



# CAT ANGEL NETWORK



Together, we CAN make a difference!

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## CAT ANGEL NETWORK 2007/8 Board of Directors

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## 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.*

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## Onslaught Of Kitten Season Produces A Deluge



You've probably heard the term 'kitten season' before and have wondered just how bad it can be. After all, kittens are just so cute! When you're a rescue organization like Cat Angel Network, there are a number of ways in which 'kitten season' affects us all.

Despite the best efforts of groups like ours, including publicity garnered by high-profile celebrities, cat owners still are not stepping up to the plate in large enough numbers to actually have their cats spayed or neutered. All too often, we hear, "Oh, I meant to have her spayed but she's an indoor cat and just happened to slip out once," as the owner is surrendering a litter of kittens. Remember - it only takes once!

Consider that litter of kittens (litters range from 1 to 8 kittens) and add it to the two to five surrender applications we receive each day. Add to that the numerous newborns we manage

to rescue through our TNR efforts. And don't forget to add in all the adult cats who are surrendered for various reasons. That's a lot of cats. Where will we put them all?

Space is our enemy. We simply don't have enough space or funding to help every litter and it's heartbreaking when we can't say "yes" to all of them. Our Shelter walls stretch to bursting at this time of year and our wonderful and devoted foster homes swell to capacity and beyond, and still they keep coming. As a no-kill rescue, we beg fosters to take in "just one more", we sweet-talk current volunteers to consider fostering, and we eagerly recruit new volunteers who have love in their hearts, the ability to care for cats, and that all-too-precious commodity, space!

At this time of year our volunteer fosters are stretched with caring for anywhere from 1 to 30 cats, each. The workload of our foster families continues to increase although, somehow, they don't complain. Must be because those kittens are so darn cute.

The workload back at HQ increases, too, with paperwork, arranging vetting for inoculations and the all-essential spay or neuter, getting kittens to their appointments and back home again, and juggling kittens to see just how many we can show off at our Adoptathons at PetSmart in Downingtown and Pottstown.

*(cont'd on page 3)*

## Lights ~ Camera ~ CACtion!

### Will Otis Make The Final Cut?

Will Otis's scenes end up on the cutting room floor, or will he make his acting debut in his first commercial role as a happy Cat Genie user? Will he be discovered and follow in Morris the Cat's footsteps? Did the crew recognize his talent? He's surely a star, how could they not?

Last spring, Otis adopted me as his human through Cat Angel Network. This communicative, inquisitive, active, relentless, smart, goofy, sometimes rude, shoulder-riding, head-butting, outrageously sweet and loving cat has brought more joy to my life than I can express. There has never been a dull day since his arrival as he entertains and infuriates daily with his surprising antics. He is a star in my life, so when the casting call came for attractive, friendly cats, I jumped at the opportunity.

*(cont'd on page 2)*

## A Tribute To Otis ~ Our Cat Angel STAR!

Cat Angel Network experienced a tragedy with the passing of our dear Otis, affectionately dubbed "The Wonder Cat," who owned our Volunteer and Adopter, Amy Hollowell. To have known Otis is to understand what a tragic loss has occurred. We at Cat Angel were always eager to hear of his latest antics, be it hanging from the brand-new plasma TV or finding clever ways to open locked doors, and would always become hysterical with the visions his actions produced. To better know Otis, please read the article, featured on this page, that Amy wrote about just one of his adventures.



Unfortunately, Otis's spirit of adventure proved fatal in the end, as he found a tiger lily bouquet, unwittingly brought into his home, and proceeded to chew on it, devouring several petals with gusto. While many cat lovers have heard about the toxicity of poinsettias, many may not be aware of just how toxic lilies can also be to cats, particularly young cats, and Otis had just turned two. Otis's misfortune will serve to benefit lots of other kitties and their loving purrsons because it has inspired us all to spread the word about the cruel toxicity of ALL varieties of lilies.

We've learned that lily plants (this includes Asian, Day, Easter, Glory, Japanese Show, Peace, Red, Rubrum, Stargazer, Tiger and Wood varieties) are highly toxic to cats and can cause irreversible kidney failure within 36-72 hours. In Otis's case, kidney failure began within just 12 hours. All parts of the plant are considered toxic, including flowers, leaves, pollen and stems, as well as the water in which they have been sitting. If pollen gets on a cat's fur and they groom themselves, this too may be toxic.

Signs of lily toxicity may include depression, complete loss of appetite and vomiting. Acute kidney or renal failure can develop, which causes abdominal pain and a marked reduction in, or complete cessation of, urine production. This is a life-threatening condition. Even with aggressive treatment, many cats will die. Should you suspect your cat ate any part of a lily, please rush him to your vet immediately, as early detection and treatment is vital. Once a cat starts showing signs of distress, it is often too late to save him. Indeed, there is no antidote to these strong toxins and vets can only treat the renal failure that follows.

Otis will miss future TV and film opportunities, it's sadly true, but his star will continue to shine brightly with us all. His passing serves as a means of preventing similar tragedies from occurring and, with that, Otis has become a true hero. Be sure to take care with lilies and spread the warning amongst family, friends, florists and garden centers they can cause tragic deaths in cats.



Further information about lily toxicity may be found at the following websites:

<http://goodcats.com/toxicplants.html>  
<http://www.cfainc.org/articles/lily-dangers.html>  
[http://pet-diseases.suite101.com/article.cfm/lilies\\_poisonous\\_to\\_cats](http://pet-diseases.suite101.com/article.cfm/lilies_poisonous_to_cats)  
[http://www.aspca.org/site/DocServer/vettech\\_0402.pdf?docID=354](http://www.aspca.org/site/DocServer/vettech_0402.pdf?docID=354)  
<http://www.drkatrina.com/yourpet/Cats/Lilytoxicityincats.aspx>

## Will Otis Make The Final Cut?

*(cont'd from page 1)*

I wondered, "What is a casting call for cats?" I envisioned standing in a long line in a large, busy studio, waiting with hundreds of other cats and their humans, the cats all hissing, meowing and doing all that cats do. I asked a friend to join me with her two furry boys and, as it turned out, we were asked to come into Philadelphia directly for the shoot!

The commercial was produced in a small, empty apartment, where partial bathroom and laundry room sets were fashioned in opposite corners of the living room and surrounded by a multitude of equipment and cables, with very little room to walk. Taking minimal direction, Otis was happy to pose when placed in the Cat Genie, seeming to say, "Hey, they're lookin' at me. This is pretty cool. What's that big thing swinging around up there and how can I get up there? ...Hey, there's a window...and there are some stairs that go somewhere else....what's behind that fridge? I wonder if anyone here has food for me?"

"Alright! Great shot! Good Otis – He's the O-Man!" the crew exclaimed. I was a proud stage-cat mom, grinning from ear to ear. Otis was doing a great job! Then he was off to pose with the actress mom and her baby in the pretend laundry corner. A star was born!

Throughout the rest of the afternoon, the filming of various scenes was attempted with each of the five cats present. There was some happy praise for my friend's tuxedo cat and fear set in my heart that he may take some of the spotlight away from The O-Man. With a deep breath I reminded myself that the actress spoke lines about her *cats* (plural), so I guess I can be a nice person and allow another cat to share stardom with my Otis.

Getting ready to depart, and feeling pretty wonderful about the day's events, we happened upon a Manx cat waiting in the wings to be filmed! Would he out-act Otis? Or will they find more cats to film on another day? Oh, the competition! Surely they won't find a more wonderful cat than The O-Man. He already has a stage name given to him by the Director!

The outcome was that yes, Otis did make the final cut! He is featured, along with his sister, Celie, and my friend's cat, in the TV ad and in the print ad, immortalized forevermore. 🐾

*Editor's Note: Sadly, we learned, just as we were going to press, that Otis passed away from renal failure after ingesting the toxins contained in tiger lilies that were unwittingly brought into his home. His star will burn forever brightly in our hearts.*

## Ask “Angel”



### “How should I introduce a new cat into my household?”

**QUESTION:** I would love to have another cat, both for myself and as a friend for my five year old cat Cleo. How should I introduce a new cat into my household to make it as easy and pleasant as possible?

**ANSWER:** Good Question! We kitties at the shelter have learned a thing or two about getting along with others! New cats come in all the time, and our friends, the CAN volunteers, are always very considerate about the feelings of us “old-timers” when they do kitty introductions. Cats LOVE familiarity and routine so our human friends know that the best way to get us to accept a new bunkmate is to go SLOWLY and CAREFULLY.

On DAY ONE, the new kitty is whisked into a sheet-covered cage (in your home you can use a separate small room, like a bathroom). This way, we can SMELL that there’s a new cat in our territory, but we don’t have to see or interact with him yet. The volunteers treat us to a lot of the things we like such as special goodies, interactive toys, brushing, etc. Pretty soon we begin thinking, “Ever since we started noticing that strange new cat smell, our lives have been GREAT!” Positive associations work wonders with us cats! At your home be sure to spend lots of quality time with Cleo doing all HER favorite things while the new cat is in the bathroom. In addition, you can rub the new cat down with a small towel and put this towel under Cleo’s food bowl (if extra-special suppers begin to appear in that food bowl, so much the better)! Likewise, rub Cleo down with a towel and put that under the NEW kitty’s food bowl. That way, when they eventually meet and sniff each other, the smell will be familiar and have a positive association.

Starting on DAY TWO, the sheet is gradually moved to the side of the cage so the new



cat can begin to see how handsome I am (just kidding). When we resident cats begin to visit near the new cat’s cage, and the newcomer is relaxed about it, the volunteers give the new cat some supervised visits outside the cage. At your house, you will know it’s “THE DAY” to introduce the cats when the new cat has been eating, drinking, using the litterbox and scratching post consistently, and seems calm and affectionate with you. Attempts to get out the bathroom door when you are leaving after a visit are also a sign that new kitty is ready! Then put kitty in a cat carrier and set it down nonchalantly in the kitchen, family room, etc. Bring out the interactive toys and treats and engage Cleo in a play session about ten feet away from the carrier. Move the play session closer and closer to new kitty’s carrier until you have Cleo playing a few feet from her future friend. At this point the cats tend to be more focused on each other than on the toys. Hissing is a very mild kitty reaction that means “I don’t know you well enough yet—back off!”

Growling is a sign that a cat is feeling a bit threatened. Wait until you see that both cats are relatively calm and curious before opening up the carrier door. You may need to wait until another day to try again if one or both cats seem stressed. After you’ve opened the carrier door, supervise the introduction, distracting the cats with food, toys, etc. if there are some anxious moments. Resist the temptation to interfere too much. You don’t want a chase scene or one kitty

backed into a corner, but a puffed tail or hissing are normal aspects of the meeting and greeting ritual. Put new kitty in his/her own room after the initial meeting. Continue these meeting “dates” every day until the cats are comfortable around each other.

Do NOT despair if your cat Cleo acts upset with you or changes her behavior toward you during the first few weeks of cat introductions! We cats are REALLY good at pouting and acting offended when our owners try to introduce change. We can try to lay a guilt trip on you for daring to share our piece of kitty heaven, i.e. your home, with another cat. Hang in there and relax, knowing that things almost always go back to normal and then get better and better within three weeks.

Sometimes the new kitty gets SO comfortable with his new home that he begins to slowly “take over” the resident kitty’s favorite bed, window seat, toys, and EVEN OUR FAVORITE PERSON’S LAP! This annoys us!

Watch for signs of competition or jealousy and make sure you supply extra beds, toys, litterboxes, etc., so that everyone feels there is plenty for all and there’s no need to compete over limited resources. If Cleo has special times with you, make sure that these continue. New kitties understand “First Kitty Rights” and will not be offended if they get shooed away from first kitty’s favorite spot on the bed.

Within a few short weeks, your Cleo will begin to know and feel comfortable with her new friend’s habits. That’s when you can start to record those “Kodak Moments” – the first time you catch them playing together, eating next to each other, and even curled up together in the same bed! Friendship...it’s a beautiful thing!



## Kitten Deluge

(cont’d from page 1)

And it’s there that another problem emerges – choosing the right kitty. There are always so many to choose from and, as we all know, kittens often have an edge over older cats (probably because those kittens are just so gosh darn cute!) We’ve seen wonderful cats, with glorious dispositions and all the personality criteria people were looking for, lose out at the last moment to a sweet young thing because it was just so darn cute!

You can help reduce this problem by volunteering for whatever amount of time you can spare. Go to our website – [www.catangel.org](http://www.catangel.org) click on Volunteer to get the form on your screen. A simple click of the Submit button will have it in our hands immediately. You will be contacted to discuss what and how much you would like to contribute in the way of time and energy, and perhaps you’ll be interested in becoming a foster person and opening your home to help kittens along the road to adoption. Never forget

to extol the virtues of spaying and neutering pets to every cat owner you know. Volunteer your time to help us show off our kittens – and cats – to potential adopters. With help, we can reach so many more people. If time is something you’re short of, we’re not afraid to ask for your continued support in the form of donations, to help us help more cats and kittens. And finally, consider adding to your own feline family; after all, what’s just one more? After all – wait for it – they’re so cute! 🐾

# The Cat's Out of the Bag... Cat Angel Network Live & Silent Auction Coming Soon!

**When and where is the event?** The date is Sunday, October 21 from 2-5 p.m. The silent auction runs from 2-3 p.m. with the live auction beginning at 3 p.m. The event will be held at the West Chester Senior Center, 530 E. Union Street, West Chester.



**Where do I get tickets?** The price of admission is \$15 per person which includes coffee, tea, apple cider, finger foods and dessert. There are no actual tickets. Just fill out the form below and return it with your check/cash. Your name will be on a list of attendees, so you will only need to check in at the door.

**Dress?** We suggest "business casual."

**What can I do if I cannot attend?** A monetary donation would be wonderful. If you would like to contribute a NEW item for the auction, please contact Lucia or Henry.

**What type of items are acceptable for the auction?** Gift baskets, restaurant gift certificates, jewelry, and bottles of wine to name a few.

**What is the deadline to donate items?** The deadline is September 21st. We do take a few items after that date if they are exceptionally high in quality and will bring a good price at the auction. The other exception is if the item is rare or unusual.

**What payment is accepted at this event?** Cash and checks only. Sorry, no credit cards. 🐾

If you have questions and/or would like directions, please contact:

Lucia Still - awstill@comcast.net (or call 610-469-4925)

Henry Grabb - catangelpa@aol.com (or call 610-873-0430)

*Auction services provided by:*

## Smith Auction Company

www.smithauctionco.com

610-942-2367

1415 Horseshoe Pike, Glenmoore, Pa. 19343

*What Can We Sell For You?*

*Antiques, Estates, Collections, etc.*

### Cat Angel Network 2007 Live & Silent Auction

I would like to attend this event. My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Name for reservation: \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to attend, but would like to donate

\$15 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **Cat Angel Network** and mail to:  
Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464, Attn: Lucia Still  
by October 1, 2007.



## Support CAN Financially Without Spending A Single Penny!

### Recycle Your Printer Cartridges

Cat Angel Network is now collecting and recycling ink jet and laser printer cartridges. We receive either cash and or merchandise credit at Staples which we use for office supplies such as file folders, paper, envelopes and labels for our mailings and other miscellaneous supplies.

Make it a personal project with family, friends and co-workers. Collect the cartridges and bring them to the Pottstown Petsmart store Adoption Center or the Downingtown Petsmart store Adoption Center. They can be dropped off to one of our volunteers on weekends and any time you find a Cat Angel Network volunteer on duty.

### ACME and Redner's Grocery Store Receipts

Keep collecting grocery store receipt tapes from these stores. Cat Angel Network receives 1% of the total receipts collected in cash. Every little bit helps to feed, spay/neuter a cat, or provide other much needed veterinary care.

### GoodSearch.com

What if Cat Angel Network earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now we can! GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Just type www.goodsearch.com in your browser and when the screen comes up, be sure to enter "Cat Angel Network" as the charity you want to support. Type in what you want to search for and click search button. You have just added another penny to Cat Angels' pot! Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! And, be sure to spread the word!

### iGive.com

Like to help Cat Angel Network in a big way? Start your online shopping at iGive.com. It's easy and it's free. To support CAN, go to www.iGive.com/catangel. Then whenever you access hundreds of online merchants through the Mall at iGive, up to 26% of every purchase is donated to CAN. Participating merchants include Barnes & Noble, Eddie Bauer, Lands' End and PETsMART. Join www.iGive.com/joinLink, and then shop till you drop. We'll appreciate it! 🐾