



Dear Friends,

Happy Fall! While many of our traditional fall activities such as fairs, football games, and festivals (including Animal Awareness Day on Branford Green) will not take place this year, we can still enjoy some of the simpler pleasures of fall, like admiring the beautiful colors of autumn leaves, sipping hot cider on a chilly day, carving pumpkins for Halloween, and cuddling up with our beloved furry friends.

And if you're looking for a special buddy to snuggle with, Branford Compassion Club has many adorable cats and kittens of all sizes, colors and personalities looking for homes. To the animal rescuer, fall means the end of kitten season, although many will still be born in the coming months. It also forebodes the coming of winter along with a great number of assistance calls concerning homeless felines, feral and friendly, living outside. Needless to say, our urgency for funding never ends, and our finances dictate how many cats and kittens we can take in and provide veterinary care for.

Last month, we asked our supporters to renew their yearly sustaining sponsorships and new supporters to join them. The sustaining sponsorship program is so important because it ensures a steady stream of much-needed funding. I believe the program is vital to BCC's survival and operation of our shelter. To renew your sponsorship or sign up as a new sponsor, please visit [the sponsor page](#) on our website. For those of you who have renewed your sponsorship or have signed up new this year, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Our fate and the fate of our felines depend not only on our dedicated volunteers, but also on you, our generous and compassionate supporters.

Our biggest fundraiser of the year, Animal Awareness Day on Branford Town Green has been cancelled. Instead, we will be holding virtual and online activities throughout the month of October, renamed Animal Awareness Month. Activities for Animal Awareness Month include a drive-through Blessing of the Animals (Oct 4 at North Branford Congregational Church on Rte. 80), Pet Memorial Leaves (purchase for a donation Oct 1- 31), food drive, and Silent Auction (online Oct 16-18). We are so very grateful for our caring and generous sponsors in the business community (for the full list of sponsors see page 4). We hope that you will patronize them! Thank you sponsors! Please visit [our website](#) for all the details on Animal Awareness Month.

Thank you for your continued support and Happy Fall!

Best,
Margaret (Peg) Johnson
BCC Board President

A Summer to Remember

Boy, that really understates it doesn't it? The Summer of 2020 is one we'll all recall and tell stories about for years to come. A pandemic. Hurricanes. Tornadoes. Stay-cations galore. There's just no end to the things that set this summer apart.

We hope that you and yours have come through this challenging season in good form. We're happy to say that through it all, and thanks to supporters like you, Branford Compassion Club has continued to fulfill its mission of caring for Connecticut's homeless felines.

A special shout-out goes to all the foster families who cared for 100+ mom cats and kittens that came to us this summer until we can find them permanent homes.

In-shelter care has been provided by a smaller cadre of volunteers than usual, all strictly following recommended guidelines in order to keep the risk of exposure to COVID-19 to a minimum.

Our usual Saturday "open house," when potential adopters could come into the shelter to visit with our cats and connect with one or more that might become their forever pets, was still not an option as the pandemic raged. Despite that circumstance, 14 of our shelter cats were adopted this summer. That was made possible by the extra efforts of our enthusiastic adoption counselors who shared pictures and videos of our cats, spoke at length about their personalities with potential adopters, and made sure they had a presence on Facebook to get the greatest possible exposure.

Finally, you, our supporters, made it possible for us to keep things going and maintain an environment that was as normal as possible for our shelter cats. Your monetary donations, food, litter, and supplies continuously poured in. One of our supporters held a tag sale at her home because we were unable to conduct our annual tag sale on the Branford Green, and raised over \$3,000! Other volunteers sewed, and we sold, facemasks throughout the summer.




In other fundraising efforts, we had 15 participants in June's Pets2the Rescue run/walk race, with registration fees and additional donations coming directly to BCC. And we held a virtual tea party with The Queen. The results of May's Great Give campaign came in after our last newsletter, and we're

happy to report we saw a sizable increase over 2019, bringing in over \$10,000 for BCC. And, there's been a steady stream of kitten food and supplies throughout the summer to support our foster families as they socialized mom cats and kittens for potential adoption. Still, even without extraordinary veterinary needs, our monthly expenses run about \$12,000, so the need remains high.

2020 Pets 2 the Rescue Virtual Run/Walk/Bike to support Branford Compassion Club

1 Mile or 5K Run/Walk
5 Mile Bike
Now through June 15
100% of your \$10 registration
fee goes to our shelter
www.Pets2theRescue.org





Imagine

Tea with the Queen!
It's a Virtual Fundraiser!

Branford Compassion Club
Cordially un-Invites You for High Tea
with Her Royal Majesty The Queen
Saturday, June 31, Year of the Cat
4 pm
The Ritz Hotel
Palm Court
150 Piccadilly
London W1J 9BR, UK

Champagne Reception immediately following at Buckingham Palace
Musical Entertainment by Sir Paul McCartney & Sir Elton John

Dream Seating with the Commonsers \$50
Fantasy Seating with the Royals \$100



Donations can be made through our website at
<https://branfordcompassionclub.org/donate/> or mailed to
Branford Compassion Club, P.O. Box 763, Branford, CT 06405
203-483-6369

And Our Fundraising Continues This Fall

Pet Memorial Wall Leaves

Throughout the month of October (Animal Awareness Month – see below), we'll be accepting donations to have your pet's name added to the Giving Tree of Life painted on our shelter wall, and posted to our website. Leaves will be available as follows:

\$20 – Yellow leaf

\$35 – Orange leaf

\$50 – Red leaf

\$100 – Purple leaf

\$500 – Gold leaf. Gold leaf participants will also have their pet's photo posted to our website.

You can download the form to get your leaf (see below) on [our website](#).



ANIMAL AWARENESS MONTH

A Virtual and Online Celebration for the Month of October 2020!
Hosted By Branford Compassion Club

Pet Memorial Leaves - October 1st - 31st

Dedicate a leaf to a beloved pet on BCC's Shelter Giving Tree of Life.

Choose a Yellow Leaf \$20, Orange Leaf \$35, Red Leaf \$50, Purple Leaf \$100 or Gold Leaf for \$500. Your beloved pet's name will also be listed on BCC's website and Gold Leaf donors, in addition, will have their pet's photo posted.



Please return form with check payable to Branford Compassion Club, c/o Peg Johnson,
2037 Faxon Rd, North Branford, CT 06472

Name: _____

Pet's Name: _____

Sentiment (optional): _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Circle One: Yellow \$20 Orange \$35 Red \$50 Purple \$100 Gold \$500 (Gold Leaf ONLY submit pet's photo to mjohnson27@net.net)

Amount Enclosed: _____



Animal Awareness Day Evolves with the Times

We've changed our approach this year because we're unable to conduct our usual big one-day event on the Branford Green. Instead we're conducting Animal Awareness MONTH during October, with several exciting things planned:

- "Drive-Through" Blessing of the Animals, North Branford Congregational Church, October 4
- Framed, personalized blessings available for purchase
- An online silent auction
- Nick's Wicks' candle sales; 30% of October sale proceeds go to BCC
- Food Drive

Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for more information about these exciting events.

Animal Awareness Month Sponsors

Platinum: \$1,000

Autografix; Branford Veterinary Hospital; c2c Graphics; WordWorks LLC

Gold: \$500

Branford Community Foundation; The Dogfather Mobile Grooming; Guilford Savings Bank;
Nick's Wicks Candles; Shore Publishing; Susan Barnes

Silver: \$250.00

Aquatic Pool & Spa Services; Companions & Homemakers; Eunice Lasala; in memory of
Jupiter Johnson; Pawson Group

Bronze: \$100

Physical Fitness LLC; Shoreline Pet Lodge; Van Wilgen's Garden Center

67 Adoptions Since June 1 Included 53 Kittens!

Just a few of the lucky cats that found their forever homes are pictured below.

Mystic's now
livin' in Lyme.

They started life as **Cranberry** and **Stuffing**, but they're now
known as "Laverne and Shirley."



Orange Guy (that
says it all).

Loki, hangin' with
my buddy, Thor.

Eli (takin' a pre-
adoption nap).

Dawson: "They couldn't resist my
high-five. But who could?"



Amelie, sweet
'n sassy.

Muriel, chillin' in
her new home.

Trish, making her
plea. It worked!

Flora: Oh, I AM cute!



The Importance of Having a Plan

Sadly, too many adult cats come to us as the result of an avoidable situation – their owners had no plan in place for the possibility that they themselves might become unable to care for their pet. The circumstances can vary widely: an owner becomes ill or permanently injured, confined to a no-pet facility, or passes away; a new member of the household is severely allergic to cats; the owner is moving and the new landlord won't allow pets.

Sometimes owners just assume that a family member or friend would take on the responsibility of caring for their pet. While in many instances this is true, it's always best, and really only fair, to have a discussion with them before the need arises. There could be many reasons why this wouldn't be a viable solution, and that could leave the pet homeless.

To be clear, there is NEVER an acceptable reason to knowingly abandon a pet. It's particularly heartbreaking when someone just leaves a pet behind when they move. That pet has lost its home and family – often the only ones it has ever known – and must fend for itself or depend on the kindness of neighbors for food and shelter. On occasion cats in this situation have found their way to one of our feral colonies, where they may be “lucky” enough to be trapped and brought into the shelter.

When a pet comes into your home it becomes totally dependent on you to provide for its care and well-being. So, simply because none of us knows what the future will bring, part of your decision to get a pet in the first place should include what would become of it if you weren't there.

Our BCC adoption application asks potential adopters for a contingency plan. Who will care for the cat(s) if they became unable to do so? We ask because our goal is, to the best of our ability, to secure each of our cats a forever home; if circumstances change, we want to be sure they will be cared for.

Don't forget to mention your pets in your will, too. They don't have to be mentioned by name. You can say something like “any pets I may own at the time of my death,” and then specify who will assume responsibility for them. But remember to have that all-important talk first. Imposing an unwanted or unmanageable responsibility on someone else is one way to make sure it won't be fulfilled.



Rocky: His owners moved and abandoned him, at two years old. He spent the next two years fending for himself on the streets until he fortuitously walked into a trap we had set for a different cat near one of our feral colonies. Remarkably, despite his hardships (and some scars to prove it), he retained a sweet personality and gets along with other cats and people. He's been adopted by one of our volunteers.



Lexi and Luke: Nine and ten-years-old, respectively, their owner died, and they were found left in the home by the town Animal Control Officer, who subsequently contacted BCC. They're soft and cuddly and currently sharing the shelter bathroom while we try to find a home for them together.



Sparkles: This adorable seven-year-old tabby's owner passed away. Neighbors provided food for a while until contacting BCC. This friendly girl loves to be petted and can't wait to find a new home where she can "sparkle."



Boodles: Six years old, Boodles came to BCC this summer. His owner died, and neighbors fed him for a while before contacting BCC for assistance.



Tiger: Seen here helping our shelter manager with some paperwork, Tiger was four years old in 2018 when his owner, a veteran suffering from dementia, had to be hospitalized. No arrangement had been made for Tiger's care. Luckily, through neighbors, he found his way to BCC.

To donate to the Branford Compassion Club via Paypal using your debit or credit card (or your Paypal account) visit our [website](#). You may make a one-time donation, or click on "Make this a monthly donation" to make a recurring payment. Or, checks payable to Branford Compassion Club can be mailed to: Branford Compassion Club, 2037 Foxon Road, North Branford, CT 06471.