



CAT CARE QUARTERLY

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



...from Cat Care Society! 2011 was a busy year for CCS, with many great achievements: we successfully launched the first annual Painted

Cats Gala in June, we participated in Colorado Gives Day (thank you to all of you who donated – it was successful beyond our dreams!), and we sold an adjacent office building that we could no longer afford to own and which was headed toward foreclosure. These were all great things that made a big difference in the future of CCS.

But 2011 also brought some sad news for CCS: we said goodbye to our executive director, Shari Shiffer-Krieger, who had been with CCS for 5 years, and we bid farewell to our Cajun's Closet Thrift Store, which was popular with so many Denver area shoppers. While these were sad occasions, we believe they offer opportunities for CCS to redouble its efforts on our core mission – taking care of abandoned and neglected cats until we can help them find their forever homes.

Throughout all of it, Cat Care Society's staff and many volunteers continued the hard but satisfying work of nurturing our feline friends. Many thanks to our staff and volunteers for their continued dedication! Thank you for all you do! And thank you to our many supporters who do so much to help CCS and the furry felines we all love. Best wishes for a safe, happy, and healthy 2012!

Sincerely,
Cat Care Society Board of Directors

FAREWELL TO CAJUN'S CLOSET

It is with great sadness that Cat Care Society says farewell to Cajun's Closet, the thrift shop we operated first in the little white house that now houses our administrative offices, and later in the adjacent office building at 5707 West 6th Avenue. We are also sad to say goodbye to store manager, **Dawn Risner**, and her colleague, **Brenda Maier**, who together ran the store with the assistance of many dedicated volunteers.

Since 1995, the thrift shop served as a great way for people to donate items that would be sold at the store, with profits going to support the cats at the shelter. Bargain hunters loved the shop, which was voted Best of Lakewood in 2009 and voted Denver Westword's "Best of" Thrift Shop for 2011!) for its bargains and fun atmosphere. **Unfortunately, as of December 31, 2011, the thrift shop has closed, and will not be reopening.**

What Happened?

The office building at 5707 W. Sixth Ave. was purchased in 2005 with monthly mortgage payments to be made until 2010, when a balloon payment (i.e., the balance of the loan) would become due. In 2010 we were able to refinance the loan with the lender, but only for one year. As the economy worsened, donations to CCS decreased significantly; meanwhile, new tighter financial regulations made it impossible to refinance the loan on the property again, and in 2011 the balloon payment became due. CCS was unable to come up with the balance due, and the property was

no longer worth what was still due on the loan. As a result, the office building was headed toward foreclosure. (At no time were the shelter or administrative buildings at risk of going into foreclosure.)

Silver Lining

While this is an unfortunate story, it is not without its silver lining, which came in the form of many people who stepped up to help CCS.

- With the help of **Eric Gold** and **George Moseley** of Sheldon Gold Realty, Inc. we were able to list the property for sale while the bank was pursuing foreclosure.
- **John A. Eckstein** and **Jack L. "Jay" Mankameyer** of Fairfield and Woods provided pro bono legal advice throughout the sale and foreclosure processes, and guided CCS fearlessly through the stormy waters.
- **Kara Pinegar** and **Laura Dickson** at Chase Bank were wonderful to work with, as they expedited the short-sale and obtained approval to forgive much of the balance of the loan.
- And finally, many thanks to **Tom Yang** of Applewood Quality Builders, who saw potential in the building and purchased it as an investment.

Everyone listed above is a true Christmas angel who helped CCS avoid foreclosure. In fact, at the closing, our real estate broker stated

See **FAREWELL** on page 2

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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Adoptions; Telephone Assistance; Lost and Found; Humane Education Presentations; Spay/Neuter Assistance; Perpet-U-Care, Volunteers; Planned Giving; Humane Trap Rental; Temporary Care Program; Lifetime Care Program; Behavior Counseling; The Cat Clinic at Cat Care Society; Animal Assisted Visitations



NEWSLETTER LAYOUT & DESIGN

Western Sky Design
Chris Hoffmeister 303.908.5783

Our Mission Statement

Cat Care Society operates a cage-free shelter for homeless and abused cats that provides adoption, counseling, humane education, and community outreach services to enrich the lives of people and cats.



FAREWELL *cont. from page 1*

that in all of his experience in real estate, he has never seen a bank complete a short-sale so quickly. Sixty days is considered speedy in the industry, yet this sale was done in less than 30!

Many Thanks!

Finally, we express our deepest thanks to **Whitney Michak**, a board member who shepherded the foreclosure process and short-sale on behalf of CCS. It took Whitney many hours on the phone, on email, and researching options to bring this to its successful end – all while managing a successful law career at a new job. For that we are eternally grateful. Whitney, we wish you the best of luck as you move forward to the next stage of a very promising career and future!

We would be remiss, however, in not expressing great thanks to the many staff and volunteers at Cajun's and CCS who sorted through Cajun's remaining inventory the last week of December under the leadership of board secretary **Gail Tinianow** and CCS development director **Suellen Scott**. They worked tirelessly for a week (braving torrential winds on the last day!) to go through all of the precious donations from valued supporters over the years to obtain every bit of value from them. Through their hard work, they raised more than \$3,500!

Will Cajun's Reopen?

At one point we believed we could reopen Cajun's. However, there were many hurdles to that (not the least of which was zoning laws, which Cajun's had inadvertently been violating for more than 5 years ever since moving into 5707 W. Sixth Ave.). After evaluating the challenges involved, CCS and Mr. Yang decided that reopening the thrift shop was not feasible. As a result, Dec. 31 was the last day for Cajun's. We are sad to see it go, as are all of the shop's fans. We wish Dawn and Brenda the best of luck on

their new adventures. We hope that this is not just an ending, but also a new beginning to another successful chapter in CCS's future that will allow us to focus all of our resources on providing the best care for the cats who come to us.


What To Do With Donations?

As a result of the closing, CCS can no longer accept donations of used clothing, household goods, books, housewares, etc.

The only items we can now accept are cat toys, bedding, litter, food, and other cat-specific items. If you have donations that you would have made to Cajun's, we invite you to donate them to your favorite thrift shop. Here are some we suggest:

- **Boulder Humane Society** – proceeds benefit the animals at Boulder Humane Society (5320 Arapahoe Ave. in Boulder, www.boulderhumane.org/shop/thrift-shop)
- **Action Center** (formerly the JeffCo Action Center) for its twice annual "most beautiful junk sale" at the JeffCo Fairgrounds (8755 W. 14th Ave, Lakewood; www.theactioncenterco.org)
- **Treasure Chest Thrift Store**, a project of Family Tree, a United Way agency based in Wheat Ridge. (www.yelp.com/biz/treasure-trunk-thrift-store-wheat-ridge)

If you are aware of any animal-welfare related thrift shops we could recommend, please let us know!

Again, many thanks to all of those involved in helping us through this difficult time. While it was a challenging process, the results were outstanding, and we came to know many wonderful people in our community who generously stepped up to help. Thank you for your continued support of Cat Care Society! 



DAISY TROOP #624 FROM PARKER HELPS RE-STOCK NIBBLES 'N' KIBBLES!

On Friday, December 16, the girls and troop leaders of Parker North Star Academy's troop #624 brought an early Christmas gift for lots of cats in metro Denver. The girls heard about Cat Care Society and our Nibbles 'n' Kibbles food bank, which provides food and cat litter for cats whose owners cannot provide food and litter for their pets because of a temporary financial setback. By providing temporary help for low income families with pets, CCS helps owners avoid neglecting or abandoning their pets due to financial concerns.

The girls loved the idea, and decided to collect food, litter, and beds for the cats. They even made toys for the cats! On Dec. 16th several girls and two troop leaders dropped off the donations and visited with the cats. What a difference their efforts made! Lots of metro Denver area families were able to provide food and litter to their pets for Christmas, all because of the hard work and Christmas spirit of the Girl Scouts.

Thank you, girls! 🐾



TAILS OF THE PAINTED CATS: JULY 28

Our second annual Tails of the Painted Cats Gala will take place on July 28th at the Lakewood Country Club. **Tickets go on sale April 1. Save the date!**

At this fundraiser, 20 fiberglass cats of varying sizes, each painted by a different local artist, will be unveiled at the Lakewood Arts Council in May and then will reside at the gallery for the Lakewood Arts Council during the month of May.

The cats will then travel to still-to-be-determined locations for the months of June and July. On July 28th, the gala event will be held at the Lakewood Country Club. At that time, all cats will be auctioned. The new renditions of the cats painted by the local artists have been picked by our judges and each is a very unique piece of art. The artists participating this year are Susan A. Becker, Kathy Burton, Ashley Conroy, Liz Cooper, Jane McFadden Dorsey, Gail Firmin, Kathryn Jackson, Melanie Gwendahlin Keyes, Joan A. Lee, Karen R. Mahnken, Shirlee Akemi Miyake, Sara Nevadomski, Carla Pawlewicz, K. Ross, Pam Schmidt, BW Sharp, Bonnie Wilber and Cam Williams.

For more information about the event, please contact Jane Dorsey at 303-239-9680 extension 16. More details will follow in this newsletter and on our website at www.catcaresociety.org. 🐾



"Soleil" by artist Gail Firmin

CAT CARE SOCIETY BENEFITS FROM COLORADO GIVES DAY

In the first year of its participation in the Colorado Gives Day fundraising appeal, the Cat Care Society received some major support from the public. The day of giving organized by the Community First Foundation took place on December 6. There was special incentive to make a gift to a favorite charity on that day, and at the ColoradoGives website: **100% of all donations went to the organization of choice.** All credit card and transaction fees were underwritten by FirstBank and the Community First Foundation.

On this day the Cat Care Society received nearly \$24,000 in contributions from about 230 donors. And 99 of these gifts were from first-time donors to CCS! This is a sign that more people who care about cats are becoming aware of our work – our shelter and clinic devoted to caring for as many of our feline friends as we can and finding permanent loving homes for a great many of them.

We thank everyone who took part in Colorado Gives Day 2011. And if you're one of those who made a gift to CCS for the first time on December 6, we say a special "Thank you!" and offer you a warm welcome. Come visit our shelter on Sixth Avenue; spend a few minutes playing with some of the resident cats prowling our hallways – and introduce yourself to our staff. We would love to thank you in person! 🐾



COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CAT (PART 3): SCENT

By now, you are probably tired of hearing me prattle on about cat language. However, I could not possibly wrap up the series without discussing the most important, and perhaps to humans the most mysterious, form of communication: scent.

Scent is a major communication tool for many animals. In humans this sense is underdeveloped, but to most animals, odor is a rich and comprehensive language spoken by every bush, beast, and breeze on the planet. Smells contain a wealth of information, and with the sensitive decoding tool we call a nose, animals can “read” in a scent everything from species and gender to the emotional and physical state of the animal. In the last issue, I mentioned how a nervous cat will often lick its nose frequently to carry scent molecules to the nose. Like dilation of the pupils, the cat is opening himself to signals from his environment.

Another good example of this “opening up” is the Flehmen Response, in which a cat hangs his mouth open or curls his lips up after a good smell. This is to allow the smell to reach the Jacobson’s Organ at the back of his mouth. The existence of such an organ is a good indicator of how seriously Nature takes this sense.

A cat’s sniffer is a big advantage for them. Ever wonder how blind cats get around so well? They find their way to food, the litterbox, and even favorite sleeping spots without bumping into walls or turning the wrong way. Part of this is a cat’s ability to follow their own scent trails through the house. Every time an animal puts his foot down he leaves a bit of himself behind, and well traveled paths become “information super-highways” to a sensitive nose.

Cats can also smell illness in another animal. Remember Oscar? Oscar lived in a nursing home and



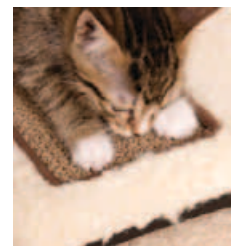
slept near people during their final hours. The staff claimed that he had a sixth sense and predicted when people were going to die. It is possible that cats are actually sensing the chemical imbalance related to the illness. For example, sometimes two cats living together will suddenly start fighting, for no apparent reason. A vet check often reveals illness in one cat, which the other cat was reacting to. Perhaps Oscar was reacting to the change in a person’s chemistry.

Perhaps the most useful application of scent is as a signpost. Lacking a written language, cats “mark” to leave messages such as “stay out,” “back off,” and “for a good time, call...” Marking is used by cats to express dominance or delineate territory. The main forms of marking are spraying, scratching, and middening.

Spraying: Cats spray to claim territory. When a cat sprays, he will back up to a vertical surface, shake his tail, and spritz the surface with a small amount of pungent liquid. He will typically spray doors and windows, or if the intruder is already living in the house, he will find a surface near disputed resources, like a favorite cat tree or feeding station. Spraying is not to be confused with other kinds of inappropriate urination. Spraying has a very specific message: “MINE!” Neutering significantly reduces the chances that a cat will spray, but every cat - male, female, neutered or not - could begin to spray if they feel a need.

Middening: One form of territorial marking is called “middening.” This is when a cat deposits feces in a prominent spot in the disputed area. While rare, this form of marking is very useful (to the cat) as it is both a visual and aromatic marker. Marking cats usually choose high-profile locations such as hallways, scent trails, and the couch or bed. Middening is not to be confused with other forms of inappropriate elimination. Middening is purely a marking behavior whose motivation is clear. A middening cat will not try to cover up his stools, as that would defeat the purpose.

Scratching: Cats scratch for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is marking. In the wild, cats will scratch trees and other surfaces to mark territory and valued resources. In the home, they may scratch walls, furniture and rugs to claim resources such as food and favorite beds. Scratching is a natural behavior for cats and does not stop even when you declaw them. The best way to prevent destructive scratching is to provide the cat with an appropriate surface to scratch on. If you think your cat is scratching due to territorial issues, provide multiple resources, such as feeding stations and litterboxes, in different parts of the house.



Cats’ noses are important in their ability to communicate. Without the sense of smell cats are fairly blind to the world around them. They use their noses in almost every aspect of their lives. The next time you see your cat engrossed in sniffing an object, watch his behavior and see if you can learn what he “read” on that object. 🐾

A SECOND CHANCE FOR TIPPER!

The staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors have always been proud of the care that Cat Care Society is able to provide the cats and kittens in our shelter. Because of your generosity, we have been able to give **thousands** of cats a second chance at a life of quality, in a loving adoptive home.

Our latest second-chance story – an especially happy one – is about a sweet black and white “tuxedo” cat named Tipper.



Tipper's story begins with her name. Now three and a half years old, Tipper was born with a condition called cerebellar hypoplasia – a neurological disorder that causes her head to bob or “tip,” and limits her motor skills. It's a mild case – she loves to run and jump and play – but she's unsteady on her back legs. She first came to us as a stray, and was adopted by an elderly couple who eventually had to return her.

Back at the Cat Care Society shelter, she was in quarantine with an ulcer on her tongue when a visitor named Jeff became smitten with her sweetness and tenacity to overcome her hypoplasia. On December 8, Tipper went to her new home with Jeff, and she is thriving! Jeff's carpeted floors offer her better traction; she chases balls, she moves from heat vent to heat vent, and she loves her new scratching post. She slept in Jeff's arms all through the

last Bronco game. (Did we mention that she is very affectionate and craves attention?)

Tipper needs some dental work, which the Society will cover when Jeff brings her to the shelter in the spring. That's another thing CCS is proud of – our continuing relationship with so many cats after we've found them permanent homes. But we need your continued help in making these happy endings happen. **We do not receive any government funding;** all of our financial support comes from the community – people like you. Can you help us kick off another year of caring for these beloved cats with a gift of support now?

There are several ways to give your gift: send a check (or authorize a credit-card charge) in the enclosed envelope; drop off a check at the shelter (if you are in the Denver area) or make a donation online at catcaresociety.org. You can make a one-time financial donation or an ongoing monthly gift.

Here's how your contribution helps:

- \$5,000 feeds 60 cats for 9 months.
- \$1,000 cares for 30 kittens, including shots, spays/neuters, microchips, food and litter.
- \$500 provides medical care for one geriatric cat for one year.
- \$125 purchases one month's worth of kitty litter.
- \$50 provides antibiotics for a sick cat.

Please help us today, with the most generous gift you can give for the care of the cats. Thank you so much for your past and ongoing support. Tipper and Jeff thank you too. 🐾



CARS FOR CHARITY

Are you considering purchasing a new car in 2012? Not sure how to get rid of your old car? Consider donating it to Cat Care Society via Cars for Charity (www.carsforcharity.net). This Colorado-based non-profit organization helps 30 charities accept donations of used cars, boats, trailers, trucks, and recreational vehicles – whether the cars run or not! – and turn those into cash donations to non-profit organizations.

Why Donate?

- Your donation is tax deductible (consult your tax advisor regarding your specific situation).
- 100% of the net proceeds go to the charity of your choice (Cat Care Society, of course!).
- It's easier than fixing up, advertising, and showing your vehicle to potential buyers.

What Do You Need?

- Keys
- Clear, signed title to the vehicle

How Do You Do It?

- Just submit the donation form online (www.carsforcharity.net), or print it and mail it to: Cars for Charity, 8300 Blakeland Dr., Littleton, CO 80125 with the signed title
- Towing is free – the vehicle will be towed within four days of receipt of the form

For more information, visit www.carsforcharity.net, www.catcaresociety.org, or call 303.853.4483 (GIVE). 🐾

FEBRUARY IS PET DENTAL HEALTH MONTH!

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, Americans have 82 million pet cats compared to 71 million pet dogs. Yet in spite of their popularity, cats visit their veterinarians less than once a year, while the average dog sees the veterinarian 1 ½ times each year.

Why is that important? Cats instinctively hide illness or pain, so often pet owners won't be aware of health concerns until their cat is examined by a vet. That's why annual exams are so important. The sooner you can catch a potential health concern, the more easily, cheaply, comfortably, and quickly it can be treated.

February is pet dental health month, so be sure to make an appointment with your veterinarian or with The Clinic at Cat Care Society to have your pet's teeth examined. Dental disease is the most common disease in cats – research shows that approximately 85% of adult cats have some degree of dental disease. Once present, dental disease can cause various levels of discomfort for your pet leading to drooling, awkward eating habits and decreased appetite. Just like in humans, unhealthy teeth can indicate other health problems in the body. When left unchecked, dental disease can lead to bacterial shedding into the bloodstream.

Once in the bloodstream, bacteria can reach the kidneys, heart, liver and lungs, causing infection and damage to these organs.

Fortunately, dental disease is an easy disease to prevent and treat, especially if caught early. Schedule your cat's dental exam now, and let your vet know if you see any of the following warning signs of oral disease:

- Symptoms of periodontal disease in cats include yellow and brown tartar buildup along the gum line, red inflamed gums, and persistent bad breath.
- Resorptive lesions are the most common tooth disease in domestic cats. Studies show that about 28 percent of domestic cats develop at least one of these painful lesions during their lifetime.
- Bad breath, a change in eating or chewing habits, pawing at the face or mouth, and depression.

If you notice any of these symptoms, be sure to contact your veterinarian right away. In between appointments, try preventive care such as brushing teeth, dental treats, and water supplements. These can help decrease the amount of tartar on the teeth, preventing plaque build-up and progressive dental disease. 🐾

Free Dental Checkup at The Clinic at Cat Care Society – Throughout February 2012!

During February, make an appointment to bring your cat to the Clinic at Cat Care Society for a **free dental checkup!** Dr. Rooks and vet techs Connie and Peggy will look after your favorite feline and let you know if there are any dental issues you should be aware of.

CAT CARE SUPERHEROES! — VIP

Many thanks to Julie Saldivar and Adam Fell and their colleagues at VPI Pet Insurance, who made a generous donation of cat food, cleaning supplies, and cat beds! Thank you to everyone at VPI for your generosity! The staff, board of directors, and of course all of the cats thank you! To learn more about VPI's pet insurance offerings, visit www.petinsurance.com or call 888-899-4VPI. 🐾



VOLUNTEERS

A great **thank you** to everyone who volunteered to feed the cats during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays! In the last issue, we asked for cat sitters so that the staff could have the holidays off, and the response was overwhelming! We had so many volunteers that we created a waiting list in case a volunteer canceled and would be unable to help out. You came from far and wide to feed, scoop, and clean up after the cats, which meant not only that the staff could take the holidays off to relax with their families, but the cats would not be lonely on those quiet days. All of us at CCS appreciate your generosity! Most importantly, the cats thank you for keeping them company.

Extra special thanks to Barbara Pickering and Barbara Kane.

FEBRUARY 29TH – CAT CARE SOCIETY DAY AT

La Dolce Vita
Ristorante Italiano

Save the date – February 29th. That's Cat Care Society Day at La Dolce Vita, a delicious Italian restaurant in Castle Pines (361 Village Square Lane, Castle Pines, CO 80108, www.ladolcevitaastlepines.net). Many thanks to owner Ron Girardi for his generous donation: 20% of all proceeds from meal sales that day – both lunch and dinner! - will be donated to CCS.

If you come for lunch, be sure to call no later than February 27 to make a reservation.

Extra special thanks to volunteer **Kyle Herbertson** for finding and arranging this opportunity!" 🐾



Proudly Presents

2012

**CCS 2012 calendars
are still available!**
**Get yours now – stop
by the shelter!**



COMING UP!

What's coming up at Cat Care in the next few months?

February 18 – 19, 2012

Cat Fanciers Association all breed and household cat show at Adams County Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall. Proceeds will benefit charities, including Cat Care Society. Learn more at www.cfa.org/client/shows.aspx and check the event calendar.

February 29

Cat Care Society day at La Dolce Vita – 20% of proceeds from meals eaten at this delicious restaurant in Castle Rock go to Cat Care Society (www.ladolcevitaastlepines.net).

April 1

Tickets for Tails of the Painted Cats go on sale.

May

Fiberglass cats for Tails of the Painted Cats reside at the Lakewood Arts Council.

July 28

Tails of the Painted Cats, Lakewood Country Club

Due to database technical difficulties, we are unable to include the Memorial Donations section in this edition of the Cat Care Quarterly. We will post memorial donations on our website in the next several weeks, and will update the information there regularly: www.catcaresociety.org

We do want to include the following memorial recognition, however:

In Memory of Pets:

Radar, you left paw prints on our hearts. Our Little Angel is waiting for his brother, mom and dad at the Rainbow Bridge .

Received from: Chuck, Jolene and Rocky Custer



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT CAT CARE VINEYARDS?

The cats have been hard at work launching Cat Care Vineyards, and their first 6 wines are now available! If you're looking for some new wines to try in the new year, consider these. Named after our favorite shelter cats, these Chilean wines are quite tasty and sure to please. Choose from: **Love Me Malbec**

Shhh-auvignon Blanc

Prowlin' Pinot

Cotton Chardonnay

Benny's Select Merlot

Kitten Kabernet

Order online at:

www.benefitwines.com/catcare

Proceeds benefit Cat Care Society!



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CAT CARE SOCIETY

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303-239-9680 • www.catcaresociety.org

Shelter hours

Tuesday - Friday	Noon - 5:30pm
Saturday	11:00am - 4:30pm
Sunday	Noon - 3:00pm
Monday	Closed

THE CAT CLINIC AT CAT CARE SOCIETY

address above • 303-237-0914

Veterinary care for qualifying low-income families, plus low cost spay/neuter.

All cats welcome! Discounts for qualifying low-income pet owners.

WANTED!

We need Clay and Clump Litter. We use over 600 pounds of litter every month and can use both types. Cheap litter is fine; the Walmart brand in the red bag is the cheapest. In addition, we could use the following items:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| bleach | hooded cat beds | cord protectors (to prevent chewing on cords) |
| paper towels | trash bags: 12, 20, and 45 gal. sizes | copy paper, color and white |
| 5-inch paper plates | automatic dish detergent | elastic safety collars |
| baby food: turkey and chicken | toilet paper (double rolls) | white-out tape |
| canned cat food: Whiskas, Friskies, Fancy Feast (preferably no fish flavors) | rubber-backed rugs | Q-tips |
| dry cat food: Science Diet, Iams Original | bird seed | Post-It notes |
| Purina Kitten Chow | postage stamps | fast digital thermometers |
| | food and litter for Nibbles 'n Kibbles Food Bank | Batteries, 9V and AA |

THE SCRATCHING POST

In order to reduce the cost of postage and printing, Cat Care Society can now email this newsletter. Please contact Clyde Dawson at ccsdirector@catcaresociety.org if you wish to receive the Cat Care Quarterly via email. Please consider this option as all cost savings will benefit the cats!

The **Nibbles 'n Kibbles food bank** is getting empty! Please help us fill the shelves for those under-privileged cats. Donations can be dropped off at the shelter. Please specify that you want this food to go to the food bank.