

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In September 2005, a dedicated group of people recognized the need for a 'no kill' shelter in Montgomery County, Maryland. The result was the creation of the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWLMC), a 501(c) (3), a not for profit organization whose mission is to enhance the lives of Montgomery County residents and animals through programs directed at education, adoption, animal shelter and low cost spay/neuter. Many cats have been saved because of AWLMC, among them are Scooter, Blaze, and KiKi, whose stories appear inside.

We are now in our sixth year and we are constantly improving our services in the metro area. Our volunteer base has gone from 65 to over 250. Our intake program enabled us to save almost 600 cats and kittens from being euthanized (most of our cats and kittens come from local shelters as well as the local residents). Our adoption events found wonderful permanent homes for over 500 cats and kittens. Through our medical program, we partner with local veterinarians to ensure that our animals receive quality medical care. In addition, we run a low cost spay/neuter program to help reduce the animal population.

We have been in our no-kill boutique shelter in Gaithersburg for almost four years. With large windows and lots of play time, the shelter provides homeless cats with a happy environment where they can thrive. The cats receive regular medical care, exercise, plenty of human contact, quality food and warm beds.

Our Seniors for Seniors program is now two years old and we have placed many senior citizen cats (who would have otherwise been euthanized) into loving homes with elder folks. This program makes it easier for the elderly to get involved and make a difference – a win-win situation.

Our newest program is our spay/neuter initiative. While partnering with local veterinarians, we have started a \$50 low cost spay/neuter program. With a \$10,000 private donation made directly to start this program, we have also given 200 free spay/neuter certificates in both February and August, targeting the elderly and those who might not be financially able to alter their cats. We are hoping to make a difference in our community.

As you can see, we have accomplished a lot over the past five years and we hope you can also see how dedicated we are to continuing our mission. With our shelter and foster program, we are able to save even more animals and give them the love and care necessary to find the perfect home.

We have set a goal of raising \$30,000 this year to continue and expand our services to the citizens of Montgomery County. It's going to be a very difficult task during these difficult times, however winter will soon be here, and time is of the essence. We need your help. If you would like to be part of our effort, please donate today. If everyone donated just a little, we would be very grateful.

Thank you in advance for your help.
The AWLMC Board of Directors

AWLMC's Fall Shelter Pledge

The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWLMC) needs your help raising money for our no-kill cat shelter. AWLMC is a not for profit 501(c) (3) organization whose mission is to save the lives of abandoned cats and kittens, and provide food, healthcare and shelter for them until they are adopted into their permanent homes. A major part of our goal is to control the feline population by working with local vets to have all our cats and kittens spayed and neutered before they are adopted.

AWLMC needs your help as we prepare for another cold winter ahead. A new set of challenges have come to the forefront. We are finding more cats that are lost because of foreclosures; people have lost their homes and are looking for a safe warm sanctuary for their feline companions who would otherwise be on the street. We now need to raise \$30,000 to continue our efforts to administer aid to the county and the surrounding community. Hard times call for more people digging deep and helping out those in need. Please consider donating even a small amount to help us get through this most difficult period in our economy.

During our first five years, AWLMC has received wonderful support from the community. Please help us again to continue our work giving cats a chance to be happy, healthy and most importantly – adopted.

We would be ever so grateful if you could make a donation – every dollar goes directly to helping the cats in our care. To make your donation, please use the enclosed envelope. If you would like more information about our organization, visit us online at www.awlmc.org or call us at 301-740-2511.

Fall Shelter Pledge
Our Goal \$30,000



This mailing has been paid for by a very special angel. Her love of animals is boundless.



Scooter's Story The Long Wait

As a little kitten, I was abandoned in the back of a strip shopping center with my five, eight week old siblings. We found food in the dumpsters and begged from the people coming out of the local 7-11 store. A kind lady feeding feral cats in the area saw us, scooped us up and took us to her home.

We stayed with her and her house full of cats and kittens until we were about nine months old. She adopted one of us and the rest of us went to live at the AWLMC shelter. My sister was immediately adopted leaving me and my two brothers. Since we were all black cats we quickly formed the Boys Club playing together, having a great time and chasing the other cats in the shelter.

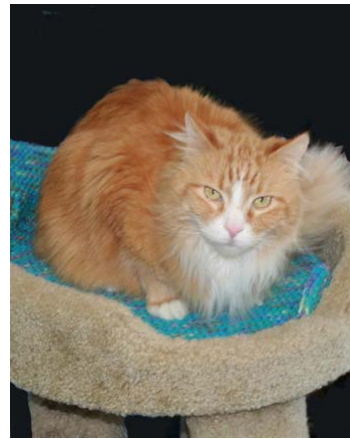
Another of my brothers eventually found a home and then there were just two of us until a big tuxedo cat came to the shelter. Zorro looked just like me! The three of us became best buddies. A woman and her daughter were so taken with us we were adopted before Christmas. But three of us proved too many cats for them and I was returned.

I felt so alone. I missed my best friends. The other cats in the shelter were new and didn't know me or want to play. Eventually, I stopped playing and spent most of my time sitting in the cat tree looking out the window. It didn't look like there would ever be a home or a friend for me.

Then came the shelter's 3rd anniversary party. A fantastic lady who had adopted a Katrina cat named Caruso in 2009, picked me up and took me home. I was so confused I hid under

the bed for over a week. Caruso would come meow at me to try and get me to come out and play. Little by little, I finally did. Soon the two of us were running and jumping, chasing each other all through the house. It was unbelievable that after so many false starts, I finally have a family of my own and a best friend forever.

Thanks to AWLMC and all the wonderful people along the way, my life is now complete. It's wonderful to love and be loved.



Blaze's Story Hoping for A Happy Ending

Gazing out the shelter window, he poses in hope as people passing by give him a hesitating glance before they move on with their busy day. Blaze's eyes are sadly telling, but one can only imagine what he might be thinking. There's no doubt he's been through a lot. His long, beautiful orange coat is not as shiny and neat as it once was. There seems to be a story of loss within his heart.

Blaze once lived in a house, well loved by his owner, who shared his hair color. The second feline in residence represented a second "significant other" in Blaze's life. His fellow cat mate used to share a bed with him. The two would romp around the spacious house together for years. Little did Blaze know then that he would lose them both almost in one fell swoop.

Blaze's owner abruptly landed a new job that took her out of the state at unpredictable intervals. Although this was good news for her, it created a serious problem for the cats.

When the facts were looked at logically, she realized in the best interest of the cats, she needed to give them up.

Blaze's companion found a new home easily, going to a family friend who knew both cats. But she could only take one. The morning after he left, Blaze searched throughout each room of the house and cried for him, but to no avail. He repeatedly asked his owner what had happened, via a sad meow that didn't require interpretation. The owner could only look back into Blaze's sad eyes, unable to explain.

Enter the AWLMC. We met Blaze, who although an older fellow, seemed affectionate and loving, rubbing up against anyone who knelt down beside him. We accepted him with open arms, but he found the shelter confusing and longed for the life he once knew.

There is no doubt Blaze looks out the shelter window wondering where his two friends have gone. And even in the quietest moments, he must wonder what he did wrong.

We can only hope that this sad fellow will catch someone's eye soon and become the loving companion he once was not long ago. Until then, Blaze sits, waits, and hopes.



KiKi's Story I Rescued Someone Today!

His eyes met mine as he walked around our shelter looking at all my friends. I felt his interest as he rounded the corner. I hurriedly cleaned my ears, hoping to look my very best. I kept my head up so he could see how

astonishingly beautiful I am. I wanted him to see how particular I am with my grooming and I would be able to keep him very happy.

As he read my kennel story, I hoped he wouldn't feel too sad for me – as I see it, my future is with him and his life will be wonderful and I will make such a difference. As he stuck his fingers in my cage, I rubbed my ears and whiskers against him, and I knew he was smiling. He made little kitty sounds and caressed me as I put my head in his hand.

He was so awestruck he knew immediately I was the one to make his life complete. A smile, maybe even a tear appeared on his face. I raised my tail, gave it a wag and soon I was in his arms. I promised to be by his side and would do all I could to keep him smiling, laughing and be his best friend.

Before my owner came to my rescue, so many apprehensive people came to see me and passed me by – I was too old, too sad, not the right color, been at the shelter too long and not a kitten.

I jumped into the carrier with excitement stirring from my whiskers to the tip of my tail. I knew I was starting a great adventure. Today I made a difference – my person's life will change forever.

