

People for Animals

Newsletter October, 2005

People for Animals
433 Hillside Ave
Hillside, NJ 07205
<http://pfa.petfinder.org>

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THIS ISSUE!



People for Animals' Diane Guillaume and Lyn Serino travel to Gulf Coast to help in disaster relief effort



People for Animals brought back 14 dogs and 9 cats from the devastated Gulf Coast region, all of whom need housing and medical care while on hold until October 15th. Those not reclaimed will be posted on <http://pfa.petfinder.org> and will be available for adoption at our Bridgewater PetsMart adoption days.

We set out early Tuesday morning for the gulf coast in hopes of helping with the animal rescue efforts in the hurricane area. We went down not knowing what the situation called for, so we loaded two People for Animals vans with what donations we could, and headed out with only the addresses of facilities we had heard were serving as holding areas, camping equipment, provisions for ourselves and provisions for as many animals as we thought could fit and who we hoped to be able to bring away from the devastation. Our group consisted of Diane Guillaume and Lyn Serino, both of People for Animals, and one other colleague. We drove our Waggin' Wagon – an extended Chevy van we obtained two

years ago through a grant from PetsMart which has been fully customized and normally used to safely transport dogs to our adoption days, from shelters, and to vet appointments. We brought a second vehicle, our Neuter Scooter – a Chevy mini-van we normally use at our clinic to transport cats to be spayed/neutered.



We made it to Birmingham, Alabama late Tuesday evening, and stayed over at a hotel before finishing our drive to Lamar-Dixon Expo center in Gonzalez Louisiana the following morning. HSUS and ASPCA were both onsite there managing the various aspects of this staging area. There were several thousand animals being housed there, mostly dogs. There were also a few hundred cats and some horses, and some small animals that had been removed during the searches of homes that were being done by the field people in New Orleans.



It was extremely easy to volunteer at Lamar-Dixon. They made it easy for us to work extremely hard. They had an air conditioned tent to sleep in with cots set up army-style, showers (though the line was long), and meals brought in for us. There were coolers with Gatorade and water everywhere. We arrived, checked in at the desk, and within 15 minutes we were assigned to one of aisles inside one of the barns and started cleaning/walking/feeding the animals. There were over a hundred dogs in that aisle. It was hot. There was a lot of work to do and every single person we saw was busy doing it. We joined 'the race against potty' and felt kinship with all of our newly found brothers and sisters from around the country who were already running it. It was not as easy nor as simple as one might think. You went down the row and looked at the papers attached to each dog's crate to see what care the dog has had already, and decided what care was needed. Most had not been out since early in the morning,



and it was already 6pm. Many had already gone in their cages, which had to be cleaned and disinfected. We worked in pairs – one would take the dog out for a walk to the designated area and the other would take the crate bottom to the washing station, where mercifully there was another person whose job consisted of spraying and scrubbing the crate bottom for you. You threw the dirty bowls into the dirty bowl pile (which also had another person whose job it was to clean and disinfect the bowls), grabbed fresh bowls from the pile and filled them with water and food. You rushed to be finished with this task before the dog got back so as to not have to spend a moment idle. We had to take a break every 5 dogs or so because of the heat. We could not make it down to the end of the aisle before the ones at the beginning needed another potty – it took so long. But there were sometimes many teams working together and we did our best.



The next day, when we reported to our same barn aisle, we found that there were all new dogs there with all new paperwork. We spent half-a-second wondering where the ones from yesterday had gone before starting in again. This was when we realized the full size of this operation. Though it was difficult to find information on what efforts were going on behind the scenes from our position in that aisle, it was clear that this was a hugely coordinated effort. The next night we saw tractor trailers taking hundreds of animals at a time from the facility at all hours of the night, and helicopters airlifting animals to go to other parts of the country. The next

night we helped carry the cages to the back of these trucks, and a form of 'organized chaos' would ensue for an hour or two and then the animals would be gone. Everyone would just jump right in to help each other walk, carry, lift, roll, drag the dogs and their crates to the back of the trucks for



loading. The export operation we participated in involved over 100 dogs and two tractor trailers which were headed to a prison facility about an hour away. This was Thursday, the day before hurricane Rita was to hit, at about 10pm. At the prison facility, we heard that the inmates were participating in a program to take care of the animals, and that their building was secure to weather the hurricane much more so than Lamar-Dixon, which was holding most of the animals in non-enclosed roofed buildings which all had built-in box stalls normally used for horses – but there were no walls on any of these barns.



The following morning was very difficult. We had been approved to bring animals back with us, had decided to leave earlier than planned because of the impending hurricane, and we faced the task of trying to fit as many as we safely could transport back to NJ. We threw out EVERYTHING that we didn't need for the trip home to make room. The more difficult task was choosing which to bring. We ran. We grabbed dogs that people happened to be walking by with and put them in the van. With the impending storm, we were hit with drenching rain as we loaded. We



were ready within a couple of hours with 9 cats and 14 dogs. We glanced back at the barn and wished our vans were larger then drove to the checkout point with our paperwork. Upon arrival at the checkout point we were told to get out of our vehicles and take cover in the only brick enclosed building due to a tornado headed in our direction. All the people from the barn areas were running towards us, and the person on the bullhorn was blasting at us – 'TAKE COVER'. We all crunched into the mens and ladies room of the horse arena – the only structure built of brick within running distance which now contained a few hundred volunteers getting to

know each other in the most stressful situation yet encountered on our trip. People who looked like they were in charge were talking on their radios, but we couldn't overhear what was being said. We fretted for the animals we had left in the cars. We fretted further for the ones in the barns. We all learned in the restroom that on the eastern side of hurricanes there is a likelihood of tornadoes forming. But in true 'disaster mode' and shell-shocked as we were from even the few days we'd spent in this atmosphere of getting the job done no matter what the obstacles, we managed to find and have our export paperwork signed while in the restroom area so we could leave with our charges. The people who signed it were not phased at the timing or location of our request, thanked us and wished us good luck. Once the threat seemed over, we got in our vans and drove as quickly as we could to outrun the storm on our way home. We stopped two hours later at a rest area to change our soaked clothing, then continued to drive straight through to NJ only stopping a couple times to let the dogs out to do their business.



This morning, I could only remember what a couple of the animals we had brought back with us looked like. But when I got to the kennel this morning I looked at them and remembered each one's face. Scared and lost and not knowing what was going to happen to them, and they were the most beautiful things I ever saw. They were safe.



People for Animals regularly rescues animals in need from local shelters. This schnoodle mother with her five 4-week old puppies were dumped at a shelter. They needed somewhere safe to stay together, and time for mom & pups to grow and thrive. We took her and her family in, and cared for them until the puppies were old enough to be adopted and mom recovered enough to be spayed and find a new home of her own. Doris was a wonderful mother – letting us handle her puppies without complaint, though she was extremely concerned about them and seemed always to be ‘counting’ to make sure all were present.

Left: Horace, Morris, Delores, Norris and Taurus – rescued from the shelter with their mother (Doris)

Volunteer Opportunities

Sweeps Tickets Are Here!!!

Every year, People for Animals holds a sweepstakes drawing to benefit our dog and cat adoption groups. This is one of our most successful fundraisers – with a prize this year of \$1,000.00 gift certificate to Simon Malls (which includes Livingston, Menlo Park and Quakerbridge Malls – to name a few). Please assist us in this fundraiser by selling tickets on your own, or buying some to enter yourself!! Tickets are sold for \$1 each, and come in books of 10. Drawing is December 3rd. Ticket stubs must be filled out at the time of sale and returned to our clinic address with the money collected no later than November 30th. Please email pfavolunteers@comcast.net with the amount of tickets requested, your name & mailing address and we will forward you tickets to sell or call 908-964-6887.

Volunteer Phone Counselor

Volunteer phone counselor needed to help PFA Hotline callers with animal related issues. Job includes picking up and returning phone calls from your own home once a week. Patience, compassion and basic computer skills for email followup are necessary. A brief training program with a take-home resource book is provided. Please call Nancy Curtis if interested at 908-464-2763.

Recycling Toner Cartridges

People for Animals is in need of someone to recycle toner cartridges on a monthly basis. Job includes sorting through donated cartridges, determining which are on the ‘approved’ list, packing and weighing the box, printing mailing label from the internet site and dropping off at any UPS location. Training provided at our Clinic in Hillside. If YOU have any recyclable cartridges to donate – please drop them by the clinic or drop by any dog adoption day (dates listed on the website). Acceptable cartridges are listed on <http://www.cashforcritters.com>.

Luv-a-Pet Cage Cleaners/Socializers

People for Animals is in need of people to help clean our cages at the Bridgewater and Watchung PetsMart stores, where many of our cats for adoption are housed. The cleaning task takes between 1 and 2 hours, every other week. Anyone interested in socializing the cats is welcome also, if you are unable to commit to a regular schedule!

Holiday Shopping That Makes A Difference

Kick off the traditional holiday shopping season by participating in a unique holiday experience. Menlo Park Mall, located in Edison off Route #1 minutes from the Garden State Parkway, will host its 9th annual “Simon Evening of Giving.” This event is a special evening of private holiday shopping to be held on Sunday, November 20 from 6:30-10:00 pm. The mall will be closed to the general public during this event. Only shoppers with a pre-purchased ticket may enter the mall. There will be special entertainment for adults and children to reflect the warmth of the season. Guests can take advantage of in-store offers, a silent auction, and door prizes. Guests will enjoy a true sense of community as all proceeds from ticket sales will benefit People for Animals, other local charities/ nonprofit organizations, and the Simon Youth Foundation which has developed programs to help young people across the country. The ticket for admission to this private event is a \$10 donation. Tickets may be purchased by calling 908 964-6887 extension 311 or by sending in \$10 per ticket in the enclosed envelope. Please specify your donation is for the Evening of Giving and include your name, address and telephone number so we may mail the tickets to you. You can also benefit People for Animals by shopping on-line with IGIVE.COM. A percentage of your purchases will be donated to People for Animals by specifying People for Animals as your charity of choice.

Membership Application Please send your check and this application in the enclosed envelope.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

\$5 Jr/Sr \$10 Individual \$15 Family \$25 Supporting \$50 Sustaining \$100 Patron

Send me information about including People for Animals, Inc. in my will.

Gifts in honor of ...

CoCo & Griffin, adopted from PFA, from Allison Samon
Cupid, adopted from PFA, from Kelly Hnidj
Gumdrop & Oreo, adopted from PFA, from Mindy Youisz-Ward
Jason & Cloud, adopted from PFA, from Kim Miholics
Jerry Dog, adopted from PFA in 1999, Jerry is one of the smartest, greatest, cutest dogs who also gets along very well with our eight cats, from Jim Fedors
Marcia Sherman on her 65th birthday from Gwen & Marty Dubno
Mason & Sebastian from Frank & Diane Stephan
Misty and Ginger's birthdays from Ilene Meiseles
Oreo, adopted from PFA, from Constance Gallagher
Sparks, our 'psycho kitty' adopted from PFA, from Pat Hawkins
Taz, adopted from PFA, from Sarah Altomonte
Vanessa, adopted from PFA, from Rose Fermon
Zoey & Sascha, adopted from PFA, and their friends: Tansy, Reese, Remy, Cassidy and Jet from Laura Wrong Hobby

Gifts in loving memory of these cherished friends ...

Beebe, our friend, from Garry and Bobbi Glennon
Barbara Begnon, an animal lover ... may she rest in peace, from her cousins Kathy & Joe Satkosky
Edward "Jerry" Moylan, our son, from Sondra & Ed Moylan
Sam Louise of Westfield, from Dorothy Campbell

Gifts remembering these beloved pets ...

Baby Ray and Josie, from Lyn Serino
Big Joe Carbone, from Shari Wexler
Brandi, beloved pet of Irene Mazzola
Buster, adopted from PFA, from his family
Casey, ornery but still a good boy, from Lyn Serino
Caterpillar, a lot of spunk in such a short life, from Lyn Serino
Charlie, adopted from PFA; long time best friend of Carol Hilton, from PFA Board of Directors & Clinic Staff
Cleo, loved pet of Frank & Terry Garcia, from Veterinary Surgical and Diagnostic Specialists of Clarksburg
Connor, loved pet of Dr. Gale Flanagan, from Veterinary Surgical and Diagnostic Specialists of Clarksburg
Ginger, beloved pet of Jay & Iris Waters, from Elaine Caraballo
Lady, loved pet of Mr & Mrs Paul Pintinalli from Veterinary Surgical and Diagnostic Specialists of Clarksburg
Lea, my meeze girl from Lyn Serino
Lexus, loved pet of Cynthia Pekarick, from Veterinary Surgical and Diagnostic Specialists of Clarksburg
Little Dog, loved pet of Ms. Evie Leonard, from Veterinary Surgical and Diagnostic Specialists of Clarksburg
Max, beloved pet of Rose Mary Restuccia from Veterinary Surgical and Diagnostic Specialists of Clarksburg
Max, adopted from PFA in 1994, a gentle wonderful dog who will always be missed, from Diane Matalas
Molly, our loving Dalmatian ... always remembered, from Garry and Bobbi Glennon
Patricia, my beloved cat, from Ethel Baer
Reba, loved pet of John & Nancy Zimmerman, from Veterinary Surgical and Diagnostic Specialists of Clarksburg
Runway, our other heartbeat, gone too soon... Our lives were richer because of you. Always loved, always cherished, never forgotten, from Jim & Patti Spatz
Sam the Dog, best friend of Bob Lebowitz, from Martha Sides
Teddy, beloved pet of Helen Ponelis

INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING 973-504-6215. REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT.

Yes! I would like to support People for Animals! Please send your check and this form in the enclosed envelope, or donate online at <http://pfa.petfinder.org> with your credit card!

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Email Address _____