

CAT MIEWS

ASSOCIATION OF TOPEKA

Spring 2023

Picture It: 1988, Topeka, KS...

Did you know that in 1987 all Topeka really had for stray cats and kittens in the community was Helping Hands Humane Society. A group of people looked at the adoption rate for Helping Hands, which was only 37%, and came up with a vision and a mission. They sought to organize a non-profit that was dedicated entirely to the protection and placement of abandoned cats and kittens. It was those five individuals, from their commitment, compassion, and desire to start a no-kill cat only shelter, that Cat Association of Topeka (CAT) was established.

When CAT was organized in 1988, no-kill was not a commonly used concept but from that original group of dedicated people, it was the best path to take to truly encompass what they were trying accomplish. Since CAT's beginning, it meant that no healthy cat would be euthanized to make space for another cat. This philosophy has been maintained for the past 35 years and continues to be at the core of our mission.

CAT got its start in a small store front in Barrington Village. As the number of cats



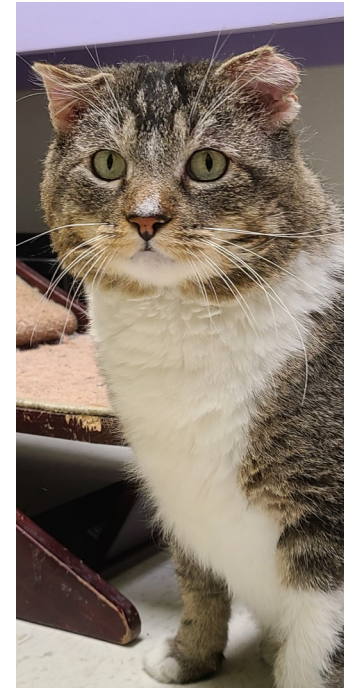
we were able to help grew so did our need for a bigger space and off we moved to the building near the corner of Fairlawn and Gage (pictured above). This remained our home until once again, we felt the need for more space and the hope to create the best shelter for cats that we could.

In 2003, we were able to move to our current location on Gage and realize some of the dreams that were held for the ideal shelter (see related article on page 5 regarding our building fund campaign). As CAT prepared for the move, there was work done to help make the building into the safe, warm environment it currently is. That work

involved making rooms for cats to form bonds with other cats in group settings, an area for housing sick cats or newcomers, with a separate area for those cats that just do better alone or need more one-on-one attention.

Catios were added so the cats could enjoy outside time in a safe manner. And we couldn't forget making sure there was an area for our shop cats, our greeters and toy testers that help bring smiles to our visitors faces. We like to think our current space has gotten paw approval on all levels from our feline inhabitants over the years.

Being an animal non-profit has meant we've had our



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Featured Cat: Bradley

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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!

Picture It: 1988, Topeka, KS cont'd

challenges and we've been fortunate to overcome those with our volunteers and the generosity of our like-minded supporters and the community. Although the journey has not always been easy, it has always been fulfilling and the cats have made it worth the efforts, sacrifices, sweat and tears for the unconditional love they give. Being an animal rescue is not for the faint hearted, but it brings so much fulfillment and joy when done with the love our volunteers put in.

Every step of the way, every cat saved and brought in, whether forever or just temporarily, and for every goodbye and rainbow bridge crossing, it has been the generosity of our supporters and volunteers that have made it possible for us to provide this loving and safe environment to so many cats over the last 35 years. On behalf of all those



CAT has helped, and all those CAT will continue to help, even though it will never be enough, thank you, hugely and sincerely thank you!

It has been, and continues to be, an incredible journey and over the next several months we will continue to share highlights from over the years. We would really like to hear from you. Your favorite memories, pictures,

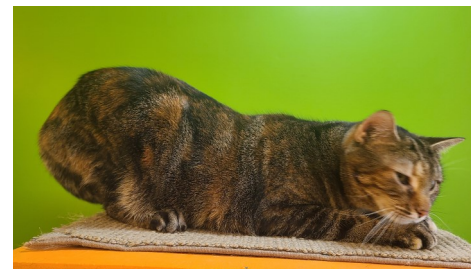


stories about the cat you adopted, the cat you helped find its way to CAT, or why animal rescue is important to you.

SAVE THE DATE for the 35th Anniversary Celebration at the Kay McFarland Garden at the Topeka Zoo on Saturday, October 22, 2023. This will be our Hairball fundraiser to prepare for the next 35 years.

Fun Facts ... About Tortoiseshells

- They are not a specific breed – this actually refers to their coat pattern, which is generally black, red and orange and has very little to almost no white. This pattern can also be dilute with greys or have a chocolate brown instead of black.
 - ◊ Some torties are also tabby striped, like Bubblicious (or Chicklets) and are called torbies, patch tabbies or tabby torties
- Most are female but males do occur (about 1 in 3,000)
- In many cultures they are considered to be good luck
 - ◊ In Japan, they were considered lucky against storms on ships
 - ◊ In Ireland, they thought they would bring their owner good luck
- In folklore in England – a male tortie was thought to heal warts if you rubbed the tail over the wart



during May

- ◊ We'd really like to see how well this went; given what we know about cats, probably not very!

THE C.A.T. BOARD

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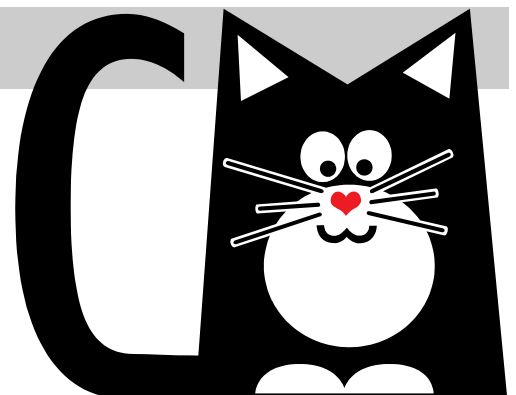
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Cat Health Corner

Bradley, our highlighted sponsorship cat, was found to be positive for feline immunodeficiency virus, FIV, and has joined the other FIV cats at the shelter in our designated room for them. But what is FIV and what does it mean for a cat?

Feline immunodeficiency virus, also known as FIV, is an infection that can cause the immune system to be weaker. It acts very similar to HIV in humans. It causes suppression of certain immune cells that can help fight infection. However, it is not an immediate death sentence for our cats that are positive, but it does mean we have to show more caution and care for their health.

Cats with FIV most commonly get it via exchange of saliva and

that most often occurs during fights and getting bite wounds; there are a few other ways of getting FIV but they are not seen as frequently. So cats, like Bradley, that came from outdoor situations and have evidence of having been in fights should be tested before introducing them into your home. But it's never a bad idea to know for any new cat you introduce into your home.

So how do you care for FIV positive cat? The best thing is to make sure they've now become an indoor cat, or a shop cat that never leaves the shop. Because they are positive, if they stay outside, they can give it to other cats. We recommend consulting with your veterinarian regarding vaccination, flea and parasite prevention, diet and any supplements.



The biggest thing after keeping them indoors is to make sure you're watching their health and trying to keep their exposure to disease and stress down to a minimum. These cats can live long and healthy lives with just a little more TLC from us! And the effort to care for them is a drop in the bucket compared to love we receive.

Sponsorship Highlight

Did you know you could sponsor a cat at the shelter for \$25 a month? This sponsorship helps go towards the general care and needs of the cats we house. You can choose to sponsor a permanent resident, a cat waiting to find their forever home, or a recent arrival. If you sponsor them for more than one month at a time, you'll get a periodic note in the mail letting you know how your sponsored cat, or cats, are doing. And we never have a problem having

multiple sponsors for the same cat; it just means we've got care covered and they've got a fan club!

Bradley (pictured on page 1 and above) is our highlight for this newsletter. Although he's a recent addition to the Cat Association family, he's been designated as a permanent resident. This burly boy came to us with heartworms, diagnosed heart disease and he tested positive for feline immunodeficiency virus, FIV.

Because of his many health issues, we determined his best home was with us where we can keep a close eye on him and give him care as it's needed.

Right now, he's enjoying acclimating to the FIV room. He gets to look outside and watch the squirrels and birds and meeting his new roommates. If you're interested in sponsoring Bradley, or any of our cats, you can send a check or PayPal request to the shelter or stop in the shop.

Furry Facelift Campaign Update

“A house is not a home without a cat.” - Unknown

The shelter is more than a building, it has been a home to a lot of cats over the last 20 years. When CAT moved here it was with a vision to provide the cats that called this home, whether for a short time, as a permanent resident or somewhere in-between, a safe, warm, and loving environment. A goal was to provide as much enrichment as possible and to provide it in an environment that meets the individual cats' needs.

In 2003, CAT was again at the forefront with plans to have what was called “free roaming rooms”, where cats could interact with other cats and where potential adopters could see them in a more relaxed, and natural environment. The new shelter also included an area for

housing sick cats or newcomers, and another area for those cats that needed a little more one-on-one attention or just preferred space to themselves. Hard to believe that 20 years have passed and the cats' home needs some updating, repairs, and a few things replaced. Two of the biggest items have been completed, the HVAC and the roof. To make the cats more comfortable we need to upgrade the insulation, seal a few leaks, and install a humidifier.

Some of the other items on our list include replacing some screens and windows, blinds, new shelves in some of the rooms, and new flooring in a portion of the shelter and retail. A focus this spring will be to spruce up the catios, general

clean up outside and revamp the garden areas.

Over the years we have witnessed some antics and mischief by the cats, shared a lot of laughter and tears in this home. We can only continue to make this building a home with the financial assistance of our supporters and the time and commitment of our volunteers. Thank you to all that have contributed to making this a home for the cats.

No contribution to the Furry Facelift is too small and everything is greatly appreciated. (Please be certain to note if your donation is for the Furry Facelift.)

*“How we behave to cats here below, determines our status in heaven.”
~ Robert A. Heinlein*

What's New In The Catty Shack?



We are always on the lookout for fun items so you can spoil your cat and the Catty Shack at C.A.T. has a few new items to check out. KONG Scrattles have cute food shapes, filled with catnip, and a fun rattle noise. There is also a new variety of plastic batting balls and catnip mice are back in stock, but they always go fast.

A supporter who makes jewelry has donated to our selection of necklaces and earrings. Stop by to check things out. There will likely be

a cat to greet you and maybe do some quality control if you purchase any toys.

Are you getting anxious for spring? We have large yellow trash bags for sale to help with garden and yard clean up. A roll of 25 bags is \$15 to buy or \$10 when you donate a roll to the shelter.

Once you are done with the cleanup, if you are looking for ways to dress up the garden, check out the Flower Power Plant Fundraiser (QR code on Page 6) and place your orders online now through May 15th. Orders ship directly to your doorstep. C.A.T. receives 50% of the proceeds! The funds raised from the plant sale will go towards sprucing up the cat rooms. They deserve some spoiling, and we see new scratchers, toys and items for the catios in their future!



Spay/Neuter Vouchers

World Spay Day was February 28th, a time to bring attention to the importance of spaying and neutering pets. It helps reduce the number of unwanted litters and the strain they create on overloaded animal shelters and rescues.

As in previous years C.A.T. kicked off our spay/neuter assistance campaign in February. Our Spay Day fundraiser dinner helps support the spay/neuter voucher fund with a goal this year to give out 150 vouchers worth \$35 off at participating area veterinarians.

If you know someone that needs assistance getting a pet spay/neutered tell them about

the vouchers. Vouchers can be picked up at the shelter. We are grateful to everyone who supports the voucher fund and are especially grateful for the veterinarians that partner with us

every year to provide this important service. Donations to the spay/neuter fund can be made anytime of year, just let us know when making your donation.

Our thanks to these veterinarians taking part in our spay/neuter voucher program!

- Auburn Animal Clinic
- Burlingame Road Animal Hospital
- Carbondale Pet Clinic
- Companion Animal Clinic
- Family Pet Hospital
- Meriden Animal Hospital
- Mountain Veterinary Clinic
- Shawnee Animal Hospital
- Silver Lake Animal Health Ctr.
- Topeka Veterinary Hospital

Flower Power Spring Plant Fundraiser

Place your orders online now
thru May 15th

Orders start shipping April 1st
direct to your door

C.A.T. receives 50%!



<https://flowerpowerfundraising.com/index.php/marketplace/seller/profile/shop/catassociationtopeka>

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 from period of October 15, 2022 to March 31, 2023. Please contact us with any corrections.

MEMORIALS

Linda Lee Martin
Bobb & Patty Collie
Matthew & Janet Ishkanian

Carol Jackson
Michelle Crooks

Charles Jeffress
Stacy Jeffress

Mary Denton
Peggy Lenherr
Rick Denton

Larry French
Jeff & Dee Kirkpatrick
Patrick & Debra McGlohon
Annette & Stephen Cavanaugh
Rita & George Webb
Mark & Sharon Stuewe
John & Janelle Deleye
Kristie Stuewe

Sandy Fulcher
Debra San Romani

Sandra French
Cavanaugh, Biggs & Lemon, PA
Kristie Stuewe
Mark Stuewe

Linda Martin
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Rhonda Davis
Patricia Clark
Melba Dodson

Leslie Johnson
Elizabeth Patton

Mama Pat (Eberhart)
Carol & Tina Pessagno
Thomas Pessagno

Duane Johnson
Marsh Douglas & Jen Kirmer

Ute Mueller
Ruth Maus

Ernestine Heide
Cheryl Heide

Larry Merrifield
Deanna Merrifield-Larsen & Pete Larsen

Marvin Hoffman
Mary Ellen & Dennis Kelly
Charlotte & Henry Schirmer
Marla & David Priceol

Patti-Jo Schiefelbein
Judy Pearson
Heidi Burris

HONORARIUMS

Season's Greetings and Thank You to the C.A.T. Staff and Board
Dana Hampton

Merry Christmas to Ruth Maus
Annie Juarez

Merry Christmas to Annie Juarez
Ruth Maus

Merry Christmas to Ginger Cain Davis
Sharon Wrosch

Happy Birthday to Jeannie Blanck-Griffith
Carbondale Pet Clinic, Teresa Tucker

In honor of Robert Finley
Janet Rice

Merry Christmas to Dana Hampton
Rob & Judi Stork

Merry Christmas to Carrie Emert
Carol Emert

Happy Birthday to Donna Mealy
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

Happy Birthday to Ellen Grey
Cyane Shipley

PET TRIBUTES

"Buddy"
Lawrence Kassin

"Lischa" >^..^<
Lynn Retz

Happy Gotcha Day to "Samson" & "Delilah" (formerly "Ferdinand" & "Elsa")
Scott Pitler
"Eddy" Jeffress
Stacy Jeffress

"Sweetie Boy" McGregor-Olivares
Lisa Doty

"Molly," "Boots" and "Bitsey"
Susan Miller

"Miss Katy"
Ginger Cain Davis

Happy Birthday to "Todd"
Lisa Ybarra
"Popsicle" McPherron
Dana Hampton
Lynn Retz
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

"Cream of Wheat" Retz
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith

"Holly Belle" Hampton
Mari Tucker
Jeannie Blanck-Griffith
Lynn Retz
Kelly McPherron

Happy Gotcha Day to "Tiger"
Kelly & Dan McPherron

"Morris" Capellari
A Friend

"Theo" Creal
Gail Franklin

ABOUT C.A.T.

SHELTER HOURS

Tues-Fri: 11am to 5:30pm

Sat: 11am to 3pm

CLOSED Sundays & Mondays

Cats may be seen after 1pm on weekdays and by appointment 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 catnews@topekacat.org. Please keep us up to date on address changes.

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.

- **Large yellow trash bags—BUY AT C.A.T.!**
- **1st-Class postage stamps**
- **High efficiency laundry soap**
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- **Paper towels**
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- Brand NEW cat toys of any type

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