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The Scratching Post

Winter 2021

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 **7800** unwanted cats and kittens that almost certainly would have died or been euthanized.

President's Message

In 2020, I wrote that "Covid has disrupted our lives, caused frustration, and kept us from seeing - or even seen us lose -family and friends". Everyone felt that if we could just make it to 2021, the world would be back to normal. Well, 2021 has come and is almost over, and everything is not back to normal! We've had variants, masks, vaccines, boosters, quarantines and mandates and there's most likely more to come. The one place where everything has been normal is at Cat Tails because the cats don't care about Covid. What do they care about? They care about the volunteers who come in to take care of them! The volunteers bring fresh food, clean beds, fun toys, well scooped litter pans, scratches and cuddles, and other good stuff. Without the volunteers, Cat Tails couldn't function well enough to raise happy, healthy, adoptable kittens and the cats' lives would definitely not be normal. Thank you for another great year, volunteers!

Trish

2021 By the Numbers

2021 has been our strongest year ever for adoptions. It started with 81 adoptions in January. That's more than we've ever had in one month before. We have had above average adoptions in every month this year. If we just have a normal December we'll have **606** adoptions for the year. Previously, our best year was 2020 that saw 515 cats and kittens leave for new homes.

Adopted in January:
Sunshine and Etta



Calypso and Pretzel
were adopted in July.



Karma and Panda
found homes in June.





Many Paws Volunteer Transport

Since 2004, Cat Tails has adopted cats to people in North and South Carolina, Florida, Virginia, Maryland, Illinois and Quebec. But people always came to get the cats. Ricky was the second flame-point Siamese kitten that Lee Ann has adopted from us. She lives in Springfield, Illinois and this time she hired a company to bring the cat to her. Many Paws Volunteer Transport was very easy to work with. We had everything ready when they picked him up on August 28th. They drove, handing him off to other drivers every few hours until it was time for a "slumber party". The next morning he was back on the move and arrived on July 29th. The next time someone asks, we can recommend transporting a cat with Many Paws. When Ricky arrived with all of his paperwork, he was relaxed and happy.

Nursing Moms

Usually we avoid them, but this year we ended up with six nursing moms. Some, like Shyly, came with kittens and others came in pregnant and had their kittens at Cat Tails. Marby had 4 babies on Palm Sunday! I took one pregnant cat to the vet to see when she would have the babies and was told I would be lucky to make it back to Cat Tails! Our other proud Moms were Diedre, Bonnie, Hannah and Betty.



Lara, Mosaic and Pele found new homes in March.



Figaro, Jordan and Maverick were adopted in October.

Combating Stress

We keep cats inside for their safety, but it can be stressful for the cat. It helps if your cat has a safe haven—a place where she can hide when she's upset. It should be quiet, comfortable and away from children, dogs, etc.

Indoor cats also need elevated perches, scratching posts, climbing condos and safe windows where they can enjoy a pool of sunshine and lots of play time!



Sinbad 11/6/08 to 8/22/21

Sinbad spent most of his life here. It was his happy place. He was adopted several times but always found his way back. He'll be missed!

Farah, Hotori and Dash left in September.



Wish List:

Monetary Donations * Paper Towels * Bleach

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



Donny & Marie



We often say we want two cats to stay together and adopters think we're just trying to get more cats out of here. But it's usually because we think it would be detrimental to both cats to separate them. Donny and Marie came to Cat Tails early last winter when their person passed away suddenly. The primary request of the woman who brought them to us was that they be adopted together. They were brother and sister and had been together their whole lives and really were very bonded. Since they seemed very adoptable we didn't think it would be a problem. But, by the end of January, we gave up.

Regina came in on January 29th and adopted Donny. Two days later, on the 31st, the Foreman family came in. They wanted to adopt Donny and Marie and were sad to learn that Donny was already gone. They adopted Marie and asked to be contacted if Donny ever came back.

In early March, I received an email from Regina saying that Donny was very unhappy and spent all of his time searching for something. She thought he should be in a home with another cat but she could only have one. I offered to call Marie's adopters, the Foremans. They were excited by the news and went to pick up Donny. As soon as Donny and Marie were reunited it was as if they had never been apart. They were both relaxed and happy and inseparable!



Cameo and Grady were adopted in February.



In April, Kit and Archie found their homes.



Spirit and Annabelle were adopted in December.

MY NEW CAT HIDES ALL THE TIME!

Cats don't adjust to changes quickly and being adopted is a major life change. Add in the fact that they may have just come from a foster home, to the vet for surgery, to Cat Tails, to Petsmart, to your house and you can understand why they may be nervous. Here are some tips to help your new cat adjust from Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine:

1. **Be patient.** Start in a small area and give the cat time to expand her territory on her own.
2. **Make sure your other pets are being polite.** Resident cats don't always give a warm welcome and a looming dog, even one that likes cats, can be frightening.
3. **Hang out and chat.** Get your new cat used to your voice and smell by spending time near her hiding place. Gradually, you can move closer or feed her while you're close.
4. **Physical contact on her terms.** Don't reach into her hiding place and pull her out. Let your new cat approach you and gradually see if she will let you rub her chin. Don't try to pick her up when she's only interested in exploring.
5. **Engage in play from a distance.** Toss a few treats slowly luring the cat out of her hiding place. A toy on a long string or a wand is a good way to slowly coax her out.



Bosco and Hawaii were adopted in August.



Comet and Demi found new homes in May.



Hannah and Smitty 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.

Festival Season

In this area, you can go to a festival every weekend in October! This year, we cut back to only two. We chose two that are only one day long and let us bring cats. **Sunset at Sunset** is the first weekend in October. It's a big festival. The weather was perfect and the crowds were huge. **Bandfest**, sponsored by PawsAbility, is the second weekend in October. Great weather and big crowds again. Between the two we did five adoptions and over a thousand dollars in sales and donations.



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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