

Comfort for Critters

Comforting homeless pets, one blanket at a time

Welcome to 2015!

I hope everyone likes the new “look” of CFC ... it’s an indication of big things to come, I’m sure! I feel very good about covering all 50 states this year, as is our goal. We recently signed up the two toughest – Alaska and Hawaii – so I’m confident we’ll hit this mark in the first quarter.

We’ll also ship blanket our 25,000th blanket this year. I don’t know how we did it, but I do know it was because of YOU. Thank you for making a blanket, dropping off a bag at a shelter or just reading this newsletter and spreading the word.

There are many fun surprises planned for the coming year. My prayer for CFC is that it continues to grow, continues to comfort homeless pets and continues to be a blessing to each volunteer. I also pray that I can stay out of the way and let God continue to drive every accomplishment!

May God bless you...as you bless others,

Linda



Blessings...

- *We comforted hundreds homeless pets in December, by donating 589 blankets during the month.*
- *25 different shelters received our blankets, and many received a handful of toys as well.*
- *These blessings were only possible due to the 45 volunteers that helped us last month. Thank you!*

To date, CFC has shipped 24,070 blankets!

*~ Pin Us on **Pinterest** ~*

*~ Like Us on **Facebook** ~*

~ Check us out at www.ComfortForCritters.org ~



“I wanted to let you know we just received our first donation of blankets.

They are absolutely gorgeous and so well made! I’ve attached a photo of Ingrid, our first kitty to receive her pretty pink blanket ☺. Thanks again for all you do!”

Heather at Kennebec Valley Humane Society

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



*May 2015 bring friends to your door,
love to your heart
& free time to your calendar!*

Pets Help Military Families Too!

There’s been a good deal of press around how specially trained dogs assist our military, and serve side-by-side with our men and women overseas. A recent study at Tufts University shows how much pets can serve, right at home, with the military families that are left behind.

Children of military families often undergo the unique stress of frequent relocations and the worry associated with a mom or dad far from home. These researchers wanted to know if pets might provide a “protective factor for children’s well-being and promote resilience when a parent is deployed.”

The study found that there was a significant positive association between the child’s coping skills and a

Shelters Supported in December

- * Alton Area Animal Aid Association – Godfrey, IL
- * Animal Care Services – San Antonio, TX
- * Animal Adoption Center – Lindenwold, NJ
- * ARF-IL - Lisle, IL
- * Bichons & Buddies – Los Angeles, CA
- * Boone Area Humane Society – Boone, IA
- * Cat Guardians – Lombard, IL
- * Catnap from the Heart – LaGrange Park, IL
- * Connecticut Humane Society – Newington, CT
- * Franklin County Humane Society – St. Albans, VT
- * Friends of the Animal Village – Little Rock, AR
- * Fox Valley Animal Welfare Coalition – N. Aurora, IL
- * Gulf Coast Humane Society – Fort Myers, FL
- * Hawaiian Humane Society – Honolulu, HI
- * Helping Paws Pet Haven – Huntington, IN
- * Hermitage Cat Shelter - Tucson, AZ
- * Home Alone Feline Rescue – Arlington, VA
- * Humane Society of Utah – Murray, UT
- * KopyKat – Delmont, PA
- * Lulu’s Locker – Chicago, IL
- * Micro Cat Manor – Electric City, WA
- * Naperville Area Humane Society – Naperville, IL
- * Standish Humane Society – Duxbury, MA
- * Town Cats – Morgan Hill, CA
- * Will County Humane Society - Shorewood, IL

strong pet interaction. The more the child was attached to the pet, the more positive the results – shown in the areas of competence, confidence, connection, character and caring.

The researchers were actually surprised by the depth of the child’s feelings and the types of connections. They found that some children were connected to the physical aspect of the pet (cuddling, petting, etc.), while other were connected to the responsibility of caring for the pet. This made even fish and gerbils highly beneficial to the children.

Bottom line, they found that children with deployed parents who had developed a deep bond with a family pet reported having better coping strategies in dealing with the stress, than those without such ties to a companion animal. This research could prompt a cost-effective way to offer beneficial support to military families. It may even result in some shelter pets finding their own very patriotic “forever family.”

A Shelter You Should Know...

Hawaiian Humane Society

"People for animals. Animals for people."

CFC ventured outside the continental US recently, signing up the Hawaiian Humane Society to receive our blankets. Of course we wanted to hand-deliver our creations, but we had to settle for the good 'ol USPS. The blankets made it to Hawaii in record time, and the shipping didn't even break the bank!

The Hawaiian Humane Society began protecting animals, long before Hawaii became a state in 1959. In 1897, a woman named Helen Kinau Wilder asked the police department for the authority to protect the city's animals. She was appointed a "special constable" and given the responsibility of enforcing Hawaii's animal cruelty laws. What a great example of the ability of one person to promote so much change!

Even though the focus, at the time, was on work animals (rather than pets), education was always a top priority of the group. The founding members focused on raising public awareness about the proper care, feeding and humane treatment of all animals.

Today, the Hawaiian Humane Society continues to serve the community by presenting numerous programs which strengthen the bond between people and their companion animals. The staff and volunteers work hard to care for over 25,000 pets a year, while fighting for better laws to protect their area's animals.

They remain open every day of the year, and are the island of Oahu's only open-admissions shelter. "We believe there must be a place that all animals are welcome," is their motto, and truly their guide.

Hawaiian Humane Society

Honolulu, Hawaii

Email: hhs@hawaiianhumane.org

www.HawaiianHumane.org



These kitties are at the Hawaiian Humane Society, relaxing on their CFC blankets. This watermelon creation was actually one I made! Don't you wish YOU were there?!



Shelters by the Numbers

I'm thrilled to report that the number of pets euthanized in shelters has dropped drastically over the past decade. There's still work to be done, and so CFC is happy to be part of the effort to comfort those pets that find themselves in shelters. Here are a few interesting facts about US shelters, to kick off our efforts this year:

- There are **3,500** animal shelters in the US.
- **6-8 million** pets enter shelters each year.
- **25%** of dogs in shelters are purebred.
- **3-4M** pets are adopted from shelters each year.
- **2.7M** adoptable cats/dogs are euthanized each year.
- **30%** of shelter dogs are reclaimed by their companions. **2-5%** of cats are reclaimed.

Shelter “thank you’s” to our volunteers...

“Thank you so much for those wonderful fleece blankets. They will keep a lot of cats warm this winter. Thank you for giving to the cats that so many others have forgotten.” ~ *Triple R Pets*

“Thank you for the lovely crocheted cat blankets! We are grateful for the time and effort you put into making these to help keep our cats and kittens warm and comfortable. They appreciate them and we do too!” ~ *King Street Cats*

“A HUGE thank you for the special delivery of the amazing blankets for Hope 4 Paws Rescue! Our foster pups are so grateful to have such sweet, cozy blankets to curl up on whether in a crate or on our couches! Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts – we know how much time and loves goes into them and appreciate them more than you know!” ~ *Hope 4 Paws Dog Rescue*

“Thank you and Comfort for Critters for all the blankets you have created for the animals at Buddy. They are all very beautiful and will add comfort to all.” ~ *Buddy Foundation*

“The blankets arrived this last week. Thank you so much. They will brighten the rooms and kennels in our recovery area for kitties who are being treated. It is very much appreciated. Thank you so much. ~ *C&W Rustic Hollow Shelter*

We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give.

— Winston S. Churchill

A few friendly reminders...

- Don't forget to **leave your name and address** on the blankets or materials you drop-off, so that I can send a thank you note.
- Once you have some blankets made, please check out our website to **find a shelter near you** (or at least in your state). Feel free to ship your blankets directly, or drop them off, and just let me know how many you sent.
- Remember that we are all **volunteers**, juggling CFC, jobs and kids! We do reply to every inquiry, but it may take a day or two. *Thanks for your patience!*



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