



CAT ANGEL NETWORK



Together, we CAN make a difference!

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CAT ANGEL NETWORK 2008/9 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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CAN Invited to Participate in Annual Spay Day

Recently we were blessed, for the third consecutive year, with the opportunity to participate in a spay/neuter clinic offered by the Limerick Veterinary Hospital. They thoroughly examined, spayed, neutered, tested (for FIV and FeLV) vaccinated for Rabies and FVRCP, treated for fleas, ticks and ear mites as necessary, for 46 Cat Angel Network cats! We are ecstatic and grateful beyond words!

In addition to the unselfish gift of many hours donated by the skilled doctors and staff at LVH, the other part of making all of this possible was the generosity of a number of companies in donating the necessary products for Limerick to attend so many deserving animals.

Cat Angel Network is an all volunteer, non-profit cat rescue organization who dedicate our lives to the mission of preventing the suffering of abandoned cats through rescue, spay/neuter, medical care, shelter and adoption to approved homes. The number of lives that were saved and the prevention of unwanted kittens as a result of this generous support is immeasurable. 🐾

Take the Plunge into Fostering ~ You Won't Regret It!

by Laura Schwartz

Like so many other people, I was afraid to foray into the world of fostering cats and kittens, fearing that the emotional aspects would simply be too draining. That all changed in the spring of 2008 when my husband and I visited our local SPCA to look at a dog.....and came home with a pregnant cat instead!

Now, I will be the first to admit that my first batch of kittens was a roller coaster ride. Unlike many people, I had never before seen kittens born (one of the perils of being a responsible pet owner and having all my animals spayed and neutered) and so paced the floors as Gingersnap prepared to give birth. My first experience was amazing – instead of wanting privacy as many cats do, Ginny decided to have her brood right in the middle of the bedroom floor, with myself, my husband, and our daughter dancing attendance.

One...two...three... on it went until we had an extraordinary group of seven newborn kittens in varying shades of buff and orange. As they grew, their every development was tracked and recorded, along with hundreds of photos taken. But uh oh, 'that' day was soon approaching – the day when they would leave my care and join other Cat Angel Network felines at PetSmart's Adoption Center. I couldn't bear it. One of my little girls was almost immediately chosen by a wonderful family; her new mom remarked she'd never seen a foster mom who didn't want her babies adopted, and she'd worked in veterinary practices for years! Tears accompanied each kitten who found its forever home, followed by Christmas presents and even 1st birthday cards.

I'm happy to report it does get easier...and I'm much less the crazed foster mom I was initially. With each passing litter or cat that comes into my home, I have learned to enjoy the kittenish antics or work with the skittish ones as they become socialized and ready to find their forever homes. Is it still hard to say goodbye? I won't lie – it often is. However, that is very short-lived, and it's made so much easier when the adoptive families keep in touch with news and photos of their new family member. When you see your charges going to good homes to be loved and cherished, you know the small part you played in their journey is indeed worthwhile. Without fosters, so many

(cont'd on page 4)

Volunteers, the Heart of CAN

As an individual volunteer, you may not be aware of your importance in the big picture of the Cat Angel Network family. Our volunteers, their love of and devotion to our kitties are the heart of CAN which makes it all possible. Each of you, no matter what your role, plays a vital part of giving our kitty angels a second chance at a long and happy life. Because CAN is an all volunteer organization there are no paid positions. Everyone, from our president and board members to the newest volunteer, is paid exactly the same. One advantage, or course, is that there is never a wage dispute.

Some volunteers give many hours each week and some are able to spend just a few hours a month, but every hour is appreciated.

The jobs are many and varied.

- 🐾 You may be a morning or evening Pet Care Giver, (feeding, scooping) at the shelter or at one of our adoption centers at Petsmart in Downingtown or Pottstown.
- 🐾 Some of our volunteers are “Greeters” who talk with people at Petsmart. They answer cat questions, introduce the kitties and potential adopters to each other, and set up meetings between kitties and the humans who want to welcome them into their family.
- 🐾 Maybe your preference is in TNR (trap-neuter-return) work, rescuing wary, frightened kitties so they can be spayed/neutered and medically cared for.
- 🐾 Our foster moms and dads open their homes and their hearts to provide loving care and socialization for their charges until they find their forever homes.
- 🐾 Many of our volunteers help with special events and fund raisers. For example, If you haven’t had the opportunity to help with pet photos with Santa, put it on your calendar for December 2009. The volunteers have lots of fun working with the dogs, cats, pot bellied pigs, ferrets, birds (and one snake) who were having their picture taken with Santa.

Our calendar includes many other events coming up this year. The Annual Cat Angel Network Benefit Concert in April, our Spring Fling in June, a Volunteer Family and Friends Picnic in September and our fundraising Auction in October are just a few of the exciting and interesting opportunities in which our volunteers participate.

So, Volunteers, whatever your role, whatever the hours you’re able to give, you are greatly appreciated by all of the humans and especially by the feline members of our CAN family.

If you are interested in volunteering in some capacity with CAN, we encourage you to get involved. You can fill out a Volunteer Application at one of our Petsmart Adoption Centers or go online to our website, www.catangel.org for an online application. For more information, please call Ann Kunsch, our New Volunteer Contact Person, at **610-385-6714** or email at: ann_fran@earthlink.net.

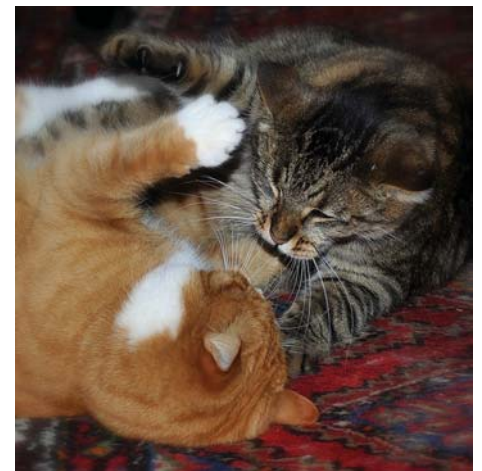
We currently have a number of openings for volunteers at our Petsmart Adoption Center in Downingtown. We would love to have an opportunity to give you more details. 🐾



Ask “Angel”

Struggles with Inter-Cat Relations

QUESTION: I have three cats who do not get along as well as I’d like. I had always hoped for a harmonious group, but there is definite tension among them which sometimes erupts in hisses, spats, and chases. The oldest, Cleo, is quite the diva, and does not want to be bothered. She hisses at any cat who gets in her personal space, and her overreaction spurs on the youngest, Spanky,



who loves to ambush and chase the other two. He’s just rambunctious and doesn’t mean any harm, but he terrorizes the middle kitty Lola who is something of a “fraidy cat.” She sometimes doesn’t use the litterbox, and I think it might be connected to her nervousness around Spanky. How do I improve the relationship among the cats and create a peaceful, safe environment for myself and my cats? I love them all and do not want to part with any of them.

ANSWER: Visitors to our shelter and multi-cat foster homes are often amazed at the number of kitties who live together harmoniously. Baskets and beds by the windows frequently contain multiple cats curled up together, and mealtimes reveal dozens of cats, each going to his or her own bowl, with no arguments or competition. The question often asked of our caretakers is “How can so many cats get along together in ONE ROOM, when my couple of cats at home can’t coexist peacefully in an ENTIRE HOUSE? Well, the answer lies in our “P-A-L-S” Principles.

The “P” stands for “PLENTY,” plenty of everything that’s important to cats -litterboxes, beds, sunny window seats, toy mice, water bowls, etc. Abundance eliminates competition



“What can I do when my cats don’t get along well with one another?”

over scarce resources. The size of your home does not matter as much as the availability of the things cats need and want.

An examination of the conflicts and problems in a feline family will almost always reveal where there is a lack of abundance. In your household, for instance, there is a definite need for more litterboxes in several different locations. Lola is telling you, by her behavior, that she is not always comfortable using the litter box when Spanky is in the vicinity. Very likely he has ambushed her while she was in or leaving the litterbox, and now she is avoiding it rather than risk being jumped. By the way, covered litterboxes should be outlawed in any home where there are inter-cat tensions resulting in litterbox lapses! (See “Ask Angel” article on litterbox problems on our website).

“Plenty of play” is another element you should add to your cats’ daily routine. Spanky’s behavior is indicative of a young cat whose need to play is so great that he is desperately trying to engage any available kitties, whether they’re interested or not! Now, out of boredom and excess energy, he’s made a game out of their resistance. If you don’t have a laser light toy, you need to run, not walk to your nearest Petsmart and get one! These inexpensive gadgets can wear out even the most high-energy kitty in one or two 10 minute sessions per day!

An even better solution, believe it or not, is to adopt another young male as a playmate for Spanky. The last thing most people with inter-cat



problems are looking to do is add another cat to the mix, but it almost always works beautifully. The rambunctious kitty has a willing and able buddy that is available for wrestling, chasing, and ambush games, and the pressure is off the older party poopers.

The “A” of P-A-L-S stands for “ALTITUDE.” Have you ever noticed that the top of the refrigerator is a popular spot for cats? The reason is its altitude. The fastest, easiest way to make less-social or timid cats more secure is to offer them plenty of high places on which to perch. From a cat’s point of view, height is safety, security, power, and, yes, just plain fun! Visit our “Sweet Kitty Suite” room at the shelter and you’ll find the cat-walk, high placed shelves, and tall cat trees filled with serene kitties! For the most part, these are the more timid or aloof cats. When something happens that upsets them or they just want to be alone, they literally “run for the hills!” A cat tree is a great investment for any multi-cat home. Store-bought or hand-made, they offer lots of natural refuge and are worth every penny in terms of peace and harmony in a fur-filled family.

The “L” of P-A-L-S stands for “LOVE,” “TOUGH LOVE”, that is. Although cats are not pack animals in the traditional sense, they do look to their favorite people as the hub of the family wheel. If their most significant person cuddles and coddles them when they’re behaving badly, you’re encouraging more of the same. If, for example, Cleo hisses at and bops the other cats when she’s on your lap and wants you all to herself, you should quietly stand up and end her monopoly on your time and attention. You can reward her with treats at future sessions if she tolerates the presence of the others. Most cats are bright enough to realize that every time they behave badly, something unpleasant happens and every time they behave well, something GOOD happens!

If Spanky is about to pounce on one of the females, make a distracting noise to interrupt the behavior. If he persists, use a squirt bottle. If he jumps on one of them, give him a 15 minute TIME-OUT in a cat carrier. By the time you let him out of the carrier, he’ll have forgotten what he was up to, and the other kitty will have found a safe haven.

These “Tough Love” strategies should be carried out calmly and confidently. No yelling, screaming, or roughness. They will not make your cats hate you. Cats thrive on consistency and respect consequences that are predictable. The more you discourage bad behavior and reward compatibility, the better your cats will get along.

The “S” of P-A-L-S stands for “SOLITUDE.” Sometimes the only solution to a situation where one cat has grown to dislike or fear another is to offer her a room of her own for all or part of the day. It’s a very effective solution that many cat owners fight “tooth and nail,” excuse the cat metaphor. The idea of closing off a beloved kitty in a separate room is an option that some owners won’t even consider. Look at it this way. If a senior citizen were surrounded by high-energy toddlers all day, don’t you think she’d appreciate some peace and quiet in a secluded spot for a while? That’s how your oldest kitty Cleo may feel. If an elementary school child were being harassed by the school bully during recess, wouldn’t he jump at the chance to enjoy the play yard at a different time? That’s how Lola may feel! Giving the cats a break from each other while you are at work or during the night is an easy and effective answer that often results in more peaceful interactions when the kitties ARE all together.



At Cat Angel Network, large cages outfitted with perches and cozy beds are used to give cats an opportunity to get to know each other gradually and safely. Cats who are having disagreements can be separated and reintroduced. One lady who was having trouble with her kitties was reluctantly talked into borrowing a cage to help restore peace. A few weeks later she said she was returning the cage. It worked so well she was buying one of her own! Her pestered kitty loved it, and even after being released, was going into her “private apartment” on her own!

So give our P-A-L-S Principles a shot in your home. You have nothing to lose (except some hisses and growls), and so much to gain. Watching mistrust s-l-o-w-l-y turn into tolerance and eventually even friendship is one of the most rewarding and beautiful experiences you will ever know. It is well worth the effort! 🐾

Cat Angel Network's 10th Annual Concert Coming April 26th

by Henry Grabb

It's hard for me to believe that our 10th Annual Cat Angel Network Benefit Concert is just around the corner. The first event, in 2000, was my first ever fund raiser for CAN. At the time, I had no inkling that this would become a classic event and would continue for so many years!

Each concert combines classical and contemporary music with cat videos, dancers, and other visual entertainment. If you haven't come to a Cat Concert before, you really should come this year. You will laugh a lot, cry a little, and leave with a warm fuzzy feeling in your heart.



This year's concert will be held on Sunday April 26th at 3:00 p.m. in the Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre in Swope Hall at West Chester University. There is plenty of parking and the event is free, but donations are appreciated.

The majority of our financial support comes from pre-concert donations. This year, I have set a goal of \$10,000 in concert donations. With our ever-increasing veterinary bills and our commitment to our TNR (trap-neuter-return) Program, we must raise significantly more money each year.

Please fill out the coupon below and mail in your donation! Donations received prior to April 10 will be acknowledged in the program. 🐾

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Please select a category for giving and enclose your check made payable to Cat Angel Network. All donations are 100% tax deductible. Cat Angel Network is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seraphim | \$250 and up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archangel | \$100 to \$249 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angel | \$50 to \$99 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Puss in Boots | \$25 to \$49 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail Wagger | up to \$24 |

Please indicate the name(s) in which your donation should appear in the "Sponsors" section of the program:

Have you adopted one (or more) cats from Cat Angel Network? Tell us who!

Donations for our 2009 Concert may be sent to:
Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464.

Thank You, Cat Angel Friends!

Thanks to you we received approximately \$3600 in 2008 for the register tapes you saved for us from Acme and Redner Markets. We receive 1% of the total receipts.

Keep saving your register receipts for Acme and Redners and bring them in to the adoption center at Petsmart in Downingtown or Pottstown. You can also mail them to us at Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464

It's an easy way to help Cat Angel Network and it doesn't cost you anything!

Remember to show the cashier at Redners your Redners Save A Tape card to make sure it is properly credited to Cat Angel Network.

THANK YOU 🐾 THANK YOU 🐾 THANK YOU 🐾

Planning Begins for Fall 2009 Auction

Our fall 2009 auction planning is well under way. In the next newsletter we will give specifics about the date and location. Meanwhile, we need your help in finding items for the auction. New items worth at least \$25 are our main focus. This is a great time of year to buy something on clearance for next fall's auction. We would like to have a number of people commit to finding at least five items for the auction this year. If you are able to help in this way, or have other questions or ideas for this year's auction, please contact Henry Grabb at catangelpa@aol.com. 🐾

Fostering *(cont'd from page 1)*

cats and kittens would have no chance at all at a happy life. Missing them is such a small price to pay for that intense satisfaction. I encourage others to try fostering, even if you think you're too soft-hearted. You may find, as I did, that you have the right stuff.

And you soon find yourself immersed in the next group that needs you. So, while you don't forget any of your babies, you go forward in the knowledge that you've made a real difference in their lives. Now, back to my latest foster mama cat...Lily, are you ready to have those kittens yet?

If you're interested in fostering with Cat Angel Network, please visit:
<http://catangel.org/fostering.htm>. 🐾

