



LYCOMING ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY, INC.
FELINE SHELTER AND ADOPTION CENTER

195 Phillips Park Drive
South Williamsport PA 17702

Newsletter

LapsShelter@windstream.net
www.LapsShelter.org

570-327-8707

Summer 2009

"One at a time, we will make a difference!"

FOUNDER OF LAPS PASSES AWAY

This newsletter is dedicated to Richard Lewis, founder of LAPS; for without Richard, LAPS wouldn't exist. Without Richard, many cats would have never known what it is like to live in a home and be loved; many cats wouldn't know what it was like to not be hungry or afraid. Thank you, Richard, for all the lives you helped to save over the years. You paved the way for others like you to help those that can't help themselves. You have helped us provide a safe haven for unwanted, abandoned or abused cats until we can place them in their forever home. For those cats that aren't fortunate enough to find a forever home, through no fault of their own, you have helped us care for them until they, too, cross The Rainbow Bridge.

(Continued on Page 7)



Richard and unidentified friend.



Richard in one of his cat houses.

OPEN HOURS

Monday 9 am – 12 noon
Tuesday 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Wednesday 8 am – 10 am
Thursday 12 noon – 3 pm & 6 pm – 7:30 pm
Friday 12 noon – 3 pm & 7 pm – 9 pm
Others by Appointment

LAPS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible. Financial information is available upon written request.

LAPS Board of Directors

President: James Cleland
Vice President: Tracy Haas
Recording Secretary: Charlotte Myers
Corresponding Secretary: Gwen Uber
Treasurer: Cyndi Eck

Members: Nancy Cohick
Linda Williard
Patti Barclay
Holly Kline
Brandy Kift
Sheri Lozak
Kristen Fleckenstein

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/DONATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Street

City

State

Zip

Annual Associate Membership is a \$15 donation, Annual Senior Membership is a \$10 donation (Seniors are 55 years and over). All Members receive the LAPS Newsletter, are entitled to vote in the Board of Director Elections and can be nominated to the Board of Directors. LAPS is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax-deductible. All donations are greatly appreciated!

Is this: New Membership \$ _____
 Renewal of Membership \$ _____
 Donation \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

MEMORIAL GIFTS, HONORARIUMS & REMEMBRANCES

In Memory of Richard Lewis, founder of LAPS

- Jim & Dixie Weaver
- Debra Clancy
- Allan & Catherine Kehrer
- Marjorie & John Asel
- Pat & Harold Karge
- Peter Goodwin
- Jane Choate
- Paul Hendricks
- Jean Welty

In Memory of Donald L. Snyder

- Hope Enterprise Staff
- Montoursville Area High School MAP Team

In Honor of Nancy Whitmoyer

- Hope Enterprise Staff

In Memory of Loanne Soellner

- Sharon Ohnmeiss

In Honor of Daniel Masso

- Pat Bailey

In Honor of Joanne Cromley

- Nancy Cohick

In Memory of my Grandma, Garnet Sommers, whom I love and miss more than words can express. She received her Angel Wings February 13, 2009.

- Jenn Jacobs

In Memory of my dear friend Richard Jones

- Michael Picutta

COME OUT AND SUPPORT LAPS

LAPS will be at the Lycoming County Fair July 10 through July 18 from 1 pm to 9 pm. We are located in the Larrabee Building and will be selling our Shirts and our Vacation Get-Away Raffle Tickets along with our handmade cat toys and homegrown catnip.

Watch our next newsletter or visit our website for information on future events. Some of the events that are currently in the works:

- Book Sale (September)
- Casino Night (October)

LAPS VACATION GET-AWAY RAFFLE

During these tough economic times, many people have eliminated vacations from their budgets. For just \$5 per ticket, LAPS is giving you a chance to win one of three wonderful vacations. Drawing will take place August 15, 2009. Please call 570-327-8707 to purchase tickets.

1st Prize: Five Night Bermuda Cruise for Two (departs from New Jersey) On Royal Caribbean's Explorer of the Seas; November 7-12, 2009

While best known for its shorts and golf courses, Bermuda has much more to offer. And on a cruise vacation, you have the opportunity to see it all. Explore the underwater world or stroll along the historic streets of St. George. Relax on a pink-sand beach or swim in the sparkling turquoise waters.

The 138,000-ton, 3,114-guest Explorer of the Seas offers more space for every guest-plus enhanced state rooms, expanded dining options and exceptional recreational facilities. This cruise ship is so high-tech, it even features the University of Miami Ocean Lab, a state-of-the-art oceanographic and atmospheric science lab.

Enjoy one-of-a-kind features such as:

- Rock-climbing wall
- Ice skating rink
- Royal Promenade (open 24 hours)
- Johnny Rockets® '50s-style restaurant
- Portofino Italian Restaurant
- Themed bars and lounges
- Casino Royale
- 9-hole miniature golf course
- Adventure Ocean® youth facilities
- Day Spa and Fitness Center
- Full-size basketball court

2nd Prize: Two Night Stay at TomCat Hollow Lodge Vacation Rental (Sleeps 6), Wellsboro


A secluded, rustic and very charming log cabin on 12 private acres, TomCat Hollow Lodge is a fully furnished, charmingly embellished getaway with a romantic loft bedroom (queen bed) plus a separate bunk house cabin for four (large log trundle daybed and two antique, iron twins) with its own small self-contained heating/air conditioner. The cabin's bath is shared between the cabin and bunkhouse. A gas grill and large fire pit are also included for your outdoor enjoyment. TomCat Hollow Lodge is located within 5 miles of two beautiful lakes for fishing, boating and swimming, 20 miles from Corning Glass Center and the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon and 40 miles from Ski Denton, Ski Sawmill and the Fingerlakes Wineries. Additional pictures are available at <http://www.vrbo.com/145588>.





3rd Prize: \$150 Gift Certificate to The Woodlands Resort, Wilkes-Barre


The Woodlands Inn & Resort is Northeast Pennsylvania's premier hotel and resort. Conveniently located near The Crossings Premium Outlets and Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, The Woodlands Inn & Resort offers three swimming pools, two outdoor lighted tennis courts, three onsite restaurants and numerous walking trails. Golf and skiing are also just a short distance away.

For those of you who would like a chance at winning one of the prizes in our Vacation Get-Away Raffle but haven't had the opportunity to purchase your ticket, this is for you! We have included four raffle tickets for you to either purchase or sell. You may make photo copies of these tickets or you may contact the shelter to make arrangements to pick up more. Please send the stubs, along with your check, to the shelter's mailing address. Due to our limited volunteer staff, any help in selling any of our raffle tickets would be greatly appreciated!

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____ PHONE _____	 \$5 each Drawing date: August 15, 2009 SGC License #1135 www.LapsShelter.org 570.327.8707	<p style="text-align: center;">VACATION GET-AWAY RAFFLE</p> <p>1st PRIZE: Five Night Bermuda Cruise for Two (departs from New Jersey) On Royal Caribbean's Explorer of the Seas; November 7-12, 2009</p> <p>2nd PRIZE: Two Night Stay at TomCat Hollow Lodge Vacation Rental (Sleeps 6), Wellsboro</p> <p>3rd PRIZE: \$150 Gift Certificate to The Woodlands Resort, Wilkes-Barre</p>
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A Tribute to Grayson

(Contributed by Darlene McBryan)

Dear Friends,

Yesterday on a bright sunny spring morning, Grayson and I made our final journey to Lewisburg Veterinary Hospital. For those of you who did not know my dear sweet gray boy, Grayson had Feline Leukemia. We found out in January that the disease was back in full force and his days were limited. I tried all types of vitamins, medications, antibiotics and even Interferon, a new drug for cats with suppressed immune systems, and I planned on assisting Grayson with anything available to help him fight this disease. Grayson was up for the battle until Monday when his white blood cell count was at an all time high and was robbing him of oxygen. By Wednesday evening he was not interested in his favorite pastime (food) and his faraway look and lack of strength told me that it was time to let him go. Even at the end he was a brave boy and maintained his calm demeanor. We will miss him! He only lived for 18 months after we found out about the disease, but we cherished every moment that he lived with us and we showered him with enough love to last a lifetime! He is now free to rest in our wildflower garden and to bask in the sunshine, a pleasure he so loved.

Please, please remind everyone you know that Feline Leukemia is a deadly disease that robs these innocents of their lives. We need to convince our families, friends and co-workers that the only way to stop this killer is by testing for FeLV and spaying and neutering! Grayson was one of the lucky ones, he had a family that loved him but most cats, especially those that live outdoors, are not as fortunate.

Rest in peace dear Grayson.....till we meet again!



Feline Leukemia (FeLV) Facts

(By Virginia Clemans, DVM – Best Friends Senior Veterinarian)

Feline leukemia is a viral disease seen only in cats. It can't be transmitted to humans (even children) or to dogs or any other species.

It is caused by a retrovirus that infects the cat's cells and reprograms them to continually produce copies of the virus. This produces a condition in the cat called persistent viremia, which makes the disease impossible to cure.

What FeLV does to cats

The virus affects the cat's bone marrow and immune system. So an infected cat becomes anemic and is unable to fight off even routine infections.

Cats with feline leukemia are commonly anemic and jaundiced. They experience weight loss, enlarged lymph nodes, poor stamina, lethargy and immune system suppression.

Since the virus is in the blood, saliva, mucus, urine and feces of infected cats, other cats can be infected by contact with these body fluids. The virus is fragile in the environment, so fairly direct contact is necessary for it to be transmitted. Fighting, sharing food and water bowls, sharing litter boxes and mutual grooming are the most common means of transmission. The virus can also be transmitted from mother to kittens before birth.

Most cats survive less than two years following diagnosis. How long a particular infected cat will live is impossible to predict. Since the disease affects the immune system, close monitoring for signs of illness and prompt treatment of these illnesses can help prolong the cat's life.

After exposure to the virus, some cats also develop a type of tumor called lymphosarcoma. This is a type of cancer that can affect many different organs, beginning with the lymph nodes and possibly spreading to the intestines, liver, spleen and brain.

Testing for FeLV

There are two types of blood test available, both of which detect the actual protein of the virus circulating in the blood. The ELISA (or "kit" test) is the one most commonly used in the veterinarian's office. The IFA (immunofluorescence assay) must be performed by a veterinary diagnostic laboratory.

If a cat tests positive for the ELISA test, then a follow-up test with the IFA method will confirm the diagnosis. Each method tests for the disease in its different stages so the veterinarian's interpretation of the test results is necessary.

Treatment

Although a variety of treatments have been tried, presently there is no effective cure for feline leukemia. The cat should be supported with good nutrition and regular veterinary care at the first sign of illness.

Vaccination

There is a vaccine for feline leukemia, which should be given to cats considered to be at risk for exposure. The vaccine is as safe as other commonly used feline vaccines and is reasonably effective in preventing the disease if the cat is exposed. No vaccine is 100 percent effective and a small number of cats vaccinated will not be protected. Therefore, even vaccinated cats should not be exposed to infected cats.

This article originally appeared on bestfriends.org. Reprinted with permission from Best Friends Animal Society.

FOUNDER OF LAPS PASSES AWAY

(Continued from Page 1)

Richard Lewis founded Lycoming Animal Protection Society in 1992 in the back yard at his home in Montoursville after becoming distraught about the number of unwanted cats and the many cats that were being euthanized because nobody wanted them.

Richard built three structures each about the size of a single-car garage which were fenced in as one large compound. They were all heated, cooled and had running water. At one time Richard had as many as 70 cats. Volunteers numbered between three and eight. Before Richard started LAPS, he spent as much as \$15,000 a year of his own money on their feeding, building construction and maintenance and health care.

Richard spent many hours telling the LAPS story, recruiting support, raising money and trying to find forever homes for the cats. Most of those who heard the mission were supportive.

Richard suffered from serious health problems which caused him to move to Florida permanently in 2001. However, he always remained an active supporter and advocate.

We are proud to carry on Richard's memory and Richard's dream, for his dream is one of our own: No more homeless, unwanted or abused cats; no more cats being euthanized because they are no longer wanted. Thank you, Richard, for helping us to start to fulfill our dream!

Richard Lewis

Obituary

Richard Lewis, 83, passed away Saturday, May 30, 2009. He resided in Bradenton, FL, and was a former resident of Montoursville, PA.

Richard is survived by his wife of 62 years, Gloria; a son, Steven and wife; a daughter, Karen Young and husband; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Richard was a veteran of World War II and the founder of Lycoming Animal Protection Society (LAPS), a no-kill cat shelter in South Williamsport.

Memorial donations may be made to LAPS, 195 Phillips Park Drive, South Williamsport, PA 17702.

"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness or abilities that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." – William Penn



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Shelter Wish List

If you are able, please donate any of the following items used in the everyday care of the shelter residents. All donations enable us to stretch our precious dollars much further than would otherwise be possible.

Bleach (any brand)
Paper Towels
Laundry Detergent
Dish Detergent
Antibacterial Hand Soap
Copy Paper
Tall (kitchen) Garbage Bags
First Class & Post Card Postage Stamps
Cat Food (dry & canned)
Dried Catnip
Gift Cards (Wal-Mart, Giant, Target)
Scoopable Cat Litter
Brooms

Purrs & Head Bonks to:

Loyalsock Animal Hospital for their continued care of our residents.

Cindy's Smiling Sammy, Avis, for the food donation.

Susan Smith for her presentation at the Afternoon Tea.

Fort Muncy Nursery for the flowers for the Afternoon Tea.

Rhonda at **Rosewood Flowers** for the centerpieces for the Afternoon Tea.

Park Place for the facility for the Afternoon Tea.

Clinton Township Fire Co. for the facility for the Rabies Clinic.

Beth L. Crombie DVM, from **Lewisburg Veterinary Hospital**, for administering the vaccines for our Rabies Clinic.

Cindy Crozier for making the signs for our Rabies Clinic.

Weis Markets on Lycoming Creek Road for choosing LAPS as the recipient for their Paws for Pets Campaign.

Our Volunteers and Supporters who make it all possible!