



C.A.T. Mews

Cat Association of Topeka • A Nonprofit, No Kill Shelter

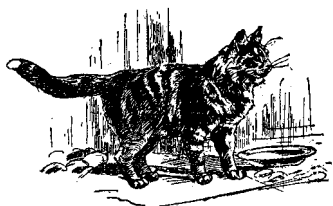
SUMMER 2004

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As to Sagacity, I should say that his judgment respecting the warmest place and the softest cushion in a room is infallible, his punctuality at meal times is admirable, and his pertinacity in jumping on people's shoulders till they give him some of the best of what is going on, indicates great firmness.

~ Thomas Henry Huxley



FOSTERING: ANOTHER WAY TO HELP

How many ways can C.A.T. help homeless cats? Answer: As many as we possibly can! One of those ways is through our foster program. Currently, C.A.T. has eight state-licensed foster homes that serve homeless cats in many ways.

Why do we have a foster program?

Being a no-kill shelter, C.A.T. can only bring in the number of cats it adopts out, which is why there is a perpetual waiting list at the shelter. When the shelter is at capacity and emergencies arise, foster families are able to help out. One foster home specializes in pregnant cats and neo-natal litters. Another takes cats with medical or behavioral issues. Still another tries to help out when pet guardians are in life crises (due to domestic violence, eviction, etc.) and need temporary placement for their pets. In all cases, the foster families provide this service so that the cats can have the best chance at a good life.

How does fostering benefit the cats?

Frankly, it often means the difference between life and death---borrowing time until the cat can return to its person or find a new home. For new kittens, the foster parents become caretaker, trainer, and trusted friend. It is imperative to build kittens' trust early, discourage inappropriate



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behaviors (off the counter, please!), and socialize, socialize, socialize! This results in youngsters who are more quickly adopted into loving homes.

How many cats do most foster families care for?

Although this varies, currently it ranges from one to nine.

What about their own pets?

Most foster families keep adults cats separate from their own pets until they know there are no health issues. At that point, they may interact with the family pets. Again, the point is to give the foster kitten

or cat opportunities to develop good socialization skills. At the shelter, cats who have come from one of our foster homes are usually adopted quickly, simply because they are superbly comfortable with people and often, other animals.

Any downsides?

You bet. It's hard to say good-bye, to let go of this furry soul who has become such a big part of a foster family's heart and life. (One foster mom laughed that so far, she's adopted nearly every foster she's had!)

It also demands a great deal of time (particularly with newborn or orphaned kittens),



FOSTERING: ANOTHER WAY TO HELP CONT'D



and at least one of the foster moms expressed her ongoing concern that her own pets occasionally didn't receive their just due of attention. Finally, one foster parent stated that, "When you adopt, you do so based on personality and the right 'chemistry' between you and the cat. But when you foster, you do so based on need alone. In so doing, the chemistry may not be good and problems may result."

Fostering is not for everyone. In some ways, it changes your comfortable routine as much as caring for a newborn baby. Although

C.A.T. helps with food and veterinary expenses, there are other costs (toys, litter, etc.).

Still, for every cat fostered and subsequently adopted into a loving home, there is one less hungry, lonely, frightened cat left on the street. There is one less cat "humanely" killed. As one of the foster moms stated, "We know we can't save them all, but we also know...it matters to the ones we can."

For more information, contact the Kansas State Animal Health

Department at 296-2326. Cost for a Foster License is \$10 per year. Thanks to the following foster parents for sharing their thoughts for this article: Jeannie Blanck-Griffith, Janine McCartney, Tawnya McNeal, Susan Schmitz, and Sally Snell.

To view an online chronicle of a current C.A.T. foster home, please visit www.shadeofthecottonwood.com/kitten2.

If you are interested in fostering through C.A.T., contact our volunteer coordinator at 272-4735.

"We know we can't save them all, but we also know...it matters to the ones we can."

C.A.T.SIFIED ADS

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Fax (785)273-5805

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

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Krista Miller

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Companion Animal Clinic

Web Site:

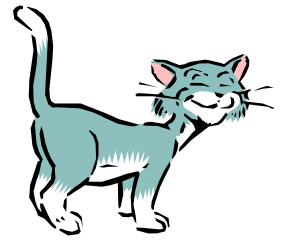
Diane Barnes

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.



Happy Tails



DEAREST BOOTS,

You came to us as an abandoned wanderer. You were full of confidence and you visited each house—one by one—to find your new home. I said, “We don’t need another cat. Go on!” but then you said that this was the place you had chosen to be your new forever home.

As you grew older, Fluffy chose to terrorize you every chance he got. Some days he would not even let you out of your box in the garage. Eventually, you convinced us that you needed to be an “inside” cat and then you won us over completely.

You slept where our dear Barney had slept, pushing your way in between us. You loved us both fully, but you became mom’s cat, always choosing to sit with her or lay against her. You reminded her that it was

OK to snuggle in and relax and that there was nothing more important than stroking your fur.

Just a short time before you left us, you became a kitten again, rolling on the floor and throwing your catnip mouse in the air. How I hated to see you suffer at the very end. You did not want to leave us but your body was no longer able to sustain you. Though we grieve your loss, I can picture you joyfully greeting Sparky, Cricket, Snoopy Girl and Barney.

Thanks for sharing your life with us. Thanks for choosing us to be your forever family. We love you, Boots.

Love,
Mom & Dad

Submitted by Lee Wallace, a long-time C.A.T. supporter.



Kindness toward animals makes a better world for all of us. Thank you, Lee, and to all of you who work tirelessly to make lives good for homeless animals.

Despite our own loss and grief when they pass over the Rainbow Bridge, your kindness and your caring makes that animal’s life a HAPPY TAIL.

ABNER

As shelter cats go, Abner didn’t earn high marks—unless it was A for Attitude! A resident of C.A.T. for many years, he couldn’t seem to get along with people and had bit—not nipped—the majority of volunteers. He screamed—not hissed, not growled—when in the presence of other cats (especially Tortie). And to top it all off, he sprayed on any available vertical surface. Yes indeed, Abner was a challenge!

After moving into the new shelter, he resided in the quarantine room where he would have minimum stimulation from volunteers and other cats. Still, the behaviors

continued and even intensified. Nearly everyone reluctantly admitted that ol’ Abner was pretty much unadoptable. It wasn’t much of a life for him, everyone agreed.

Despite his reputation, one of C.A.T.’s foster families agreed to give him a chance, and that’s when the miracle happened. From the moment he moved into his new digs, Abner became a new man. No more spraying, no more screaming, no more biting, no more pacing. He became a lap-sitting, purring, playing, romping, bird watching fellow. He put on weight, learned to “fetch” his toys, and greeted all

with soft sounds and head-butts. Wonder of wonders, a family who adores him has recently adopted Abner, and it appears the affection is mutual.

This is what C.A.T. is all about: caring about these special ones even when it isn’t easy. Believing in our souls that every cat deserves a chance at a good life. Looking for options even when they appear non-existent. And this is what you make possible by your support of C.A.T.

On behalf of Abner and his new forever family, thank you for caring.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

The volunteer program is alive and thriving at Cat Association of Topeka! In the 1 ½ year since its inception, hundreds of volunteer hours have been spent at the shelter helping with various on-site activities. These include: cleaning kennels, cleaning CATrooms, doing laundry, rearranging storage areas and so forth. Work is always waiting to be done at CAT, and, thanks to our great volunteer brigade, there is always a volunteer willing to help!

We are grateful for the hours of time our volunteers dedicate to helping make the lives of our feline residents as comfortable as possible.

Another wonderful by-product of utilizing volunteers is that we save a huge amount of money by not having to pay for additional staff. This financial savings, in turn, can be used more directly on the cats and their care.

Since you must be 18 to volunteer at CAT, we do not have a formal youth volunteer program. As much as we'd love to have young people helping at the shelter, we are unable to do so at this time due to liability and supervisory issues. In the past, we have worked with various scouting and other youth groups to develop special projects to help CAT. If you are under 18, but still wanting

to help CAT, several ways exist to do this which could be very helpful to our cats! Some ideas are:

- Organize an aluminum recycling activity to benefit CAT.
- Set up a "Wish List" box at your school or church requesting specific items to be donated to CAT. Then bring them to the shelter and see the cats' eyes light right up! (The Wish List is enclosed in this newsletter).
- Have your group sponsor a shelter cat. Our staff could assist your group in deciding which cat could use a boost from your group's kindness!

- Organize a bake sale to benefit our kitties at CAT.
- Get your group together and make up some homemade catnip mice or other homemade items for our shelter cats.

If you or your youth group are needing help organizing an activity to benefit CAT and would like some guidance, our volunteer coordinator would be most happy to brainstorm with your group and help develop a plan of action! She may be contacted by leaving a message at CAT at 272-4735 or through e-mail at jbgsmilingcat@aol.com.

(All volunteers are required to attend a Volunteer Orientation.)

Special Projects in Need of Special Volunteers

- **Advertising Coordinator** for newsletter to contact potential advertisers regarding benefits of advertising in C.A.T. Mews. For further information, please e-mail Diane at kaliko88@yahoo.com or topekacat@yahoo.com.
- **C.A.T. Photographer** to take professional-quality photos of shelter cats for use with sponsorship program, newspaper articles, shelter boards. For further information, email Sally at sally@shadeofthecottonwood.com.
- **Sponsorship coordinator** to oversee sponsorship program. If interested please contact sally@shadeofthecottonwood.com.
- **Garage Sale Volunteers** - With the 3rd annual CAT-apult Into Summer Sale just around the corner, we need lots of volunteers to help in many capacities, including: growing plants for sale, helping pick up items prior to sale, setting out items day of sale, working on days of sale (June 18 & 19), helping with clean-up, helping with food booth, baking for bake sale, donating drinks, etc. For information, please call Bill at 273-7615 after 6:00 p.m.
- **Outreach Volunteers** to help once a month at outreach booths, telling people about C.A.T., helping with bake sales & other special events, answering questions, making referrals, and listening to people tell all about the wonderful cats in their lives! If interested, please contact Susan at 554-5853 or Jeannie at jbgsmilingcat@aol.com.

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INTRODUCING, FOR THE FIRST TIME...



Who: Kids ages 9-12

When: 12:30-4:00 p.m., June 21-25

Where: Cat Association of Topeka

Cost: \$76

CAT Campers will participate in a variety of creative craft projects, reading activities, etc., to learn more about cats and cat care. All participants will become educated about CAT and how our shelter helps in the community as well as how even they, as children, can positively impact the problem of homeless animals in the community.

Sound interesting? E-mail our volunteer coordinator at jbgsmilingcat@aol.com or mail in this response form.

Yes! I am interested. Please contact me:

Name: _____

_____ E-mail: _____

_____ Phone: _____ Best Time to Call: _____

_____ Please mail me more information to the following address:



CAT-APULT INTO SUMMER!



Donated thrift sale items at past sales have helped C.A.T. raise from \$1000-\$2500!

Spring is here and already rushing into summer. If you did some spring cleaning, we have the purrfect place to bring some of your stuff!

C.A.T.'s summer fundraising event, CAT-apult Into Summer Thrift Sale is set for June 18 and 19. If you remember this event from the past two years, you can tell everyone you know about the great deals you found. This is a great money maker for C.A.T.

Supporters and people from all over donated items

for C.A.T. to sell. And every penny goes back into the shelter, making it possible for us to continue our mission of caring and finding homes for homeless cats and kittens.

Some of our best sellers in the past couple of years have been entertainment items like books and CDs, DVDs and videotapes.

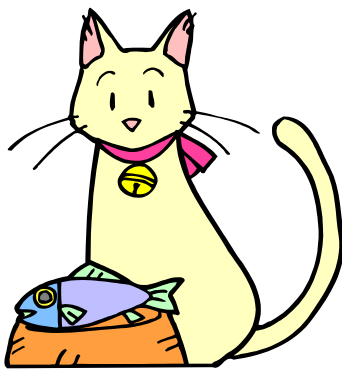
Kids toys and sporting goods were also a hit. We also moved a lot of home decoration items, exercise equipment, and lawn and garden tools.

Although this year there

are some items we are asking not be donated, like clothes or non-working electronics, donations of many kinds are gratefully accepted.

If you are also cleaning out your coin jars, piggy banks, or spare change, bring them by! We're having a coin drop as well.

The location for the sale has not been decided yet. Be sure to look for more details coming soon about the sale site, drop-off times and opportunities to help!



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**
- **Pine Sol (not citrus)**
- Automatic Dishwasher Soap
- Bleach
- Paper Towels
- Center-pull paper towel refills for dispenser (available at Sam's)
- Invitation envelopes (4-3/8" x 5-3/4")
- Post-it notes

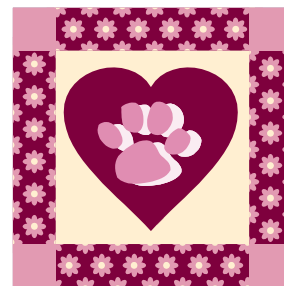
C.A.T.SIFIED ADS

Your Advertisement Could Be Here!

Got a service or product you'd like to tell everyone about? Place an ad in our newsletter and support C.A.T.



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 April 10, 2004. Please contact Mary Tonar with any corrections.

Memorials

Raymond Blanck

Ivan & Ann Stratton
Troy & Jenny Heinen &
Family
Carbondale Pet Clinic &
Dr. Teresa Tucker
Pauline South Staff
Lynda Weaver
Mary Linn Kelley
Cynthia Cruz
Marge Eilert

Robert Quinley

Karen Franklin
Philip & Marla Williams
Melvin & Roma Robinson

Vivian Schrein

Sandy & Gerald Sweet

Ila Whitlock

Carol Jory

Edith Richards

Mr. & Mrs. R.B. Earp
Pat Urban
Jeanne & Robert Edwards
Ken & Amy Boynton &
Family
Bonnie Haas
Ladies Aux., VFW Post
1650
Elizabeth Trimble
Anthony & Dana DeMarco
Frances High
Aletha Williams
George Cochren

Colleen Smith

Nancy Metzler

Mary E. Burtch

Frances Seymour-Hunter
Robert Burtch

Honorariums

Crystal Bass—Birthday

Athena Bass

Skyler Dykes—Birthday

Pet Tributes

"Lukas"

Janine McCartney
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

"Bo"

Diane & Sterling Barnes
Darrell & Susan Schmitz

"Murka"

Richard Alexander

"Buddy"

Lawrence Kassin

"Holly and Squeegee"

Sandy & Gerald Sweet

"Boots"

Lee Wallace

"Little B"

Brian & Jayme Morris-
Hardeman

"Sam"

Michele & Kevin Reese

"Tucker"

Marcia Coder

"Sanibel"

Joann Myers

"Watson"

Joann Myers

Ila Whitlock's "Herbie,

Pinky & Niask"

Carol Jory

"George"

Stacey Jeffress

"Snuffy & Kristie"

Yuvonne Wolfe

"Buddy"

Lawrence Kassin

"Bert & Snoopy"

Mike & Jean Akulow

"Buckwheat"

Patrick & Donna Mulligan

"Pablo"

Eric & Marsha Scott

"Venus"

Susan & Darrell Schmitz
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

"Penny & Kittens"

Jeannie Blanck-Griffith
Dennis & Janine
McCartney

"Alfie"

Susan & Darrell Schmitz
Connie Jones
Herman Rohr
Dennis & Janine
McCartney

"Misty"

Marie Petesch



UPCOMING EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WHISKER TICKLER



MAY

- 8 PetCo Booth, 12-4: Bake Sale. ***Baked goodies needed!***
- 29 PetSmart Booth, 12-4: *Volunteers always welcome!*

JUNE

- 5 PetCo Booth, 12-4: Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundaes!
To donate supplies or help out, contact Susan at 554-5853.
- 6 Wal-Mart Super Center Booth, 11-3.
- 18-19 CAT-apult Into Summer Sale: ***Watch for more details!***
- 26 PetSmart Booth: *Volunteers always welcome!*

JULY

- 1 New Shelter's First Birthday Party!
- 2 PetCo Booth, 12-4: BBQ Stand!
To donate supplies or help out, contact Susan at 554-5853.
- 31 PetSmart Booth: *Want to help?*

AUG

- 7 PetCo Booth, 12-4: Bake Sale. ***Baked goodies needed!***
- 28 PetSmart Booth, 12-4: *We'd love to have extra helpers!*



A Nonprofit, No Kill Shelter

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