



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 21st Annual Cat Concert On Sunday, April 19th

All cat and/or music lovers are invited to attend the 21st Annual Cat Angel Network Benefit Concert at 3 PM on Sunday, April 19th. 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

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HAPPY ENDING Update on Sweet Seniors Seeking Special Someone

In our last newsletter we featured a pair of sweet senior kitties with a heartbreaking story. Here is a totally joyful update which we received from the loving family who opened their hearts to these two precious cats:

“When we picked up our girls, the former Annie and Cindy, we were asked to send updates to share.

We have renamed them **BedE** (Betty Angel Annie Eames) and **ChairE** (Cherry Angel Cindy Eames) because they hid under the **bed** and **chair** respectively when we brought them home. They are now out and about and they seem to be loving their new home.

They are really sweethearts! Betty loves to be pet and get head rubs and loves to nip, but never break the skin or hurt, which is so sweet! She reminds us of our late Mom Cat Yardley. When Cherry is getting pets, Betty will come over to steal the show, just like Yardley did with her daughter Keeley. Very very cute! Cherry already has a favorite recliner chair for her afternoon nap and sometimes Betty and Cherry will nap on it together; other times, Betty will pick the other recliner and each will comfortably settle down on their favorite chairs. They both get animated at meal time and let my husband hear about it if he is taking too long preparing their wet food plates!

It has only been a few weeks since they have joined our family and they have already given us so much joy! Thank you so much for the fabulous work that you do with Cat Angel Network.” ☛

Francine and Jeff Eames



Before Adoption



After Adoption

Ask "Angel"



Injured Stray

QUESTION: I keep seeing a stray cat outside who appears to be badly injured. I put food out, but I don't know what else to do. He's not touchable, and even if I were able to get him, what would I do with him? He's not my cat, and I'm sure a vet visit would be expensive. He might have to be put down, and that would be so upsetting. Even if he can be treated, who would care for him as he recovers? I feel helpless, but it's so heartbreaking to see the poor thing out there suffering day after day. What can I do?

ANSWER: Thanks for caring about this kitty. Your concern is the first step in getting help for this cat, and he CAN be helped! Most people who find themselves in this situation feel overwhelmed. So many obstacles and questions rush into their mind that it seems hopeless for them to make any difference in the suffering of this fellow living creature.

The secret is to make up your mind that you can and will do something, that you refuse to close your eyes to it and do nothing. It's amazing how this resolution alone will give you a feeling of relief. The inner turmoil of indecision will be over, and the positive work of doing what you can, one small step at a time, will begin.

First, make some phone calls to get advice and help. Using email can be effective, but it is ESSENTIAL that you address individuals and avoid mass emails. With those, each person thinks that somebody else is going to take care of it, resulting in no one stepping up to assist you.

The key to getting people to agree to help is to make it clear that you yourself will do what you can, and you're not expecting the person you're asking to "do it all." Start your request with, "I need help in helping an injured cat." This request is almost always irresistible to a true animal lover who wants to be PART of the effort. There are so many ways, big or small, that each person can help.

Start by calling no-kill rescue groups. Be advised that most SPCA's, Animal Control Agencies, etc., will routinely euthanize, or encourage you to euthanize, any injured cat. You need someone experienced to guide you through the process of doing the best thing possible for the kitty.



Before Surgery



After Surgery

Perhaps the cat may need to be humanely euthanized at some point, but that is a call that should be made after an exam by a trained veterinarian. Many injuries are not as bad as they first appear and can be set right with a cleaning of the wound and antibiotics.

A no-kill rescue will often be willing to lend you supplies you will need, like a humane trap to catch the cat. A trap is preferred over trying to get the cat into a cat carrier since a cat in pain will be frightened and hard to handle, and can bite or scratch even if it is not a feral cat. It is much safer for you (and for the veterinarian who will sedate the cat) to have the cat in a humane trap.

The choice of a vet is an important decision and one that the no-kill rescue can give you advice about. Considerations are a willingness to discount services for an un-owned cat and flexibility in arrangements for the cat's care and confinement, if necessary. An injured cat sometimes has what is referred to as "a wound of unknown origin." This means that the cat's care will be subject to the individual county's rabies quarantine guidelines.

Each county varies in their strictness, with Montgomery County being the strictest in the area. Under the proper guidance, you will be allowed to quarantine the cat in a secure place IN YOUR HOME. Do not be misled into thinking a cat with a treatable injury must be euthanized to avoid expensive quarantine at a vet's office. Even a cat that has bitten or scratched a person can be confined at home under close observation.

After-care for a recuperating cat can be done in a large dog cage. No-kill rescues often have these available for loan. People often wonder how they can care for a feral (wild) cat, but a few tips will make the process easier. For example, medications can be crushed into appetizing canned foods. Also, putting a small carrier into the larger dog cage will give the kitty a hide-out, something a feral cat will definitely make use of as you approach to put food into the cage or change litter.

The issue of cost is one that is almost always a concern of good Samaritans who help a stray. Some vets and no-kill rescues have a fund especially for cats such as these. Appeals to friends and family often bring contributions from those who are not able to be hands-on helpers but want to be part of the solution. There are many, many compassionate people who will respond to an appeal for help once their attention has been drawn to the situation and their hearts have been touched.

So I hope you have decided to help that injured stray you saw. You will sleep better tonight, and every night thereafter, knowing you did the right thing. The world is a better place because you are in it because you are doing what you can, which is all any of us can ever do.

"I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything; but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do." – Edward Everett Hale

What would YOU do if you saw this cat? 🐾

Cat Angel Network To Celebrate 21st Annual Cat Concert On Sunday, April 19th *continued from page 1*

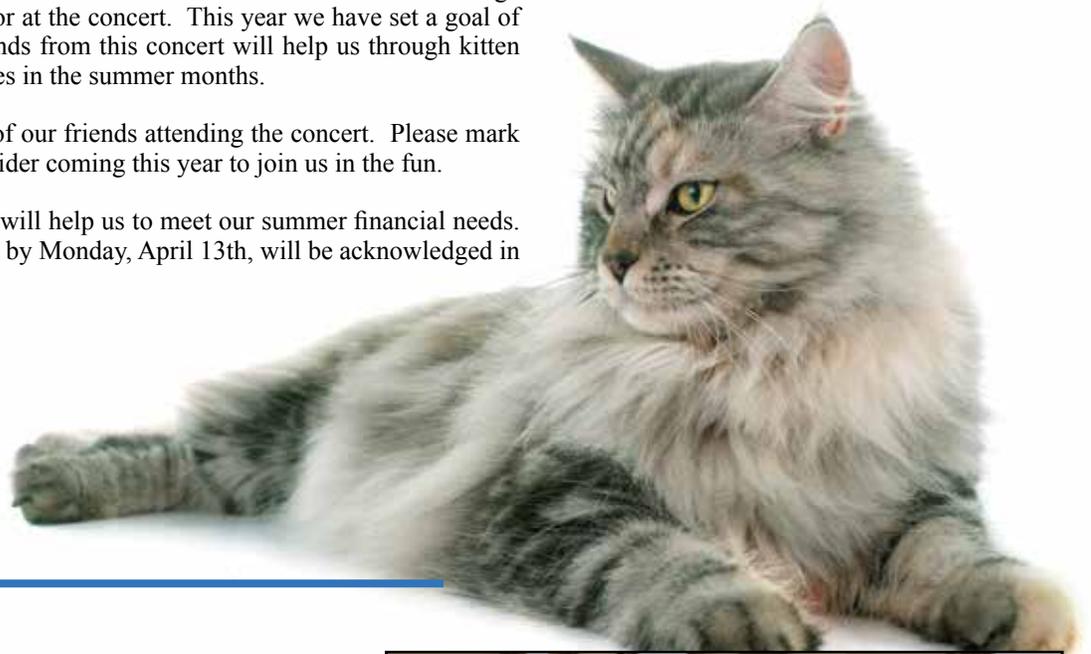
Cat Angel Network, West Chester University faculty members, and student groups. You will laugh, cry a little, and leave with a warm fuzzy feeling in your heart.

Over the many years, 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 in concert donations. Funds from this concert will help us through kitten season and with veterinary expenses in the summer months.

We would really like to see more of our friends attending the concert. Please mark the date on your calendar and consider coming this year to join us in the fun.

Every donation is appreciated and will help us to meet our summer financial needs. Donations of \$25 or more received by Monday, April 13th, will be acknowledged in the program. 🐾

Seraphim	250 and up
Archangel	100-249
Angel	50 - 99
Puss in Boots	25 - 49
Tail Wagger	up to 24



2019 Auction Report

On Sunday, October 27th, 2019, Cat Angel Network celebrated our annual fundraising auction. This year's auction saw well over 100 attendees come together to raise \$18,000, an amount that represents a new record! This was a banner year for us, as not only did we have the entire two-day hall rental covered by two special Cat Angel friends, but another angel, who is a professional caterer, donated her services as well as the gourmet fare she served. As in past years, Bud and Annette Smith of Smith Auction Company (www.smithauctionco.com) donated their expertise, providing a fun -filled afternoon of bidding and buying.

While there were so many highlights to this year's auction, a selection of beautiful rugs, a \$500 Broadway show ticket voucher, pampered chef items, high end artisan jewelry, a Michael Kors Purse, original works of art, and many other goodies were up for auction. Our clever table coordinators filled fifteen silent auction tables with amazing finds.

While next year's auction (Sunday, October 18, 2020) may seem like a long time from now, we are already in the early planning stages. Silent table coordinators are seeking bargains and collecting items, a wonderful volunteer is contacting theatres, museums, and orchestras seeking admission tickets and the board is working on new innovative ways to advertise the event.

Our next newsletter will have more information about the auction, but should you wish to be involved in the early planning stages, please contact Henry at CatAngelPa@aol.com. 🐾



Meet Our Volunteers



KAREN GILLES

Karen Gilles was born in Philadelphia. She has a BA in Sociology and a Master's in Clinical-Counseling Psychology. She currently works with Chester County IU in the Home and Community Services Program as a case manager. Karen, her husband and 2 children live in Coatesville. Their household also includes a dog, two cats, a guinea pig, and a crested gecko.

Karen has always been an animal lover and inherited her first two cats about 12 years ago from friends who could not keep them. Both cats lived to be 20 years old and she's been a confirmed cat lady ever since.

In 2015, a feral mom brought her babies to Karen's office in search of food which led her to research TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) and become more informed about feral cats and ways to help them. She learned that many kittens

born to feral moms can be adopted if they are rescued and socialized at an early age and that rescue groups desperately need fosters to allow cats and kittens a safe and loving place to grow until they are ready to go to their forever homes.

Soon Karen took in her first rescue kittens. She loves helping sick, scared babies become healthy, friendly cats and although it is hard to say goodbye, there is a lot of joy in watching her foster kitties meet their new families. And, there is always a new family of kittens who need TLC.

In the spring of 2018 Karen joined CAN when she learned of our need for foster parents. She's found CAN to be very organized and helpful and hopes to encourage others to volunteer and experience the joy of working with people who are passionate about changing cats' lives.



AMY BOYLES

Several years ago during Lent, Amy Boyles decided, rather than giving something up, she would volunteer her time to a good cause. She chose Cat Angel Network because "not only do I find it a fantastic organization, I also get to spend time with kitties." Amy and her family were always cat lovers and owners. Unfortunately, Amy's husband is severely allergic so these days her fur family consists of a "crazy, one-year old Bernese Mountain dog named Bunsen Berner", and Amy gets her "cat fix" every Wednesday, with feed & scoop in our Adoption Center at the Pottstown PetSmart. The kitties "bring a smile to my face and it's a great way to start the day."

Amy is the office manager for her family's business which is based in Pottstown and

installs commercial play equipment and site amenities throughout the tri-state area.

In addition to her weekly shift at PetSmart, shortly after becoming a volunteer she took on the very important role of schedule coordinator for our adoption center at PetSmart. Each week Amy sends out the volunteer schedule for the upcoming week. Throughout the week she sends out emails requesting help when there is an open shift. This is a vital behind-the-scenes job, and we are all grateful for Amy's continued dedication to both of her CAN volunteer roles.

Amy feels that the many cats and kittens adopted each year is directly related to the wonderful care and hard work of the CAN team of volunteers. 🐾

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! 🐾



WEEKLY ADOPTIONS

If you've been to the Pottstown or Downingtown PETSMART on the weekends you've probably noticed our adoptathons at the Adoption Center. Every weekend you have the opportunity to meet some of our very special cats and kittens who reside in foster homes with their foster parents during the week. On weekends they to come in to the Adoption Center just to meet you and hopefully to find the loving home they've been waiting for,

If you are interested in adopting or just need a "kitty fix", please stop by one of our Adoption Centers either during the weekend or anytime during the week to say hello to our kitties who would love to see you. Who knows? You just may find an unexpected blessing waiting for you. 🐾