



# The Scratching Post

Winter 2023

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 **8700** unwanted cats and kittens that almost certainly would have died or been euthanized.

## President's Message

On Friday, December 29, Ray Zetts passed away. Ray was one of the founders of Cat Tails and served on the Board of Directors for the past twenty years. When I met Ray, he was volunteering at Brunswick County Animal Services. Soon, he and some people from other cat rescues established Paws Place Cats. Then, the opportunity came up to open a cats-only program, so Cat Tails was established. Cats may have been Ray's first love, but he treated all animals with respect and compassion. He took care of feral cat colonies on Sunset Beach, and fed deer, racoons and opossums on his property. Ray was also a good friend. Whenever he stopped in at Cat Tails, we would put a kitten in his hands and he would smile and sit down to talk about cats for a while. Cat Tails and I will miss him.

*Trish*



Jolly and Kerry: adopted in January.



## We Are Having A Birthday!

Cat Tails will be 20 years old this year! We were incorporated on May 5, 2004 and we didn't waste any time getting to work! On Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, Flopsy, Lucy, Nala, Munchkin, Sarabi, Bourbon and Mischief were adopted out at Petsmart for \$55 each. The adoption fee is now \$100 to \$120, but we're still doing adoptions out of the same Petsmart in Wilmington. By the end of our first year, we bought our present location on Beach Drive and turned it into a safe, stimulating environment for our cats and started doing adoptions there too. And now, instead of a total of 7 adoptions, we have over 8700.



Pepper and Figaro left in May.



Marian and Pearl found their homes in July.

# WISH LIST

Most of the items on our wish list are things that we go through quickly, but we can't do without. If you would like

to help us keep up with the things we need most, you can do it without leaving your favorite easy chair. To donate money, go on [cattails.org](http://cattails.org) and click on Donate. You can use your credit card on our Paypal account. Litter is a little tricky because it has to be approved by the cats and the volunteers. We have ruled out litter from newspaper, pine, walnuts, corn or wheat as well as litter shaped like beads or crystals. We like a fine-grained,

unscented, scoopable litter. We order Frisco brand from Chewy. Our little kittens like a non-clumping litter. Again, we like clay better than anything else and it has to be unscented. We get a lot of our non-clumping litter from Publix and we also get it from Walmart. We like unscented, 13 gallon, drawstring trash bags. Our laundry soap needs to be high efficiency and unscented. Most scented bleach doesn't sanitize so we like the regular liquid bleach. Clay litter, trash bags,

laundry detergent, bleach, paper towels (we aren't so picky about those) can be ordered through Walmart or Amazon. Of course, we really depend on volunteers so if you find a site where I can order more volunteers as wonderful as the ones we have now, please let me know!



Hudson and Smooch found homes in December.



Freya and Nala were adopted in February.



Boomer left in June

This is a rather unusual looking cat isn't it? Well, we would like you to

## MEET JANE.

She is not only unusual looking, she had a rather unusual beginning.

Her mother must have been a little confused when her kittens were due. So Jane was born on the roof of a house on April Fool's Day. This year, April 1<sup>st</sup> was very windy and the homeowners figured out where the kittens were when they saw one of them blow off the roof. They sent their son up to rescue the kittens and by bedtime, Jane and her siblings were settled into a foster home and enjoying a warm bottle of kitten formula.



### Mutts



Ray Zetts saved "Mutts Shelter Stories" for us.

**Quadruplets** Sometimes two of the cats in a litter look so much alike that we really can't tell them apart. Sometimes it's three, but it usually isn't four. We couldn't tell who was who here! Twitch was adopted first. The next person interested in them couldn't tell them apart either so he just adopted all three of them!



Twitch



Tweeter & Topaz left in November.



April was good for Muffin & Lady.



Telly



Trebek



Tundra



Widget and Hallie were adopted in September.

## Adult Cats

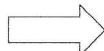
With every cat or kitten adopted from Cat Tails comes the promise that we will take the cat back if it ever becomes necessary. That's why we don't take in adult cats! We save space for cats that get returned and for cats that grow up here and haven't been adopted yet. Adult cats are harder to adopt even though they usually make wonderful pets especially for older people. This year about 6% of our adoptions were adults. Some were just barely over a year and were fairly easy adoptions. Others were not so simple.

Truffle was 9 years old when she came back and she was mad. We put her carrier with the door open in her cage and she still wouldn't come out. We could hear her growling and hissing when we came too close. It took a while but she finally came out of the carrier, then out of the cage and then she got adopted.



← Tessa and Fran were adopted together as small kittens. They came back when they were two and then they were adopted together again.

Joy was 3 when she was readopted. Creamsicle was readopted at 8 years old. Sylvie was 2 years old when she found her new home.





Shadow and Pixie were adopted in October.



Honey and Jesse found new homes in March.



Emma and Miller were adopted in August.

### Kitten Season

Kitten season is in the spring! It usually goes from March through November. Most litters we get are 3 or 4 kittens about 8 weeks old. This year they started right on time but they haven't stopped yet! The litters have been bigger, even 6 or 7 kittens and we are also getting them younger, even just hours old. For example, this year we had a litter of 7 kittens, 5 days old when the mom was killed and we have had 2 litters turned in during January. It kind of makes me wonder what next year will bring!

### How Many to Adopt?

It's a difficult decision. Should you adopt one cat or kitten or add several to your family? A lot of things need to be considered from the other pets you already have to the cost of cat food. This year we had 447 adoptions. 351 people decided to adopt one cat. 80 of our kittens left with a friend or relative. Four families decided to take home three new cats or kittens all at the same time. And one brave family, that already had a couple of cats at home, decided to adopt four of the kittens they had been fostering!



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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