

# purrs & prattlings



VOL. 18, Issue 3

Fall 2020

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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

Stay tuned for online orientations coming soon and check our website for updates on any upcoming in-person sessions!

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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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 are currently closed for adoptions due to COVID-19. Please check our website for updates.

## ON THE COVER



### Handsome

*Handsome certainly lives up to his name! He's looking for a loving home for the holidays.*

# Kendra's Corner

After nearly three years serving you all and our kitties as shelter manager, I was recently promoted to director of operations. Being tasked with a role of such responsibility is not something I take lightly. My first goal as DOO was to reinforce an already strong team to allow us to best move forward.

Likewise, Heather Hart moved into a new role as lead feline care technician and foster program coordinator. Her first objective is to pass along all the knowledge she has gained in her tenure thus far as she trains our two new feline care technicians, Ashley Vogel and Jeffrey Libby. Each of them comes to us with years of experience at other clinics. Simultaneously, Heather is training to be a liaison to our many foster parents, offering additional assistance in the care of their temporary residents.

Stephanie Vargas was also promoted into a shared role as surgical suite supervisor with a new hire, Jennifer Jewah. Stephanie primarily focuses on scheduling services and communication with clients, while Jennifer maintains our equipment and manages inventory. They have quickly become a cohesive and efficient team as we approach 2000 spay/neuter surgeries this year!

Finally, we are so lucky to have the continued support of our two wonderful veterinarians,



Drs. Judy Johnson and Melissa Braver. They each started by working a few days here and there a couple years ago, and now they are each here several days per week. Their vigilance and compassion allow our residents and those cats receiving services from our Surgical Suite to always receive quality veterinary care.

They say, "It takes a village," and I am thankful that my village is not only all of these wonderful professionals but all of you who support our team along the way. We all look forward to making you proud as we grow as a team all while finding good homes for good kitties.

*Kendra Ledlow*

Kendra Ledlow  
Shelter Manager

Congratulations,  
Kendra!

# Creative Ways to Donate

by Cheri Gregg

The first time I walked into Good Mews to volunteer, I was pleasantly surprised! Good Mews is a clean, organized, and healthy environment that serves as a temporary home to many beautiful cats and kittens. You can donate to the shelter in various ways, as little or as much as you would like. Every donation counts – whether monetary or otherwise – and goes toward the health and welfare of these wonderful fur babies.

Here are several options for you to help out Good Mews:

## • Monetary Donations

Donating money is very important and always welcome! This is a great way to be a part of this organization, and your money goes toward the health and welfare of every cat and kitten in our shelter.

## • Charity Donations

You can donate via a number of charities such as Amazon Smiles, The Chewy Referral Program and many more listed on our website.

## • ‘Cat’mittment Program

Donate \$10 or more per month to help ensure funds will be available should any of our kitties become ill or require specialized care.

## • Shelter Supplies

Donate shelter supplies via our Amazon Wish list on our website, or purchase online and have those delivered directly to Good Mews.

## • Halo Program

Adopt one of our special needs cats who have been overlooked because of age, medical conditions or behavioral issues. These angels deserve a happy forever home!

## • Volunteering Time

This is crucial to the success of the Good Mews Animal Foundation. If you would like to sign up to volunteer at our shelter, you can donate as little as an hour a week in various capacities.

## • Kitty Keeper Program

This program allows you to sponsor a special cat who needs you, regardless of where you live! For a recurring monthly donation of \$20 or more, you can sponsor a Kitty Keeper cat who will send you quarterly letters with a photograph and a personal note.

Thank you for supporting Good Mews, Metro Atlanta’s original cage-free, no-kill cat shelter.

## RECENT ADOPTION TOTALS

March	27
April	18
May	56
June	57
July	60
August	61
September	45
2020 Total	315

# Volunteer Opportunity

*by Ashe Johnson*

We've all seen them. Cats at gas stations. Cats hanging out by the dumpster at apartment complexes and restaurants. Cats slinking through neighborhoods. Cats that don't seem to belong and who bolt the second you make eye contact.

These cats were typically born into outdoor life, and they only know life on the streets and a fear of humans. We call them Community Cats.

They cannot be relocated – dropping them into a completely unknown territory with no knowledge of their food and water sources almost guarantees that they will not survive.

But not all people are okay with wild cats and the issues they can bring, such as territory marking, howling at all hours of the night, males fighting and surprise kittens. There are also many animal advocates who want them to have the best life they can in their circumstances.

That's where TNR comes in – and where YOU can help!

TNR stands for Trap, Neuter, Return. Cats are also vaccinated while they are put under for their neuter surgeries. TNRing community cats ensures kittens are not struggling to survive in the wild, reduces fighting and spraying and helps prevent disease among the cats. It's the only proven method for controlling and reducing cat populations in the wild over time.

Good Mews has a TNR team that desperately needs volunteers for this important community work! The waitlist is far longer than the current small team can handle, and we need some fresh faces ready to lend a hand.

Volunteers must be 18+ and available on Sundays and/or Tuesdays. Shifts are typically around three hours, and we ask that each volunteer commit to working six hours a month. Training and trapping jobs will be coordinated by the Community Cat Program coordinator, Sue Black. It's okay if you've never done TNR before – you will receive full training on how to trap and interact with community cats.

If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to: [ccp@goodmews.org](mailto:ccp@goodmews.org).



# Success Story: Charismatic Kate

by Chelsie Butler

For 12-year-old Kate the kitty, the second time was a charm for her forever home. After she and her sibling were returned several years after being taken in the first time, Kate waited seven years before she was adopted by her hu-mom, who said she noticed her confidence and independence right away.

When Allison Hogue visited Good Mews in March 2019, she was looking for a cat with special needs, one who had been there for a while or a senior. It turns out, Kate is all three!

“When I met Kate, she had a very, ‘This is me; take it or leave it,’ attitude,” said Allison. “She also had beautiful green eyes, and I noticed quickly that she liked to lay with her front two paws crossed like a proper lady. So cute!”

Their initial meeting at the shelter was not ideal, as Kate nipped at Allison, but when she went back to spend more time with her, she could tell there was a sweet cat underneath. Kate warmed up to her new adopter immediately, and she also lives with her brother Teddy, a Maine Coon mix who adores her.

“I knew Kate was sassy as soon as I met her,” explained Allison, “but now she purrs so loudly around my partner and me and is super chatty with us. And believe it or not, she absolutely loves to get pets! While she does still have her sassy moments, we have figured out how she enjoys being pet and have also gotten used to her body language, so now we know when to back off and give her space.”



*Proper lady, Kate*



*Kate and Teddy, her new best bud*



*Kate's adopter, Allison (left), says Kate loves playing with her feather teaser toy and will wake immediately from a nap when she hears it start to whirr around.*



*Most of the time, you can find Kate snoozing in a cat perch near the window.*

# MEMORIALS & Honorariums

## IN MEMORY OF

Alan Walton  
Alice Depass Miller  
Andy and Lily Grace  
Angie Evanko  
Ashley Black  
Baby and Logan Pruitt  
Baby Baby  
Bailey Dunkelberger  
Bailey Smith  
  
Barry Panzer  
Belle and Storm  
Bennie  
Bert  
Boshamer, Georgie, Gus Gus,  
Juniper, Matty  
Brode  
Bryant  
  
Bulleit  
Carol Branum  
Cathy G. Crosby  
Chase and Cooper Dodson  
  
China Von Cramon  
Collins  
Cooper  
Crystal, Larry, Misty, and Mocha  
Dali and Picasso  
Dan Wheelchel  
David and Ling  
Deena Sanfilippo  
Dona Graf Cole

## FROM

Karla Phillips  
Alice Stevens  
Judith Adams  
Wendy Frank  
Sue Black  
Mary Pruitt  
Andi Olson  
Christy and Fred Dunkelberger  
Anne Farmer, Christi Fisher,  
Kendra Ledlow,  
Linda and Lonnie Smith,  
Michelle Kirkham,  
Peggy Hellen  
William Panzer  
Bud Wendling  
Mary Carmellia Garcia  
Cherie MacGeorge  
Bill and Barbara Smyre  
  
Dorothy Mattern  
Cherie MacGeorge,  
DJ McPherson  
Kendra Ledlow  
Elizabeth Bell  
Elaine Jackson-Brannen  
Cherie MacGeorge,  
Sarah and James Dodson  
Andrea Cartier  
Michelle Stoeffler  
Claudia Saari  
Dale Williamson  
Luis and Elizabeth Estrada  
Sharon Schleif  
Karen Dunn  
Shelly Bitter  
Carol and Jerry Luthren,  
Jamie and Ray Boland,  
Marlene and Michael Bryar,  
The Cole Family

Ebb Hippler	Kathleen Tubbs
Eloise	Judy and William Hauser
Esme	Stephanie and Griffie Vance, Linda Allen
Evelyn McPherson	Kathleen Neal, Linda Smith
Fellie	Charles and Carol Gay
Garey Simpson	Larry and Cheryl Forbus, Margaret Thomson
Godiva	Jane Freeman, Joseph Davidson, Jr. Diane McKay
Gracie and Maxine	Cheryl and Stan Lituchy
Gulliver	Pamela Caltabiano
Hamilton Cox	Kendra Ledlow, Linda Smith, Michelle Kirkham, Nancy McDonald
Harlei	Kendra Ledlow
Inky	Lisa Brown
Isabelle	Patti Dianne Brown
Ixie	Carla Dunagan
Jack Birchall	Gene and Marty Jensen, Jess and Gloria McHugh, Mr and Mrs James Lyster
Jack Hellen	Kendra Ledlow, Linda Smith
Junebug	Leslie Todd Griffith
Kayley Hess	Beverly Marcantel and Brooke Nugent
Kelly Greer	Laura McGhee
Larry Rubin	The Chason Family
Lawrence Aldrich	Leslie Maxwell
Lazolo, Rory, Tallulah, and Tucker	Judith R Brown
Little	John Bailey
Louise Wszulkowski	Geraldine and John Shuman, Geraldine Couture, Jacqueline Boucher, Staff at Seacoast Mental Health Center, Inc, Susan Kim
Lucy Williamson	Sylvia DeMaio
Maizy Woodruff	Kendra Ledlow, Linda Smith, Pat Kachur
Mary Funk	Tom Wisniewski and Kurt Knapp
Matty and Princess	Sue Anderson
Miss Kitty D	Diane Chapman
Mittens	Jim and Angela Steward
Monty Allen	Sharon Schleif

Murphy Janke	Brenna Strickland, Kristen Moody
Nicky Von Cramon	Anne Farmer, Linda Smith, Michelle Kirkham
Nod	Joy Johnston
Oscar Hellen	Cecelia Levenstein, Kendra Ledlow, Linda Smith
Paige Shelander	Virginia Sewell
Paris Green	Diane Mimbs Green
Parker	Julie Ann Vavruska
Parking Lot Kitty	Brienne Withrow
Pasha	Julie Escarcega
Patricia Gryson	Linda Smith
Paul and Peyton	Anne Farmer, Linda Smith, Michelle Kirkham
Philip Taylor	Scott Denton
Pixie	Linda Woodhead
PK	Lisa Kotora and Holly Sommers
Pongee	Emily Buis
Prince	Carol Baril
Ricky and Lucy	Marianne Joy
Ruth 'Odie' Nolan	Alex Bierhuis
Sabrina Kornfeld	Barbara Buscarello
Santino Pytelewski	The Murray Family
Sara Sieber	Janet Schrader
Scooter	Evan and Mary Claire Kennedy
Shorty	Jo McDonough
Simba	Julie Escarcega
Simmie Gay	Charles and Carol Gay
Snickers Blissard	Maureen Drumm, Judy, Theresa, Kathleen and Carol
Snitch Brabant	Georja and Karl Freedman
Sophie	Susan Rouse
Sparky Schleif	Linda Allen
Sunshine	Garrett and Christine Ison
Syd	Kendra Ledlow
Tigger	Leah Vulic
Tricky Toler	Shannon Patinkin
Velvet	Kristi Anderson
Victoria	Eloise Maxey
Winnie	Alexandria Quesenberry
Winter Trahan	Julie Escarcega
Zeke Kalkbrenner	The Wright Family
Zeppelin	Bill and Barbara Smyre

## IN HONOR OF

Argentina Lamas  
Barbara Thomason  
Chip, Dino, and Samantha  
Christi Fisher  
Crispin and Bean  
Dawn Von Cramon  
Diane Wilson and GM volunteers  
Dr Judy Johnson  
  
Dr Melissa Braver  
Dr Michael Ray  
Dr Scott Harden  
  
Earnest, Charles, and  
their wonderful family  
Effia and Esi  
Ellie  
Izzy and Zoe  
Jen Jewah  
Jennifer Riser  
Jenny Fisher  
Karen Redlew  
Kendra Ledlow  
Kristen Moody  
  
Levi Williams  
  
Lili  
Linda Freeman-Neal  
Linda Smith  
  
Maggie and Rhett  
Patriot's Birthday  
  
Raglan  
Rick Martin  
Ruth Turner  
Sharon Molnar  
Sir Galahad and Lady Gwendolyn  
Smokey and Bandit  
Teresa Page  
Tracey Coe  
Veronica Wright

## FROM

Leanne Belletti  
Mia Mindale  
Karen Miller  
Mr and Mrs Richard Fisher  
Garrett and Christine Ison  
Bette, Candy and Spook Hamilton  
Chris Dendy  
Sharon and David Braver,  
Sue Black  
Sharon and David Braver  
Marilyn Hall  
Diane and Rik Born,  
James and Patti Schoettler,  
Jeff and Karen Klewein,  
Linda Stanfill  
Aidan and Fluffernutter Lowe  
  
Leslie Maxwell  
Kristi Anderson  
Jim and Sandra Sandefur  
Sue Black  
Georja Freedman  
Veronica Wright  
Bette, Candy and Spook Hamilton  
Georja Freedman  
Kim Janke,  
Lauren Anne Fulford  
Allison DeGiuli,  
Austin and Beck White  
Edwina Hager  
Connie Romigh  
Anne France Tremege,  
Elizabeth Barnes  
Sue Anderson  
Cherie MacGeorge,  
Susan Bennett  
Linda Freeman  
Pamela Perry  
Kendra Ledlow  
Elizabeth Barnes  
Jeanne Shaw  
Sean Arnold  
David Page  
Edward Gordon  
Jennifer Fisher

**Donations received June 1, 2020  
through September 30, 2020**

# Halo Highlight

by Chelsie Butler

Beautiful Sabrina had been at Good Mews for nine years before she finally found her forever home. She is epileptic and on an anti-convulsant medication, and she is part of the shelter's Halo program. This program allows Good Mews to continue providing assistance to adopters for a medical issue the kitty was suffering from at the shelter for the rest of the kitty's life.

Sabrina's adopter, April Taylor, said she has a soft spot for strong-willed cats, and this kitty spoke to her. Sabrina is independent – she's a cat! – and can show an extremely sweet side as well. She loves to play with crinkle balls, and – oddly enough – she loves to carry a small pillow around in her mouth and sing about her “prey.”

“Sabrina is a beautiful cat who deserves to live an unbothered life, and that is what we are able to provide her now,” said April. “Besides getting her meds twice a day, which she does with minimal grumbling, she is free to do whatever she wants.”

Although Sabrina is part of the Good Mews Halo program, April said she would have adopted her no matter what. But the program is invaluable – especially for those kitties with bigger medical burdens to bear.

“Halo allows adopters to focus on giving their cats a good life without worrying if they can afford to care for them,” said April. “For Sabrina, it means sticking with the same doctors



who have successfully treated her epilepsy at the shelter and maintaining the relationship and experience they have with her. The program provides cats that might be seen as less adoptable an opportunity to spend their lives in their own homes with their own people and toys and cat trees. It's invaluable, and I am thankful for it!”



# Community Cat Program

*by Elizabeth Finch*

When we brought a community cat program to Good Mews in January of this year, we had no idea of the adversity 2020 would bring. But anyone who has followed Good Mews for any length of time knows that we don't back down from a challenge easily!

We set a lofty but obtainable goal to trap, neuter and return 1000 kitties just within Cobb County in 2020. Additionally, we knew there would also be plenty of kitties outside of Cobb County we would help as well. With an incredible veterinary and care staff as well as a handful of well-trained volunteers, we accepted the challenge. By the end of February, we were just 10 percent along in meeting our goal. We knew we'd need to tweak processes and get our routines

down to step up to meet it by the end of the year though!

Then came COVID-19, which completely shut us down for more than a month. We were heartbroken, to be candid. We were concerned that we wouldn't be able to serve the kitties and our community, which so greatly needed help, nearly as much as we had hoped

But, as with every good story, there's a happy ending. Thanks to a tenacious team, once we were able to reopen surgery, they hit the ground running! We are so proud to report that we have sterilized more than 1,000 kitties in Cobb County and another 85 from areas beyond as of late October!



*Surgical team L-R: Stephanie Vargas, Jen Jewah, Kendra Ledlow, Dr. Melissa Braver, and Christi Fisher*

# After the Storm: A Collaborative Rescue

by Sandra Song

On the morning of Aug. 24, Kendra Ledlow, director of operations for Good Mews, saw that Hurricane Laura – a Category 4 storm – had made landfall near Cameron, La. The National Hurricane Center warned that “unsurvivable” storm surges of up to 15 feet could overwhelm parts of the Gulf Coast.

Kendra immediately reached out to Best Friends Animal Society, which often coordinates inter-organizational rescue efforts, to let them know that Good Mews stood ready to help. She was put in touch with Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter in New Orleans, which had 60 cats and kittens needing evacuation the very next day. Because the Jefferson Parish staff were deemed first responders, they were not allowed to leave the city.

It was up to the Good Mews team to travel to Louisiana to rescue the kitties. Kendra immediately contacted Good Mews’ Board of Directors president, Lori Trahan, and lead feline care technician, Heather Hart. Both were ready and willing to join the rescue mission. They left early the next day in a rented U-Haul air-conditioned cargo van and Heather’s SUV. With the help of Good Mews staff, 60 carriers and supplies were loaded onto the vehicles.

When they arrived at Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter on the morning of Aug. 25, their team was ready for action. It was evident that they had conducted many such evacuations in the past.

“They were like a human chain, efficiently unloading the carriers from our vehicles, loading their precious cargo and then returning the carriers to

our vehicles,” said Kendra with a sense of awe. “You could tell this definitely was one of many evacuations they had done over the years.”

The kind folks at the shelter fed them breakfast to fuel them for the seven-hour trek back to Marietta. What great inter-organizational teamwork!

The drive back was fairly uneventful. However, one of the kittens managed to escape from her carrier mid-journey and found her way to the front of the SUV. Later named Zippy, she spent the remainder of the trip on Lori’s lap, safely secured by her rescuers.

Upon their return to Good Mews, they were met by a cadre of volunteers who helped them unload and sort the kitties. Some went to Purr Nation and Best Friends, and 33 remained at Good Mews. Half of these went immediately to foster care, and those kitties have gradually returned to Good Mews.

As of this writing, 16 of the 33 have already been adopted!



*Rescuers from Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter and Good Mews team up to weather Hurricane Laura*



@natalie.yeagley



@givemeallyourkitties



@crashjessica

## 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!



@kendrals86

# Mission Accomplished!

*by Elizabeth Finch*

A few short months ago, Good Mews received an urgent plea. Buster was found on the streets, alone and in dire need of help. He'd been doing all he could to survive on his own, but it wasn't going well. We were made aware of the situation and immediately responded. He was housed and cared for overnight by a good Samaritan and then made his way to us.

It was clear that his eyes needed medical attention. He was taken to an eye specialist, and it was yet unknown whether one of his eyes would be able to be salvaged. He was placed into foster care with one of our most experienced fosters and put on a strict and expansive regimen of care, including numerous eye drops.

It was amazing to see Buster's personality appear as he began to feel better. He was learning how to be a kitten again! Not only were his spirits improving, but so were his eyes. Fortunately, it became clear that he would be able to keep his eye!

Buster recuperated very well and made his way back to the shelter, where he immediately found a loving home. This was no surprise, given his sweet, loving personality. And while we are always thankful for our wonderful adopters, we are also thankful for you because you helped make his medical care possible.



While we, along with our incredible veterinary partners, are able to physically attend to the needs of cats like Buster, it's your generosity that allows us to do so.

Buster says thank you, from the bottom of his sweet, furry heart.



*Buster: Before treatment and after. What a difference!*



# Upcoming Events

While 2020 has proven to be a tough year, we'd like to thank all of our adopters, donors, local businesses, volunteers, staff, and board of directors for still making this a bright year for the kitties.

We hope that your 2020 holiday season is filled with joy, peace, and lots of purrs.

Please join us next year as we hope to be able to get back to more in-person events. We miss you and look forward to seeing you again soon!

## Official Good Mews Merchandise

Good Mews has an online store with some of your favorite designs and new ones added regularly.

Please visit us at store. [goodmews.org](https://goodmews.org) and have items shipped directly to your door!

