



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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Cat Angel Network's 12th Annual Concert For Cats Coming April 3rd

Not everyone knows this, but musicians tend to love cats, and so it is very fitting for West Chester University faculty, students, and friends, to help support cat rescue efforts by hosting an annual cat concert at West Chester University.



Each concert combines classical and contemporary music with cat videos, dancers, and other visual entertainment. If you haven't attended a Cat Concert before, you really should come this year. You will laugh, cry a little, and leave with a warm fuzzy feeling in your heart. The concert is appropriate for cat lovers of all ages. One measure of success of our cat concert is "repeat business." Many cat lovers in the area look forward to this event and many have attended every concert!!

This year's concert will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 3, 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, we have set a goal of \$10,000 in concert donations. With our ever-increasing

vet bills and our commitment to our trap, neuter, return program, we must raise significantly more money each year.

Please fill out the coupon on page 4 and mail in your donation! Donations received prior to March 24th will be acknowledged in the program.

One At A Time

Rescuing one animal may not change the world, but for that one animal, the world will be changed forever.

Recently we helped a stray, feral kitty, who we named Midnight. You can probably guess that he was all black with beautiful amber eyes. He comes to eat with several other ferals at their feeding station.



He showed up about 2 months ago, limping, favoring his front left paw. The next evening it wasn't getting any better. In fact, it was obvious that he was getting worse – moving more slowly and the paw was getting more and more swollen. We knew we had to intervene or this kitty would continue to suffer unnecessarily. We rushed him to an emergency vet on a Sunday where he was treated. The vet thought that he would recover with

(cont'd on page 4)

Fall 2010 Auction Breaks Record

Thanks to many hands, our fall auction brought in a record amount of almost \$14,000 for our rescue efforts. Held at the West Chester Senior Center, the event featured a live auction and a silent auction, with the live auction run by Bud and Annette Smith of Smith Auction Company.

Like at any auctions, there were some amazing bargains on many items, with a few key items having several bidders slugging it out for the win.

Each year, we depend heavily on the donations of our friends and area businesses. This is a great time of year to purchase items for next fall's event. Many donators enjoy purchasing items this time of year when the winter sales are going on. It is fun to buy an item at a great sale price and watch it sell for more than your purchase price.

If you are interested in helping with this Fall's auction, please email Henry at catangelpa@aol.com. 🐾



Meet Our Volunteers

Barbara Lappano

In 2002, I adopted my first cat from CAN and very appropriately named her Angel. She is a beautiful medium hair cat and I do consider her my "sweetest" cat. Shortly thereafter I decided to volunteer for Cat Angel and started working at Pet Smart in Downingtown in the summers when I had time off from my teaching job. In 2004, I retired from West Chester University, where I taught dance for 33 years. With retirement I felt I had a little more time to give to volunteering. Over the past few years, my experiences with the organization have been varied. I have cleaned and fed at the adoption center, worked on the weekends at the adoptathons, fostered a few cats (Stan, Juliet, Phantom, and Bella Mia), provided some performers for the Cat Angel Benefit Concert, and organized food for the Art Auction.

After Adopting Angel, the next CAN cat to come into my life was Phantom, originally known as Pumpkin. The day I took him into my home, I went to see Phantom of the Opera at the movies and decided that would be his name since he had a one-sided eye issue. Phantom was born with the herpes virus in his eye and required several surgeries as a result. I made many trips to various vets with him and eventually realized that his imperfect eye was not going to change. But it really did not matter nor was it important, as he is a dear beautiful cat that has blessed my life!

For me volunteering has been both a challenging but yet a very rewarding experience. It has enabled me to make many friends both human and feline! Cat Angel Volunteers are truly a family and some of the volunteers have been helpful in all aspects of my life. Although I tend to still keep busy with my dance career, I try to also give time to volunteering as there will always be a cat out there that needs our help. I presently live in Exton with my four cats – Starr, Gypsy Rose, Angel and Phantom - and one new foster, Bella Mia. 🐾

Gail Gosser

I was first motivated to volunteer with CAN in 2001 as a result of finding a stray mother cat with kittens in my wood pile. I was in a panic and was able to get advice from CAN on how to trap the mother cat complete with the loan of a trap. She was a semi-feral kitty and would be impossible to adopt out so I welcomed her and her son into my home to join the rest of my feline family. While I was aware of the critical cat overpopulation, this experience made a tremendous impression on me.

So I became a volunteer and have been with CAN for about 9 or 10 years. In addition to the usual cat care and shelter activities, I assumed the responsibility for the weekly floor cleaning at the shelter (vacuuming and scrubbing) and take great pride in the results.

I work at Montgomery County Community College as a Senior adjunct instructor and

have been teaching Fine Arts there since 1975. I graduated from Moore College of Art in 1974 B.F.A and Tyler School of art in 1980. M.F.A. I create my own original art work and enjoy oil painting and have exhibited my art work in regional and national art exhibitions. I also volunteer as a living historian (Victorian costume, et al) at Pennypacker Mills which is a historic site near my home.

Over the years I have been involved in numerous TNR's and each time I thought "I'll never do this again!" BUT it continues to happen over and over again as long as there are poor unfortunate kitties who remain unsprayed and unneutered. I must say that I think those TNR experiences have been some of the most meaningful and rewarding things I have ever done in my life. It feels so good and is so rewarding to save lives.



NOTICE

We are no longer accepting ACME Market register tapes as ACME has discontinued this program.

We are currently accepting REDNER Market register tapes. For the tapes to be eligible for redemption, you must use your Redner's "save-a-tape"/gas card at the check out.

Ask “Angel”



There's an injured stray outside my house, what can I do?

QUESTION: I keep seeing a stray cat outside who appears to be badly injured. I put food out, but I don't know what else to do. He's not touchable, and even if I were able to get him, what would I do with him? He's not my cat, and I'm sure a vet visit would be expensive. He might have to be put down, and that would be so upsetting. Even if he can be treated, who would care for him as he recovers? I feel helpless, but it's so heartbreaking to see the poor thing out there suffering day after day. What can I do?

ANSWER: Thanks for caring about this kitty. Your concern is the first step in getting help for this cat, and he CAN be helped! Most people who find themselves in this situation feel overwhelmed. So many obstacles and questions rush into their mind that it seems hopeless for them to make any difference in the suffering of this fellow living creature.



The secret is to make up your mind that you can and will do something, that you refuse to close your eyes to it and do nothing. It's amazing how this resolution alone will give you a feeling of relief. The inner turmoil of indecision will be over, and the positive work of doing what you can, one small step at a time, will begin.

First, make some phone calls to get advice and help. Using email can be effective, but it is ESSENTIAL that you address individuals and avoid mass emails. With those, each person thinks that somebody else is going to take care of it, resulting in no one stepping up to assist you.

The key to getting people to agree to help is to make it clear that you yourself will do what you can, and you're not expecting the person you're asking to "do it all." Start your request with, "I need help in helping an injured cat." This request is almost always irresistible to a

true animal lover who wants to be PART of the effort. There are so many ways, big or small, that each person can help.

Start by calling no-kill rescue groups. Be advised that most SPCA's, Animal Control Agencies, etc., will routinely euthanize, or encourage you to euthanize, any injured cat. You need someone experienced to guide you through the process of doing the best thing possible for the kitty. Perhaps the cat may need to be humanely euthanized at some point, but that is a call that should be made after an exam by a trained veterinarian. Many injuries are not as bad as they first appear and can be set right with a cleaning of the wound and antibiotics.

A no-kill rescue will often be willing to lend you supplies you will need, like a humane trap to catch the cat. A trap is preferred over trying to get the cat into a cat carrier since a cat in pain will be frightened and hard to handle, and can bite or scratch even if it is not a feral cat. It is much safer for you (and for the veterinarian who will sedate the cat) to have the cat in a humane trap.

The choice of a vet is an important decision and one that the no-kill rescue can give you advice about. Considerations are a willingness to discount services for an un-owned cat and flexibility in arrangements for the cat's care and confinement, if necessary. An injured cat sometimes has what is referred to as "a wound of unknown origin." This means that the cat's care will be subject to the individual county's rabies quarantine guidelines.



Each county varies in their strictness, with Montgomery County being the strictest in the area. Under the proper guidance, you will be allowed to quarantine the cat in a secure place IN YOUR HOME. Do not be misled into thinking a cat with a treatable injury must be euthanized to avoid expensive quarantine at a vet's office. Even a cat that has bitten or scratched a person can be

confined at home under close observation.

After-care for a recuperating cat can be done in a large dog cage. No-kill rescues often have these available for loan. People often wonder how they can care for a feral (wild) cat, but a few tips will make the process easier. For example, medications can be crushed into appetizing canned foods. Also, putting a small carrier into the larger dog cage will give the kitty a hide-out, something a feral cat will definitely make use of as you approach to put food into the cage or change litter.



The issue of cost is one that is almost always a concern of good Samaritans who help a stray. Some vets and no-kill rescues have a fund especially for cats such as these. Appeals to friends and family often bring contributions from those who are not able to be hands-on helpers but want to be part of the solution. Letters to the Editor or, better yet, feature stories in your local newspaper that direct sympathetic readers to make donations directly to the cat's vet are an effective way to get the community involved. There are many, many compassionate people who will respond to an appeal for help once their attention has been drawn to the situation and their hearts have been touched.

So I hope you have decided to help that injured stray you saw. You will sleep better tonight, and every night thereafter, knowing you did the right thing. The world is a better place because you are in it because you are doing what you can, which is all any of us can ever do.

“I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything; but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.”

~ Edward Everett Hale

A Snip In Time Saves Nine

Bob Barker, amongst others, has been encouraging people to spay and neuter their pets for at least a half century and still it appears the message has not sunk in. Why aren't people heeding this advice?

The number one reason we hear for failure to spay/neuter is cost. There are groups that may be able to help by offering low-cost spay/neuter. Not getting your cat fixed means:

- The screeching wails of a female cat in heat
- The opportunity for your male cat to spray to mark his territory
- The scene when your female cat accidentally gets out and comes back pregnant

The noise and smells that accompany cats that are not fixed are not pleasant. One reason we ensure all cats are spayed/neutered before adoption is because we have seen too many cats get out "accidentally" while their owners "meant to get her spayed" but didn't.

Cats can become pregnant at four to six months

of age, having an average litter of 4 to 6 kittens who can repeat the cycle in another few months. And that mother cat can be pregnant three times a year. Left unchecked, one cat can be responsible for creating hundreds of new cats in just a few years. This perspective shows the value in spay/neuter.

With kitten season fast approaching, rescues such as Cat Angel Network will once again be inundated with pleas to help pregnant cats, not all of whom are strays or feral. "Fix"ing the situation stops the problem before it happens!



Making the Right Move

"I'm moving so I have to give up my cat," has become a dreaded phrase that we hear all too often. Many times, in talking with the person making the move, it becomes apparent that they simply haven't thought everything through.

While moving is sometimes absolutely the last resort, such as in moving to senior living, military deployment, foreclosure, and incarceration, it's often an easy out for people who don't take a little extra time to find a rental that allows cats. They're out there and not too difficult to find.

Cat Angel Network has volunteers who have moved across town, across the country, and across the world with their cats in tow and have helpful tips regarding moving pets by car and air, as well as clever ideas to help a cat present it's best paw forward to a potential landlord. Talking to us first can help both you and your cat.

After all, your cat has rewarded you with unconditional love, don't you owe it to him/her to find a place where he/she can accompany you? 🐾

C.A.N. 2011 Concert Donation

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.

- Seraphim \$250 and up
- Archangel \$100 to \$249
- Angel \$50 to \$99
- Puss in Boots \$25 to \$49
- Tail Wagger up to \$24

Thank you for your continued support!

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 2011 Concert may be sent to:
Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464.



One At A Time

(cont'd from page 1)

rest and the medicine he sent home with us for Midnight. But, unfortunately, the infection got worse. We had to then partner with our local vet to help him on a weekly basis with a bandage change and exam of his foot to make sure there were continuing improvements. Initially, the vet thought that he may lose his foot but was cautiously optimistic that with time and care, he'd recover. We are absolutely thrilled to report that he has fully recovered and is once again a happy, healthy kitty!

What once looked like a desperate situation had a very positive outcome. All the hard work and effort was worth it! Midnight will be able to go back outside where he is happiest and live out his days with all four paws! 🐾

ATTENTION

If you have changed your address or do not wish to receive further Newsletter mailings, please let us know by mail to P. O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464, or by email to cscdpeach2@aol.com so we can remove your name from our mailing list file.

