



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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2018 CAN Auction To Be Held Sunday October 28th

Join Us as We Highlight the FUN in FUNdrasing!

We will be putting our best paws forward for this year’s gala auction, and we really want YOU to come join in the fun. It’s all happening on Sunday, October 28th in Griffith Hall at the Ludwig’s Corner Fire Company. With both silent and live auctions, excellent food, and a room filled with cat lovers, the event is always too fun to miss! There is no pressure to buy, but few can resist the wonderful bargains, creating a “purrfect” opportunity to do a little holiday shopping. We will have a great variety of terrific 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!

When and where is the event? The date is Sunday, October 28th from 2 to 5 p.m. Registration begins at 1:45. Silent auction tables begin closing at 3:15 and the live auction starts at 3:45, so we suggest that you arrive by 2:15. The event will be held in Griffith Hall at Ludwig’s Corner Fire Company. The address is 1325 North Pottstown Pike, Glenmoore, PA.

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Cupid and Lovey: A Very Special and Unconditional Love



Cupid & Lovey

If you’re someone who loves cats, then please read along as we tell you of the story of two beautiful cats who will win your heart the moment you meet them. This is a truly inspiring and heartwarming story of two super-friendly and very gentle cats. It is the story of the love between a mother named Lovie, and her courageous son, Cupid.

Lovie was just one year old when she found herself expecting kittens. She found her way to a home owned by a caring woman, who immediately brought this friendly mother-to-be into her home, where she would deliver four beautiful kittens in the fall. Everything was perfect at first; but as the kittens started to wander about, one little male was showing signs of trouble standing on his back legs. The vet immediately confirmed that little Cupid had a congenital disorder known as cerebellar hypoplasia (CH).

CH in cats is a non-progressive disorder, meaning it does not get worse with age. In fact,

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Cupid and Lovey

(cont'd from page 1)

cats with CH live very happy and healthy lives. CH occurs when the cerebellum (the part of the brain which controls fine motor skills and coordination) is not completely mature at birth. It requires no medication and almost no special care in the home. Cupid is able to lift himself up and walk for short distances. Then, he sits down for a moment before continuing on. His gait is shaky, but he is confident and determined. He is quite healthy and uses his litterbox always. He easily finds his way to his food and water bowl and is a very good eater!



Life was good for Cupid, Lovey, and the woman who rescued them, until sometime in 2018. Then the owner was told by her employer that she would be required to travel in order to keep her job. She would be away for a couple of weeks each time, which meant that she couldn't keep any of her beloved pets. She was heartbroken and desperately searched for

someone to take Cupid and Lovey so they would be safe. Cat Angel Network happily took them in and began the search for someone who would love them as much as they had been loved in the past.

It took no time at all for Cupid and Lovey to acclimate to foster life. They immediately warmed up to their foster mom and showed her that they are completely trusting and want to be near her as much as possible. His foster mom named him "Cupid" because he stole her heart, and Lovey's name truly represents personality as well. They greet everyone who comes to visit by immediately coming up and rubbing up against them, as they happily purr away.

While his back legs cannot hold him up for long periods, Cupid does walk around on his own. The only special accommodation he needs is to be safe from falling down a set of stairs – something that can be easily rectified by using

a baby gate (as Cupid does not jump). Carpet (or area rugs) help him move around more easily, and make him very happy. He is determined to do things for himself, and he requires no more care than a "normal" cat – Cupid is both very normal, and very special at the same time.

Lovey is completely devoted to her son. She is the epitome of a loving mother, and she often follows closely behind Cupid, making sure that he is always in sight. She will often run to his side and gently push him down if she feels he's wandering too far away, and they will cuddle in their cat bed throughout the day. She has a beautiful spirit: one of a loving mother, but also that of a wonderful companion cat as well.

Like people, there are cats who are born with disabilities, and such cats often have the most gentle personalities and seem to be grateful for what they have. This is truly the case with Cupid. His disability is all he's ever known, and he shows his determination every day. He knows how to care for himself, inspiring everyone who knows and loves him. Not to be left unnoticed,

(cont'd on page 4)

The Great Dumpster Dive

by Lauralee Schweitzer

It was Saturday February 11, 2017. My friend Sonia got a call about someone seeing kittens playing under a dumpster behind the Giant in Kennett Square. By the time Sonia and Deb arrived, a woman had grabbed a kitten and wasn't very willing to part with him. I arrived at that point and the other kittens had disappeared. We frantically tried to find the woman who had taken the kitten and eventually were successful. We were able to convince her she could adopt him from CAN in 3 months when he was ready. Deb took that little orange kitten home and we made plans to stake out the dumpster each night to watch for kitten and/or mommy activity.

On the first night, we set up some traps around the dumpster. Sure enough, once things settled down, three darling little kittens came dancing out in the light of the store's ramp for loading the dumpster. Mommy cat appeared as well. I just watched as they ate from the drop trap. We were "training" the family for the weekend when we were hoping to trap them all.

On the second night we found all three kittens left unattended while mom must have gone hunting. It was dusk when I saw mom come back and engage in a fight with a male cat to protect her kittens. Two kittens ran off, but one was confused and I was able to get him. And

so number two was caught, another beautiful orange kitten, and Deb took him home to reunite him with his brother.

After two more nights of dumpster sitting we realized mommy kitty may have moved the last two kittens – to protect them from us! She was still eating out of the box trap but we hadn't seen any kittens. We had become friendly with an employee who had been watching our mommy cat and had the idea that mommy may have moved the kittens into the dumpster! He had seen her walk along the edge and drop down inside several times during the day when we weren't there.

The dumpster was 12' x 20' and 6 feet high, you couldn't see into it without standing on something. We were concerned as the dumpster was almost full and may be hauled away at any time to be emptied. We continued to watch and wait and Mom cat ate from the box trap. We decided to empty that dumpster on Friday night to see if those two remaining kittens were in there.

Friday came and five of us started the dumpster dive just after dark. We set the box trap for the mother cat. We didn't want her to see what we were doing and upset her if, in fact, the

kittens were in there. She soon came around and we trapped her right away in the box trap, transferred her to a regular trap and moved her out of sight. We all set about unloading the dumpster – three people in the dumpster and two outside, receiving stuff from within the dumpster. Those inside had to be extremely careful how and where they placed their feet as they had no idea where those kittens might be!!

Three hours passed and we were finally starting to see some parts of the bottom of the dumpster. Suddenly we saw a flash of something fly by, and our hearts all skipped a beat. With a quick move, a beautiful soft gray kitten was captured! Now we were down to one last corner, and there wasn't much left to pick up. Nothing was moving and we all were thinking "did someone step on, or drop something on, that last kitten?" I was standing on a step stool with a large fishing net in one hand. Suddenly I yelled repeatedly, "There it is, there it is!" A little dark kitten came running my way and I used the net to pin her along the side of the dumpster until the kitten was lifted up in the net with the excited exclamation, "We have a tortie!" At that point we all either laughed, cried or did both... we were so happy to have saved those two little dumpster kittens!



Ask “Angel”



Do I Have An Aggressive Kitten? What Can I Do?

QUESTION: About a month ago I took in a stray kitten that I found in my yard. Zelda is my first and only pet ever. She is absolutely adorable, but I have a big problem with her rough behavior. I am covered with scratches and wounds and am beginning to be afraid of my own pet! She lies in wait for me, attacks my ankles, climbs up my legs, leaps on me while I'm asleep and bites my feet, and chases me as I move about the house. Do I have an aggressive kitten? Is there anything I can do about it?



ANSWER: Actually, what you have is a normal kitten! Mother Nature has us kitties born into a litter for good reason – we learn everything that we need to know as adult cats from the interaction with our mom and siblings. We learn to stalk and attack prey, run and climb to escape danger, and defend ourselves from foes. At the same time, we burn off TONS of explosive kitten energy in a harmless way by chasing, wrestling, and play-fighting with our sibs.

What you are experiencing with Zelda is a common phenomenon known as “Single Kitten Syndrome.” SKS occurs when a kitten does not have an outlet for pursuing natural instincts and therefore uses a substitute, i.e., YOU! She is chasing, attacking, and pouncing on you exactly as she would with a littermate. The only difference is that with her mom and littermates, a kitten learns boundaries. When she plays too rough, the other kitten screeches and runs away, ending the play. So kitty learns to play gentler so that the others will include her. When she bites too hard suckling for milk, her mom gives her a disciplinary but harmless “bop” with her paw and moves away. We kitties hate when that happens, but it does teach us that “when Momma’s not happy, ain’t nobody happy!”

What’s the quickest, easiest way to redirect Zelda’s behavior? Get her a kitten friend as a playmate! That’s probably not what people expect to hear when they’re having trouble with one kitten, but it’s the reason why adopters

of kitties are advised, “Two kittens are easier than one.” A solitary kitten gets into all kinds of mischief that includes both the behavior you describe AND getting into your stuff. When all that youthful zest is directed into the natural, normal outlet of play, Miss Ferocious Lion becomes Miss Frolicking Lamb, exhausted but happy after a day of running, wrestling, & leaping with her own kind, enjoying soccer games with a ball and stalking competitions with a toy mouse. And is there anything more heartwarming than the sight of two kittens curled up together, snoring peacefully with their arms around each other after a session of rough-and-tumble?

If getting a second kitten is not a possibility due to lease restrictions, you must take on the role of the other kitten, only this time you will be setting up the play with your safety in mind. First, you need several interactive toys that will keep your hands away from the line of action. Fishing pole type toys, fake birds suspended on a wire, and the laser light are three excellent ways to engage your kitty’s stalk-and-attack drive. If you have never watched a cat frantically chasing the little red dot of a laser toy, you have missed a hilarious opportunity to see just how much energy and persistence is packed into your kitten’s compact body!



Second, keep your kitty’s nails trimmed so that they are short and blunted at all times. Practicing this grooming routine every other week will remove the sharp points that have been making you an unwilling blood donor! The Cat Angel Network volunteers will clip your kitty’s nails free of charge any weekend at the Pottstown or

Downingtown Petsmart stores. Watch closely and you will learn a few secrets that make nail clipping a cinch!



The climbing behavior that has Zelda trying to scale you and every other tall object in the house with her claws will gradually extinguish until, by about eight months of age, she will be able to jump everywhere she needs to go. Throughout her life, though, she will need to stretch and scratch at her tree substitute. What’s a tree substitute? It’s a nice, tall, sturdy scratching post or cat tree covered with deliciously rough sisal rope or natural bark, and every cat-friendly home needs one! Here she will do her isometric stretching after a nap, pulling off the old nail sheaths, and marking the post with her scent. Happy work for us kitties – it feels great and we will gladly stay away from your possessions when we have something so much better suited for our instinctual scratching needs

Lastly, NEVER allow the kitty to play with your bare hands as this will teach her that your hand is a plaything which, I assume you agree, it is not. Often the root cause of aggressive play in adult cats is that a person in the family thought it was cute to play roughly with the kitten, using his/her hands, sometimes even touching the cat’s sensitive underbelly. The kitten clamps down on the hand and thereafter views a person’s hands as something to be wary of and attack. Then when Aunt Tilly visits the home, she does not find this behavior cute at all and wonders why, oh why, you have such a mean cat. ‘Nuff said.

So, enjoy Zelda and let her teach you all the joys and wonders of living with a being who is only one small step away from the ways of the wild. By knowing and respecting her needs, and learning day by day how to work WITH them and not against them, you will see her predatory relationship with you disappear, and in its place will grow a deep and satisfying friendship between you, Zelda, and, hopefully, that second kitten we hope you’ll adopt.



Meet Our Volunteers

Bonnie Eckenrode is a shelter volunteer who not only arrives faithfully for her weekly shift, but who also frequently subs for last minute open shifts. And it's not just the kitties who count on Bonnie but her extended family too. She lives in North Coventry Township with her 94 year old mother and other family members. Oh yeah, and 6 cats and 3 dogs. "It's a little busy but we make it work."



Bonnie has been a CAN volunteer for more than 6 years. "I had just lost my husband and was feeling pretty lost". During an appointment at her Kenilworth vet she saw a CAN newsletter. Reading through the newsletter she saw a request for volunteers and thought it sounded like a very worthwhile cause and something she could do to fill her time. She completed an application and then trained for shifts at the shelter. "It turns out I needed the kitties as much as they needed me."

Bonnie has also cared for foster kitties over the years and is currently fostering Princess. She's adopted 2 of her fosters which puts her in good company with many CAN volunteers who are happy to be known as foster failures. CAN is an all volunteer rescue and always in need of volunteers at our shelter and 2 PetSmart locations. Without volunteers like Bonnie CAN could not exist.

Connie Williams is a favorite sight at the CAN shelter, often filling in extra shifts each week. She grew up in Haverford but these days calls Pottstown home. Over the course of 38 years, Connie worked with special education students, as an Adapted Physical Education teacher, a classroom teacher, and a case manager for early intervention. Although she enjoys all animals, cats are her special love. Connie became familiar with CAN from numerous stops at PetSmart and decided to volunteer as soon as she retired. "It's been a pleasure getting to know each of the shelter kitties, their individual personalities and quirks for the past 3 ½ years. Being at the shelter is never dull and I never know what to expect when I arrive for my morning shift. New additions? More kittens? A lucky one who found a forever home?" Connie also enjoys getting to know other CAN volunteers and sharing stories. She now realizes she's not the only proud "crazy cat lady."



There are currently 4 indoor and 7 outdoor kitties in Connie's life and thanks to CAN, all the outdoor babies have been spayed/neutered and vaccinated. While she says CAN has given her much more than she has given, we suspect that, in Connie's case, it's a win-win.

2018 Auction Puts The FUN in Fundraising *(cont'd from page 1)*

Where do I get tickets? The price of admission is \$20 per person in advance (by October 20), and \$25 at the door, or October 21–28. Admission includes delicious hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. There are no physical tickets. Just fill out the form included with this newsletter and return it with your check/cash, or go to our website where you can purchase admission using any major credit card or 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 online payment by October 20th. 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 – you can download a flyer from our website (www.catangel.org). Special thanks to Elliot (a CAN alumnus) & Penny (a CAN friend) for helping to defray the cost of renting the venue, and to CAN alumni Chance and Magic (and their human) for catering this year's event. If you want to help us

cover the remaining cost of the venue, we will gladly let you know what is needed.

What type of items are acceptable for the auction? Unique items, restaurant gift certificates, practical items, jewelry, items of value, and bottles of wine tend to go well at the auction. Since we have limited table space, we may not be able to accommodate very many larger items with a value of less than \$60. One never knows which items will bring in the big bids!

What is the deadline to donate items? The deadline is October 14th. After that date, we may still be able to take high quality items that will bring a good price at the auction. Please do not bring items to the auction as last-minute additions.

What payment is accepted at the event? Cash and checks for purchases under \$100. Credit cards can be used for purchases over that amount.

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

Cupid and Lovey

(cont'd from page 2)

Lovie is a very special cat, as well. She is truly loving and gentle, as she displays the greatest love of all; the unconditional love of a mother to her child. It doesn't take long to see the very special bond between them, and for that reason, we are committed to finding a home for them both, so they can stay together and the love story can just grow stronger each day.

For more information about adopting Cupid & Lovie, please submit an inquiry or an application to adopt at www.catangel.org, or visit our adoption center in the Downingtown or Pottstown PetSmart stores to submit an application in person.

Cat Concert Raises \$7500

Our 19th Annual Cat Angel Network Benefit Concert raised \$7500 to help us with the expenses of kitten season. With a variety of performers ranging from West Chester University faculty and students, to friends of Cat Angel Network, the concert was a delightful experience. We are most grateful to the many donors and performers who made this year's concert a particular success.