



C.A.T. Mews

Cat Association of Topeka • A Nonprofit, No Kill Shelter

FALL 2003

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A Really Happy Tail



For the past two years, we have had one dream at C.A.T.: to build a cage-free, no-kill shelter that would be a stimulating, healthy, happy place for homeless cats and for the people who love them. Thanks to you, that dream is a reality.

The new C.A.T. opened its doors July 1. We limited tours of the cat rooms that first week in order to give the cats time to adjust to their new environment and lifestyle. Since then, here are a few things we've noticed:

THE CATS

The new environment has had a marked influence on cats' personalities. For example...



Bailey Moving & Storage donated a van and four professional movers. They were such a help!

- Perry lived in isolation for years at the old shelter. As a semi-feral cat, she was unpredictable with people and aggressive with other cats. After allowing Perry to set her own pace, she is
- Continued on next page ...*



Ready to go! All carriers were labeled with the cat's name and the room where they would be taken. The process was smooth and efficient.

Cats are rather delicate creatures and they are subject to a good many different ailments, but I never heard of one who suffered from insomnia.

Joseph Wood Krutch

HOW DOES YOUR DONATION HELP?

On average, C.A.T. provides loving care for 60 cats daily through its no-kill shelter and foster homes. Your donations make it all possible! Here's how your donations make a difference at C.A.T.:

- **\$ 25** subsidizes the spay or neuter of a cat, to help ensure that no unwanted kittens will be born

- **\$50** provides for FeLV and FIV testing for a cat, treatment for internal parasites, and upper respiratory vaccination
- **\$75** provides special diets and medical care for cats with special needs for one month
- **\$100** provides veterinary treatment for emergencies or illnesses of newly

- arrived cats or kittens
- **\$180** (\$15 per month) makes you a Special Sponsor of a cat needing continuing care at the shelter
- **\$250** subsidizes shelter utilities for one month

Thank you for being part of this important work of love!



A REALLY HAPPY TAIL CONT'D



Volunteers started arriving at the old shelter at 6:30 a.m.



Tammy had her hands full with three kittens!

now a full-fledged member of the Pink Room where she revels in hopping up on high ledges and lying at the base of the 7' cat tree with PeeWee, her new buddy. Her eyes sparkle; she's a happy girl. She may not be Ms. Congeniality yet, but she's getting there!

- Simon rules the Blue Room. At the old shelter, retail manager Mary Tonar could always tell when one of the board members had allowed Simon to leave his cage and stroll around the retail area after hours, because of all the cat hair! None of us had ever seen a cat shed so profusely. The experts assured us that it was stress-related, probably from living in a small, dark cube. Well, these days, Simon's beautiful orange and white coats absolutely gleams in the sunlight streaming through his windows. He still sheds, but just a little (hey, it's that time of year after all!). Simon is a contented guy.



Janice Evans prepares to introduce Jiggs to his new digs!

And those are just two examples. We could go on and on about all the Happy Tails abounding at C.A.T. Everywhere you look these days, you see contented cats sunning themselves on the screened-in porches, napping on their ledges, chasing each other around the room, batting toys all over the place. They are happy; they are

healthy. **Thank you for making it happen!**

NEW ROUTINES

We're all slowly developing a new cleaning protocol...we don't have to hand-wash 100 bowls a day (thanks to Teri Boyd of ABK Insurance, who donated a new dishwasher), but we have lots of windows to clean (all *Continued on next page ...*)

Cat Association Of Topeka

Retail Hours:

Tue-Fri 10 am to 6:00 pm

Sat 10 am to 4 pm

Kennel Hours:

Tue-Fri 11 am to 6:00 pm

Sat 11 am to 4:00 pm

THE PEOPLE BEHIND C.A.T.

Board of Directors:

Susan Schmitz
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith,
Volunteer Coordinator

Janine McCartney
Janice Evans
Diane Barnes

Retail Manager:

Mary Tonar

Kennel Manager:

Krista Miller

Finances:

Darrell Schmitz

Facilities:

Jeff Griffith

Technology:

Dennis McCartney

Newsletter:

Diane Barnes
Susan Schmitz

Web Site:

Diane Barnes

Veterinary Consultant:

Mike Esau, Companion
Animal Clinic

This publication is produced four times a year and is distributed through a membership list. It is also available at the shelter during normal hours of operation.

Please keep us up to date on any address changes or discontinued service notices by mail or phone at the shelter. You can also request to receive this newsletter via e-mail.





LEFT: Emma had no trouble settling in!
ABOVE: Dana Hampton organized the laundry room.

those nose and paw prints, you know!). We don't have to disinfect lots of cages; now we dust and wipe down perches and ledges. We're still learning, and smiling every step of the way!

THE MOVE

Thanks to superb organization on the part of Krista Miller, C.A.T.'s kennel manager, and a legion of volunteers, the majority of cats were moved with a minimum of stress and a maximum of efficiency. It was such a joy watching their first glimpses of their new home.

THE RESULTS

Although it's too early to make generalizations, July 2003 adoption numbers were up 142% over last July's numbers. We believe it's because:

- The cats are happier, more sociable and therefore more adoptable.
- More people come to the shelter now because it's a good place to be.

The cheery sitting area (thanks to Bill and Barb Compton) is a well-used place for people to sit, talk, and visit when they come to the

shelter. Soon, people will be able to spend quiet moments in the Stoltenberg memorial garden. Volunteers Barbara Meidinger and Janice Evans are working hard on this wonderful project.

This is truly the shelter that love, sweat, resources, and hard work have built. If you're very quiet, you can hear all the purrs thanking you for making it all possible.

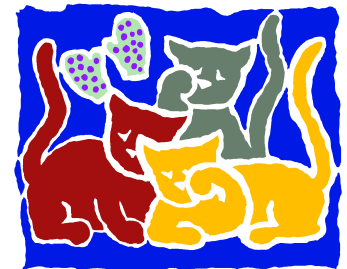


Just look at the room the cats have now to play and romp in! Skeeter here is checking out May's nap spot.

SHELTER WISH LIST

C.A.T. appreciates many kinds of contributions, and has compiled a list of needed supplies. Particular brands have been requested where they have been proven to be most effective.

- First Class Stamps
- Bleach
- Non-Citrus Pine-Sol
- Plastic Bags (for retail store; available at Sam's)
- Dishwashing Soap (both hand and automatic)
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- 2 Rayon Mops
- Invitation-size Envelopes (5-3/4" x 4-1/4")
- Windex
- Skinner's "Bucks"
- Angled Broom (Industrial Grade)
- Microfiber Dusting Rags



WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF FLUFFY WHEN YOU CAN'T?

When it comes to estate planning, many of us think we have the bases covered. After all, we have a will, and hopefully even a living will and power of attorney. We've determined who gets the house, the car, and Aunt Mildred's candy dish. But what about the cats? What

We wanted to do something to address these important questions. As a result, C.A.T. developed the **Philo Fund Lifetime Care Program**. C.A.T. will provide loving care for your cat; see that he or she is adopted into a good home; and after adoption, make

"Men have forgotten this truth," said the fox. "But you must not forget it. You become responsible, forever, for what you have tamed."

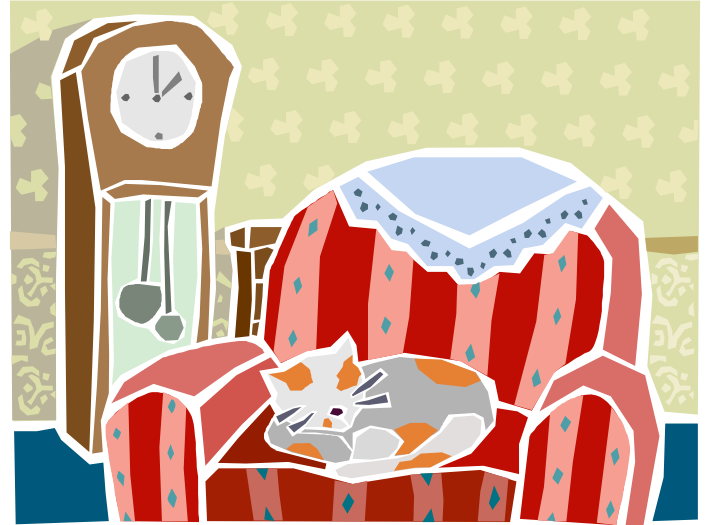
-From The Little Prince, Antoine de Saint-Exupery

about the furry members of our family who share our heart, our home, and probably even our bed? We treat them like our children. We worry about them when they are not with us and wonder whether they will be properly cared for when we are gone.

Here at C.A.T., we know how important your cat is to you; we feel the same about our own! Over a year ago, we decided that it wasn't enough to be concerned.

follow-up visits and calls to ensure that your cat and her adopter are completely compatible. If the adopter is unable to care for your cat for any reason, the cat will be returned to C.A.T. The program will ensure a place for your cat(s) during your lifetime or upon your death.

To request an information packet, please call the shelter at 272-4735 or Susan Schmitz at 273-4021.



Too often, pet owners assume that if something horrible happens to them, surely someone—a family member or friend—will instantly step forward and take care of their pets. They assume that there are others who love their animals as much as they do, people who will make the same emotional commitment. Yes, it's been known to happen, but not often enough.

Source: David Congalton & Charlotte Alexander, When Your Pet Outlives You, New Sage Press, 2002.

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CRAZY CAT LADY: THE PIONEER ADVOCATE FOR TNR



Everyone has heard the story of the crazy old cat lady. She is the little old lady that lives alone caring for dozens of stray and feral (wild) cats in and around her house. She could live in any neighborhood in any town in the world. Some regard her actions as the symbol of compassion, while others believe that she is a stimulant for feline overpopulation. Either way, she draws attention to an issue that is all too often ignored - feral feline communities.

By Jodi Milliner

“Feral cats are found in every community in ever country. When unsterilized housecats are abandoned or lost, they and their offspring band together in groups called colonies. Without human contact, the colonies become feral” (Robinson, 2002). These cats breed “two to four times a year, averaging 4 kittens per litter” (Hartwell, 2003). Feral cat colonies can be found in almost any environment ranging from barnyards to beach boardwalks to college campuses and beyond. The question then becomes, what is the best way to address feral feline communities?

Until recently, the common answer to that question was elimination by any means available to include trapping, poisoning, shooting, euthanasia, and viral agents. Besides the fact that killing in this matter is inhumane, there are three main arguments against complete eradication. First, attempts at complete eradication are nondiscriminatory and may affect wildlife and pets located in the same area as the feline colonies. Second, there is often a voice of public outcry against the

unnecessary death of countless animals. Third, “all eradication methods have the same, well documented, outcome: the vacuum effect. ‘New’ cats flock to the vacated area to exploit whatever food source attracted the original inhabitants while survivors breed and their descendants are more cautious or more disease resistant” (Hartwell, 2003). Hartwell (2003) explains, the only way to completely eradicate a cat colony is to remove all food sources including edible refuse, natural prey species, and human handouts. Environmental control to this extent is impractical and often impossible.

The alternative to eradication is the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program, which is a “full management plan in which stray and feral cats already living outdoors in cities, towns, and rural areas are humanely trapped, then evaluated, vaccinated, and sterilized by veterinarians. Kittens and tame cats are adopted into good homes. Healthy adult cats too wild to be adopted are returned to their familiar habitat under the lifelong care of volunteers” (ABCs, 2002). In the article, “ABCs of TNR”,

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CRAZY CAT LADY: CONTINUED

the four basic steps of TNR are described:

Trap – humanely trapping all members of a feral cat colony.

Neuter – transporting each of these cats for vaccination, spay/neuter procedures, and treatment as needed to a veterinary facility that is familiar with the special needs of feral cats.

Return – caring for each of the cats after veterinary attention and then releasing them back into their established environments.

Care – providing the cats with long-term care including food, shelter, and medical attention as needed.

Numerous organizations including the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) endorse TNR. However, TNR gained a new collective voice in 1990 with the foundation of Alley Cat Allies (ACA). The ACA's main goal is for "TNR to become the accepted method for managing feral cat colonies and reducing feral feline overpopulation everywhere" (Robinson, Fall 2002). The foundation of the ACA transformed the icon of the

crazy old cat lady of yesterday into a group of caring individuals working together to advocate the humane treatment of feral cat colonies around the world. "Feral cat caretakers encompass all age groups and both genders, and more often than not are squeezing the feeding and management of feral cats into a daily schedule of family, employment, and community obligations" (Robinson, 2002).

According to a presentation given by the ACA's National Director, Becky Robinson (2002), there are 3 necessary components to a successful TNR program. These components are the caretakers, veterinarians, and government officials. Each of these components plays a vital role in supporting controlled feline communities.

Caretakers: The caretakers are the dedicated individuals that recognize the need for a TNR program and commit to caring for the colony long-term. They must advocate the need for a TNR program in the area, research possible venues for food, shelter, and veterinary care, recruit others to aid in the support of the program, and develop care schedules for the colony

throughout the year.

Caregivers must also be aware of the cats included in the colony and neuter any newcomers as they arrive. Continued maintenance of the colony is crucial to the success of the program.

Veterinarians:

Veterinarians perform vital services necessary in order to make a TNR program successful. Veterinarians interested in playing a role in the TNR program must be able to provide the necessary time and flexibility required in order to be beneficial to the program. TNR programs require a different type of focus than the typical clinical schedule. Veterinarians must be able to provide "high-volume surgery and progressive clinic stations" while matching required services to available resources (Robinson, 2002).

Government Officials:

TNR programs have a better chance at success if it gains the support of government officials to include those in public office, animal control agencies, animal shelters, and public health departments. The ACA recognizes several benefits to TNR programs for government officials. These include the successful reduction of feral cat populations, financial savings for government agencies, an active support of public health responsibilities, and increased public approval ratings for officials acting on the community's desire to stop the unnecessary killing of healthy felines.

Robinson (2002) states, "The strongest point I can make here is that TNR programs can organize, grow, and succeed with very little money and few resources, but this work cannot be done

without a full and open commitment from people."

October 16, 2003 is the third annual National Feral Cat Day (NFCD). NFCD recognizes the need to educate animal professionals and communities about feral cat concerns.

For more information on NFCD or information on how to develop your own TNR program, please visit the ACA at www.alleycat.org or www.pets911.com. To receive information about discount spay/neuter services available in the Topeka area, please visit Critter Care at www.crittercareoftopeka.com.

National Feral Cat Day October 16

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- Jodi is a C.A.T. volunteer out of Junction City.*

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Phone (785)273-5800



Sharon Mayo, LSCSW; ACSW

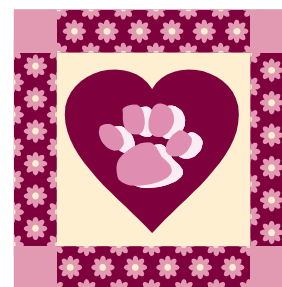
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Topeka, KS 66614

Fax (785)273-5805



Pawprints on the heart

We are thankful for these gifts to C.A.T. We wish to recognize the following contributions and honor those being remembered in this special way.



Memorials

Gladys Johnson

Gary & Carolyn Haden

Shirley Mick Coles

Becky Roeckers
Bessie Newman
Bird Dog Solutions
Charles Bohn
Claudia Ingwersen
Darrell & Susan Schmitz
David & Joan Backes
Dennis & Linda Baranski
Donald & Judith Rogers
Donna Bohn
Douglas & Anita Leonard
Floyd & Rosie Hooper
Highland Park High School
Class of '66 Reunion
James & Deana Spelter
James & Susan Tush
Jean Mick

Shirley Mick Coles cont'd

Jerald & Julie Bohn
Joan Rogers
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Patricia & Leslie Letulle
Shirley Pletcher

Irene & Ronald Schmitz

Darrell & Susan Schmitz

Gerry Luckerth

Howard Scheibe

LaMonta Woerner

Marilyn McDowell

Bernie Wanner

Max & Jean Wilcox

Honorariums

Dorothy Duncan (Birthday)

Susan Blanck-Harlan
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith
Evelyn Davis

Darrell Schmitz (Retirement)

Anita Oliver

Jeff & Jeannie Blanck-Griffith (Anniversary)

Steve & Susan Harlan

Alex Zerkovitz (Bat Mitzvah)

Wendy Moore
Leonard Richter

Susan Schmitz (Birthday)

Marilynn Koelliker

Anne Lolley (Retirement)

Dana Hampton
Judi Stork
Patricia Stones
Sonya Allen

Darrell & Susan Schmitz

Joan & Rick Clelland

Scott & Kari Ritter (Wedding)

C.A.T. Board of Directors

Pet Tributes

Sophie

Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

Holly

Sandy Sweet

Lucy

Steve & Mary Tonar

Samson & Delilah

Sylvia Howey

Taz, Baby & Sage

Dolores Beckwith

Calvin

Susan & Darrell Schmitz
Jeff & Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

Roudy

Mark & Lisa Herkenrath

Tabby

Vivian Fuchs

Tam-Tam & Miss Kitty

Dee Baker

Sky

Nelson & Elizabeth Wong

CiCi

Virginia Bedell

Tyger Bear & DeDe

Laraine Holland

Fluffy

Sarah Kuck

Whiskers

Joan Rogers

Andy & Simon

Brenda Henman

Yappy & J.C.

West & Shirley Waugh

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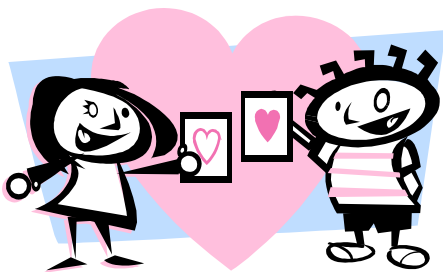
Elaine Duffens
Martha Underwood

Terri Studer

*All names listed
are current as
of August 1.*



UPCOMING EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Look for more information on this upcoming event, Simon Evening of Giving - November 23 at the Westridge Mall!

SEPT

- 20-21 Kansas Sunflower CFA Cat Show, Ramada Inn Downtown
27 PetSmart Booth: *Volunteers always welcome!*

OCT

- 4 PetCo Booth: *Volunteers always welcome!*
5 Heart of Jackson Humane Society Pet Fair
1-4 p.m., Jackson County Fair Building
16 National Feral Cat Day
25 PetSmart Booth: *Volunteers always welcome!*

NOV

- 1 PetCo Booth: *Volunteers always welcome!*
23 Simon Evening of Giving, November 23, Westridge Mall - A special event to benefit participating charities and non-profits, and the Simon Youth Foundation. Tickets are \$8.00 and will be available at the shelter.
29 PetSmart Booth: *Volunteers always welcome!*



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