

A quarterly newsletter for Volunteers, Friends & Supporters of The Oasis Animal Sanctuary, Inc.

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A TALE OF TWO KITTIES

They had the worst of times, and now the best of times...

What a predicament poor little Smokey found himself in. At just seven weeks old, he was sick, alone, and in a dark, hot place. No, not Hell, although he might have debated that were he able to speak English. In July, Smokey was stuffed into a tiny cardboard box which was taped shut and bounced onto someone's front yard. What to do? The little guy cried – as loudly as he possibly could. It worked, because the property owner heard the oddly muffled sound and followed it, finding the box containing the little kitten. The nice lady took him to her vet, medicated him according to his instructions, and then called Oasis.



Smokey

At about the same time, in a different part of town, another young, sickly kitten was trying to find Mom. He staggered out onto a fairly busy rural road, oblivious to the imminent danger rushing past him. A kind samaritan drove by and saw this baby struggling to stay on his feet. She pulled over and stopped traffic so her passenger could scoop up the little cat. An emergency trip to the vet revealed the kitten had a severe upper respiratory infection with a raging fever of 105 degrees. Although

some serious medication and good nutrition brought Sylvester back from the brink of death, he had reached a plateau and could not get any better. The woman called Oasis for guidance.



Sylvester

The two orphans were surrendered to Pam Brighton, Oasis President. As they were nurtured, their fevers broke, the infections cleared up, and the two little ones became playmates. Smokey had some damage to one eye that may never heal completely, but he sees well enough to play, climb, pounce, and overall have fun. He is not concerned at all about a little thing like limited eyesight! Sylvester thinks Smokey is a purr-fect playmate, and the two romped contentedly at Pam's, far from the sad conditions they were in such a short time ago.

And the best part of the story?

Smokey and Sylvester were adopted together, as a surprise to a young boy from his parents. Pam delivered the kittens to their home and had the opportunity to witness the wide-eyed delight in the child's face when his new family members wandered up to him.

Moral of the story: Whether you have two legs or four, **NEVER GIVE UP!**

"Old age means realizing you will never own all the dogs you wanted to." - Joe Gores

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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To those who know
 Phyllis Van De Weghe,
 Oasis co-founder,
 her beloved horse **Romeo**
 was humanely euthanized
 on Wednesday October 29,
 due to severe complications
 of founder.
 He was 28 years old.

2008 IN NUMBERS

(as of 10/16/08)

67 animals surrendered
49 adoptions completed
346 total animals surrendered
595 animals spayed/ neutered
3,097 animals spayed/neutered since the program began

To Our Friends and Supporters:

This year's economy has been devastating to individuals, families and businesses, and the nation's pets are hit especially hard: dogs left in abandoned homes; cats dumped in wooded areas to fend for themselves; horses abandoned at auction sites or dropped on other people's farms at night. As a non-profit organization, Oasis is finding ways to cope with the economic downturn while continuing to help as many animals as possible. For example, we have eliminated the horse adoption fee so people can use the money to help care for them until the crisis passes. We are writing more grant requests for our Sterilization Assistance Program, which has seen an unprecedented increase in applications recently. The little faces that stare right through to our souls let us know how deeply they appreciate our help and we will not turn away from them or our mission. We hope that you too can appreciate what is being accomplished and support us as best you can during these hard times.

As we continue to explore property prospects, we must still provide our lender with a gauge of future public support. Last year we created a Pledge Program, which had a positive response. We hope to increase the number of 2009 pledges by creating an easier form to complete. It is our hope that even during this time of economic hardship, the public realizes the magnitude of devastation this crisis has placed on our companion animals. The form below simply asks you to approximate how much you anticipate donating to Oasis, and in what fashion. This will help Oasis secure the financial assistance needed to open the facility's doors.

Creating this sanctuary is a shared dream of many people. As you reflect on your own personal finances, kindly consider the sad situation of so many of those furry, fuzzy and feathery critters out there. Then complete the form and return it in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. We will contact you in 2009 regarding your pledge payment. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Phyllis Van De Weghe
Vice President & CFO

Please cut along dotted line and submit before January 1, 2009

The Oasis Animal Sanctuary Inc. 2009 Pledge Form:
(Minimum pledge \$5, please.) Mail to: P.O. Box 3 Williamstown, NJ 08094

Monthly Pledge:

I pledge \$ _____ per month from January 1 through December 31, 2009.

Or, Annual Pledge:

I pledge \$ _____ on or before (date) _____, 2009.

Please circle one:

I will mail in my payment(s) Please bill my credit card*

Please print:

Name _____

Phone number _____

Address _____

City/state/zip _____

If using credit card, signature of cardholder:

Card number _____

Expiration date _____

*Please note that credit cards will be billed during the first week of every month.

Moving?

If you are moving and still want to receive our newsletter, please let us know. You can help us keep postage costs down by informing us of any change of address. Also, if you are getting duplicate copies of the newsletter, please either let us know, or pass it on to a neighbor or friend. Drop us a line at P.O. Box 3, Williamstown, NJ 08094, call us at 856-262-1222, or email us at oasisanimalsanct@yahoo.com if you have recently moved or are moving in the near future. This way you won't miss Oasis updates. **Thank you.**

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OASIS PROPERTY UPDATE

The last time we spoke to you via this newsletter, we were moving fast and furiously toward buying a property to build our sanctuary. However, unexpected and extraordinary issues involving the property owner's family issues, along with objections from the Pinelands Commission, compelled our attorney to advise Oasis to terminate the real estate contract of sale. While every effort was made to jump the hurdles that arose, it became apparent by mid-August that this acquisition was not to be.

As much as Oasis Board members are upset by this turn of events, we are even more concerned for the many animals still living on this property. (Most critters were residents of the farm long before Oasis was involved.) Oasis and one of the property owner's family members reached out to a number of other animal welfare organizations and rescuers to assist with the plethora of critters that could have ended up homeless. Two goats, two dogs, a blind pig, a few horses, a three legged cat and a number of other felines have been placed in new homes, and we are encouraged and grateful for this. However, many animals still await their fates, especially adult cats and horses, hoping for that new caregiver to come along and save them from an uncertain future. Most of the cats are human friendly and comfortable with other animals; the horses -- beautiful Arabians -- could use a brush-up on training but are otherwise human friendly, good natured creatures that are able to be handled.

Aside from the matter of the animals, this also means that Oasis is back in the market for real estate. The Oasis co-founders have already begun searching for yet another location upon which to build a sanctuary, and will report their progress as new opportunities arise.

**Every path has its puddles.
NEVER GIVE UP!**

**Go to www.petfinder.com
and input the zip code
"08081" to see all
of our adoptables.**

A HOLIDAY WISH FOR THE ANIMALS

By Sherron Laurel

Editors' note: This is an unsolicited and unedited letter from an Oasis supporter sharing her idea about holiday giving. Thank you Sherron!

My family's view of holiday gift giving changed dramatically in 2001. That is the year America's world turned upside down. Somehow lots of beautifully wrapped presents did not seem as appealing as they once did. We were overwhelmed with gratitude that we still had each other and those we loved as the holiday season arrived. We decided to do things differently that year and we have continued the tradition. This will be our eighth year. I wanted to share our story with you in the hopes you might think it is a good idea too.

There are four siblings in my family. We used to buy each other nice gifts that we truly appreciated. After the amazing horror of what happened on September 11, 2001, we decided that we wanted to pool the money we normally spent on each other and help organizations that helped others. We thought that was really the spirit of the season and an appropriate tribute to those who would never be able to share the season with those they loved. We take turns each year choosing the charity that will receive our gift. I'm the oldest, so I went first. I had been overwhelmed by the people in New York who had lost so many of their pets in the disaster, and that so many pets had lost their people. I can still remember an Animal Planet special of the rescue teams walking up 50 flights of steps in a Manhattan apartment building, with no lights and no ventilation, to rescue a woman's 10 year old Maltese who had been alone in the blown out building for four days. I could cry even now thinking about the terror on that little dog's face and the exhaustion on the faces of the rescuers that turned to joy when they found the dog alive!

So that first year, I chose an animal rescue organization for our combined

gift. We got the nicest note back saying that our decision to spend our money helping the animals, rather than gifting each other, was touching and deeply appreciated. Each year since 2001, we have taken turns picking the charity. We've given to an international women's relief fund, a homeless shelter in LA, a food bank in Virginia, a no-kill [animal] shelter in PA and last year we chose The Oasis Animal Sanctuary.

That's why I'm sharing this family story with you. Oasis is doing remarkable and important work for the animals of South Jersey. I hope you will consider asking your siblings to join you in giving the gift of love to the animals this holiday season. My two sisters, my brother and I assure you it will be the best gift you give!

ADORABLE ADOPTABLES

All Oasis animals are spayed or neutered prior to their adoption. If you adopt more than one animal, Oasis offers a 20% discount on all the adoption fees. Additionally, and until further notice, the adoption fee for any horse has been waived.

Mia is a beautiful and very friendly female that was found wandering in the woods in Franklinville, NJ. She gave birth in someone's shed this past July to four healthy babies. She tested negative for Feline AIDs and Leukemia and is now ready to go to her new forever home. Mia is about a year old, very friendly toward humans and gets along with other cats. She will make someone a lovely pet.



Mia

Gizmo is the last of Mia's four kittens to be adopted. This little cutie pie was born on July 16th and he is your typical kitten - cute, curious, and silly! He is (continued on page 4)

(Gizmo continued from page 3)
 neutered, up to date on shots and ready for his forever home. How can you resist such cuteness?



Gizmo

Circe is a 19-year-old Polish Arabian mare that was trained in Western riding and enjoyed group trail rides. She has a sweet disposition and behaves for the blacksmith, equine dentist, and vet. She has not been ridden in about six years due to the owner's health issues. Circe was evaluated by a professional dressage trainer, who feels that the animal is kind and sound, and just needs a little retraining. She has nice ground manners and wants to please.



Circe

DD Impressive is a **REGISTERED QUARTERHORSE** mare (with papers) about 19 years old, sound, and in excellent health. She is from the Impressive line, but is negative for HYPP. She has good ground manners and behaves for the vet, blacksmith and dentist. DD was evaluated by a professional dressage trainer who feels the horse may do well in a low level dressage program (she is not limited to only this riding discipline). This is a very well trained horse that needs a rider who can ask with the slightest of cues. She has a sweet disposition and loves attention from both other horses and people. DD deserves someone to dote on her and give her a job she can enjoy.



DD Impressive

Millie is an approximately one-year-old cat that was dumped at a local farm. She was already spayed, and tested negative for Feline AIDs and Leukemia. Millie is up to date on shots and very gentle. She is OK with cats and dogs; we have not yet had an opportunity to test her with small children. However, she is quite the cuddler, and absolutely loves a warm lap to sit on.



Millie

Squiggy is just the nicest little cat! She and her siblings were born in a barn wall in Salem County, NJ. Something must have happened to Mom, because she never came back to care for her kittens. Only Squiggy and one brother survived, and just barely! Now a young adult, she is healthy, spayed, up to date on shots, and gets along with other cats. If you are looking for a real lap warmer, Squiggy qualifies!



Squiggy

*"To err is human. To purr feline"
 - Robert Byrne*

WAG AND WISKERS TO:

... to the bridesmaids and flower girls in the wedding of **Ms. Jennifer Kelley** of Mantua, NJ and **Mr. Dennis Taggart**, also of Mantua. The ladies made a donation to Oasis to help support our horses in honor of the couple's upcoming wedding and Jennifer's love of horses.

... to **PETCO** Foundation's "Round Up/ Spay Today" Campaign for its support and donation to the Oasis Sterilization Assistance Program, and for the PETCO store at 1730 Clements Bridge Road in Deptford, NJ for recommending Oasis as a recipient. **Thank you, Carlo and crew!**

... to the **PAFA Group Home** at the **Vineland Developmental Center** on Landis Ave in Vineland, NJ for their wonderful donation of dog and cat food.

... to **Ms. Wenda Vadimski** and CDI Corporation for their fundraising efforts and donation to Oasis.

... to **Mr. David Vales** of Mt. Laurel, NJ for his many donated hours spent renovating our website!

Please Help the Animals!

Send your tax deductible donation to:

The Oasis Animal Sanctuary, Inc.
 P.O. Box 3
 Williamstown, NJ 08094

\$15__ \$25__ \$50__ other\$__

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