

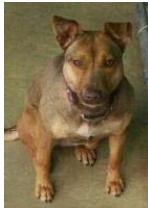
Paw Prints

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NEW INFO

The SCFA newsletter will now be issued quarterly to advance our general meetings. This issue also marks the transition to electronic distribution of the newsletter. A big thank you to Marianne Mason for all her hard work in making this happen.

To continue to receive the newsletter by email, be sure to contact secretary@secondchanceforanimals.org if your email address changes.

Message from Lynn Lawson

As Second Chance for Animals (SCFA) continues to evolve, we need to periodically check to ensure that what we are doing continues to meet the needs of the Franklin Township Animal Shelter. After much discussion and evaluation it has been determined that we have a greater need for help to prepare the shelter on Saturdays prior to the doors being opened for adoptions.

What this means is that effective March 15, we need all



volunteers who have signed up to work at the shelter on a

given Saturday (whether you are a cat or dog person) to arrive at 10 a.m. Once at the shelter we will need your help with any (or all) of the following:

- cleaning cages
- washing food bowls
- washing litter boxes
- sweeping
- organizing the food room (or shed, or office)
- preparing newspaper for cages pooper scooping the yard

- cleaning out carriers and stacking them in a shed

If you wish to clean cat cages, then we will always start with the first cat room (just behind the office) because the cats that are up for adoption will be in that room. See your Team Leader if you need to know where to start.

Hands-on work (grooming, socialization) with the animals will not begin until noon but we need all volunteers to arrive by 10 a.m. If the
(Continued on Page 5)

Like a Fine Wine, Shelter Animals Get Better with Age

Phat Girl has decided to take a break. What do you want for free help? So Audrey kindly offered to be a guest columnist for this issue. If you would like to suggest topics or pose questions to our resident columnist, email her at:

PhatGirl@secondchanceforanimals.org

Puppies, puppies, puppies! Sometimes I get sick of



hearing about them. Sure, they're cute, but

when it comes to bringing a new friend into your home, I'll go with an older dog or cat every time.

Maybe I'm a little biased, but I think older dogs and cats make great pets. One thing

that really makes me grumble is when people think that an older animal has been brought to a shelter because there's something "wrong" with him or her. What bunk! There are plenty of reasons why senior animals wind up at shelters, and it usually has nothing to do with us or our behavior. Some animals were abandoned, some were surrendered because the family
(Continued on Page 7)

June Moon Run

The June Moon Run is an annual event organized by the Central Jersey Roadrunners and they donate a portion of their proceeds to SCFA, whose volunteers have helped them with the event each year. This is a fun event and a great chance to help another organization while helping the shelter animals.

We will need lots of help for this year's June Moon Run on June 20.

A small group of volunteers is needed from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and more volunteers are needed to arrive at 6:30 p.m. and stay until 9 p.m.

To sign up, contact Alicia Bottari at (732) 356-0722.

Shake-A-Can

Volunteers are needed to help with the following Shake-A-Can events from. There are two shifts between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.:

- April 12 –
Franklin Park Stop & Shop
- June 7 –
Easton Ave. Stop & Shop
- June 14 –
Franklin Park Stop&' Shop
- September 20 –
Franklin Park Stop & Shop
- November 22 –
Franklin Park Stop & Shop

To sign up contact Alicia Bottari at (732) 846-0311.

Please see more Fundraising stories on Page 8.

Adoptathon May 3 & 4

SCFA and the Franklin Township Animal Shelter will be participating in the May Adoptathon once again this year. This is a global adoption event that helps raise awareness of shelter animals and gives us a chance to find more animals homes.

On Sat., May 3, PetsMart volunteers meet first at the shelter at 9 a.m. to transport animals to the store. They are needed until 3 p.m. Shelter volunteers also are needed that day from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

On Sun., May 4, volunteers are

needed for adoptions at PetsMart from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers need to stop at the shelter at 9:30 a.m. before going to the store. Also on Sunday, people are needed for adoptions at the shelter from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We need your help to make this adoption weekend a success. If you are able to help with adoptions, contact Alicia Bottari at (732) 846-0311. If you can help promote the event by distributing fliers, contact Sandy Koehler Lee at (732) 356-0722 or reach@secondchanceforanimals.org.

Gertrude Hawk Raises More Than \$2K

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped raise \$2,784 for the shelter animals through the Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale Fundraiser.

Santa Paws Another Success

Our Santa Paws fundraiser was another great success, raising about \$2,700 at PetsMart and Planet Pet for the shelter animals.

We would not have been able to achieve this without the help of our volunteers.

Thank you to the following people who helped make sure people and their pets got wonderful photos with Santa at PetsMart: Amy Anderson, Chuck Augello, Loretta Borowsky, Roni Cammarata, Alicia DeSordi, Diana and Anielle Doherty, Val Griffin, Barbara Heath, Jamie Hodge,

Claire Hughes, Sharavati and Prashant Joshi, Jessica Kansiz, Cheryl and Ron Kornacivich, Renee Kurkin, Sharon Larson, Sandy and Joe Lee, Andi and Jourdan Masullo, Catherine Miller, Kathryn Moser, Joy O'Reilly, Jennifer Peppe, Julie Percarpio, Carol and Leo Prevoznak, Marjorie Romasz, Maureen Sullivan, Marlene Varon, Don and Alane Vogel and Leslie Zipper.

And thank you to these volunteers who helped with Santa Paws at the Pet Planet store: Shafik El-Shragty, Jennifer Merz and Stacy Merz.

Volunteer Spotlight - Joyce Cotay

Joyce Cotay first visited the Franklin Shelter after Jesse, her 3-year old Black Lab/ German Shorthair



recently celebrated their one-year “anniversary.” Joyce now considers Abbey one of the greatest joys of her life.

pointer, died of cancer in 2001. She was donating some dog supplies she thought she’d no longer need. It was an emotional experience for Joyce, who got teary-eyed as she spoke with a volunteer. A few months later, Joyce returned to the shelter - only this time for a much happier occasion. She adopted Abbey, a 4-month old shepherd/collie/husky mix, one of the former barn puppies brought to the shelter that winter. That same month, Joyce joined SCFA as a volunteer.

Raising Abbey was no easy task. “It was tough because she was so shy,” Joyce said. “She had never been in a house before and at first she was terrified.” Joyce helped Abbey by giving her lots of time and lots of love. Add lots of people, and you have a recipe for a happy dog. During her lunch hour, Joyce would visit Abbey and bring home a different co-worker each day to help her adjust to meeting new people. Her strategy definitely worked as Abbey grew into a playful, friendly dog. Abbey and Joyce

Fortunately for the other shelter animals, Joyce gives the same dedication to her work with SCFA. A member of the fundraising committee, Joyce is currently arranging a Second Chance fundraising event with the Somerset Patriots and also coordinating our involvement in the Super Pet Expo this fall. She was a key player at last year’s Flea Market and is a frequent member of the Shake-A-Can brigade. She also wrote last year’s successful Fundraising letter. Because she’s allergic to cats, Joyce usually works with the dogs and attends the Thursday night Socialization whenever she can.

A New Jersey native, Joyce works as an ILS Developer writing technical documents for Telcordia Technologies. When she’s not working or volunteering, Joyce likes to spend time with her family and friends, and no friend is more important than Abbey. “She’s a *great* dog,” Joyce said. Because Joyce is a *great* volunteer, it’s a perfect match.

SCFA Welcomes New Volunteers

We are pleased to welcome the following new volunteers who attended the training seminars in January, February and March 2003:

January

Joe Barrington
Nicole Bredefeld
Nancy Indri
Doris Kleissler
Barbara Lazo
Jes Marusiak
Gerianne Monteiro
Patricia Teffenhart
Jennifer Watkins

February

Jerome Baran
Laura Caliguari
Sarah Christiano
Marilyn Dunn
Laurie Kramer
Allison Li Calsi
Barbara Mastroianni
Patrick Murray
Roseanna Picerno
Terri Thompson-Wusu
Danielle Yannetta
Carol Zvolensky

March

Michael Bardarik
Karen Behringer
Tami Corritore
Tracey Fama
Margaret Lutringer
William Lutringer
Hillary Sayell
Carol Wessocock

Next general volunteer training session will be 10:15 a.m. on April 5 at the library. If you would like to attend, please call Alicia Bottari at (732) 846-0311.

Remembering Special Friends

Second Chance For Animals gratefully acknowledges these gifts made in memory or in honor of a much-loved person or pet. We are honored to carry out our important mission in their names.

IN HONOR OF – (DONATED BY)

Jack Dolan for Christmas –
(Anne D. Fitzhenry)

Wedding of Nora Breen and Brad Vanselous – (Linda Alpert, Alicia Bottari)
(Debra Burns and Bill Malloy)

IN MEMORY OF – (DONATED BY)

Mollie Angelina (at right) –
(Sandra Hallman)



Katie's Korner

Katie Nordhaus, the Franklin Shelter manager, can be reached at (732) 873-2500, ext. 255



Leaders and anyone assisting with adoptions at PetsMart.

The receipt book for SCFA Spay/Neuter has three receipt copies. The white copy goes to the adopter, the pink one stays in the book and the yellow one goes with the adoption paperwork and money that is returned to the shelter. Also, please remember to clearly write all medical information for the animal on the adoption contract.

Kitten season is here and anyone wishing to foster a litter of kittens this year should contact Katie. All foster volunteers should remember that they need to keep their kittens isolated from household animals to prevent pets from catching colds from their foster kitties. Volunteers should notify Katie of any changes in their fosters' conditions and return animals to the shelter as needed for check-ups or for adoption.

Just a friendly reminder to all Team

low one goes with the adoption paperwork and money that is returned to the shelter. Also, please remember to clearly write all medical information for the animal on the adoption contract.

If you see a wild animal that may need help, do not approach it or touch it. Contact your local animal shelter or local wildlife facility. (Also see our Paw Prints article from our August 2002 issue).

Spotlight on SCFA - the Outreach Committee

As the Outreach Chair and Editor of the newsletter, I am using my clout to make my committee the first one highlighted as part of a regular feature noting the various committees, what they do, what they're up to and what they need.

The Outreach Committee is seeking your help to get the word out. If you belong to a community group, religious organization or some other local entity that has a website, bulletin board or newsletter, we are looking for your help to get featured. We have a general press release that can be used or you could just include

basic information about the shelter and SCFA and how to reach us.

We're also looking for help to distribute fliers promoting the adoption May 3 and 4.

If you are able to help, contact Sandy at (732) 356-0722 or at reach@secondforanimals.org.

The Outreach Committee typically meets the second Wednesday of each month from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (check the SCFA website calendar) and we're always glad to see new faces.

Adoption Statistics

Below are the adoption statistics from January through February 2003:

	<u>PetsMart</u>	<u>Shelter</u>
January:	9	22
February:	<u>9</u>	<u>18</u>
Total:	18	40

SCFA Quarterly Meetings

SCFA meetings are held the first Tuesday of each quarter: January, April, July and October at the Senior Citizen Community Center. The next meeting will be held 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1.

Calendar of Events

April

- April 12 - Shake-A-Can; 10-3 at Franklin Park Stop & Shop
- April 15 - Fundraising Committee meeting; 7 p.m. at the library

May

- May 3 - PetsMart adoptions 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Shelter adoptions noon to 3 p.m.
- May 4 - PetsMart adoptions 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Shelter adoptions noon to 3 p.m.
- May 20 - Fundraising Committee meeting; 7 p.m. at the library

June

- June 20 - June Moon Run

July

- July 19 & 20 - Cat Show

October

- Oct. 10-12 - Super Pet Expo

See Committee Contacts on P. 6

Message from Lynn Lawson (Continued)

majority of this work is done prior to noon, it creates a better environment for the adopters and animals, frees the volunteers to talk with adopters and show the animals, creates less stress and confusion for anyone coming through the shelter, and allows all volunteers to socialize the animals.

Another area where SCFA desperately needs your help is regarding the expansion of the shelter. An architect has been chosen and plans are being drawn up at this time. We "hope" to break-ground in the spring of this year. With the shelter expansion drawing close, and the ever tightening municipal budget, it appears that there have been township residents coming to the town council meetings to contest the shelter expansion. We have been advised by the township

manager, Ken Daly, to have SCFA have representatives at every council meeting going forward. These meetings take place the 1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month (the 1st Tuesday is also when SCFA has their board meeting) at 8 p.m. An SCFA board member will be at the latter two meetings, but we need SCFA volunteers to help support us by coming to **every** meeting. Please contact me (732-271-1291) if you can help out in any way, even once every other month. You will be given talking points to help you if you need to address the council to counter someone speaking against the shelter expansion.

We also have letters (see the last two pages of the newsletter) to be used by SCFA volunteers and the public to send to Council members.

THANK YOU

SCFA would like to thank the following individuals for their generous donations (monetary and non monetary) to the organization:

Don Smith, owner of Loop Expert Technologies, Inc., for supplies & copy services

Joy O'Reilly for distributing the newsletter

Jack Dolan Plumbing & Heating (Buck-a-week Club)

Contributors to this issue: SCFA board, Amy Anderson, Chuck Augello.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP ANIMAL SHELTER

475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873
Phone: (732) 873-2500 ext. 255
Email: franklinShelter.475@juno.com
Hours: M-F 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.;
Sat. noon to 3 p.m.

SECOND CHANCE FOR ANIMALS

P.O. Box 5172, Somerset, NJ 08873
Phone: (732) 271-1291
Email: scfa1998@aol.com
Website: www.secondchanceforanimals.org

Animal Spotlight



Samantha is a stunning 2 year old Domestic Longhair kitty who is front declawed. Queen of all she surveys, she would prefer to be your only pet in a quiet, adult home. While she can be temperamental, she also is very loving and affectionate.



Hazel is a female Pit Bull mix who is about 2 years old. She is a little shy at first but warms up quickly and loves to nuzzle into you for petting. She absolutely loves people and does not want to share her new owners with other pets. Hazel also is an active girl who would be best in a home with older children.

Can you help do the shelter laundry so the animals have clean bedding? If so, please contact Lynn Lawson at (732) 271-1291.

Happy Ending



I work in an industrial area in a building that borders a large field. Last November, a co-worker of mine spied a fluffy black kitten in the bushes that line the front of the building. My “kitty-sense” told me that this little cutie belonged to our resident feral cat who has successfully eluded all attempts to catch her. Sure enough, Mama arrived about an hour later to retrieve her little bundle of joy. Later that week, we saw this kitten and its three siblings frolicking in the warm fall sun. My role as an SCFA volunteer left me conflicted – winter is not traditionally kind to any creature that doesn’t have sufficient food or shelter. But to these kittens, this was as good as it gets – warm sun, a Mama with lots of milk and plenty of play-mates. Mama must have picked up on my “kitty-sense” and moved the family away from our prying eyes soon after that last sighting. My dilemma seemed to work itself out.

Ah, but I spoke too soon.

Some time passed and I noticed a gray kitten in the same bushes against the building. My gut told me the Mama cat had had another litter. “Gray kitten” was fearful when approached, but looked very content to

be left alone to give herself a bath. I kept an eye on her with the hopes that Mama would show up and bring her home. Work got crazy and by 5 p.m., sun had set so I tried to reassure myself by repeating “Mama cat came and got her. Mama cat came and got her.”

While at my desk the following day, I heard a faint mewing and looked out the window. There was “Gray kitten” trying to walk, but obviously too weak and disoriented to make any progress. I bolted out the door and approached cautiously – I didn’t want to scare her in her already weakened state. “Gray kitten” was vainly trying to mew but she was so exhausted, she just lay down and let me pick her up. My initial reaction was to explode in an embarrassingly sloppy burst of crying, but I composed myself and as calmly as I could, asked a co-worker to bring me to the Franklin Township shelter. The ride took 5 minutes at most, but “Gray kitten” was so limp and quiet it seemed like forever! As soon as we made it to the shelter, “Gray kitten” must have known she was in good hands – she gathered her

remaining strength and let out a round of heart-felt “REAOW’s”. I was worried about her but I hoped that she would recover and find a home.

Much to my relief, I was greeted later that night with a call from Katie. “Gray kitten” had worms, but managed to wolf down an entire can of kitten food. I would like to say that I’m so glad I’m an SCFA volunteer. I treasure the presence of animals in my life and my world and this organization has helped me to give back to them in some small way. I’ve also had the chance to meet and work with some of the most dedicated, professional and kind people who help make some of the less happy moments easier to work through.

“Gray kitten,” who was adopted by a nice family, wasn’t my cat, but her presence alone touched me and I became instantly responsible for her and her well being. I think it is this “spontaneous responsibility” that brings us together to help these wonderful creatures have the best lives we can give them – they certainly deserve it!

Story by Amy Anderson

Contact Your Favorite Committee

Unless otherwise noted all emails are “committeename”@secondchanceforanimals.org

Volunteers - Alicia Bottari (732) 846-0311 or
volunteer@secondchanceforanimals.org

Events - events@

Fundraising - fundraising@

Animal Enrichment - Gingyrgrl@aol.com
Team Leaders - teamleader@

Older Animals Make Great Pets (Continued)

was moving and some families decide to give up their faithful friend because of a new baby. Sadly the fact that the animal has spent five or even 10 years with their family isn't always enough to encourage them to keep their pet.

I probably don't have to tell *you* guys why older animals might be a better fit for your lifestyle than a kitten who wants to climb your drapes or a puppy who has to go outside every three or four hours, but you know how some people think. It takes a Rottie to set the record straight. So the next time someone disses an older pet, bark back at them with some of these advantages of adopting an older pet:

- Older pets usually are housetrained before adoption.
- Older pets are past the teething and chewing stage.
- They should already know basic commands such as "sit" and "no."
- They are calmer and learn more quickly.
- They're full grown
- Their temperament is already developed.
- They often require less attention than younger pets and enjoy "quiet time" with the family.
- Older pets have been spayed or neutered and have all their shots.

See? I told you older pets are great. I saw on the Humane Society website that many pet experts think that older pet adoptions work so well because older pets appear to be very grateful for their new homes because they miss interacting with humans. I'm sure Phat

Girl would never forgive me if I didn't mention that all of this applies to cats as well. While a rambunctious kitten can keep you up all night, an older cat makes a great bedtime companion and will keep your lap warm while you read or watch TV.

If you are older yourself, an older pet will suit your pace and lifestyle more comfortably than a puppy or a kitten. Plus they'll benefit your health! Studies show that elderly pet owners have significantly lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels than elderly non-pet owners do.

Remember to feed them a pet food appropriate to their age and nutritional needs and provide them with sufficient exercise. If the older pet has impaired vision, you should avoid re-arranging furniture. With arthritic pets, you should eliminate or minimize the need to climb up and down stairs as much as possible. As always, you should consult your vet about any special needs your older pet might have.

Are you convinced yet? I'll admit that puppies and kittens are pretty good, too, but when you think about adopting or talk to someone else about adopting, don't forget us older guys and gals need homes and we often have to wait longer than the puppies and kittens. We make great companions, and for many potential adopters, we might just be the perfect fit.



Spot is a 9-year-old housetrained Dalmatian who is very quiet and calm.

A couch potato who knows the value of a good, fluffy dog bed, he came to the shelter because his owners were moving. This handsome boy has been at the shelter for months and is longing for an adult home where he can get some petting, love and treats.



Spanky is a robust grey and white tabby. He is 5 years old, neutered and front de-clawed. He is

a very social boy but would prefer to be your only pet in an adult household.

Top 10 Collection Canister Locations in 2002

We'd like to thank the following local businesses for their continuing support, which has helped us raise money to help the shelter animals. Thank you also to the volunteers who monitored the collection cans.

<u>Business and Location</u>	<u>Money Raised</u>
Nelson's Liquors, Somerset.....	\$788
Bagel & Deli, Somerset.....	\$556
Cedar Grove Liquors, Somerset.....	\$295
Cafe One, Somerset.....	\$154
Maple Tree Nurseries, Somerset	\$147
Buy Rite Liquors , Somerset.....	\$116
Nutri Mart, Somerset.....	\$102
Deli Stop, Somerset.....	\$ 95
Pets, Pets, Pets , Somerset.....	\$ 94
Delta Cleaners, Middlesex.....	\$ 86

\$10 K Grant for Spay/Neuter

Second Chance for Animals, Inc. received a \$10,000 grant from PETsMART Charities, Inc. in Phoenix, Arizona to support the shelter's spay/neuter program and help reduce the number of unwanted and homeless pets in the township.

Thanks to SCFA Board Member, Carol Prevoznak, we will be able to spay and neuter more shelter animals before they are placed for adoption. Spaying and neutering shelter animals before adoption will help reduce the number of unplanned litters and hopefully reduce the numbers of animals entering shelters and those that have to be euthanized.

Entertainment Books Raised Money

Our volunteers sold about 90 Entertainment Books, raising about \$480. Sharon Larson was the top seller with 17 books, Jennifer Peppe sold 9 and Alicia Bottari sold 5. Thank you to our top sellers and all the other volunteers who helped with this fundraising effort.

Cloning a Pet Doesn't Mean "Carbon Copy"

According to an article on www.cbsnews.com, cloned pets won't necessarily have the personality or even physical characteristics of your beloved original. Rainbow is a typical calico with splotches of brown, tan and gold on white. Cc, her clone, has a striped gray coat over white. Rainbow is reserved while Cc is curious and playful.



Experts say environment is as important as genes in determining a cat's personality. And as far as appearance, having the same DNA as another calico cat doesn't always produce the same coat pattern. See the complete article at www.cbsnews.com.

Online Volunteer Calendar

With our newsletter distribution going online, our sign-up calendar for the shelter and PetsMart also are available on our website at www.secondchanceforanimals.org. Click on "Members Info" and then click on "shelter" or "PetsMart" to see the calendar and where volunteers are needed. Then simply contact Alicia Bottari at volunteer_coordinator@secondchanceforanimals.org or (732) 356-0722 to sign up.

Wish List of Supplies for the Shelter

The shelter can use donations of the following items. Please contact Katie at (732) 873-2500 ext. 255 if you plan to drop off large donations at the shelter.

- ◆ Towels and blankets
- ◆ Canned and dry kitten food
- ◆ Kitten milk replacer and nursing bottles
- ◆ Surgical gloves
- ◆ Pet beds
- ◆ Dog leashes and collars
- ◆ Large dog toys
- ◆ Litter, litter pans and scoops

Letter to Send to Council Members for SCFA Volunteers



Date

Dear (Town Council Member Name)

At recent Town Council meetings, several local Township residents expressed opposition to the renovation and expansion of the Franklin Township Animal Shelter. Consequently, this letter is to reinforce the need for the renovation and expansion of the Franklin Township Animal Shelter and why the Town Council should not consider a postponement or cut back on this vital facility in our community.

I am a volunteer with Second Chance For Animals (SCFA), which is a non profit organization comprised of over 100 citizens that have supported the animal shelter since 1998. We are devoted to enhancing the lives and experiences of the homeless and unwanted animals that live at the animal shelter.

As you know, the animal shelter facility was built in the 1970's with donated materials. Unfortunately, due to the growing population in the township over the past few years, an overwhelming increase in homeless and unwanted animals has occurred in our community. While the township has grown substantially over the years the shelter facility has not. Currently, shelter space is at a premium. This means that when there is no cat cage or dog run available for a homeless animal that arrives at the shelter, many times the shelter staff has to make the very difficult and painful decision of euthanasia of healthy adoptable pets due to lack of space. In addition, SCFA has experienced first hand the shelter environment and understands what it will take to transition the current shelter to a modern animal shelter with expanded and upgraded facilities that can better serve the community's needs.

Over the past few years, SCFA and the animal shelter staff have made significant strides in the areas of animal care and welfare, however, a renovated and expanded shelter would provide us with the additional opportunity to:

- Increase adoption opportunities for more homeless and unwanted animals in the community.
- Decrease the number of homeless and unwanted animals in the community by spaying and neutering more animals due to the additional space.
- Expand the foster care program to include the additional shelter space/cages.
- Provide the ill and feral animals in the quarantine room with additional space by replacing the rusted and old cages with new ones.
- Decrease the spread of illness by allowing animals to be placed for adoption sooner.

And, while SCFA recently received two funding grants totaling \$15,000, one from Petco and one from PetsMart Charities, to support the shelters animal spay and neuter program, the expansion of the shelter would provide additional leverage for increased funding opportunities for new shelter outreach programs.

In closing, we applaud the support and the generosity that the township has extended to the animal shelter. We need the township to continue to support the renovation and expansion of the animal shelter as a vital service provider to the community.

I look forward to working with the township as a partner in the achievement of a renovated and expanded animal shelter that our community will be proud of.

Thank you.

Volunteer name

Please see the next page for the Council letter for the general public and for contact information for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and other Council members.

Letter to Council for General Public

Please share this with your friends and neighbors

Date:

Dear (Town Council Member):

As a resident of Franklin Township, I wish to express my support for the planned renovation and expansion of the Township Animal Shelter. This expansion is long overdue. While the existing facility may have been adequate when it was built in the 1970's, the population of Franklin Township has increased significantly since then, and so has the number of homeless and unwanted animals.

Anyone who questions the need for a larger facility need only visit the shelter to see how crowded it is. Both dogs and cats are frequently housed in makeshift cages in the shelter office, and sometimes even that isn't enough. It does not reflect well on our community that healthy animals are sometimes euthanized simply because the shelter is too small and outdated.

I applaud the Council's decision to fund the shelter expansion. A compassionate and caring attitude toward animals is the mark of a strong and vital community. Like many Franklin residents, I value the hard work and dedication of the shelter staff and its many volunteers. Thanks again for your commitment to expanding the township shelter.

Sincerely,

Your Name
Address

Below is the contact information for Council members to send the letters to:

COUNCIL CONTACTS

Willis "Rickey" Sumter, **Mayor**
48 Baier Avenue
Somerset, NJ 08873
732-846-6412

William "Bill" Grippo, **Deputy Mayor**
5 Masada Street
Somerset, NJ 08873
732-220-6168
Fax: 732-247-7076

Fred A. McKenzie
10 Magnolia Road
Somerset, NJ 08873
732-873-0829

Shirley Eberle
29 Champlain Way
Franklin Park, NJ 08873
732-422-6819

Brian D. Levine
384 Inwood Court
Somerset, NJ 08873
732-514-0470

Catherine Barrier
13 Oliver Street
Somerset, NJ 08873
732-545-5168
Fax: 732-545-0640

Upendra Chivukula
536 New Brunswick Road
Somerset, NJ 08873
732-545-5211
Fax: 732-545-5211

Anthony Mazzola
51 Zeller Drive
Somerset, NJ 08873
732-873-0080
(he may be on active duty)

Robert Mettler
PO Box 2217
East Millstone, NJ 08875
732-873-2772