

purrs & prattlings

good  mews

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Summer 2021

INSIDE

It's Kitten Season!

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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!

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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



Agave

It doesn't get any sweeter than Agave. He's the perfect kitten!

Kendra's Corner



Dear Good Mews family,

The first half of this year has been spent making up for some lost time in 2020 and intaking a large number of cats and kittens. We have been able to ramp up these efforts because of the support and hard work of our volunteers, donors, and staff. While doing so, I have been thinking a lot about what it means to be a rescue group. Merriam-Webster defines “rescue” as “free from confinement, danger, or distress.” Without specifically intending to do so, we have been rescuing cats from other rescues.

In February, we drove to middle Georgia to rescue 48 cats. Five transferred to our partners at Purr Nation, and 43 remained in our care. Though these cats were in the care of another group, many were confined to cages for upward of two years while waiting for adoption. In March and April we hit the road again to assist another group with all-too-similar issues and desperate for aid before closing. We rescued 22 cats from that organization to ours between the two trips.

Of these 65 cats, more than half needed extensive dental care, which many of you have already supported financially, and for that we thank you. We still have some of these cats waiting their turn for a procedure, but we are certainly in the home stretch. In addition to dental care, many had dermatological, chronic upper respiratory, and socialization issues to work through as well. To date, we have adopted out 25 of these cats, so we are still eager to find the perfect families for all the others.

Although it is easy to feel angry at other groups' circumstances or be left with a lot of unanswered questions on how inadequate care can persist, we must remember that both were in communities of minimal financial resources and few outlets to promote adoption. Animal welfare workers generally have good intentions even if care becomes unmanageable without proper oversight.

It is hard knowing this might not be the last time Good Mews has to step in to help situations like these, as it is certainly not the first in our history. What we must find peace with is that these advocates reached out to ask for help before it was too late. And we shall remain thankful they did so when we were able to step in and truly rescue.

We look forward to welcoming you all back to the shelter during our regular weekend adoption hours mid-July and hope to have more events as we head into the fall. This will allow you all to not only meet the kitties mentioned above, but also others we have rescued from other situations: animal controls, community colonies, or surrendered by owners that have fallen on hard times or passed away. Our mission remains the same as always: to provide a haven for homeless, abused, or abandoned cats until placing them into permanent, loving homes. In other words, our mission is to “rescue.”

Sincerely,

Kendra Ledlow
Director of Operations

RECENT ADOPTION TOTALS

February	34
March	31
April	32
May	44
2021 Total	188

Kitty Keeper Spotlight: Sassy

by Stacy Smith

Sassy and her litter mates were tiny, scared kittens in 2017 when a kind Samaritan rescued them from the sweltering summer heat. She and her siblings were brought to Good Mews to give them medical care and a chance at a wonderful life. It was just in time, too, because Sassy had a bad case of ringworm. Although she wasn't thrilled about the treatments (and what kitty would be?) she got better after a few weeks.

She has gotten used to being at the shelter and plays with several other residents, and Sassy's energetic antics and feisty expressions make everyone smile. But she still needs time to warm up to people. This sweet girl would love a home of her own – a place where her humans can be patient and loving while she adjusts to a new environment. But until that special day, Sassy is enjoying life at Good Mews. As one of the cats in our Kitty Keeper program she even has a job: writing letters to her sponsors about shelter life at Good Mews.

For a monthly donation of \$20 or more, Kitty Keeper sponsors help support the ongoing care that special kitties like Sassy require. The program helps provide resources for cats with

limited adoption options because of medical or other reasons. You'll receive quarterly updates from your special kitty, along with a photo and personal note. Please contact kittykeeper@goodmews.org if you're interested in sponsoring Sassy. Your kindness and support make all the difference for her and the other wonderful cats in our program.



Volunteer Opportunities

by Elizabeth Finch

There has been fantastic response to our new online orientation! We have added more than 100 new volunteers since the inception of this new process. As we begin to re-open the shelter with new volunteer opportunities, this will only increase. We are so grateful to all those who want to help take care of our kitties during their stay at Good Mews!

We have recently added adoptions as our newest opportunity now open to new volunteers. On the adoptions committee, volunteers are trained to successfully pair adopters with cats to

make the best-possible match for both our kitties and each adoptive family. In this role, it is important to be a good listener, show attention to detail, exhibit compassion and discernment without judgment, and enjoy interacting with both people and cats.

Being an adoption counselor is an immensely rewarding experience, providing the satisfaction of knowing you are a key component in carrying out the Good Mews mission and finding good homes for good kitties.

Success Story – Clayton

by Sandra Song

Clayton came to Good Mews in March 2018. He was in his home for six years when his human mom became ill and could no longer care for him. We were told that he was a loving and affectionate cat, but the staff at Good Mews never saw that side of him. He was very unhappy to be at the shelter and pretty much stayed that way, rejecting efforts of staff and fellow felines alike to connect with him. He just wanted to be left alone and kept to himself.

He shied away from potential adopters, and at best would allow them to pet him for a brief moment. When Tava contacted Good Mews asking to see Clayton, our adoption counselors were not optimistic. When she arrived, the staff joked with her, saying, “good thing you are wearing your bullet-proof vest!” (Side note: she is a police officer). To everyone’s surprise, Clayton accepted Tava’s efforts to pet him and even let her hold him. She decided to adopt him then and there, and he had finally found his much-needed forever home.

Tava had a Japanese Bobtail named Bradley for 13 years. When he passed away, she very much missed the company and friendship of a cat and decided to adopt one. She perused Good Mews’ website, and Clayton caught her eye. First, she wanted an older cat, knowing that they are often difficult to adopt. She also was



touched to learn that he seemed unhappy and chose to be alone. He was such a handsome guy, and she had experience with special cases such as his.

Knowing his story at Good Mews, Tava expected and was prepared for a period of adjustment, which turned out to be a matter of mere hours. By the end of the day, Clayton was happily curled up on her bed. From that point forward, he has become a totally different cat. He is happy, affectionate, and playful. Some time

later, Tava agreed to foster some kittens. In deference to Clayton’s history of disliking other cats, she put the kittens in a separate room with the door closed. Tava said that Clayton pawed at the door, seeming to want to enter, so she cautiously let him in. She was amazed to see Clayton licking the kittens, nuzzling them, and then settling down by their side.

Indeed, finding his forever home has had a transformative effect on Clayton. His is a success story in every important sense of the word.



Ways to Contribute: Kroger Community Rewards

Shop and support.



No math required.

Do you shop for groceries? Well, there couldn't be an easier way to help Good Mews as you are checking off your items on your shopping list.

Kroger Community Rewards is not only simple but saves you money while also contributing to Good Mews. Your Kroger Reward Shopper's Card gets you their lowest prices, while Good Mews earns

donations based upon the money you spend at the Kroger family of stores.

Learn more at kroger.com/communityrewards to enroll today and link your shopper's card to Good Mews. Annual renewal is no longer required. You can check your receipt at any time to make sure that Good Mews is still assigned to your card. You can help feed the kitties while you feed your family!

Wishlist

-  **HP 94X/CF294X Toner Cartridge**
-  **Nitrile Exam Gloves, Medium**
-  **Copy/Printer Paper**
-  **Feline Greenies Treats**
-  **Fancy Feast Canned Food
("Classic Pate - Chicken")**
-  **Puppy Pads**
-  **Nutramax Cosequin for Cats**

MEMORIALS & Honorariums

IN MEMORY OF

Abby, Jullian, and Lilly Adams

Animal

Annabelle, Napoleon, and Pebble

Ariel Blenner

Azzi

Barnaby, Fluffy, Happy,

Lazarus, Lily, and Sidney

Bekah "Sweet Angel"

Bella

Bitten and Seven

Bobby Jackson

Bootsie

Carla Knight

Carley Jackson

Catarina

Charlie McDonald

Clemetine

Clover Schleif

Connie Baker

Cookie

Crooky/Crooked Tail

Curly Kingberg

Daksha

Dale Heatherington

Dali and Picasso

David Ellis

Dona Cole

Donna Pease

Frog, Gypsy, Katy, Shadow,

and Woodstock

Fuzz

Gary W. Daniel

Gena Bullard

George Kasner

Gowan Babcock

Haley

Herschel Walker Cantelmo

FROM

Gena Adams

Christine Hilley

Raleigh C. McLaughlin

Kendra Ledlow, Linda Smith,

Michelle Kirkham

Kathryn Salos

Dr. Laura Dabundo

Veronica Happel

The Bryant Family

Charmon Talley

Jennifer Jackson

Dawn Gillerman, Erika, and kids

Deana and Mike Garner

Ande and Linda Baron

C J Colvert

Linda Allen, Nancy McDonald

Betty and Henry Apt

Anne Farmer, Linda Allen,

Lori Trahan, Michelle Kirkham

Caroline and Matt Naughton

Gloria Stadler

Linda Smith

Gail Detraz

Sarah Holliday

Linda Smith

Elizabeth Estrada

Genevieve Silvia

Brad Ramsey and Mellgwin

William Lance Russell

Lois, Paul and Leanna Wharram

Beverly Ann Lanier

Linda Marcusen, Lynne Mattison,

Maureen Yvonne Lindsey

Joy Chandler

Bruce von Stein

Kathy and Scott Beamer

Laura Carter

Lynn Duhn

Hey Black Cat	Deborah and Jim Tenney
Hobie	Georja and Karl Freedman
Homer Boatright	Adrienne Dickerson, Shelia and Steve Moore
Inky	Felizitas and James M Standeford
Jane Palmer	Alan Bryden, Alice David, Andy Davidson, Atlanta Jung Society Executive Board, Chris McDonough, David Millians, Crystal Laraine O'Leary-Davidson, Deborah Herberger, Dinah Monk, Emily Wagner, Eric Rice, Megan Hart, Jack and Robyn Verner, Michael Todd, Laura Turner Benali, Lisa Evans, Martin Gleason, Mary McCarty Earley, Nydia, Tim, Nathaniel, and Lucas Macedo, Pauline Benney, Peter Krynski, Ulisses Spiele Richard Dansky, Rob Boley, Ruth Laird, Sara Wilson, Timothy Brown, Tori Snell
Janice Cork	Alan and Anne Taetle, Rebecca Bridges Alan and Beth Meyers, John Cork, Andrea Gooldy, Arthur D Baker III, Barbara Fetty, Howard Silverman, Caryl Anne and Robert Lane, Cathy Miller, Chris Huff, Martin Jones, Hanna Meyers, Janet Locklear
Jasmine Smith	Anne Farmer, Cherie MacGeorge, Christi Fisher, Kendra Ledlow, Cynthia and Karyn Trahan, Linda and Lonnie Smith, Lori Trahan, Michelle Kirkham, Tom, Linda, and Kelly McNamara
Jazmin Freedman	Corrine Kock, Lori Trahan, Michelle Kirkham
Jessie Smith	Linda and Lonnie Smith
Jingle	Jeanne Jalbert
John-Paul Majewski	Chris and Lisa Majewski, Michelle Kirkham Jennifer Tindell and Advocacy Trust,
Kay Blair	Gordon and Penny Depledge
Kitty	Deanna Thomas
Laurel "Lolly" Wilk Hoessler	Cathleen Cunliffe, CRMSA, Karen Wilson, PCSD Library Department, Kathleen Schumacher, Susan Hughes
Liberty and Lillith	Sharon Griffith
Lily Grace	Judith Adams
Linus Richardson	Grover Richardson
Lt Dan	Linda Smith, Michelle Kirkham
Luna Skyes	Laurie Dunn Attaway
Mandy and Rusty	Retha Stephens
Mara and Tinkerbelle	Patricia Ann Bell
Marcine Jacobs	Karen and Kevin Brey, Stephen Crump
Marty and Murphy	Pat Green

Mary F. Wilson	Guy S. Wilson
Mildred Miley	Gene and Michelle McRee
Minx (Sassafras)	Kim and Philip Roenitz, Lori Trahan, Maurice and Wendy Frank
Mittie, Nicky, and Romi	Marilyn Hall
Mo	Dan, Elise, Cisco, and Missi MacIntyre
Mojo Meagh	Christine Meagh
Mooch and Pinto	The Bryant Family
Moose McMullan	Sarah Poland
Myra Samuels	Cherie MacGeorge, Sharon Molnar Schleif
Opal	Linda Smith
Opus	Claudia Saari
Pamela Karr	Barbara Galinac
Paul W. Ruopp	John Ruopp
Peanut	Lara Roenitz
Phil Haseltine	Dale and Mary McCoy, Daniel and Elana Rios, Keast/Schoppa Family, Keith and Laurie Kalet
Pippin	Elizabeth Stansel
Pogue Braver	Anne Farmer, Christi Fisher, Lori Trahan, Kevin, Tracey, Lucy, Jack, Goose, Maddie, Emmy, Otto, and Pippi Brabant, Linda Smith, Michelle Kirkham
PoPo	Eloise Maxey
Prince	Nancy Reeder
Ralph Meyo and Elke	Beverly Ann Kinsey
Romeo	Joe and Michele Bautsch
Rowena McIntire	Dan and Donna Amick, Darci Dunnagan, Linda Leckrone
Ruby	Deborah Paulding
Ruth "Odie" Nolan	Alex Bierhuis
Sami Weinbergstein	Alan, Lisa, Bella, Evie, and Luna Spears, Anne Farmer, Dottie Keebler, Christina and James Graubard, David and Sandie Rapaport, Good Mews Kitties
Schnapps	Leigh Davidson
Sherry Dunn	Laurie Dunn Attaway
Singer	Debbie Pate, Joe Wright
Sweetie	Karla and Gary Phillips
T.C. Wright	Dorothy Mattern
Taylor Smith	Anne Farmer, Cherie MacGeorge, Christi Fisher, Kendra Ledlow, Cynthia and Karyn Trahan, Kelly, Tom, and Linda McNamara, Lonnie and Linda Smith, Lori Trahan, Michelle Kirkham
T-Bone	Glenn and Leslie Dyke
Tommy Tubbs and cat kids	Kathy Tubbs
Puff, 1/4 till 12, Ed, and Rudy	

Trouble Jones
Tucker
Tux Klim
Zoe McDaniel

Mary Rice
Mark and M.E. Sarotte
Jean Klim
Amy McDaniel

IN HONOR OF FROM

Argentina Lamas
Anne Farmer
Anne France Tremage
Bette Hamilton
Callie
Charly
Chelsea Harmon
Chris and Mary Pollock
Christi and Greg Fisher
Dawn von Cramon
Denise Fritz
Emily Newman
Good Mews Volunteers
Hershey Quattrone
Holly Elmore and
her lovely kitty family
Isabela
Jasper and Milo Chambers
Jeanne and Tom Allbee
Julie and Deuteronomy
Karen Gryson
Karen Marler
Karen Redlew
Kashi
Kristen Moody
Lyra and Pete
Marianna Spain

Marilyn Parks
Mary McGahey Sheldon
Melissa Komitor
Mrs Roanna Hernandez
Nancy Hintz
Peggy Hellen
Pumpkin and Tom Cat
Rambo
Robyn Miller
Sarah Andrews
Thumbelina
Truman

Leanne Belletti
Bette and Spook Hamilton
Elle Champion
April Conaway
Carol Palmer
Jo McDonough
Carrie, Nick, Kittem, Bean, and Henry Giglio
Elizabeth Neilson
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fisher
Bette and Spook Hamilton
Annette Goddard
Dene Sheheane
Elizabeth Goldschmid
Amy, Coley, and P.C. McDaniel
Kimberly Ferguson

Chuck Wilberger and Tia Lynn
Sharon Kay Hisaw
Wendy Barnes
Helen Smith
Bill and Doris McFarland, Linda Smith
Anne and Stephen Lanzit
Bette and Spook Hamilton
Andrea Cartier
Lynnette and Aaron Damone Chard
Pam Raines
A H Spitz, Patricia Thrope,
Barbara Thorpe Cartee
Don and Regenia Doyle
Kathleen McGahey
Ann Lucas
Jane and Brian Renz
Jennifer Gronholm
Phyllis Lowe
Raleigh C. McLaughlin
Clyde and Marie Pettet
Karen Grant
Cynthia, Karyn, and Lori Trahan
Vicki Harcrow
Judith Brown

**Donations received February 1, 2021
through May 31, 2021**

Medical Mews: Hannah's Mysterious Malady

by Jeff Libby

It is time again to welcome you to Medical Mews and share the story of Hannah, an affectionate little gray dilute calico kitten who first came to Good Mews in late January.

Hannah arrived at Good Mews indirectly through Cobb County Animal Services, after an advocate of the shelter noticed she was not eating well and in general was failing to thrive. This advocate adopted Hannah with the intention of re-homing her once her health improved, but it soon became clear Hannah had some serious gastrointestinal problems and needed a watchful care team to help get to the bottom of her health condition. And while the full GM staff has worked closely with Hannah while she has been in the shelter, both our volunteer extraordinaire, Anne Farmer, and our director of operations, Kendra Ledlow, took turns to intermittently foster her when Hannah was at her most frail.

To say Hannah's illness and treatment have been extensive would be an understatement. She had one visit to the emergency room for vomiting and diarrhea three weeks prior to arriving at Good Mews. She improved briefly, but then when the GM staff began weaning her off of some medications, Hannah's gastrointestinal illness would come roaring back. Thus began a long cycle where Hannah would improve for a few days, only to deteriorate for another couple days with more bouts of vomiting, loose stool, constipation, reduced appetite, and failure to gain weight. Under the direction of our shelter veterinarian, Dr. Judy Johnson, Hannah had a variety of blood tests and fecal panels performed, none of which showed any infectious cause, such as having parasites or a bacterial imbalance. With no definitive



diagnosis, multiple courses of treatment were done in trial, including dozens of food options, medications, and frequent administrations of fluids to keep Hannah hydrated.

Eventually, Dr. Johnson felt the best course of action was to collaborate with our surgical veterinarian, Dr. Braver, to do an abdominal exploratory surgery to see exactly what was going on inside of this little girl. They sent biopsy samples of her intestines and lymph nodes to Colorado State University, which revealed lymph node hyperplasia (extra growth of the lymph node cells in response to infection or inflammation) and gastritis (inflammation of the stomach lining), indicating Hannah may have either GI lymphoma or inflammatory bowel disease, which are uncommon in a young cat like her. Thankfully, steroids can be used to treat both conditions, so Dr. Johnson started Hannah on a regimen of those, as well as some anti-nausea and GI motility drugs, to keep her bowel movements regular. After a few days, we finally found a food that Hannah loved (and still does!) that is rabbit-protein based. Now, she never misses a meal! With this combination of therapies, Hannah has been doing really well since early May, and we are optimistic that she will continue to thrive! We are hopeful that Hannah will be ready to find her forever home soon.

Kittens Are Indeed in Need

by Chelsie Butler

Kitten season in Georgia usually starts in April but, because of 2021's mild winter, cats started breeding even earlier than normal. According to Kendra Ledlow, Good Mews' director of operations, "kitten season" is a term the animal welfare world uses to describe the time of year when cats are breeding at the highest rate compared to the rest of the year.

"Since a cat's gestation period is only about two months in length and cats can get pregnant again while they are still nursing/weaning their litter of kittens, cats can have several litters back-to-back until they are spayed," she explained. "So, it can really seem like the kittens are never ending. Between our placement and CCP (Community Cat Program) emails along with social media outlets, we get dozens of requests each week. Sadly, it's impossible to help everyone but we certainly do our best!"

Overcoming Challenges

There are several extra hurdles during kitten season. Ledlow has to make the difficult determination of how many kittens Good Mews can care for properly – either in the shelter or in foster homes – while also knowing that kittens get adopted rather quickly.

Kittens' developing immune systems put them at risk of sickness and disease, so it is a challenge to keep them healthy during this vulnerable time while they await adoption.

"It's like sending your kid to daycare where they are likely to pick up a stomach bug or stuffy nose," said Ledlow. "Kittens thrive better in a home, so we try to keep them with their foster parents as long as possible, until it's time to come to the shelter for spay/neuter and to meet prospective adopters."

Perhaps the biggest challenge is the emotional toll that affects Good Mews staff and

volunteers, as the public does not always understand when the shelter has to say no to taking in more cats and kittens.

"We try to maintain the clarity and confidence that we are working as hard as we can to help as many cats as is responsibly possible within our means," explained Ledlow. "Good Mews is not the only organization, so it's also important to cheer on other groups that are doing the same kind of work so that as a whole the entire community is helping more cats and kittens."

Putting the Foster Program to Good Work

Last year, Good Mews promoted Heather Hart to the role of foster care coordinator, which has streamlined the foster program to better manage foster residents. Her main duties include onboarding new foster volunteers, ensuring that home inspections stay up to date per Georgia Department of Agriculture requirements, and scheduling preventive care appointments with the staff at the shelter.

Ledlow says another major help during kitten season is the Good Mews Community Cat Program, which meets the goal of spaying and neutering 80 to 100 cats weekly.

If you are interested in helping Good Mews during the hectic and often emotional kitten season, fostering is always an option, as is being a part of the TNR (trap-neuter-return) team. Also refer to our Amazon wish list if you'd like to donate some supplies.

"Working together to educate the public on when kittens truly need to be removed from their outdoor environment – as well as how they can take care of them to help area shelters – is helpful," said Ledlow. "A lot of times if a good Samaritan can keep a litter until it is weaned, that removes several weeks of care at a shelter, and then they can more easily come in and quickly to get ready for adoption."

Raising Bottle Babies

by Ashe Johnson

This year's kitten season has been particularly overwhelming, and shelters everywhere need fosters willing to open their homes and hearts to kittens in need. If you're thinking of becoming a foster parent, here is some basic information to get you started on your journey!

When a kitten comes into your care, the first thing you'll want to do is ensure she is warm. Neonatal kittens cannot regulate their own temperatures, therefore it's up to foster moms and dads to help them stay warm. Do not attempt to feed a kitten unless the kitten is warm; cold kittens cannot digest formula. A great source of consistent warmth is a heating pad on the lowest setting.

KMR, or kitten milk replacement, formula is the best option for feeding bottle-aged kittens. This can be obtained as a powder or a liquid and is typically available at pet stores. Felines should not be fed cow's milk.

Bottle kits with a variety of nipple tops can also be found at pet stores. If you have time to prepare ahead of time, kits can also be purchased online. Many of these have tops without holes, and you'll want to follow the directions on the kit to make the right-sized hole. If the kitten is only a week or two old, a small syringe may be a better option for feeding – in these cases you'll want to feed very slowly to prevent aspiration.

When feeding the kitten, be sure he or she is in a belly-down position like they would be if they were feeding from mom cat. Guide the nipple to the kitten's mouth; the nipple can be moved back and forth in the kitten's mouth to try to encourage it to latch. Do not force the kitten to eat; it can aspirate on the formula, which can lead to death. Once it has figured out there's food inside, a hungry kitten is likely to latch onto the nipple and will let go and turn its head aside once it's full.

Kittens will need to be fed every two to six hours, depending on their age. Helpful charts

to determine the correct feeding times for your kitten's age can be found online from reputable sources such as the Kitten Lady.

Before and/or after the kitten eats, you'll need to stimulate the kitten to help it pee and poop. Typically, the mom cat would do this by licking with her rough tongue. The same can be accomplished by using tissues, toilet paper, or a moist washcloth and rubbing the kitten's bottom. If a kitten does not poop for 48 hours or develops diarrhea, he or she will need to see a veterinarian as soon as possible.

Another important step is regular weigh-ins. These can be accomplished with a kitchen scale and a bowl large enough to fit the kitten in. Regularly weighing the kittens and keeping a chart of their weights can help track if they are getting enough nutrients or have a health issue.

When a kitten becomes lethargic or unresponsive, suspect Fading Kitten Syndrome. Kittens are very vulnerable, and this can develop without warning. If the kitten is too hot or too cold, gradually cool or heat them to get their temperature back to normal. If their gums are dry or white, rub Karo syrup on their gums every few minutes to get their blood sugar level up. If these measures do not help the kitten improve, the kitten will need to see a vet ASAP.

When the kittens have grown to two pounds, they weigh enough to be spayed or neutered, and it's time for them to find their forever homes. From their tiny eyes peeping open, to the first purr, to a few weeks old when they begin to play with their siblings, it's magical watching a kitten grow and bittersweet saying goodbye.

Fostering kittens is hard work, and goodbye is perhaps the hardest part. But for every goodbye, there will be a new hello and another life saved!



Announcing our 2021 Gala: Barn Cat Bash!

Join us as we celebrate the success of our community cat program and fill you in on ways that we can make it even better. This year, we will relax a bit as we encourage you to dress "in theme" with jeans, overalls, flannel, and straw hats. Don't miss this FUN event!

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

Date: November 6, 2021

Time: 7 PM

Place: Olde Towne Athletic Club, Marietta

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.



Lori Trahan - President,
Board of Directors

Lori Trahan has been a Good Mews volunteer for 20 years and currently serves as the president of the board

of directors. She has seen many changes at Good Mews throughout two decades, the biggest being our move into our current facility.

What Lori loves most about her position on the board is helping to plot the direction of the organization. She also has a particular passion for disaster operations and enjoys deployments which help animals in crisis situations. Lori serves as the chair of our disaster committee, keeping the team aware of potentially impending needs and educational opportunities in the area of disaster response.

When asked what she thinks makes Good Mews different, she says it's "...the passion every volunteer shows for the cats...and shows them the same amount of care and compassion they show the cats in their own homes. I've never seen that level of care in any other organization."

Lori lives in Villa Rica with her own self-proclaimed "zoo" of cats and works at Kennesaw State University. Her favorite thing about cats is that they bring their people "presents." Her cat, Toby, has two catnip cookies he enjoys bringing her and is her only cat who does this. "If I don't praise him enough (usually because I'm sleeping), he will also bring me his mustache or chicken and waffle toys. I end up with a bed full of gifts from Toby because I had the nerve to sleep through the first couple of presents. It makes me feel like he's thanking me for loving him so much."

Kendra Ledlow -
Director of Operations



Kendra Ledlow began as a volunteer with Good Mews in 2016, medicating shelter residents. In 2017, she was hired as a feline care technician, then later promoted to the position of shelter manager. In 2020, the board advanced her to the position of director of operations as part of a strategic initiative to transition the board from an operational board to one of governance, to put Good Mews on a healthy path for future growth.

She is responsible for supervising the entire current staff, managing both employees as well as many volunteers. Her duties include everything from working with our shelter veterinarian to determine the proper medical course of action for our residents and communicating that to staff and volunteers involved with their direct care to coordinating "rescue pulls" at metro municipal shelters in effort to save as many lives as possible.

Kendra's favorite thing about Good Mews is the way each cat is treated as an individual and best efforts are made to accommodate the needs of every resident, whether those be medical, behavioral, or otherwise.

Regarding cats, Kendra says she admires "...their ability to love unconditionally...it's an honor to be a recipient of love from hundreds of cats each year."

Kendra lives in Acworth with Justin, her supportive husband of four years, and their two dogs and five cats.



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.



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