



# The Scratching Post

Winter 2019

We are a small non-profit organization. We have no paid staff, and don't receive any government funds. Since 2004, with our amazing volunteers, we have found good homes for over 6600 unwanted cats and kittens that almost certainly would have been euthanized.

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cattails@atmc.net Find us on Facebook.

## President's Message

Every year I write the Presidents Message in this spot. It's my chance to thank all of the volunteers for another year of hard work. I enjoy coming in to see the cats, and I also enjoy the volunteers. Some people come in one day a week, some come several and some work without coming in at all. Sherrie and I come in every day. Some people clean one room and some do several. Mary Lee usually ends up with three rooms! Every group is different and has its own dynamic and most days we could use a couple more people to help. Some people volunteer to give back to the community, some to get a "cat fix" and some come in to adopt and end up volunteering. Whatever the reason I want to make sure every volunteer that comes in knows that we are glad they chose Cat Tails where they are appreciated and the cats and I value the work they do.

*Trish*

### 2019 By the Numbers

In 2019, we adopted out 385 cats and kittens. That's 19 fewer than last year and 41 fewer than our annual average. Our income from adoptions, however, was \$5 higher in 2019 than 2018. Our most successful month was August and the least successful was January. Most years, December has the most adoptions and March has the fewest.



Crackers and Coco were adopted in October.

Adopted in May:  
Matilda and Rocky.



In August, Prissy and Rose found homes.



Pepper and Bristol found homes in December.



## cattails.org

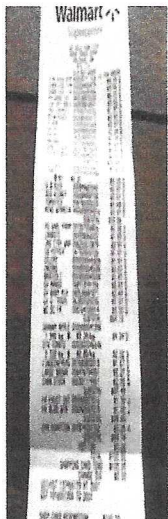
In February, it finally became apparent that our website was hopelessly out of date, so we started working with Awesome Website Guys to build a new site. We went through the old site and found that the hours, the directions, the Petsmart times and the adoption fees were all wrong! The people from Awesome Website Guys were great (or should I say awesome?) to work with. They put together a site that works on laptops, tablets and cellphones. The best part is that everything has been corrected. Now I can tell people to check [cattails.org](http://cattails.org) and I know that they will find everything they need to know.



Cameo, Gordon and Finley  
were adopted in April.



Jasmine, Irene and Little Bear  
found homes in September.



If you buy stuff in North Carolina for Cat Tails, save your receipt and give it to Arlene Brush, Cat Tails' treasurer. She has a folder in the second drawer of the file cabinet in the lobby. She saves the receipts, fills out all of the paperwork and submits them to the state twice a year for a sales tax refund. We have average getting back about \$600 per year. Thank you, Arlene!

### **A VERY HAPPY ENDING!**



Early in April, something really special happened: Max was adopted!

Max was definitely one of everyone's favorite cats. He was sweet and friendly and absolutely ready for a forever home. But Max had allergies. Sometimes Max's fur was beautiful but sometimes it would get thin and rough. He usually had his tongue hanging out and he had one "cauliflower" ear from an old injury. Luckily, an adopter was able to overlook all of that and see all of the wonderful things about him. When she and her family left they took the little kitten they came for, a big bag of special food and allergy medication, and Max!



Mason, Stoli and Evelyn  
found their new homes in March.

### **Wish List:**

**Monetary Donations \* Paper Towels \* Bleach**

**13 & 33 Gal. Trash Bags \* Unscented Clay & Scoopable Litter**



## Everyone Loves a Box of Chocolates

In 2019 we met Steven and Ira through Craig's List. They had some kittens and needed someone to take them. During the year, we took a lot of kittens. Steven would call and I would go pick them up, but we never knew what we were getting so we called the kittens "a box of chocolates". Many of them were Persian or Himalayan mixes, many of them had long hair or blue eyes, most of them were light colored, and a few were tabbies, torties or black. Most of the kittens were not very socialized and required lots of handling to make them adoptable. They also needed flea treatments, baths and brushing. Some became friendly right away and some were more resistant. What they all had in common was being exceptionally beautiful which made them highly adoptable. In November we started getting their twelve adult cats fixed and, working with several other agencies, this has been completed. So there won't be any more box of chocolates kittens, but maybe you were lucky enough to get one.



Gus, Ariel and Chia were adopted in January.



In November, Mac, Angel and Fig found their homes.



Yoyo, Saucy and Pesto were adopted in June.



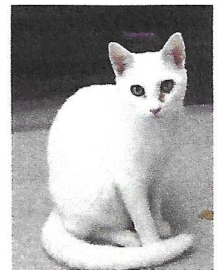
**HARRY**



## GREAT IDEA!

In 2012, Cat Tails joined Shoe Box Recycling and began collecting used shoes. We sent them shoes in huge boxes and they sent us money. In 2013, Beverly Werner, one of our volunteers took over this task for us. She would save the shoes until a box was filled and then send it off. Last year she decided to try something new. Some of the shoes that were being turned in were almost new and still stylish so instead of sending those to be recycled, she took them to thrift stores and sold them on consignment. This year, in addition to the money from recycling, we received \$239.40 from shoes on consignment! Thanks, Beverly!

Harry was one of our most requested kittens in 2019. He came to us at the end of January and needed a lot of TLC. He was dehydrated and emaciated and loaded with fleas and worms. His hair was tangled and matted and he had infected eyes and an upper respiratory infection. We weren't positive he would recover, but we were willing to try. First, Harry was given a dewormer and flea medicine. He was bathed and brushed. He was given oral antibiotics and antibiotic eye ointment. We worked hard to get Harry healthy and adoptable. Gradually, he began to fill out and look really great. By March, he was the cover model for Paw Prints Magazine!



Norton, Star and Moon  
were adopted in February.

Ivan, Jason and Khloe  
found new homes in July.

### We Needed a Study for This?

A study done at the University of Tokyo and published in *Scientific Reports 9* in April reports what every cat owner already knows: Cats recognize their names, but they don't bother to respond. The researchers determined that the cats indicated recognition of their name by moving their ears or turning their heads. Only rarely did they move their feet. The cats could discriminate their own names from general nouns, even when an unfamiliar person was speaking.

### But, Do We Really Need This?

Many veterinary nutritionists say the ideal cat food would be a "mouse in a can". A company called Because Animals is working on this. Cultured mouse meat is grown in thin layers of tissue that can be incorporated into cat treats. Culture grown meat will be the highest quality meat on the market since it is fully traceable, as well as antibiotic, hormone and bacteria free. If they receive USDA/FDA approval, we might all be buying mouse flavored treats or canned mouse pate in the future.



Yes, I want to help Cat Tails continue its work with stray, homeless and unwanted cats and kittens. Enclosed is my check to Cat Tails for:

- \$75 pays for a spay/neuter
- \$50 pays for 5 flea treatments
- \$ 25 pays for 100 pounds of clay litter
- \$10 pays for toys and treats
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be used as needed

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

This donation is made:

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

For: \_\_\_\_\_ birthday \_\_\_\_\_ wedding \_\_\_\_\_ anniversary \_\_\_\_\_ other

Please send the appropriate acknowledgement to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

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