



CAT CARE QUARTERLY

Cat Care Society

Celebrates 20 Years

of Helping Cats

Cat Care Society was incorporated in the State of Colorado on July 6, 1981. Co-founders Dr. Linda East and Lynn Rowe began the shelter on the second floor of Dr. East's cat-only clinic on Lincoln Street. In the fall of 1985, the shelter moved to the current facility in Lakewood. I can't think of a more appropriate way to celebrate our 20th Anniversary than with the opening of our NEW facility. Because both historical events are happening this year, we will combine our 20th Anniversary Celebration with the GRAND OPENING of the new shelter.

When I began working with Cat Care Society in 1986, I asked the co-founders to put in writing their goals and dreams for Cat Care Society. I have printed small portions of the statements from these two women with a vision for the future.

LYNN ROWE - "The original and continuing purpose of the Cat Care Society is to improve the quality of life for the homeless, injured, and abused cats in the Denver Metropolitan area. This goal is to be accomplished through the many services offered by Cat Care, including our cage-free cat shelter established under the premises of being a clean, healthy home environment to all cats


rescued by the Society until a permanent, responsible home can be found for each cat. The shelter must have a limit to the number of cats accepted in order to provide adequate space, veterinary care, diet, and human interaction to those cats residing within...The goal of the shelter is not to provide each cat with a home for life, but to offer each a chance to be adopted in order to make room for additional cats..."

DR. LINDA EAST - "With the realization that cats have few friends to which they can turn for help, the Cat Care Society was founded to be that friend, with the ultimate goal that there never be a cat without shelter or food or medical attention when it is sick or at the end of its life. To work toward this goal (which will certainly not be achieved in our lifetime), certain principles evolved: A) Humane motivations must be tempered with common sense at all times. The founder of the first humane society said that the true purpose of a humane society is not to save lives but to eliminate suffering. B) The worst problems facing cats are a result of the extreme overpopulation crisis. With so

many cats, society places little value on any one. Cats become expendable, throw aways. If overpopulation could be controlled, many of the other problems would solve themselves. An approach to overpopulation can be made in two directions: 1) Reduce the number of kittens born. 2) Increase the number of homes open to cats by making cats more popular. Educate people on the desirability of cats as pets and teach ways to co-exist peacefully. Seek out ways to expand our market..."

These, of course, are very long range goals. But I would like us to perhaps yearly think about them, review what progress has been made, and plan what we can at least dream of doing in the future..."

I extend an invitation to YOU to help us dream of what we can do now and in the future. Send us your ideas of how to make cats more popular and how to expand our market.

Let the creative brainstorming begin! 

Cat Stories

We love opening the mail and finding a story and/or picture of a cat that was adopted from us. We are in the process of putting together a "Memory Book" with adopted cat photos and stories. This book will be available in the NEW shelter this fall. Here are a couple of wonderful adoption updates:

Letter #1:

I visited Cat Care Society on a whim Wednesday, September 13th, 2000. I was not aware if kittens were available for adoption – although I kind of had my heart set on it. It had been some time since I last let another cat enter my life. Little did I know my world would be forever changed that afternoon.



I inquired about new litters and luckily, just that week a few kittens had arrived! I was directed to the enclosed viewing room and entered. Once inside, I watched in amusement as the energetic little balls of fur bounced and tumbled about - only one caught my eye.

He emerged timid, yet curious. The moment our eyes met we were inseparable! He nudged my hand as I picked up a knitted toy for him to play with. My heart was his! As I left the room to finalize my decision, his meows beckoned to me, "DON'T LEAVE WITHOUT ME!!" Oh, I wasn't.

Everything was right and on the story goes. Tocho, Native American for "Mountain Lion," now 8 months old, has been a joy. (And boy, does he live up to his name!!) He has adjusted well to his new home in Denver with Mommy, Erlen Stebbings, and sister Timber, 7 years old.

He loves attention (mostly at 1 a.m. and after when I am sleeping deeply – mmm...those kneading paws)!!! He has recently taken to fetching and retrieving toys. He even enjoys going to the park. He travels in his new comfy pet bag that I carry over my shoulders. A little shy to the idea at first, he now looks forward to early morning walks. I love having him as a new addition to the family. I couldn't imagine life without him.

Thank you, Cat Care Society. Erlen Stebbings

Letter #2:

May 1, 2001

Dear Cat Care Society,

Just thought I would drop a note and some pictures to you. We have enjoyed Vladimir so much. I think I picked out the perfect cat. He is very loving and he and my son get along great together. He has added so much joy to our lives. Hope you enjoy the pictures. Sincerely, Leslie Wolf



Building Fund Update

The walls are up! These two photos were taken on May 26th, week 10 of construction. By the time you receive this newsletter, the floor on the main level will be in as well as the roof. Wow! It's actually happening! We are hoping to move into the new shelter in late August or early September. Once the roof is on, we won't have to worry about weather delays.

Thank you to the many people who called after the last newsletter and have made donations of office supplies, desks, file cabinets, dish washers, etc. We now have desks to furnish all of our offices, chairs for the administration area (they even match!), and LOTS of supplies to furnish the offices. THANK YOU!

I really can't think of anything else to say, except, drive by and see what YOU made happen! I guarantee you will be excited AND anxious to see the shelter completed. 🐾

Paws to Applaud...

20 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

This is the theme for our annual dinner and auction scheduled for October 13th. Mark your calendars now as you won't want to miss this extraordinary event. This year you can look forward to being entertained by two comedians. Most of you are familiar with veterinarian/comedian Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald. Joining Kevin will be Edith Weiss, who has entertained U.S. troops in Bosnia, appeared on the Showtime Comedy Club Network, writes a regular column for Colorado Woman News, and has performed at the YWCA in Fargo, North Dakota! Be prepared for rolling-in-the-aisles laughter!

The silent and live auctions will have some great items for your shopping pleasure. Auctioneer Bill Sparks will be joining us again with his dry sense of humor to help raise \$\$ for the cats. We also accept donations for the auction all year long. So, if Aunt Martha gave you a cat figurine (or whatever) for Christmas last year, and you are up to your eyeballs in cat figurines, donate it for the auction!

We look forward to laughing with you October 13th! 🐾

Sponsor A Cat

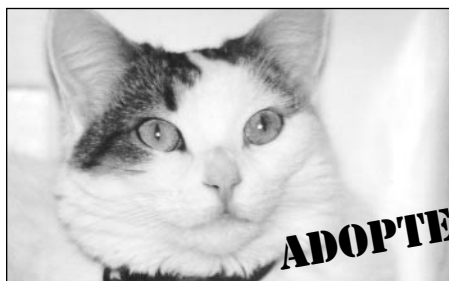
You can become a shelter sponsor or sponsor an individual cat at the shelter with a monthly donation of \$15. Thank you to our new sponsors since the last newsletter:



TIBET
Alex & Kim Frisch



JACKSON
Ralph Janiszewski



WENDY
Sharon Marcotte



MISS ELLIE
Kate Loree

Scratching Post

- Cat Care Society has partnered with Cars for Charity for the past three years to accept donations of vehicles (working or not) as part of our fund-raising program. If you have a 1984 or newer vehicle that you would like to donate to help the cats in residence at Cat Care Society, call 303-239-9680.
- Cat Care Society does not sell or rent our donor names to other organizations or businesses.

Cat Care Quarterly is the official newsletter of Cat Care Society, published each season of the year and mailed to members and donors.

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Perpet-U-Care, Planned Giving, Lost and Found

CONFESSIONS OF A FOSTER MOM

by Julie Anne Peters

The call comes around the end of March. "We have kittens. Can you foster?" I greet this news with great anticipation or is it dread? Previous fostering experiences have been a mix of joy and sorrow. Joy because kittens are cute and sweet, comical and lovable. Fostering them until they're ready for adoption gives these kittens a chance at life, a new beginning. Unfortunately, it isn't always a happy ending, and that's where the sorrow seeps in. "Bring 'em on," I say, realizing life is full of ups and downs. The good invariably outweighs the bad.

First order of business is to set up the kitten room. Our spare bedroom/office/library/extra closet/storage space has been designated the official feline nursery. Over the last six years it's been entirely kitten proofed. Anything that can be chewed on, choked on, hurled on, jumped on, pooped on, climbed up, or fallen off of has been eliminated. Litter boxes are filled and arranged on a plastic coated tablecloth. I delude myself that the kittens will contain their mess to one area. Two food bowls are filled with kitty crunchies, alongside a well anchored water trough.

The playground is prepared. First, the carpeted kitty condo that's seen better days; two futons that fold accordion style into Mt. Fuji and Pikes Peak, and a braided rug that rolls into the Holland Tunnel. I like my kittens to get a feel for the larger world. Three or four cat beds cushion the corners, and next to them

scratching posts. All surface areas are battle readied with towel coverings.

Toys. A hollow plastic donut with a ball inside to bat, catnip filled cigars, a shoebox, paper bag, and TP tube. Five crinkle balls, four furry mice, three rubber balls, and a partridge in a...never mind. String toys are stored out of reach because kittens tend to get tangled up in them, which worries me at night. I'll have enough to worry about.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

The kittens arrive en masse. I've fostered as many as eight at a time. Sometimes they're littermates, other times not. One glimpse of their precious little faces and I chide myself for hesitating even an instant.

While the kids are cautiously checking out their new digs, I familiarize myself with their stories. Typically they read like this: These kittens were rescued from the bottom of a window well/under a porch/inside a storm drain. We found them in our garage/car/storage shed. Their mother was hit by a car/disappeared/is feral. I can sympathize. I'm thrilled someone had the presence of mind to trap the kittens and bring them to the shelter. The stories that get to me are the ones that demonstrate a total lack of humanity. These kittens were found in a dumpster, tossed out with the trash. Or thrown from a car window onto the highway. Or left overnight on the shelters doorstep so the responsibility for their lives would be passed on to someone else.

Whatever their nightmare, my babies are out of danger now. They're going to get all the food, shelter, security, and love that every living creature deserves.

CARE AND CUDDLING

The challenge of foster parenting begins with health issues. Most of the kittens coming into the shelter have had a rough start in life. They've been exposed to the elements, to danger, and disease. Their physical and emotional states are tenuous, at best. Because a sick kitten can deteriorate quickly, constant vigilance is my mantra.

I stock my medical cabinet with an assortment of homeopathic remedies. Potions for diarrhea, upset tummy, vomiting, limping leg syndrome, sneezing, goopy eyes, runny nose, fever, fear, stress, you name it. On hand is an ample supply of baby bottles and empty syringes for force feeding, along with baby food, kitten milk replacement, vitamin supplements, and cans of nutrient rich A/D. In the past the shelter has provided me with antibiotics, eye ointment, ringworm antifungal, and fluids to combat dehydration.

My goal is to nurture these kittens to the peak of health. I'll fatten them up, socialize them, and coach them in the art of being so absolutely adorable that an adoptive family will find them irresistible (not too hard).

I'm successful in my mission, most of the time. Occasionally, despite the combined efforts of the shelter staff, the veterinarian, and me a kitten doesn't make it. It's not my fault, I know that, but it's hard. Heart-breaking. They're babies. My only consolation is knowing that for every kitten I lose, I save ten more. And I tell myself that the ones whose lives were cut short found a home in kitty heaven.

continued next page

GO FORTH (BUT PLEASE DON'T MULTIPLY)

The days or weeks or months go by. My kittens grow and change and blossom. We romp and wrestle, coo and cuddle. We giggle and get silly and entertain each other. Hard as I try not to, there's no getting around the fact that I grow attached. I can't help it. I love these guys.

The day finally arrives when my kittens weigh in at two pounds. They're healthy and happy and eager to bond with their new human soul mates. It's time for me to let them go.

I confess I'm ready. They've taken their toll on the nursery (whew, can kittens trash a room!), and they've taken their toll on my heart. But I relinquish them willingly, gladly, with the knowledge that I've done my part. It's gratifying work. It's life saving. And, since this is a confessional, the truth is I do it as much

for me as for them. Kittens teach me about life. They remind me about things I forget; things I take for granted and shouldn't. Such as:

1. For at least an hour a day you should play with reckless abandon
2. When you hit a wall, bounce off
3. Everything's a toy, or should be
4. Everyone's a friend, or could be
5. Some people bite, and occasionally you have to bite back
6. Don't drop the ball or someone else will pick it up and run with it
7. Nirvana is a warm body to nuzzle at night
8. You have to trust that when you're sick or stuck, people will help you out
9. A purr will get you further than a whine
10. Gratitude for the gifts in life is returned a hundredfold



Thank you to all my babies. Kisses and hugs, wherever you are. 🐾

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are always in need of more foster homes. If you are interested in helping please call Sherri at 303-239-9680.

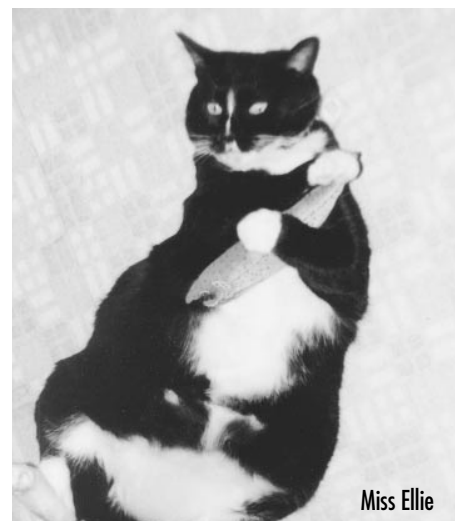
The Tale of a Plus Size Kitty

My name is Miss Ellie and I am a big girl. Not that it's a bad thing, mind you, but to be truthful, it amazes me that folks just can't seem to let it alone! I tell you people walk into the shelter every day and say rude things right in front of me...like "Wow, he's a BIG one!" or "Look at THAT one, she must be pregnant." (I assure you there's no hanky-panky of that sort around here!) I tried Weight Watchers for a while, but the meetings weren't convenient and their point system didn't seem to apply to cat food, so I figured the heck with it. But enough about that.

I am three years old and have lived here at Cat Care Society for about a year now. After I was abandoned, a nice lady took me in, but I didn't like her other cats because they wouldn't share their food. Personally, I thought I had the problem solved, but all of a sudden I was here instead of there! (For some reason they say I need to be an only cat, which is fine with me.)

I have been described as a Tuxedo Cat, whatever that is. I can tell you that I have stunning short black and white fur which makes me look positively sleek! I love to play. My favorite toy is a fuzzy mouse with a little motor. By lying on my back, and holding the mouse in my paws, I have learned to pull the string with my teeth to make it joggle...it's so

entertaining! I would relocate in a heartbeat if I could find someone who knows that BIG is Beautiful and, of course, on the condition I could take that jiggle mouse with me. I just know I could provide hours of love and laughter in a permanent home. 🐾



🌿 Memorial Donations 🌿

Just a note about our Memorial column. The cut-off for donations listed here is generally one month before the newsletter is printed. If your donation is not listed, and you question that we received it, please call us at 303-239-9680.

In Memory of Pets *Received From*

Muffin	Mr. & Mrs. David Sparks
"Casey" Willson	Wanda Depperschmidt
Buttercup	Nancy Leckenby
Angus	Paula Boswell
"Spike" Zwinak	Helen & Joe Zwinak - Grandparents
Samantha	Mary Ann Lueckel
"Muffin" Sparks	Pam Davis
Bootsie	Judy MacDonald
Pepper	Lynn L. Chiles
Py	Mr. & Mrs. Richard F. Negri
Spenser	Alice & Mark Palmer
Silver Boy (1982-2000)	Mary A. Sandoval
Miss Celery	Lynn Robinson
"Grizzly" Duncan-Combs	Jan F. Duncan
"Cody" Stern	Donna Ramskill
Tammy	Marj Mack
Beethoven (canine)	Charlene A. Smith
"Grizzly" Duncan-Combs	Frances Duncan
Shalimar	Melissa Condit
Sugar Bear	Betty Sullivan
"Mikie" & "Lady" Bayer	Joyce E. Uhl
Petunia	Jo Anne Jessen
"Little Boy" Borchers	Rick & Joyce Comin
Buttermilk	Mary Norbury-Glaser
"Matt" Mitchell	"Middy, Casey, Annabelle, & Kellie" Mason
"Dusty" Apple	Marriott & John Smart
"Cricket" Froman	Shirley & Amy Cervene
Mickey	Fredericka P. Cukjati
Hickey	Barry & Katey Loring
Phineas	Barbara Dodge Bennett
"Mercy" Williams	Sue Green
Figaro	Herb & Eileen Hawlk
Jack	Lee Trujillo-Lopez
Maggie (Basset Hound)	Frances L Ezer

In Honor of People *Received From*

Dave Walker	Dr. Jean R. Buscherhof
Alan Hull	Mary Lee Anderson
Pati Walker	Raye Elsberry
Ron Else (retirement)	Mary Owens
Claude & Lois Dunmire (60th Anniversary)	Kathy Macklem & Cajun
Captains Scott & Juliet Johnson-Follonsbee (marriage)	Leslie & Jim Jenkins, Karen, Todd & Robbie Cairns
Betsy O'Sullivan (Mother's Day)	Nancy Jorgenson
Dave Walker	Janet Lissner

In Honor of Pets *Received From*

Lillie-Maché	May Patrick
Cokie/Catalina	Catherine B. Brown
Kato & Baylor	Catherine & Don Sheehan
All My Past Beloved Cats	Nancy Jones
Zorro	Laura Von Drehle
Dharma	Ruth Richards
Boo Kitty	Pat Mueller
All Cats Everywhere	Lori Ohlson
Cheddar	Katrina Cavaliere
Nikki Cat	Frances L. Ezer

In Memory of People *Received From*

Mable Kingery	Maxine Oram
J. C. Strodemier	Lisa & George Franzen
Amy Martin	Laurie Martin
Mrs. Mary Parsons	Dorothy Spitze
Margaret Thomas	Coworkers at University of Colorado
Marie Rose	Health Sciences Center
Rita Callahan	Pam Davis
Hilda M. Gehrke	Al & Roberta Hampstead, Doris Anderson
William C. Petty	Dottie Gehrke
	Ruth Petty, Jim & Judi Dufala
	Ro Berta & Melanie Troutman
	Edmac Compressor Company, Wilkerson Corporation
	Mira Vista Ladies Golf Association
Laura T. Thompson	Audrey Fulton, Francesca Axley
	Paul & Carol Lightsey, Gwen Mumbroe
Caryl Reidel	Amy Parsons

Why Does Pet Loss Hurt So Much?

by Martha M. Tousley, RN, MS, CS

People I encounter in pet grief support groups are often shocked to discover how badly they feel when their pets die. Statements such as "I don't know what's wrong with me. I didn't feel this bad when my grandmother (acquaintance, friend, relative) died" are common. And so the question arises, why do so many of us feel the loss of a companion animal so intensely and is it normal to feel this way?

There is no question that companion animals are becoming more valued in our society than they were just 20 or 30 years ago. Statistics indicate that more people in the United States today have pets than have children, and most pet owners regard their pets as members of the family.

How we react to the death of any family member – human or animal

– depends to a large extent on the part they've played in our daily lives, the significance of our relationships with them, and the strength of our attachments to them.

Although we bring animals into our homes for many different reasons, the reason people most often give is the companionship our pets provide. In some ways the companionship of animals makes up for the traditional support systems our culture has lost along the way. In today's modern, mobile society, more people are childless, single, divorced, widowed, or never married. With both parents working outside the home, more children return to empty houses after school, and more older folks live alone and farther away from their extended families than ever before. For those who are homebound, pets may be their only social contact.

With their constant presence, availability, and devotion, pets are our best source of unconditional love, becoming for many of us the ideal child, parent, mate, or friend. They listen without judgement or

CAT CARE CAPERS

Ongoing until we move!

Meow Mart Sale

Take advantage of our moving sale to find some great bargains. Everything is 50% off until we move.

July 21

The Cat Lady's Garden

Cat Care Society supporters, Glenn & Karen Schultz, will share proceeds of daylily plant sales with our cats. Visit the garden Saturday, July 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 15643 East 35th Place in Aurora. See the flyer enclosed with this newsletter for more details.

September 16

Creature Feature Opening Reception

Join us at Red Rocks Community College from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for this multi-media art show to benefit the cats. The show will run from September 9 through October 19. If you are interested in entering the show, please call the shelter for an entry form at 303-239-9680.

October 13

Paws to Applaud... 20 Years of Excellence

Annual Dinner/Auction at the Arvada Center. Details will be mailed with the next newsletter.

November 1-4

Holiday Food & Gift Festival

This show will be held again at the Convention Center where we will have a booth full of cat-related gift items and the best cat toys around.

November 30, December 1

Holiday Gift & Bake Sale

Our Annual Gift & Bake Sale will be held at the NEW shelter with our new and improved Meow Mart. We're already shopping to provide an excellent selection of gifts for cats and cat-lovers.


COMMUNITY SHARES Member Agency

reproach and never give advice. They accept us exactly as we are, regardless of how we look or feel or behave. They forgive us readily and never hold grudges against us. No matter how much change we must endure in our unpredictable lives, our pets are always there for us.

Animal companions weave themselves into the fabric of our daily lives. We live and relax in each other's company. They are there when we awaken in the morning, rely on us to toilet, feed, water, exercise, groom, and play with them, greet us joyfully when we come home to them, and may even sleep with us in our beds at night. We touch them, stroke them, pet them, hug them, kiss them, tell them our troubles, and share our deepest secrets with them. Beyond companionship, animals also serve many other functions in people's lives, none of them trivial or without value. Medical researchers are learning that people with pets are healthier and happier. Touching, holding, caring for, and playing with pets – even watching animals in their natural habitat – can actually lower a person's blood pressure, decrease the heart rate, alleviate stress and loneliness, and even encourage regular exercise. For shy or withdrawn people, pets act as conversation pieces in otherwise awkward social situations. Patients in rehabilitation units who are comatose or autistic have been found to respond to visiting animals even though humans haven't been able to reach them. Companion animals lift the spirits of the sick and elderly as they visit them in hospitals and nursing homes, and they willingly serve as eyes, ears, or hands for the disabled.

Studies show that we're likely to be even more highly attached to our pets if we've nursed them through a chronic illness or rescued them from certain death; if we associate them with important times in our lives or link them with significant others who are no longer with us; and if we've relied on them to support us or get us through a crisis.

How attached we become to our animals is as individual as we are, but the bonds that we have are valid, worthy of understanding, and serve to explain the intense pain we feel when those bonds are broken. As you think about the role your animal played in your life and all the wonderful things your pet offered you, consider how you might answer questions like these: How did my pet come into my life? How did my pet get his or her name? What was special about my pet? What did we do for fun? What special moments/life events did we share/endure together?

When cherished companion animals are taken from us, we need to take some time to think about and remember how closely we were attached to one another. It is only when we identify how much our friends meant to us, and recognize how very much we've lost, that we begin to understand why pet loss hurts so much. (Visit Martha's Web site at www.griefhealing.com. Reprinted with permission.) 

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Denver Area Veterinary Medical Society provides a free support service for individuals grieving over the loss of a pet. They can be reached at 303-318-0447.

Cat Care Society's purposes are...

- To sponsor educational programs that promote responsible pet ownership and humane treatment of all animals and reduce pet overpopulation.*
- To shelter cats in a cage-free, healthy environment and provide compatible and responsible adoptions.*
- To provide community outreach programs to better the quality of life for cats and people.*
- To be a friend to all cats.*

CAT CARE SOCIETY

5985 West 11th Avenue
Lakewood CO 80214 • 303-239-9690
www.catcaresociety.org

Shelter hours

Tuesday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Wednesday - Friday Noon - 6:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday & Monday Closed

CAJUN'S CLOSET

5785 West 6th Avenue
(North Service Rd) • 303-202-6642

Thrift Shop hours

Thursday & Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

WANTED! The following items are on the "CCS needs" list **WANTED!**

Dry cat food (Excel, AvoCat,
Natures Recipe, Natural Choice
or other premium foods)

Canned cat & kitten food
Stamps
Bleach

Liquid dish detergent
Paper towels
Handi-wipes

Volunteers
Outdoor spotlights
Thrift Shop donations



5985 West 11th Avenue
Lakewood CO 80214

Address Service Requested

Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 191 Denver CO
