Socially Awkward Cats

We have wonderful cats and kittens at C.A.T., lots of different colors, ages and personalities. Our staff and volunteers spend a lot of time getting to know them so we can help adopters find just the right cat friend. Some, however, are a little more challenging to place in a good home.

Cats like Tobias, our cover cat, can be shy or seem anti-social. They can run away or hide when people come to visit and often need time and patience to become comfortable with someone. We get to see their wonderful personalities as they come to trust us.

In Tobias’ case, he likes to hide in small cubby-like spaces. It’s a safe place for him to shelter. Even when he is around people he knows he will still nap in spots like that. He also prefers to be approached slowly and petted from the back, not the front. We make note of things like this so if he does get adopted his person will know what to do and what to avoid.

For those willing to take on a socially awkward cat there are tips and tricks to helping their new friend settle in.

PATIENCE - It can take a long time for a wary cat to come around. A few weeks is common and a couple of months is not unheard of. The wait is worth it. The cat just needs time to get used to its new home and family. Sitting quietly with the cat is a good start. Let it be the first to approach you.

ROUTINE - Shy cats can be very sensitive to changes. A regular schedule of activities is very reassuring. Getting up at a regular time, feeding food, giving treats, and play time can all help bring a cat out of its shell to interact and bond with you.

CALM - Cats are often scared by loud noises, and shy cats more so. They often need homes that are generally quiet and not too busy withcomings and goings.

HIDING SPOTS - It’s not uncommon for shy cats to like small spaces to hide or nap in. They will often pick spots like inside boxes, cat cubbies, under shelves or tables. Provide some for your cat with beds or blankets so they feel safe. Then when it does hide, you know where to start looking.

Eventually shy cats come around and they can be as affectionate and playful as any outgoing kitty. It’s a rewarding relationship that makes all the awkward parts worth it.

Inside this issue:

New in the Catty Shack 3
Devaughn James 4
Happy Meows 5
Plant Sale 6
Bingo at Crooked Post 6
Paw Prints on the Heart 7

Featured Cat: Tobias
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

Sharon Mayo, LSCSW
Therapy for Aging Parents and Their Caregivers
Individual and Family Therapy
Grief Therapy for Pet Owners
3601 SW 29th, Suite 216B, Topeka, KS 66614
Phone (785) 273-5800, sharon@sharonmayo.com

Fused Glass Artistic Creations
by Kymm Ledbetter
Imagine. Create. Enjoy.
506 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612
785.271.8006
info@prairieglassart.com
Monday-Friday: 10am-4pm
Saturday: 10am-2pm
Sunday: Closed
Evenings by Appointment

Volunteers Wanted!
We need help the most for these times:
- Saturdays, Cat Rooms 8am-12pm
- Sundays, Cat Rooms 8am-11am
- Mondays, Cat Rooms 8am-11am
If interested contact us at volunteer@topekacat.org
or visit us at the shelter!

Heavenly Pet Memorials
Pet Cremations & Funeral Home
(785) 272-1582 • heavenlypettopeka@gmail.com • www.heavenlypetmemorials.com

ABOUT C.A.T.

Shelter Hours
Tues-Fri: 11am to 5:30pm
Sat: 11am to 4pm
CLOSED Sundays & Mondays

Cats may be seen after 1pm on weekdays and 12pm on Saturdays. Take a sneak peek at our cats online at topekacat.org.

This publication is distributed through a mailing list. It is also available at the shelter, online at our website, or through e-mail. To sign up for e-mail, send a message to catmews@topekacat.org. Please keep us up to date on address changes.

Prairie Glass Studio
New In The Catty Shack!

We are always on the lookout for new items to carry in our shop and suggestions are welcome. These past couple of months we found some great items we think you and your kitties will like!

Simple scratching posts were requested and we found this one that is slightly inclined. Our shop cats sure took an interest in it!

Cat toys are always high on shopping lists and the Ducky Yeoow! toys are a hit. We let the shelter cats test some. The fun shapes like bananas and crayons are getting laughs, and the catnip is enticing and potent!

Need a new carrier for your cat? We have some that load from the top making it easier to get your cat inside.

Also in stock are some new greeting card selections for cats! They’re colorful, cute and they have catnip toys attached.

Stop by sometime to check out all the new stuff. Our shop cats would love to see you!

THE C.A.T. BOARD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith
Janine McCartney
Janice Evans
Sam Eck
Donna Mealy
Lynn Retz
Dr. Debra King
Anson Tullis

KENNEL MANAGER
Krista Miller

RETAIL & MEDIA MANAGER
Diane Barnes

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

FACILITIES
Jeff Griffith

VETERINARY CONSULTANTS
Companion Animal Clinic
DeVaughn James Injury Lawyers is a local injury law firm that focuses on personal injury cases such as car accidents. As a local Kansas law firm, the team at DeVaughn James lives and works in the same town as you. Their kids go to the same schools as your kids. They shop at the same stores. So, community outreach is very important because it affects them directly.

For years now, DeVaughn James has given thousands of dollars each month to various non-profit organizations, initiatives, and charities who are doing good things in Kansas. The entire team also makes it a priority to get their families together and volunteer to help some of these amazing organizations.

“At DeVaughn James, we value building relationships with the many people that make Kansas a great place to live. It is important to us that we are active in the community and support those efforts that make Kansas better.” Said partner and owner, Dustin DeVaughn.

Partner and owner, Richard James, explained, “When we opened our third office location in Topeka, we immediately started searching for ways to get involved and reach the Topeka community. That’s when we came across the Cat Association of Topeka.”

Every other Friday, one of our Volunteers visits the DeVaughn James Topeka office with cats who are up for adoption. The cats explore the conference room and have a chance to socialize with the team. Then they pose for pictures that are posted to their social media and on their billboards in hopes of helping these cats find a home!
It’s been two years since “Yoda” adopted us. 
(Adopted Jan. 4, 2020)
~ Guy Smoker

Hello! This is Shannon! I adopted “Gracie” (Zoe now) yesterday and thought I’d give an update. As soon as I set the kennel down she walked right out and was very curious. She looked around my living room and seemed comfortable so a bit later I showed her my bedroom. She has a strange liking to my kitchen. She sits in front of kitchen and always follows me in there. She doesn’t seem interested in toys yet except the red light, she loves that. She also talks to me allllllll the time! Her little meows are so cute. She has already sat in my lap and she lets me pet her belly! She’s veryyyyyy sweet and I look forward to growing a strong bond to her! Thank you guys so much!!  ~ Shannon Finlay (Adopted Jan. 11, 2022)
Plant Sale!
Just in time for Mother's Day!
and Saturday, April 30th
outside at C.A.T. from 1-3pm
Lots of potted flowers and succulents to choose from!
Stop by to check them out!

An Alternative and Fun Spayghetti!

Our annual Spayghetti was held at C.A.T. this year during the month of February. We set up different fun activities each week for people to come in and check out.

Our first week featured the popular Mystery Bags. They sold out quickly. The second week we tried something new and sold Valentine’s cards with cat pictures and a $5 gift card inside. They were also a hit and were bought up fast.

The third week we had a secret auction. Many great items and gift baskets were donated by lots of wonderful people. There was a great selection of things for everyone to bid on. We were also able to post them on our Facebook page to let people bid virtually.

The last week featured a dine-out fundraiser kindly hosted by LaRocca’s. They donated a portion of sales from the whole day with dine-in, carryout, and delivery orders. Several people let us know they went and what foods they enjoyed.

All of the funds raised from the month’s activities will go to our spay/neuter fund. This will be used for our spay/neuter vouchers good for $35 at participating veterinarians.

Thank you to all who stopped by to check out the activities or donated! Help us spread the word about our spay/neuter vouchers available for pickup at the shelter and help get some kitties fixed!
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 from period of December 1, 2021 to April 1, 2022. Please contact us with any corrections.

**MEMORIALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Larry Heise</th>
<th>Mary Jane Cook</th>
<th>David Saile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeannie Heise</td>
<td>Beatrice Hook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mary Noller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Owen &amp; Donna Ritchal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hildred Vilander</td>
<td>Tina Niehaus</td>
<td>Larry &amp; Dana Sample</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna &amp; Ron Nyght</td>
<td>Monica Niehaus</td>
<td>Dorothy Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Anderson</td>
<td>Brian Stuckey</td>
<td>Terry &amp; Janice Fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathy Carter</td>
<td>Joyce Stuckey</td>
<td>Daniel Saile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky &amp; Leina Cox</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HONORARIUMS**

| Merry Christmas to Claire King | Merry Christmas to Debra Hollins | Merry Christmas to Dana Hampton |
| Helen Rivera                  | Christine Morris             | Erica Hampton                |
| In honor of Carrie Emert      | In honor of Lynn Retz        | Gayle Robinson               |
| Carol Emert                   | Paul Post & Kay Kelly        | Merry Christmas to Marilyn Quinn & “Dylie” |
| Merry Christmas to Shirley & Frank Golos | Merry Christmas to Mr. & Mrs. J.G. Rickson | Tomari Quinn |
| Ted & Marcia Ayres            | Judy Hentzler                | In honor of Dana Hampton     |
| Merry Christmas to Savannah Van Vleck Brenda Hailey | Happy Birthday to Jeannie Blanck-Griffith Carbondale Pet Clinic | #BETTYWHITE CHALLENGE |
| In honor of Randy Pachosa     | Happy Birthday to Anna Frantz| Jeannie Blanck-Griffith     |
| Azura Credit Union            | Paul & Betty Frantz          |                               |

**PET TRIBUTES**

| “Buddy” Lawrence Kassin      | “Britches” >^.^< Dana Hampton | “Timmy Sue” >^.^< Dana Hampton |
| “Toby” >^.^< Dana Hampton     | Paul Post & Kay Kelly         | James Hampton                  |
| Kelly McPherron               | Kelly McPherron               | Lynn Retz                      |
| “Max” >^.^< Dana Hampton      | “Simba” Gold Jack & Rhoda Wisman | “Flynn Scareamouse” Debra San Romani |
| “Chester” (“Cheddar”) & “Andy” Griffith | “Casey” >^.^< Rhoda Wisman | “Cloudy” Koger Julie Janssen |
| Jeannie & Jeff Griffith      | “Peaches” Olson Tina Pessagno |                          |
### YELLOW TRASH BAG SALE!

- **Buy a Roll**
  - $12 each
- **Give a Roll**
  - to C.A.T.
  - $10 each
  - 25 Bags per roll
  - 39 Gallon

### SUPPLY WISH LIST

You can help the cats by donating supplies! Check out our list below or join our confidential e-mail alert list. When we run low we’ll send an SOS about what is needed. To be added to the list, send a message to wishlist@topekacat.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Items</strong></th>
<th><strong>Description</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Large yellow trash bags—BUY AT C.A.T.!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1st-Class postage stamps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• High efficiency laundry soap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clorox Bleach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Paper towels</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Finish brand dishwasher tablets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tidy Cats clay litter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Special Diet Foods: Hill’s® Science Diet® Sensitive Stomach &amp; Skin and Hairball Control dry; Prescription Diet® dry w/d®, m/d®, k/d®, z/d®; canned a/d® and w/d®</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Plastic shopping bags from Sam’s Club</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hershey’s or Kit Kat candy bars, bulk box</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>