



CAT ANGEL NETWORK

Together, we CAN make a difference!



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Visit us at
www.catangel.com

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6th Annual Cat Concert Just Around the Corner

By Henry Grabb

On Sunday afternoon, March 20th, 2005, faculty and students of the West Chester University School of Music will perform the 6th Annual Cat Angel Network Benefit Concert. The event will be held in Swope Hall Auditorium on the West Chester University Campus at 3:00 pm. A reception following the concert will provide a wonderful opportunity for all of us to socialize.

While the concert is free and open to the public, donations will be appreciated. Contributions sent prior to the concert and received by March 10, will be

acknowledged in the concert program at the following levels:

Halo	\$ 15 - 24
Angel Wings	\$ 25 - 49
Angel	\$ 50 - 99
Guardian Angel	\$100 - 249
Archangel	\$250 - 499
Seraphim	\$500 and up

The concert will feature a variety of cat related musical compositions, some with video and others with staging. Performers will include Henry Grabb, oboe; Kathryn Chilcote, soprano; Rebecca Field, soprano; Sylvia Ahramjian, violin; Carl Cranmer, piano; Mark Rimple, lute; a student barbershop

quartet, a student reed trio, and more. Fred, the singing cat, who has appeared in four of the five previous concerts, will return for a cameo appearance.

The concert is designed to be a fun-filled evening for the casual concert-goer. If you have a cat and a song in your heart, you should come hear our tribute to cats and cat angels everywhere!

West Chester University is located south of downtown West Chester directly west of High Street. Directions can be found on the West Chester University web site (www.wcupa.edu). 🐾

Weekly Adoptathons

by Lynn Hammet

If you've been to the Downingtown PETsMART on the weekends lately you probably noticed our adoptathons outside the Adoption Center. At our adoptathons every weekend you have the opportunity to meet some of our fostered cats and kittens other than those in the Adoption Center.

Our volunteers put in long hours at the adoptathons to make sure that all our fostered cats and kittens have an

opportunity to find a forever home. Since starting the weekly adoptathons in October 2004, more than 100 kitties found their homes by the end of the year. However, many more kitties are still waiting for theirs.

If you are interested in adopting or just need a "kitty fix", please stop by and visit us on the weekend at the Adoption Center during weekend store hours (Saturday - 9:00 am - 9:00 pm and Sunday - 9:00 am - 5:00 pm). 🐾

Mission Statement

- ▶ **To prevent the suffering of abandoned cats through rescue, spay/neuter, medical care, shelter, and adoption to approved homes.**
- ▶ **To educate the public about the proper care of cats, the importance of spaying and neutering, and the benefits of adopting shelter cats.**
- ▶ **To operate as a no-kill, all-volunteer, non-profit organization.**

Volunteer Opportunities

by Charlotte Jay

We currently have a number of opportunities available at the shelter in the Pottstown area for volunteers who would enjoy helping with our kitties. If you are looking for a way to share some of your time for a worthy cause, we have the answer for you. Not only is volunteering a way to express your humanitarianism and an opportunity to perform a community service, but most valuable of all is making an important difference in saving the lives of homeless, defenseless, innocent lives.

If you are retired, have a little (or a lot) of free time, have a skill that we need, would like to meet others who love kitties, are looking for a wonderful sense of accomplishment and charity, there is an opportunity and a need for your help. This is the only “job” you’ll ever have where you can pick your own hours!

Some of the areas in which you can help are listed below.

- ♥ Our kitties eat twice a day, so there are opportunities for “kitty cafeteria” duty for morning or evening shifts. Litter boxes need scooping and water bowls need freshening each day, too.
- ♥ If you like to clean, there are lots of jobs for you! Our cats at the shelter are free-roaming but are not very good about cleaning up after themselves. For example, they just leave their hairballs for us lowly humans to remove. They never put their toys away but are very interested in watching you and will be glad to keep you company. Perhaps you’d enjoy working as a hands-on friend to socialize those who are a bit shy and/or timid.

♥ We are always looking for help finding permanent homes for all our kitties.

In addition to helping with the shelter kitties, there are numerous other ways to be involved as a Cat Angel Network volunteer and we will be delighted to discuss them with you. We do fundraising, need foster homes, go on rescue missions and trapping projects, and have weekly Adoptathons (see separate article in this newsletter). We also have ongoing needs for repairs to the building, etc., and would love to add your name to our list of volunteers for “Occasional Special Services”.

For more information, please contact Charlotte via telephone at 610-327-6870, email jaysing@aol.com, or send a fax to 610-327-6878. 🐾

Adorable Adoptables

by Elaine Richert

Focus on Franz!

Franz is a young, handsome gray and black tiger cat who’s super affectionate! He immediately makes himself at home anywhere and gets along with absolutely everybody. He was pronounced “highly adoptable” at the vet’s office because of his winning personality and lapcat potential. When his Feline Leukemia test came back positive, we promised Franz a home of his own with another “positive” feline friend or a lucky dog. If you can help us keep our promise to Franz, call our Adoptions Team at 610-327-3969.



Meet Ricky Mooney!

Want to have a dog but can’t because of your current situation? Meet Ricky Mooney! He’s our feline version of a Boston Terrier with his sturdy black and white body and loyal devotion to any and all humans! He will greet you at the door when you arrive home from work and follow you around the house “like a puppy dog.” In fact, you’ll soon learn to anticipate the familiar thud of his jumping to the floor from his sleeping spot whenever his beloved humans enter a room! Ricky got his name from the place where he was found, the former Mickey Rooney hotel complex across the street from the Exton/Downingtown Petsmart. Ricky tested FIV positive and does well with dogs and other FIV + cats. Call our Adoptions Team at 610-327-3969.

Cats and Babies: Part II

A Match Made in Heaven

by Deb Savage

In a previous newsletter, some myths about cats and babies were discussed. I'd like to add my perspective about how cats can enrich the lives of children. Rog and I have three "kids": Samuel, human, age 2; Spot, feline, age 6; and Meadow, feline, age 2 ½. Let me share some ways in which our feline kids have already enhanced Samuel's life.

Our cats have provided welcome distractions for Samuel. Countless times Samuel would resist us as we tried to do necessary but unwelcome things (i.e. change a diaper) when, out of the blue, one of the cats would do something entertaining like attack a nearby toy. Immediately Samuel would relax and laugh, allowing us weary parents to do what needed to be done with ease. Coincidence? Or ultra-intelligent feline parent-helpers? I won't speculate; I just appreciate it when that happens!

Our cats have also stimulated learning for Samuel. At 6 months old, as Samuel and Spot were sharing my lap in a pre-bedtime cuddle, Samuel spoke his first words: "ki-ee ca". (We have it on videotape or even we wouldn't believe it!)

Our cats have provided opportunities to improve eye-hand coordination for Samuel. When all Samuel could do was to lie on his tummy and raise his head, he loved being given a baby-proofed wand toy to jiggle around for the cats' entertainment, learning about cause and effect along the way too. Finally, our cats are helping us to teach values we want to pass along to Samuel. (cont'd on page 4) One of the goals we set for ourselves as parents was to raise a child who would "have respect for people, animals and our environment". One of the best ways to

engender respect for animals is to ensure that children learn how to treat pets in the household. Our son is now two years old and we are working on teaching him that he is not allowed to chase the cats, because they don't like it. He doesn't quite understand that yet—he thinks he's not allowed to chase the cats because then he'll get a timeout—but as he gets older this oft-repeated rule will allow us to explain that cats as well as all animals have unique personalities with rights and boundaries to be respected, just like humans do. So please don't listen to anyone who tries to tell you that when a human baby arrives, your furry babies need to exit. At least in our household, our son's growth and development have been enhanced by his interaction with a feline brother and sister. 🐾

Holly Spays Save Lives

by Henry Grabb

Thank you to all who so generously donated to this year's Happy Holly Spays/Happy New Year Fund Drive. This was our best year ever, and we raised enough money to spay or neuter about 160 cats! This is an enormous response, and will provide the support needed to spay and neuter in some of the feral colonies in our area, thus preventing hundreds of unwanted kittens. Over the past three years,

the Happy Holly Spays Program has become one of our most successful fund raisers. It's a purrfect way to remember Cat Angel Network and honor your own cats during the holiday season. While we are saving resources by not sending individual thank you's this time 'round, we want you to know that EACH GIFT is important to us personally, and to our mission. 🐾

**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.**

Happy Endings: Letters from Adopters (cont'd on p.4)

"I can't believe it has been a year that I have had Mindy as she seems to have always been a part of my life and household. She joined my 14-year-old cat, Punky, after I lost her sister PJ. Even though Mindy was an active 3-year-old with her claws and Punky was a laid back declawed female, they were immediate housemates. Mindy loves to chase the older Punky around and up the stairs and I announce

that the Nascar races have started. Everyone who visits and pets or picks up Mindy is convinced that she's declawed; however I tell them, no, she just never puts her claws out. She is happy to "exercise" her claws on a throw rug near the back door or on her scratching post. She loves to sit on my lap and sleeps for hours, until I have to move; then looks at me with her sleepy eyes as if to say don't leave for long.

Thank you for putting us together. Mindy has certainly filled a void in my heart, and I can't believe she was a resident for over 6 months in the network. I feel lucky and privileged to have her as part of my family.

Thank You,
Judy" 🐾

Auction 2005: Full Speed Ahead

by Henry Grabb

Early planning is already underway for the 2005 Cat Angel Network Auction, which is to be held in November (date to be announced) at the Holiday Inn West Chester. This year's auction will take on a different format. We are planning to auction art, jewelry, and as many donated items as we are able to obtain. You can help us by donating a new item for this auction. Perhaps

you received a gift that is not your taste. Perhaps you run across a store closing or an amazing sale. We believe that we can triple our net profit simply with your donations! Additionally, an auction is more fun when a large percentage of items do not have a minimum bid. If you do have something to donate, please email me at catangelpa@aol.com to tell me what you

plan to donate. We then ask that you hold onto your item until we are able to receive it. I will contact you about a month in advance of the auction with drop off information. I look forward to hearing from many of you in the months ahead; mark the calendar for November and **PLAN TO ATTEND** the Cat Angel Network Auction 2005! 🐾

Is Your Cat Lonely?

by Elaine Richert

A study published recently in local newspapers reports what we at C.A.N. have known for a long time – most cats enjoy the company of other cats and can form deep attachments to their companions. Although cats are often said to be solitary creatures because they hunt alone in the wild, we have seen over and over again, in our shelter and multi-cat foster homes, cats seeking out friendships with others of their species. In fact, we often recommend certain cats be adopted together, telling adopters, for example, “We can't bear to part Moses and Crybaby – they love each other!”

Cats in caring homes are often showered with pampering – the best foods, beds, toys, etc. But could the thing your cat really needs be a friend? Do you think he or she would benefit from ... a buddy to “hang out with” while you are at work or away for the weekend? ... a companion to play and run with or share bird watching at the

window? ... a friend to help groom those “inaccessible spots?” ... a trusted chum to curl up with for an afternoon snooze?

In addition to providing your own cat with



an improved quality of life, adding another cat will enable you to share the “Kitty Paradise” your cat enjoys with a homeless cat, one of the millions who find themselves without the basic comforts through no fault of their own.

So if you have room in your heart and house for “just one more,” call our

Adoptions Team today at 610-327-3969. We specialize in trying to find just the right companion for your cat. 🐾

Under Construction

by Kirsten Byrd

The CAN website is under renovation! You will still find us at www.catangel.com, but the site will feature a new look, be easier to navigate, and will contain more information. You will find articles about cat care, links to other helpful sites, a “Sponsor a Cat” section, and an updated virtual tour of our shelter. The new website will be updated more frequently, and we hope to continue to expand and improve it as time goes by. The launch of the new site is scheduled to occur sometime in March.



We'd love to hear from you!
Email us at jaysing@aol.com
or drop us a line at our PO Box.

Happy Endings: Letters from Adopters (cont'd from p.3)

“Just wanted to write a quick note to let you know how Boomer and Maisy, brother and sister, are doing. We adopted them last September. We came in with plans of adopting only one kitten but upon your advice, adopted two - one to keep the other company. What good advice!!! We have said time and time again how glad we were we listened to you! The two are inseparable! The dog plays with them as much as they play with each other. Our kids just love them to death. I don't know if you remember we had 3 chil-

dren at the time of the adoption, 2 boys and a little girl. Well we've added another little girl just this past week and I'm sure she will grow just as attached as our other ones. The cats fit in perfectly with our family and we couldn't ask for better pets; we just love them very much. Please know that they are loved very much and are spoiled just if they were one of our kids. Thank you again for the good advice!

Sincerely,
Margie” 🐾