



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.*



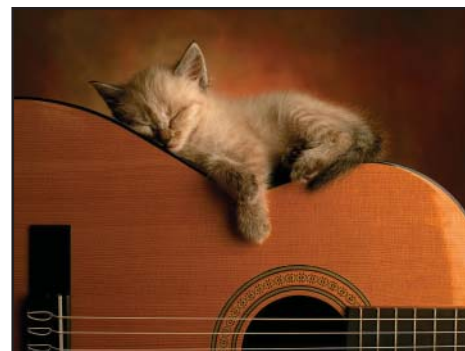
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Lucky 13th Annual Concert For Cats Slated April 1st

On Sunday afternoon, April 1, 2012, faculty and friends of the West Chester University School of Music will perform the lucky 13th Annual Cat Angel Network Benefit Concert. The 3:00 p.m. event will be held in Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre in Swope Hall (817 South High St.) on the West Chester University Campus.

This year, we are excited to welcome members of the Kennett Symphony Children's Chorus who will perform a portion of the concert. Under the artistic direction of Dr. Kristen Albert, the KSCC has gained notoriety as a first rate ensemble. In addition, many faculty, students, and friends of the School of Music will lend their musical talents to ensure a very special event.



The concert is designed to be a fun-filled afternoon for the casual concert-goer. Bring your kids and friends! A reception will follow the event. While the concert is free and open to the public, donations will be appreciated. Contributions sent prior to the concert and received by March 26 will be acknowledged in the concert program at the levels indicated in the form on page 4. 🐾

Double (Not So Much) Trouble

People visiting our adoptable cats often ask us why we're quick to suggest that adopting a pair of kitties might be a better decision than taking a single one. We can honestly tell you that it's truly the best decision you can make for the benefit of the kitties as well as for you and your family.



Imagine adopting one kitty and being its only source of entertainment round the clock to provide adequate mental stimulation and exercise. Go out for a few hours and you may find yourself coming home to the results of a bored and lonely little "angel" who had no companion to share his time and energy with. With a companion, your kitty will engage in playtime which can involve wrestling, chasing one another, batting toys around together which ensures a happy, well adjusted feline. As an added benefit, you're provided with hours of endless amusement.

Many of our adult cats have joined us from situations where they grew up with a sibling or other housemate and find themselves in danger of losing that lifelong bond. Being adopted together allows them comfort and ease in making the adjustment to a new home. Happy kitties will make your home a happy, fun place with continuous entertainment.

Just as solitary kittens can feel bored, lonely and anxious, adult cats, too, can experience many

(cont'd on page 3)

Cat Angel Network Partners with Ambit Energy

Did you know you can help save cats just by turning on your lights? Our latest fundraiser gives you the opportunity to both lower your electric bill and help Cat Angel with our rescue efforts! If you sign up with Ambit Energy (www.catangel.ambitenergy.com), Cat Angel Network will receive between \$2.00 and \$9.00 per month, depending on your energy use. In addition, you will save money over PECO and PPL, unless you are currently receiving a discounted heating rate (rate RH), which will be completely phased out before the end of this year. In addition, you

earn points that can be redeemed for travel, groceries, and other perks. Also, Ambit offers a hotel voucher good at 25 resorts nationwide just for trying their product.

As the only electric provider to offer a partnership program for nonprofit organizations, Ambit Energy is helping America's nonprofit organizations succeed! If you would like to learn more about this program, please visit our website or contact Henry Grabb at catangelpa@aol.com. 🐾

In 2011, our supporters made it possible for 178 C.A.N volunteers to find homes for 458 cats, spay and neuter 731 cats, and help 550 cats through our TNR program.

Thank you!

Meet Our Volunteers

Lucie Horrocks (Pottstown) Lucie's kitties always come well socialized because at any given time her home is filled with children, grandchildren and plenty of cats and kittens. Lucie, who was born and grew up in Phoenixville, has always loved cats. Although her father did not share in her love of her feline companion, she was allowed an outside cat, Muggins, who Lucie says " 'catted' all night and let me dress him in doll clothes by day. In the forties getting a cat 'fixed' was almost unheard of."

Like many cat lovers Lucie has room in her heart for other four-legged friends and she remembers the puppy she received for her 8th birthday as "still the best present ever." After Muggins, she did not have another cat in her life until her marriage but "then was only 'catless' for four years when my unfurry babies were small." Lucie has four children and nine grandchildren, ranging in age from nine months to 22 years.



Most of her working career has been spent in the accounting field. She has been employed both full time and part time in accounts payable. She continues to keep the books for the construction company started by her late husband and continued by their sons. She was employed at Boscov's for a year, which to her surprise, she really enjoyed. In addition to her work with CAN, Lucie volunteers as a driver for the American Cancer Society and of course is the babysitter of choice for the grandchildren.

Lucie came to CAN in the fall of 2002 as a shelter volunteer and helped at the Pottstown PetSmart for a year when the store first opened. Over the years, she's also done a mountain of laundry: towels, blankets, and kitty bedding for the shelter kitties. In 2003, Lucie began fostering, her real love and where she truly shines. In eight years she has fostered 249 kitties and can still name her first litter. Of the 249, Lucie has personally adopted five. Having fostered kittens for a short period as 4 days and as long as 10 months, Lucie says that she has loved each one of them. "The best part of CAN is the friends I have made over the years and the satisfaction of seeing the cats find homes."

Liz Graybeal (Downingtown) Liz didn't really like cats. Taking care of unwanted kitties "was something my husband did, not me. He would ride his bike and stop to feed stray kitties in Gap." When he became seriously ill and was frequently hospitalized he made sure Liz stopped every night to feed the cats. A few days after his death, 15 kittens came to Liz from a wooded area and "the rest is history." She became an instant foster mom and with the help of Sandy Syphard, another CAN volunteer, soon learned to trap. Since 2004 Liz has fostered over 300 kitties, many from a colony of abandoned cats in Gap. Most have found wonderful adoptive homes.

Liz grew up in Coatesville and after graduating from high school worked at Pepperidge Farms for a short time before starting at Provident Bank which eventually became PNC. It took ten years of hard work in night school but Liz earned her accounting degree from Immaculata and has been in the mutual fund accounting department of PNC in Delaware since 1999.

She travels extensively in her rescue efforts and in 2010 clocked 10,000 miles. She has transported approximately 400 cats in the past few years to Forgotten Cats clinics for spay/neutering.

Liz works with large cat populations which involve many hours in trapping and large vehicles for transporting to and from the spay/neuter clinics. Liz explains that it is most important to trap until



you get the last cat: "Then it does make a difference so the population growth ceases." Most cats are released back to their original locations provided there is adequate shelter and people to feed them. Since a number of kitties in most TNR projects are friendly, rescue organizations like CAN are always in need of good foster homes to socialize them and prepare them for adoption.

Over her many years of working with abandoned and stray cats, Liz learned to deal with cat diseases, behavior and socialization issues. Some weeks she may devote 50 or more hours caring for cats and although at times it can be tiring, "Looking back it is all worth it."

Ask “Angel”



Is my kitten too aggressive?

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 moms 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. 🐾

Double (Not So Much) Trouble

(cont’d from page 1)

of these same feelings. A new survey amongst veterinarians has shown that, contrary to the belief that the cat has a solitary nature, they are in fact very social creatures. Within the veterinary community, it’s understood that many single cats may be suffering from Separation Anxiety Syndrome, much as humans do. Social isolation can actually cause many behavior problems seen in cats today. These problems can often lead to the cat being surrendered at a shelter, where they run the risk of being euthanized, solely due to space limitations.

With the overpopulation of homeless cats in the world today, the single most effective way to reduce their numbers is to adopt more than one. The benefits and rewards are many. The power is in your paws! 🐾

Newsletter Sponsorship Program

Do you enjoy our newsletters and want to help us to continue with both our quality production and expansion of our network of newsletter recipients? Starting with our Summer/Fall 2012 issue, we are offering the opportunity for individuals and businesses to sponsor our newsletter. All sponsorships will be acknowledged in the newsletter, unless the donor prefers anonymity. Another option is to sponsor in memory of someone, perhaps your own special cat.

The current cost of printing and mailing our newsletter is approximately \$2,000 per issue. Sponsorships to defray or eliminate this cost would allow us to help more cats and kittens.

Our Sponsorships Program is open to anyone who would like to participate at any level, starting at a minimum of \$250.00, or any portion up to sponsoring an entire issue.

If you are interested in helping us with this large recurring expense either for our next issue only, or on a recurring basis, please contact us by email at jaysing@aol.com or by phone at 610-327-6870.



Annual Cat Angel Auction Raises Over \$12,000

Cat Angel Network's annual auction raised over \$12,000 this year. With the live auction run by Bud and Annette Smith of Smith Auction Company, and silent auction tables organized by friends and volunteers of our organization, the event was a runaway success. The auction is an exciting day. There are many bargains to be had in an environment of camaraderie, great food and friends. Organizing tables this year were Lisa Mahan, Ann Kunsch and Terri Petrofes, Keighley Young and Laura Schwartz, Maryellen Barbarish, Lucia Still and members of For Paws, and a number of board members.



CAN volunteer and artist Ami Dushkovich

Next year's auction will be held at the West Chester Senior Center on Sunday, 10/21/12. There are many ways you can help starting now with next year's auction. If you are interested in buying items for the auction, think seasonal sales this spring. If you would like to donate items, help coordinate a silent auction table, help with advertising/audience development or help with food for the event, please contact Henry at catangelpa@aol.com. 🐾



Holly Spays Raises Record Funds

Thanks to our many wonderful supporters, our annual Happy Holly Spays/Neuter Year Fundraiser brought in over \$16,000 this year! These much needed funds will assist us in our mission as kitten season approaches and as we continue with our TNR efforts. Thank you so much to everyone who participated in this year's Fundraiser. We are so grateful for your continued generosity, even in these tough financial times. 🐾

C.A.N. 2012 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 | \$500 and up |
| ☐ Archangel | \$250 to \$499 |
| ☐ Guardian Angel | \$100 to \$249 |
| ☐ Angel | \$50 to \$99 |
| ☐ Angel Wings | \$25 to \$49 |
| ☐ Halo | \$15 to \$24 |

Thank you for your
continued support!

Please indicate the name(s) in which your donation should appear in the "Sponsors" section of the program:

Have you adopted one (or more) cats from Cat Angel Network? Tell us who!

Donations for our 2012 Concert may be sent to:
Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464.

