

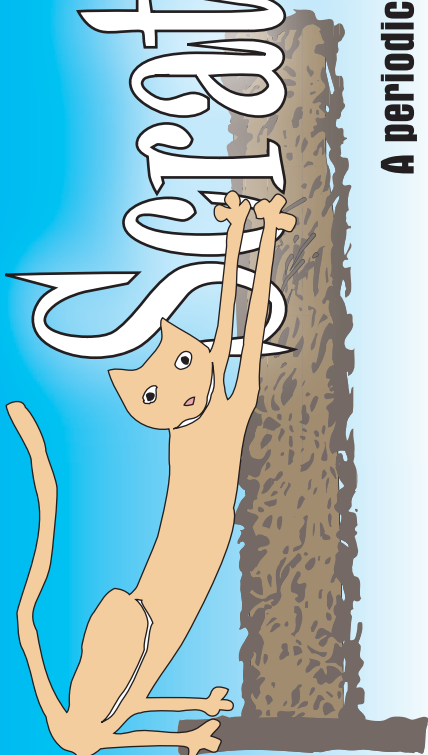


Cat Tales, Inc.
ANIMAL RESCUE

October, 2004

Scratching Post

A periodic newsletter of the Cat Tales Animal Rescue



Hey, Remember Us?

The **Scratching Post** was supposed to be a periodic newsletter. My intentions were to publish it every six to eight weeks. However, six to eight weeks turned into six months. I was cursed by the modern day pox, the system crash. Not only did two disk drives fail, but the mother board had a severe case of wandering electrons (possible victim of contemporary espionage gone wrong.)

With the pieces gone, I went to the backups, which were not complete because the disk messed up the software used to write the data to the disk. So, after buying some fancy disk recovery software and a brand new computer, I was able to recover most

of the stories, pictures and the database with addresses of our friends.

If you requested e-mail delivery and are getting this via paper, I'm sorry, the e-mail backup was 18 months old. Please let me know and I'll put your name back on the e-mail list.

If you asked to be removed from the list, again, I apologize. Please let me know and we'll remove you from the mailing list.

If you are new to our list (and there are many of you), welcome. This newsletter is sent out periodically to adopters, sponsors, volunteers and other friends of Cat Tales Inc.

Thanks for you patience and support.

Kitty Loving Time

Enjoy interacting with cats? Wish you could adopt another, but don't have room? Looking for a rewarding way to spend a couple of hours per week? Searching for a volunteer opportunity that you can share with your children?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then consider volunteering for animal care. Morning and evening shifts are open at the adoption centers at the PETSMART and Petco stores in Warminster.

Volunteers spend time socializing and grooming the cats. They feed and water the cats, scoop litter boxes and make sure the cages are neat and clean. Volunteers also answer questions from interested people and are

key in encouraging prospective adoptions.

If you are interested in this rewarding volunteer opportunity, call 215.218.9998 (voice mail).



A big "Thank You" to several companies for their support and donations to Cat Tales over the past year.

- **PetsMart** and **Petco** for allowing us in their stores and for the money we receive through their charitable funds;
- **Letterco**, of Souderton and Blue Bell PA, for the donations of signs for the Petco window and the kitten races; and
- **Ralston Purina** for the donation of more than a pallet of cat food. The high quality food keeps our felines healthy.

THANK YOU

Just Say "No" to "Puff"

By Jeff Dodd

When I was a kid, a cat adopted us. She was a small grey tabby who chose to have her kittens under the bushes in our back yard. Of course, this had nothing to do with the plates of Fancy Feast my dad left on the porch.

After the kittens had been distributed and winter approached, we decided the cat should come inside. The cat went to the veterinarian and we had a dilemma: what was the cat's name? "Puss" ended up being the name of record. I then started to notice the mundane collection of cat names around me: Puff, Socks, Princess, Tom, Snowball and Fluffy. I don't know if there was a higher instance of suicide among cats with these names. Their attitude and motivations are hard to determine when you find them at the side of the road.

I left for college in Rochester, New York, and met a new circle of people with cats. "Eastman" was a large orange cat and "Hawkeye" was brown with a circle on his chest. (For those who don't understand the joke, Eastman Kodak was the big employer in the area and the Hawkeye camera was the "camera for the masses," a big product for Kodak.) There was the Greek family with "Homer" and someone had a cat "Trixie" named after someone's grandmother. (Okay, it's not an exotic name, but the story behind it or the grandmother's name must've been great.) Each cat was given these noble names before a Broadway Show told us that "each cat must have three names."

As a foster parent and volunteer with Cat Tales, we get to pick the names of the cats and kittens in our care. It can be surprisingly difficult.

Our first foster was a female kitten that had a broken leg and needed "a month or so to recover." (Three years later, she's still recovering at our

house.) I wanted to give her a dramatic name of "Cosette," the orphan child from *Les Miserables*. My wife wanted to name her "Mickey," after Mickey Mantle, since the splint on her leg looked like a baseball bat.

As we debated her name, I noticed a small mark above her lip. It reminded me of Cindy Crawford. "Cindy Crawford" became our third possibility.

We decided to let the kitten pick her own name. We wrote the three names on small pieces of paper and scattered them on the floor. Whichever one she touched first would select her name.

She seemed to understand the gravity of her decision and wandered around the bits of paper for quite some time. Eventually she swatted at a folded wad and the name was chosen: Cindy Crawford.

With our next fosters, we would handle this in a smarter way. We had one mother and three kittens. We could each name two. I went back to my *Les Mis* names and the two young females became Cosette and Eponine. Their brother was given the name "Saylor." The kitten had blue eyes, like Frank Sinatra, who was a sailor in **On the Town**. The mother was named "Kate." "She just looks like a 'Kate'," my wife said.

Another litter of kittens came to our house, three females. They were multiple colors and not easy to distinguish. We needed three female names with tricks to tell them apart. The only female trio I could think of was the Andrews Sisters, or maybe the Roches but I couldn't remember all of the names.

As we watched TV, a documentary on the presidency provided some inspiration: Dolly of Dolly Madison. And Molly Ivans was on a news show. Following the rhyme, Polly was our



The young Cindy Crawford

third name. "Polly" had a pink nose, "Dolly" had a dark nose and "Molly" had a white mark on the tip of her tail. So while the names weren't creative, they were easy to identify.

Cats have received names with other odd themes: Hershey, Pep-o-mint Patty and Snickers were sweet litter mates. Ross, Chandler, Phoebe, Rachel, Joey and Monica were litter mates and great Friends.

So when you bring that kitten or cat home, spend some time to come up with a very unique name. And just say "no" to "Puff."

Top 20 Cat Names in the USA

Tigger	1
Tiger	2
Max	3
Smokey	4
Sam	5
Kitty	6
Sassy	7
Shadow	8
Simba	9
Patch	10
Lucky	11
Misty	12
Sammy	13
Princess	14
Oreo	15
Samantha	16
Charlie	17
Boots	18
Oliver	19
Lucy	20

SOURCE: http://www.bowwow.com.au/search/topsearch.asp?country=1&animal_type=1&animal_sex=Both&num_results=20&B3=Fetch

Fund Raising Update

On Saturday, October 23, several volunteers met to form a fund raising committee. The committee is dedicated to expanding fund raising activities and volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Members of the committee are SallyAnne Aschenbrand, Jodi Borgmann, Sue Davidson, Karen Dodd, Melissa Mainieri and Lori Riboskin.

The committee has set an aggressive schedule and we will need plenty of volunteers:

- **October:** Pet Halloween Costume Contest at Petco, Warminster. We will be selling CatSavers and assorted cat toys.
- **November:** The committee is exploring fund raisers in conjunction with fast food restaurants and a possible wine tasting event.
- **December:** Santa Claws Pet Pictures at PETS MART, Warminster, and a gift-wrapping table at Barnes and Noble, Montgomeryville.
- **January:** Hoagie sale for Super Bowl weekend.

- **February:** Dinner at Gran Sasso, Perkasio, Valentine's Day weekend.
- **March:** Beef and Beer Fund raiser around St. Patrick's Day.
- **April:** Fashion Jewelry Show and Tea.

Volunteers are needed!

There's a lot going on in December. We'll need volunteers for the Pet Pictures with Santa event. We are looking for volunteers to play Santa, photographers and elves for the three weekends before Christmas.

Volunteers are needed for gift-wrapping at Barnes and Noble in Montgomeryville. We staff a table, earning donations for wrapping purchases from the store. This will be Friday, 12/3, Friday 12/17 and Tuesday through Friday 12/21-12/24.

Those interested in volunteering should leave a message at the adoption centers or on the voice mail line, 215-218-9998.

Alumni Letters

A Letter From Rye Waller

Greetings to Everyone:

This is Rye – remember me? Just wanted to drop a note to let you know my humans are doing good. They feed me well. I'm no longer hiding – and when I say "Meow" they say "How high?" The big human doesn't even care that I'm ORANGE and her furniture is NAVY BLUE. I sleep in a double bed that I don't like to share, but hey – she feeds me, WELL!!! The little one loves me (sometimes too much) but she's cool... Good-bye for now and good luck to every cat.

Rye

P.S. My nickname is "Your Highness."

We are happy to publish letters and pictures from our happy alumni. Mail your letters to the post office box or e-mail address on the back. Thanks.

Kitty Angels

We'd like to share a story about some of our "Kitty Angels," Nicki Nelson, Joy Mason and Becky and Joe Wilmes.

Two bottle babies, "Bear" and "Heyu," were raised by one of our valiant foster moms, Nicki Nelson. Once they were able to eat on their own, the "boys" were taken by special team's foster mom, Joy Mason. She gave them medication, made numerous visits to the vet, but the boys were still having problems. They ended up going to University of Penn Veterinary Hospital for extra help and that got expensive.

This is where the next set of angels came in: Becky and Joe Wilmes.

Becky and Joe covered the cost of treatment for the young kittens at the University of Penn Veterinary Hospital.

On behalf of these cats, we'd like to thank each of them for their gracious gifts of time, effort and money.

As a follow-up, O'Henry, the kitten with the cleft palate and the target for **Lizzie's Fund**, has been adopted, but has not yet had surgery. The young cat has adapted to eating and drinking with the birth defect. The doctor caring for the cat has advised that we continue to monitor his health.

Thank you to all of our foster homes, caregivers and cage cleaners for their effort and support for the number of healthy cats and kittens in our care.

Bear, on the top and Heyu on the bottom.



Scratching Post

is a periodic newsletter
of Cat Tales Inc. Animal Rescue, a no kill,
non-profit volunteer organization working
for the care and placement of cats in need.

P.O.Box 165, Warminster, PA 18974
Voice mail number at 215-218-9998

Our adoption centers are at:

Petco/Warminster
..... 624 York Road, Warminster, PA 18974
Petsmart/Warminster
..... 934 W. Street Road, Warminster, PA 18974
Petco/Trappe
..... 130 W. Main Street, Trappe, PA 19426



Cat Tales, Inc.
ANIMAL RESCUE

Keep in touch

We hope you will like the stories and want to keep in touch.

You can help **Cat Tales** by asking for delivery of our "periodical" (meaning it comes out whenever we can get the cat off of the keyboard and the mouse) via e-mail. This will save us the cost of postage and printing. Send a message to our editor, Jeff, at jdodd31@comcast.net. Then we'll e-mail the colorful newsletter to you as an Adobe PDF. It will come from that e-mail address, so don't tag it as spam.

Not interested in receiving this letter? Just let us know at the phone number at the left or the e-mail address above and we'll remove your name from our mailing list as soon as we can. We still thank you for your previous support of Cat Tales.

Do you know of someone else that might be interested in receiving this? Please send us their name and we will add them to our list. We prefer to send it via e-mail (again, no postage or printing costs), but will send it via the US Post Office upon request.

Advertising Rates

We are going to offer space for advertising in future issues of the **Scratching Post**. Our rates are per issue since we don't publish every month.

1/6 page.... \$4.00 1/3 page\$8.00

1/2 page.. \$12.00 Full page \$24.00

The ads will be delivered in black-and-white for our mail customers and color for our e-mail customers. (If it's successful enough, we'll go color for our mail recipients.) Design assistance is available. Send you inquiries to Jeff at jdodd31@comcast.net.