



# CAT ANGEL NETWORK



Together, we CAN make a difference!

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## CAT ANGEL NETWORK 2015/16 Board of Directors

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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 to Celebrate 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Concert for Cats on March 20<sup>th</sup>

All cat and/or music lovers are invited to attend the 17th Annual Cat Angel Network Benefit Concert at 3 PM on Sunday, March 20th. The event will be held on the campus of West Chester University in the Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre (inside Swope Hall, at 817 South High Street, West Chester). Free parking is plentiful in the lot adjacent to the venue.



Each concert is a unique experience, where cats (on video) interact with musicians. Performers include friends of Cat Angel Network, West Chester University faculty members, and student groups. You will laugh, cry a little, and leave with a warm fuzzy feeling in your heart.

Our generous newsletter readers have made this event a huge success by donating either before or at the concert. This year, we have set a goal of \$10,000.00 in concert donations. Funds from this concert will help us through kitten season and with veterinary expenses in the summer months.

Please help us by filling out the coupon on page 4 and mail in your donation! Donations of \$25 or more received by Monday, March 14th will be acknowledged in the program. 

## Cat Angel Network Turns Twenty



This year, Cat Angel Network is proud to celebrate our 20th anniversary. CAN was founded in 1996 by Charlotte Jay, Elaine Richert and Judi Dunning and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization on March 2, 1998. From our beginning as a small group of five people at one location, we have grown to three locations, multiple foster homes and over 175 volunteers. In 1998, we partnered with PetSmart in Downingtown and opened our first adoption center, and expanded to the PetSmart in Pottstown in 2005 with the addition of our second adoption center.

Over the last 20 years, CAN has provided food, shelter, and lifesaving veterinary care to thousands of abandoned cats. In addition we have worked diligently to prevent the procreation of feral, unwanted cats and kittens through the work of our TNR (trap, neuter, return) teams. We strive to educate the public about the proper care of cats, the importance of spaying and neutering, and the benefits of adopting shelter cats. Another of our goals is to match adoptable cats with their perfect adopters. Recently, we've had success with our special adoption programs focusing on cats with special needs and our Seasoned Senior cats.

There is no greater reward than helping turn a desperate situation into a happy ending. With the tireless help of our volunteers, and generous contributions made by our donors and supporters, we are privileged to do that every day – together. 

## Senior Cats Need Loving Homes

There are those who believe that good luck brings happiness; and there are those who believe that if you are happy, then you are truly lucky in life.

To a cat, good luck and happiness are often synonymous; and both can all change in just one day.



*Honey and Starlight*

Imagine being a beloved pet; and suddenly, the person you loved the most passes away and is gone forever. While you are still in mourning, you are removed from your home and find yourself in unfamiliar surroundings, frightened for your future and feeling alone and vulnerable.

If you are lucky, you get into a safe rescue where you have a second chance at happiness... but you are an older cat; and most people want

to adopt those cute and cuddly kittens. At Cat Angel Network, we have a special place in our heart for these older kitties, and help as many as we are able.

Before making the decision to adopt the furry kitten that everyone wants, you may want to consider adopting an older cat; and we have some great kitties from which to choose! These are cats who have known love for years, and whose eyes are filled with the wisdom of the world. Most are living in foster homes with other cats, and some with dogs.



*Molly Graybeal*



*Max Graybeal*

A senior cat can be a great companion to families of all sizes and people of all ages. They are often the purrfect friend to another older kitty already living in the home. Finally, when you realize that many cats live 15-20 years, you can look forward to spending many happy years with your new best friend.

Stop in to speak to a Cat Angel volunteer at the Pottstown or Downingtown Petsmart, and please ask about adopting a senior cat or a special needs cat (a kitty who is living a happy life with a well-managed medical condition).

Be the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow for a lucky senior cat... we promise that happiness will come your way, too! 🐾

## Happy Endings for Sylvia & Mandi ~ Together We CAN Make a Difference!

One very cold night in January, 2015, a Cat Angel volunteer was driving home and noticed a very small kitten, lying on the side of the road. The volunteer immediately pulled over, picked up the kitten, and got her to safety. She had suffered an injury to her leg (most likely from being swiped by a car); and she needed medical attention quickly.

**Sylvia** was just four months old at the time; and was facing the possibility of living life with only three legs, which is something that is possible but somehow seemed unfair for such a young kitten. She was taken to one of the best surgeons in the area; and much to our delight, her leg was able to be saved. A foster mom stepped in quickly to help her with her intense recovery and post-surgical therapy; and today, Sylvia is living the life she deserves in her new forever home.



*Sylvia*

Angels seem to come at times when we need them the most; and for Sylvia the cat, the Angels were there just in time!

**Mandi** is a beautiful young cat who was living outside in Lancaster County. She found a family who would feed her each day and allow her to live on their property and take shelter in their outside shed.

What came next is the single reason that cat rescues are so busy – Mandi was never spayed, and so she became pregnant and delivered five beautiful kittens. Shortly after the kittens were born, the family heard the kittens crying and noticed that Mandi was very sick. She was unable to feed her little kittens, and she needed medical care quickly. Mandi did not “belong” to this family. They considered her a friendly stray and were kind enough to feed her; but they had no money to get the help she needed.



*Mandi*

Once in our care, Mandi's kittens were immediately started on bottle feedings; and Mandi was taken into emergency surgery to save her from what could have been a very sad ending. She had developed mastitis, an infection in her mammary glands. The infection was wide-spread, and she needed surgery to repair a ruptured abscess, a delicate procedure that required the specialists at Veterinary Referral Center in Malvern, and continued care in the foster home.

The wonderful news is that in just a couple months, Mandi was on the road to recovery; and six beautiful lives were saved. Mandi and all five of her kittens have now been adopted and are in loving homes of their very own!

## Ask “Angel”



### What Should I Feed My Cat?

**QUESTION:** My cat passed away recently, and I have just adopted another kitty. I was wondering what food you recommend to get him started right for a long and healthy life. My last cat was overweight and had urinary tract and other health issues. He ate what I considered to be a good quality dry food all his life, but I am hoping to find out if there's a better alternative for my new kitten friend. Any suggestions?



**ANSWER:** The choice of what food is best for our feline companions has become a complicated issue in recent years. The pet food industry is a multi-million dollar business that produces an ever-increasing and changing number of products every year. Their marketing departments bombard us with advertising that promotes the benefits of this or that food. Dry foods, we have been told, are good for cats' teeth. They are now made in formulations for kitten, adult, seniors, sensitive systems, urinary tract, healthy weight, hairball prevention, gluten-free, even for specific breeds like Siamese or Maine Coons. It can seem overwhelmingly complex to feed a cat.

In reality, cats' dietary needs are simple – they require meat to survive. Unlike humans and canines who can thrive on a vegetarian diet, cats are obligate carnivores which means they must eat a primarily meat diet. In the wild they are eating rodents & birds, which are meat protein



with lots of moisture included in each meal and very little carbohydrates. Compare that to the formulation of dry food – lower protein, and some of that from plants which cats' bodies are not able to utilize well, high carbs, and little or no moisture. The typical highly-processed dry food is not even close to a natural diet for a cat. Why then do cats eat it, if it's so unnatural? The reason is that the baked and dried product is sprayed with something called “animal digest” to make it smell and taste very enticing to cats.

Vets like Dr. Lisa Pierson are now recommending canned food as the preferred diet for cats. On her website [www.catinfo.org](http://www.catinfo.org), Dr. Pierson reports that she has been seeing increasing instances of cats with obesity, diabetes and urinary obstructions in her practice. She is convinced that the wide-spread use of a dry food diet is a major contributor to this alarming trend.

She cites two immediate benefits to a canned food diet. First, most canned foods contain a higher percentage of the meat-protein that cats



need to thrive. Wet food typically contains low percentages of plant-based carbohydrates that cats' bodies were not designed to run on. Without the excessive and unnatural percentage of carbs like corn, wheat, rice, & soy, canned food is a healthier alternative in the prevention of obesity and the many health problems associated with it.

The second benefit of wet food is increased moisture. A cat's urinary tract is much better off with an appropriate amount of water flowing through it. Cats are not big water drinkers and are used to getting their water with, and not in addition to, their food. As Dr. Pierson points out, “A cat's normal prey contains approximately 70 - 75 percent water. Dry food only contains 5-10 percent water whereas canned foods contain approximately 78 percent water. Canned foods

therefore more closely approximate the natural diet of the cat and are better suited to meet the cat's water needs.” This is why she states that urinary issues like cystitis and blockages can be almost entirely avoided with this diet.



Based on this information, we highly recommend a canned diet for your new kitten. Although 100% canned is best, even a part canned/ part dry diet is better than all dry food. Sometimes dry food is seen as being more economical, but Dr. Pierson believes that even the least expensive canned foods are better for our kitties than the best dry foods. Another important factor to keep in mind is that the small difference in cost can be more than offset by the avoidance of future medical bills to alleviate a urinary blockage or other health crisis. For those of us who dearly love our kitty companions, providing the best possible diet for them is a small price to pay for them to avoid pain and live a long and healthy life.

*Reference: “Feeding Your Cat: Know the Basics of Feline Nutrition,” by Dr. Lisa A. Pierson, DVM on her website [www.catinfo.org](http://www.catinfo.org).*

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE TO THOSE WITH**

##### **A DIABETIC CAT ON INSULIN:**

ALWAYS CONSULT WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN BEFORE CHANGING THE DIET OF A DIABETIC CAT ON INSULIN. THE SWITCH TO A CANNED FOOD / LOWER CARBOHYDRATE DIET OFTEN IMMEDIATELY LOWERS THE NEED FOR INSULIN AND CAN RESULT IN A DANGEROUSLY LOW BLOOD SUGAR LEVEL IF INSULIN AMOUNTS ARE NOT ADJUSTED BASED ON BLOOD SUGAR TESTING BEFORE MEALS.

## 2015 Benefit Auction Raises Over \$15,000



2015 Silent Auction Tables

Our annual Fall auction was our best yet, bringing in more than \$15,000 in much needed funds to help us rescue cats and kittens and place them into loving homes. More than 100 of our loyal supporters attended the auction, bringing with them hearts open to our cause and lively bidding! With the help of Bud and Annette Smith (Smith Auction Company) for the live auction, and silent auction tables coordinated by a number of our friends and volunteers, the whole afternoon was a shopper's paradise.

This is a great time to be thinking about our 2016 auction, which will be held the afternoon of Sunday, October 23rd in Griffith Hall at the Ludwigs Corner Fire Company in Chester Springs. Spring is a great time to buy discounted seasonal items that would be perfect to donate for our October auction. With limited table space, smaller items work well for the silent auction. Over the years, we have found that unique items, gift cards, bottles of wine, useful household items, and jewelry do well. Live auction items are can be larger, and generally have a retail value of at least \$60.00.

We are so thankful to all of those who made our 2015 event possible. If you would like to be involved in planning next year's auction or have ideas/questions, please contact Henry at 484-947-3684 or [catangelpa@aol.com](mailto:catangelpa@aol.com). 🐾

## Holly Spays Campaign Brings In Life Saving Funds



We are extremely thankful to each of the more than 250 donors who made our 2015 Happy Holly Spays Fundraiser a huge success. Bringing in almost \$18,000 in 2015, this campaign, which invites our friends and donors to donate one spay, one neuter, really any amount, will allow us to say YES to many outdoor kitties who will be able to stay in their current location but need to be sterilized and have basic veterinary care. Thank you so much to all who stepped up to help reduce the number of unwanted kittens born in our area! 🐾

### C.A.N. 2016 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 2016 Concert may be sent to:  
Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464.



## Foster Families Needed!

As we approach the busiest time of year, when adult cats and kittens in need just seem to be everywhere, we are eagerly searching for new foster homes. Whether you can foster a litter of kittens, or perhaps 1 or 2 adults, we need your help. There is no commitment to foster year-round; and no matter when you are available, you can be assured that there is a kitty who needs you and who will find his or her forever home because you cared.



To apply, please fill out a volunteer application at either the Pottstown or Downingtown Petsmart (and indicate that you are interested in fostering), or visit <http://catangel.org> and click on the [Volunteer] button and fill out an application form.

Do it for those who need you the most...and do it for yourself. 🐾

