



CAT ANGEL NETWORK



Together, we CAN make a difference!

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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.*

What's Inside

10th Anniversary	1
TNR Success	2
How To Help	2
Ask Angel	3
Auction Preview	3
Concert for Cats	4
A Thousand Hands	4

Cat Angel Network Celebrates 10th Anniversary

CAN had been rescuing cats on a one-at-a-time basis for several years and, in 1996, decided it was time to apply for IRS approval as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. This would authorize us to undertake fundraising, accept tax-deductible donations, and be eligible to apply for grants. After receiving notification of our approved application, our official date of our incorporation came on March 2, 1996! It's hard to believe that ten years have flown by since recognition by IRS as an official non-profit organization.



Sheldon (left) and Bodey (right) enjoy a relaxing evening at the shelter.

From the first cat we rescued to today, CAN has been a continuous whirlwind of activity. The number of rescues, TNR's, adoptions, new volunteers, etc., has grown by leaps and bounds. We keep wondering how there can still be so much to do when, every year, we continue to do more. We call ourselves a "network" because of the many areas of the operation which are essential in order to succeed in our efforts.

- We have indeed been fortunate to enjoy the cooperation and assistance of a number of Veterinarians who recognize the value of our efforts in helping the cat community.
- Our group of dedicated volunteers continues to expand thanks to the wonderful people who love cats. They are willing to share their time and energy to ensure that our little furry friends have enough caretakers to make it possible for CAN to continue rescuing strays and abandoned kitties. There isn't enough space or words to express our deep gratitude for the commitment and dedication these loving caregivers provide. Their generous contributions of time and talent have also made it possible to cover many critical administrative functions.

- There are many remarkable homes and Adoptive Families who, when they meet our angels, can't resist the opportunity to adopt them. What a joyous occasion when a family and their new kitty enrich each others' lives.
- The opportunity to join with PetSmart as an Adoption Partner has made it possible to increase our adoption numbers. We have had the good fortune to find homes for our kitties at the Adoption Centers at Downingtown since 1999, and at Pottstown since their grand opening in October 2005. We greatly enjoy the visits and updates from our adoptive families and to hear all the news and, especially, the antics of our former angels.
- Our TNR Program has shown steady progress over the years. Successful fundraising efforts, grants, and our participating veterinarians have made it possible to spay and neuter a large number of stray and feral cats. We hope to increase that number again in this and every year.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generosity of our supporters and the donations, large and small, from folks who learn about our mission and the work we

(cont'd on page 2)

Cat Angel Network is a no-kill Pennsylvania non-profit corporation and is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization. The official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Trap~Neuter~Return Success In West Chester

Cat Angel Network supports and practices TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) of feral cats. Over the past ten years, Cat Angel Network has helped to alter thousands of feral cats living in colonies in our area. The story that follows could be told over and over again, just by changing the location and the names of the people who helped.



Two of the colony cats catch up on the TNR news

In 2005, Cat Angel Network started work on a TNR project at Bell's Auto Service in West Chester, PA. Helen and Ward Bell had fed the feral cats that lived around their garage for years, but the situation had begun to get out of control. The colony had grown in recent years, and when Helen started to think about the number of kittens that were likely to be born, and how those numbers would multiply rapidly, she decided to take action.

Helen contacted Cat Angel Network and explained the situation. There were at least twenty adult cats that she fed regularly in the neighborhood near to their business. She was willing to continue to feed the colony, and she agreed to help by trapping the cats, transporting them to the vet for spay/neuter surgery, and providing a place for them to recover from surgery prior to release. CAN agreed to pay the veterinary expenses and to find homes for any kittens that were caught early enough to socialize and adopt into homes as pets.

The project started in April of 2005. As the year progressed, over thirty adult cats were trapped, altered, vaccinated, and then released back into the colony. That year, nearly eighty kittens were born. Some were born in the safety of foster homes. Others were born "in the wild" – but every kitten was eventually caught prior to the age of six weeks, and raised either in a CAN foster home or by Helen and Ward at their home. We are especially proud to report that we found homes for every one of the surviving kittens. Two of the mother cats turned out to be friendly strays (rather than ferocious ferals), and they also found new forever homes as house cats. By the end of 2005, most of the males in the colony had been neutered, and all but three elusive females had been spayed.



These little girl kittens from the colony grew up in a CAN foster home and were later adopted into loving homes. Their feral mother was spayed, and was very happy to rejoin her companions back at the colony.

In 2006, we were able to trap and spay one of those three remaining females before she had kittens. The second female had three kittens in May. Helen caught the kittens, and two days later trapped the mom. As soon as the kittens were weaned, mom was spayed and returned to the colony. The kittens became available for

adoption in late August, and all three boys were adopted by the same family.

"PETsMART Charities, Inc, recently recognized our commitment to TNR with a \$10,000 grant specifically for spay and neuter of feral cats."

The last unaltered female, a very feral girl named Tabitha, was trapped in late June 2006. She was very pregnant, so she was made as comfortable as possible and soon gave birth to six kittens. Helen fostered these kittens in her home, and all were adopted by the end of that year. Then Tabitha was spayed — and we all heaved a big sigh of relief!

Spring 2007 marked the first "kitten-free kitten season" in the Bell colony for as long as anyone can remember. In all, we altered nearly forty adult cats and found homes for almost one hundred kittens. We plan to continue trapping the remaining unaltered males in the colony, and are currently working to expand our abilities to provide additional TNR services and education within our geographic area. PETSMART Charities, Inc, recently recognized our commitment to TNR with a \$10,000 grant specifically for spay and neuter of feral cats. To learn more about TNR please visit our website at www.catangel.org/tnr.htm. 🐾

10th Anniversary (cont'd from page 1)

do to ensure a better life for our feline friends.

We are excited about introducing new ideas to strengthen our organization in order to continue our rate of success in accomplishing our mission. We are still a young organization and are growing faster than we ever expected. Growing pains and the associated problems are impossible to avoid. As we strive each day to deal with those problems, we depend very heavily on your support in terms of patience, trust, and confidence in CAN's priorities and decisions. We are all contributing time and energy to this important mission for a single important reason – our love of these kitties and desire to help them. The bottom line is we are all in this together, helping one another to help the cats.

Together we CAN make a difference. 🐾

Do you want to help Cat Angel Network with TNR?

You can help us by:

- Volunteering your time to help with TNR. We can always use help trapping cats, transporting them to the vet for spay/neuter, and providing a safe place for them to recover from surgery.
- Sending a donation to Cat Angel Network. Since feral cats are not adopted, veterinary expenses for these cats are not even partially recovered by an adoption fee. Most of the money we use for TNR comes in small amounts, a little a time, from people just like you!

To learn more about volunteering for Cat Angel Network, please visit us at one of our PETsMART adoption centers (Downingtown or Pottstown) any weekend and chat with our dedicated volunteers. Or, visit our website where you can complete a volunteer application online.

Ask “Angel”



“My cats are scratching everywhere! Help!”

QUESTION: I recently adopted a mother cat and her four-month-old kitten. They are both scratching the furniture and the kitten is climbing up everything! Why do cats do this, and what can I do about it?

ANSWER: Glad you asked! We kitties want you to know that we NEED to scratch! When we wake up from a nap, the first thing we do is look for a tall, sturdy, rough-textured spot on which to stretch up to our full height, extend our claws and have a wonderful stretch and scratch. Wow, that feels good! When our outside kitty friends need to scratch, there are LOTS of great places all around – trees!

At the shelter, we cats find plenty of tree substitutes. We have tall cat trees and scratching posts, all nice and sturdy with a rough surface of wood, bark, or sisal rope (my personal favorite) to scratch on. People often donate items to the shelter that their cats don't use—carpeted cat condos, scratch pads that hang from a door knob, and especially short little carpeted kitten posts. When we try to lean up against these, they move, wobble, and sometimes even fall over. This annoys us! They call these scratching posts? Shame, shame...

It sounds like your kitties looked for their tree substitute and found the only thing meeting their requirements were (1) tall, (2) sturdy, and (3) rough-textured, i.e., your furniture. Since most cats are angels like me, they don't deliberately want to cause damage. They would be more than happy to use SOMETHING OF THEIR OWN that is even more to their liking than upholstered furniture, which is a bit too soft for our taste. The secret is to isolate your kitties in a small room with their new post (Cat Angel Network sells a GREAT one for \$35).

The room should have nothing else a cat would be tempted to scratch (a bathroom is ideal), and the post should be LOADED WITH CATNIP! Have a ten minute play session at the post every day, using a fishing pole type toy to get your cats to touch the surface of the post. We big guys are attracted to the catnip while the little kittens like the play method (I myself liked to climb up the post after the “Cat Dancer” toy in my younger days).

After you've seen both your cats use the post

several times over 2-3 days, move the post to a room where your cats had been scratching before, covering the previously scratched



Peanut checks out her new post (left), then demonstrates how a real pro uses the post, scratching with all four paws at the same time (right). A good post is sturdy enough to not tip over when a cat executes an advanced maneuver such as this one. This was Peanut's first experience with a scratching post. She says, “Thanks, Angel!”

areas temporarily with a sheet or double stick tape (sold as a product called “Sticky Paws”). You can remove the sheet or tape after they are consistently using the post in its new spot.

As far as your four-month-old is concerned, kittens climb a lot. At that age we are too little to jump where we want to go, so we tend to climb up furniture or even our owners' pant legs! “This, too, shall pass.” Starting around six months of age, kittens begin to be big enough to JUMP to their desired locations and the climbing behavior gradually disappears. Get your kitten and his mom used to nail clipping as soon as possible. This prevents climbing damage and minimizes discomfort caused by overgrown nails. Our cat-loving friends at Cat Angel Network are experts at nail clipping and offer their services FREE at the Pottstown and Downingtown PetSmart store on weekends. I am told that I live up to my name of “Angel” during my monthly manicure sessions, and I'm sure your kitties will learn to enjoy it, too! 🐾

Brother, Can You Spare A Chime?

Cat Angel Network is currently collecting chimes, dimes, and other items for our fall auction

On October 21, 2007, Cat Angel Network will hold an auction to benefit our rescue efforts. This year's event is being organized by For Paws in collaboration with Cat Angel Network. For Paws is a group of dedicated volunteers in our area who coordinate fund raising events for various animal groups. We are most fortunate to have been chosen as collaborative partners for this year's event.

The event will run from 2-5 PM and will be held at the West Chester Senior Center. Admission is \$15.00 and includes coffee, tea, apple cider, simple hors d'oeuvres (fruit, cheese, etc.), and dessert.

Do you have an item that you would like to donate? We are looking for new items, or vintage items of value. New items should have a retail value of \$25 or more. To donate an item, please email Henry Grabb at catangelpa@aol.com.

We are fortunate to have Bud and Annette Smith of Smith Auction Gallery (www.smithauctiongallery.com) running the auction this year. This promises to be a fun time for all, so mark your calendars now and plan on attending. More information will be forthcoming in our next newsletter. 🐾

Thanks to the support of our volunteers and donors, Cat Angel Network found homes for 585 cats and kittens in 2006!



Cat Concert Raises Money & Awareness

Cat Angel Network's 8th Annual Cat Concert this past March raised nearly \$6,000 and increased awareness of our organization within the community. Our first year in the theatre at the new Performing Arts Center of West Chester University brought rave reviews. Among this year's highlights were two wonderful selections from the Wizard of Oz, performed by Downingtown Middle School students. Choreographed by our own Barb Lappano, the performances brought the house down. Next year's concert will be announced in our next issue. Thank you to all who attended, donated, and participated in this year's performance. 🐾

— A Thousand Hands For Trinity —

*A thousand hands rose to the sky
To save a soul, whose precious eye,
Caught a kind heart beside the street,
Our Trinity, close to defeat,
Was lifted through a thousand's care,
By Angels near and everywhere!*

Trinity shortly after her first surgery



Trinity today

This poem is both about a cat and about you, our dear reader. Trinity is a lovely, warm-hearted calico cat who almost lost her life last September. Hit by a car, Trinity managed to crawl into the weeds at the roadside where she awaited certain death. But an Angel heard her cries and, looking into her beautiful eyes, took her to a veterinary hospital. (This, of course, was a mortal Cat Angel Volunteer.)

Her shattered left hind leg had to be amputated, and she continued to deteriorate. Running a high fever, she was transferred to another specialist, who performed a higher amputation, and ultimately a third amputation that left poor Trinity with her left hind hip removed. The accident had pulled the skin away from dear Trinity's flesh, and as a result, the additional amputations were needed to restore her health. She remained in the veterinary hospital for two months, during which time three people had to change her bandages daily. She was so sweet and unfailingly patient that she became the celebrity of the veterinary hospital. Today, Trinity is recovered, has learned to walk with her three remaining limbs, and faces a promising future.

And so dear reader, you are one of the thousand hands that Trinity depended on to save her life. At this time, we ask for everyone who has not contributed recently to give a lifting hand to our dear Trinity. It takes many contributions to pay for a cat like Trinity, but what is an Angel if an Angel ignores the most needy? A thousand small donations will help us continue to help cats like Trinity. Without YOU, one Angel would be missing.

Only a few cats come into our care requiring this extraordinary type of veterinary treatment. But there are many, many more that need vaccinations, flea treatment, antibiotics, ear and eye medications, spay or neuter surgery, and a toy mouse or two. A large portion of our income comes from people just like you that donate a little bit – \$3, \$5, or \$10 – at a time. A lot of little donations make a big difference for the cats in our care. Always remember...

*A lot of littles is a lot,
A thousand beans can fill a pot,
We all can do what one cannot,
A lot of littles is a lot.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

- \$5 Helping Hand Other amount _____
- \$10 Lifting Spirit
- \$20 Beam of Hope
- \$50 plus Trinity's Angel

Names of cats previously adopted from CAN (if any):

Donations may be sent to: Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464.

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