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# C.A.T. Mews

Cat Association of Topeka • A Nonprofit, No Kill Shelter

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SPRING 2005

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## OLDER CATS MAKE GOOD PETS, TOO

Abby is a sweet gentle cat. She's a pretty brown tabby with lovely long fur. Sometimes she even likes it when someone brushes it. She always says hello to visitors at the shelter and delights in every gentle pet and caress along her back. There's just one thing that keeps her from being adopted. She's almost 15 years old.

"A kitten is the delight of a household." So said Jules Champfleury, a French novelist in the 1800's who wrote *Les Chats*, a very popular book about cats. And in shelters today, kittens are the most popular choice for a new pet. But what about the older ones?

While it is true that older cats may need special consideration with their care and feeding, nowadays cats are living well into their late teens. More often now, cats live beyond 20 years. Even old cats have a lot of love to give, if they

are given a chance with a new family.

Nutrition for pets has advanced over the years, so diets are available for all age groups, including seniors. Regular veterinary care can help with some of the more common health problems that occur with age, such as loss of weight, arthritis, and sometimes, incontinence. Many of the problems with old age, though, are avoidable or treatable.

As pets age, sometimes their personality can change. But that older cat still enjoys being petted and groomed, sitting on a warm lap, or just being near someone who cares for them. Too often, though, older cats are overlooked at adoption centers.

Older cats have advantages over younger ones. They are usually more even tempered and less hyper, and their play is



Abby has been adopted twice before, but she still needs a forever home. She's graced CAT's shelter for 5 Years now.

often less aggressive. And an older cat can still purr as much as a younger one.

A better quote might be one by Barbara L. Diamond. "I will always remember the olive-eyed tabby who taught me that not all relationships are meant to last a lifetime. Sometimes just an hour is enough to touch your heart."

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When I play with my cat who knows whether I do not make her more sport than she makes me?

~ Michel de Montaigne

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## A NEW WEBSITE FOR C.A.T.!

C.A.T. has only had a website for a few years. It started as a few pages put together by a volunteer on a free web hosting site.

That's about to change thanks to the generous help from NexLynx, a web hosting service oper-

ated right here in Topeka. They registered a domain just for C.A.T. and set up web space and customizable email services.

Our new address will be at [www.topekacat.org](http://www.topekacat.org). Along with the new web address are new emails:

### General Information

[cats@topekacat.org](mailto:cats@topekacat.org)

### Volunteer Information

[volunteer@topekacat.org](mailto:volunteer@topekacat.org)

### Donation Information

[donate@topekacat.org](mailto:donate@topekacat.org)

### CATMews Newsletter

[catmews@topekacat.org](mailto:catmews@topekacat.org)

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# VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY SPIRIT



Several volunteers made the holidays brighter for our kitty residents.....so, the volunteer spotlight this quarter is shining brightly and it is shining on many!

Dana Hampton brought cheer to the cats in mid-December with decorated little cutout trees for each cat room—complete with all the cats’ names on the tiny ornaments! Nancy Adair sewed new kitty beds and bedcovers and brought by tons of shelter supplies with a wonderful “Ho! Ho! Ho!”



Duane Evans and Jeff Griffith did much-needed repair work and painting to the shelter over the holidays. Diane Barnes did fancy and magical things with our computer system to make it work better!

Several volunteers: Kathy Willis, Barb Meidinger, Kathy Boyce, Tawnya McNeal, Janice and Duane Evans, Cale and Scarlett Herreman, Diane Barnes, and Jeannie Blanck-Griffith worked many extra kennel/catroom, etc. shifts

to help cover employee vacation days and holidays. Susan and Darrell Schmitz worked hard to bring cheer to the shelter and comfort to its supporters by decorating the “Tree of Lights.”

CAT is blessed to have a wonderful crew of dedicated and loving volunteers. If you are interested in joining in the fun and sharing in the passion for cats and rescue, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Jeannie, at [jbgsmilingcat@aol.com](mailto:jbgsmilingcat@aol.com) or [volunteer@topeka.cat](mailto:volunteer@topeka.cat).

## C.A.T.SIFIED ADS

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### 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  
Janine McCartney  
Janice Evans  
Diane Barnes  
Scott Mickelsen  
Linda Halford  
Steven Loczy

**Retail Manager:**

Anita Young

**Kennel Manager:**

Krista Miller

**Volunteer Coordinator**

Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

**Facilities:**

Jeff Griffith

**Finances:**

Darrell Schmitz

**Fundraising/Outreach:**

Susan Schmitz

**Newsletter:**

Diane Barnes  
Susan Schmitz

**Veterinary Consultants:**

Mike Esau  
Tim Lavin  
Companion Animal Clinic

**Technology & 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.*



## A SWEET REQUEST

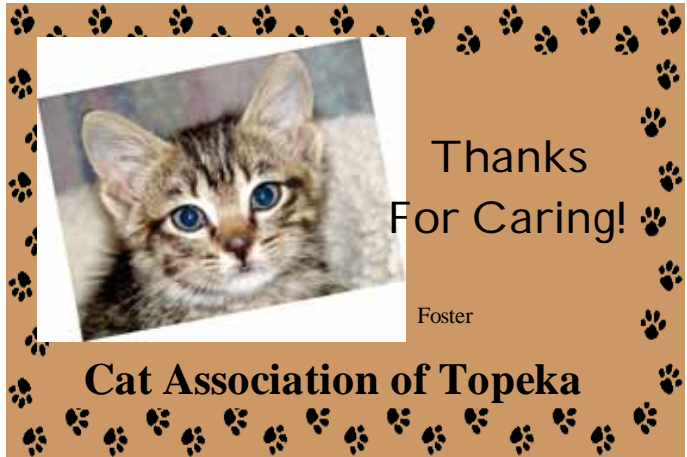
One of the most consistent, low-key and popular money-makers for C.A.T. is its candy bars featuring our own shelter cats. We sell a minimum of 50 bars every month...that's an extra \$600+ annually to help with medical and daily costs at the shelter.

On home computers, volunteers design and print out wrappers (pictured right) for Hershey and Kit Kat bars. They are sold in the shelter, at all outreach events, and at several businesses around town.

For the last few years Susan Schmitz, one of our volunteers, has bought most of the candy bars out of her own pocket. "I love the

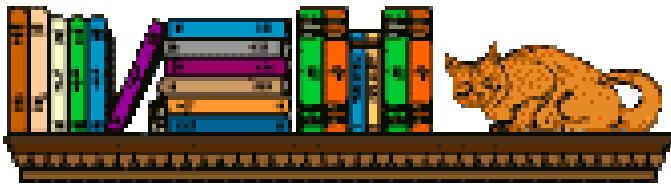
reaction the candy bars get as people look at the cats we have at the shelter, as well as C.A.T. alumni," Susan said. "They are a great icebreaker and have actually led people to adopt the cats whose faces appeared on their candy bar."

The next time you're at Sam's, please consider picking up a 36-count box of either plain (not almond) Hershey bars, Kit Kat bars, or Nestle Crunch bars and dropping them off at the shelter. The cost is about \$13 (and we make a minimum of \$36 off every box!). It's just another way to help care for the kitties.....thank you!



Chocolate wrapped in a cute kitty picture—who can resist that?

## BOOKS NEEDED FOR 2005 SUMMER SALE!



### *Collecting certain items now.*

- Books, DVDs, VHS Tapes, and CDs needed
- Hardback and Paperback
- No Operating Manuals or Textbooks please
- We will price them.

**Bring them by the shelter and drop in the specially marked donation box. Visit the cats while you're there!**

## C.A.T.SIFIED ADS

Phone (785)273-5800



**Sharon Mayo, LSCSW; ACSW**

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

Fax (785)273-5805



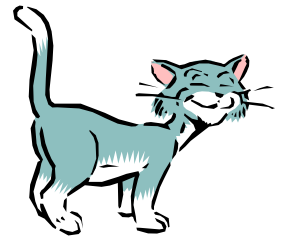
**Companion  
Animal Clinic**

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

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



# Happy Tails



Lizzie and Callie have settled in beautifully into the Hudson household. Lizzie and Callie (a.k.a. Pandi and Goldie) were adopted from C.A.T., joining their stepsister, Jazz, who was adopted from the Helping Hands Humane Society. Jazz had been an “only child” for quite awhile before these newcomers arrived on the scene.

“If I could give one piece of advice,” said JoAnn Hudson recently, “it would be to hang in there when you are

introducing new cats into the household. We thought Jazz would never accept Callie & Lizzie.

It took many months, lots of frustration and aggravation---and more patience than we knew we had. But we never considered giving up, and it’s paid off in a big way.”

According to JoAnn, “Liz is LOVE in the shape of a cat...and Callie expresses her love with her eyes, and what a large vocabulary she has!” The love and devotion is evident whenever Gary

and JoAnn talk about their cats. These C.A.T. alumni will never be unloved or abandoned again....they and Jazz have what C.A.T. works to bring about every day: a “forever home,” where they are safe and treasured.

**Thank you for making it possible for C.A.T. to help Callie, Lizzie, and so many other cats find a good life at last. We couldn’t do it without your support. Bless you for caring.**



When Nikki was rescued by the kind employees at Topeka’s PetCo store one scorching late summer afternoon, she could barely walk. Her paws were burned and blistered from walking on the hot asphalt. Her little body was thin, dehydrated and matted. She was terrified of everyone and everything....what a scary world it was for such a tiny kitten.

After placement in one of C.A.T.’s foster homes, Nikki received much needed medical attention and plenty of good food. But while her body healed quickly, the emotional

scars of her early days on the street hung on. To help her learn that she was in a safe place, she was introduced to the household’s most mellow cats, one at a time. She “listened” to NPR to get used to different voices and sounds.

Slowly she began to come out of her shell (and out from under the bed!). She began to respond to her name and to learn the pleasure of human touch. Nikki was adopted by a family who had recently lost a much-beloved cat, also a calico.

Today, this little dynamo romps and plays with the other pets,

chatters at squirrels outside the window, and snuggles up to her humans at bedtime.

“We should have called her Foxy,” says her guardian. “She has the silkiest coat with a fox-like tail nearly as long as her body! She’s a pint-sized little thing, but has a meow that will wake us from a dead sleep! She’s still a little shy around strangers, but she’s learning that we won’t let anyone or anything ever hurt her again.”

Because of your support, Nikki finally has a reason to purr. From all the cats who benefit from your kindness, thank you!



# REMEMBERING LOVE, HONORING LIVES

C.A.T.'s first Tree of Lights exceeded all expectations and touched the hearts of all who saw it.

- More than 250 beloved cats and dogs were honored
- Nearly 15% were new donors to C.A.T.
- A 6.5 ft. tree and 45 ft of garland were filled
- Many beloved animals were honored, including Tank (page 6), long-time C.A.T. resident.
- Over 500 red and white lights were used
- \$5979 was raised to help meet medical

expenses of the cats

- Scrapbooks Etc donated use of laser machine for silhouettes
- The tree, garland, lights, all materials, supplies, and time were donated
- Many of the contributions accompanied touching stories & beautiful photos which were scanned and fashioned into ornaments

To all those who shared their stories, their photos, and their hearts.....

Thank you from all of us at C.A.T.!

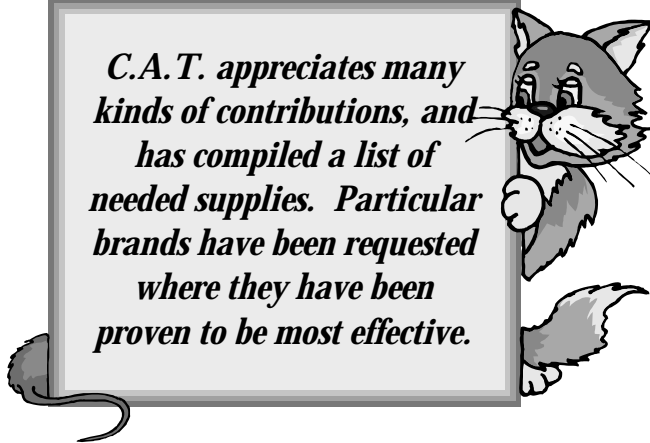


The Tree of Lights ornaments will be available at the shelter until March 1 if you wish to retrieve yours. Please stop by! If you are unable to come in person and would like us to mail it to you, please call Susan at 554-5853 or email [TreeOfLights2004@aol.com](mailto:TreeOfLights2004@aol.com).

## SHELTER WISH LIST

- **Trash Bags - Whelan's Large Yellow**
- **Unscented clay litter** (Why not buy Cat Tails from us?)
- **Pine Sol (not citrus)**
- **1st-Class postage stamps**
- Bleach
- Paper Towels
- Dishwashing Soap
- Printer paper - 8-1/2" x 11"
- Center-pull paper towel refills for dispenser (from Sam's)
- Special Diet Foods: Hill's SD Senior and Light dry, and Prescription a/d, w/d
- Bulk plain Hershey and Kit Kat bars, regular size
- Vacuum cleaner (not bagless)
- Pledge Grab-its or Swiffer Dust Cloths

*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.*



## TOO MANY GOOD-BYES

The holidays have not entirely been filled with joy. The past two months have meant letting go of some very special kitties.

On December 10, CAT said goodbye to one of its



most beloved and long-time residents, Tank. Tank began her life at CAT as a stray. She was blessed to have joined a family later, but came back to the old shelter on 17<sup>th</sup> Street because her family was moving.

While doing some testing to try to assess her health situation, Tank was diagnosed with FIV. Because she was so well loved and had been with us for so long, none could

make the decision to say goodbye to her. It was also at that time that shelter staff and board members became enlightened about the potential for FIV+ cats to live long and relatively healthy lives.

When we relocated to Gage Blvd. in July 2003, Tank became one of the charter members of the new shelter. In her last few months of life, Tank became a calmer cat and was very quick to purr.

It was not long after that her roommate, Desmond began to have serious health problems. He wasn't eating very much, and was losing weight fast. Every kind of food on hand was tried, even tuna, but Desmond wasn't interested.



He'd been at C.A.T. since March of 2004, and was only about 2 years old. Like Tank, he was a stray found by someone who brought him to C.A.T. Then it was found that Desmond, too, was positive for FIV.

He was a sweet cat who loved attention. A group at Hill's Consumer Affairs Dept. fell in love with him, and sponsored him for quite a while.

In the end, Desmond was too weak, and it was time to say goodbye.

At that same time, one of our very young kittens who had tested positive for Feline Leukemia, was fighting his own battle. An infection had set in, and it was a grim race to see what would win - the medicine or the illness.

Laddie was one of a litter of three very active and happy kittens. All three tested for FeLV, and were added to our isolation room. It was not long for them to discover the fun of jumping up and down the play

shelves, or pouncing and running on the porch.

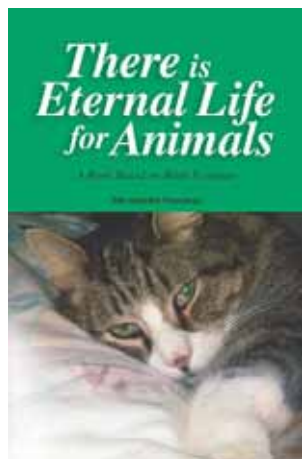


It was just two days after losing Desmond that Laddie lost his battle. Another good-bye that should not have come for years.

Life is about meetings and partings. These are the saddest of all, though. Since cats with FIV or FeLV cannot be adopted out, the shelter becomes their home. These cats become part of our family, part of our hearts. They will be missed.

We are grateful to Barb Zander, who sponsored Tank for many years, as well as the loving volunteers Tawnya McNeal, Tammy Anweiler and Codi Garvey, who gave Tank a very special final resting place.

## A C.A.T. LOVER'S BOOK REVIEW



Hi, I just recently read a book entitled "There Is Eternal Life For Animals" and I thought that you might be interested in knowing about it. I know so many pet owners are really interested in finding out if pets go to heaven.

This is a wonderful easy reading book about animal afterlife from a Christian perspective. It details Bible scripture which proves that

all animals go to heaven. I was just overcome with joy when I read this book since I myself have had to experience the grief of losing my precious kitty that gave me unconditional love for 20 years.

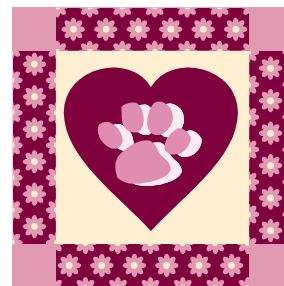
If you would like more information about the book, go to [www.eternalanimals.com](http://www.eternalanimals.com) or you can purchase it at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Since

this book provided me with so much hope, peace and comfort I just want to help people. I know how hard a thing it is to go through especially in this hard unsympathetic world we live in where pet loss is hardly even recognized and millions of pet owners suffer all alone in their grief.

Very sincerely,  
Janis Nedelec



# 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 January 20, 2005. Please contact the shelter with any corrections.*

## Memorials

Alice Fahrendorff  
Raleigh Fahrendorff

Dr. Dean Collins  
Carol Jory

Sharon Lake  
Patricia Herman for KDHE Lab

Geneva Henry  
Lloyd Weaver  
JD & Olucille Embry  
Jim & Kathy Maag  
Leonard & Thelma Moody  
Lloyd Woodburn  
Albert Henry  
Noel D. Grittman  
J.M. Culbertson

Peg Purdue  
Dr. Thomas Leonard  
Dr. Alan & Mrs. Rosemary  
Bradbury  
Vicki Dressler  
Frances Kennedy-Murray  
Linda L. Boyd  
Lillian G. Johnson

Melvina N. Long  
Larry L. & Joyce E. Sims  
Benj A. & LaDonna A. Grindol  
Leland W. Frakes  
Donald & Margaret Nelson  
Dorothy A. Reichart  
Judy & Rodney Steves  
Paul & June White

## Honorariums

In honor of Susan Schmitz for pet sitting services  
Tom & Kristal Granger

Marcia & Danny Smart  
Tammy Smart

Sponsored "Lassie" for Cindy Price  
Angela Ricke

Ruth Guilfoil—Birthday  
Dennis A. Clark  
Marion Shorman

Helen King  
Allianz Life Ins. Co.

Elizabeth H. King—Christmas  
Ted Ayres

Jeannie Blanck-Griffith—Birthday  
Pat Urban  
Susan Blanck-Harlan

Phredde—Christmas  
Mary Ann & Hal Keating

Jason—Christmas  
Robert S. Ramsay

Sponsored "Tank" for Codi Garvey—Christmas  
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

Sponsored "Ching" for Anne Lolley—Christmas  
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

Sponsored "Squeakers" for Pat Urban—Christmas  
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

Herman Page—Christmas  
Ginger Davis

In honor of friendship with Ginger Davis  
Neta Jeffus

Ruth Maus—Birthday  
Ann & Joseph Juarez

Dennis & Janine McCartney  
Ken & Lavera Moum

## Pet Tributes

"Buddy"  
Lawrence Kassin

"Tigger Alan"  
Steve Banning

"Misty"  
Sarah Kuck

"Spike"  
Kimberly Bush

"Trevor"  
Marilyn & Richard Harlow

"Smooky", "Tiger", and "Littermates", beloved pets for 13 years  
Gail & BA Franklin

"To Stray Pets"  
Cameron McDaniel

"Pyewackett", "Simon", "Puppet", "Smoky", & "Jar-Jar"  
Patricia Dunaway

"Cleo"  
Stacy Jeffress

"M.C.", "Fuzzy", & "Fuzzy II" - Thank you for continuing to provide them a home.  
Brian & Jayme Morris-Hardeman

For all the animals who did not survive the hurricanes. I still feel so bad.  
Phyllis Leupold

"Dee Dee"  
Richard Alexander

"Mocha"  
Cathy Maassen

"Tom Cat" Blanck-Griffith  
Teresa D. Tucker, DVM  
Pat Urban

"All our furry babies, past & present"  
Steven & Cathy Adams

"Thrill" Price for Cynthia Price & Jeff Ireland  
Doris Ireland  
Linda Ireland

"Tyrone" & "Spencer"  
Teresa Malone

"Tommy Boy" Blanck-Griffith  
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

"Star" Stratton for Ivan & Ann Stratton  
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

"Sunshine"  
Joe Sanchez & John Wells

"Red"  
Carol Jory

"Gussie" & "Velvet"  
Charlotte & James Sakellaris

Beloved pets "Freddy" & "Crystal"  
Larry & Suzie Heilman

"Molly"  
Richard & Virginia Kopp

"Simon" & "Half-Track"  
Pam Smith

"Ali"  
Kathy Willis

"Mr. Gray"  
Clara Rhoades

"Bandit" & "Patches"  
Morris & Vicki Speed

"Katy"  
M.J. Wiloughby

"Tuffy" & "Milo"  
Susan B. Fitz

"Carmen"  
Eric & Marsha Jo Scott

"Polo"  
P.M. Schwerdt



# UPCOMING EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## WHISKER TICKLER - FAIR GAME



"Be honest, when I fluff myself up like this, am I intimidating... or just cute?"

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### FEB

19 PetCo Booth: *Volunteers always welcome!*

### MAR

5 PetCo Booth: St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale. *Volunteers and donated baked goodies are needed!*

19 PetCo Booth: *Volunteers needed!*

### APR

2 PetCo Booth: New Membership T-shirt Giveaway! *Volunteers always welcome!*

### MAY

7 PetCo Booth: Mother's Day Bake Sale! *Delicious donations and volunteers appreciated!*

### JUNE

4 PetCo Booth: Summer Surprise Event! *Volunteers welcome!*

**Coming in June: The Annual Cat-A-Pult Into Summer Thrift Sale! More news to come soon!**



A Nonprofit, No Kill Shelter

1719 SW Gage Blvd.  
Topeka, Kansas 66604  
Phone: 785-272-4735  
Email: [cats@topekacat.org](mailto:cats@topekacat.org)

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