



The Little Guild of St. Francis

Newsletter

We've Been busy

The Little Guild is tucked into the forest of West Cornwall, CT on Route 128. Our small unassuming animal shelter has been a temporary home to thousands of abandoned puppies, dogs, cats and kittens over the last almost 50 years. While the people running the shelter have changed over the years, the sad reality is that the plight of these cats and dogs hasn't changed all that much.



In most businesses, one hopes that their venture will continue on for generations. In the animal shelter business, the goal is to try to put ourselves out of business by eliminating the problem that makes us necessary. It's a challenging goal but our dream none the less. The failure of people to spay and neuter their pets is the biggest hurdle to this dream. That is why no pets go home from The Little Guild

until they have been altered.

During this year alone, The Little Guild has spayed/neutered and found homes for 490 cats and dogs. The total number taken in was 487. We gave over 1,600 vaccinations, served over 40,000 pet meals, gave hundreds of baths and administered countless medications. Some cats and dogs were born here and a few of those who came to us sick or injured, died. We celebrate our wins and mourn our losses. Then we go back to work.

This year, Evie, a cat who lived with us for almost 2 years, making her our longest staying resident, was adopted. She had multiple medical issues going against her but finally the right person for her came along and she now has her own personal lap to curl up on whenever the mood strikes her. It was a beautiful match for a long shot adoption from a little animal shelter nestled in the woods of Northwestern Connecticut.

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A Note from the Director

We all know how generous the American People were to the survivors of hurricane Katrina and it's easy for some to believe that it was just a "one shot" happening. But what if they knew that while our local citizens were giving so generously to their neighbors in need, they were also supporting the missions of those organizations which they believe so strongly in? While getting ready for this issue of our newsletter I realized that during the last six months almost 1,000 of our friends and neighbors reached for their checkbooks to help the homeless cats and dogs of The Little Guild. I was stunned! Humbled and stunned! This outpouring of your support for us will carry us through the leaner months in the beginning of each year.



I don't think that any of us really knows the depth of generosity and compassion that exists in what appear to be ordinary men and women who have a love for animals. What I do know is that The Little Guild has a special obligation to continue to care for the homeless dogs and cats of Northwest Connecticut in a way that brings honor to all of you who make it possible with your support.

P.S. I overheard one of our dogs talking with one of our cats a few minutes ago. Something about "we really should do something nice for those good folks for Valentines Day." I wonder what they are up to?

The President's Letter

Last year, for the first time in our fifty year history, we adopted out a record number of cats and dogs- almost 500. As I have stated before in these letters the more animals that are adopted out, the more money we need to operate as the fees received do not cover the cost incurred by the Little Guild in the care of each dog and cat to make it adoptable and to keep our return rates at a minimum.

But, as you can see from this Newsletter we are blessed with a large number of donors. In fact we had almost 1,000 donors in the last half of 2005. Even with this influx of money, we continue to operate at a continuing deficit. Each of our donors gives to the maximum of their ability and in some cases we even have matching funds from their employers, so we are thankful to all our many supporters.

I should like to use this opportunity to ask any of you that are planning or thinking of a bequest to the Little Guild to contact our offices to ask for further directions as we have a planning kit available for you.

In the meantime, on behalf of all of our animals, I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your donation and encourage you to spread the word about what is the premiere shelter in Litchfield County.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish you all A Belated Happy New Year.



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THE LITTLE GUILD OF ST. FRANCIS DONORS

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On behalf of the Board of Directors and all the dogs and cats you have helped, we would like to thank you for your support of our shelter. You have made it possible for us to help these beautiful animals that have found themselves homeless through no fault of their own. Please know that we are very grateful for your support.

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*Terry A. Rossi, beloved daughter of Alice Osden
Sir Jacksonville Rebel Rossi, beloved dog of Terry A. Rossi
Sir Elvis Aron Presley Osden, beloved dog of Alice Osden*

ASPCA Grant

The ASPCA National Shelter Outreach has recently awarded The Little Guild a grant of \$4,000, for outstanding shelter work, from their Bernadine M. Boyle Fund. The funds will be used for general operating purposes.

Life in The Little Guild



JOIN THE MONTHLY PLEDGE CLUB

Have you make a New Year's resolution to help animals? You might want to consider becoming a member of our "Monthly Pledge Club" program. Other generous animal lovers are already part of the Little Guild monthly giving program and their support is life-saving.

Here are some commonly asked questions.

How does my monthly pledge help more than my regular contribution?

We can depend on your monthly gifts! When we receive your donation every month, we'll know we have enough money to provide food, medicine, veterinary care and shelter for our animal friends.

How does the pledge program work?

We'll send you a monthly statement that shows the amount you have pledged. Just send a check with the return form in the envelope we will provide.

How much should I pledge?

We suggest a pledge which will allow you to feel you are doing your part.

Can I make my contribution larger than usual once in a while?

Sure! You can make an extra gift at any time that will be credited to you. We'll be very grateful and so will the animals.

What happens if I have to cancel my pledge?

You can cancel your pledge at any time. If your situation changes, you can reduce or increase the amount of your pledge.

**Please Join the Little Guild Monthly Pledge Club
Check the "Send me a monthly reminder" box below and return to us. Thank You!**

Our Dream of No More Homeless Pets

Caring for animals is expensive. Without your donations, the shelter and the work we do is at risk. Please indicate your commitment for 2006!

YES, I want to be part of the work of The Little Guild. Here is my 2006 contribution.

\$45 Member

\$100 Caregiver

\$180 Supporter

\$240 Champion Other \$ _____

I'd prefer to send a monthly membership donation of \$ _____.

Send me a monthly reminder.

Many companies offer a matching gift program that doubles the value of your gift to The Little Guild. Please ask your Human Resources representative for a form, complete it, and send it along with your gift today. Thank You!

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