



Fall 2018

P.O. Box 9056, Brewery Street Station,  
New Haven, CT 06532

For more information:

(203) 946-8110

[www.findafriendforlife.org](http://www.findafriendforlife.org)

[www.petfinder.com/shelters/CT74.html](http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/CT74.html)

Follow FNHAS on Facebook 

## SAVE THESE DATES!

November 18, 2018- Adoption event with the North Shore Animal League America, Bishop's Orchards- 1355 Boston Post Rd., Guilford, 11:30am-3pm

December 2, 2018- Adoption event with North Shore Animal League America, Hamden Petco- 2335 Dixwell Ave., Hamden, 11:30am-3pm

December 8, 2018- 'Pictures with Santa' North Haven Petco – 390 Universal Dr., North Haven, 1pm-4pm

January 6, 2019- Adoption event with North Shore Animal League America, site TBD

**These dates may change. Please check our website for confirmation.**

**AmongFRIENDS** Contributors:  
Patricia Grandjean, Samantha Mogck,  
Marsha Rabe, Anna Schildroth, Elaine Spinato, Deb Wan



If you've found a friend for life at The Robin I. Kroogman New Haven Animal Shelter, let us know. Perhaps you'll be featured in a future issue of **AmongFRIENDS**.

# AMONG FRIENDS

The newsletter of The Friends of the New Haven Animal Shelter, Inc.  
<http://www.findafriendforlife.org> OR [www.petfinder.com/shelters/CT74.html](http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/CT74.html)

Volume 23 | Issue 2 Fall 2018

FNHAS on Facebook 

## The Eyes Have It

“The eyes are the windows to the soul” is a quote that has been attributed to several historical people, among them William Shakespeare, Leonardo Da Vinci, and the Roman statesman, Cicero. Gazing into the eyes of any living thing can elicit sorrow, hopefulness, joy, anxiety, or perhaps surprise. Whatever the emotion, gazing into another being’s eyes can be our way of connecting with them in a lasting, meaningful way. It’s a feeling that pet adopters know well.

Ginger, connected with her new owner, Mackie Sterrett, in just that way.

Ginger (formerly known as Josie) came as a stray to the Robin I. Kroogman New Haven Animal Shelter in February, 2017, and, as is the case with most shelter dogs, there were no details about her history or what her life was like on the streets. Her demeanor at the shelter was relatively calm even though she was there for well over a year. Although her eyes exuded calm, there was always a touch of sadness. As an 8-year-old pit-bull mix, she was overlooked by families who wanted a younger dog. Still, she remained patient, as if content to wait for the right owner. That person would eventually come.

Mackie wanted to adopt another dog as a companion for her one-year-old French bulldog, Milli. She was interested in adopting a pit bull and was well acquainted with the breed. Her boyfriend, Lawrence Macari, has a pit bull and Rottweiler, and all three dogs are the best of pals. “I was tired of the bad rap that pit bulls get,” Mackie says. “They just don’t deserve it.” Mackie had visited other animal shelters, but the adoption process seemed a bit onerous and she was eager to adopt quickly. “I also wanted to adopt an older dog,” she adds. “They seem so much wiser and more peaceful.”

Mackie’s search began in earnest when she and her daughters Madden, Virginia, and Anna were shopping at IKEA and decided to make the short trip across town to the New Haven Animal Shelter. She first saw Ginger sitting in her kennel like the Sphinx, her front paws crossed, gazing up at her. Amid the barking of the other dogs, Ginger sat composed and quiet. Her eye contact was constant, and she looked, Mackie says, “right into my soul.” One of the kennel workers, Dalila (Dolly) Ortiz helped Mackie with the adoption, showing her several other dogs before she chose Ginger. “Dolly made the process so easy, and the staff really helped to make this happen,” Mackie says. “Everyone was so friendly and welcoming. They really care about the animals.”

Ginger finally went home on Aug. 13, 2018 after the shelter staff tested her compatibility with all the dogs at the Sterrett/Macari household. The transition was smooth for several reasons. Mackie was intent on giving her a tranquil life. With a penchant for working with the elderly, she is a wellness coach, a pilates instructor, and helps osteoporosis patients maintain strength, balance, and movement. The training, she says, provides emotional reward: “I wanted to transfer that wellness to an older dog that no one wanted.” In that, she’s succeeded.



Ginger



Ginger and Milli

At first, Ginger never left Mackie’s side and followed her everywhere; but in time, she learned the rhythm of her new surroundings. With three growing daughters, the activity level at home can be high, but Ginger has found a balance that suits her and delights her family. There are walks in the garden at least twice a day, during which she leaps playfully like a much younger dog. Tossing her squeaky toys elicits a low, raspy bark of delight with Milli the French bulldog joining in.

Like all dogs, Ginger enjoys her “down time” just as much as recreation. She loves treats like an occasional soft caramel (as we all do) and is especially fond of cornbread. She is so fond of the latter that it’s become her nickname. But she’s happiest when she nudges a blanket aside and burrows underneath, snuggling among Mackie’s daughters with her paws peeking out.

Ginger has become the favorite of the neighbors who often comment that it’s “such a good thing” that Mackie and her family adopted her. In return, says Mackie, “offers her paw to everyone and is the kindest, most mellow dog.”

The pictures are worth a thousand words; just take a look and you will be convinced.

*Editor’s note: Mackie Sterrett donates the proceeds of her first Thursday pilates class each month at The Posture Bar in Farmington to animal rescue.*

## Seabiscuit (Bisky)

*Adopted from the Robin I. Kroogman New Haven Animal Shelter, July 24, 2003  
Died, Guilford, Connecticut, April 5, 2013*

*By: Marsha Rabe, Thom Brown, and Peppina, our current calico*

Shortly after she died, we sent an email to friends with this photo attached. Everyone answered with sweet memories and kind words. But one message surprised me. It came from a woman who was more acquaintance than friend — and a dog person through and through. She’d never met Bisky. She wrote, “I’m so sorry to hear this. I have to tell you that I generally don’t like cats at all, but her face is amazing. So wise and with such a look of an old-soul. I can’t stop looking at her eyes. I see something about cats that I never saw before.”

That, to us, was a big part of Bisky’s magic: her ability to connect.

We all think our pets are the most magical, profound, delightful creatures on earth. And we are all right. In fact, I often wonder why people are so fascinated by science fiction and visitors from outer space. All anyone has to do to experience the simultaneous oneness and otherness of another creature is to live with an animal.

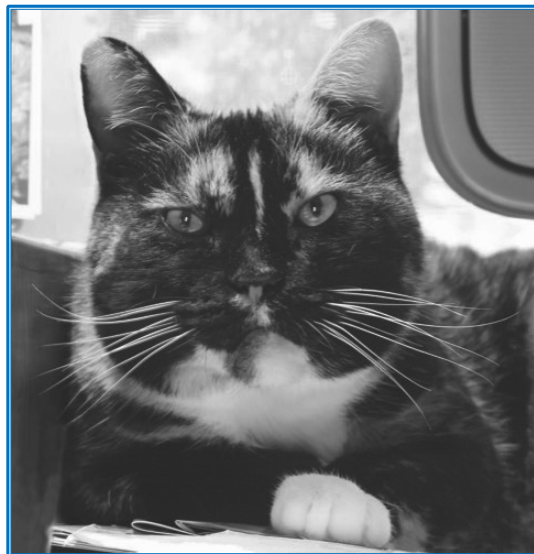
When we adopted Seabiscuit, she was still in heat, having delivered a big litter of kittens just weeks earlier. She’d been brought to the shelter by a good Samaritan who didn’t want to see her pregnant and alone on the street. This probably wasn’t her first litter, but of course, it was her last. I was a shelter volunteer at the time, and all the other volunteers told me that she’d been an outstanding mother. So I went to

meet her. I’d had a tortoiseshell cat several years earlier who was my brilliant friend. I wasn’t sure that this scruffy, underweight calico could come up to her standards.

My husband and I named her for a book I’d just finished reading: “Seabiscuit: An American Legend,” by Laura Hillenbrand. It’s a beautifully written piece of nonfiction that tells the story of a great racehorse who triumphed over all manner of drawbacks to become a champion. He and his equally hard-luck jockey, Red Pollard, spoke to the spirit of Depression-era America and became legends. I loved the book, even though I really dislike horse racing. We didn’t expect this kitty to become a legend,

but she sort of did.

Bisky was intensely social. People who came to our house for a party, for instance, often found themselves gathered into a little circle with her at the center. Sometimes she wore a bow on her neck or a little bandana. She was very



Seabiscuit

cooperative. And she loved everyone, and everyone loved her. Friends vied for a chance to pet-sit for her. Window washers and handymen asked for her before they even said hello to us.

She was good natured and very intelligent, despite her health being a constant challenge: mammary cancer, asthma, irritable bowel disease. In 2006, the expensive, well-regarded cat food we gave her almost killed her: The manufacturer recalled thousands of products because of excessive amounts of Vitamin D3. Many cats died across the country.

In 2013, while we were in Italy (our vet had assured us she was okay), she took a terrible turn. The doctor discovered a large abdominal mass. We flew home immediately and held her while she left Earth. We couldn't believe it.

We decided to do something for her and for the Friends of the New Haven Animal Shelter, a very special organization in my life. So, we created the Seabiscuit Fund to provide supplemental medical care for the shelter's cats. We are grateful to the Friends for making sure deserving felines benefit from this fund. Below is an update on the cats and kittens helped by Bisky's legacy.

I'm not going to pretend that Seabiscuit would have loved the idea of helping other cats. I doubt she'd have cared one way or the other. In fact, she seemed pretty satisfied to be the only cat in the vicinity. But she inspired us, and still does. She was our magnificent Seabiscuit, a legend in our lives.

Editor's note: these are some of the cats who have benefitted from the Seabiscuit Fund:

- **Hope:** repair and perform exploratory surgery to remove a bottle brush in her stomach. Adopted!
- **Ivy:** Evaluate pregnancy, which turned out to be false. Adopted!
- **Wheezey:** Medical evaluation to rule out a broken back; possible neurological issues (bobble head). Attacked by mosquitoes. Needed a blood transfusion. Adopted and doing well!
- **Popeye:** Removal of eye; stiches applied. Adopted!

## A Busy Year and Much More Ahead!

Happy fall to our supporters! The Friends of the New Haven Animal Shelter have been quite busy since our last newsletter was published. We have held monthly community adoption events in conjunction with North Shore Animal League America at several locations in the New Haven area. In August, our adoption event was paired with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Appetizer and Dessert Crawl, which was a sell-out and raised money for our organization.

Thanks to your support, our volunteer funds were used to help provide care for some of the dogs and cats who entered our shelter in need of medical attention. We appreciate your kindness and generosity in giving us much needed funds that helps us care for the shelter animals.

Please take a look at our social media sites to find out about our future community adoption events! We are planning on going to Bishop's Orchards in November and Hamden Petco in December. We are also going to host our annual Santa pictures at North Haven Petco in December, with our volunteer Leo Taylor as Santa. Hope to see you there!

Have you ever thought about volunteering with our organization? Volunteering can be a big commitment, but it's worth it to know you have made a difference to the lives of our shelter animals. Two or three times a year, we open our volunteer applications for submissions at <http://www.findafriendforlife.org/volunteer.html>.

Help is always needed to walk dogs, socialize the cats, and work the monthly adoption events. Those who fill out the application will be asked to schedule an individual orientation where potential volunteers learn about our organization and our volunteer tasks. Volunteers who choose to work with our shelter animals are each assigned a dog and/or cat mentor who will educate the new volunteer on shelter rules and regulations and train them in animal handling until both feel comfortable having the new volunteer handle animals on their own.

Off-site, volunteers can foster kittens until they are ready to be adopted. Likewise, we need people willing to open their homes to do short-term fostering of both dogs and cats who have medical issues or need a break from the stress of being at the shelter. We'd love to find some new volunteers for a variety of other tasks as well: planning and running fundraisers, contributing to our biannual newsletter, even creating new designs for T-shirts, mugs and other items that showcase the Friends.

All volunteers must be over 18 years of age and must commit to 8 hours a month of volunteering for a minimum of 6 months. If you have the time and the desire to help our wonderful adoptable animals, please consider joining our organization.

Finally, as always, we would like to thank you for all you have given us throughout the years. We, and our animals, are grateful for your support.



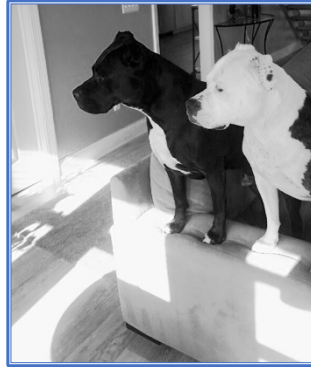
## OUR SPECIAL THANKS

A Dog's Life, LLC  
Monique Atherton  
Awning Cleaning Industries  
BEKI Religious School  
Benevity  
Blue State Coffee  
Sharon Bornholz  
Brenner, Saltzman & Wallman, LLP  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation  
Community Foundation for Greater New Haven  
Claire's Cornercopia  
Alexandra Daum  
Jared Emerling  
Family Centered Services of CT, Inc.  
Holly Flugrath  
The Foote School  
Girl Scouts of Connecticut Troop 60737  
Greater Good.org  
The Hops Company  
Antonia Kellner  
McDonald's Corporation  
Olives & Oil New Haven  
Pitney Bowes Foundation  
REAP  
Seabiscuit  
Sixpoint Brewery  
Solar Youth  
St. Thomas Day School  
Amnon Talmor  
Tate's Every Animal Matters  
TGI Fridays  
Thomson Reuters Corporation  
Three Sheets New Haven  
Turkey Hill Elementary School Student Council  
Two Roads Brewing Company  
Yale University Graduate School Student Life  
Yale University Office of New Haven and State Affairs/University Properties

### CAR DONATIONS

To donate your car, visit [www.findafriendforlife.org/donate.html](http://www.findafriendforlife.org/donate.html) – and scroll down to **'Vehicle Donation'**

## LOOK AT US NOW FNHAS Alumni



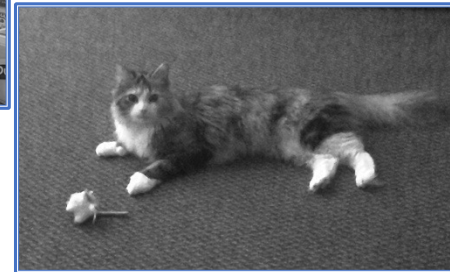
*Mikey and Pipi*



*Donald*



*Harry Houdini*

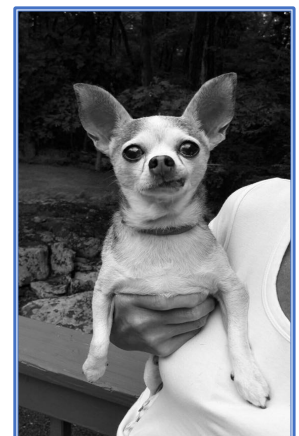


*Leona*

### Amazon 'Wish List Donors'

The Budziks, including shelter graduate Seamus  
Laurel Casey  
Joanna Karcz  
Sue Mercer  
Christine Nastri  
The Torres family, including shelter graduate Summer

And many anonymous donors!



*Lil Guy*



# We Thank You – In Memoriam

Carol Anthony in memory of “Sweet Bim, the closet kitty.”

Anne Bailey in memory of Bandit.

John Barnard in memory of Milo Andernard, “A very sweet dog and companion of  
Chris Barnard & Lauren Anderson.”

Catherine Benedetti in memory of Casy.

Sharon Bornholz in memory of Richard Keane.

Lisa Brayall in memory of Lil Star Brayall, “I will miss you always.”

Marsha and Tom Brunelle in memory of Muffin. “She is missed daily!”

Edward Danaher in memory of Beau.

April Feathers and Fred Jungeblut in memory of “our rescue cat Maggie, our shy  
beauty queen.”

Marianne Federici in memory of Abbey Nolin.

The Germain Family in memory of Wheezer, Seamus, and Ted E., “We love you.”

Framed of Hamden in memory of Callie and Tess.

Peter and Kathryn Hvizdak in memory of “our friend, Peter Casolino.”

Jean Koepke in memory of Pugsley, “a New Haven Animal Shelter dog, much  
loved.”

Carla Korrick in memory of Arthur and Eleanor Korrick.

Patricia Landolfi in memory of Champy, Gus, Jake, Fairsox, and Patch.

John Levis in memory of Jerry the pitbull, “the best buddy in the whole wide  
world.”

Emily Lotko in memory of Ebony.

Frankie Maciejak in memory of Ms. Chanel.

Margaret Mann in memory of Bailey.

David Middleton: “Dear Ransom and Walter, sending heartfelt condolences for the  
passing of your dog Cassie. Sending you lots of love.”

Jill Minichino in memory of Monty, “saying goodbye as he crossed the Rainbow  
Bridge.”

Russell Reynolds in memory of Skipper, Kasper, White Sox, and Oscar.

Phil and Barbara Rothfeld in memory of Mr. Blue.

Edward Saccu in memory of Ms. Lois Sills, “please rest in peace,”

Linda Shea in memory of Shadow.

Rebecca Shields in memory of Cupid.

Sheri Shields in memory of Cupid.

Nancy Zalenski in memory of Charlie.

In memory of Phyllis Lesser: Harvey Bixon, Marion Bixon, Barbara Cohen, Sydney  
and Janice Elkin, Shadi and Bruce Goldslager, Judith Hahn, Susan and William  
Hoffman.

In memory of Betram Dunn: Bob and Mary Hill, and George Richard.

In memory of Dr. Sarah Wilber: Mya Dundzila, First Congregational Church of  
Watertown, Katherine Hallquest, Elizabeth Harlow, Barbara Hunt, Lauren Loro,  
Lucy Lucker, Blanche Oleary, Teresa Sirico, Richard and Muriel Smith, and Susan  
Wilber.

# In Honor Of

Carol Anthony in honor of “Harley , my beautiful tri-pod friend!”

Kathleen Benoit in honor of Sonny, “adopted in 2017.”

Rachel and Roger Blais in honor of Scrappy, now Ricky, “adopted from the  
New Haven Animal Shelter.”

Grace Bright in honor of Marisa Kalt, “and her dedication to animals.”

Connecticut Consulting Engineers, LLC in honor of Brady.

Kay Kusma in honor of Sammy, “he is doing great!”

Judy Lhamon and Gwen Severance in honor of Mary Ann Osborn’s June 3<sup>rd</sup>  
birthday.

Frankie Maciejak in honor of Sunny.

Karen McCarthy in honor of Lola and Belle.

Barbara Melotto in honor of Elaine Spinato, FNHAS volunteer.

Mary Molitor in honor of “all the great work you do for the animals!”

Edward Saccu in honor of Buster, Buddy, and Christie.

Cindy Walker and Patrick Edwards in honor of “all those who foster animals.”

In honor of Izzy and Ellie’s Birthday: Alexander and Alyssa Guirguis, and  
Stacey Lee.