

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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VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

We have launched online orientations and are actively recruiting for limited volunteer opportunities.

Please visit goodmews.org/volunteer for more details!

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

We have reopened for regular adoption hours on the weekends. Weekdays by appointment. Please see our website for all details.

ON THE COVER



Harvey

"This boy is full of love and looking for a home to share it with!"

Kendra's Corner

Dear supporters,

To say that this summer has been busy is an understatement. Between rescues at municipal animal services facilities, community cats, and owner relinquishment, it seems that the number of cats needing our help is never-ending! The days and weeks seem long, so it's easy to lose track, but we find ourselves having adopted out nearly 500 cats and providing almost 3,000 spay/neuter surgeries, as well as dentals for more than 75 residents.

Good Mews is a limited-admission shelter, meaning that we have a capacity that is pre-determined based on what we can responsibly take on at any given time. Operating this way allows us to maintain the individualized and high standards of care that you've come to know and to make sure that your donations are used appropriately. Municipal shelters do not have this luxury because they are open admission. Most times, if an animal comes in, they are required by local ordinances to accept them no matter what else might be going on.

Lately, we've pulled many kitties from city and county shelters that were marked "urgent," meaning that they were in the last days before being potentially up for euthanasia. Typically, the public may see something like this and get upset at those running these facilities. However, the Good Mews staff sees this differently. We are thankful to these shelter workers for going to work each day with the odds stacked against them. We know they have the same amount of compassion that we do for our residents. When we are told that cats have been waiting weeks or months for rescue or adoption, we breathe a sigh of relief. These facilities that are short on personnel, time, space, and supplies still do their best to achieve a live outcome, which is adoption or transfer to rescue. Along with volunteer advocates,



rescue coordinators work hard to place animals in need.

No, not every story that comes out of an open-admission shelter will have a happy ending, but here's the thing: We all can make it better! When you think about bringing food or litter to Good Mews, maybe take a batch of supplies to an animal services facility as well. When you see posts on social media where cats or dogs need a foster, lend them your bed or sofa to crash on for a bit. If we've all learned anything in the last couple of years, it's that we have to be all in this together.

Sincerely,

Kendra Ledlow
Director of Operations

RECENT ADOPTION TOTALS

June	51
July	92
August	48
September	52
2021 Total	431

A Week of Filming at Good Mews

by Elizabeth Finch

During the last almost five years of heading up all marketing and communications efforts at Good Mews as a full-time volunteer, I have been blessed with some great opportunities to successfully promote Good Mews. It has been an honor to be in a position to lend my skills and talents to fulfill our mission and help find good homes for good kitties.

One such opportunity was a conversation this past summer with professional filmmaker Cristian Ruben, which led to a week-long project in August. Cristian has his very own nonprofit, i Film Heroes, which is devoted to creating beautiful films to showcase rescue animals and the rescuers who work tirelessly to save them. He relies on donations and sponsorships to offer these opportunities to rescues without the cost attached that comes with commercial-level productions.

After plotting out our plans, I was assigned the job of creative director. That was a little intimidating. I'm not a professional when it comes to filming! But when I learned that the job primarily entailed supervising all involved in the project, guiding Cristian to ensure all the necessary information was accurately captured and conveyed, and making sure that the final project aligned with our branding, it didn't seem much different from what I've done on a daily basis for the last few years.

Let me tell you, though. This was probably the most exhausting week of my life. Cristian showed up with two cameras, a professional drone, tons of stands, camera sliders, lighting... the WORKS! Good Mews has been fortunate to have had the occasional donation of services from film students and volunteers who work with some professional equipment, but I felt like I may as well have been asked to direct an entire season of "Game of Thrones," and my nervousness came rushing right back.

But, because Cristian is a professional, he had everything down pat. It was so interesting watching him work and seeing the ways in which he was able to pull the best out of everyone he filmed. Although I had seen his prior work, that only showed me his final products, not what went into making those beautiful films. I was captivated by the ease with which he not only skillfully operated all of this complicated equipment but also by his innate talent for capturing the heart and soul of his subjects and masterfully turning it into a work of artful storytelling.

I am so proud to have secured his services for Good Mews. Thus far, one project has been fully completed and is on our goodmews.org homepage. I encourage you to watch. He also filmed extensively for our community cat program, and that project is in editing now and we hope to have it released soon.

Thank you, Cristian, for what you do for rescue animals. You put a spotlight on the blood, sweat, and tears that go into rescue and highlight why it's so important for their communities to support their work. You are an important part of what allows the rescuers to continue rescuing.



Success Story – Buster

by Andrea Cartier

Buster traveled some miles to get to his happy ending. He came to Good Mews from a rural Georgia animal control where his FIV+ status made his chances at adoption limited, and he's now living the good life in South Carolina.

Some bad luck ultimately helped to bring the best of luck Buster's way. An eye infection that would not clear up led him to a foster home in hopes that a quieter environment would help him get well. (Full disclosure, I was that foster home.) I regularly send pictures of my foster cats to a friend and former volunteer, DJ McPherson, who now lives in South Carolina. DJ tells all her cat-loving neighbors about Good Mews, and one of those neighbors was impressed by what she heard and decided she would make the trip to Good Mews once she was ready to adopt. She started reading bios on the website in search of two boys who would be loving and social additions to her home.

Kathleen Neal and her husband spent parts of two days at Good Mews in May of 2017, and for Buster the result of that visit was a new home and a younger brother in Remy, formerly known as Irwin. When asked what it was that led her to pick Buster, Kathleen said his website description sounded like exactly what she wanted, and my experiences with him reinforced that. Additionally, she hated the thought that his FIV status might cause others to overlook him. She now says that she is truly blessed to have Buster in her life.



From an uncertain future in a small county shelter, Buster now enjoys his days playing with his brother, watching squirrels and anoles on the screened-in porch, and just having fun. He shows his thanks to his mom by regularly napping in her lap and following her around to



“supervise” household chores. Kathleen says they tell the boys all the time they are the best in the world. In short, life is good for Buster!



Ways to Contribute



Did you know you can donate to Good Mews just by shopping through Amazon?

The Amazon Smile program donates .5% of purchases made from smile.amazon.com to the non-profit of your choice. It may not sound like much, but it sure adds up! Good Mews has earned more than \$17,000 over the life of the program, and you can help too with just a few clicks of a button.

To set up your account, visit smile.amazon.com and log into your Amazon account. You'll be prompted to select a charity (if you already have a charity selected, it's displayed at the top left of your screen).

Once set up, shop using smile.amazon.com and your purchases will translate into donations. It's that easy!

Wishlist

-  **Fancy Feast canned food ("Classic Pate Varieties")**
-  **Scoopable, clumping, unscented litter**
-  **Bleach**
-  **Paper towels**
-  **Toilet paper**
-  **Hand sanitizer**

MEMORIALS & Honorariums

IN MEMORY OF

Al Minicucci
Ali and Kelly
Andy
Angus Jenkins

Anna
Ariel Blenner
Arlene Ustry
Barnaby, Fluffy, Happy, Lazarus,
Lily, and Sidney
Bell
Ben Lawrence
Bentley and Mya Blanton
Billy Bob
Blakey White Whiskers
Blue and Tux Klim
Boshamer, Firecat, Georgie,
Gus Gus, Juniper, and Matty
Brownie Knauff
Carly and Mel
Cass
Clyde
Coco Cangelose
Corbin Larsen

Dale Heatherington
Danny Boy Martin
Darla, Jake, Kitty, Misty,
and Mr. Kitty
David Kotschi
Debbie Camp
Debra Hill
Denise Miller
Dianne Crossman
Diesel
Donna Dawson Canfield
Edward Shields
Elizabeth D. Kasner
Elizabeth D. Kasner and Missy

FROM

M. E. Sarotte
Judy Bourke
Kendra Ledlow
Tom, Linda, and Kelly McNamara,
Anne Farmer
Mike and Barb Blundell
Melissa Wardlaw
Peter and Sandra Weinstein
Dr. Laura Dabundo

Kendra Ledlow
Marilyn Marks
Kerissa Blanton
Kendra Ledlow, Linda Allen
Anne Farmer, Lori Trahan
Jean Klim, Veronica Happel
Bill and Barbara Smyre

Carolyn Tolbert
Janice Hess
Jean Gee
Timothy Leyden and mom and dad
Mary Linda Cangelose
Amanda Reeves, Kendra Ledlow,
Tom, Linda, and Kelly McNamara,
Laura Gordnier
Lynn Lommer
Doug Richardson and Work Family
Raymond Higgins

Julia Kotschi
Garnell and Beth Rogers
Stephen Owens
Sue Anderson
Peter and Sandra Weinstein
Melissa Braver
Sharyn Holmes
Angela Martello
Julia Thomas
Leighanne Maluchnik

Fuzz Happel	Jean Klim
Gracie	Anita Lynn, Cherie MacGeorge, Gayle Nichols, Kendra Ledlow, Linda Allen, Michelle Kirkham,
Grady	Nancy McDonald
Greta	Lisa Beyer
Harley Spain	Marianna and William Spain, Michelle Kirkham, Lori Trahan
Hisser	Catherine Cooper
Honu, Ivan, and Sabrina	Scott Denton
Jamie Smith	Anne Farmer, Cherie MacGeorge, Cynthia, Lori, and Karyn Trahan, Kendra Ledlow, Michelle Kirkham, Tom, Linda, and Kelly McNamara
Jan Cork	Terri Moore
Jesse Nguyen	Cathleen Holcomb-Knowles, Cherie MacGeorge, Georja Freedman, Dung and Kathy Nguyen, Julie Escarcega, Kathleen Tubbs, Kendra Ledlow, Lori Trahan, Michelle Kirkham, Nancy McDonald
Joan Schlesinger	Andrea Cartier, Bette Hamilton, Kathryn and Richard Dibble, Lori Trahan, Karen Redlew, Marianna Spain, Michelle Kirkham, Rosemary Juckett
John-Paul Majewski	Chris and Lisa Majewski
Josephine Larsen	Kendra Ledlow, Laura Gordnier, Tom, Linda, and Kelly McNamara
Kelly	Cindy Landis
KitKat the Bubba	Julia and Rich Blissard
Lamar	Andrea Cartier, Kendra Ledlow
Leo	Lauren and Tyler Lee
Lexi	Gary and Patrice Hosmer
Lil Bits	Tara Parker
LuLu Jefferson	Vickie DiLuigi
Luna	Nancy Groves
Mae	Kathy and Scott Beamer
Maisy Huberty	Julie Escarcega
Maurice	Cherie MacGeorge, Nancy McDonald
Max	Cherie MacGeorge
Mikey Blenner	Bert and Stella Blenner, Kendra Ledlow, Linda Smith, Lori Trahan, Melissa Wardlaw, Michelle Kirkham
Mittens	Sara Neeley
Monty Donald-Duncan	April Taylor, Cherie MacGeorge, Lori Trahan
Moxie Kerr	Christine Cage and AT&T Sponsorship Team
Mr. Fluffy	Nora Sanders

Oliver Johnson	The Wansky Family
Otto	Catherine Cooper
Oxford	Heather Hogan
Pat	Kendra Ledlow
Phoebe Thomas	Betsie, Ms Lily Belle, and Etta Mae Kasner
Po Po	Shelby Prather
Pogo and Yogi	Linda Beck
Polo	B. Gayle Brackin
Princess Taylor	Andrea Cartier, Kathleen Neal, DJ McPherson and Bud Wilfore
Puff and Trudy Rogers	Garnell and Beth Rogers
Puff Johnson	Lester Dorsey
Razberry	Kendra Ledlow, Michelle Kirkham
Rex	Teri Garner
Rhett Anderson	Michelle Kirkham, Sue Anderson
Rowena McIntire	Betty Finch, Jeannine Turner
Ruth "Odie" Nolan	Alex Bierhuis
Sadie Duval	Lynn Stouffer
Sam Kirk	Lynne Ripple
Sami Beton	Elise Stahlman
Sammie Kleiber	Garnell and Beth Rogers
Samwise Gamgee "Sammy"	Patricia Lynn Cogan
Sassy Henry	Anne Farmer, Harriotte Bohn, Kathleen Tubbs, Lori Trahan, Skittle
Scout aka Beige Boy	Linda Allen, Nancy McDonald
Sherman Baby Pussy Cat	Frank Molesky
Simon	Kathleen Coleman and Drew Griffin
Simone	Michelle Kirkham
Siobhan Trahan	Kendra Ledlow, Michelle Kirkham, Lori, Cynthia, and Karyn Trahan
Smokey Fisher	Anne Farmer, Kendra Ledlow, Linda Smith, Lori Trahan
Smokey Joe	Wanda Craven
Tiffany Wright	Dorothy Mattern
Timmy Meagh	Christine Meagh, Cliff and Rosemarie Meagh
Toby	Courtney, Kim, Jasmine, and Will Carvajal
Tom Ward	Andrea Cartier, Karen Redlew, Lori Trahan, Michelle Kirkham
Trubl	Sharon Lowery
Tyrion	Bettina and Chris Meadors
Willie von Cramon	Anne Farmer, Bette Hamilton, Cherie MacGeorge, Kendra Ledlow, Michelle Kirkham
Willow	Kendra Ledlow
Zeppelin	Bill and Barbara Smyre

IN HONOR OF FROM

All Our Babies	All Our Babies
Barbara Thomason	Pamela Mundale
Bernard and Jessica Berkley	Allison Wansky
Bess	Tamra and Steven Glenn
Betsie Kasner	Bruce von Stein
Chester	Julie Morgan
Clemson and Morgan	Kathy Handley
Community Cats	Molly, Luna, Bella, Evie, Lisa & Alan Spears
David Larsen	Maureen Larson
Dawn Gillerman	Deborah and Eddie Berger
Dawn Von Cramon	Bette and Spook Hamilton
Diane Nielsen	Allison Maddox
Diane Wilson	Julie Goldberg
Dr Alison Bradbury and the staff at The Cat Doctor	Patricia Lynn Cogan
Dr Lindsay Boozer	Catherine Cooper
Esther Cadahia	Ronnie Happel
Ethan Ray	Amber Qualls
Fiona Sides	Michael Sunderhaus
Jamie Kerr	Christine Cage and AT&T Sponsorship Team
Jessie and Tim Leyden	Timothy Leyden and mom and dad
Jovie	Becky Greenhill
Karen Redlew	Bette and Spook Hamilton
Katie Katalinich	Lauren and Tyler Lee
Kent the amazing cat man	Laura Thwaite
Kristen Moody	Lauren Anne Fulford
Logan McIntosh	Joy and Olivia Gorney
Lori Trahan	Nikelle Klareich
Lynda Moser	Judith Helton
Matty and Princess	Sue Anderson
Max and Sadie	Ed Scheer, Jane Ward
Miley	Doborah Walker, Dorothy Carroll
Patriot	Ruth Turner
Paul Larsen	Amanda Reeves,
	James and Suzy Tamplin,
	Tom, Linda, and Kelly McNamara
Peanut the brave little kitten	Lauren Woods
Robert Anservitz	Alex and Lynne Anservitz
Sharon and the Friday AM Daily Care Team	Elizabeth Barnes
Sheri Blight	Nikelle Klareich
Sprayberry Animal Hospital	The Campbell Family
Sue Black	Gayle Nichols, Laura Thwaite,
	Katrina Ann Parker
Taco and Pepperoni	Hasnain Shaban

**Donations received June 1, 2021
through September 30, 2021**

Medical Mews: Dentals Make a Difference

by Jeff Libby

Welcome back to Medical Mews, when the GM staff gives an inside look at some of the more complex cases we've worked on recently. This time our focus is on dental cleanings, performed at GM once weekly on Thursdays. There's a common misconception that pet teeth cleanings are the same as humans brushing their teeth, but often the procedures are quite intensive, and more along the lines of root canals or other oral surgery. The process consists of giving a sedative, placing an IV catheter, intubating, x-rays, cleaning the teeth, extractions if necessary, ending with polishing and applying a fluoride treatment. Meanwhile, we check a blood sample for anemia, continuously give IV fluids, and monitor vital signs such as blood pressure to ensure the cat is safely tolerating the anesthesia.

Multiple adult cats that joined GM this year needed extractions, so the past several months have been a whirlwind getting everyone up to speed. Some of these cats looked miserable when they arrived due to their poor mouths, and their suffering was evident. Among the cats with the worst teeth who improved the most drastically were Thelma, Louise, and Dory.

Dory joined GM in February of 2021, and to say her mouth was rotten is an understatement. Dory's tongue was severely ulcerated, inflamed, with a mass present, as well as glossitis, a term meaning all



of the 'roughness' of her tongue had eroded. Her gum disease had progressed to bone loss. Dory was often around the shelter dribbling brownish drool, and it likely was painful to eat. For Dory, Dr. Johnson performed a full-mouth extraction (FME) and biopsied the tongue mass, which turned out to be just inflammatory and not cancerous. Dory spent the next two weeks in a GM suite recovering, being given pain meds for three days and strictly wet food, which is our standard post-op care. She truly thrived afterward, gaining three pounds before being adopted in September!



Thelma and Louise were bonded sisters who joined GM in March of 2021. Due to their painful mouths, both were behaviorally withdrawn while in the shelter. Exacer-

bating things was the fact that both were positive for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), meaning they were more susceptible to complications. Thelma's infection was so bad, she had 15 teeth removed during her dental, while

Louise fared better and only needed her incisors (front teeth) pulled. Since FIV is transmitted via blood, we scheduled Thelma and Louise on the same day, to reduce any risk of contamination. Both girls recovered well and were adopted by longtime volunteers in August!

We're glad to make such a difference in the lives of our cats, and being able to perform such intensive procedures in our own shelter means reduced stress for the cats, cost savings, and better consistency of care with Dr. Johnson.

Cleocatra Needs a Keeper

by Chelsie Butler

Our 11-year-old sassy Cleocatra would love to have some new Kitty Keeper sponsors to draw attention to the progress she's made at Good Mews. For a donation of \$20 or more, you can sponsor a cat in need of a good home who may have limited adoption options because of a medical or behavioral issue.

According to Good Mews vet tech Diana Vargas, Cleocatra is a true queen like her name suggests.

She can often be found lounging in a basket in a sun spot, watching the other kitties inside and the wildlife outside. She has Egyptian-like green eyes with black eyeliner and a beautiful honey coat.

"She was at her previous rescue for several years and was reluctant to meet us at first," said Vargas. "Over the past several months, she



has learned to slowly trust us and understand that we mean no harm. She has even started hanging out in the "Meds Room" to demand extra attention and treats. She now tolerates slow pettings and some brushing but will let you know when she has had enough."

Cleocatra would thrive best in a quiet environment without other cats and children, where she can continue to be the one true queen. At the shelter, she

enjoys the more serene events like Reading to Cats and Yoga with Cats.

Through the Kitty Keeper program, Cleocatra will send you a quarterly update with a personal note and a pretty photo. Your donation will help care for all Good Mews cats who are waiting for their fur-ever homes. To join, go to goodmews.org/kitty-keeper.

Volunteer Opportunities

There has been a world of growth and change at Good Mews over the years, especially over the last two. We have seen the implementation of a thriving community cat program, which is bursting at the seams, adoptions are remaining at all-time highs, and we have been fortunate to be able to increase our staff in order to accommodate for all this growth.

Some things remain unchanged though: the loving care our residents receive, the unwavering support of our community and supporters, and the tireless dedication of our volunteers. Good Mews is, and will remain, incredibly reliant upon a large base of volunteers for not

only the daily upkeep of our facility and furry population, but also for the expanding administrative and "back-end" needs.

Whether your volunteer interests lie in hands-on care, you like the fast-paced action of events, or you have special skills that can contribute to the business needs that keep us running, we need you. Each volunteer position, along with staff and board leadership, provides the ability for us to continue being that "little shelter that could...and did," in the words of our founder, Gloria Skeen. So, visit goodmews.org and get started on your volunteer journey with us!

The Inside Scoop

Welcome to The Inside Scoop, where we will feature board and staff members to give you insight into the people behind the scenes who make the strategic decisions and carry out our mission on a daily basis, all in the interest of saving the lives of homeless cats and helping our community.

Elizabeth Finch - VP, Board of Directors

Elizabeth has been with Good Mews since 2015. After taking early retirement from the corporate world, she repositioned her focus toward full-time volunteer work. With a wide breadth of experience in management, small and large business, human resources, and marketing, she has found her biggest contributions to Good Mews to be in growth leadership and marketing/communications.



While Elizabeth's favorite part of being involved with Good Mews is the cat cuddles, what she enjoys most about her position as a leader are her measurable contributions to the growth of the organization and their value to the metro community. She led the board and the organization in the development and implementation of our community cat program in 2020, which has since sterilized and vaccinated more than 2500 community cats.

In her marketing and communications role, she loves that she is able to bring value to the organization in the way of amplifying Good Mews' public reach and generating life-saving revenue. Some consider these duties a bit dry when there are furry cats and kittens to be loved on, but Elizabeth enjoys the flexibility afforded, and she sneaks in kitty hugs and kisses as much as possible!

As for her favorite thing about cats, Elizabeth says, "...their honesty. A cat will always let you know where you stand with them, and I highly respect that. They only manipulate when treats or second breakfast is at stake, and the purr of a cat is one of the most comforting sounds in the world."

Judy Johnson, DVM

Dr. Judy Johnson began her journey with Good Mews in 2017 as a volunteer, providing occasional veterinary services at the shelter.



She was working in emergency medicine and had the unfortunate opportunity at times to see Good Mews residents who were brought into the local emergency clinic.

When Judy chose to transition to shelter medicine, Good Mews couldn't have been happier to welcome her. She provides us with a consistent and constant level of care, and both our residents and the organization benefit from this. When asked what she loves most about her job, she notes, "I have never felt more valued as a team member. I love that I am able to treat all of our residents as individuals, with decisions being made based on what is best for each cat."

Dr. Johnson's passion and commitment to not only our cats but the mission of Good Mews is evident. She attained specialized training in dental procedures and regularly performs dentals on resident cats, in addition to offering low-cost dentals to other area rescues. This prevents Good Mews from having to send very few cats offsite now for such procedures and also helps our fellow rescue partners maintain their own tight budgets.

Judy can often be found taking a medical foster into her own home when it needs more care than what staff and volunteers can provide. She treats and loves each cat as one of her own, and her dedication is unwavering.

Dr. Johnson's favorite thing about cats is that "...each one talks to you in their own

language, and their little meows and chirps and ways of vocalizing are all different from each other.”

Melissa Braver, DVM

Dr. Melissa Braver graduated with her veterinary degree in 2006 and worked in emergency and general practice. She found her true calling in high-quality, high-volume spay and neuter in 2016 and has performed approximately 10,000 spay and neuter surgeries, with at least 3,000 of those being at Good Mews!



Melissa is not only integral to the community cat program at Good Mews as the surgical veterinarian performing the sterilization surgeries for all the cats who come through this program. She also sterilizes all of the Good Mews resident cats to ready them for adoption as well as those for other rescues, to offer them a viable low-cost option.

She loves working at Good Mews because “... everyone treats everyone else (both human and feline) like family! We work as a team to achieve a common goal of doing good for the cats, and we are all there to support each other outside of work.”

Good Mews is so fortunate to have Dr. Braver as part of the team. She brings with her to the job a high level of care for not only her feline patients but also her co-workers and the organization.

Melissa’s favorite thing about cats is headbutts. She describes it as a pat on the back from an old friend. Of her own polydactyl Good Mews alum, lowercase g (who couldn’t love that great Montel Jordan reference?!), she says, “Unfortunately, my own cat will not give me headbutts, but I will settle for his ‘high seven.’”

Michelle Kirkham - Secretary, Board of Directors

Michelle has been with Good Mews for 15 years. She began with steam cleaning cat trees and loved it so much that she moved on to working with daily care, kitty buddy, and adoptions. She assumed the role of co-chair of the Adoptions Team in 2009 and works diligently to lead the team of counselors who find good homes for approximately 500 cats per year now!



Michelle has been on the board of directors since 2009 and secretary since 2018. In her role as secretary, Michelle does a great job of keeping up with all official records for the organization. Her attention to detail and organizational skills suit help make her great in her current roles.

When asked what she loves most about Good Mews, she points toward the dedication of the staff and volunteers, saying, “We have volunteers who have been with us for many years, and that just tells me that they really care about the organization and the cats. Our staff and volunteers go above and beyond to make GM what it is.” She is also quick to add, “... another thing I love most about GM is the CATS!”

Speaking of cats, Michelle says she loves everything about them, from their different personalities and independence to their ability to ignore humans and not feel guilty or embarrassed about it. When it comes to her favorite physical “cattribute,” she says that would be paws, particularly tiny ones.

Jen Jewah - Surgical Program Supervisor

Jen has been a part of Good Mews since 2020 but has been involved in animal welfare since high school and earned her degree in wildlife biology in 2001 from UGA.



Jen is an integral part of our surgical team, helping with surgeries as well as taking care of “back end” needs such as making sure that the surgical suite remains properly stocked with all the supplies to take care of the thousands of kitties who come through our surgical suite on a yearly basis.

Of Good Mews, she states, “I love that Good Mews is a big family. The people here truly care for one another and the cats. I have never felt so welcomed into a place of work where everyone works as a team and is always willing to lend a hand.” She also considers working with cats itself a perk because on bad days, “...you can just go sit in the kitten room, and you can’t help but smile.”

Jen loves how cats like to snuggle. Whether she’s watching TV or going to sleep, she loves that they are ready to share her blanket. She admits that she probably takes more pictures of sleeping cats than anything else.

Stephanie Vargas - Feline Care Technician

Stephanie joined Good Mews in late 2019, as we were embarking upon our Community Cat Program. With her surgical experience, she was a natural choice as a surgical technician, helping to meet our spay and neuter goals to serve our community.



In her role, Stephanie not only assists with surgery, but she also handles many administrative tasks such as scheduling and assuring all paperwork is in proper order. On days that spay and neuter surgeries are not taking place, she assists with dental procedures and resident care.

Stephanie thinks the quality of medical care provided to our residents is what makes Good Mews different. Not every shelter or rescue is able to provide the continuity of care which comes with having a veterinarian on staff, and she is grateful for the generous support from donors and volunteers that enable that.

Her favorite thing about cats? She says, “Other than their dynamic personalities, I sure love a sideways kitten pounce. Nothing can make me automatically smile, no matter my mood. Heck, I’m smiling now!”





Upcoming Events

Reading to Cats Yoga with Cats



We are happy to welcome you back to Yoga with Cats and Reading to Cats! Class sizes are limited, and advance registration is required. Please check goodmews.org/ongoing-events for further information.



Best Friends Network Program

Strut Your Mutt

SAVE THEM ALL

THANK YOU!

Because of you, Strut Your Mutt was again a big success for Good Mews. We raised over \$17,000!

