



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 to Celebrate 19th Annual Concert for Cats on Saturday April 28th

All cat and/or music lovers are invited to attend the 19th Annual Cat Angel Network Benefit Concert at 3 PM on Saturday, April 28th, 2018. The event will be held on the campus of West Chester University in the Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre (inside Swope Hall and 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, April 16th will be acknowledged in the program. 🐾

2017 Auction Report

In spite of the bad weather, almost one hundred friends of Cat Angel Network attended our 2017 Auction held in Griffith Hall at Ludwigs Corner Fire Company this past October. The auction featured fifteen silent auction tables and a great variety of live auction items. Bud and Annette Smith of Smith Auction Company generously supported our cause again this year, bringing their expertise and friendly, fun style to the event.



We hope you will mark your calendars for our next auction which is slated to be held on Sunday October 28th. We know our auctions are fun and provide lots of great bargains! Why else would so many people come year after year?

For next year, we would REALLY love to have more of you attend, as we work toward our goal of raising \$20,000 from this event. If you would like to participate in this fall's auction by providing one or more new items, by volunteering to help, or by making a donation to help defray the costs of the hall rental or catering (our two major expenses), please contact Henry at catangelpa@aol.com or call or text him at 484-947-3684.



More details will be forthcoming in our next newsletter. 🐾

Ask “Angel”



Would My Senior Cat Be Happier In A New Home?

QUESTION: I have a beautiful, loving cat that I adopted as a kitten many years ago. She is now 10 years old. The kids no longer pay any attention to her, and I am so busy with work that I'm beginning to think she would be better off in another home. She is a sweet cat and enjoys sleeping in sunny windows or sitting on laps. I think she would make an older person or couple an ideal companion. Wouldn't she be happier if I surrendered her to Cat Angel Network so she can be found another home?



Cammy (12 years old)

ANSWER: Can I tell you the honest truth, from a cat's point of view? The truth is, “No, she wouldn't be happier.” The fantasy most people have is that there are many potential adopters for a friendly senior cat like theirs. They believe that their “nine-year-old-or-older” kitty will soon leave the comforts of the shelter to be taken home by a lovely retired couple who will lavish her with the time and attention she craves.



June Bug (12 years old)

The reality for a kitty like yours is more likely to be an experience like the following. Upon entering the shelter, she'll go into a cage so she can feel safe until she acclimates. She will probably not want to come out of her carrier so it will be placed in the cage with her. Being in an unfamiliar room, approached by unfamiliar people, and surrounded everywhere by unknown cats, she'll huddle in her carrier, some cats for days, others for weeks and even months. Most refuse food, requiring days of persistent prompting by the volunteers so they don't succumb to liver damage. The adjustment period can take months, and some, especially former “only cats,” never adjust to a life surrounded by other kitties. Aggression is very common in a cat under such stress, and even the nicest cat can lash out at anyone or anything approaching the



Maya (10 years old)

sanctity of her cage. As nice as our shelter looks to a visitor, it is a terrifying place to a cat leaving the only home she has ever known.

Once kitty adjusts, she is available for adoption. Here's where that loving older couple puts in an application for her and takes her home, right? Unfortunately, that is not likely. Although your kitty **WOULD** make a wonderful pet for them, they are most likely to request... a kitten. At least 90% of the applications we receive are for the youngest kitten possible. Whether it's because adopters don't want to go through the loss of another pet too soon, or they're afraid of vet bills for an older kitty, adopters most often choose kittens, while wonderful older cats wait on the sidelines, passed over again and again.

Sometimes adopters will state that they don't want a kitten, but an “older cat.” Asked specifically what they're looking for, most reply, “Oh, everybody wants kittens so I'm looking for

an older cat, somewhere between one and three years – definitely not older than five.”

The sad reality is that only one or two cats that are nine years old or older get adopted from Cat Angel Network each year. Those days on which a senior kitty goes home are very, very happy days for everyone at CAN.



Cassie (10 years old)

So, please, please, let your kitty live out her golden years in the comfort of her own home, surrounded by her family and enjoying the simple, familiar rituals that cats love so much. Believe me, she would **NOT** be happier having to join the ranks of the many, many homeless cats competing for too few homes. That competition leaves senior kitties at a distinct disadvantage, most living out their last years in the shelter, waiting for an adoption application that never comes. May she never be in the position that so many of us are, of watching the shelter door, praying, “Please, God, may the next person who comes in to adopt not say ‘Too old, too big’ when he looks at me.”



“Make us, ourselves, to be true friends
to animals, and so to share
the blessings of the merciful.”

Albert Schweitzer

Other Senior Cats Needing Loving Homes...



Sparkles (13 years old)



Muffin (13 years old)



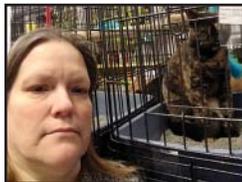
Snuggles (13 years old)

Visit www.catangel.org to see our adoptable cats and for information about how to adopt

Meet Our Volunteers

Not everyone has a car filled with scratching posts but that's the case for **Joann Barbarish** who, among other volunteer jobs, performs the special task of sending home newly adopted CAN kitties with their adoptive families. Most Saturdays, Joann can be found filling "Meet & Greet" shifts at the Downingtown PetSmart and sending kitties to their forever homes.

Joann grew up in Honey Brook and graduated from Twin Valley High School. For a while she lived with her parents in Wilkes Barre. Eventually the family moved back to Honey Brook and after her father passed away, Joann helped care for her mom until her passing.



Her brother Tom also lives in Honey Brook and one day Joann and her sister-in-law Maryellen came into the Downingtown PetSmart and saw some CAN kitties in the adoption center. Maryellen asked CAN for help with a stray cat in her neighborhood and the two ladies decided to volunteer. These sisters-in-law have been very active and involved CAN volunteers for more than 10 years.

Joann lives in a townhouse with her two 10 year old "foster failures", Felicia and Faith. She works in medical billing for First States Financial Services. When she is not volunteering with Cat Angel Network she enjoys spending time with her two great nieces and two great nephews. She looks forward to helping each October with the annual CAN auction.

Joann says CAN is a great organization and she gets a lot of satisfaction from volunteering. The kittens are so cute and quickly adopted but it really makes her happy when older kitties get adopted.



Although the first cat did not come her way **Sandy Whittington**, an only child, was born in Buffalo, New York and moved to New Jersey at the age of four. Her family later moved to East Norriton. She graduated from AD Eisenhower High School in Norristown and has worked in data entry and accounts payable for the past 35 years. Her only daughter lives nearby with her grandfather.

Sandy says she can't remember how or when she met Charlotte and Elaine but before she knew it she was fostering CAN kitties. She's always loved animals and Elaine noticed that she had a special touch with feral and stray cats. So, began Sandy's special calling working in TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return).

Trap-Neuter-Return is a humane and effective approach to dealing with colonies of stray & feral cats. TNR makes for a stronger and healthier colony and reduces numbers over time. It also helps improve the relationship with



humans in the area. Friendly cats and kittens can be socialized for adoption.

Sandy works with many different situations in the community. Most people are appreciative of the help Sandy and CAN offer but it is difficult for her when people request help but are unwilling to provide assistance. Everyone who works with CAN is a volunteer so all of Sandy's TNR efforts are done on her own time and frequently at her own expense. Normally, when she receives a call about a colony of cats, she meets with the local people who are feeding, explains the process, supplies the traps and recovers the cats after their spay/neuter surgery and then returns them to their original location. The cats continue to be fed, cared for, and monitored by the local cat lovers but the colony does not grow out of control. Sandy's main concern is always for the cats she works with. She periodically takes food to people who are struggling to feed their cat colonies.

One comment Sandy often hears in the process of her TNR work is: "They are not my cats, I just feed them." Sandy asks that those who feed feral cats call for help early on before the population gets out of control.

As you can imagine, Sandy's home has a revolving cast of cats and kitties but one of her favorite kitties is "Billy," a white kitty from one of her rescues who has a chronic eye condition but an A1 personality. He loves to drag his cat bed across the floor and was sitting, purring in Sandy's lap as we talked on the phone.



Puss's Happy Ending

In the spring of 2016, a very kind man, who loved his two senior cats more than anything, found himself in a terrible situation. Relocating after a divorce, his new landlord found out that he had moved into his apartment with his pets. After trying for weeks to find places where he could move with his beloved companions, he realized he couldn't afford the additional fees that many rental properties require. So, he did his best to hide his faithful friends until he could find them a new home.

Unfortunately, the landlord discovered the cats living in the apartment and gave the owner a short time to rehome his pets. After many unsuccessful calls to no-kill shelters near his home in northern Delaware, he began contacting vets. Rather than leave his beloved cats in a shelter where they would be frightened and likely euthanized if they were not adopted quickly, he decided to find a vet who would humanely euthanize them while he held them in his arms.

Finally, a kind-hearted veterinarian told him that he would not euthanize his beautiful cats,

because they were happy, healthy and full of life. Instead, he promised to care for them until they could find a no-kill shelter who would take them and find the perfect home.

As the caring vet tech who took responsibility for the situation began to make calls, the response was the same. "There was no room at the inn" for two mature cats, who might be hard to rehome. Finally, she contacted Cat Angel Network and we made arrangements for eight-year-old Puss and her companion, twelve-year-old Gizmo, to come to Pennsylvania.

Gizmo found a home right away. Luck was on her side, as a wonderful person inquired about adopting a senior cat within a couple of weeks, but was only able to take one. She chose Gizmo, and so Puss remained in a foster home, where she would quickly find that most adopters want kittens or young adults. So, she settled in, finding love once again with a wonderful couple who opened their hearts and their foster home to a



very special kitty who just needed time for the right family to come along.

Sitting in a cage at a busy pet store isn't easy and Puss wasn't enjoying the experience. In her foster home, Puss was happy and affectionate, but in a cage, she was frightened and hid. Patiently, she waited, weekend after weekend, ultimately going back to her foster home on Sunday night where she was loved and not afraid. A year and a half went by without any applications for poor Puss.

Then one day, a wonderful family came to PetSmart to look for a new cat, and they decided to open their hearts to Puss! Puss, who is now known as Lux, is living the life of luxury in a loving home, where she is the queen of the castle. We are so thankful to her new family, and hope that her story will inspire others to adopt one of our "harder to show" but otherwise perfectly wonderful pets-in-waiting



C.A.N. 2018 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 2018 Concert may be sent to:
Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464.



Support Cat Angel Network When You Purchase Items from Amazon

There is no simpler way to support Cat Angel Network! Just go to smile.amazon.com and choose Cat Angel Network as your charity. Then remember to always navigate to smile.amazon.com each time you make a purchase through Amazon. So far, Cat Angel Network has received over \$1,700 in payments from Amazon, but with your help, we could earn much more!

Thank You, Thank You!

A big thank you to those who support us by donating their Redner's Warehouse Market register tapes. Last year we received \$876.24 from Redners. In 2018, we already received \$560. Remember to give your Redner's Rewards Card to the cashier when checking out your groceries.

And another big thank you to those who donate their empty ink jet cartridges and toners. Last year we received \$506 as a result of recycling the cartridges and toners.

For details about these programs and other ways to help, visit our website at www.catangel.org, then go to "Donate & Support" and check out "How to Help CAN".

