



Tails from CARA

Companion Animal Rescue Alliance (301) 422-3677

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Kane and Franklin *you thought we would say Abel?*

by DorothyBelle Poli

Kane is a 2 ½ year old black Chow-Chow. Not only is his color rare, but his personality is amazing considering his story. You see, this sweet boy was originally bought as a puppy from a breeder. The owner did not realize the amount of time a dog takes and kept Kane locked up more than he should have been. Now let me tell you about Franklin!

Franklin is a college student who knew he did not have any right to take on a dog since he was getting ready to finish his studies and then move on to China for graduate school. But Franklin could not stand seeing Kane so sad, and he convinced the owner to give up Kane. Well, it was love at first sight and the beginning of a precious friendship. For almost a year, Franklin and Kane were the best of friends. A dog who was accustomed to being treated as a second class citizen now knew the good life. Even with money being tight, Franklin saw to it that Kane received all the extras in life! But Franklin knew that he would have

...cont'd see *Kane* pg. 2

Be a CARA Sponsor!

Circle the amount you wish to donate below and mail this form along with a check payable to CARA

7305 Hopkins Avenue
College Park, MD
20740

\$25 Feed a stray

\$50 Fix Fluffy or Fido

\$100 Sponsor a whole litter!

\$____ other

We Are Official!!

Becoming a 501c3 organization takes a lot of time, effort, planning, and money of all things! After several months of writing up the documents needed, planning budgets, and finding the funds to send in our documentation to the IRS, we sat and waited. The IRS had one thing they wanted us to insure...that no volunteer would be paid for their time. Of course no salaries are paid to any of the volunteers (isn't that what being a volunteer is all about)? We get our "pay" from placing happy animals into wonderful homes.

CARA has finally received word from the IRS regarding our status as a tax-exempt bona fide non-profit...we are official! This now means that all donations to CARA are tax-deductible, which is always great for you AND our animals.

So if you have always had a special place in your heart for animals and are looking for a good place to donate a few dollars before the end of the year, please consider CARA.

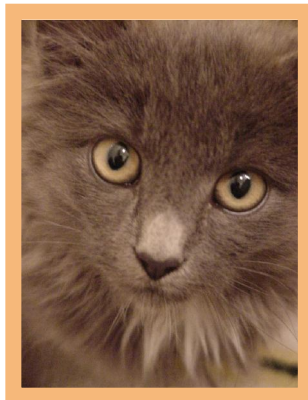
Use the Sponsor form in the box to the left of this article and give the perfect Holiday gift to a homeless animal.



Nyla: 2 year old Rottweiler. Also up for adoption - go to www.cara-adopt.org



"Something in his big brown eyes prevented me from euthanising him to ease his pain"



Spitty (a.k.a Smitty) and those captivating eyes

Kane (cont'd from pg. 1)

to leave soon and he needed to find Kane a forever home. In walks Dorothy.

Dorothy is a CARA volunteer who works with Franklin. Knowing how much Franklin cared about this perfectly behaved boy, she offered to lend a hand in finding a new home for Kane. After a visit to the vet, CARA learned that Kane had been coping with a ripped cruciate ligament and a shattered kneecap for several months! His spirit never changed even though he was in great pain. Not once did he grump about going for walks or playing. Never did he nip or growl if his leg hurt. Kane lives life with a happy smile and a zest for living. One of his favorite things to do is put his head in his friend's lap and get his love!

CARA arranged for Kane to have the necessary surgery to get him back to

100%. However this surgery cost \$1100, and that was at a discount! Franklin gave what he could to help his best friend, and CARA paid the rest. After surgery, Kane required therapy and exercises to be done. Franklin saw to it that Kane got his daily massage and workout routine!

Kane's a lucky boy indeed. A very special family saw Kane on our Petfinder.com pages and realized Kane's potential. They contacted us to meet Kane and everyone was in love at first site. The little boy of the family and Kane bonded instantly and are the best playmates of all time. We were so excited to learn that in order to take the family's holiday photo it took 10 times, since Kane insisted on kissing someone in each shot!

Spitty's Story

by Kamran Smith

Spitty is a tiny kitten with broken back legs I found near my home. His origins and what happened to him are unknown. I knew who to call for help - Dorothy Belle Poli. Dorothy and CARA welcomed the kitten with open arms and friends have donated generously to help with Spitty's medical needs.

Initially, "Spitty" hissed when handled (hence the name). He now *enjoys* tummy tickles and head scratches. Spitty can walk (limping), but is confined for his own safety. Much love and vet care will help reverse whatever caused such terrible injuries.

When I first found him, something in his big brown eyes prevented me from euthanising him to ease his pain. His acceptance and enjoyment of life



despite his injuries is an incredible lesson. The dedication of CARA, Dorothy, and Spitty's donors is also a lesson - one of love, hope, and the promise of Spitty's happy new life.

Please contact us if you have room in your home and your heart for Spitty.



Winter tips



for Your




- Antifreeze** Antifreeze is extremely deadly to your pets (even in small amounts). The worst thing is, they WILL drink it because antifreeze does not smell or taste bad to them. Do not leave your pet unsupervised in or near the garage or driveway where antifreeze could have leaked from your auto.
- Candles** If your pet thinks the candle smells appealing, they might try to lick or eat it and the chemicals used to make the candle could be harmful. Also, keep the flame and candle out of reach or your pet may end up with singed tails or whiskers!
- Gifts for pets** Pets enjoy gifts too, just screen well-meaning gifts. Some vets are saying rawhides and cheap, crushed, chew products can get caught in the intestines. The hard plastic-type chews can actually break the teeth and tennis balls can break apart and cause a choking hazard..
- Holiday plants** The most popular holiday plants, Poinsettias and Mistletoe, are poisonous to pets! Flowers from forced bulbs are often also poisonous (e.g., narcissus, amaryllis, lilies). Christmas trees are not poisonous, but they are still very irritating to the stomach - one of our vets compared it to "eating fiberglass".
- Outdoor hazards** If you shave your pet's fur or if your pet has very little fur, you'll want to use a pet sweater of some kind to keep your pet warm when venturing outside. Paw Protectors are like mittens for your pet's paws that protect them from cold surfaces and hard sharp snow or ice.
- NEVER leave pets outdoors during freezing temperatures! Water bowls can freeze and leave your pet without water. There is a lot of information on the internet on how to build a safe winter shelter for an outdoor pet. Do the research - don't assume an animal can stay warm without your help.
- Packing peanuts, bubble wrap, and plastic bags** Especially dangerous when torn apart or broken because pets can choke on them. Plastic bags create a suffocation hazard - the rule doesn't only apply to children.
- Poultry bones** Chicken and turkey bones can splinter and choke a dog or cat.
- Tape** This one may sound funny, but many curious animals who might like to play with tape get in into their mouths if the piece is small enough and they'll choke.



CARA Animals on Tour!

You can meet many of our CARA rescue animals at one of our adoption shows! Our foster volunteers transport their foster animals to the adoption shows on weekends at local area pet stores.

If you are interested in a particular rescue animal, email us before a weekend adoption show, and we will do our best to transport that animal to the show for you to meet.

Our regular shows are:

- § Second Saturday of every month at the Laurel Petco
- § Second Sunday of every month at the Beltsville Petco
- § Fourth Saturday of every month at For Cat's Sake in Kensington, Maryland.

We have other shows too. For a complete show schedule visit our web site at www.cara-adopt.org.



*The Quaker kittens
" come see us at an adoption
show!"*



There is a bridge of memories from earth to Heaven above -- it keeps our dear ones near us -- it's the bridge that we call love.



*I saw the most
beautiful Rainbow,
and on the other
side
Were meadows rich
and beautiful --
lush and green and
wide!
And running
through the
meadows as far as
the eye could see
Were animals of
every sort as
healthy as could
be!*

In memory of Janet Bell's *Tobey*, from your friends at Cats R Us.

In memory of Karen Lee's *Shadow*, good boys eat grass!

Patricia P. Matteson in name of Sara T. Overbagh

To *Huey* and *Tobey*, run in the fields together and play non-stop. Your sweet personalities are missed here by your mom Janet (Bell) and your petsitter.

To *Georgia*, the craziest girl of them all. Your spirit will be missed by all who knew you."

In memory of Linda Lachman's *Georgia*, from Jen Zinker.

To all of the foster animals who have joined CARA but passed before finding their forever home, thank you for enriching our lives.

In memory of *Titi*, my friend and companion for almost 17 years fell asleep to never wake up again - I shall cherish her memory 'til I die - Angela

In memory of my two *Home Depot* kitties that were sadly Feleuk positive -

Natalie, the little all-black kitten and *Bigfoot*, the beautiful polydactyl boy, from Jen Zinker.

In memory of *Mileu* from Karen Lee Banks.

In memory of *Tobey*, *Huey* & *Georgia* from DB

In memory of JB's *Huey* from John and Bonnie Desantis



Feral Cats Especially Need YOU in the Winter!



by Elise Shurie



Feral kitties and stray cats are dependent on us humans for our compassion, whether they would ever admit it or not! After all, cats were domesticated by our ancestors thousands and thousands of years ago. At this point in history, they are not meant to live outside all their lives. We humans need to understand their plight. In winter weather it is especially important to pay attention to the stray cats outside in the cold.

Food: We need to feed them - and more food than normal - since extra nutrition is important in keeping them warm to survive the cold temperatures. (Also, the higher the quality of the food, the better they are in withstanding the outdoor life in general!) So good food and plenty of it.

WATER is key in helping these cats, since dehydration is a serious threat in extreme weather. To keep water from freezing, feed the cats in a shelter of some sort with the water and food away from exposure to wind, rain and snow. Outdoor-use electric water dishes can be purchased for this purpose as well. They are usually listed or stocked with dog bowls. Feeding them canned food also helps provide some water.

Shelter: Some sort of shelter should be provided. You can be creative about this

or you can purchase a dog house. Just make sure there is a small enough entry hole to deter larger animals and to keep out the elements as much as possible. If the "door" is too big, try covering part of it up. This can be done by affixing a piece of hard acrylic or wood to the structure, or even a tarp.

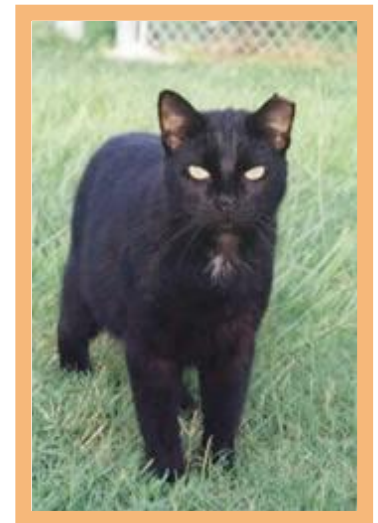
A shelter can serve as simply a feeding station or it can be inhabited by the cat or cats. Even a 30-gallon trash can, propped between 2 heavy outdoor chairs for example, would work. Line it with newspaper and warm bedding material, and cover it with a tarp to minimize the opening.

Kitten-prevention: Many female cats go into heat in December, and therefore have kittens come February. To prevent the addition to the animal over-population, IF POSSIBLE, get the cats spayed and neutered now. This may be difficult because they need to stay in a protected environment for at LEAST 24 hours after being neutered, and longer after being spayed. If you cannot accommodate bringing the cats indoors - in a cage for example, or a separate room - for a number of days*, DO NOT do this now. But do make plans to do it in early spring!

If you know you have intact female(s), watch closely for signs of pregnancy and then keep a keen eye out for kittens. Feed these mothers high-quality, high-calorie food. Pregnant and nursing females need to be fed kitten food no matter what time of year it is, and extra is needed for the stress of lower temperatures and winter weather conditions.

Many times kittens born in winter die. This is because they cannot absorb enough nutrition to grow and at the same time

"feed them - and more food than normal - since extra nutrition is important in keeping them warm to survive the cold temperatures."



Eartipping marks a feral cat that has already been spayed or neutered.

...cont'd see *Winter Ferals*, pg. 8



Purrs and Sloppy Kisses

CARA would like to sincerely thank the following people and businesses for their support.

We love you, we need you, and we couldn't do it without you!

Dr. Nancy Ruth
Dr. Amy Holstein
All Paws Veterinary Center
Marlton Center
9554 Crain Highway
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
301-599-7000

Dr. Dennis Sweeney
Hillandale Animal Hospital
1900 Powder Mill Road
Silver Spring, MD 20903
301-439-9444

Channel 9 WUSA
Petline 9
4100 Wisconsin Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20016
301-933-5489



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5930 Puma Dr.
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www.modernx.net

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Takama Park, MD 20912
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sales@microperformance.com

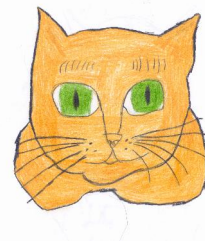
Teresa Paul
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301-627-6397

Dr. Anne Ray
Laurel Park Animal Hospital
7401 Van Dusen Road
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Pam and Nick Shoff
For Cat's Sake
15013 Metropolitan Ave.
Kensington, MD 20895
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<http://forcatssake.com>

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IN HONOR: A sincere thank you goes out to all of the CARA volunteers and especially the 2003 Board for all of their hard work. Without all of you, CARA would not exist and it has been a total honor to work with each and everyone! I love you. DorothyBelle

In honor of Dr. Mary Prowell of Beltsville Animal Clinic -- without whose help and support I would never have gotten through this year. She is the most compassionate person and gifted vet I ever came across - all my cats and fosters are indebted to her for ever - Angela

Thanks to Angela for all your help --
Margaret Ann Dee



The Computer Kittens - II

by Margot Osborne



Recently, a CARA volunteer received a visit from a neighbor about some kittens wandering around, that had been spotted by his children. She and a friend picked up the cat carrier and went kitten hunting. When she saw them, her heart almost stopped. They were carbon copies of the Computer Kittens that had been dumped 6 months earlier. Everything about them was the same. Lisa and Apple, two fluffy medium hairs looked exactly like Macintosh; and Packard and Compaq looked exactly like Sun and Hewlitt. Amiga (computer kitten 2) and Gateway were the odd ones out for each litter. Both litters were well socialized and in reasonably good health. In both cases, they were dumped on a warm Saturday morning when children were out and about, so the dumper felt that they would be sure to be rescued. This is a very dangerous assumption to make. The Computer II kittens were a little harder to catch and the possibility of missing one, although slim, was there. Originally only three were spotted but after careful searching it is believed that all of them were found. The kittens were 6 weeks old and would not

have survived the cold weather that arrived a few days later. They are 9 weeks old now and will be up for adoption at our next show and will be up on our web site soon if they are not already.

We never found the mother or father. Their mother is doomed to produce litter after litter and will probably die young of a uterine infection or breast or uterine cancer. Their fathers, there seems to be more than one father, are doomed to continue to fight for the right to mate and risk catching FIV or other infections from deep bite wounds. So please give yourself and your companion animal a holiday present and spay or neuter them. You will be happier and so will they. Spay and Neuter your pets, Don't Dump!



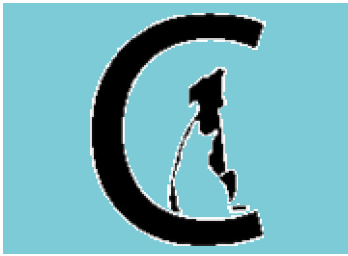
*Amiga
cute little girl*



*Please contact us if
you'd like to adopt
one of the
computer II kittens!*



*Original Computer Kittens
--all were adopted--*



CARA

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College Park, MD 20740

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Fax:

301-277-2163

E-Mail:

cara_adopt@yahoo.com

*Opening doors for
homeless animals.*

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.cara-adopt.org

Winter Feral (*cont'd from pg. 5*)

keep up their body heat. So feeding mom well, and the kittens when they are able to eat food, is essential -- so is providing warm, dry bedding in a sheltered location.

- Newspaper is very good insulation.
- Heat-reflecting pads can be purchased. They have a layer of foil inside that helps reflect the cats heat back to its body.
- If possible, have the shelter or feeding station raised in case of snow, or keep the entry-area clear and shoveled. One thing that can be used for height is a wooden palette underneath.

• Have feeding station or shelter deep enough so that food and water are sufficiently far away from the entry, i.e., wind, rain and snow.

• If the cat cannot see out and spot an approaching animal, make a second hole for an "escape hatch" by which the cat can exit safely in case it perceives a threat.



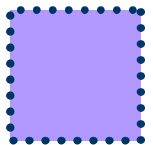
About Our Organization...

- CARA's objectives are to facilitate the rescue and adoption of companion animals into responsible and stable homes; and
- To help the plight of feral cats and to reduce the number of homeless, relinquished, and abandoned companion animals

through spay-neuter campaigns and through public education.

Contact Us: Please contact us if you wish to make a donation or volunteer in any way. Volunteering for CARA is a fun way for students to meet their Community Service requirements!

CARA
7305 Hopkins Avenue
College Park, MD 20740



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