

# CAT ANGEL NETWORK

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**Together we CAN make a difference**

Summer 2002

Volume V

Number 2

## **CAT ANGEL NETWORK, INC. 2002/03 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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### **CAT ANGEL NETWORK**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

♥ *To alleviate suffering of stray cats through rescue, spay/neuter, shelter in a no-kill facility and adoption to approved homes.*

♥ *To educate the public re proper care of cats and the importance of spaying and neutering.*

♥ *Our shelter is operated by an all-volunteer staff*

*CAN is a 501(c)(3) non profit, no kill charitable organization –*

## **WANT TO HAVE YOUR PET SPAYED OR NEUTERED BUT CAN'T AFFORD IT?**

THE SPAYED CLUB CAN HELP. DON'T WAIT AND RISK BEING FACED WITH AN UNWANTED LITTER OF KITTENS OR PUPPIES. BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION TO PET OVERPOPULATION – NOT PART OF THE PROBLEM! CALL 610-275-7486 FOR HELP. ALL REQUESTS WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

### **ATTENTION:**

YOU CAN NOW ACCESS OUR NEWS-LETTER ONLINE.. SEE OUR WEBSITE – [CATANGEL.COM](http://CATANGEL.COM)

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO HAVE YOUR NAME DELETED FROM OUR MAILING LIST.

## **THE JOYS OF LOVING THE UNADOPTABLE - A CAN TRUE STORY**

*Submitted by Cindy Kern*

We did NOT intend to become a "special needs" cat family, but we could not resist the plight of a rejected diabetic cat. That was the beginning of the slippery slope for us, and I cannot now imagine adopting a "normal" cat, whatever that is. One kitchen counter is loaded with prescription bottles for humans and cats as well as two types of prescription food. In the breakfast room a plant hanger doubles as an IV pole for the administration of subcutaneous fluids while loaded syringes of antibiotics adorn the top of the bread machine. The refrigerator contains Interferon and ear medication as well as the standard milk, leftovers, and vegetables (and in our house, insulin). We have six cat boxes on two floors of this house, so that the elderly do not get "caught with their fur down", so to speak. The vet clinic staff knows each of us by first and last name as well as the names of all of the cats (and which person belongs to which cat) and credit cards. We are also on a first-name basis with all of the vets.

You can only imagine, but we get to experience, the joy and satisfaction of seeing our "girls" enjoy happy, loving lives. We have assisted a diabetic cat Maude that suffered from dental problems, frequent bouts of pancreatitis, emotional problems, and neuropathy in recovery from most of her complications. What a joy it was to experience her at play by herself or with other cats! She would leap and twist in the air, doing somersaults with her toys, or run the length of the house repeatedly. We have watched elderly Patches, who has traumatic arthritis and diminished vision in one eye, recover her mobility and self-confidence. We have cheered our little deformed and stunted Cricket as she overcame her fears and became Julie Cruise Director, bossing the people and cats of our family. We have nursed her through bouts of asthma, which she developed living in someone's basement for most of her life, and now through allergies. We have saved most of the vision in her left eye, which was damaged by congenital feline herpes. She is our "special" child, and will sit up and beg for my husband whom she adores. It has been especially rewarding to work with Pookie, the crabby cat who hated other cats and suffered from the death of her person and from hyperthyroidism. She has received radiation treatment for the hyperthyroidism (my anniversary, birthday, and Christmas gifts for years to come), has gained some weight (6 to 8 meals a day needed to counter the overactive metabolism), is Mama's snuggly girl, and is learning to work on her temper and tolerance. Marbles is doing well despite her congenital kidney disease, and is developing quite a personality as well as learning to tolerate and even to play with other cats.

We've all been rejected at some time because we were too old or not the perfect picture of health. Next time you consider adopting a cat, don't forget the older cat or the one with a chronic health problem. They will give back tenfold the attention and love that you give to them.

We love our cats not for the love they give to us, but for the unconditional love they allow us to give to them. If we are constrained by fear of loss, then we can never really live or love.

*Editor's Note: The Kern family is a very special, loving family who have decided to devote their time, energy, and loving care to those unfortunate "special needs" cats who may otherwise never know the joy of sharing a loving home with a caring family.*

## **WANTED/NEEDED - MAIL SPONSORS**

We are looking for people to help sponsor our newsletter mailings. A roll of 100 stamps is \$37 and we use many rolls for every mailing. We are pleased, of course, to report that our mailing list continues to grow. We would be most grateful to receive rolls, books, or any number of stamps you can send us.

## DATABASE ASSISTANCE NEEDED!

### Volunteer Wanted:

CAN wants to upgrade its existing database, and is seeking a volunteer to make the necessary changes to its Access 2002 database structure. If you are interested in finding out how you can help CAN in this way, please contact Roger Savage at [RSavage@entermail.net](mailto:RSavage@entermail.net).

### FOSTERING:

#### A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

CAN is always looking for qualified individuals to serve as temporary foster parents for both adult cats and kittens. If you have experience loving and caring for cats; have time, energy and patience to share; are observant about feline medical issues; are willing to communicate regularly with CAN; and are willing to be screened by CAN to become an approved foster home, please consider helping CAN to help more cats by applying to serve as a foster parent. If you have any questions about what the experience is like, feel free to contact Rog and Deb at [DSavage@entermail.net](mailto:DSavage@entermail.net).

### FROM THE "CAT SCRAPS" FILE:

#### Do these fit your cat to a "Tee?"

If cats wore T-shirts, here is what they might say:

- ❖ "Purrfection cannot be improved!"
- ❖ "If you don't like my attitude, you should see my cat!"
- ❖ "Take my advice. I'm not using it!"
- ❖ "I'd like to help you out. Which way did you come in?"
- ❖ "Cats know how you feel. They don't care, but they know."
- ❖ "Dogs have owners; cats have staff."

"Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. They have never forgotten this!"

## MATCHING CHARITABLE GIFTS

Did you know that many employers will match charitable gifts dollar for dollar made by their current and retired employees? Your employer may be one of them. Please consider checking with your employer and you may be able to "double the dollars" of your next contribution to Cat Angel Network. If you would like more information on this subject, please call us or email us. Thanks for your consideration.

## "ANGEL" – THE MOST IMPORTANT WORD!

*Submitted by Henry Grabb, Director of Development*

**CAT ANGEL NETWORK.** When I first heard the name, I figured that the **CAT** and **NETWORK** parts were pretty easy, but I found myself puzzling over the ANGEL bit. Three years later, I am starting to see more and more how fully the word Angel describes the whole organization! To explain this, I have decided to define "angel" and then work from there. Not an easy concept, but perhaps the closest spin I can give on the term is "one who bestows blessings on others." So then, in examining the Cat Angel Network, I'd have to say there are many types of Angels! The board members and volunteers are definitely Angels, bestowing blessings on the lives of the many defenseless animals who find solace and love through our organization. But then, the blessings are not just a one way street! What we receive back from these wonderful felines is definitely a blessing, so one must also call the Cats themselves angels (although we all know they can be little devils too, under the right circumstances)! Of course, the many who have adopted cats from us have both received and given blessings, so they too are both angels, and recipients of the blessings angels bestow. In addition, our donors are definitely angels! They help to make our work possible, and we know that every donor receives a good feeling, knowing that his/her hard-earned money is going to such a worthy cause.

So we are a CAT NETWORK for sure, but the ANGEL activity is the glue that holds the whole operation together. Thank heaven for Angels, and especially CAT ANGELS!

### "KITS 5, PEARL TOO":

Sound bytes from foster parents' Rog and Deb's house  
Illustrating the joys and challenges of being a CAN foster parent

*Rog & Deb:* "OK, we agree to foster this beautiful, white, very pregnant cat for CAN."

*Our vet:* "Pearl is big, really big... You might want to have some sterile gauze on hand in case you have to help with the delivery."

*Rog & Deb to anyone who would listen:* "Oh...my...they...are...SO...beautiful!!! Pearl did it all on her own when we were at work! 4-white-babies-some-with-black-spots-and-one-brown-one! Everyone, including Pearl, is so contented! What a miracle!"

*Either of us on any given day:* "Aw, look at how he's holding his head! Do you see her? How cute is that?!? I'm getting the camera!"

*Rog & Deb:* "Come on...you can make it out of that birthing box, little one." (*Pearl's response:* "Are you crazy?? Don't encourage them!! I like them where I can see them!!")

*Spot, the resident cat:* "Meow, meow, meow, meow, meow!" (Translation: "Who is making all that racket in my house?")

*Rog & Deb to anyone who asked for the first four weeks:* "Actually, it's quite easy: we take care of Pearl, she takes care of all the kittens."

*Rog & Deb plus others:* "Happy four weeks old to you! Happy four weeks old to you!..."

*Rog one morning at some point beyond four weeks:* "Oh my gosh – there is poop everywhere!!"

*Kittens:* "Oh how we LOVE these big, portable toys called Rog and Deb!!"

*Rog & Deb daily:* "Oh, aren't you a sweetie-pie? Kissy, kissy, kissy." (*Pearl's and kittens' responses:* "Purr, purr, purr...rub my belly...scratch my ears...")

*Pearl when separated from her six-weeks-old kittens to go on an antibiotic:* "Mommy and Daddy just think that they can keep me in this other room...I'm going to dig my way out!!"

*Kittens to each other:* "Get ready to charge, they are ready to open the door: 1, 2..."

*Rog & Deb to each other:* "We are really, really going to miss these babies when they go to their new homes. We love them dearly—and yet, we feel happy that we have been able to give them the best possible start to life."

**LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS.....  
MAIL FROM ADOPTIVE  
PARENTS**

*Note: One of our rewards for the work we do is hearing from you, the adoptive parents of our little angels. Please write and send pictures, too.*

Dear Cat Angel Network:

*On March 24, 2001, we adopted a little buff cat named Bailey. He came to us with half a tail and a lot of love. He came into our lives with all his charm and warmth. It took about a week for Bailey to understand our dog Sally was not the devil. Sally welcomed Bailey with a little too much excitement, but Bailey took the more cautious approach. Bailey decided our son Matthew would be his first companion and after about a week Sally became his next companion. Bailey has a hard time deciding whom to sleep with sometimes, so he moves around a lot.*

*Bailey is always happy. He has a low-key demeanor, then he explodes in a wild frenzy. He does have his days and nights mixed up at times – he can sleep a whole day away, then he is active at night but we have learned to adjust to him. Bailey likes to talk to us, and sit on my son's backpack while it hangs on the back of the chair. He looks at everyone with his soft teddybear face with trust and love.*

*Bailey has become the best friend to Sally who has developed a back problem. Some days it hurts her to move and walk so Bailey stays with her and lays down with her. Lately at night he sleeps with her more. Sometimes she gets annoyed, but she never chases him away.*

*Sometimes God gives us small miracles to give and show us love and hope. He gave this family Bailey, a little buff cat with half a tail, and a heart and soul full of love. Some special things in life do come on four paws and purr. –*

*Zina Ronca*



Dear Cat Angels:

*We were so grateful you were able to find Pierre and Rachel a home together. We were also very grateful to get a call from Debbie and Rich, Pierre & Rachel's new owners. Debbie said she was nervous about calling, but Lynn encouraged her to do so. We had a wonderful conversation and were so pleased to know the kitties are doing well.*

*Thank you for letting us know that you were able to find a home for them together – we were so concerned – especially because Rachel tends to be very shy. She's much better off with her outgoing brother, Pierre. The call from Debbie was an extra blessing!*

*I continue to have health problems. Will have another surgery soon, but knowing the cats are safe and loved is a load off my mind and heart, and Peter's too.*

*Thank you for this ministry. God bless you.*

*Jana & Peter Hernard*



**MEET TWO OF OUR SPECIAL NEEDS  
KITTIES WHO ARE LOOKING FOR A  
SPECIAL LOVING HOME**

**GRANT**

My foster mom says I look like the feline version of a muscular little football player! It's true that I've got the physique of a halfback, with my large head and upper body, and small, tapered waist, but I've got to admit that the only pileups I enjoy are the ones with my buddies when we cuddle in a big pile for a snoring fest! You see, in spite of my "tough guy" exterior, I'm really a "softie." I never liked the rough life of a junkyard cat that I had to endure for my first few years of life. In fact, when some cat rescuers came and tried to catch me

and the rest of the group in humane traps, the other guys ran, but I jumped into the rescuer's car! After neutering and shots, I thought I was headed for the good life, but then my blood test came up positive for FIV. I swore I never touched anything but regulation stuff from the garbage cans, but the doc told me it wasn't a drug test, but one to see how strong my immune system was. I protested that I felt plenty strong, and the vet assured me that I WAS a big, bruiser of a guy right now and would probably be for many years to come, but in my later years I might have a little harder time fighting off ailments than other kitties. What a relief that news was! For a guy like me with a "Eat, drink (water) and be merry" attitude, no three letter label like FIV is gonna interfere with one single minute of working out with my cat toys, running sprints up the cat tree, or basking in the sunshine to keep up my brown-tabby tan! All I need now to make life perfect is a fan club (family) of my own, hopefully with a recliner, big-screen TV, and a remote tuned to football or, actually, anything at all. It really won't matter, because I'll be snoozing alongside my new best buddy!

**MANNY**

Want a big, beautiful Maine Coon type cat cuddling on your lap? Then I'm your boy! Everyone makes a big fuss about how stunning I am— They go on and on about my magnificent coat of black and white, my tufted ears, my sweet expression, my snowshoe feet, and my full, bushy tail. It gets pretty sickening after a while, but it must be true because everybody says so! I didn't start out so handsome. I was pitifully thin and scraggly last fall when a nice young man doing an internship in Peace Valley Park found me and brought me home to his mom. She worked at a vet's clinic and lost no

time getting me checked out. My dull coat was full of ticks and I was very underweight, but after neutering, vaccinations, and plenty of good, nutritious chow, the vet said that it would be a cinch to find me an adoptive home. She just had to do one more thing— test me for Feline Leukemia (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). Well, I flunked my FIV test! I said I'd study harder and take it again, but she told me it wasn't my fault. One of those mean park cats who chased and bit me had given me the virus, and there wasn't a darn thing I could do about it. The good news was I had no symptoms, and, with good care as an only cat or with other FIV cats, could expect to live many more years, enjoying all the cat stuff I love, such as stretching out my full length on the fireplace hearth, basking in sunny windows, and snuggling with my significant human other on the recliner. Frankly, I think I'm misplaced being in the Special Needs Section, but then, I'm a positive- thinking cat! I KNOW I have many more positives to offer than just being positive for FIV!

**KEEP THOSE REDNER'S,  
ACME & GENUARDI'S  
TAPES COMING!**

*Submitted by Linda Petro, Treasurer*

Cat Angel Network can use YOUR help. You can save your Genuardi grocery store receipts, Redner Warehouse grocery store receipts and Acme grocery store receipts. Cat Angel Network receives 1% of the total receipts you collect for us.

**IMPORTANT!!**

Here are a few things to remember: In order for your Redner's receipts to count, you must present your Redner's Save-A-Tape card to the cashier before the cashier rings up your groceries. If you don't already have one of these cards, just go to the customer service desk in any Redner's store and ask for a Save-A-Tape card. It doesn't cost anything. If you don't use your Save-A-Tape card, we can't use the tapes.

Regarding the Genuardi grocery store tapes: This year they will accept register tapes dated 2001 and 2002. We must submit the tapes dated 2001 by mid-December for them to count, so look in all those drawers or anywhere else you have them and send them in NOW.

Ask your friends, co-workers, relatives and anyone else you can think of to save these tapes for Cat Angel Network. Why not make it a family project? Or, if you belong to any other organizations they could make it a service project.

If you would like to volunteer to assist with the preparation of these tapes for submission to the stores, contact CAN either by phone or email and someone will get back to you.

You can send your tapes to Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464 or drop them off at the Adoption Center in the PetSmart store in Downingtown, PA, located on Route 30.

**GET PUBLISHED!!**

*Submitted by the Editor, Dawn Gray*

If you have a story to share with others who could benefit from your experience, please send it to our P.O. Box (#3071) for consideration for our next newsletter.

# In Memoriam

*Submitted by Suzy LeMeur*

Beau had a great kitten-hood. He was the tiny tiger who stalked the jungle of our houseplants and hung sideways off the big scratching post. He slept at my shoulder, his pink muzzle nestled in my neck. He flew through the air. He climbed the curtains. To the Empress resident cat, Emily, he was an evil interloper never to be accepted. He amused himself by running up to her as she slept on her rocking chair, pulling down the front of the chair so that when she struck out at him the chair rocked backward directing her anger at the ceiling while he scampered off waiting for the next opportunity.

He grew up to be what less understanding people call a scaredy cat. At the first sound of thunder, he took to the basement. Company rarely saw him. When guests came he hid in the bed under the covers Ostrich-like. I don't think he knew we could see the cat-sized bump that marked his location. At the same time, he was my best mouser. Inky, who joined us later, usually finds the one or two foolish field mice who try to shelter with us each fall. Inky sees mice as fantastic toys. Beau, being more of a realist, knew what to do and dispatched mice efficiently. Because that is what Beau was - a realist. He knew that the world could be a dangerous place. He had known hunger and mean neighborhood kids, and pain. He was also a brave, brave cat because every day he loved life and every day he managed somehow. I think on balance he found life to be good. He loved comfort. I have never seen a cat who enjoyed a good spot on the sofa pillow as much as he could ... stretching, sleeping ... I think often smiling.

When he was two, he was sick - very sick. He had kidney stones that seemed difficult to treat. Day after day he took his Baytril and learned not to fight the inevitability of the pill. My heart cried when he learned to gag at the sight of me with the pill bottle. Back and forth to the vet. Urine cultures. Painful procedures to wash stones out of his urethra. Then finally the operation to simply remove the stones.... And a wonderful cure, except that he seemed to redevelop the stones every couple of years. We learned to limit the agony by going directly to the surgery. My sister scolded me for spending so much money on a cat. I feared for his life and tried to comfort him. What could I do? He trusted me. I'm not even sure how many times his little body was cut open and the kidney stones washed out. His last surgery was his best - three years of freedom from stones, thanks to a new diet and some daily supplements. And then one day he seemed to be broad in the belly, but not fat. He looked like a pregnant mare. A big belly that was broadest at the lowest point. Lymphoma, which took him with much less suffering than he had ever known from any previous sickness. He left us on January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2002. We miss him

**FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR OUR CAT ANGELS**

When our kitties cross over the Rainbow Bridge we like to provide a special place for them in our own little Cat Angel cemetery. As time goes by, that area obviously needs to expand. We are in dire need of someone to occasionally help maintain the space that we have set aside for this purpose. If you have a bit of time and energy (and a wee bit of muscle power), we would be very grateful for an occasional "sprucing up" of our little Final Resting Place. Please call the shelter phone number if you can help - 610-327-6870 .

**HELP**

(Need a tax deduction? Have a postage meter?)

We are looking for someone who is able and willing to help us with our newsletter postage. If you are in a position, or if you know of someone who is please contact us. This is a good opportunity for a small business to use as a tax deduction. This project continues to grow each day and so does the expense. We would be most grateful for your help with our newsletter postage

**NOTICE**

To ensure that you will be sent a copy of our news-letter please send a self addressed, stamped envelope with your request to: Cat Angel Network, Inc. P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464

**REMEMBER - ALWAYS BE KIND TO ANIMALS. IT WILL ENRICH YOUR LIFE BEYOND BELIEF!**