Chico & Cheddar
By Virginia Van Norden, Forgotten Felines Director

On a recent Saturday afternoon, Forgotten Felines received a call from an employee of a store on the lower level of the Clinton Premium Outlets. When she had opened the door of one of the dumpsters to put trash in, she found a brand new cat carrier, and on a hunch, looked underneath, where she saw four eyes staring back at her.

I assumed she was referring to one of the small green dumpsters you see everywhere, and thought it would be relatively easy to reach under and pull them out. However, the dumpsters there are very long, industrial sized structures, so low that there was no possible way I could fit underneath. I could clearly see a scared black and white cat right smack in the middle. With a flashlight, I saw spots on the side of the dumpster that looked like they could be eyes, and thought perhaps the employee had mistaken them for another cat, which made me feel better. I set a trap and waited for hours, but understandably, the cat wouldn’t budge. I couldn’t begin to imagine how confused he must have been after being driven to a strange location and abandoned, and all I wanted to do was rescue him so he would know that good people exist who will love and care for him.

I hadn’t eaten a thing all day, and when I couldn’t hold out any longer, I drove somewhere close and grabbed a vegan burrito to get me through the rest of the night. As I turned the corner to drive back down to the dumpster, I couldn’t believe my eyes. There on a fence post sat an orange and white cat. The employee had been right that there were two cats abandoned that day. I parked and got out of my car, and he actually let me get pretty close, but not nearly close enough to pick him up. I set another trap, which he did check out, but rather than go in, he darted around the parking lot, went under the dumpster briefly to join his buddy, and then spent the rest of the night exploring.

I stayed for 9 hours, until midnight, when it became obvious that I wasn’t going to save either cat that day.

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Forgotten Felines will be holding a Holiday Wreath Sale at 153 Horse Hill Road, Westbrook on Saturday, November 27; Saturday, December 4; and Saturday, December 11 from 11:00am to 3:00pm. For more information, call 860-669-1347

Featured items for sale:

• balsam and mixed green wreaths with bows
• greens for window boxes and container pots
• swags
• kissing balls
• cemetery pieces
• logs
• novelty items
• bows

We appreciate your continued support that allows us to help so many cats in need.
I returned on Sunday afternoon, and found the black and white cat under an equally large, low storage unit near the dumpsters. I was so thankful that he had stayed in the area and not wandered off. I got on my stomach and talked to him, but he was still too scared to venture any closer to me. I set a trap and went to look for the orange and white cat, who had not been seen since the night before. I didn’t see him anywhere, and set a trap in a different location hoping to lure him back. I still hadn’t seen him, or trapped the other cat, 9½ hours later when I left at 1:30 am, completely discouraged. I can’t tell you how much it pained me to leave those cats outside for another night, knowing that anything could happen to them.

I happen to have already taken the next day off from work, so I went back on Monday afternoon. The black and white cat had moved underneath the other dumpster, and the orange and white cat was still missing. Employees from several stores and the security guards were looking for him, but there hadn’t been a single sighting. Between the commotion going on around the dumpsters and the roar of the traffic on the highway just yards away, it was obvious that no cats were going to come out while it was light out, so I left for a few hours and returned at night.

After 3 days of not eating, I knew these cats had to be hungry and, sure enough, the black and white cat ventured out and ate from the front of the trap. He backed out, walked around, returned, went a little further into the trap, backed out, walked around - a pattern that was repeated for hours. Finally, he went all the way to the back of the trap and was rescued! I can’t tell you how happy I was to be able to take him to the shelter where he would be safe and loved and well cared for. Once there, I discovered that he was a friendly, unneutered male who was so thankful to have been saved.

As great as I felt about helping this guy, I was haunted by the fact that there was another cat out there. Every night I returned and looked for him. I asked the employee who had called us if she would be willing to put food out before she left, on the off chance that he was still in the area, despite only being seen the first day. The food was eaten every time she checked the following day, which was certainly encouraging. From the pictures she sent me, the bowl looked as if a cat had eaten out of it. Possums and raccoons tend to be a bit messier, and the containers are usually strewn all over, but there was no way of knowing for sure until a camera was set up on Friday night. At 12:30 am, there was a light colored cat eating the food!

I returned on Saturday night at 10:15 pm and set a trap, just as the skies opened up and the rain came pouring down. I covered the top of the trap so the food wouldn’t get wet and shortly after the rain stopped at 1:15 am, out came the orange and white cat from underneath the original dumpster where both cats had been abandoned! He was so hungry that he went right into the trap, and off to the shelter we went. Just like the black and white cat, he was a friendly, unneutered male who was grateful that his odyssey had ended.

I know that people are going through unprecedented tough times, but Forgotten Felines is one exit away, and there was absolutely no reason to drive these precious boys to a dangerous location and abandon them. I will never understand why things like this happen, but as long as they do, I promise to do my best to rescue every single cat in our area that needs to be saved.

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**OUR CHIPPER KIPPER IS WAITING TO MEET YOU!**

This short-haired brown, black and tan tiger was found as a stray cat and rescued by Forgotten Felines. Kipper is a young boy of about a year old, very curious, and very playful. He loves the attention from all the volunteers, including playtime, petting, brushing and treats. Can you open your heart and home to our sweet and lovable Kipper? To adopt Kipper, 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).

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**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 come take your old car away.
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 Andrecs; graphic designer Lucia Borzillo; the contributing writers; and photographer, Tracye Mueller.

Thanks also to Dr. Robert Fair 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!

TWICE THE LOVE!

Who can resist these adorable sisters? Rescued from a hoarding situation where they had to fend for themselves in a house full of cats, Bits and Droopy couldn’t possibly be any sweeter or more affectionate. All they want is attention. Whether lying in your arms purring or playing with toys, they are happy from morning to night. Double up on a lifetime of cuteness, laughter and love by welcoming these beautiful little girls into your life. To adopt Bits and Droopy, or any other cat or kitten, please call the Forgotten Felines adoption line at 860-669-1347 or apply online at www.forgottenfelinesct.org.

Our Kitties Need Your Help

Can you commit to just 2 hours a week? We are seeking shift volunteers 18 years of age and older to clean the shelter and look after the cats. We have 2 shifts a day, seven days a week, with core hours from 9:00-11:00 am and 5:00-7:00 pm.

We are also looking for volunteers interested in learning how to administer medications.

If interested, please send an email to volunteerinfo@forgottenfelinesct.org, call the volunteer line at 860-669-1347, or stop by the shelter during a Saturday adoption event from 11:00 am-3:00 pm.

You will be rewarded with head butts, purrs and unconditional love!

STORMY IS DELIGHTFUL!

This stunning gray striped tiger arrived at Forgotten Felines after being abandoned by his owner. Stormy has warmed up to people and seeks love now that he is no longer in a house all by himself.

He is a sweet boy who is looking for someone who will never ever leave him. To adopt Stormy, or any other cat or kitten, please call the Forgotten Felines adoption line at 860-669-1347 or apply online at www.forgottenfelinesct.org.

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. Amanda, Angus, Clea, Deki, Gia, Inkster, Kiefer, Mindy, Nimbus, Puffball and Theo, 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
- Visa gift cards
- Frontline
- Advantage Multi
- Scoopable & clumping litter
- Stop & Shop gift cards
- Postage stamps
- Bleach
- White vinegar

View our Wish List on amazon.com and chewy.com to see more items. Search for “Forgotten Felines of Connecticut.”

To find our new wish list on amazon.com, search for “Forgotten Felines, Inc. of Connecticut” & see what our cats and volunteers are wishing for.
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. Forgotten Felines will be listed on the 2022 ballot competing for a share of the money available through customer voting. Voting will run from February 1 through February 28, 2022 so please stop by an Essex Savings Bank location and cast your vote for Forgotten Felines. Winners will be announced during the first week in April, 2022.

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

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.

Fundraising Volunteers Needed

DON’T MISSY OUT!

Missy is sweet, a little shy, gentle, and loving. She is looking for a patient home where she can count on being loved forever. Missy’s coat is a long-haired tortoiseshell color, meaning she has all oranges and blacks in her fur, with no white. Only female cats have this coloring. To adopt Missy or any other cat or kitten, please call the Forgotten Felines adoption line at 860-669-1347 or apply online at www.forgottenfelinesct.org.

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 or email adoptions@forgottenfelinesct.org.