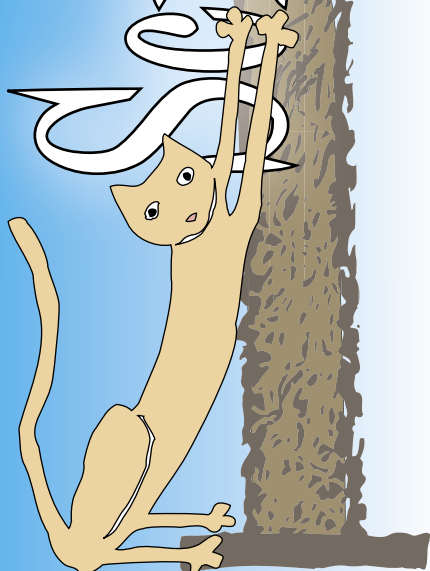




Cat Tales, Inc.
ANIMAL RESCUE

October, 2005

Scratching Post



A periodic newsletter of the Cat Tales Animal Rescue

It was a dark and stormy night.

by Jeff Dodd

In the last issue, I described a process that could be followed in the event of an evacuation. I researched it, consulting government and professional resources, considered what I could do on my own. On paper, it worked.

Before I describe what was not right, let me provide some background. I had been listening to the news and reading mailings from national animal rescue groups. Things along the gulf coast were pretty messy. I decided to do something. I received an e-mail from a friend describing a bird rescue in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 90-miles from New Orleans. The posting described organized chaos. A contact at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine suggested I go down there... so I did.

Donna Powell runs a small operation out of her home, **911 Parrot Alert Avian Rescue**. If your bird disappeared, you contacted Donna and she posted it on the web. If you found a bird, you did likewise. Then the missing and found lists were compared and surprisingly often, owners were reunited with their lost pets.

The change to a rescue started the night the hurricane hit. A friend of hers, Mike, lives in Westwego, just across the river from New Orleans. Mike has a large collection of large and small birds: macaws, cockatoos, African grey parrots, parakeets and others I cannot name. After he got off work, he started packing birds into carriers to evacuate as many as he could. At 3:00am, he was at Donna's

door asking her to keep his birds until the storm cleared.

Donna became "The Bird Lady" of southern Louisiana. When birds were recovered by The Humane Society or LASPCA and evacuated to Lamar-Dixon, ground zero for many pets recovered from the area, Donna was the



one to collect them and care for them. Donna gave up the use of her living room, dining room, sun room and hallways to rows and rows of bird cages. Bedrooms were filled with cages and sleeping volunteers. She also took five bunnies, two turtles, and a bantam rooster into her home with approximately 200 birds, from little parakeets to three blue macaws.

While at Donna's house, I met with people who had been volunteering at Lamar-Dixon for the previous few weeks. I described my noble effort to educate my readers on how to care for the safety of their pets in a disaster. One volunteer described a situation where a man from New Orleans did everything I described. He provided vet papers, pictures and descriptions of his two dogs and two cats when he left them at Lamar-Dixon to ride out the storms. When he went back to pick them up, they found the dogs and one cat.

The lesson from this: if you must surrender your pets to a quasi-government official, make them sign a receipt for your pets. It forces some responsibility.

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Donna Powell and Charlotte, the travel agent for birds.

Rockhill Veterinary under new management

As much as we depend on our adoption centers, we also depend on our relationships with our veterinarians.

One of our biggest relationships has been with Dr. Thomas Derstine at the Rockhill Veterinary Hospitals in Doylestown and Sellersville. Dr. Derstine has been running the two offices for ten years and, because of the great success, several other doctors have been brought into the practice.

Due to the increasing demands of the two growing practices, the ownership of the Doylestown office has recently been transferred to Dr. Keith Warren. Dr. Warren joined the practice last June.

Dr. Warren graduated from Tufts University, has worked in Baltimore and Blue Bell for just under ten years. During this time, he has developed excellent surgical skills, with a special interests in orthopedic surgery and ultrasound.

Those of us from Cat Tales who have worked with Dr. Warren in his new role have appreciated his tableside manner and explanation of various cat issues.

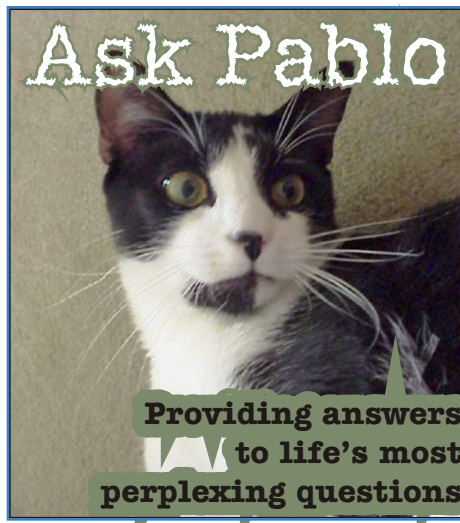
He likes us (Cat Tales) too. In recognition of that, he is offering all new customers 10% off their first visit with the coupon below.

10%

off your first visit
for new customers



Cat Tales, Inc.
ANIMAL RESCUE



Dear Pablo,

How often will a healthy cat cough up a hair ball?

Harriet in Hatboro

Dear Harriet,

An occasional hair ball is normal. Up to twice a month is normal and this can be reduced with a special diet (look for hair ball management formulations of dry foods).

It is NOT true the number of hair balls is proportional to the cost of the carpet. It is also not true that cats wait until dinner parties or the waking hours of the morning to share the sound effects with as many listeners as possible.

A free and pleasurable option is to brush your cat frequently. I personally love it, especially the spot between my shoulder blades and neck. Look at the various combs at the pet store and consider how it would work on the hair on your head. "Slicker brushes" are multi-wire brushes that gather loose hair and can be cleaned fairly easily, but can be painful for cats with sensitive skin or if you brush too fast. A bristle brush will also gather loose hair, but the brushes can be harder to clean. Some combs can work, depending on you cat's coat.

More frequent "hair ball sharing" can be indicative of a serious health problem and should be evaluated by a veterinarian.

Lose Weight! Feel Great!

We try our best to keep our cats healthy, but what about ourselves?

Health and Nutrition Products

Lose weight, gain energy, and improve your overall well-being with my easy-to-use products.

100% herbal. 100% results.

Check out my website or call me for more information.

10% discount for Cat Tales supporters.

Beth Wisser
and fuzzy friend Keetah

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Hello, My Name is Lucky

The following was submitted by Lucky's adopted family members Connie Evans and Janet Skiba

It was September of 1993. I don't know how I got to this place. I guess my mother carried me here. When it got dark I realized that I was all alone. I started to cry. No one came. In the morning there were people talking about hearing a kitten crying all night. Everyone was looking around but couldn't find where the crying was coming from. I was hiding under the deck in a hole in a cinder block. Some men came under the deck but couldn't see me. After a while I heard another voice and thought I should show her where I was. She saw me and said, "it is a baby and it has a huge head."

I stayed in this place for some time. I was too afraid to come out. The two who lived in the house put food out in several places for me. They also put out a box with a towel for me to sleep. I would come out now and again and sit in the sun.

One day there was a big metal box in the driveway. It had a dish of food in the back. I was hungry. I tried to put my foot in the box and take out the food but the holes were too small. After a while I crawled inside the box and the door shut. I was trapped. I screamed and cried and ran around but couldn't get out.

Finally, one of the people came out and put a cloth over the box. It made me quiet down. They put me in a car

and took me to a man who had on a white coat. They called him the "vet". He was very nice to me. He told them that I was very, very sick. I had ear mites, fleas, an upper respiratory infection, infected eyes, part of my tail was missing and was infected. He told the people that I was only a few weeks old. He said all my ills could be treated but, if I had feline leukemia that I would have to be put to sleep. The vet called the next day and said I didn't have leukemia and could be discharged in a in a day or so. The people decided to I keep me.

It was a big decision as to what my name should be. Many names were suggested but one of my people said I should be called "Lucky". It was Lucky for me that I was found and they felt lucky that I was with them.

They put me in a room they called the laundry room. I slept, ate and got lots of medicine every day. Finally, they introduced me to someone just like me. Her name was Katie. I don't think she really wanted me to stay at first. She would take me upstairs. Because I didn't have much of a tail I had no balance and couldn't come down again. I would cry and one of the people would come up and carry me down. After many days of Katie taking me up I finally learned how to get down by myself.

When people asked where I had come from and they would hear my story they would shake their heads and tsksk. What a terrible start!

I am quite an actor and have a large vocabulary. I have many friends. Two

of my closest friends are Sheri and Cheryl. When they come to visit, they always talk to me first and sometimes give me treats.

Katie and I lived together until 2000 when she became very sick with cancer. After two surgeries, nothing more could be done to help her. My people cried and I cried also. I stayed under the table for a long time. I was all alone once again.

Finally, they brought me another friend and her name is Lily. She came from the streets of Trenton and was fostered by nice people, Jean and Barry (Cat Tales volunteers). Lily and I are happy together. We run and chase each other. My people laugh and say how we are adorable and smart. Lily and I are great friends.

Last year, I was eleven years old. My people had a birthday party for me. Guests came from as far away as North Carolina. There was cake with black and white icing (as I am black and white) and champagne. Of course, we didn't have any of that but we did have treats and I got lots of presents. I was a big show-off and my people said that I knew it was a party for me.

My people had a screened porch put on over the deck where I was found. We spend a lot of time sitting out there together. The other night we were out on the porch. I looked around at my porch, my Lily and my people and thought - LIFE IS GOOD!

Lucky, on the left and her new friend Lily, on the right.



A dark and stormy night

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The story segues into another Cat Tales effort. After cleaning bird cages, fixing doors and assembling tents, Donna took us on a trip to New Orleans. We arrived in the late afternoon, driving through the western suburbs. The neighborhoods were a sea of blue tarps, the temporary roofing material provided to protect buildings that were mostly intact after the storms.

We drove by the Superdome (at top) and downtown. We saw an amusing sign on a store window.



Donna received a phone call during dinner and learned there were some birds at a rescue location in the 9th Ward. We decided we would go there to pick them up.

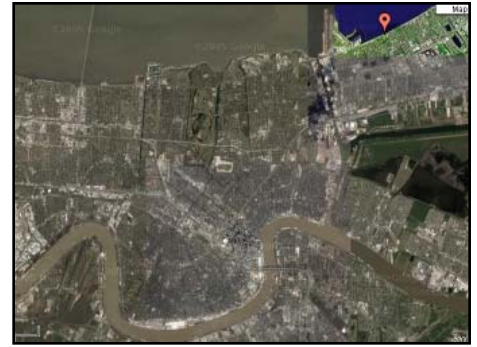
We drove to the east side of the city and turned off of the Interstate into total darkness. No street lights, no safety lights in yards, no lights in the windows of the thousands of houses and apartments in the neighborhood. The light from the headlights of our vehicle seemed to be absorbed by the surroundings.

During our short trip to the rescue center, a pair of headlights with wide spacing appeared in the rear view mirror. A bull horn asked us to pull over. Four National Guardsmen got out of the Humvee. They pulled us over because they saw the "Animal Rescue" sign on the side of the van and they found a kitten in a trap on their rounds. They wanted us to take it. (The kitten was featured in the October sponsor letter.)



We arrived at the levee and the site of the MuttShack Rescue Center. MuttShack is a rescue group out of California. They had taken over an elementary school next to the levee and across the street from the National Guard encampment.

Everything was ad hoc. The sign at the entryway and the "reception desk" that was under a tent.



The MuttShack Rescue center is marked by the little red balloon. The French Quarter, spared by the storm, is in the "bump" at the bottom center of the map.

While Donna worked on the paperwork to get the birds, I was given a tour of the catery. They had 80 cats in cages, sheltered under a rigid canopy.

As cats were recovered and brought in, they were placed in the back row. Even sweet pets were a bit wild after being along or on the loose for several weeks. The volunteers attempted to work with each of the cats each day and the former house pets would begin to calm down.



As they calm down, they move to the front of the shelter. They are given FIV and FeLV tests, given rabies vaccinations and micro-chipped to be identified.





Those that did not calm down faced an uncertain future. If they were aggressive and dangerous to the volunteers, they were put down. Those that were not dangerous, the MuttShack folks tried to place in colonies or other locations.

When I was there, they could not take in any more cats until some of the existing one left. This is where Cat Tales is helping. Cat Tales is going to help by fostering cats from the distressed area. If the owners do not claim the cat within 4 months, the cats will be released for adoption.

The first group of cats arrived on November 10. Tammy Grimes, a MuttShack volunteer, drove seven cats from New Orleans to Warrington, PA. There are two "older" cats, about 3-years old, "Joan" and "Senior." There are three 1-year old cats, "Blanche," "LP" and "Ray" and two kittens, "Li'l Red" and "Tory."

We gave them the names. We looked for southern names or other names

This funny looking cat was among those in the cages of the cattery.



that were appropriate. "Joan" got her name from her continuous commentary on everything in the room while she was at our house.

"Blanche DuPaws" is very shy and is dependent on the kindness of strangers. "LP" is short for "Little Pablo." Pablo is our cat and is too smart for his own good. LP's papers came with a note that she was always looking to escape and take over the world.

If you would like to adopt one of these sweet cats, please contact Cat Tales. If these seven get adopted, there are many more still in New Orleans facing an uncertain future. If you are interested in dogs, we can arrange that as well. Many of the dogs, cats and other pets that survived the hurricane and were recovered by their owners are now being surrendered by the owners that have no homes for themselves. Because of the massive numbers of animals, any dog or cat not adopted within 5 days is being put down.

If you can help, by fostering, adopting or giving. I understand we're in the season of "donor fatigue." Whatever you can do will be greatly appreciated.

This 4-foot tall stuffed Scooby-Do guarded the MuttShack post from atop the levee.



Cat Tales Board of Directors expanded

Welcome Jodi Borgmann and Mark Garrett!

The Cat Tales Board of Directors is pleased to announce that there are two new members on the Board. Jodi Borgmann and Mark Garrett have been dedicated volunteers for several years and have repeatedly demonstrated leadership skills.

Jodi Borgmann is the primary coordinator for Cat Tales at the Petco Store in Warminster and she is a very busy lady. Jodi recruits volunteers and coordinates the schedule for cage cleaners. She has been a key liaison with the management and staff at the store. In addition, she manages the supplies and makes sure that all the cats are safe, healthy and happy. In recent months, Jodi has been responsible for processing applications and conducting adoptions for the cats in the Warminster Petco. Jodi has been active in fund raising, too. She planned and coordinated one of our most successful fund-raisers, Bowling for Kitties.

Mark Garrett represents Cat Tales in Trappe, Pennsylvania. Mark coordinates all the Cat Tales activities from the Trappe Petco store. Not only is he responsible for the care and welfare of the cats in his store, he also accepts surrendered animals, coordinates all vet care, processes applications and conducts adoptions. Mark has published his own newsletter and conducted a variety of fund-raising activities. Currently, he is conducting his annual Pet Pictures with Santa event. It is no surprise that Mark was named Volunteer of the Month by one of the local newspapers.

It is with great pleasure that the Board welcomes Jodi and Mark, two of our most talents and dedicated volunteers.

***Is your house really
ready to be put on
the market?***



***First Impressions are
the most important !***

“Home Showcasing” enables a seller to enhance the overall appearance of their home. With the noted improvements, the first impressions of your home can lead to a quicker sale at the best price. Or, if your home has been on the market for a while, perhaps you haven’t focused on what prospective buyers are looking for. Call me and I will help you make great First Impressions.

First Impressions

Marion Gilligan, Home Showcasing Consultant (215) 674-9359

The holidays are upon us...

Kitty wrap at Barnes and Noble in full swing!

For fourteen days in December, an army of Cat Tales volunteers will staff the gift wrap table at the **Barnes and Noble** store located in Montgomeryville. Barnes and Noble partners with several charities in the area and we are pleased to be selected for a second year.

In exchange for wrapping gifts, Cat Tales is permitted to accept donations. Barnes and Noble generously provides the wrapping paper, tape and the all important customers. It is a perfect opportunity to spread the word about Cat Tales and to raise funds at the same time.

If you will be Holiday shopping in the Montgomeryville area, please step into Barnes and Noble (1271 Knapp Road) and say hello. We will be there

Wed, Dec 7.....11:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 10.....11:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Sun, Dec 11 11:00 AM 10:00 PM
Wed, Dec 14 10:00 AM - 10: 00 PM
Thur, Dec 15..... 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 16 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17.....9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Sun, Dec 185:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Tue, Dec 205:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Wed, Dec 2110:00 AM - 11: 00 PM
Thur, Dec 22.....10:00 AM - 11: 00 PM
Fri, Dec 23.....10:00 AM - 11: 00 PM
Sat, Dec 24.....9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

... and you can support Cat Tales through seasonal fund-raising events.

Pet Pictures with Santa

Get you pet's picture taken with Santa at the PetSmart in Warminster December 10, 11, 17 and 18 from 10 AM to 4 PM.

This isn't just for cat's and dogs, but you can see from the pictures below, birds and bunnies have been among the pets that have visited Santa on the first weekend this year.

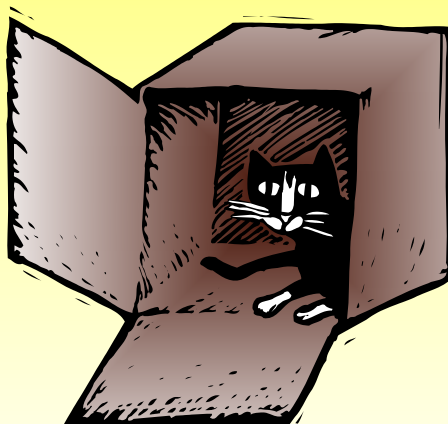
If you have an unusual pet, like a ferret, rat, bearded dragon, snake or pot-bellied pig (all visitors to Santa in the past), you may want to check with Cat Tales before coming in for pictures: some of our Santas and photographers are uncomfortable being around some pets.

We also have a raffle table where you can buy a chance for a Hatfield ham, an Avon gift basket, Italian dinner basket, Godiva Chocolates, jewelry, blankets and a gift certificate for a day at a spa.

So bring your pet to PetsMart to meet the jolly fat man and get a picture

Volunteers Needed!

- *Adoption center volunteers*
- *Foster parents*
- *Fund raising Volunteers*



If you can help us, please call



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
Fax and voice mail at 215-933-6900
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 taking our "periodical" 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 offer space for advertising in 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. Design assistance is available. Send your inquiries to Jeff at jdodd31@comcast.net.

Widths: 1 column, 14 picas, 4 points; 2 columns, 29 picas, 10 points; 3 columns, 45 picas. Depth: Full page, 57 picas, 6 points; half page, 28 picas.