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# The Scratching Post

## Winter 2022

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 almost **8300** unwanted cats and kittens that almost certainly would have died or been euthanized.

## President's Message

Cat Tails was started in 2004. In early 2005 a bunch of volunteers began working to convert a former real estate office in Ocean Isle Beach into a home for Cat Tails. We opened our facility in April 2005 with 8 cats and one litter of 7 born during the construction! Since then we have adopted out almost 8300 cats and kittens. Much of this success is due to our volunteers. There is a lot of cleaning, feeding, and scooping to be done. Much is also due to our loyal supporters. No one on our staff is paid, but it still takes money to buy food and kitty litter and take care of the cats. We're all working together to make a better life for the cats and the people who adopt them. Thank you everyone who has helped make our first 19 years successful! Let's hope for a strong finish to our second decade in business!

*Trish*

## 2022 By the Numbers

Projected total adoptions: 471

Best month: July (53)

Worst month: April (23)

72% of adoptions were at Petsmart

28% were done at Cat Tails

26% of adopters paid in cash

6% paid by check

26% paid using Square

42% paid using Paypal

30% of adopters buy a cardboard carrier

15% buy a regular carrier

50% bring their own carrier

5% borrow a carrier

### Adopted in January: Diedra and Venus



Agnew and Cliff  
were adopted in July.



Creole and Princess  
found homes in June.



# Hitchhiker

Last May a family packed their suitcases for a week at Ocean Isle Beach. The family cat was staying home because she had kittens. They couldn't find the kittens, but the mom seemed fine so they left Winston-Salem and headed for the beach. They checked the security cameras frequently as they drove and saw that the cat was becoming increasingly agitated. She was constantly wandering and yelling for the babies. She didn't know where they were either! They decided to record the cat yelling for her babies on a phone. When they arrived in Ocean Isle three and a half hours later, they got out of the car and played the recording of the mother. To their surprise and delight all three kittens came tumbling out from under the car. They rode the whole way somewhere in the engine of the car. None of them were lost and there were no injuries! Geri, Gene and George came to Cat Tails and were adopted as soon as they were ready to go. This time, the kittens traveled inside the cars to their new homes.

Did you notice that this year we had lots of Manx mixes with no tail or very short tails, but no polydactyl kittens with extra toes!

Hershey, O'Malley and Ted G. were adopted in October.

## Naming Kittens

We get several hundred kittens a year and they all need names. We try not to repeat the same names too often so we look at lists on the computer and in books. But how do some kittens still get such funny names? "Spider" loved to climb and he looked like a little spider running up and down the sides of the cage. "The Boss"? Well, he would tell us when he wanted to eat, when he wanted to play, and what toys he wanted. He was pretty bossy! "Waldo" was a black kitten who lived with a litter of dark tabbies. He would disappear in a puddle of dark fur and we were left wondering, "Where's Waldo?"

Our cute little tortie named Bucket arrived in a 5 gallon bucket with a flattened beer case over the top to keep her in it. We thought Bucket was a better name than Budweiser.



Mocha, Louie and Olivia left in September.



Flip, Marshall and Simon found new homes in March.

## Wish List: Volunteers!

Monetary Donations - Paper Towels – Unscented Liquid Bleach

Unscented 13 Gal. Trash Bags - Unscented Clay & Scoopable Litter



## Yolanda & Roger Nelson



For anyone who remembers the “box of chocolates” kittens, these two came from the same house. They were the last ones to leave because they were Steven’s favorites. Roger Nelson, the tabby, and Yolanda, the Himalayan, had been with him since they were kittens but he was moving and couldn’t take them with him. Roger, now about ten and Yolanda, possibly as old as 15, needed a place to live so in 2019 they came to Cat Tails.

In October of 2022, we received an email asking about them and I answered and told them all about Roger and Yolanda, although I really didn’t think anything would come of it. But, I was wrong! On October 9<sup>th</sup>, a young couple came in to adopt the two together! They had never had a cat before and thought it would be better to start with older cats rather than kittens that can be pretty wild. They had bought a good scratching post for Roger and built a walkway up to a window seat where Yolanda could sleep in the sun. The cats are happy, we are happy and the adopters are happy!

Best of all, they can stay together!



## Meet Capt. Jack Sparrow

Jack came to Cat Tails with the worst eye infection any of us had ever seen. He was only about 4 weeks old and very sick. His eye was so swollen that food and litter would be stuck to it. We took him to Port City Animal Hospital where Dr. Chris Coble removed his right eye. They also gave him the very appropriate name: Capt. Jack Sparrow. As soon as he recovered from the surgery he started running. He must have enjoyed being able to see where he was going! He also tried to gather things as he ran sometimes toys, sometimes the spots on the floor. Jack Sparrow is now a healthy, happy six month old kitten looking for a home!



Nolan and Mystique were adopted in February.



In April, Stormy and Shark found their homes.



Maisy and Nanny were adopted in December.

## Twins and More



Atlas and Azure



Paige and Pia

Graham, Greely & Griswald



