



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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Be Part of Something Special

In the life of a cat rescuer or volunteer, there is nothing more rewarding than the moment one of the kitties you helped finds her forever home. As grateful as we are for each and every adoption, the intense joy we experience when one of our “Special Needs” cats goes home is unlike anything else in the world!

of course, there were several of our senior cats – all deserving of a second chance at a happy life in a forever home. We posted pictures and stories about each of them, and within a very short period of time, fourteen of our most loving cats found new homes with some very special families!



Brutus



**Precious
Patty**

As we continue through 2015, it is our hope to find homes for more of our very special friends, and we are happy

to share the pictures of just a few who are looking for new homes today. Come join us and be a part of something very special – adopt a Special Needs cat today! If you are unable to add a new pet to your household at this time, consider a donation to help us continue to provide excellent veterinary care to those who need it most. We promise your life will never be the same



Ruby

A Special Needs cat is one with a disability, advanced age, or chronic illness, who despite having every chance of a full and happy life, is often less desirable to many adopters – or so we thought. With the help of the internet and social media, where the faces of these innocent animals can often be seen, there is a growing awareness of the rewards of owning a Special Needs pet.

again, and neither will theirs.



Learn more about one type of feline special need, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), in “Ask Angel” on page 3.

CAN Launches Redesigned Website

Cat Angel Network is pleased to announce the recent launch of our redesigned website. In addition to a more colorful and graphic appearance, we've added features including an events calendar and an email signup form. With only two newsletters per year, and so many good things going on, we would love to have the opportunity to share our success stories and news items with you on a more frequent basis. Our new email list provides us with that capability.

No need to worry about excessive emails. We promise to only email you with important news and event updates (no more than once a month on average). In addition, you can unsubscribe at any time, and we will not share your email address with other organizations. And if you sign up by July 31st, we'll send you an email with a special discount for auction tickets.

Please visit us at www.catangel.org to join the list, get information about upcoming events, and to see some of our beautiful cats! And as always, you can submit adoption applications and volunteer applications online, learn more about Cat Angel Network, and find useful articles and archives of our newsletters. Hope to "see" you soon at www.catangel.org! 🐾



Are You a Curious Cat?
Join our mailing list for up to the minute news from CAN, and "like" us on Facebook!

Save the Date for our Fall Fundraising Auction

Please mark your calendar today for our Fall 2015 auction which will be held on October 25th. If you haven't attended one of our auctions, you may want to make an effort to attend 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. As usual, we will have many terrific donated items up for auction in a wide range of prices.



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 even the novice auction attendee!

When and where is the event? The date is Sunday, October 25th from 2 – 5 p.m., with silent auction beginning officially at

2:00. Registration begins at 1:45, and those arriving early can start bidding on silent auction items as soon as they arrive. The silent auction tables begin closing around 3:15. Please arrive with ample time to socialize, eat, and peruse all of the auction articles. We suggest arriving by 2:15.

The event will be held in Griffith Hall at the Ludwig's Corner Fire Company. The address is 1325 North Pottstown Pike, Glenmoore, PA.

Where do I get tickets? The price of admission is \$20 per person in advance (by October 17th), and \$25 at the door, or past October 17th. Admission includes delicious hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, desserts, beverages, and more. Beginning August 15th, you will be able to purchase tickets on our website. We will send out a reminder mailing with a reservation form prior to the event. Tickets at the door will be available on a first come, first serve 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

– promotional flyers will be available to download from our website. In addition, we would love to have one or more businesses or individuals cover some of our upfront costs. A donation of \$650 will cover our hall rental expenses. One donation of \$1000 or two donations of \$500 will cover our catering expenses.

What type of items are acceptable for the auction? Gift baskets, restaurant gift certificates, practical items, jewelry, items of value, and bottles of wine tend to go well at the auction. We generally only accept brand new items, unless a used item has significant value and is in excellent shape.

What is the deadline to donate items? The deadline is October 10th. 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 or check is required for payments below \$100. We are able to accept credit cards for purchases over \$100.

If you have questions, please contact: Henry Grabb via email at catangelpa@aol.com (or via telephone at 484-947-3684).

Ask "Angel"



"What should I do with a cat that tests positive for FIV?"

QUESTION: I just rescued a four month old kitten from behind the building where I work. During his first vet visit, the kitty tested negative for Feline Leukemia but positive for FIV. He is a sweet gentle kitten, and I have already fallen in love with him. I have two FIV negative cats at home who get along well with each other, and I had planned to add this kitty as my third. I am getting some conflicting opinions about keeping this kitten because of his FIV status. Any advice?

ANSWER: How kind of you to take in this homeless kitty! After deciding to add him to your family, you must have been quite surprised to hear he tested positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), and your confusion about what to do next is a common feeling.



Cat Angel Network has often been in this same situation. A kitten or cat is surrendered, and the subsequent Combo test indicates an FIV+ response. When this first happened to us back in 1997 with a stray tortoiseshell kitten found in Pottstown, not much was known about this virus, but over the years the veterinary community has learned a great deal about it. And their latest information confirms what we have seen ourselves in over 18 years of fostering and adopting out FIV+ kitties. Here are the four guidelines we follow with cats testing positive for FIV, based on our experience and backed up by veterinary studies:

(1) All kittens under six months old need to be retested later because they often test a false positive. Cornell Feline Health Center (part of Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine) reports in their online

article "Feline Immunodeficiency Virus": *"Infected mother cats transfer FIV antibodies to nursing kittens, so kittens born to infected mothers may receive positive test results for several months after birth. However, few of these kittens actually are or will become infected. To clarify their infection status, kittens younger than six months of age receiving positive results should be retested at 60-day intervals until they are at least six months old."*

(2) The virus is not as contagious as first thought, and properly introduced, friendly FIV positive kitties can live with negative cats with little risk. According to the Cornell Feline Health Center's article:

"The primary mode of transmission is through bite wounds. Casual, non-aggressive contact does not appear to be an efficient route of spreading FIV; as a result, cats in households with stable social structures where housemates do not fight are at little risk for acquiring FIV infections."

(3) The care recommended for these cats includes common sense practices that we have always advised for all our cats. The Cornell Feline Health Center recommends: *"FIV-infected cats should be confined indoors to reduce their exposure to infectious agents carried by other animals; FIV-infected cats should be spayed or neutered; They should be fed nutritionally complete and balanced diets."*

(4) It is wise to promptly take care of any health issues that are noticed in these cats. The Cornell Feline Health Center advises: *"Vigilance and close monitoring of the health and behavior of FIV-infected cats is even more important than it is for uninfected cats. Alert your veterinarian to any changes in your cat's health as soon as possible."*

In our experience at Cat Angel Network with dozens of FIV+ cats, we have found that the vast majority of them live healthy and long lives. Almost all have lived to be over ten years old. The one health issue

we have seen more frequently with these cats is a redness of the gums and mouth (stomatitis). This is a treatable condition that is best taken care of early (as it would be with cats who are FIV negative).



Our advice for your four month old kitten would be to have him retested after he is six months old. (All of the CAN kittens that were retested came up FIV negative on a later test). If your present two cats are not aggressive (typical play-fighting is not a risk, but only fights involving deep, penetrating bite wounds), and you introduce the new kitty slowly and carefully, with close supervision until all are comfortable with each other, we feel that you should not experience any difficulties.

We at CAN have a special place in our hearts for cats that test FIV+. They have lived for far too long under the stigma of these three letters, often the innocent victims of misinformation that has persisted from the past. One of CAN's missions is to help spread the much more optimistic outlook presented by the latest results of veterinary studies. These cats need and deserve the same joys and comforts of life that rescue organizations like ours passionately seek for all of our feline friends!



Quotes in this column are excerpted from the findings of the Cornell Feline Health Center (part of Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine). The full article "Feline Immunodeficiency Virus" can be found online at <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc>. Accessed April 2015.

Lots of Littles

The life of a Cat Angel Network volunteer is often filled with addressing not only the overpopulation of cats and kittens, but also dealing with the senseless acts of individuals who do not view their cats as permanent family members. The stories are often heart-wrenching, each one sadder than the one before.

At Cat Angel Network, we refuse to accept that man's inhumanity to defenseless cats and kittens has to end tragically. We strive to put right as many wrongs as possible, each year helping over 500 cats and kittens find forever homes with loving families.



Brooke with her newborn "Lots of Littles"

But it takes many hundreds of helping hands to bring Cat Angel Network's vision to fruition. We hope that each person who reads this article will find at least one way to help us in our rescue efforts. Summer is an extremely busy time of year for us, and represents a period when donations are especially crucial to help us continue our efforts.

A number of years ago, we adopted this little rhyme (below) as a way of asking each newsletter reader to contribute just a small amount – even as little as \$5.00 – to our summer fundraising efforts. We hope that you will open your heart and be counted among the many loyal supporters of Cat Angel Network.

A lot of Littles is a Lot
A thousand beans can fill a pot
We all can do what one cannot
A lot of littles is a lot!

*Our goal for this summer's
"Lots of Littles" fundraiser is
to have 300 of our loyal friends
donate. Because together, we
CAN make a difference!*

To donate visit our website (www.catangel.org/meow/lotsoflittles)
or mail your donation to Cat Angel Network.

Singing the Praises of CAN's Annual Concert

Our 16th annual Concert for Cats, a special event unique to our organization, raised over \$6,000 — an amount that will help us greatly in our rescue efforts. Held at West Chester University, the concert featured two wonderful university music groups and a number of exceptional friends of our organization. The audience was treated to a great variety of music, with many selections accompanied by videos of our amazing cats. Mark your calendar now for our 17th annual concert which will be held on Sunday, March 20th, 2016 at 3 PM in the Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre at West Chester University. 🐾

2014 Highlights

In 2014, Cat Angel Network:

- 🐾 Matched adopters with 505 cats and kittens and sent them to their forever homes
- 🐾 Placed many of our special needs cats through our Valentine Program
- 🐾 Trapped, neutered, and returned hundreds of feral cats and kittens
- 🐾 Hosted weekly adoptathons at both our Downingtown and Pottstown PetSmart adoption centers
- 🐾 With your help, raised the income we needed to cover our veterinary expenses and end the year without any debts

Thank you for your continued support!

Cat Angel Network 2015 "Lots of Littles" Campaign

Please select a category for giving. All donations are 100% tax deductible. Cat Angel Network is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

- Paw Prints \$5 to \$9
- Tuna Helper \$10 to \$19
- Tail Wagger \$20 to \$29
- Cat's Meow \$30 to \$49
- Cat Angel \$50 or more

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please make checks payable to
Cat Angel Network, and mail to:

Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464

Or donate online at catangel.org.

Thank you for your contribution!

