



# 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 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Concert Slated for April 6<sup>th</sup>

You are cordially invited to attend our 15th Annual Cat Angel Network Benefit Concert. Each event is a unique multimedia experience, where cats (on video) interact with musicians. If you haven't attended 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. The concert is appropriate for cat lovers of all ages. Plan to join us this year to find out why so many people attend every year. For our 15th anniversary, we will be adding jazz to our ever popular line up of professional and student performers.



Our concert will be held at 3 PM on Sunday April 6th in the Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre in Swope Hall at West Chester University. We greatly appreciate the support of West Chester University in making this event possible. There is plenty of parking and the event is free, but donations are encouraged.

Our generous newsletter readers have made this event a huge success by donating either before or at the event. This year, we have set a goal of \$10,000.00 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 of \$25 or more received prior to March 24th will be acknowledged in the program. 🐾

## Special Needs Cats Take Center Stage

In the past, we have published a number of articles featuring special needs kitties. These deserving cats may have a medical condition or may be "of a certain age," making their journey towards finding a forever home a little more difficult than a perfectly healthy kitten or young adult.

While many of the special needs cats have only a minor medical problem that really doesn't affect the quality or length of life, others have more serious medical conditions. In either case, these cats can make wonderful pets and deserve of a family of their very own.



Some of these kitties come to the Downingtown and Pottstown Petsmarts, participating in our year-round adoption events. However, others do not, and therefore may miss out on an opportunity for that special person to see them and want to take them home.

It is for this reason that Cat Angel Network

*(cont'd on page 2)*

held a special adoption event for these Special Needs Kittens for three consecutive weekends in February (Feb 8-9, 15-16, and 22-23). We published full page write-ups of several kitties who, despite some challenges in life, are truly the most special cats you'll find. In fact, if you talk with animal rescuers, you will often hear them say that the animals who have faced the hardest challenges are the ones who seem to be the most grateful for what they have. Many of us see that with people, as well.

By the time this article is published, our special event will have come and gone, but these kitties are available for adoption all year round. In addition, we are pleased to say that this event started out with a great success! Mindy, one of our precious blind kitties who was featured in



a previous newsletter article, was adopted by a wonderful family in late January. It was difficult for Mindy's foster mom to watch her leave, but she realized very quickly that Mindy's new family had just what it took to give Mindy the life she so deserved.

We all deserve a family who will truly love us and help us face the challenges life may bring, and it is easy to adopt a Special Needs or older cat. We are here to help you understand all you need to know about the kitty who has found his or her way into your heart. If you are interested in adopting a special needs or older kitty, please visit our website, and submit an application to adopt – or stop by on a weekend and leave your name and phone number, and our Adoption Coordinator will

contact you and help you through the process.

These kitties will always be a special part of our family, and it is our hope that each of them will find the love and happiness they deserve with a new family of their very own! 🐾



## Meet Our Volunteers

One of Cat Angel's multitasking volunteers is **Marian Bell**, who joined CAN in April 2011. Marian first trained to care for the cats at the CAN shelter but because of her obvious "people skills" she was soon tapped to help with "meet and greet" at PetSmart weekend adoptions. During her first year volunteering at PetSmart, two baby kittens were surrendered. "It was the right time" for Marian and husband, Dennis to become foster parents. A third kitten was added a few weeks later. The family fell in love and eventually adopted Benjy and Zena, thus becoming "foster failures." Marian's daughter adopted the third kitten. Several years ago Marian agreed to assume the responsibilities of Shelter Scheduler to her CAN resume.



Born in Scranton and raised in Waverly, PA., Marian graduated from Clark's Summit High School. At the age of 18 she headed to college in Lancaster where she studied Sociology and met her first husband who was from Pottstown. After graduation they spent three years in North Carolina where she worked for a temp agency and then returned to Pottstown. After divorcing she lived in Reading and worked in West Chester before moving to North Coventry with her daughter who is now married and lives nearby. Most of Marian's career has been in the trucking and transportation industry. Since 2000 she has worked in outside sales for UPS.

Marian, who grew up with cats, was picking

up cat food at PetSmart one weekend when her husband encouraged her to fill out a volunteer application. These days Marian enjoys her every other Tuesday evening slot in the PetSmart adoption center and every other Friday night helping at the shelter. This leaves her available for the occasional fill-in feed and scoop, meet and greet or training of volunteers.

She and Dennis like to spend summer weekends at their home in Wildwood, NJ. As many CAN volunteers will attest, kitties just seem to find their way to certain people and Marian and Dennis have helped with the rescue of quite a few strays abandoned from seasonal vacationers in Wildwood.

Marian already has enough cats of her own at home but still loves getting her "cat fix" at PetSmart and the shelter every week. She can't imagine a life without cats and obviously Dennis is in agreement as they recently replaced their queen-sized bed with a king in order to have enough room for both human and furry family members. 🐾

Although the first cat did not come her way until she married, **Donna Newman** was quickly hooked and never looked back. Donna spent her early years in Philadelphia, moving to South Hampton at the age of thirteen. She graduated from William Tennent High School, married and moved to



Quakertown. Donna started her career working as an EMT and although fibromyalgia curtailed her ambulance riding days, she still works in the office. Eventually Donna and her two sons relocated to Honeybrook. The boys are married now but she continues her daily trek to Quakertown.

About four years ago, while shopping for cat food at PetSmart, Donna saw a Cat Angel recruitment flyer. She talked with volunteer, Liz Graybeal, completed training and in short order had her first litter of foster kittens. Donna loves fostering kittens, raising and helping to socialize and get them ready for their forever homes. She also volunteers with Forgotten Cats and helps with kitties at Downingtown Animal Hospital.

Presently Donna has three kitties of her own. Only one kitten of her most recent litter remains in the adoption center awaiting his new loving forever home. Two fosters are still at home. Staccato, a three-year-old grey tabby WHO initially needed medication, special food and a lot of TLC from Donna due to a kidney condition. According to Donna he's become a real sweetheart who no longer needs any special care and is looking for a forever home. Quinn is a ten-week-old black and white baby who had a very rough start in life and was very shy, but with Donna's love and attention is now a healthy, happy "attention hog."

CAN is lucky to have a wonderful volunteer like Donna. Surely the many kitties she has lovingly cared for, socialized, and prepared for their forever homes over the past four years, are thankful for Donna's devotion. 🐾

## Ask “Angel”



### Top Five Emergencies for Cats

**QUESTION:** I consider myself to be a very responsible pet owner and try to give my cat the best of care. In the past I have sometimes rushed my cat to an emergency clinic only to discover that the problem was a minor issue. How do I know when my cat truly needs to be taken to the vet immediately, as opposed to waiting until the next day and seeing my regular vet? Going to an emergency vet clinic can be quite costly, but I don't want to hesitate if there is a true crisis.

**ANSWER:** This is an excellent question and one that we often hear from our adopters and foster parents. Although minor ailments like the sniffles or sneezing can wait until the next day, some conditions need to be treated immediately, and hesitation of even a few hours can mean the difference between life and death. Knowing what signs to look for is crucial in determining when to seek emergency care for your cat. Below is a list of some of the most common cat emergencies and their signs. These “top five emergencies in cats” are condensed from an article on the website CatHealth.com.

**Urethral Obstruction:** This is a condition in which a cat, usually male, is unable to urinate due to a blockage in the urethra (the tube leading from the urinary bladder to the outside environment).

Cats will show a sudden onset of restless behavior which includes frequent trips in and out of the litter box. They will often attempt to urinate in unusual places such as in a bath tub or on a plastic bag. You may notice a very small stream of urine that contains blood. More often than not, despite a cat's straining, there may be no urine or even just a drop produced. In later stages of the obstruction, cats may cry loudly, vomit, and become lethargic.

You should consider these signs a serious emergency and seek veterinary care immediately. There are reports of cats developing kidney failure and dying within 12 hours after the onset of signs. Expect your cat to be hospitalized at least 36 hours for treatment of this condition which may include a urinary catheter, intravenous fluids, and pain management. Female cats are less likely to become obstructed due to their wider urinary tract.

**Toxicities (Poisoning):** The combination of their curious nature and unique metabolism

(the way their body breaks down chemicals) makes cats very vulnerable to toxins. Owners are often not aware that their home contains multiple products that are poisonous to their feline companions. The most common cat toxins include antifreeze, Tylenol, rat or mouse poison, and poisonous plants, such as lilies.

The signs your cat displays depend on what type of poison they have encountered. Antifreeze will often cause wobbliness or a drunken appearance first, and then progresses to vomiting/weakness



as the kidneys fail. Tylenol may cause an unusual swelling of the head and changes the cat's blood color from red to chocolate brown. Rat or mouse poison interferes with blood clotting so you may see weakness from internal blood loss or visible blood in urine or stool. Cats that are experiencing lily poisoning will often exhibit signs of depression, vomiting, diarrhea, and lack of appetite (anorexia).

**Breathing Problems:** Many times cats hide the signs of breathing problems by simply decreasing their activity. By the time an owner notices changes in the cat's breathing, it may be very late in the progression of the cat's lung disease. There are several causes of breathing changes but the most common are feline asthma, heart or lung disease.

**Sudden inability to use the hind legs:** Cats with some forms of heart disease are at risk for developing blood clots. Many times these clots can lodge in a large blood vessel called the aorta where they can prevent normal blood flow to the hind legs. If your cat experiences such a blood clotting episode (often called a saddle thrombus or thromboembolic episode), you will likely see a sudden loss of the use of their hind legs, painful crying, and breathing changes.

On arrival at the emergency room, your pet

will receive pain management and oxygen support. Tests will be done to evaluate the cat's heart and determine if there is any heart failure (fluid accumulation in the lungs). Sadly, such an episode is often the first clue for an owner that their cat has severe heart disease. In most cases, with time and support, the blood clot can resolve, but the cat's heart disease will require life-long treatment.

**Sudden Blindness:** A sudden loss of vision is most likely to occur in an older cat. The most common causes are increased blood pressure (hypertension) that may be due to changes in thyroid function (hyperthyroidism) or kidney disease. There are some cats that appear to have hypertension with no other underlying disease.

Sudden blindness should be treated as an emergency and your veterinarian will measure your cat's blood pressure, check blood tests, and start medications to try to lower the pressure and restore vision.

Anytime you notice a change in your cat's eyes, whether they lose vision or not, you should consider this an emergency and have your pet seen by a veterinarian as soon as possible.



Although these are listed as the “top five emergencies,” there are other conditions that can be life-threatening. Knowing your own cat and his or her typical behavior is the best way of ensuring that you will notice something that is outside the norm. Calling your vet with the symptoms will give you the proper guidance as to how you can proceed to safeguard the well-being of your beloved companion.



## 2013 Auction Raises Over \$14,000



This past October's Cat Angel Network Benefit Auction raised over \$14,000 and was a huge amount of fun for the one hundred plus attendees. The fourteen silent auction tables were filled with a wide array of items, ranging from the whimsical to the practical. With many deals to be had, and a few items that practically everybody seemed to want, the bargain hunting and competition were in full swing! The live auction, run by Bud and Annette Smith of Smith Auction Company, featured wonderful artisan jewelry, beautiful, original art, concert tickets, gift baskets, and many more exciting items.



A highlight of the auction was an appearance by Pennsylvania State Senator Andy Dinniman, who spoke about his animal rights activism, and offered a tour of our state capital to one lucky bidder. We want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this such a wonderful event.

If you are interested in participating in our 2014 auction, please contact Henry at 484 947 3684 or [catangelpa@aol.com](mailto:catangelpa@aol.com).

## Holly Spays Brings In Life Saving Funds



Our 2013 Happy Holly Spays/New(ter) Year Fund Drive raised over \$16,000 in much needed funds. More than 220 of our cat-loving friends chose to make a holiday gift to CAN by donating funds needed for spays and neuters, effectively helping us reduce the number of unwanted cats and kittens. These donations allow us to trap, neuter and return countless animals as we do our part to reduce the number of unwanted cats and kittens brought into this world. We thank you all for your trust in our good work. As an all-volunteer organization, you can rest assured that 100 percent of your donations go to helping needy felines. Without you, we would not be able to help!

### C.A.N. 2014 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 of \$25 or more should appear in the "Sponsors" section of the program (please print):

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Donations for our 2014 Concert may be sent to:  
Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464.



### Donate Your Car

By using DonationLine ([www.donationline.com](http://www.donationline.com)), you can donate your car to Cat Angel Network with a few easy steps. Simply go to the website, or call 1-877-227-7487 to find out if your car is eligible for donation. Most cars are eligible even if they are not running. Generally, DonationLine will accept cars that they can sell at a wholesale auction for more than the cost of towing and processing.



The process is easy and painless, and most of our car donors have reported that their vehicle was picked up within a few days! In addition, since DonationLine is a national company, your friends and family members outside of this area are eligible to donate cars to Cat Angel Network as well. Since we began this program a number of years ago, we have had a steady stream of car donations from across the country.

Car donation is an outstanding way to help Cat Angel Network and remove the stress of dealing with selling a car that you are no longer using.

