgotten Felines Director

On Thursday, June 16, Forgotten Felines received a call from a woman named Jo, who had just noticed 4 little kittens frolicking by a rock wall on her property. In all the years she had lived there, she had never seen a single cat. They appeared to be alone, with no sign of a mom or dad anywhere. By the time I was ready to leave work and go there, a fifth kitten had been spotted with its siblings.

Although the location was in the town my office is in, I had never heard of the street where she lived. It turns out that it was so far up that you had to go through a town out of our service area and loop back into it. Jo showed me the wall the kittens were living in, and I set traps and hid so they wouldn't see me when they came out. I like to sit in my car and watch traps so that I can see exactly what is going on and learn patterns, but it was not possible there, so I hid as best I could outside. Trapping more than one cat is always tricky, because when one gets trapped, the others get startled and tend to scatter. Luckily kittens aren't as wary as adults, and hunger usually wins out over fear more quickly. While I waited for them to emerge from the wall, along came mom with dinner (a mouse) in her mouth. As soon as she saw me, she took off, but at least I knew she was around and I had a chance to rescue her too.

I immediately set an adult trap and joined Jo and her husband, Rick, inside their house, where we had a perfect view of the wall and the backyard. We watched as mom walked around the perimeter of the neighborhood later in the evening and headed toward the trap.

However, as soon as the kittens realized she was there, they all ran out from the wall and swarmed her, completely ignoring the kittens traps I had set. Three of the kittens then went into the adult trap to eat, and their combined weight was enough to trigger it. When the door shut, mom and two of the kittens were seen running through neighboring yards to the left. I put the trap with the kittens in it in my car and hid outside again, hoping that the others would return. Approximately a half hour later, I saw one lone little kitten come out of the wall and run toward the right, which led me to believe that there were actually 6 kittens, even though every picture and video I had seen only contained 5. I closed the traps and took the 3 kittens who were rescued (Flower, Kit Cat, and Violet) to the shelter to await a foster home.



*Blossom, Flower, Kit Cat and Violet*

I can't tell you how much it upsets me to leave any cat I know about outside overnight, let alone kittens. I was sure that they would all return the next day, since they knew where food was now, but they didn't. Jo put out a neighborhood bulletin asking for information about any cat or kitten sightings, and it paid off. Two kittens were seen under a shed up the street, and one kitten was seen under a shed on an adjoining street. I couldn't wait to leave work and rush back up there.

When I arrived, I set two kitten traps by the shed up the street and one by the shed in the other direction, which I actually saw a kitten underneath. I went back and forth checking the traps throughout the night. Finally, 2 little heads peeked out from underneath the shed up the street. One kitten went in a trap, and the other disappeared. I stayed until after midnight, but one baby was all I got. I took her (Blossom) to the shelter so her siblings' foster mother could pick her up in the morning and reunite them.



*Pansy*

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### HOLIDAY WREATH SALE

Forgotten Felines will be holding a Holiday Wreath Sale at 153 Horse Hill Road, Westbrook on Saturday, November 26; Saturday, December 3; and Saturday, December 10 from 11:00am to 3:00pm. There will be a large selection of wreaths, swags, and much, much more. Please stop by and check it out.

For more information, call 860-669-1347. We appreciate your continued support that allows us to help so many cats in need.



## The Rescue That Truly Aged Me *continued from page 1*

I spent both Saturday and Sunday there with traps set in both locations, but my heart sank as day turned into late night and I did not see one kitten. I saw the mother on Sunday night and set a trap for her, but she did not go in. I thought I might have seen another adult cat also, but it was so dark that I couldn't be sure.

Rick and Jo left for a scheduled vacation on Sunday. It was important to keep feeding to make sure the cats stayed there, and since I had to work all day and be at the shelter at night, I drove back both Monday and Tuesday during my lunch break and put food in both kitten and adult traps, which were tied open so no one could get caught without someone being there.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, I went up after work and stayed until midnight trying to trap. Even though it was June, it got very windy and cold at night, so I bundled up under a blanket and hid on a patio overlooking the traps. I saw mom, a kitten and another adult, but none of them went in. The good news is that whenever I left and tied the traps open, the food was eaten the next day when I went back, so I knew cats were still there and going all the way in the traps. I spent all day and night there Saturday and Sunday, but didn't see a soul.

Rick and Jo returned and took over feeding in the traps on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday night, I drove there, set the traps and stayed until midnight, but didn't catch anyone. My new friends took pity on me driving back and forth every day and offered to learn how to set the traps themselves, so on Thursday night I showed them how. I stayed for a while, but it had become obvious that the cats were only coming out in the overnight hours, so I drove home. Not long after I arrived, at the very reasonable hour of 10:00 pm, I got a call that a cat was in a trap, so back I went to get him and take him to the shelter. He (Alex) looked exactly like the kittens, so there was no doubt that he was the father.



*Alex*

During this time, the phone I normally turn off overnight was by my side so I wouldn't miss a call if a cat was trapped. Knowing that the phone might ring at any moment, I barely got any sleep. On their end, Jo and Rick were barely sleeping in anticipation of the camera they had set up alerting them to movement. On Saturday, July 2, I got a call at 2:30 am that mom was in the trap. I picked her (Ani) up and got her settled at the shelter in the early morning hours.



*Ani*

All was quiet for the next week. I knew for sure that there was one more baby, and the fact that it was outside all alone weeks after its littermates had been rescued just tortured me. I prayed and prayed that it was still alive and that somehow it would find its way "home." Rick and Jo were faithfully putting food in a kitten trap every single day, and on Sunday night, July 10, a kitten was trapped. I can't tell you how happy and thankful I was to see that darling little face when I picked her (Pansy) up and took her to a temporary foster home until she could go to the vet and be reunited with her siblings.



*Scooter*

By Saturday, July 16, there had been no further sightings, so I made one more trip there and picked up the trap. I got a text from Jo on Friday, September 9 that there was another cat seen on camera overnight. I drove up after work with a trap, and we resumed where we had left off. The cat returned the next night and ate some of the food in the trap without setting it off. When I was at the shelter on Monday night, I got a call at 9:15 pm that the cat was in the trap, so back I went to pick him (Scooter) up and return to the shelter.

On Thursday, September 15, a morning text from Jo said "You won't believe this. We had another cat/kitten on our porch at 1:00 am." Back I went after work and set a trap. Night after night, there was no sign of the cat, so rather than set the trap, food was left beside it. The following Tuesday night, the cat returned at 2:00 am, ate all the food and then disappeared.



*Rosie*

I couldn't understand why she wouldn't return for food once she knew where to find it, but she didn't, and it began to seem pointless. I just had the absolutely unshakeable belief that she would come back though, and asked for one more week of trap setting. On Wednesday, October 12, over three weeks after last being seen, she (Rosie) returned nice and early at 8:30 pm and was caught. Once again, I was so relieved to pick her up and make that drive to the shelter with another cat.

Jo and Rick were more wonderful than I can describe, and I will always be grateful to them for going above and beyond the cause for this rescue. Four months, hundreds of miles, sleep deprivation, sadness, discouragement and a birthday that pushed me into another decade - all completely worth it to have a million prayers answered and 9 precious cats and kittens safe, cared for and loved.



## Special thanks

to Larabee Lawn Service for donating services all season long, making sure our property was in tiptop shape every week with lawn mowing and seasonal cleanups. Also a special note of gratitude and appreciation to Monoflo Septic Tank Company which donated its services of cleaning and pumping our septic systems. We are very blessed to partner with local businesses and thank them for their donated services to Forgotten Felines.



## FALL IN LOVE WITH KITTENS!

It's a perfect time of year to fall in love with kittens. How can you resist these bonded brothers who are waiting to be adopted? Nicholas and Pip are black and white short-haired boys who love to play, cuddle and wrestle with each other. Now is an ideal time to adopt a pair of super cute, bonded kittens. For an appointment to meet these precious boys or any other



cat or kitten, please call the Forgotten Felines adoption line at 860-669-1347 or apply online at [www.forgottenfelinesct.org](http://www.forgottenfelinesct.org). Not ready to add a kitten to your home? We have lots of very friendly and sweet adult cats waiting for homes as well. Please don't overlook these fabulous felines!



## Our Mission

FORGOTTEN FELINES, Inc. is a charitable, non-profit organization run entirely by volunteers and supported solely by contributions. Our mission is to stop the proliferation of homeless cats in our community. At our humane, no-kill shelter, we provide rescued cats with nutritious food, warm beds, and expert care, with the goal of finding them permanent, loving homes.

All the cats we rescue are spayed or neutered, given thorough examinations, vaccinated, and tested for fatal feline diseases.

Thanks to all our generous supporters and volunteers, including newsletter editor Carol Andrees; graphic designer Lucia Borzillo; the contributing writers; and photographer, Tracye Mueller.

Thanks also to Dr. Robert Fair, Dr. John Mead and staff at Killingworth Animal Hospital for taking such good care of our residents and new rescues, and to Shore Publishing for featuring our cat adoption stories, articles and notices.

Special thanks to all our wonderful volunteers!

## SWEET SISTERS NEED A LOVING HOME!

These darling kitten faces belong to Blossom and Violet, a pair of silky smooth tabby siblings. They love to be petted, massaged, and stroked and purr very loudly. Their playful antics will provide your home with endless laughter. These two cuties have made it clear that they are inseparable and need to be adopted as a pair. Could you give them the love and nurturing they crave? For an appointment to meet Blossom and Violet, please call Forgotten Felines at 860-669-1347 or apply online at [www.forgottenfelinesct.org](http://www.forgottenfelinesct.org).



## Donate Your Used Car!

If you have a vehicle you no longer need, please donate it to our shelter. 100% of the proceeds go directly toward the care of our cats and kittens, and you can save on your taxes too!



Just call the fundraising line at 860-669-1347, and we'll take your old car away.

## Forever in Our Hearts

By Virginia Van Norden, Forgotten Felines Director



To the dear friends we have lost this year, please know that you will never be forgotten. Whether you were with us for nearly two decades or a few short moments, your lives touched us more than you can imagine, and we find comfort in knowing that we will meet again at the Rainbow Bridge. Amos, Angel, Bianca, Cody, Deja, Precious, Rusty, Tiffany and Vivian, we love you, we miss you, and you will forever have a special place in our hearts.

## WISH LIST



- Friskies classic paté canned food
- Hills Science Diet Adult Optimal Care dry food
- Beech Nut Stage 1 baby food jars: beef, turkey or chicken
- Friskies Party Mix treats
- Frontline
- Advantage Multi
- Scoopable or clumping litter
- Postage stamps
- Bleach
- White vinegar

View our Wish List on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and [chewy.com](http://chewy.com) to see more items. Search for "Forgotten Felines of Connecticut."

[amazon.com](http://amazon.com) To find our new wish list on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), search for "Forgotten Felines, Inc. of Connecticut" & see what our cats and volunteers are wishing for.

A NO-KILL SHELTER



**FORGOTTEN FELINES INC.**

P.O. Box 734 Clinton, CT 06413

For more information:

860-669-1347

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

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Holiday Wreath Sale

11/26, 12/3, & 12/10

11:00am - 3:00pm



### Essex Savings Bank Voting:

February 1 - February 28

### Find Your Match:

Every Saturday\* 11am-3pm

\*No adoption event on Saturday, 12/24

Check out our Facebook &  
Instagram pages and  
[www.forgottenfelinesct.org](http://www.forgottenfelinesct.org)  
for details.

## Fundraising Volunteers Needed



We are looking for volunteers who are willing to offer ideas, plan, organize, and lead new fundraising events. If you have the time, experience, and organizational skills, please call the volunteer line at 860-669-1347.



### COME FIND NEMO!

Nemo is an adorable tan tiger fellow with golden eyes. He likes to be brushed by volunteers, but is a little shy when he meets new people. He is a young guy who likes the company of other cats, and he would love a patient home where he could learn all about trust and build a bond with his own humans for the rest of his life. To adopt Nemo or any other cat or kitten, please call the Forgiven Felines adoption line at 860-669-1347 or apply online at [www.forgottenfelinesct.org](http://www.forgottenfelinesct.org).



ESSEX SAVINGS BANK

### Attention All Essex Savings Bank Customers: Forgotten Felines Needs Your Vote!

Each year Essex Savings Bank donates 10% of its after tax net income to nonprofit organizations and community development projects in its seven town market area. Forgiven Felines will be listed on the 2023 ballot competing for a share of the money available through customer voting. Voting will run from February 1 through February 28, 2023 so please stop by an Essex Savings Bank location and cast your vote for Forgiven Felines. Winners will be announced during the month of April, 2023.

## Find Your Match At Forgotten Felines

Forgotten Felines holds open adoption events every Saturday from 11:00am-3:00 pm at 153 Horse Hill Road, Westbrook.

Adoption applications will be accepted at that time. For more information, please call the adoption line at 860-669-1347, visit our website at [www.forgottenfelinesct.org](http://www.forgottenfelinesct.org) or email [adoptions@forgottenfelinesct.org](mailto:adoptions@forgottenfelinesct.org).

