



Kitties and Kiddies and Babies, Oh My!

Kids and pets. Decisions about mixing the two can be the hardest for a family to make. It can be especially difficult when awaiting the arrival of a new baby. Then there's the consideration about the age of the kids versus the age of the pet. After all, adopting a pet is a 15-20 year commitment. And everyone has advice that can seem confusing or contradictory.

C.A.T. has encountered these issues many times, so we have some helpful hints and suggestions about mixing kids and pets, and making sure everyone is happy.

It can be a sad situation, but sometimes people get a pet with the idea that it's "practice" for having kids later on. Then when they do have kids, the pets are given up. It's a scene that is repeated too often at shelters. If it's too

difficult to have a pet and a baby at the same time it's best to wait to get a pet until the children are older and the whole family is ready for a pet to love.

The most common concern is about cleaning the litter box during pregnancy. Some simple precautions, though can make it easier to handle without worry. Wearing gloves while cleaning it and washing up after it's done are the best precautions. Or just have someone else in the family take up the chore. Getting an automatic litter box can also make the task easier to do.

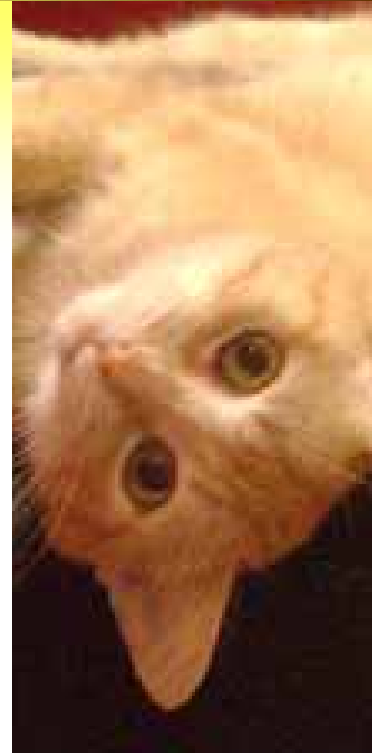
If a pet is welcome with a baby, then there are preparations that can be made to make life in the house comfortable and peaceful. One consideration is how close to allow the pets to the baby. Young children and pets should always be

watched when together, so any contact should be supervised. Early contact, though, using positive teaching methods can help a child learn how to correctly handle pets.

So what about kids and litter boxes? When babies start crawling around it's possible they could get into something they shouldn't. Finding a place for the litter box that kids can't easily get to but the cat can get to is a challenge. A basement or utility room might be the best place to keep a litter box where children are not normally allowed. A litter cabinet might also be a good place to hide one. There are several companies that make nice ones that look like side tables.

Once children are older it's also necessary to teach them how to

Continued on page 3



Inside This Issue:

C.A.T.'s 7th Annual Hair Ball.....	4
Giving Spay/Neuter a Lift	4
C.A.T. in the Net	5
Save C.A.T. the Labor!.....	5
Summer Sale Sizzle	6
Happy Cats at Low Cost	6
Sponsorship Drive!.....	7
Happy Tails!.....	8
Cat Spotlights.....	9
Summer Fix Wow!.....	10
Calendar Sneak Peek	10
Little Ways to Help.....	10
Paw Prints On the Heart ..	11
Missing Meow	11

C.A.T.SIFIED ADS



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TIMOTHY L. LAVIN, DVM**

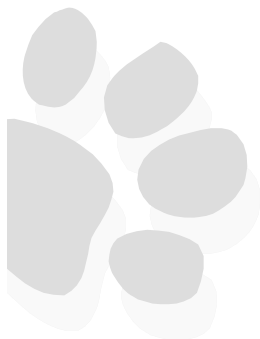
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Retail:

Tuesday-Friday 11 am - 5:30 pm
Saturday 11 am - 4 pm

Summer Hours:

Memorial Day to Labor Day
Saturday: Close at 2 pm
Cats can be seen after 11:30 am

This publication is produced quarterly and is distributed through a mailing list. It is also available at the shelter, online at our website, or through e-mail. Please keep us up to date on address changes.

THE PEOPLE BEHIND C.A.T.

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Kittens and Kitties and Babies cont'd

handle pets. When a pet is made uncomfortable or are frightened, they only know a few ways to respond, and with cats it could be more than just hissing or running away. If a cat feels really scared and threatened it can scratch or bite. So early education on how to behave with a cat is essential in keeping kids and cats safe.

It is never a good idea to let a pet be chased or cornered. Instead teach children how to coax a pet to come to them, with a calm and friendly voice. Also, when pets are done with being petted and want to get away they should be allowed to go. Don't let children hang on to or hold pets when they don't want to

be.

Playing with pets is fun, but it's also the time a child is most likely to be hurt. Children are often tempted to wave their hands and fingers in front of a cat or kitten, and this can teach the cat that it's okay to attack hands. Instead, use teaser toys to play with cats. Feather wands and laser pointers are great for this, and fun for everyone! Cats love to chase things or bat at them, and those waving feathers or that illusive red dot can be irresistible to a cat. It's sure to make kitty happy and have everyone laughing.

Training the pets and learning their likes and dislikes also goes a long way to making sure that

the pets and the family are happy. Take time to find out how your pet likes to be handled. Do they prefer a scratch behind the ear or a good tail scratch? Do they like their tummy rubbed or do they prefer a scratch under the chin? Do they ignore loud noises or do they startle easily? Do they like to be picked up or do they like to be held? Make sure the whole family learns what they like.

With careful

consideration, patience, and planning it is possible to have kids and pets, and for everyone to be happy. There are always challenges but with a little research any situation can be prepared for. Pets can enrich our lives for many years. Hopefully everyone will learn how to care for pets properly, someday. Then no pet will have to leave a happy home.

Catty Shack Cool Savings

Thank you for visiting our kitties! We hope you enjoyed your trip to our shelter and shopping with us, and will tell your friends!



Save 10% on Cat Toys!

Limit one per customer per visit.

WISH LIST EMAIL ALERTS

Occasionally, we have shortages of our supplies, especially those used most often like large trash bags and liquid dishwasher soap.

If you frequently donate supplies, why not join our confidential Email Alert list? When we run low, we'll email an SOS to any who wish to help. Just email us at wishlist@topekacat.org.

SHELTER WISH LIST

- Trash Bags - Large Yellow from Whelan's or Westlake Ace Hardware
- Unscented clay litter
- 1st-Class postage stamps
- Liquid Laundry Soap
- Automatic Dishwasher Liquid Soap
- Clorox Bleach
- Pine Sol (not citrus)
- Invitation size envelopes
- Hershey's or Kit Kat candy bars, bulk box
- Special Diet Foods: Hill's® Science Diet® Adult, Senior and Light dry; Prescription Diet® dry w/d®, k/d®, d/d®, c/d®; and canned k/d®
- Center-pull paper towel refills for dispenser (from Sam's)
- Plastic shopping bags from Sam's Club

What's going on at C.A.T.?

Rolling Out the Fun for the Hair Ball!

We have a great evening planned for our 7th Annual Hair Ball on October 3rd! We've got a delicious menu planned for dinner, followed by all kinds of fun for the evening. Browse through the wonderful items in our silent auction and bid for your favorite things. Play a game and win some fun prizes. Or just walk around and chat with other cat lovers. We love to share good cat stories! Then prepare for some fast fun while bidding in our live auction!

Hill's Pet Nutrition has graciously stepped up to be our sponsor for this fun night. If you're also interested in being a sponsor or donating just give us a call or stop by!

Tickets go on sale August 15th and will be \$25 per person, \$45 for a pair, and \$180 for a table of 8. Everyone gets a goodie bag! Seating is limited so get your tickets by September 19th! Tickets can be purchased by mail, at the shelter or online at our website. See you there!



Saturday, October 3rd

6 to 9pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka, 4775 SW 21st

Tickets available until September 19th at the shelter or buy online at www.topekacat.org!

Giving Spays & Neuters a Lift

Paws to Love Animal Rescue began "Flint Hills Fix," a spay/neuter transport program, about 9 months ago to help caregivers of feral colonies in the area get access to high volume/low cost spay/neuter services at No More Homeless Pets KC. These services have been well received and have prevented 100 litters in 2009 alone.

With the recent

signing of a formal agreement Paws to Love is expanding the program to provide more opportunities and include dogs and cats of pet owners in financial need beginning this fall.

The first transport date is Nov. 16th & 17th, and the drop off/pick up point will be here at C.A.T. Pets will be dropped off on Monday and then picked up the following morning.

Flint Hills Fix
PAWS TO LOVE'S
SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

Crated pets will be taken in No More Homeless Pet KC's cargo van to their clinic in Merriam, where they will be spayed/neutered. Fees will be as low as \$55 and each transport can take about 30 pets.

The Flint Hills Fix's

goal is to do monthly transports for spays/neuters from various locations, with at least one in Topeka at C.A.T. on a quarterly basis.

For more information call Aleah Mahan at 785-844-3021 or email info@flinthillsfix.org.

Lend a Helping Paw

All kinds of ways to help C.A.T. on the Net

More things are being done on computers and the internet. We know not everyone is computer savvy, but we do try to provide a good web site and use available tools to show off our wonderful cats. With so much available there are lots of options for everyone to help us spread the word about C.A.T.

Linking to our website is easy. If you have a website or participate on a social network, list us among your favorites. We've also got cool graphics you can use.

Speaking of social networks, C.A.T. can now be found on **Facebook**. We're having fun putting



little blurbs and pics up about daily happenings at the shelter, or news about events coming up. We already have 33 fans, and they're spreading the word about us to let others know about what we do for cats.



Petfinder.com is the most useful tool for us. It's a great website that helps us list our cats and show pictures of them. More people come in now to look at a specific cat they saw on Petfinder. We're signed

up with their Sponsor-A-Pet program, too. Each cat can be sponsored with a donation just by clicking the button.



We're now registered with **iGive** and **iSearch**. You can shop online through iGive.com at some of your favorite stores and a portion of the sales come to C.A.T. And the iSearch toolbar can be downloaded, and then each search earns 1¢ for C.A.T. You help C.A.T. just by surfing!

C.A.T. is also now signed up with **eBay's Giving Works**. We can

now sell items on eBay, and others can list items



and have a portion of the final sale donated to C.A.T. We've already started selling and we hope others will consider listing stuff for sale, too. Find us by searching on ebaygivingworks.com.

It's a big internet and we're caught in it. We'll continue to keep our website fun for our net visitors. Coming up next? A mobile version of the website! So keep a lookout on the web and keep visiting to see what's up at C.A.T.!

Treat C.A.T. With Supplies This Halloween

There are lots of ways to help C.A.T. and it doesn't always involve large gifts of money or huge amounts of volunteer time. Sometimes, all it takes is doubling up on a shopping list to treat us.

C.A.T. is having a supply drive for Halloween. There are lots of items on our wish list we use daily. We go through them quickly so every item donated saves us money and time.

Buying bleach? Consider buying two! Pine-sol? Paper towels? Laundry soap? We could use some, too! So we hope people will consider us and the cats a "treat" the next time they shop.

It all adds up to big help for us. The only drawback to buying extra items is it might keep you out of the express checkout lane. But as a treat from us, we'll have a bucket of treats at the shelter to share!

C.A.T.'s SHOPPING LIST:

- Clorox Bleach
- Pine-Sol Cleaner
- Dish Soap
- Dishwasher Soap
- Paper Towels
- Stamps
- Laundry Soap
- Fabric Softener Sheets
- Clay Litter
- Toilet Paper
- Yellow Trash Bags, Ace Hardware

Bring your donations anytime during October! We'll be happy to get you a receipt for your kindness and are grateful for any help!



Summer Sale sizzles for C.A.T. & P.A.N.T.

C.A.T. has held its annual Summer Sale for several years, and each time we are showered with kindness by so many people. This year was no different. The Saturday before the sale saw several volunteers there ready for setup, and for two hours people just kept coming with load after load of great items to donate. It was hot and sweaty work, but everyone dug in and helped. Some donors even helped unload other people's cars.

We partnered with P.A.N.T. this year, so there was plenty of volunteer help for the next week. Once again it was very kindly hosted at

a property of Bernie and Jean Wanner. And there was a lot of cool stuff donated—glassware, appliances, toys, gardening tools, household goods—just lots of great things!

The two days of the sale had shoppers showing up early, and they were eager for deals. Even after two days of selling, though, there was still some great stuff, so we had third day a month later on July 24th.

Over \$1800 was raised for both groups! Those are funds that will go a long way to helping the pets! Everyone was looking for deals and it looked like they found a lot of them.

There were still some great items left over, so C.A.T. will be looking into selling some of them on eBay! Their Giving Works program is very easy to setup and use, so look for some more good deals soon on eBay!

If you missed out on the chance to donate or help with the sale, consider having your own sale and donating the proceeds to C.A.T.

We couldn't do any of our good work without the support of such great people. And we are very grateful to the Wanners for the use of their garage! Thank you for helping!



There were plenty of volunteers to help sort through items for the sale. It was tempting, too, as several of us saw some things we wanted. So much great stuff was donated!

Keeping kitty happy on the cheap

Everyone likes to have a happy kitty. They meow and purr and look all cute. And almost every kitty loves to play with toys. But not everyone can afford to outfit their cats the way they would like to, or that their cats think they deserve. Pet supplies are a big business, but it doesn't require a big budget. With the current worrisome economy, we thought we'd offer some easy and cheap suggestions.

Paper wads are the

easiest cat toy to make. They come in all kinds of colors and patterns, they



make a nice crinkly noise, they roll around great on a flat surface, and you're recycling. Best of all, it doesn't break when it's knocked off a shelf or ledge by a paw.

You know those coils that are used to bind books? They are just as



good a toy as a milk jug ring. Ask a local copy shop if they have any good size binding scraps. Just don't let kitty play with it alone. Always watch them and put it away when they're done. Got an empty box?

Throw the paper wad or coil in there for extra fun. Or put in a blanket for a cat bed.

Empty toilet paper roll? Plastic bottle caps? Almost anything can be made into a fun, free cat toy. Of course, the best way to keep your kitties happy is time. Time spent petting, playing and loving them.



Squeeze Play Sponsorship Drive!

We often have visitors who just love cats. They love everything about them from their fuzzy tails to their tickly whiskers. But some of them can't have one, so they come here to see ours and get a "kitty fix."

C.A.T. has a way for everyone to "virtually own" a cat. Sponsor a cat! For just \$15 a month you can help take care of one of our cats. The economy has been squeezing everyone, including C.A.T. So we're hoping some cat lovers will want to help.

At \$15 a month, that's just 50¢ a day to help care for and feed one of our cats. That's less than the cost of a candy bar!

We send quarterly

updates on how they are doing and let you know when they are adopted. All of our sponsors are recognized at the shelter on each cat's photo. We do all the feeding and cleaning and you get to brag about "your cute cat." We also have a business sponsorship level! Just \$60 a month will sponsor a whole room of cats and we'll place a nice sponsorship sign right outside the door to tell everyone about your generous support!

We have many cats like these pictured who would love to be "your very own kitty" and who don't have a sponsor. Please consider being a cat sponsor each month!



Yes! I want to be a sponsor and help a Cat at C.A.T.!

_____ I'd like to sponsor one cat for \$15 a month! Pick a cat for me and start sending me updates!

_____ I'd like to sponsor a whole room of cats for \$50 a month! Please pick one out for me and post a sign with my custom message!

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

HAPPY TAILS!

Bella

Hi, we adopted Bella on Wednesday. I just wanted to let you know she is doing great! She's a good girl and very friendly. Here she is sleeping on the bed. Thanks!

Nikki B.



Smokie (Shelby)

Thank you again for introducing us to Smokie (Shelby). She has certainly found her forever home with us. She has adapted well to all her new surroundings and playmates. If not playing with cat toys or chasing each other at warp speed through the house, Allison and Smokie can be found on the screened in breezeway enjoying a nap in a chair or watching birds.

Our dog, Daisy, thinks Smokie is just the neatest thing she has ever seen. Her tail wags 90 miles an hour when Smokie enters a room.

All three enjoy weekend camping trips together also. New things to see out the camper windows will keep them entertained for hours. At home or camping, after a busy day of



play, Allison and Smokie curl up in bed with us for the night.

Adopting Smokie has certainly helped relieve the pain of the sudden death of our

older cat. Like I said before--she has a forever home.

Thanks for all your help,

Nancy Damron

HAPPY TAILS!

C.A.T. - Here are some pictures of the cat ("Moonracer") we adopted. In a bag, there are some catnip mice that I made. I hope you have a good rest of the summer!

Sincerely,
Emily Nolte

(We let Emily and her mom take them in to the cats personally. They loved them!)



Cat Spotlights! (Just try to resist taking one of them home!)

Tigger



Tigger is a friendly little guy with a lot of playfulness and fun in him. He comes right up with a friendly

meow. He's a young guy and he just needs someone who's ready to give him lots of attention and loving.

Havannah



Havannah is a sweet lady with a gentle and loving nature. She can start out shy but once she's comfortable she

has the sweetest little purr. She reaches out with a dainty paw to get your attention and returns every bit of love.

Summer Fix Saves the Scoops!

C.A.T. continues to see great success in working with CritterCare and providing opportunities for low-cost spays and neuters to those in the community who need just a little help. Pet overpopulation remains the greatest challenge to shelters everywhere and we are determined to

make an impact here in our community.

The Summer Fix campaign makes it all possible, and our supporters really stepped up to help. Over \$7000 was raised and \$5000 of that was matched! That will make sure lots of cats will be helped through the next year.

We are entering our third year for the program. So far 406 cats total have been fixed and 26 more will be done soon.

We cannot thank our supporters enough for their help! Together we will all help reduce the number of homeless cats.

Help? Please?!?



Help make it my last litter or I might make YOU my cat sitter! **Spay & Neuter your pets!**

Calendar Sneak Peek

We brought back our Cutest Kitty Contest last year. If you've visited our shelter, you've seen our monthly kitty contestants. Many of you voted by dropping your change in the voting jars. We didn't make it easy to pick just one cute kitty.

The voting is done, and the cutest will be

featured in our 2010 calendars. We've put together a fun 11x17 wall calendar! They will be shown off at our annual Hair Ball and then be available at the shelter for \$16.99. All the proceeds go back to helping the cats.

So make sure to get a 2010 C.A.T. Calendar! They're great gifts, too!



The little ways to help C.A.T. add up

The current economy makes it hard to help others much. C.A.T., like other groups, has seen its donations go down. Even on tight budgets, though, there are little ways to help!

- Save that change and drop it off every now and then.
- Donate your old

newspapers and aluminum cans. Recycling helps us get needed supplies.

- Do you sew or knit? Recycle old fabrics and yarn to make small blankets.
- Ask for our newsletter via email and save the stamp.
- Donate your time.

Even if you can only help once a month it saves us money. There are always things to do that we could use help with.

- Missed our garage sale? Hold one of your own and donate some of the proceeds. Or have a bake sale! Everyone likes treats!

Paw Prints 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 August 1, 2009. Please contact the shelter with any corrections.*

Memorials

Dr. Charles Schaible O.D.
Larry & Velda Crocker

Steven Haynes
Thom Finch & Jon Finch
Companion Animal Clinic

Cathy Norton
Deborah Sesler
Kamala Hinnergardt
Leslie Elkins
Patricia Kilkenny

Birte Mattiesen Reid
Jeannie & Jeff Griffith

Alice Fahrendorff
Raleigh Fahrendorff

Dorothy Kelly
Kay Kelly

Pet Tributes

"Blackie" & "Jazz"
Harrier
Dorothy Harrier

"Bubba" Clum
Connie Clum

In memory of "Slick Willy" who died a year ago. We miss him.
Jim & Leslie Van Sickel

"Kitty Grace"
Inez Bland

"Calico"
Becky Schooler

"Sara"
Carlene Eberspacher

"James" Jeffress
Stacy Jeffress
Rosanna Morrow
Nancy Metzler
Bea Whetsel
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

"Buddy"
Lawrence Kassin

"Fluffy" Vawter
Julie Putnam

"Oliver" Owens
Robert Owens

"Hootie" Anweiler
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

"Tortie"
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

"Maude" & "Money"
McCartney
Janine McCartney
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

"Buster" Maus
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

"Don Juan," "Teresa," & "Little Jimmy" Griffith
Jeannie & Jeff Griffith

Happy Birthday "Gus" & "Bailey" Hampton
Dana Hampton
Jeannie & Jeff Griffith

"Boo Kitty" & "Cindy Kitty" Roeckers
Joan Rogers

"Peko," "Curry," & "Rhettie" Van Ausdall
Tom & Tsukie Van Ausdall

Missing Meow: Sweet Sally



Sally was a sweet and quiet lady, returned to us several years ago. We were always hopeful we could find a home for her because she had such a gentle nature and purred so nicely when you scratched her chin, grateful of every little bit of attention she got.

It's hard to find homes for our older

kitties because it's always known you might have to say goodbye sooner than you want to.

Well, sooner came as we watched her slow down. We spoiled her and loved her while we could. We will all miss her friendliness here at the shelter and the opportunities to sneak her little treats.

UPCOMING EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Mouse Catcher!

We had a good response to our Mouse Catcher game! Congrats to our winner, Laurie Walker, for finding all 38 mice. But we need help again! One of them bolted and got loose again. He's hiding somewhere in this newsletter.



Tell us which page he's on and win a DVD of the movie "Bolt." Good luck! (Hint: he's not hiding on this page.)

SEPTEMBER

19 Topeka Cat Fanciers' Show at the Kansas National Guard Armory

OCTOBER

SUPPLY DRIVE FOR C.A.T. Treat C.A.T. this Halloween by donating supplies from our wish list thru October! *We'll have a bucket of treats at the shelter to share with everyone!*

3 C.A.T.'s 7th Annual Hair Ball, 6-9pm at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka. C.A.T. will close early at 2pm to prepare for this fun event. *Reserve your spot early!*

10 PetCo Booth: *Visit with us—we love to chat!*

31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN! *Keep your pets safe inside.*

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER IS ADOPT-A-SENIOR-PET MONTH!

Senior Cat Adoptions at C.A.T. are half price!

7 PetCo Booth: *Come say 'hi' to some fellow cat lovers!*

26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING! *C.A.T. will close early Wednesday, November 25th at 2pm and be closed all day Thursday.*



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MAKE A NOTE!
C.A.T. returns to
normal business
hours after Labor
Day weekend.