



DECEMBER 23, 2011 - Middle Keys - Jessica Mintz: Forgotten Felines had their last cat adoption event

for the year last Saturday, December 17. We also had a bake sale with delicious baked goodies made by our wonderful volunteers and Centennial Bank Big Pine Key branch provided free hot dogs and hamburgers.

Cheap Shots was also at our event to offer free 3-years rabies vaccines to cats and dogs. Thank you, our wonderful volunteers, Centennial Bank and Cheap Shots for helping and supporting us. Unfortunately, we did not have any adoptions but believe that we will have some adoptions coming up closer towards the end of the week since many people looking to adopt a kitten or cat as a Christmas gift will wait until the day before or on Christmas Eve.

The money we raised from our bake sale will be used towards our ever increasing food expenses. Year to date, we have spent over \$21,000 on cat food, which was an increase of almost 40% compared to the previous year. On a daily basis, our caretakers feed over 500 cats in 36 colonies throughout Marathon. In addition, Forgotten Felines provides food for individual Marathon residents feeding colonies as well but not able to pay for the food out of their own pocket. Our second highest expense is in regards to veterinary visits, medications and spays/neuters.

This year we have seen and took in more stray, feral and owner-surrendered felines than we have not seen in a long time. The fact that we do not have a shelter and solely rely on foster homes does not make it easy on us to have to turn someone down wanting to surrender a cat they found or no longer able to keep. We provide our foster homes with food and everything they need, yet we are struggling finding foster homes and currently have only 3 foster homes, which cares for 4-6 foster cats and kittens in average.

We had a great year in 2011 in regards to getting the word out about Forgotten Felines and what we do. We became members of www.Petfinder.com and www.Save-A-Pet.com, we recruited more volunteers and gained new supporters. We also had our first ever cat adoption event back in August which was a huge success and started to bag groceries at the Marathon Winn Dixie. But on the other side, as mentioned before, we took in more felines than we have not done in years increasing our food and veterinary expenses.

Winn Dixie Marathon, Keys Animal Clinic and Centennial Bank Marathon Branch let us set up cat food donation bins through the holidays to help us collect cat food and you can make donations in form of cat or kitten food at these locations until January 2, 2012. We are in need of dry food for cats and kittens as well as canned food and kitten starter kits such as kitten milk and kitten food. You can also drop off donations at our Purr-fect Thrift Store located across the Marathon City Park during their regular business hours. Please, note that the store is closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

We are currently looking for volunteers to fill the following positions on our Forgotten Felines Board: Director; Volunteer/Events Coordinator, Cat House Manager and Webmaster/Newsletter Editor. In addition, we are always looking for foster homes and volunteers able to help in the areas of trapping/feeding, adoption event and responders/drivers. If you are interested in any of the above volunteer positions, please email keysforgottenfelines@live.com for more information.

Last but not least, I would like to thank our wonderful all-year round supporters and sponsors: Marathon Journal, Hawks Cay, Royal Furniture, Keys Animal Clinic, Caring for Cats, Cheap Shots, Winn Dixie & Centennial Bank and a BIG thank you to our dedicated and hard-working volunteers. We will have our first meeting of the new year on January 30, 2012, and hope you will be able to join us. I hope you will have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2012.

Jessica (President)