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The Scratching Post

Winter 2024

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 **9100** unwanted cats and kittens that almost certainly would have died or been euthanized.

President's Message

Do you ever wonder how many people it takes to keep Cat Tails running smoothly? I've tried to count but it made my head spin! We have about 35 volunteers who come in one or more days a week to clean, feed, water, medicate and socialize the cats. Then we have a bunch of people who don't come into the facility regularly. Jeanette runs our program at PetSmart and she has several volunteers and foster homes in Wilmington. We have our favorite vet, Dr. Coble, and his staff at Port City Animal Hospital, who get our kittens healthy and spayed or neutered before they are adopted. We have people who sew, who run our shoe program and one who changes the filters in our air handling system. Our treasurer comes weekly for money and to take pictures for Facebook. We have Karen, Renee and Chris, our three main foster homes. We have people who make goodies for us to sell at adoption events and Sunset at Sunset. I'm sure I've forgotten some but you get the idea: as Cat Tails program has grown over the years, so has the number of good people needed to run it!

Trish

SHOES !



SHOES !

SHOES !



Several years ago, we started collecting old shoes. Beverly Werner took over the program and she started taking the nicest shoes to sell at resale or consignment stores. This makes a bunch of money for us.

Beverly keeps track of everything and brings me some very nice checks when the shoes sell. Now, the problem: We're out of shoes! If you have old or unwanted shoes in pretty good shape, drop them off at Cat Tails!! You can bring them any time we're open or put them in a plastic bag and leave the bag under our bench.



In June, a woman came to the Cat Tails facility to adopt a kitten and knew exactly who she wanted: the little black kitten from a litter she had helped raise. But, people will always look around and play with all of the cats and sometimes their heart over rules their head. This woman came to get a 10 week old, short-haired, black male kitten, but she left with Willow, a sweet, 12 year old, long-haired, tabby and white, female cat. When she met Willow, her heart told her that this is the right one.





Tabitha

Tabitha came to Cat Tails in the middle of February because she was very pregnant and had no place to live. She went to a foster home and settled in to wait until the perfect day for her kittens to be born. She didn't have to wait too long. Seven cute little kittens arrived on Leap-Year Day. They won't have a birthday until 2028! Tabitha was adopted by one of our volunteers and her kittens have all been adopted too, but here are our seven leap-year birthday babies!

LEAP YEAR BABIES!



It's All In A Name !

We usually give a litter of kittens names that go together such as all beginning with the same letter or all names of candy, because it helps us remember who is in the same litter. When a kitten is adopted the adopters can change the cat's name, but if it's returned we go back to the original name so all the records go together.

In October of 2023, a couple came in Cat Tails looking for a kitten. They ended up adopting two sisters, Darby and Dorie. Fast forward a year to October 2024 when a man came into Cat Tails and said we have his cats' brother and he wants him. He had read an article on our Facebook page about a recently returned cat that looked a lot like his two and was about the same age. When he saw the name was **Deuce** he was sure they were related. We checked and he was right. Dorie and Darby were Deuce's sisters. Now the family is reunited!



Dorie

< Darby Deuce >



Moxie was adopted in January.



Ramona found a home in February.



Hightop left in March.



Dottie met her family in April.



Gracie was adopted in May.



In June, Spice was adopted.



Polly left in July.



August was good for Lynn.



Nick left in September.



Snowflake was adopted in Oct.



Sampson found a home in Nov.



December was good for Mars.



What do the Sunset Beach Police do with kittens? One of the groups they can call is Cat Tails. We have helped out twice this year. The first time was with two tiny kittens. They were bottle fed by one of our volunteers until they could be fixed and adopted. The second time, they brought us five kittens found under a car. This time they were able to find the mother too. The mother raised her kittens in one of our foster homes and when they were weaned, the mom was fixed and went back to her neighborhood. The kittens were all fixed and are living happy, healthy lives in their new homes.

Have You Noticed?

Have you noticed that Cat Tails is looking a little shabby lately? We have been in the same building for over 20 years and although we clean every day, there is too much stuff and too many cats to keep it really nice. So now we are starting on some projects. Beginning at the top, of course, our roof was replaced in November. The next job is to replace our ceiling. It has been too badly damaged by years of roof leaks to repair it. It needs to be torn down and replaced. After that, we can patch scrapes on the walls and the door frames and repaint the interior. Then we can replace the flooring in the rooms where it's coming up in places. And, just like that, we're as good as new on the inside! On the outside, we could use some painting and paving but this is a condo and all of the owners would have to agree. It is going to take some time to do everything and it's hard to find someone to do a lot of the work since there are so many construction jobs around right now. But, it sure is going to be pretty!

SO, WHATS WITH THAT PILE OF STUFF IN THE LOBBY?

Some people have mentioned that the pile of stuff in the lobby is not very pretty. I agree, but it has a purpose. All of it has been donated or made for us to give away. Once a family has spent the money to adopt a kitten, there might not be much left for all of the things they need for the kitten. If we go to the back to get stuff, the people think they are taking it away from our cats. But, if we pull a litter pan, a collar, a scratch pad, a blanket, a bed, some food bowls or some toys out of our pile, nobody minds taking that and it can help the cat and the family. We also usually have several kinds of foods, so you can donate the food your cat now refuses to eat and pick up several other kinds to try. The food is all good and the rest of the stuff ranges from useable to brand new.





LOOK ALIKES



Padre and Pinto were born in July.

Lucky and Logan were born in May.



Iggy and Ivy were born in November.



This litter was here in May.

Hera and Happy were born in Dec.



Jukebox, Jitterbug, Jay and Jester's litter was born in March.



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 lbs. of 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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