



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.*



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Announcing Our Upcoming Auction ~ October 23rd

Mark your calendar today for our upcoming auction on **Sunday October 23rd**. If you haven't attended one of our auctions, you really should make an effort to come this year. With both silent and live auctions, excellent food, and a room filled with cat lovers, the event is always fun, fun, fun! There is no pressure to buy, but few can resist the wonderful bargains and great opportunities to do a little holiday shopping. We will have many wonderful donated items up for auction.

We are most fortunate to have Bud and Annette Smith from **Smith Auction Company** running the live auction. They make bidding fun and easy for the novice auction attendee!

Auction FAQs

When and where is the event? The date is Sunday, October 23rd from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. The silent auction runs from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. with the live auction beginning at 3:00 p.m. The event will be held at the West Chester Senior Center, 530 East Union Street, West Chester (www.wcseniors.org). There is a great map on the senior center website.

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Tapestries by Pure Country Weavers are always an auction favorite!

A Ray of Hope

In the middle of June, a stray Siamese cat who had never been spayed gave birth in the woods to five tiny, fluffy babies. Within a couple of weeks two had disappeared, possibly falling prey to foxes; a week later mom disappeared, a casualty of the road.

People living nearby went in search of the remaining kittens. What they found wasn't pretty, as all three beautiful Siamese kittens were infested with maggots and barely alive. They were brought to Cat Angel Network on a Sunday afternoon and rushed to the emergency vet. Sadly, two were so badly infested that their internal organs were failing and had to be euthanized to prevent further suffering. One lone kitten was given only a slim chance of survival.



Two weeks later, that lucky little kitten is thriving, being bottle fed by a CAN foster mom, a teenage volunteer working on her high school senior project. Named Cricket, she is learning how to play, to eat solids, and to use a litter box. She's bonding with her foster family, snuggling with them, and is eager to play with their other cats once she receives a clean bill of health.

That this tragic situation even offers a ray of hope is testament to the devoted efforts of our foster families. Without them, we would not have the space to help kittens like Cricket, or any of the others about whom we receive phone calls every single day. We desperately need more foster homes so that we can continue to help cats and kittens. Fostering is the most fulfilling job you'll ever love; please contact CAN today to learn more about this rewarding experience. 🐾

Wanted: A Few Good Men (and Women)

Do you have a few hours to spare? Cat Angel Network needs YOU.

Are you RETIRED? Do you have a little FREE TIME? Do you have a SKILL that we need?

ALLERGIC? You can be allergic to cats and still help! If you enjoy fundraising, have grant writing, accounting, or marketing skills, we can put you to work and you never have to see a cat (unless you want to, of course!)

NOT ALLERGIC? Would you like to introduce our cats to their future families at PETsMART? We always need people who enjoy dealing

with the public to staff the Adoption Centers at PETsMART in Pottstown and Downingtown. The Adoption Centers are always busy and we could use help especially on Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays. This is a critical time for the cats and you can shorten a stressful stay for them if you are available for a few hours a week or even every other week.

Want to help but don't have lots of free time? If you are interested in VOLUNTEERING OCCASIONALLY, you can sign up for special events. For example, some of our major fundraising events include our Annual Benefit Auction, Annual Concert, Christmas photos

of pets with Santa Claus, as well as a number of smaller projects and events where help is needed. As a matter of fact, we're already in the early planning stages of our annual Santa photo event at the Pottstown and Downingtown Petsmart stores. Did you ever consider helping Santa do his work? We're looking for elves to assist Santa every weekend in December. Here's an opportunity to have a barrel of fun by being a Santa or one of his elves, hand out candy canes, get dogs, cats, monkeys, birds, rabbits, etc, to smile and look cute for their picture. It's fun – guaranteed!

(cont'd on page 4)

Meet Our Volunteers

Ann Farnum, Downingtown Every other Friday evening CAN kitties at the Downingtown PetSmart store are the recipients of caring attention from long-time CAN volunteer, Ann Farnum. Ann can't quite remember how long she's been with Cat Angel Network: "I think it's four or five, maybe six years," she said. Ann gets around quite a bit. In addition to Feasterville, where she was born, she's lived in Conneticut, Langhorne, and presently makes her home in Downingtown. She met her husband of 37 years when they were on a trip to Jamaica. Their two sons are grown, so now days they share their home with four kitties.

Ann graduated from Neshaminy High School and started her career at a small naval facility in Warminster. For the past 20 years she's worked in doctors' offices, which she really enjoys. She is presently employed in the medical records department of a large, eight-doctor GI practice in West Chester.

Ann hardly remembers a time when she didn't have cats and told her husband when they first met that he'd "better like cats." Fortunately, he did. Now retired from Wyeth, he is the first-line cat caregiver while Ann is working. There have been a long line of cats named "Puff" in Ann's life, from her first kitten as a child, to her present "Puff" (the fifth). She became involved with CAN after talking with a volunteer at PetSmart and just thought it would be a lot of fun to help care for cats waiting for adoption. In addition to her Friday slot, she can be found helping at PetSmart adoptathons on many Sunday afternoons.

A few years ago Ann adopted two very sweet white kitty boys from CAN. Sadly they developed cardiomyopathy and passed away within two months of each other around their 3rd birthdays. These days Ann is happy to have adopted two orange boys, Eric and Neil, and more recently a sweet, blue-eyed white kitty, David, who is deaf. All three boys are named after members of classic rock bands, another of Ann's passions. Ann is very happy to have found CAN and enjoys being part of an all-volunteer group that works so hard to save and improve the lives of so many loveable cats and kittens.

Elaine (Lainey) Fox, Pottstown Elaine (Lainey) Fox grew up in Clarks Green, PA, a suburb of Scranton. After graduating from Lycoming College, she went to Johns Hopkins in Baltimore for training as a medical social worker. For 13 years she worked in Philadelphia and Baltimore hospitals. Her career as a substitute elementary school teacher began when she married and moved to Earl Township. Lainey laughingly says that "over her 30 year career she's taught everything except gym."

Lainey's love of cats began as a young girl. There were always two or three cats around her home and she was often seen building "cat condos" out of cardboard boxes and pushing her very tolerant charges around in a doll carriage. Her college companion, a Siamese cat, was known for biting her boyfriends. Once retired and widowed, Lainey noticed that cats just seemed to find their way to her yard. In 2004 during a snowstorm, a black cat that she had been feeding came running to her door and seemed only too happy to come inside. And of course, the next day her kittens were born. Lainey's vet directed her to CAN and Charlotte Jay, who guided her through her first experience with fostering and a CAN volunteer was born.

The shelter was the focus of Lainey's attention as a new CAN volunteer and she still spends time most Wednesday afternoons grooming and doling out lots of TLC to the resident kitties. When the Pottstown PetSmart store opened she became the dedicated Saturday morning volunteer, arriving at 7:00 a.m. to make sure the adoption center and kitties were ready for the store opening. She is an experienced bottle-feeder of orphaned kittens and especially enjoys bringing some of her babies to PetSmart to help educate children and their parents.

Very dear to Lainey's heart are her three special needs kitties: Nike, Adidas, and Sketcher. These sweet polydactyl kitties were found at a cement factory with severe chemical burns when they were 2 weeks old. Lainey bottle fed them and continues to care for them despite the physical handicaps resulting from their horrific start in life. She hopes more people will consider adopting kitties with special needs. According to Lainey: "There is a much deeper bond that develops with these kitties. They love and appreciate you even more because they are more dependent on you than a healthier cat." 🐾

Ask “Angel”



In this issue, our resident kitty behavior expert, Angel, wanted to share a real life story (with a happy ending) about an abandoned and injured cat who got a second chance..

A Cat Named Plywood

I was browsing my Facebook page one evening when I came across a post of an orange tabby cat walking through the autumn leaves. What riveted my attention, however, was the sight of a horrific wound on the left side of his face. It was impossible to look at anything but the mass of clotted blood covering his eye and everything around it.

The post said that the injured cat had been spotted off and on in the area around a house deserted by an evicted family. Food was being left, and a humane trap was going to be set to catch the poor kitty.

For the next few weeks, I couldn't get this cat off of my mind. Then I saw the post I had been praying for - the cat had been caught! The trapper was Jill Hammill, a CAN volunteer who works at Paoli Vetcare, and she planned to bring the kitty into work with her the next day. The comments in response to her post were pretty pessimistic. Most felt that little could be done to put that mangled face back together and the most humane thing to do would be to end his suffering.

But something about the sight of the robust-looking cat striding confidently through the leaves didn't jive with that gloomy prognosis. Except for his face, he looked so well and strong. This cat was a survivor and deserved a chance.

I called Jill that night and asked if she would talk to the vet and see if something could be done for this cat. The orange boy went into surgery the next day, and under the skilled hands of the surgeon Dr. Goscolo at Paoli Vetcare, his face was carefully stitched together. Amazingly, his eye was intact and unharmed except for the eyelid. He would not be able to blink in the usual way, but the vet reported that the kitty's third eyelid was keeping the eye moist.

The Before and After pictures posted on Facebook that night were bloody and raw-looking, but as hard as they were to look at, there was no doubt that the surgery was a resounding success. Harvey, as he was named at the vet's office, was going to make it!

In the next few weeks Jill did some detective work and found out a few things about the abandoned cat. His name had been Plywood, and he was not a feral cat at all, but actually slept in bed with the members of the evicted family. They said that they thought he was injured back in July, which means he made it through FOUR difficult months before he was trapped in November! Yes, Plywood the Cat was indeed a survivor.



Woody, after surgery and some TLC, looks like he's on top of the world! (On a cat shelf in his foster home.)

Today Woody, as he is called, is doing extremely well and is ready for adoption! A loving and handsome boy, he is eager to begin the second of his nine lives in a secure new home!

Woody's vet costs were covered by a donor, but if you would like to help future injured strays who come to Cat Angel Network, donations can be sent to "Woody's Fund," Cat Angel Network, Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464. 🐾

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Slowdown in Adoptions Sad Economic Indicator

Animal rescue groups across the country are feeling the pinch of the recession in the saddest possible way -- donations are falling, animal relinquishments are on the rise and adoption requests have slowed. Rescue and adoption is a revolving door process and the door is sticking.



Cat Angel Network does not euthanize cats due to lack of space; however, if the fosters in our care aren't finding homes as readily as in the past, it seriously hinders our ability to help many of the hundreds of cats and kittens on our surrender waiting list. Some publicly-funded rescue groups have even offered cats for an adoption fee of \$1. While the public may think this is a great deal, it just reminds us that these groups would rather take a loss on their costs than to have to euthanize more cats.



Yet, in such dire times, the love and affection provided by one of our dear cats or a pair of our sweet kittens can lift the gloom you may otherwise be feeling. It's hard to not feel better when a beloved cat is gently purring in your arms or the antics of a team of frisky kittens has you giggling in delight. Adopting a rescue cat is a small investment that will reap a lifetime of happy benefits. Please visit Cat Angel Network at the PetSmart stores in Pottstown and Downingtown, or look on our website, www.catangel.org – you may find a forever friend as well as take the right step toward bringing our economy back. 🐾

Announcing Our Upcoming Auction ~ October 23rd

(cont'd from page 1)

Where do I get tickets? The price of admission is \$20 per person, which includes delicious hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. There are no physical tickets. Just fill out the form below and return it with your check/cash, or go to our website where you can purchase admission using PayPal. Your name will be on a list of attendees, so you will only need to check in at the door. We strongly encourage ticket purchase in advance and appreciate receiving your ticket return coupons or PayPal payment by October 17th. After that date, please call or email Henry to secure tickets for the event. Tickets at the door will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Dress? We suggest "business casual."

How can I help make this event a success? If you would like to contribute a new item for the auction, please contact Henry. Also, we could use help advertising the event. We can send you a flyer to print out via email. In addition, we would love to have a business or individual donor cover the cost of the senior center. This expense is \$350.00. If you would like to cover this cost, please contact Henry.

What type of items are acceptable for the auction? Gift baskets, restaurant gift certificates, jewelry, items of value, and bottles of wine to name a few. If you would like to have us purchase an item at wholesale from Pure Country Weavers and list you as a donor, please contact Henry.

What is the deadline to donate items? The deadline is October 6th. After that date, we may still be able to take high quality items that will bring a good price at the auction.

What payment is accepted at the event? Cash and check only. Absolutely no credit cards.

If you have questions, please contact: Henry Grabb – catangelpa@aol.com (or call 484-947-3684).

Thank you for your continued support!

Cat Angel Network 2011 Auction Reservation Form

Please return this form with your check payable to Cat Angel Network. Your name/s will be included on the Reservation list at the door.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

I have enclosed a check for the amount of \$ _____ for _____ reservations at \$20 each.

I have enclosed a check for the amount of \$ _____ as a donation.

Reservation purchases cannot be refunded. If, for some reason, you are unable to attend the auction, please consider your reservation purchase to be a donation.

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



Wanted: A Few Good Men (and Women)

(cont'd from page 2)

Do you want to be more HANDS-ON WITH THE CATS? We desperately need foster families to care for the kittens until they are old enough to be adopted. Kittens too messy? How about socializing a frightened teenager or shy adult until they are ready for a new home? A separate room, a good book to read, and a bit of patience are all you need! Are you home full-time? Consider bottle-feeding orphans. These little ones require a lot of care and the feeling of satisfaction you get from keeping them alive cannot be matched.



If you like to CLEAN, we definitely have jobs for you! The cats at the shelter are uncaged and we're convinced that they have wild parties at night and wait for their "slaves" to put things in order the next day. Would you rather SOCIALIZE with the kitties? You can do that, too. There are always a few Timid Tillies who need some encouragement to be more outgoing.

There is a place for everyone and we **CAN** use **YOU** to help the organization find a permanent place for all our cats and kittens and keep them happy and healthy until they do find their special home!

Go to our website – www.catangel.org - click on VOLUNTEERS to find our VOLUNTEER APPLICATION. Include as much information as possible to help us include your skills and time into our program.

