

# FRIENDS OF CATS, INC.

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

P. O. Box 1613

Lakeside, CA 92040-0914



*You can't buy love... but you can adopt it!*

◆ CELEBRATING OUR 80TH YEAR IN 2009 ◆

## Lifetime Care Programs for Your Cat at Friends of Cats

### What Happens To Your Pets Tomorrow If Fate Gets In Your Way Today?

Have you ever stopped to think about it? The following is an excerpt from the thought-provoking book *PerPETual Care: Who Will Look After Your Pets If You're Not Around?* by Lisa Rogak.

*You need to make plans now to arrange for your pets' future should fate unfortunately get in your way. Of course, it's unpleasant to think about your own demise, but it's even worse to consider where your beloved animals would end up if you were to suddenly disappear from their lives. Even if you've already asked your friends or family to take care of your pets, there's much more to consider, including financial support, wills and trusts, and all of those little personality quirks your pets' next caretaker should know about.*

As our population ages, this scenario is bound to increase. Perhaps you've already found yourself in a similar situation. Or maybe you know you should do something but you're not certain just what you can do.

Please don't fool yourself into thinking that it can't happen to you. During my time as Future Lifetime Care Coordinator for *Friends of Cats*, I heard the story frequently, sometimes daily—"my mother (aunt, sister, friend or neighbor) died or is going into a nursing home and there's no one to take the cat(s). What can we do?" Many times I didn't receive the call or e-mail until after the person had tried the places most often recommended. Suddenly, friends weren't interested in acquiring another animal in their household. City animal care facilities were overloaded with relinquished cats that no one could

care for, their fate doubtful. Is that what you would choose for *your* pet?

For those who have the foresight to think and plan ahead, there's a choice. We're fortunate to have a program right here at Friends of Cats—the **Future Lifetime Care Program**—in which you may enroll at any time. It takes just a phone call or personal request for information to be mailed to you. The Shelter has numerous enrollees in the program, and has even acquired quite a number of permanent residents in Cozy Cottage. Come out to visit our Shelter and see for yourself what a comfortable and pleasant life they have, with lots of love and attention. They may not have their special "purrson" with them, but it's a lot better than being in a cage in a city animal care facility hoping to be adopted, or scrounging for food and shelter in a strange backyard. It takes some thoughtful planning and advance saving for them to be there, however. With a bit of consideration on your part, your little furry pal can be assured a safe and comfortable home for the rest of its life, with medical care provided.

All that is necessary is for you to include a provision in your will or trust regarding your estate and your pet's(s) future care plan naming Friends of Cats Shelter as the facility of choice. Savings accounts or long term CD's can even be used for this purpose.

This is a very real problem which needs to be addressed for the sake of many abandoned and displaced cats, and other pets as well. It *can* happen to you. It *did* happen to me. But I was fortunate and had previously enrolled my cats in Future Care at Friends of Cats, Inc. You can do the same. Think of the relief you will have knowing that Tigger or Miss Kitty will be assured a safe future and not wind up in a cage in a city facility because no one can or will provide a home.

—*Marion Connaughton*, former FOC Future Lifetime Care Coordinator, former Board Member, and current Lifetime Care enrollee

# Immediate Care and Future Lifetime Care Programs For Your Cat

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Our Care Program has two components:

## Immediate Care Program

Cats under 8 years of age must be considered eligible for adoption unless special circumstances indicate otherwise. All cats are accepted on a space-available basis, and must be healthy, able to be handled and able to tolerate other cats. Your pet is accepted in this program through the Shelter Manager. FEE: \$2500 and up, depending on the age and health of the cat. Fees are paid upon admission to the shelter. Cash, checks, and VISA or MasterCard are accepted.

## Future Lifetime Care

Cats live in a separate homelike environment with access to an outdoor enclosure. Routine home care and medical care as needed are provided for the lifetime of the cat. Grooming and socialization attention are provided by our staff and many volunteers who visit on a regular basis for this purpose. For cats over 8 years of age, the relinquishing owner has the option of considering adoption or not. FEE: \$5000 per cat, regardless of age.

Provisions may be included in wills or estate planning. No cash outlay is necessary to begin the program, but proof of a will or trust provision stating that Friends of Cats, Inc. has been named as future care provider for the cat(s) is necessary. The cats are not admitted to the shelter at this time, but rather at the time of the owner's death or incapacitation. [Example: "I have made and/or paid for future care arrangements for my cats(s) naming Friends of Cats, Inc. as caregiver for my cat(s) and I direct my executor to take all steps necessary to carry out these arrangements." ]

Enrollment in the Future Lifetime Care Program can be made through the Future Lifetime Care Coordinator. The program is presently administered through our Board of Directors.

Also required: Current immunizations • Spaying/neutering • Laboratory testing for Feline Leukemia & FIV

It is not our general policy to accept felines with medical problems. However, certain exceptions can be made. Additional fees may be required for pre-existing, long term medical conditions requiring specialized treatments. These fees reflect the minimum amount required for the care of the cat(s). Determination is made after review of the problem by our medical staff and recommendations made to the Board of Directors. Any funds over and above this amount enable us to provide a home and care for less fortunate cats. Cats live out their normal lives in comfort, with lots of love and attention. Medical care is provided routinely and for special needs. No cat is euthanized unless indicated by its quality of life having deteriorated to an unacceptable level as determined by our medical staff and a veterinarian.

We hope this information will be helpful for you in planning for your feline's future care. Contact information is below for any questions you may have, or for further information or assistance. A visit to the shelter is recommended so that you may see for yourself the manner in which our feline residents live and are cared for.

For photos and additional information, please visit our website: [www.friendsofcats.org](http://www.friendsofcats.org).

## Friends of Cats, Inc.

(619) 561-0361 • [lifetimecare@friendsofcats.org](mailto:lifetimecare@friendsofcats.org) • [info@friendsofcats.org](mailto:info@friendsofcats.org)

*We are a non-profit organization and no commissions are paid to anyone for promotion or obtaining enrollments in these programs.*

## Our Mission Statement

To maintain a Shelter for homeless and unwanted cats with the goal of placing all healthy cats into loving, adoptive homes while providing a sanctuary for cats that are terminally ill, considered unadoptable, or whose owners have prearranged for their continued lifetime care. In a nurturing, rehabilitative environment, we ensure the health of all cats entrusted to our care, promote spaying and neutering, and resort to euthanasia only as a matter of compassion for cats whose terminal illness causes suffering.



## About Friends of Cats

FRIENDS OF CATS is a private, non-profit organization, dedicated to providing medical care and shelter for homeless cats. Once their health is assured, we find homes for as many of them as we can.

Cats in our care are never euthanized except as a matter of compassion when they are terminally ill. We depend primarily on membership fees, donations and volunteers to continue our work.

Inquiries are welcome, and we are always delighted to have new volunteers to assist with Board of Director activities, fund raising, community events, shelter maintenance and pet care.

Volunteer for our Saturday Morning pet grooming and socializing from 10:30 AM—12:30 PM through Volunteer San Diego/ San Diego Cares.

Volunteer for other Friends of Cats activities by contacting the shelter office at (619) 561-0361.

### Our History

FRIENDS OF CATS, INC. began as The Animal Rescue League in 1929, an organization formed to rescue and find good homes for dogs destined for euthanasia at the pound. The ARL later became The National World League for Dogs (a branch of the English National World League for Dogs' Welfare), and soon cats became a focus of their rescue efforts, as well. But with the stock market crash of 1929,

rescue funds quickly dried up, and the League's efforts were abandoned. The remaining twenty shelter cats were taken in by Mrs. Maude Erwin.

Before long, the number of cats grew. In 1952, Mrs. Erwin was forced to leave the shelter's then-location in Pacific Beach, and arranged to acquire an acre and a half of property in Chula Vista. The property contained a house and a cottage that served as living quarters for Mrs. Erwin and the caretakers. Conditions were primitive—no heat or electricity in either building, and food was cooked outside over an open fire. With donations of money and volunteer labor, the shelter complex slowly grew. The new structures were very shabby and very cold in the winter, but they were home to the hundreds of cats which were brought in over the years.

In 1954, a Board of Directors was formed, and the Shelter became The Maude Erwin Foundation for Cats, Inc. The foundation received its charter April 4, 1954 from the State of California, and in 1965 received its Federal Government Tax exemption.

A flood caused relocation of the shelter—and 150 cats—to National City in November 1965. Others cats were placed in private homes until the new shelter was in operation. Relocation was necessary again in 1966 to a 1¼ acre property on Olde Highway 80 in east county. But this

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time, with much effort, the Foundation managed a down payment to purchase the property. Only one building existed, and more room was needed. Expansion plans commenced, and construction was begun after a pledge for \$5000 was communicated to the Board of Directors. But when the building was half-finished, the pledge went unpaid and the contractor was forced to place a lien on the property. Disaster was avoided when two wonderful supporters paid the lien, which assured the survival of the shelter. They also donated material and endless hours of labor to complete the half-finished building.

On August 14, 1968, the Maude Erwin Foundation for Cats, Inc. was amended to become Friends of Cats, Inc., and on September 19, 1968 the seal of the State of California was affixed and recorded.

Today, the shelter remains at the same east county location, the original building expanded to contain our office, infirmary, and corrals for adoptable cats. And a cluster of outbuildings for cats with FIV, FELV, shy cats, kittens, and those entrusted to us as Lifetime Care residents can be found throughout the property.

Since its beginning nearly 80 years ago, Friends of Cats has endured unbelievable odds, but it has survived—thanks to the love and generosity an ongoing support of many kind and wonderful people.

—edited article from *Cat Tales* (1987)

*Many healthy, happy cats later, Maude Erwin's spirit endures through the hard work of Friends of Cats' many dedicated volunteers, staff, and Board of Directors.*



**We became aware of Friends of Cats in 2005 when a neighbor abandoned a terminally ill cat. We found FOC in the phone book and were amazed at the professional and personal care they provided 'Karmel.' We have since become volunteers at FOC, and have yet to see anything less than complete medical care, excellent feeding, secure home-like housing (with couches!) and 150% love. Everyone at FOC is a true angel on Earth because they love every cat in their care unconditionally—whether healthy or ill, young or old, the cutest of the litter or disfigured by the cruelty of the world—on a 24-hour basis. And because of them, God's other little angels, whom we know as cats, are safe in the next best place to Heaven on Earth—Friends of Cats."**

**—Larry & Lesa Ingraham**

**I found myself in a heart-wrenching situation when, after 12 years with Boots, I had to make the decision to find him a new home. My significant other of many years was not able to spend more than a few minutes in my home with Boots because of allergies. Boots was beginning to show his age and lose some of his grooming habits, so I knew it would be difficult to find someone that would be willing to take on an elderly cat. I put up flyers and called on everyone I knew to try and find him a new family, but there were no takers. I called a couple of organizations that I found on the web, but they either had no room for an elderly cat, or they didn't have a long-term care arrangement. In one instance, I was chastised for having made the decision that I could no longer care for Boots. A co-worker then suggested I contact FOC, and after checking out the website and learning of the Lifetime Care Program, I finally felt the situation was not hopeless. Boots has been at FOC for a year now, and my son and I visit him often. I'm confident he's getting all the medical care he needs, as well as daily interaction with staff and volunteers."**

**—Amy McKenna**