



MORRIS ANIMAL REFUGE

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Dear Major and Champ,

First, I wanted to let you know how paw-esome it is to write to you both, especially to Major. As a shelter puppy myself, watching you move from a shelter, to a happy home, to the Oval Paw-ffice is inspiring! I may never end up as one of the most important pets in the country (although mom thinks I'm pretty important) but just seeing a dog like me in one of the most prestigious pet positions in the United States has inspired me to work even harder on my training and advocacy for shelter pets.

While I do find you inspiring, that's not the main reason I'm writing to you. I heard a rumor at the dog park [that your dad](#) may be considering adding a cat to your family. As the official [ambassa-dog](#) for [Morris Animal Refuge](#) in Philadelphia I wanted to let you know about some of the benefits of having a shelter cat join your pack.

- 1. I can speak from experience** - I was adopted into a house with a cat, BK. When my mom brought me home as a tiny foster puppy BK showed me the ropes. She let me know what was ok, what wasn't, and who was in charge (it was her). I got a few swats to the nose but once I settled into the house she became one of my best friends (check out our picture!).
- 2. Adopting a shelter cat saves lives** - Every shelter across the country does the best that they can, but the number of pets going into the shelter each day puts a strain on their resources. Choosing to adopt a shelter pet (like me and Major) allows the shelter to help even more animals in need. By adopting a pet from a shelter you don't just save their life, you open a space in a shelter for the humans to save the life of another animal in need.
- 3. Dog-gone it, cats are awesome!** - I'm a dog's dog. I love other dogs and they love me, but having a cat love you is one of the coolest paw-pportunities. BK has the humans trained. They feed her when she asks, are joyous when she chooses to lay in their laps, and she is even allowed to use the bathroom in the house! You and I both know we don't get away with that and we aren't even allowed to play in their sandboxes! But she does have all other types of toys she shares with me so I'll let it pass.



Basically what I'm saying is that you should tell your dad to add a cat to your family as soon as possible. Whether it is one of my friends at Morris Animal Refuge or another shelter cat you can't go wrong, though I do think Morris is the ultimate shelter. Starting in 1858, our founder, Elizabeth Morris, began sheltering cats in her own home before they were even considered a domestic pet. She officially opened her shelter in 1874 making it the first in Philadelphia and one of the first in the whole world! How cool is that!?

So if you convince your dad to get you a cat, send him my way. I'll get him in touch with a human who will match him with the best cat for your family's lifestyle and before you know it your new cat will be fixing all the problems you didn't even know you had.

Your furever friend,

Olive
Ambassa-dog
Morris Animal Refuge

