



Furkids Rescue

Fall 2006

A 501(c)(3) Not-For-Profit Organization

A Newsletter for Adopters, Supporters, and Friends of Furkids

Mission Statement

Furkids is an animal rescue organization in Metro Atlanta striving to provide and maintain a no-kill haven for homeless, abused or abandoned animals until placing them in permanent loving homes. Furkids promotes public awareness regarding the value of pets, animal welfare, pet overpopulation, and quality human-animal companionship.

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Dear Friends:

On April 1, 2006 Furkids officially opened the doors to Georgia's largest cage-free cat shelter. During our grand opening weekend, close to 700 visitors explored this bright, beautiful new home to 200 cats. The feedback was nothing short of incredible!

The grand opening arrived in the nick of time. In just five months since the shelter opened, we've processed a record number of 532 intakes, assisted with two hoarding cases in Gwinnett County and pulled animals out of Gwinnett, Fulton and Murray County Animal Control facilities on their last day before being euthanized. In addition, more than 30 new volunteers have been trained to help at the shelter and our adoption centers – thanks to the wonderful media coverage from our local networks and newspapers. Also, we have taken on a third Petsmart location in Midtown which gives our cats more exposure. This dream was brought to reality by the many dedicated Furkids volunteers and many generous donations from our friends and supporters—including some of those same volunteers. It took two years to raise the support

needed to build our new home; and it will take ongoing support for us to keep Furkids moving forward. We are up to the challenge!

Whether you're a volunteer or a donor or both, I thank each one of you for your tireless efforts to make this dream of a shelter a wonderful reality. Because of your generosity, Furkids will find loving, permanent homes for the hundreds of Georgia's homeless animals who

might have starved to death, been killed in the streets or euthanized by now.

Moreover, once our shelter was open and running, Furkids reached a new plateau. As the demands on my time grew, it became obvious

to me that our organization needed an executive director who could devote all of her time and energies to building Furkids and securing our future. For a long time, I have been considering resigning my part-time position, and in July, I stopped considering and took a leap of faith. Furkids is my calling, and I'm totally committed to raising the money to maintain the most professional and innovative organization in the country for homeless animals.

I had no idea how much joy and accomplishment I would derive just by working with the animals and the great people I get to meet. Animals are gifts from God, precious creatures that provide us unconditional love and companionship who should not be neglected, abused or tossed out like trash. Harriet Beecher Stowe said it best: "Concern for animals is a matter of taking the side of the weak against the strong, something the best people have always done."

A nonprofit organization can fill its mission only in partnership with dedicated volunteers and donors. Thank you for sharing the vision and committing your time and resources to Furkids.

Best regards,

Samantha Shelton



GRAND OPENING RECAP

What a wonderful weekend to celebrate the great felines and friends in our lives! Thank you to everyone who came out during our grand opening weekend.



We thank Mary Bradley for capturing the moment with these beautiful photos.

BEST FRIENDS MAGAZINE REPRINT

Living Her Dream

Furkids, a group dedicated to saving homeless cats, recently held a grand opening for its new shelter in Atlanta, Georgia. Samantha Shelton founded the group five years ago after she discovered how hard it was to find homes for a stray mother cat and her kittens. She started with foster homes, and worked



diligently toward her dream of opening a no-kill shelter.

The bright and cheery facility, one of the first of its kind in Georgia, has 11 rooms containing lots of cat condos, comfy beds and kitty toys. "I really wanted the environment here to be very warm and inviting," Shelton said. "And I wanted a cage-free shelter, because cats are very social and love to be together." 🐾

We are so pleased that Furkids was featured in a small story in the May issue of the national magazine, Best Friends. Best Friends Animal Society runs the nation's largest sanctuary for abused and abandoned animals, and its magazine publishes "all the good news about animals, wildlife and the earth". Recognition in a magazine of this stature brings great credibility and visibility to Furkids. It will help us spread the word about Furkids and encourage more volunteers and donations. Because of this article, our operations were visited by four other shelters from around the country so they could implement our ideas at their shelters!

FURKIDS ALSO DOTES ON DOGS

While the Furkids shelter is home to some 200 cats, do you know that we also care for some dogs in our program, too? As of this writing, Furkids has approximately 10 dogs waiting for loving, forever homes. Go to our website, www.furkids.org for more information on the dog that's waiting to fill your life with canine love!



Bear



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, THIRD ANNUAL PUNCHLINE COMEDY EVENT AND SILENT AUCTION!

As the temperatures drop and summer becomes a memory, we start thinking about improvisational comedy.

This means its time for our Third Annual Comedy Night and Silent Auction at the Punchline! Attendees can expect an evening of good laughs and the opportunity to bid on an array of exciting items related to food, home, pets, decorating, entertaining and wonderful gifts. Just in time for the holidays! Buy your friends and family holiday gifts while supporting Furkids!

Please mark your calendars and attend the event on Wednesday, November 8, 2006. Because of the added costs of running the new shelter, we need this year to be the best event yet! Auction items are being researched and requested. If you have an idea for an item to be donated, or if you would like to help with this event, please contact Lisa Lowenstein at event@furkids.org. Laughter is good for your health, and in this case, it will be good for our animals' health, too. Plan for a night of laughter and fun, and help us make this a very successful evening for all of our furry kids.



CAT'S MEOW MARKETPLACE RECAP

What do a piano, baby clothes, a washer and dryer and vintage jewelry have in common? All of these items – and more -- were donated to Furkids and sold at the Sixth Annual Cat's Meow Marketplace. The sale was a great success! Our weekend sale efforts netted \$15,000 for the shelter. Many thanks to all of our amazing volunteers and fantastic donors who made this annual event possible! Thank you also to Marvin and Matt Brown of Moving, Etc. for the moving trucks and many donation pick ups, Glen McDaniel of Slopes BBQ for our delicious Friday night meal and Mimms Enterprises for the loan of their retail space! What a great effort by everyone – many, many thanks to you all! The spring/summer Marketplace is over, but keep saving your items for Furkids. The Marketplace was so successful that we are considering a fall event. Check our web site for updates.

MR. RED MAKES IT BIG!



In case you visit the Furkids shelter and find our big, beloved ginger cat, Mr. Red, missing, don't fret. We are excited to announce that Mr. Red is enjoying a streak of very good luck. Mr. Red was adopted by Furkids volunteer Arlene Gunter and her husband. Even more exciting, Arlene entered Mr. Red in a contest sponsored by the Georgia Lottery Corporation, and he won! The Georgia Lottery chose Mr. Red as one of five FAT CATS to be featured on the upcoming 2 FAT CAT instant game tickets. The new lottery tickets are scheduled to go on sale on or about January 2, 2007.

Mr. Red is extremely playful and so full of personality. I just knew that would come across in a photo for this contest, says Arlene. And now, he officially is a "fat cat".

Not only is Mr. Red adorable and a character who stands out among cats, he is even more special because he has FIV. As Mr. Red illustrates, cats with FIV can live very long and healthy lives.

For more information on FIV, please visit www.furkids.org. And when you buy a \$2 FAT CAT instant game ticket next year, watch for Mr. Red on your ticket. He might just extend some of his very good luck to you! Furkids has 15 FIV cats available for adoption. Help us save more of their lives by encouraging the adoption of FIV+ cats. Furkids is the only shelter in Georgia -- and possibly the southeast

-- that features a room (capacity of 15) dedicated to cats with the Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, FALL WALK-RUN TO BENEFIT FURKIDS ANIMALS!

Walk, run, jog, hop, skip, saunter or stroll. Whatever your preference, join Team Furkids at the 2006 Atlanta Walk-Run for Animals, Saturday, October 28, 2006.

We will apply all of the money raised to our veterinary bills. You might be surprised to know that even though some of our vet services are donated, Furkids averages \$5,000 a month in medical care for our program animals. At the height of kitten season, this number easily goes to \$7,000. So move that body and do something good for homeless animals by joining our team and walking with Furkids! <https://www.firstgiving.com/furkidsinc>. Spread the word and get friends, family and colleagues to sponsor you! You will help provide the funds we need to provide the best care to our animals. Email our team captain, melissa@furkids.org for more information.



HAPPY BEGINNINGS - NEW CAREER FOR CHARLIE!



Christina Nance, adopter of three Furkids felines, recently shared with us the wonderful story of how Charlie (aka Kobe) spends the second Saturday of each month at the VA

Nursing Home. Charlie is accompanied by four outgoing dogs and together their visits really seem to brighten up many of the residents' days (and even some of the nurses and caretakers!). Charlie takes his job as pet therapist seriously but he loves all of the attention too! Way to go, Christina and Charlie! Furkids loves to hear how our adoptees are doing in their new homes. Please submit your stories and pictures to info@furkids.org for our Happy Beginnings webpage!





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FURKIDS GOLF TOURNAMENT?

If you're an organizer who also likes to play golf, Furkids needs you. As part of our growing development plan, Furkids would like to hold an annual golf tournament to raise money for our shelter. If you have contacts for a potential host golf course or would like to be on the team to discuss and plan a golf event, please contact Samantha Shelton at sam@furkids.org.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (STATS):

Furkids has rescued 2,000 animals since its 2002 inception and has successfully adopted over 1,500 animals into loving, permanent homes. Our spay/neuter efforts have prevented thousands of future unwanted litters of cats and dogs. Take a look at our numbers!

	2006 YTD	2005	2004	2003	2002
Intakes	592	481	467	373	216
Adoptions	359	391	376	284	125
Volunteers	139	126	113	59	26

While we're proud of our accomplishments, our challenge is that with every successful adoption comes another homeless animal – or more – who need our temporary shelter and a permanent home. We will not turn away those helpless animals. Your support of Furkids will help us with care for homeless animals and fund the spay/neuter programs that help control the population of unwanted cats and dogs. Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission.



SAVE THE DATE

January 20, Art Auction & Wine Tasting at Regency Fine Art to benefit Furkids!

February 24, Furkids Fifth Anniversary Party!