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The Scratching Post

Winter 2020

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 **7200** unwanted cats and kittens that almost certainly would have been euthanized.

President's Message

The pandemic has disrupted our lives, caused frustration, and kept us from seeing - or even seen us lose - family and friends. But every day, seven days a week, our cats and kittens needed our help, and our Cat Tails volunteers never failed them. Every day our cats were fed, litter boxes cleaned, and illness treated. Cats were talked to, held, and petted. Adopting a cat or kitten from Cat Tails meant that children had their lives brightened, young couples saw new joy brought to their lives, and some who were lonely found comfort with new pets that brought meaning and purpose to their lives. And every day our volunteers could do something good, do something of value, and share some time and friendship with our Cat Tails family. Cat Tails has given us some light in the dark, some calm in the storm. I appreciate what our volunteers do and I thank you for the time, energy and expertise you bring to Cat Tails.

Trish

2020 By the Numbers

2020 has been a very good year for adoptions. After an average start, the adoptions increased. Between January and November, 43 cats and 420 kittens were adopted. If we just have an average December we'll have 510 adoptions for the year. But most of the months have been way over average and so far, December is also. This might end up being our most successful adoption year ever thanks to our volunteers and supporters!

Adopted in October:
Finian and Homer.



Minuette and Sasha
were adopted in July.



Pong and Emmy Lou
found homes in June.



Cat Tails has been going to Petsmart in Wilmington on New Centre Drive, near Target, for 16 years. We set up tables along the windows of the grooming center and fill them with colorful beds and hammocks, lots of toys and playful cute kittens. We usually don't take many adult cats to Petsmart because they get too scared. Right now we're using the in-store adoption center because of Covid restrictions. We do our adoptions there on Fridays from 6 to 9 and Saturdays from 9 to 3. Our facility is open on Wednesdays from 11 to 1 and Saturdays and Sundays from 11 to 3.



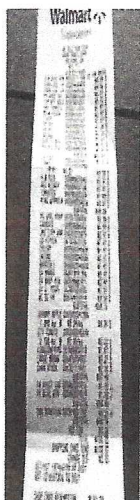
Betty, Natalie and Winks were adopted in January.

A VERY HAPPY ENDING!



In June in 2017, we received a beautiful, long-haired, black and white kitten that had been found behind a dumpster at a Dollar

General. He had bad eye infections. We treated the infections and eventually they cleared up but left patches scar tissue on both of Elroy's eyes making them look white. For three years, adopters chose someone else. Elroy stayed in room 6 at Cat Tails and every Thursday when Jack Summers, one of our volunteers, cleaned that room he played with Elroy. Jack knew Elroy could see, even though his vision was probably blurred, and he knew Elroy was an especially sweet and gentle cat who just wanted some attention. In March, three years after he came, Elroy went home with Jack! Now, he and Jack are happy!



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 averaged getting back about \$600 per year. Thank you, Arlene!

Jerry, Cora and Tessa left in September.



Samantha, Lindy and Arkansas found their new homes in March.



Wish List:

Monetary Donations * Paper Towels * Bleach

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

New Hope For FIP

Feline Infectious Peritonitis is a complicated, serious and almost always fatal disease in cats. It is caused by the feline corona virus. Most cats in multi-cat households and almost all shelter cats carry this virus, but in a very small portion of the cat population, the virus mutates and becomes FIP. Most owners notice a lack of appetite, weight loss, lethargy and diarrhea. Most vets will treat with an antibiotic. The cat gets better for a while and then gets sick again. Following a diagnosis by a veterinarian, cats usually receive palliative care to keep them comfortable until euthanasia is the only option. Only recently has another choice been available: GS441. This is an expensive and experimental 12 week course of treatment that has in some cases been able to cure FIP. It isn't always effective, but it's a start and every cat



that goes through the treatment advances knowledge that may help other cats.

Luna, adopted by the Johnsons in May, was diagnosed with FIP. Her adopters, chose to try to save her with GS441. They have set up a Go Fund Me account to help with the cost. [Gofundme.com/f/luna-fip-warrior](https://www.gofundme.com/f/luna-fip-warrior)



Joey and Fiona were adopted in February.



In April, Halle and Cyrus found their homes.



Millie and Polo were adopted in December.

PETSMART
Charities

And Unintended Consequences

In December 2019 Petsmart Charities, the 501c3 arm of Petsmart, sent a film crew to Cat Tails. They wanted to highlight our program and get some footage to use when making commercials. They stayed all day and got lots of pictures and film of cats and kittens and commented on how friendly and out-going our cats were. They interviewed volunteers and adopters and we all had a great time. After several months of editing, we became a Partner Spotlight on the Petsmart Charities page! It was fun to tell people how to find us – it's pretty complicated. This summer, I received an email from a woman in Canada asking if she could buy a t-shirt with our logo on it. Then, more requests. The most recent request was for five t-shirts! Some of the footage from Cat Tails was used for a commercial for Petsmart and was showing in Canada. The viewers liked our logo and tracked us down! If you go to Canada, you might see some new friends!

Google Petsmart Charities and then click on "Our Impact". You'll see a series of pictures including our volunteer Julia with Gus on her shoulder. Scan down to "Partner Spotlight" and click on the arrow on the right side of the screen. When you see Cat Tails click on "Read the Full Story". Drop down just a little farther and click the triangle on the partner spotlight to watch our spotlight.



Sugar and Paula were adopted in August.



Lucy and Abbott found new homes in May.



Marigold and Kermit were adopted in November.

Keeping Up

All of the Cat Tails volunteers have their favorites among the cats in the rooms they clean. When those cats get adopted we love to hear how they are doing in their new homes. It's especially fun to see the kittens after they've grown up. Adopters can send pictures and stories to our email: cattails@atmc.net. I'll run off a copy and put it on the bulletin board for everyone to see. Stories and pictures can also be sent to our Facebook page so everyone can read about them. You can even send them by USPS!

Interesting Stuff

Black cats are usually the hardest to adopt. They make up 11% of our adoptions.

Siamese cats are very popular. They are 6% of our adoptions.

Long-haired cats are also popular. They are 18% of our adoptions.

All of our adoption fees used to be paid by cash or check. Now 64% of those fees are paid by credit card using Paypal or Square.



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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