



CAT ANGEL NETWORK



Together, we CAN make a difference!

PO Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464 - Phone (610) 327-6870 - Fax (610) 327-6878 - email jaysing@aol.com - visit our website at www.catangel.org

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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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Birth Announcement... Mixed Blessings for C.A.N. ~ You Can Help!



CAN is pleased to announce the birth of our first kittens of the 2010 season – 5 adorable little girls delivered by a lovely young orange mom named Lilith. We’re all delighted they have arrived safely and are doing well. At the same time, a familiar feeling descends upon us – what to do about all the kittens waiting to be born this year? How many will we be able to help? Where on earth will we put them all? Worst of all, how many must be turned away by our biggest enemy – lack of space – and what will become of them?

This is a problem every animal rescue organization faces at this time of year. We have a wonderful network of foster homes, which increases the number of cats and kittens we can provide the space to, but we always need more. Moms and their newborns provide the easiest fostering experience of all, as mom does most of the work. Just care for her until the babies are big enough to wean onto kitten food and you’ll enjoy their antics and sweetness along the way. All too soon, they’ll be ready to be put up for adoption. And, by this time, you’ll be ready to help the next batch of warm, fuzzy, mewling babies.

Not much room is needed – a spare room, a corner that’s big enough to hold a dog crate, an unused tabletop – and you can become part of a true rescue operation. If you’ve entertained the thought in passing before, now is the time to put those thoughts into action. Contact us at 610-327-6870 or via our website for full information on becoming a foster parent. 🐾

C.A.N. Cat Census

“So, have you sent in your census yet?” That’s a question we ask our foster parents every month! Rescue organizations, such as Cat Angel, understand the importance of maintaining accurate records on each kitty we help.



For those in our Adoption Program, we track each cat by name, approximate age (or date of birth, if known), gender, breed and coloring. We also maintain record of where each kitty came from, as well as his or her complete medical history and unique personality. And, it doesn’t stop there. In our efforts to reduce the population of homeless cats who are so deserving, but just not friendly enough for adoption, we have an active Trap, Neuter, and Return Program (TNR). This program allows us to spay and neuter hundreds of cats each year, provide vaccinations, and release them back outside, where we found them.

Maintaining accurate records of each kitty we help, whether through adoption or TNR, also allows us to receive the funds we need to continue our work through grants and personal donations. It is our hope that through all these efforts, we may move closer to achieving an end to the pain and suffering of homeless cats, one kitty at a time. 🐾

How You Can Help Make A Difference for C.A.N.

We would like to thank everyone for their generous support for our kitties. Your donations and kind words of encouragement help us to achieve our mission to help prevent the suffering of abandoned cats through rescue, spay/neuter, medical care, shelter and adoption to approved homes.

What if you could help us even more with things that you were doing anyway? Often we hear that you would like to help but you aren't quite sure how. Here are just a few ways; some from the comfort of your own home!

INTERNET SEARCHING & INTERNET SHOPPING

Goodsearch: GoodSearch.com is an online shopping mall which donates up to 30 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause. Add the Cat Angel Network toolbar at <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/cat-angel-network>

iGive: By using iGive.com, you can help raise money for Cat Angel Network every time you shop online at any of their 783 participating stores. Up to 26% of EACH purchase through

iGive benefits the kitties, along with a penny (or more!) per qualified search at iSearchiGive.com. Make that first purchase within 45 days and get a bonus \$5 donation, too!

OUR WEBSITE

Our website, www.catangel.org, offers a way for you to make a donation through the secure site of PayPal. Donations are also gratefully accepted at the adoption centers at PETSMART in Downingtown and Pottstown or by mailing a donation to us at our mailing address.

MATCHING GIFTS

Many companies make matching gifts and/or grant gifts to their employees' charities. Be sure to check with your employer to see if they offer any such programs. A great way to increase the size of a donation is through Matching Donations and takes little or no work or time.

GROCERY SHOPPING

Save your grocery store receipts from Redner's Warehouse Markets, and ask your friends, co-workers, relatives and anyone else you can think of to save these tapes for us as well. Receipts can be dropped off at the Adoption Center at the PETSMART stores in Pottstown or Downingtown or mailed to our mailing address.

Redner's: In order for your receipts to count, you must present to the cashier your Redner's Save-A-Tape card before the cashier rings up your groceries. If you need a card, ask for a Save-A Tape card at the customer service desk in any Redner's. There is no cost for the card.

Genuardi's & Safeway stores use the eScrip program. Just go to escrrip.com for details or check at the customer service desk at either store. Many other merchants participate in this program - see the eScrip website for details!

PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Staples gives us \$3 for each used cartridge we turn in for recycling. Just stop by the adoption centers at PETSMART in Pottstown or Downingtown with your used printer cartridges and we can recycle them.

As you see, there are so many ways to help the kitties that count on us every day. We look forward to your help towards our mission and to seeing you around the adoption centers. Nothing gives us more joy than to hear the wonderful stories of the kitties that you have adopted from us! 🐾

Meet Our Volunteers

Every Monday morning the kitties at the CAN shelter are greeted by a truly dynamic duo in the persons of Donna Smith and Terri Petrofes. These two ladies not only are faithful Cat Angel volunteers but are very involved with their respective churches.

Donna's family are the light of her life, along with her at-home and shelter kitties. Her passion for serving others, both human and feline, is evident as Donna has been Director of Youth and Family Ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church for more than 10 years. Donna and her youthful charges have had many adventures together. During the summer of 2009, the group spent a week installing rain gutters on homes in Virginia and West Virginia through the Appalachian Service Project.

Closer to home, Donna has 5 kitties: Ebby, the oldest at 11, Jack and Poppy, rescued from starvation as kittens, Molly, a 5-year-old CAN kitty from an abusive home and, Stevie, a 2-year-old blind little girl who was rescued by CAN

Donna first came to the shelter in October 2007 and helped train Terri a year later. She and Terri have been involved with Cat Angel's annual Spring Fling, held each year to bring together volunteers, benefactors, and adopters to showcase the shelter and its resident kitties. Donna

can't pinpoint the exact reason she decided to volunteer with CAN. She was a caregiver for her father in addition to her many other roles at home and work and wanted to do something for herself. She found CAN online and thought this might be what she needed. Donna repeats what so many of our volunteers say: "The cats give so much more to us than we give to them. It's amazing to see how they are able to put the negative behind them, forgive, and trust and just live in the present."

Terri was just out of high school when she joined the Army and worked for 3 years as a cook stationed at Fort Lewes in Washington State and in Hanau, Germany. She continued in that line for a few years after leaving the army and then worked with mentally challenged people at Brian's House and Devereux Foundation, as well as in respite care. These days, in addition to her Monday mornings at the shelter, Terri can be found on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Christ Episcopal Church where she is in the choir and volunteers with the Cluster group.

Terri has always been a cat lover and learned about CAN through one of our volunteers. For several years she attended the annual Cat Angel Concert held at WCU in the spring and when she moved to Pottstown decided to volunteer. Her 4 cats include: Smarty, a male tuxedo adopted from the Frances Vail shelter and Tatters, rescued 11 years ago from starvation during a heat wave. Cinder and Janey

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Ask “Angel”

Nighttime Activity In Cats



QUESTION: I love my cat dearly, but he has a behavior that is greatly impacting my life and health. He is very active at night, playing with his toys, running all over the house, sometimes knocking things over. I am a very light sleeper and his nighttime escapades (not to mention his walking all over me!) wake me up frequently during the night, and I find it difficult to get back to sleep. In addition, he has begun to wake me up in the morning earlier and earlier, wanting to be fed his breakfast. I usually get up at 6 AM for work, but he started waking me up at 5:45. Once I starting getting up at 5:45, he started meowing and walking on me at 5:30. The loss of sleep has me exhausted and stressed, and is affecting my performance at work. Is there any way to stop this behavior and allow me to get the full night's sleep I desperately need?



ANSWER: We kitties have a natural tendency to be nocturnal creatures, sleeping during daylight hours and hunting at night. As pets living in an active home, this schedule is often reversed as we interact with our owners and other pets during the day, and get our much needed hours of sleep at night, cuddled up on the bed with our owners. But when there is little or no daytime activity (family at work or school, no other pets or older inactive pets), we sleep the boring day away and use up all our pent-up energy participating in what we call the “MIDNIGHT CRAZIES!”

If your kitty is a kitten or young adult (and most cats guilty of this behavior are), the logical solution is to spice up his life with more activity and fun during the day. Giving your beloved cat a young, playful companion kitty is the quickest, easiest way to turn his life (and sleep cycle) upside down! Running, chasing, wrestling, and soccer games with balls or toy mice are exciting and exhausting ways that cats



relieve their action-packed littermate days!

Another effective technique is to pick up your cat's toys when you go to bed, storing them in a plastic bag with catnip, and then taking out two or three the next morning, rotating the toys so kitty doesn't become bored with them. Cat trees or perches in sun-filled windows overlooking interesting nature scenery also provide stimulation during the day. Putting up a birdfeeder right outside a window guarantees that most sensory-starved felines are going to spend many happy hours chattering at the array of feathered visitors!

A “must” for eliminating excess nighttime activity is to have a vigorous 15 minute play session with your cat EVERY night before bedtime. A laser pointer provides hilarious fun for you and your cat as you have him run in circles, up the wall and around the room, all from the comfort of your easy chair as you watch the Nightly News. Make this part of your bedtime rituals and you will add many ZZZZZZ's to your life!

As far as the problem with your kitty awakening you to be fed, the solution is to change his feeding times. Instead of the typical first-thing-in-the-morning and after-work feedings, try feeding him ¼ of his daily allotment as you LEAVE for work, another ¼ when you come home, and the remaining ½ at your bedtime (AFTER the exhausting play session). This late-night feeding has the added benefit of making your cat sleepy right when you want him to be, less hungry early in the morning, and not expecting to be fed as soon as you get up. NEVER, EVER, EVER, GET UP TO FEED YOUR CAT WHEN HE AWAKENS YOU AT NIGHT (unless, of course, you want to teach him that mommy will be happy to get up and feed her darling boy whenever he insists!) Cats are masters of cause-and-effect, and if they

learn that their annoying behavior gets results, they WILL do it again! If your cat awakens you to be fed, get up and close him up in a room far from your bedroom. You will not have to do this very often, as your genius cat will figure out that every time he wakes you, an unpleasant result follows.

If after two to three weeks of following these techniques, you do not begin to see a gradual lessening of the undesirable behaviors, you will have to use some tough love, and confine your cat to a room of his own for the night. Any small room with a door, far from the bedroom, can be used. Ideally, it should be dark, and have NO TOYS, just a warm, snuggly bed and a small litterbox. If you do not have a room like this available, a 36” X 24” (or larger) dog cage, covered by a sheet, if necessary, can make an ideal “apartment” for your kitty's nighttime rest. And if the spot is dark and warm, he WILL sleep the night away, as there is nothing else for him to do. Eventually, as his internal clock gets switched around, confining him at night may no longer be necessary. And, if he always has to sleep in his separate place, so be it. As we say in the cat world, “If Momma ain't happy, ain't NOBODY happy!” If you, as your cat's owner, are not getting your proper rest, your kitty is in danger of losing his home, and THAT is the ultimate unhappiness for any cat.



Cats are highly trainable, if changes are consistently enforced. It's tempting, especially in the middle of the night, to pull the covers over your head and hope the problem goes away by itself. But if you resolve to make the necessary adjustments and stick to them, you and your cat will have a lifetime of “Sweet Dreams” together,

A Promise Keeper

A promise made the day we met
A joy to keep for you, and yet
So many cats I could not take
Whose fate at night keeps me awake
I lean upon the hope and care
Of dear Cat Angels everywhere.



In honor of the love we share
I send this gift to those who care
For abandoned kittens in despair
Your precious life to me so dear
We'll help some there, and love
lots here.

Thank you for your continued support!

Cat Angel Network 2010 "Promise Keeper" Campaign

Yes, I want to be a Cat Angel Network Promise Keeper! Please accept my donation of \$_____ to help with the care of the many cats and kittens that depend on Cat Angel Network every day of the year.

I make this donation in honor of/in memory of my dear cat _____.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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

Please make checks payable to **Cat Angel Network** and mail to:
Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464.



Save the Date Now for our Fall Auction!

Our annual fall auction will be held this year on October 24th, at the West Chester Senior Center. This year's event will once again feature wonderful food plus a great live and silent auction. The live auction will be run by Bud and Annette Smith of Smith Auction Company. We are currently accepting donations of items valued at \$25 or more. If you have items to donate, please email Henry at catangelpa@aol.com. More details will follow in our September newsletter. Please check us out on Facebook or at www.catangel.org for periodic updates. 🐾

11th Annual Cat Angel Network Benefit Concert Raises over \$6,000

The 11th Annual Cat Angel Network Concert For Cats, held Sunday, April 11th in the Adler Theatre at West Chester University was a great success. With too many highlights to mention them all, the event raised over \$6,000.00! Video of cats on the big screen provided an almost choreographed ballet to most of the music. With West Chester University faculty, students, and friends performing, the music was of exceptional quality. These annual concerts are suitable for children of all ages. We wish to extend our most sincere thanks to everyone who attended and to all our pre-concert donors. We hope you will attend our 12th annual Cat Concert, which will be held on April 3rd, 2012 🐾

Meet Our Volunteers

(cont'd from page 2)

are both CAN kitties. In the Spring 2009 issue of our newsletter we featured an article written by Terri about Cinder and the joys of adopting an older cat. UPDATE: Cinder was 17 and sadly, she recently passed away in the comfort of the loving home of someone who cared deeply for her. The good news is that Cinder's golden years were the happiest she ever knew – Terri made sure of that!

Terry reiterates Donna's sentiments and says she receives so much in love and a sense of purpose from the kitties. "They appreciate everything you do for them and say thank you in so many ways."

These two truly are an amazing pair, sharing their love and caring ways with our shelter kitties and the humans they interact with every day. 🐾