



Francis' Tales

328 Upper Gulph Road Radnor, PA 19087 | francisvalehome.org | 610-688-1018

Spring 2021

BROUGHT TO YOU BY FRANCISVALE HOME FOR SMALLER ANIMALS

Spotlight on Seniors

What do these four adorable animals have in common – you guessed it – they are all seniors! There are so many benefits to adopting a senior and letting them live out their golden years in the comfort of a loving home.

Many rescues and shelters, including Francisvale, have their share of seniors, and sometimes struggle to place these older pets in a home. According to data from PetFinder.com, senior cats and dogs typically spend nearly four times as long in shelters as younger animals. Of shelters surveyed, 28 percent said seniors are the hardest animals to adopt out.

So here are a few wonderful things that adopters should know about sharing their lives with older pets:

- You definitely know what you are getting as their personalities are well established
- Most are already house trained and have left behind their destructive phase, your shoes and carpets will thank you
- They are much calmer and less likely to disturb your sleep
- They like being couch potatoes and will keep you company watching your favorite TV shows

- Many of them are happy with shorter walks and play sessions
- They provide unconditional love and companionship for which there is no substitute.

And what does a senior ask for in return for giving us all these amazing benefits, just that you provide them with a safe and loving home.

Here is a short bio of the four seniors pictured here (from top to bottom).

Molly - a 10-year-old sweetheart of a girl who just wants love and a comfy bed.

Bentley - a special needs 9-year-old boy who will follow you around like a little puppy and is happy with his treats and pets. **Fabio** - a 14-year-old little guy with a hearty appetite and lots of energy who loves to go for walks. **Muffin** - a 10-year-old fabulous feline who knows what she wants and is content to be your only BFF.

For more information on these fabulous four and to meet our other seniors, Cutie, Rudy, Pierce and Mystique, please go to our website at francisvalehome.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

Francisvale is a no-kill shelter whose mission is to accept cats and dogs in need and provide loving care while looking for permanent homes.

- Shelter and place abused, unwanted and abandoned companion animals
- Educate the community to raise the public's awareness of the plight of homeless animals and realize the benefits of adopting an animal in need
- Ensure all pets receive any medically necessary treatment, including being spayed/neutered
- Place in appropriately matched homes
- Manage and operate a memorial pet cemetery



Disaster Planning for Dog and Cat Owners



What you need to Keep your Pets Safe

Emergencies come in many forms, and they may require anything from a brief absence from your home to permanent evacuation. It can also come in the form of prolonged quarantine or illness as many have experienced during this covid pandemic. So it is important to take the time to make certain that you and your furry family members have everything you need to be prepared. Here are some simple steps you can follow now to be ready for any disaster that may come your way.

Rescue Alert Sticker - ideally, you should evacuate with your pet, but if you are unable to do so, a rescue alert sticker placed near your front door will let rescue workers know what types and number of pets in your home. These stickers are available at Franciscvale, other shelters and most pet stores.



The ASPCA recommends assembling a disaster prep kit with the following items:

1. **Plenty of food and water** – three to seven days' worth in airtight containers in addition to serving bowls;
2. **Medications** – be sure to have some extra medications on hand as you may not be able to reach your veterinarian;
3. **First Aid Kit** – these can be purchased through most pet retailers or can be assembled at home

4. **Leash, harness, collar and appropriate identification** – make sure that all your pets are microchipped and that any collar has the most current identification attached. And, don't forget your pet's carriers
5. **Arranging a Safe Haven** – if you cannot keep your pet with you after you evacuate, it is important to determine where you will bring your pets ahead of time, such as boarding at your veterinarian, hotels that take pets, or friends and relatives. When choosing a caregiver be sure to pick someone you trust and who understands the responsibility of caring for your pet.
6. **Important documents** – you should keep a copy of your pet's medical records, veterinary information, microchip number and picture of your pet in a waterproof bag
7. **Sanitary solutions** – litter, litter box and newspapers for cats and pee pads for puppies, in addition to disposable bags, liquid dish soap and disinfectant.
8. **Extras** – try and include their favorite blankets, bedding or toys and treats. And don't forget to have an emergency kit for the human members of the family.

If you have to shelter in place, consider the following when choosing a safe room: utility rooms, bathroom and basements may be easier to clean up after pet accidents; be sure to have a supply of fresh water, fill up bathtubs and sinks to ensure access to water during a power outage or other crises; in the event of flooding, go to the highest location in your home to take shelter; and finally, be aware of hazards such as windows, flying debris, etc.

Having a plan of action in place with your family and friends together with an emergency prep kit will help you and your pets remain healthy and safe all year-round.



Purple Shelter Project



We are pleased to announce a new partnership with Laurel House called the **"Purple Shelter Project"**. Francisvale has developed this project to not only provide a safe haven for animals in need but to also help victims leave an abusive relationship.

Laurel House is dedicated to ending domestic violence. Many times survivors are reluctant to leave a situation due to not wanting to leave their pets behind. Statistics show that 50-70% of survivors report that their pets had been threatened, harmed and/or killed by their partners. For years it has been a known fact that pet abuse is a significant predictor for domestic abuse. Often the severity of animal maltreatment is linked to the level of danger a victim of domestic violence is exposed to.

This project will allow the survivors accepted into the Laurel House shelter to bring their pets to stay at Francisvale. While the survivor is in transition, Francisvale will care for their pets in a safe and loving environment. This program will help ensure the pets' safety so that their owners can get the services they need to transition into a safe and stable home.

During their stay at Francisvale, pets of survivors will have access to the following: up to 30 days of shelter at no cost to the client or Laurel House; kennel space for dogs and community style housing for cats; veterinary care and medical treatment provided by Francisvale when needed, such as vaccines and wellness checks; food and exercise; and, most importantly, loving care.

Francisvale is proud to take its place among the 1,200 national safe havens for pets of domestic violence survivors. We are grateful to have this opportunity to help fill this important need in the community and we hope that you will support our efforts. For more information or an opportunity to support the Purple Shelter Project go to our website at francisvalehome.org, or email us at executivedirector@francisvalehome.org



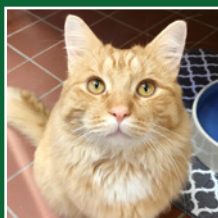
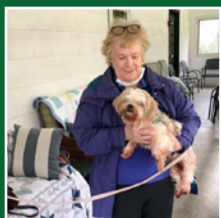
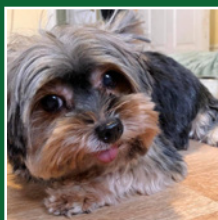
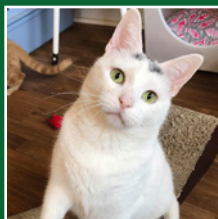
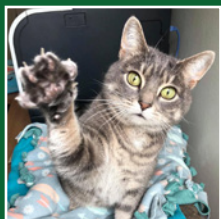
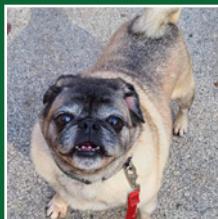
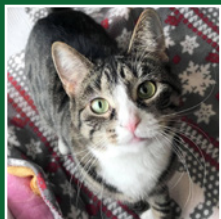
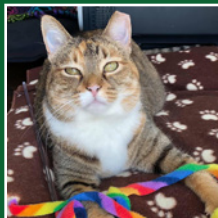
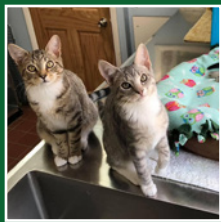
Your Generous Support at Work

Because of your support we were able to continue our lifesaving work, even during this global pandemic. For a cat named Samantha, you made it possible for her to have her babies in a safe and loving environment. After a good Samaritan found Samantha living on the street she brought her to Francisvale on a Monday afternoon in December. The very next morning Samantha gave birth to six adorable kittens.

Your donations allowed us to provide Samantha with the opportunity to nourish and care for her kittens until they were able to be vaccinated, spayed/neutered, microchipped, and adopted out to their forever homes.

You can view Samantha and her son Mistletoe, who are still looking for their forever home, and our other adoptable furries on our website at francisvalehome.org.

This is just one of the many ways in which you, our valued donors, have made a difference - We could not do this without You. For more ways to lend your support, you can send an email to executivedirector@francisvalehome.org, check our website, visit our Facebook page, and/or check our wish list on Amazon.com.






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A SEASONAL PUBLICATION DEDICATED
TO GIVING ANIMALS A VOICE IN THE WORLD




Doggie Data



-  There is a hidden frequency in the Beatles album Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band that only dogs can hear – and it was included on purpose! The Beatles patched in frequencies inaudible to humans, including a high whistle in the album's last song, "A Day in the Life." Paul McCartney has been quoted suggesting, "If you ever play Sgt. Pepper, watch your dog."
-  As the spring months start to warm up, many pooches will be spending more time outside in the heat. Sprinklers and water hoses can make for some cooling off but it is important to remember that dogs are prone to overheating much more than humans. For some added relief, fill an ice cube tray or ice pop mold with dog friendly freezable foods, such as mashed banana and pumpkin, peanut butter, chicken or beef broth or yogurt and blueberries.
-  Can dogs get sunburned? Yes, dogs are especially vulnerable to the sun if they have short fur or light skin, or if their coat has been shaved. Ears, noses and bellies are easily burned areas. To protect your pup, you can apply special dog sunscreen, put a light shirt on her or just keep her out of the sun during peak hours.

Feline Facts



-  A cat's tongue is covered in tiny spines made of keratin, the same protein that makes up human fingernails. These spines, called papillae, are responsible for the sandpaper-like texture of a cat's tongue. They function like brush bristles, allowing cats to clean their coats effectively.
-  The scientific name for the catnip plant is *Nepeta Cataria*. It is estimated that between 70 and 80 percent of cats are responsive to catnip. Experts believe that responsiveness to the herb is a hereditary trait that can be passed from cats to kittens. Catnip is nonaddictive, and smelling the herb is totally safe for cats, although if they eat too much of it, they can vomit or have diarrhea. So if you want your cat to keep feeling the highs, try giving her catnip once every couple of weeks.
-  Ever notice your cat opening his mouth when he's taking a whiff of something? While the open-mouthed expression can look a little funny, it's actually quite functional. Cats have a sensory organ located on the roof of their mouth, behind the teeth known as the Jacobson's organ. This unique structure processes scents and relays scent signals to the brain.

