

purrs & prattlings



VOL. 20, Issue 2
Summer 2022

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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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Web site: www.goodmews.org

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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!

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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

Saturday: 10am to 4pm

Sunday: 1pm to 4pm

Weekdays by appointment only.

ON THE COVER



Audrey

"My wish just came true—I was adopted!"

Cover photo taken by @DiegoThePetPhotographer

Operations Report

Dear Good Mews Family,

Thanks to all the support from volunteers and donors, we've made it halfway through 2022, and we're on track for another record setting year. Currently, there have been 50+ additional adoptions and just as many more intakes than this same time last year. This may lead you to ask where do all these cats come from? The short answer: everywhere!

More than 400 new cats have come through our doors so far this year. More than half of these have transferred to us via local animal control facilities. Some of these are a result of a big "pull" where staff takes a field trip to bring home a bunch of kitties at once and others are on a smaller, weekly basis depending on space available. We help our very own Cobb County Animal Services as much as we're able. Additionally, we've been able to assist Calhoun, Clayton, Gordon, Gwinnett, Floyd, Fulton, and Hall counties with many others that we hope to get to as soon as we're able.

Since beginning our CCP/TNR program a couple of years ago, we've helped the occasional kittens that are trapped by our team but cannot receive surgery same day due to illness or size regulations. Out of 750 feral cats that have successfully gone through our TNR program so far this year, we have helped about 60 not-so-feral kittens to get healthy and become Good Mews residents. Though this is the exception to the rule, our team has become skilled at determining when it's safe for kittens to proceed with TNR and when they might need some foster-loving first.

Other intake types vary. With the pandemic causing health or financial issues for many, there have been a handful of multi-cat families that have come into our care as well as individual relinquishments or returns for similar



reasons. Though it is very sad in circumstances like these, we find peace in knowing that Good Mews is simply a stopover on the way to another good home. Many times, such cats are adopted into happier and healthier conditions than when they arrived, which goes to show how important all of you are on these journeys.

And we can't leave out the most adorable of all intakes: teeny kittens born in foster care. We've had several mom cats come to us this year ready to give birth at any moment. These always go to foster care to settle in, and our foster parents do an excellent job of being "midwives." Such kittens are the luckiest of all since they get to be Good Mews residents from day one.

Though this overview is not all-inclusive, these are some of the ways that we fulfill our mission together. There is no better feeling than leaving another facility with a car or van full of new kitties or opening the door to welcome someone in need of our help. We certainly can't help everyone who asks, and that feeling can be daunting, but you all are making it possible for us to help more and more cats each year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kendra Ledlow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kendra Ledlow
Director of Operations

Cat Pawsitive

by Jeff Libby, Leslie Cooper, and Ashe Mastley

What are time, handheld clickers, and a handful of treats doing to reshape the world of cat rescue?

The tools are simple, but the larger impact has been profound. The Cat Pawsitive program is a positive reinforcement training system taught to shelters and rescues through The Jackson Galaxy Project to increase adoptions for cats who otherwise may have been overlooked.

In spring of 2020, the first semester of Cat Pawsitive training began at Good Mews under the direction of Leslie Cooper. Though it was temporarily put on hold while the shelter was evacuated during Covid, the program has been a great success for the cats involved since then. Nearly every cat who has been through the program at Good Mews has been adopted.

Typically, each training session lasts around 10 minutes, with sessions taking place three days a week. All cats start with the most basic trick: sit. This is the starting point because all cats will eventually sit down. Once the kitty sits, they are given a treat as a reward. Eventually, kitties can learn a wide range of tricks from high-fives to jumping through a hoop!

Cat Pawsitive aims to bring the cats better quality of life and encourage their engagement. As a result, the cats form a strong bond with their trainers, and many of the cats in the program are adopted thanks to their training. Typically, the cats chosen for the program may face challenges for adoption. Teaching them new skills helps bring potential adopters to meet them and highlights the cats' personalities. It also brings new awareness to the shelter when the kitties get to show off their skills on social media.



Andre



Cade



Cho



Praline Pecan



Christie



Lemon Meringue

“It’s incredible to receive their trust, to see their desire to figure out what we’re asking and give it to us, to watch their pleasure when they learn a new skill,” says Cooper, who works closely with the cats and is proud of how far each has come. “They move me to tears at times.”

The Good Mews cats in the current semester of Cat Pawsitive are Andre, Cade, Cho, Christie, and Praline Pecan. Lemon Meringue, who began in a previous semester, will also remain active in the program.

The Cat Pawsitive program is kept alive by volunteers on the Kitty Buddy Committee. Anyone interested in volunteering with the program is encouraged to reach out for more information.

RECENT ADOPTION TOTALS

February	52
March	44
April	37
May	57
June	70
2022 Total	295

Ways to Contribute

by Bri Payne

Did you know you can set up your Kroger Shoppers Card to have your rewards go back to Good Mews? Use the link below to sign into your current account or create a new account, and link your card to Good Mews Animal Foundation. Then, each time you shop at Kroger, simply use your rewards card or type in your registered phone number, to give back in rewards.

<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>



P.S. If you have previously signed up before, annual renewal is no longer required. Check the bottom of your Kroger receipts to make sure Good Mews is still assigned to your card.

Shelter Supply Wish List

There are a lot of current supply issues with food, so donating these items is especially helpful due to the ongoing crisis.

-  **Hill's Science Diet:**
Adult 1-6 years Chicken Recipe Dry Food
Kitten Chicken Recipe Dry Food
Adult 1-6 years Canned Food (Pate),
especially Savory Salmon
or Savory Chicken flavors
-  **Purina Pro Plan True Nature:**
Chicken & Turkey, Chicken & Liver,
or Salmon & Catfish flavors
-  **Purina Fancy Feast:** Classic Pate -
There's a ton of flavors, but kitties
prefer poultry and seafood varieties!

-  **Wellness Kitten Pate**
Chicken Entree
-  **Bleach**
-  **Paper Towels**
-  **Cat Litter**
Unscented, Scoopable, Clumping
-  **13 Gallon Garbage bags**
-  **Dawn Dish Detergent**
(blue formula)

MEMORIALS & Honorariums

IN MEMORY OF

Abbey Nermyl
Abby
Ariel
Augie, Bebekins, Blue,
Bomber, Puck, and Teddy
Benji
Biloxi Paven

Blackie Rivetti
Bump
Cappuccino
Cathy Coulmas
Celia Hauschild

Charles Pounders

Chester
Dennis P. Kenny
Desmond, Lady Madonna,
and Sgt. Pepper
Dexter
Drake C. Autarch
Eevee Jewah
Erika Vogel
Etta
Etta Mae Kasner

FROM

The Richardson Clan
Mark Daeke
Lynn Stouffer
Bill and Barbara Smyre

Andrea Cartier
April Taylor,
Sharon Molnar Schleif
Dorothy Mattern
Susan Bell
The Kauffman's
Crystal Elster
Christi Fisher,
Georja Freedman,
Jean Klim,
Karen Redlew,
Linda Smith,
Lori, Cynthia, and Karyn Trahan,
Michelle Kirkham,
Sharon Molnar Schleif,
Tom, Linda, and Kelly McNamara
Bill and Sharon Batson,
Carol Sandiford,
Critter Sittin' Sisters,
Ed, Linda, and David Jones,
Joan Kalkbrenner,
Peggy Joyner,
R&S Fields,
Windy Elrod
Susan Gordon
Dorothy Mattern
Jean Hess

Jim and Peggy Fustino
Lefkothea Beletsi
Kendra and Justin Ledlow
M.L. Riedling
Julia and Ellie Thomas
Bruce von Stein

Fenway Lockridge Fig	Mike, Melissa, and Kary Carman Christi Fisher, Kendra Ledlow, Michelle Kirkham, Sue Black, Stephanie Vance
Fletcher Clark	John and Sandy Everage, Todd Garcia
Francois Clausen	Good Mews Kitties
Frank Ganswich	Lisa and Scott Maturo
Fred	Gayle and Don Horton
Fred Feldmann	Cherie MacGeorge, Christi Fisher, Cynthia, Lori, and Karyn Trahan, Karl and Georja Freedman, Sharon Molnar Schleif, Sue and Jim Gerard
Galaxy	Lori Trahan
Gray Kitty	The Brabant Family
Harry	Arlene Shemaka
Houston D. Smith, III	Barbara and Scott McDonald, Bob and Lynda Wilson, Jake Wamsley, Lewis, Teena, Lindsay, and Landon Webb, Patti Parrish, The Shearer Family, Tracy McFarland
Jack	Lori Trahan
Jack and Spock	Joan Peterson
Jade	Darren, Kristi, and Riley Rogue
John Holland	Sue and Ellie Pinder
John-Paul Majewski	Lisa and Chris Majewski
Kay Blair	Gordon and Penny Depledge
Kev	Michelle Kirkham, Nancy McDonald
LaLa	Christi Fisher
Larry	Thumbelina Grace and Valee
Laurence G. Eyerly, Jr.	Garth and Kathie Wilcox
Leo White	Good Mews Kitties
Little	John Bailey
Louis and Sadie	Monte Myers
Maddie Racela	Lory and Jim Racela
Madeline Johnson	Christi Fisher, Melissa Braver, Michelle Kirkham
Maggie Hapgood	Meredith Messmer

Maggie Sue	Andrea Cartier, April Taylor, Brenna Strickland, Brittany Atkins, Cherie MacGeorge. Dominique Simpson. Linda Smith. Michelle Kirkham. Nancy McDonald. Susan Gordon
Magpie and Pooter Mama Cass	R.H. Dersch Linda Smith, Susan Gordon
Maple	Lori Trahan
Mary Rucker	Pam Donald and Darrill Duncan
Melissa Claire Beavers	Rana Lee
Missy Beavers	Dan Hefter and Heidi Malm
Mrs. Ruby Eagles	Susie and Joe Kessinger
Natalie Freilich	Sharon Molnar Schleif
Nina Hellerstein	Laura Stokes and Michael Hellerstein
Patches	Susan Gordon
Paul Connolly	Angie and Wayne Gilland, Charleen and Dick Wesson, Friends, Neighbors, and Board of Directors at Arbor Oaks Condominium Association, John and Sandy King, Judy Williams, Nancy Riley, Norma Jean Ellis, Phil and Susan Bosma, Woody and Connie Hanson
Princess Romeo	Nancy Reed Ashely and Keith Heath, Farihah Ali
Rosemary Turner	Cynthia, Lori, and Karyn Trahan, Linda Smith, Susan Stewart
Sally Hale	From her Sister
Sam Cooper	Kendra Ledlow, Nancy McDonald
Savanna Burgess	Good Mews Kitties, Lori Trahan, Nancy McDonald
Sherman Baby Pussy Cat Sherry Dunn	Frank Molesky Laurie Attaway and Randall Linville

Simba
Spot Strickland

Stanley
Tonks
Tux
Victoria von Cramon
Wayne

Zoe Reeves

Jennifer Maddock,
Julie Escarcega
Blaine, Tegan, Morgan, and
Garrett Sharoff,
Candace Ray,
Ellen, Tess, Quinn, and Ashley Sauve,
Kim Janke,
Kristen Moody,
Nancy Riley,
The Parkmans
Susan Gordon
Keith Hilton
Kathleen Coleman
Michelle Kirkham
Michelle Kirkham,
Ronnie Happel
Good Mews Kitties,
Harriotte Bohn

IN HONOR OF

Alexander Anservitz
Argentina Lamas
Buster Kitty
Cammy, Cleo, Stormy
Catherine Hardman
Christi and Greg Fisher
Deby Barber and Rob Augenstein
Dorothy
Good Mews Staff
Josephine and Paul
Ken and Lisa Bass
Linda Jordan Tucker and
Mark Trenchard
Marianna Spain

Molly Bluestein-Rich
Paul Larsen
Puff
Sharon Molnar Schleif
Tuesday Morning Daily Care

FROM

Mom
Leanne Belletti
Cliff and Vanessa Ford
Mary and William Panzer
Ross and Renee Christen
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fisher
Robyn Miller
Mark Roby
Jean Hess
Amanda Reeves
Lynn Par
Dr Laura Dabundo

Anna Spitz,
Barbara Cartee
Simmons Family
Tom, Linda, and Kelly McNamara
Gwen Hoover
Kathy, Rob, Julia, and the Kat Farm
Tuesday Morning Meds

**Donations received February 1, 2022
through May 31, 2022**

Cats to Consider: Bonded Pairs

by Bri Payne

Odysseus

Odysseus & Luna

Odysseus and Luna were adopted from Good Mews as kittens in 2019, but they were both returned recently when their owner was no longer able to care for them. Odysseus is the less shy of the two, acting much more like a love-bug. With Odysseus, you can expect lots of face-marking and soft head-butts. He's usually walking around happily with his tail up or sprawled on his side, purring and inviting you to pet him. He seems to take to new people instantly! His previous owner mentions he's a big snuggler and will follow you around.

Luna can be shy but opens up quickly. In fact, she's often found lazing contentedly in the sunlight, either napping or people-watching. We were advised that she can be skittish, but as long as you introduce yourself in a quiet environment, she seems to be very open to new people. She loves head pets but might need to establish more trust before full-body pets.



Luna



Dizzy



JJ

Dizzy & JJ

Dizzy and JJ came to us from a good samaritan who took them in as feral kittens. Dizzy is the more outgoing of the two. If not enjoying an afternoon snooze, he's one of the first cats to greet you at the shelter. He loves pets, and when it comes to play time, he has kitten-like energy when pouncing around.

JJ is shy but immediately will roll over for pets after you sit with her for a little bit. She's already become braver in her time with us, and we only expect that to continue. She loves hanging out with her brother, so we want them to continue growing up together!

Success Story – Raglan

From Overlooked to Over the Moon

by Chelsie Butler

Raglan had been at Good Mews since 2014, when she was rescued from a hoarding situation with more than 70 other cats. At the shelter, she was feisty and hard to place with potential adopters, although the staff and volunteers were smitten with her.

“Having come from a hoarding situation, perhaps the number of cats at Good Mews made Raglan feel she still was competing for everything, and it was stressful,” said Catherine Cape, a shelter volunteer. “Seeing her negative interactions with other cats and concerns about her age and deafness likely contributed to her being overlooked for years.”

Fast-forward to the COVID pandemic, when Good Mews temporarily shut down and was in dire need of fosters. As part of the Daily Care Team, Catherine has gotten to know many kitties at Good Mews and seeks out long-term shelter residents to foster.

“When the call went out for fosters during the shutdown, I volunteered,” said Catherine. “As it turned out, all the cats on my list except Raglan had a volunteer foster, so I agreed to take her.”

During her first week with Catherine, Raglan began to explore the home and was curious about the other two cats, Wally and Opie. Although Catherine said she did her fair share of hissing and posturing at first, she adopted an air of tolerance in return for whole-house access. Although at the shelter Raglan would often let petters know when she had had enough, she slept curled up on or next to Catherine that first night and has every night since she was adopted a few weeks later.

“When it comes to lap time, Raglan rules,” said Catherine. “I’ve had other lap cats, but Raglan takes it to a new level. She’d spend hours curled up on my lap if possible.”

Catherine deals with Raglan’s deafness challenges by approaching her from the front – although the other cats in the house do not understand

boundaries. And although many interactions must be on her own terms, Raglan likes people and greets every guest who visits.

“As an older cat, I was surprised by Raglan’s interest in playing,” said Catherine. “Who knew a nearly 13-year-old cat could be so spry and athletic?”



Raglan watching and “judging” the neighbors from Catherine’s home office window



Raglan on Catherine’s lap – one of her favorite places

Kitty Keeper Spotlight: Patriot

by Stacy Smith

Patriot was born on 9/11, hence his name. He came to Good Mews when he was a tiny kitten and was adopted not long after that. Unfortunately, he was let outside and hit by a car, and Good Mews welcomed him back. Patriot needed surgery to repair his broken pelvis and hip, and his tail had to be amputated. This sweet boy also has some nerve damage and is on medication for incontinence.

Patriot is an adorable kitty who'd love to find his forever home. But until then, he enjoys his life here and the care the Kitty Keeper program helps provide. Kitty Keeper is open to Good Mews cat lovers everywhere. It helps support these harder-to-adopt cats with the food, medication, and enrichment they require. Patriot joined Kitty Keeper in 2016 and has been part of it longer than any other resident.

For a monthly donation of \$20 or more, Kitty Keeper sponsors help support cats like Patriot who have limited options for adoption because of medical or other reasons. Your kitty will purr-sonally keep in touch with you so you know how they're doing. Every quarter your cat will send a picture and write you a letter talking



about life at Good Mews and the latest goings on at the shelter. You'll get the inside scoop on Yoga with Cats and other events, all through the eyes of your special kitty.

Please contact kittykeeper@goodmews.org if you're interested in sponsoring a cat like Patriot. Your support makes all the difference to help these kitties live their best lives.



Get your dungarees out and dust off those boots, because we're raising hoots and hollers for the cats of Good Mews.

Our annual gala is back after a two year hiatus, and we're ready for a hoedown throwdown like no other!

For more information on donating items, being a sponsor, or attending our Barn Cat Bash, please visit goodmews.org/auction

OH SNIP!

IS YOUR CAT NOT READY TO BECOME A PARENT?



PREVENT ACCIDENTAL PREGNANCY, GET YOU CAT FIXED.
IT'S THE BEST FORM OF PROTECTION.
AND WE CAN HELP.

HIGH QUALITY, LOW COST SPAY & NEUTER SERVICES NOW ACCEPTING PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

WHY SPAY/NEUTER AT GOOD MEWS?

Good Mews is proud to say that every cat adopted from our shelter is spayed or neutered before they are rehomed. With the introduction of our on-site surgical suite in 2018, we have successfully completed over 6,000 sterilization surgeries for rescue groups and TNR programs. In a continued effort to serve the greater good of the community, we have now opened our doors to the general public, making low cost, high quality spay and neuter available to any interested cat owner!

BENEFITS OF SPAYING/NEUTERING

- ✓ INCREASE YOUR CAT'S OVERALL HEALTH
- ✓ DECREASE THE CHANCE OF CANCER
- ✓ PROMOTE GOOD KITTY BEHAVIOR
- ✓ HELP THE COMMUNITY
- ✓ REDUCE FUTURE OVER POPULATION EUTHANASIAS

LEARN MORE: www.goodmews.org/why-spay-or-neuter



SCAN TO VIEW
AVAILABILITY &
BOOK APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING
WWW.GOODMEWS.ORG | SPAYNEUTER@GOODMEWS.ORG



Upcoming Events

Kitten Adoption Special, August 1 - 31
All kitten adoptions are \$50

Adopt A Senior Cat Month, November 1 - 30
All adoption fees are waived for senior cat adoptions

Meow-O-Ween, October 29 & 30
All cat adoptions are \$31

Barn Cat Bash Annual Gala, November 5, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
at Olde Town Event space

Yoga with Cats and Reading to Cats are on hiatus for the summer
Please check goodmews.org/ongoing-events for
additional information on these and other upcoming events.

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Benefits of Sponsoring:

- Your business advertisement included in this space
- Only one sponsorship per edition (your business will be the only business advertised)
- Get your business in the mailboxes of more than 2,000 greater-Marietta/ East Cobb residents
- 100% of all proceeds go to the kitties of Good Mews (now that's something to feel good about!)

SHARE YOUR
BUSINESS & HELP
SAVE KITTIES.



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information, please contact the Good Mews Marketing
Department at: marcomm@goodmews.org