



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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Happy Anniversary to CAN at PETsMART Pottstown!

by Laura Schwartz

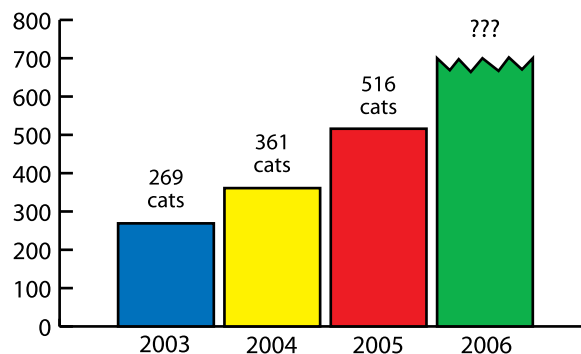
It's difficult to believe that a year has passed since PETsMART opened its doors in Pottstown and Cat Angel Network assumed the task of staffing its Adoption Center. And what a difference that year has made!

The new PETsMART store is one of the first in the area to feature a purpose-built Adoption Center, with excellent visibility to boarders in 'The Nursery', as some volunteers have dubbed the area. The center also features a separate room where prospective adopters can make the acquaintance of CAN kitties in comfort. While the floor space is somewhat limited, an amiable working relationship has developed with PETsMART management, who has generously allowed extra aisle space on weekends. This allows CAN to set up tables and cages to show off even more cats. Happily, adopters reward PETsMART with increased purchases of bedding, toys and food for their new family members.

A very special benefit of staffing the Pottstown store is that the CAN Shelter is nearby, enabling volunteers to obtain any needed supplies quickly. On one busy recent Adoptathon weekend, this also meant volunteers were able to somewhat replenish the supply of cats and kittens at PETsMART, as they were being adopted almost as quickly as they came in.

The exposure that CAN has received as a result of this rewarding partnership with PETsMART Pottstown has been phenomenal. Not only have local area residents begun recognizing CAN as the primary "go to" cat rescue group in the area, but calls have been coming from further afield, as newspaper feature articles about cats available for adoption spreads the rescue's name. CAN has been able to adopt many cats through this newly raised awareness and opportunities exist to meet some wonderful cat enthusiasts. We are always available and willing to answer questions and offer suggestions to visitors at our Adoption Centers. Stop in and visit us, ask about volunteer opportunities, and meet some of our special angels. 🐾

Where Have We Been?



Your angels have been flying frantically hither and yon, saving hundreds of homeless cats and kittens. We promise to be in your mailbox more in 2007, and we send love and greetings to you and your cats! Graph shows adoption statistics from 2003 - 2005. We expect to place a record number of cats in 2006!

Visit us at
www.catangel.org

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So You Want To Be A Volunteer?

by Ann Kunsch

Last year, with a volunteer shortage at the CAN Shelter and anticipating the opening of the Adoption Center at the new Pottstown PETsMART, we developed a plan for recruiting new volunteers. If you've joined Cat Angel Network as a volunteer since the spring of 2005, I've probably communicated with you at least once in my position as New Volunteer Contact Person. I began volunteering in May of 2001, and look forward to every Monday morning, which is my scheduled time slot at the Shelter to clean, feed, scoop and play with our sweet kitties.

When a volunteer application is received, whether online, faxed, or a paper copy from one of our PETsMART Adoption Centers, I contact the applicant and explain our volunteer needs, including the morning and evening routines for Feeders at both PETsMART locations (in Pottstown and Downingtown) and at the CAN Shelter. In addition, we always need volunteers to help at Adoptathons and as Greeters. Our volunteers are so important in all our adoption efforts. As representatives of Cat Angel Network, they meet with the general public and potential adopters, answer questions, help introduce our kitties to what we hope will be their forever families. They also pass on vital information and all-important impressions to our Adoption Team.

Once the applicant's availability, choice

of location, and specific interests are determined, scheduling and training are arranged to make sure the new volunteer is comfortable in his or her new assignment. As part of the training, orientation meetings, alternating between the Pottstown and Downingtown PETsMART stores, are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. These very informative meetings orient volunteers to our policies and philosophy and help our "Angels" feel confident when answering questions that are frequently asked of volunteers.

As in any volunteer organization, there are many jobs of different types that need to be done. Some are behind-the-scenes; however, most new volunteers want to start off by being involved in hands-on kitty care. Of course, the very best reward is the opportunity to play with, love and cuddle some absolutely wonderful kitties and then see them go to their forever homes.

I always look forward to meeting the volunteers and hearing their wonderful kitty stories. Cat Angel Network volunteers are the BEST and, as the little magnet on the fridge in our "CatChen" says: "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless."

Thank you to all our CAN volunteers for your time and your tireless gifts of love and care for our angel kitties! 🐾

8th Annual Cat Angel Network Benefit Concert Coming Soon! by Henry Grabb

Save the date! As hard as it is to believe, March 4th, 2007, will be the eighth time that faculty and friends of West Chester University will appear in concert to benefit Cat Angel Network. Last year's concert was a smashing success, with many new performers participating, offering lots of fun for everyone. The March 4th concert, to be held at 3 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center of the new Swope Music Building, will be another fun romp down a road perhaps not so classical, but quickly becoming a classic in the West Chester community. Show your support by putting our annual concert on your 2007 planning calendar now. 🐾

There's Always Room For Volunteer Help at PETsMART in Downingtown!

In recent times there have been wonderful stories about people volunteering to help rescue pets from disaster situations such as Hurricane Katrina or the Tsunami. If you would like to be involved in helping pets in need but your busy lifestyle prevents traveling out-of-state or out of the country to help, we have the perfect answer for you. Cat Angel Network can satisfy your desire to help closer to home – locally here in Downingtown.



Adoption Center at PETsMART in Downingtown.

Cat Angel Network has been holding Adoptathons at PETsMART in Downingtown every weekend since October 2005, resulting in the adoption of hundreds of cats and kittens, which is in no small part due to the dedication of our volunteers. We offer flexible hours every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.. You may even want to help Friday evening "setting up" for the Adoptathon. If you would like a more routine schedule, we also have opportunities to volunteer in the Adoption Center at PETsMART Downingtown where the kitties are cared for twice a day – every day.

Whether you can spare one hour or several hours a week, your selflessness would be instrumental in helping our rescued cats and kittens find their forever homes. To learn more about volunteering for Cat Angel Network, please visit us at one of our PETsMART adoption centers any weekend and chat with our dedicated volunteers. Volunteering can be as close as right next door! 🐾

Ask “Angel”



“My cat doesn’t always use her litter box. Why?”

QUESTION: My cat doesn’t always use her litter box. Why?

ANSWER: Glad you asked! We kitties want you to know that when one of us has an “accident,” there’s always, always, ALWAYS a reason. Our species is programmed to “go” in loose material so something has to be very wrong for us to go against this instinct. Sometimes it has to do with the box and litter itself. In the wild, cats always choose a fresh, clean new area for potty purposes. At the shelter we have a choice of several litter boxes in scattered locations. Then if one is “occupied” or if “Bully Billy” is blocking the way, we have an alternative. The litter boxes are BIG, clear, 58-quart plastic storage containers filled with about 2 inches of UNSCENTED litter. We don’t like using the brand that’s on sale after we’ve gotten used to our favorite litter. Our personal staff, i.e., the volunteers, keeps the boxes nice and clean by ALWAYS scooping twice a day. Sometimes they even try to scoop while we’re still in there. This annoys us!

If all is well with our boxes, the two other reasons that cause us to go against our instincts are PAIN and STRESS/FEAR. PAIN is caused by urinary crystals that

form in the urine and REALLY hurt when we go. Some kitties start avoiding the box because they feel pain when they urinate in there. TAKE YOUR KITTY TO HER VET FRIEND IMMEDIATELY!

STRESS is caused by change or turmoil in the house (new person or baby, moving, fighting, divorce, etc.). We cats are VERY sensitive creatures and, although we may not always show our feelings on the outside, sometimes we are really upset and stressed inside. FEAR is caused by aggressive pets, loud noises, rough kids, etc., that make us afraid to go to or into our box. This is why some kitties don’t like a COVERED litter box. There’s only one way in and one way out. TRAPPED WITH NO ESCAPE ROUTE!

The good news is that there IS an effective way to get us back in harmony with our natural instincts. The bad news is that you are going to have to show some TOUGH LOVE in retraining kitty to the box by confining her to a bathroom or dog cage for three weeks, minimum. This is a case of, “It’s going to be a lot harder on you than on me,” because most owners do not like the idea of confining their beloved pet to a bathroom or dog cage for THREE FULL

WEEKS to get her back to good habits. Bad habits take time to form, and it takes time to get back to “the box and ONLY the box. Naturally, any problems with the litter (sometimes a kitty has a preference for a different kind of litter), number of boxes, health, or stressful/fearful situations must be addressed before we are given gradual freedom outside the bathroom or cage. Actually, being confined should NOT be viewed as a punishment for us. It is actually the most loving gesture an owner can make to a treasured pet, the opportunity to keep what is most important to a cat, her home and family. 🐾



Amber (a.k.a. “Beauty-Kitty”) caught in a private moment. We think the look on her face says it all.

Gift In-Kind Donations to Cat Angel Network by Henry Grabb

Cat Angel Network depends heavily on the contributions of our many supporters to cover our veterinary costs and operating expenses. For every easily adoptable cuddle-bunny that comes our way, countless other difficult cases land on our doorstep. From cats requiring surgical procedures, to the hundreds of cats cared for in our outstanding foster program, and even to cats that benefit from our TNR (trap-neuter-return) Program, many felines find a friend in Cat Angel Network. When you make a donation to CAN, you can rest assured that no dollars are wasted in our efforts to help as many cats and kittens as possible.

Besides cash donations, there are many “gift in-kind” (tangible goods) donations that are easy to make. Below are some of the best ways to support CAN without donating actual money.

Donate other small items directly to CAN. Cat Angel Network can accept the following items: collectibles, jewelry, coins, silver, art, cat related items, new smaller items, etc. We do not accept large items such as appliances, old TVs, or used computers. We also do not accept clothing items, with the exception of blankets and towels. When we receive donated items, we will either send them to an auction house, sell them

on eBay, or save them for our next auction. If you have any items that you would like CAN to sell, we will work with you and an auction house in your area to get your items sold to benefit CAN. Please contact Henry at catangelpa@aol.com if you need further assistance with in-kind donations.

Sell an item for CAN on eBay! From the home page of eBay, scroll down to the “Giving Works” link for more information. You can elect to have all the proceeds from your sale item, or part of the proceeds given to CAN! 🐾

What's It All About, Alfie?

by Charlotte Jay

It was a cold February day when Dr. Becker called about Alfie. She said, "He was hit by a car and has multiple broken bones in his hind leg. The neighbor found him cold, shivering and huddled on her front porch and they can't afford the vet bills. They would most likely opt to have the cat euthanized, but he's such a nice cat." She performed an examination, administered medication and took Radiographs, and advised that Alfie's only hope was to see an orthopedic specialist. I was heartbroken for this poor angel and had to make a decision immediately as Alfie was in severe distress. The board members were contacted in view of the major cost involved and were in agreement that we should "go for it".

After selecting a large carrier, I locked the doors, jumped in my car and immediately rushed off to retrieve Alfie. Meanwhile, Dr. Becker arranged for the orthopedic surgeon to see Alfie as soon as I could get him there. Needless to say, Alfie was admitted, more Radiographs were taken and Dr. Moss just shook his head at those pictures. He tried to explain the severity of the injuries, the extremely complex procedures that would be necessary, and the very slim possibility of a successful repair. But Dr. Moss performed his magical surgery, reshaping bones, inserting screws and rods both inside the bone and outside the leg, all in an effort to create a sound structure so that Alfie would be able to walk again.

Alfie was an absolute angel for the next few months of confinement and recuperation. Everyone marveled at his incredible disposition and his sweet personality in spite of the pain we knew he was enduring, the endless medications, and the weekly trips to the vet to have his external fixator adjusted to keep pace with the healing flesh.

Now, as luck would have it, a friend and CAN supporter contacted me with the sad news that her dear kitty recently passed away and she had supplies to donate to CAN. Her loss was very painful and as we talked in the parking lot, the magic happened. You see, I had already decided



Alfie shows off his fixator soon after surgery



Six months later, fully recovered & ready to go to his new home

that Alfie wasn't going anywhere until I personally picked his home and family (and God works in mysterious ways!). I told Charlene about Alfie and invited her to visit him at the Shelter. It wasn't too long before they met and it was love at first sight (it always was with Alfie). We set the plan for Alfie to go to his new home after completion of all his vet visits and total healing was assured.

During Alfie's rehabilitation Jane, who is one of our volunteers, asked me to do a presentation on cat care to her first grade class and thought it would be nice to take a kitty along for demonstration. You guessed it! Alfie was the hands down choice and soon-to-be-celebrity. I was SO proud of him and how he allowed the kids to pet him

and check out his metal contraption – all the while purring and rubbing against their little legs for more petting.

Epilogue: Alfie eventually left the shelter to go to his new home, where he is simply adored. He has a kitty friend, Oscar, who is Alfie's age and they have become true buddies. Although we no longer see his sweet face and hear his loud purrs at the shelter, we think of him often – always with sincere admiration – and we will never forget Alfie, a very brave little trouper. His new "mom" often sends pictures and updates us about his antics and close friendship with Oscar.

The rewards of such a happy ending are immeasurable. 🐾

Alfie's Fund

Alfie's vetting was extremely expensive, and since then there have been a number of other severely injured kitties needing similar help – all requiring funds that are not readily available. These are the special cases which are above and beyond the routine spays, neuters, vaccinations and testing which is standard for all Cat Angel kitties.

The Board of Directors has decided to set up a special fund to help these unfortunate little angels and donations will be set aside for these specific incidents. The fund will be named in Alfie's honor – ergo "ALFIE'S FUND." Donations to this fund should be identified on your check or in an accompanying note.

Please consider a special gift to Alfie's Fund and help save a special kitty who may not otherwise have the same opportunity as Alfie. 🐾