

# C.A.T. Mews

Cat Association of Topeka • A Nonprofit, No Kill Shelter

FALL 2004

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It is always diverting to find something ... but to find a cat: that is unheard of! For you must agree with me that ... even though it belongs to us now, it remains somehow apart, outside, and thus we always have:

**life + a cat**

Which, I can assure you, adds up to an incalculable sum.

~ *Rainer Maria Rilke*

## CAT CAMP A FUN SUCCESS

If anyone asks where the nicest kids in Topeka were this summer, you can tell them, "They were at C.A.T. Camp!" The first ever C.A.T. Camp was held this summer at the shelter. Eleven youngsters, ages 9-11, attended the week-long camp, which was held June 21-25.

Campers spent the week doing various cat-related craft projects, including making catnip mice from socks, making feather wands, and decorating clay pots and then planting oat grass in them. They also learned to draw a cat from scratch, which helped them with the culminating craft project of painting a tile at Potwin Pottery. These kids really learned how to draw great cats!

Humane education was an important aspect of the camp. Through materials accessed through the ASPCA, campers learned the "top ten ways to keep your cat happy and healthy," as well as how cats have been perceived throughout history. Various videos were shown which also reinforced appropriate treatment of cats and kittens. Melissa Shirk, a former employee of C.A.T., who is now employed in youth services at the Topeka Public Library, made three visits during the week to introduce campers to various literary cats!!! Campers were also educated about C.A.T. and the very important role our shelter plays in the community.

The week was highlighted by each child's choice of a Kitty Buddy. Campers were able to tour the shelter and decide which cat they wanted to be "their cat" for the week. Each child was allowed interaction and play time



with their Kitty Buddy as time allowed for these activities. The compassion of these campers really shined through as several of them chose to present their home made craft toys to their Kitty Buddies at week's end.

"C.A.T. Camp was a huge success," according to coordinator, Jeannie Blanck-Griffith. "These compassionate children were able to learn more about cats and their care and hopefully took with them a desire to spread the word about treating animals humanely and of course, having them spayed and neutered to alleviate overpopulation."

With donated time by volunteers Jonathon Clennan, Scarlett Fisher-Herremann, Cale Herremann, and Melissa and Jeannie, as well as donated craft supplies, treats and other materials, overhead was held to a minimum. Camper registration fees, beyond the cost to create tiles at Potwin Pottery, were all donated directly to the shelter to help care for the cats!

**A mini, one-day Critter and/or C.A.T. Camp for kids ages 9-11 will be held Monday, December 27, 2004. If you are interested in attending this camp, please contact Jeannie Blanck-Griffith A.S.A.P. at [jbgsmilingcat@aol.com](mailto:jbgsmilingcat@aol.com)**



# QUILT RAFFLE FOR CAT



Just in time for holiday giving---or keeping!

“A Home For Every Kitty” isn’t just a goal of C.A.T. It’s also the title of a beautiful handmade quilt--lovingly designed, stitched, and donated by Kathy Marolf of the Topeka Quilters’ Guild. C.A.T. is so grateful for Kathy’s generosity and kindness.

Quilters will recognize Kathy’s name immediately, as she is an

active member of several quilting guilds and is recognized nationally for her beautiful works, each with a story of its own.

“A Home For Every Kitty” is approximately 42” X 48” with home-warming colors. It’s ready to adorn a wall, lap, or bed. What a meaningful addition to your home---or as a gift for someone special.

This beautiful quilt may be seen at most outreach events (see page 8 of this newsletter for a calendar of events). It will also be available for viewing at the shelter November 9 – 18.

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and may be purchased at the shelter or at outreach events. The drawing will be held November 20. You need not be present to win. Good luck!

## CANS FOR CAT



It’s simply UNCANNY how much money can be made from trash! Many thanks for continuing to save all those aluminum cans, bagging them up, and delivering them to C.A.T.

Thanks to you, proceeds from recycling efforts raised nearly \$1500 this past year!

It’s a win/win situation: it’s good for the environment and it’s good for the kitties!

*Please keep saving those aluminum cans---and again, thank you.*

### Cat Association Of Topeka

#### Retail Hours:

Tue, Wed, Fri 10 am to 5:30 pm  
Thur 10 am to 7 pm  
Sat 10 am to 4 pm

#### Kennel Hours:

Tue, Wed, Fri 11 am to 5:30 pm  
Thur 11 am to 7 pm  
Sat 11 am to 4:00 pm

## THE PEOPLE BEHIND C.A.T.

#### Board of Directors:

Jeannie Blanck-Griffith,  
Volunteer Coordinator

Janine McCartney  
Janice Evans  
Diane Barnes  
Scott Mickelsen  
Linda Halford

#### Retail Manager:

Mary Tonar

#### Kennel Manager:

Krista Miller

#### Facilities:

Jeff Griffith

#### Finances:

Darrell Schmitz

#### Fundraising/Outreach:

Susan Schmitz

#### Newsletter:

Diane Barnes  
Susan Schmitz

#### Technology:

Dennis McCartney

#### Veterinary Consultants:

Mike Esau  
Tim Lavin  
Companion Animal Clinic

#### Web Site:

Diane Barnes

*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 in Acrobat PDF format.*



## BIRTHDAY FUN FOR KIDS & CAT

Thanks to Molly and Ally Boyd, pictured here with their sisters, C.A.T. cats and Helping Hands Humane Society cats and dogs have new toys, bowls, treats and other pet as well as garden items (C.A.T. has a new garden for the cats and visitors to enjoy).

For their 12th birthday the twins requested gifts for animals instead of for themselves. Molly specified her gifts be for

C.A.T., Ally wanted gifts for HHHS. A wonderful assortment of items was given to both shelters. Lori Boyd, the twins' mother, said that every one of the children who came to the party brought gifts for both shelters. Molly and Ally enjoyed opening the packages more than if the gifts were for themselves. Their generosity is greatly appreciated!



## DAYLILY CLINIC & SALE!

Just in time for fall planting, CAT will be holding a Daylily Clinic & Sale on Saturday, August 14 outside the shelter. You'll find many varieties, colors, sizes and special hybrids.

The clinic will be at 9:30 and the sale will be from 10:00 a.m. until noon (or until all the lilies are gone).

Add some new plants to your garden and help homeless cats with every purchase.



## C.A.T.SIFIED ADS



**Companion  
Animal Clinic**

MIKE A. ESAU, DVM  
TIMOTHY L. LAVIN, DVM

3335 SW Fairlawn • Topeka, KS 66614 • 785-271-7387

Phone (785)273-5800



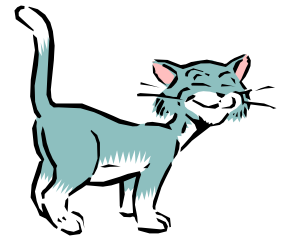
**Sharon Mayo, LSCSW; ACSW**

2715 S.W. 29th Street  
Topeka, KS 66614

Fax (785)273-5805



# Happy Tails



## PROOF THAT 1 + 1 = 3!



Five lives are enriched, thanks to the work made possible by your support of C.A.T. Bless you for caring and for making a difference for this and so many other families.

Meet **Bill and Barbara Compton---and Amor, TeAmo, and Valentino!** Barb and Bill, both volunteers at C.A.T., recently lost their beloved feline companion of 15 years, Kahlua. "It broke our hearts," said Barb.

After a while, the Comptons knew it was time to open their home and hearts to another cat. There was only one place to go: C.A.T. "C.A.T. would probably have disowned me if we got a cat out of the newspaper!" (Not really, Barb!) They had been sponsoring Valentino, a small, quiet black kitten. Now, when the Comptons sponsor a cat, they take it seriously: Barb goes to the shelter frequently to pet, groom, and play with any cat she sponsors. So it seemed only natural to adopt Valentino. After all, Barb knew his personality well and had already bonded with him. They soon became convinced that Valentino should have a playmate. And who better than Valentino's brother, Te Amo, a fluffy little ball of orange fur!

The choice was made....well, almost. When

they realized that little Amor would be left alone when TeAmo and Valentino left, Bill said, "Well, we can't leave her there alone." Barb agreed immediately, and so it came to be that lively and energetic Amor joined her brothers in this loving family home!

These days, the Compton's quiet home is a thing of the past! The activity level is evident and constant. The kittens are into, on top of, behind everything---and have filled the home with love beyond words. "They are really good company for me during the day," says Barb. "They are all such special cats and know who runs the house!" For Te Amo, Amor, and Valentino - and for Bill and Barbara Compton - this is truly a Happy Tail.



This is the story of Trix. But it's also one of many miracles that YOU make possible. From Trix and all of us at C.A.T., thank you and bless you for caring about Trix and all the cats who come to our shelter in need. You make such a difference!

## CAT SPOTLIGHT: TRIX

Trix has been at C.A.T. for two years ago. He was quiet, inactive, and rather withdrawn. Antisocial, you say? Hardly! There was a good (or bad) reason for Trix's inactivity: he simply couldn't breathe well enough to do much. Trix had a diaphragmatic hernia, which means that his intestines and some internal organs had been pushed into his chest cavity, compressing his little lungs to a fraction of the capacity they should have. Without surgery, Trix wouldn't live long. But the surgery was costly and certainly didn't guarantee results. This is not a run-of-the-mill procedure

and is fraught with risks.

C.A.T. decided Trix was worth the risk. Hill's Pet Nutrition made a donation to help with surgical expenses and Dr. Kamer of Veterinary and Surgical Hospital of Topeka agreed to perform the surgery at a fraction of the usual cost.

On May 28, Trix underwent the operation. Everyone connected with the shelter sent prayers, thoughts, and love with him-and with the VSHT staff who would have his life in their hands.

The first few days were scary: he was unable to breathe or eat on his own. He was given

oxygen and was force-fed. But this is a little guy with a powerful urge to live and with a huge cheering section, and *he began to turn the corner*. First one lung inflated, then the other. He began to eat---a lot! He began to nuzzle again. And he found his purr again.

Among lots of tears and thanks, Trix came home to C.A.T. where he soon rejoined his roommates in the Yellow Room. Today, Trix is a new cat---he plays, he jumps, he romps. *Thanks to your support and kindness, C.A.T. is able to help cats like Trix enjoy life at last. Thank you for caring.*



## NEW SHELTER CELEBRATES 1 YEAR

CAT has been in its new building now for one year, and sometimes it is hard to believe we made it. The cats are happy and healthy, and during these lazy summer days they're enjoying the screened porches. Visitors new and familiar still have fun watching them play on their climbing posts and colorful walkways. A cage-free life is something to celebrate.

CAT is also celebrating the finish of

its garden pathway. The property actually consists of two buildings. The main building is the shelter while the secondary building is leased to Canine Classics Grooming. Previously, the space between was just dirt. But now look at it!

*Stop by to see it all, including some unique stepping stones hand painted by Shelley Sutton!*



## C.A.T. YARD SALE A SUCCESS!

Despite cloudy skies, this year's Yard Sale was a **sunny event**, raising more than **\$2500** for the daily and medical care of **homeless cats** at Cat Association of Topeka's no-kill shelter. To all who donated items...to Bill & Barb Compton who let us take over their home, garage, and driveway.... to all of you who stopped by to

buy or browse...to **Cardinal Building Services** who donated billboard space for publicity... to **Digital Reprographics** who donated signage...to those who baked items to sell for hungry shoppers...and to all the **wonderful volunteers** who donated so much of their time and energy...**THANK YOU ALL!**



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: SARAH KUCK

### How long have you volunteered for C.A.T.?

*I started volunteering on a regular basis in March of 2003.*

### What do you do for C.A.T.?

*I clean cat rooms at least once a month, serve on the fundraising committee, coordinated the outreach booth at Buy KS Expo the last two years, work at community outreach events once or twice a month, and am now venturing into the area of fostering.*

### What do you like best about volunteering for C.A.T.?

*I like knowing that the money that is raised goes to the cats. I also like the variety of options there are for volunteers.*

### What advice do you have for others who might be interested in volunteering for C.A.T.?

*If you have an obvious area of talent, then certainly volunteer in that area, but don't limit yourself. Try other*

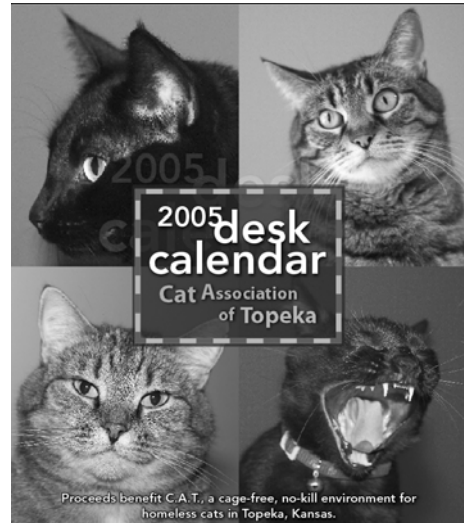
*areas. You might find a new talent you didn't know you had!*

In her "spare time," Sarah spends time with her own family & pets, works part-time at a local veterinarian's office, and owns and operates Home Fires Burning Pet Sitting Service. ***C.A.T. is so grateful for Sarah and all the other volunteers who keep the doors open, the bills paid, and the cats purring!***



# BRING A C.A.T. CAT TO WORK IN 2005!

We are pleased to announce the production of a 2005 Jewel Case Desk Calendar, starring some of C.A.T.'s most photogenic felines. The calendar is in a CD-style jewel case that folds back to form an easel. Each card of the twelve-month calendar stars a current or former C.A.T. cat from kitten to curmudgeon. The reverse of the calendar cards contains intriguing cat facts and information about shelter services.



The Jewel Case design makes it the perfect desk accessory for home, work or school. Note card sets and single holiday cards are being produced in conjunction with the calendar.

### Hostess and Holiday Gifts

Let us help you complete your holiday shopping list. The calendar has a suggested retail price of only \$13.99, making it a unique and affordable gift. The calendar and note cards will be available in September at the Cat Association Catty Shack, outreach booths, and fine retailers in Topeka. If you live out of the area but are interested in purchasing a calendar or note cards, please return the completed form below and mail it to Calendar Fundraising Committee. We will contact you when the calendars are in hand and ready for sale.

**Mail to:** Calendar Fundraising Committee  
Cat Association of Topeka  
1719 SW Gage Blvd  
Topeka KS 66604-3333

**Or Email** all information below to: [CATCal2005@aol.com](mailto:CATCal2005@aol.com).

*Please print.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

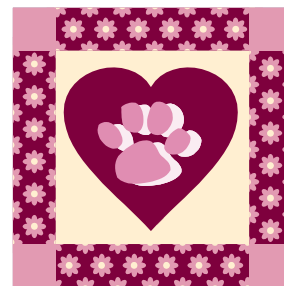
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



# 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.

*All names are current as of July 15, 2004. Please contact Mary Tonar with any corrections.*

## Memorials

Holly Squeegee & Vivian Schrein  
Sandy Sweet

Robert Quinley  
Marceline Baragary  
Mary Quinley

Alice Fahrendorff  
Raleigh Fahrendorff

George Savage  
Belinda Savage

## Honorariums

Mary Jo Krasny & Jeannine Arnold  
Mary Tonar

Mary Tonar - Birthday  
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

Dennis & Janine McCartney - Anniversary  
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

Danny Smart - Father's Day  
Tammy Smart

Susan Schmitz - Birthday  
Marilynn Koelliker

## Pet Tributes

"Peko"  
Thomas & Tsukie Vanausdall

"Rudy"  
Chris Tillman

"Kitty Boots"  
Ruth Mares  
"Poof" & "Scratch"  
Virginia Mason

"Dumpster"  
Bill's RestoParts

"Kahlua"  
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith  
Sally Snell  
Diane Barnes  
Susan & Darrell Schmitz  
Sarah Kuck

"Kitty Grace"  
CM & Iney Bland

"Ginger", "Happy", & "Missy"  
Marsha Goodwin

"All the Kitties I've Loved"  
Irma MacNeill

"Rascal"  
Noel & Lois Grittman

"Pepper"  
Michael Dreher

"Mandy"  
Jim & Shirley Caplinger

"Trevor"  
Richard & Marilyn Harlow

"Buddy"  
Lawrence Kassin

"Cookie"  
Mary Beth Haney

"Dusty"  
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

"Kate"  
Janine McCartney

"Bonnie" & "Jane Doe"  
Suzanne Bateman

"Gandy" & "Bricquette"  
Marcia Coder

## 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.*

- **1st-Class postage stamps**
- **Unscented clay litter** (May we suggest buying and donating Cat Tails brand from our Catty Shack retail store?)
- **Pine Sol (not citrus)**
- **Trash Bags - Whelan's Large Yellow**
- Bleach
- Paper Towels
- Dishwashing Soap
- Center-pull paper towel refills for dispenser (available at Sam's)
- Special Diet Foods: Hill's Science Diet Senior, Light, and Prescription a/d and c/d
- 3-Ring Binders



- Blank Thank You cards
- Invitation envelopes (4-3/8" x 5-3/4")
- Post-it notes



# UPCOMING EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## WHISKER TICKLER - WIZARD OF ID



By permission of John L. Hart FLP,  
and Creators Syndicate, Inc.

### AUG

- 7 Bake Sale at PetCo. Please call Susan at 554-5852 to donate goodies!
- 14 Daylily Clinic & Sale outside the shelter, starting at 9:30 a.m.
- 28 PetsMart Outreach Booth: *Volunteers needed!*

### SEPT **CAT CALENDARS GO ON SALE SOON!**

- 4 PetCo Outreach Booth: *Volunteers needed!*
- 11 Paws in the Park - CAT CALENDARS GO ON SALE!
- 25 PetsMart Outreach Booth: *Volunteers Needed!*

### OCT **GET A JUMP ON HOLIDAY SHOPPING - BUY YOUR CAT CALENDAR NOW!**

- 2 PetCo Outreach Booth: *Volunteers always welcome!*
- 3 Outreach Booth, Pet Fair, Fair Building, Holton. 1-4 p.m.
- 30 PetsMart Outreach Booth: *We need your help!*

### NOV **THEY'RE UNIQUE AND FILLED WITH THE SHELTER CATS YOU LOVE! BUY YOUR CAT CALENDAR TODAY!**

- 6 PetCo Outreach Booth: *Volunteers needed!*
- 13 Holiday Soup Supper at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall.
- 20 Drawing for "A Home For Every Kitty" quilt.
- 21 Simon Evening of Giving at Westridge Mall.
- 27 PetsMart Outreach Booth: *Volunteers needed!*



1719 SW Gage Blvd.  
Topeka, Kansas 66604  
Phone: 785-272-4735  
Email: topekacat@yahoo.com

**We're on the web!**

[www.geocities.com/topekacat](http://www.geocities.com/topekacat)

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