



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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Announcing Our Upcoming Auction ~ October 21st

Mark your calendar today for our upcoming auction on Sunday, October 21st. If you have never attended one of our auctions, you really should make an effort to come this year. With both silent and live auctions, excellent food, and a room filled with cat lovers, the event is always fun, fun, fun! There is no pressure to buy, but few can resist the wonderful bargains and great opportunities to do a little early holiday shopping. We will have many wonderful donated 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!



Tapestries by Pure Country Weavers are always an auction favorite. (We especially like this one!)

When and where is the event? The date is Sunday, October 21st from 2-5 p.m. The Silent Auction runs from 2-3 p.m. with the Live Auction beginning at 3 p.m. The event will be held at the West Chester Senior Center, 530 East Union Street, West Chester (www.wcseniors.org). There is a great map on the senior center website.

Where do I get tickets? The price of admission is \$20 per person, which includes delicious hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. There are no physical tickets. Just fill out the form below and return it with your check/cash, or go to our website where you can purchase admission using Paypal. Your name

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Special Cats with Special Needs

Each week, Cat Angel volunteers eagerly wait to greet new adopters, hoping to introduce them to the perfect cat to join their family.

Of course, we have cats of all colors and sizes; but those you may not see are some of our most precious and loving cats – our Special Needs Kitties.



Just like people, cats can have medical conditions that have almost no impact on their quality of life; and then there are others who bravely live with conditions that make coming to one of our Petsmart adoption centers impossible. It is these kitties who often do not get adopted as quickly as those who come into the adoption centers; yet, they are every bit as deserving of a loving family as any other cat.

Take Timmy, for example. Timmy is a handsome, young black male, so full of love that he immediately stands up and walks slowly towards you, pulling his back legs along the best he can. Timmy has cerebellar hypoplasia, a neurological condition that makes him wobble when he walks.

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Special Cats with Special Needs

(cont'd from page 1)

And then, there is Pancake, a beautiful dilute tortie (female), who is blind. That's not a problem for Pancake, though, as she was most likely born this way and knows exactly where to find the litter box and her food bowl. Pancake loves attention and looks forward to spending time with people, especially if it means having her coat brushed or a quick pat on her head. Her little tail flutters with delight when she's treated to a little back rub.



Mindy, another beautiful female, is also blind; but if you saw Mindy in her foster home, you would find it difficult to believe that she could not see! Mindy walks all around the house, searching for the perfect spot to nap. Suddenly, someone walks right up to her, and picks her up for a hug. Mindy loves when that happens, and will happily put her arms on your shoulder, taking in as much affection as she can. Mindy even has a friend in her foster home, named Haddie who is vision-impaired. Haddie is luckier than Mindy, though, as she can see through one eye; and she is just as sweet.

Last, but not least, there is a beautiful little calico, named Vanna, who has an auto-immune disorder which has resulted in a deformity in her

paws and limits her mobility. That doesn't stop Vanna, yet it does slow her down. She doesn't wander too far from her favorite place in the house; where upon seeing her foster mom, she walks over, giving a loving glance upward, as if to ask that she be picked up and allowed to sit in her lap as she works on the computer.



Timmy, Pancake, Mindy, Haddie, and Vanna are just a few of the kitties who are waiting for a special person to come along and take them home. It is these kitties who are often the most grateful for any attention they receive, and who so easily give so much love in return. One thing is certain – it takes just one look into their eyes to understand what it is about each of them that truly makes them “special”. 🐾

If you are interested in adopting a cat,
please ask to meet any of our Special Kitties,
or visit our website at www.catangel.org.

Discarded Kittens Rescued by CAN Volunteer

It was one of those 99 degree days this past July and there wasn't a hint of a breeze. One of our volunteers was walking by an overgrown part of a park when she heard what sounded like kittens crying. The sound was so faint she thought it was her imagination. When she heard it again, she followed the sound and found a dark blanket which had been tossed into the high weeds. The cries were coming from inside the bundled blanket. Wrapped in the heavy woolen blanket were seven darling tiny kittens, not more than 5 weeks old. The kittens were overheated and gasping for air. If they had not been found, in a few more minutes they would have died.

She scooped them up and rushed them for immediate treatment. They were crawling with fleas, and were skinny, weak, starving, and filthy. Before any other treatment took place, they were fed canned baby kitten food and water. The kittens were ravenous and devoured the food and water. They desperately needed bathing and needed three baths before they were finally clean. Finally, after a flea treatment and deworming, they immediately fell asleep in a comfortable bed.

Now that the kittens were stabilized and comfortable, we faced the challenge of finding a place for them to stay until they would reach adoption age. All of our foster homes, as well as our adoption centers and shelter, were already at full capacity with other cats and kittens. Then a miracle occurred! The next day, two of our volunteers heard the story and didn't hesitate for an instant to open their hearts and their home to foster the kittens.

The kittens are settled in their new foster home, and are well socialized and very affectionate youngsters. Everyone involved in this adventure is praying for wonderful loving forever homes for these kittens who came so close to death. If all goes well, the kittens should become available for adoption early this fall. 🐾



Ask “Angel”



How can I help stray cats when all the shelters are full?

QUESTION: This summer I found a mother cat & kittens. The SPCA told me that they couldn't guarantee that the cats wouldn't be euthanized so I was looking for a no-kill rescue to take them. Every single rescue I called was full and could not take the kitties in. Can you give me any advice about what to do to help these cats have a better life when the shelters and rescues are inundated?

ANSWER: This is a question that addresses the very heart of the dilemma that all animal rescues face every kitten season. The open-admissions SPCA's want to have a positive outcome for each and every kitty that comes through their doors, but as the boxes of kittens and carriers of surrendered pets pile up, their options dwindle. The no-kill rescues want to take in every kitty in need that they hear about, but their foster homes swell to bulging very early in the spring, and the process of preparing hundreds of kittens for adoption and sending all of them to homes of their own is a slow one.



The five steps described below are actions you can take to help the cats yourself.

Step One: Leave a message or speak to a representative from as many rescues in your area as possible. If you know that they are full, make it clear that you just need guidance (most shelters love to speak to people like this!). An effective way to get the names of a lot of these places is to go on your computer to Petfinder.com, which is an online resource people use to find a pet. Use this website AS IF you are trying to adopt a cat, typing in your zip code, and cats will be shown, INCLUDING THE NAMES OF LOCAL RESCUES AND LINKS TO THOSE RESCUES. It is a quick and easy way to learn of

possible contacts for getting advice, borrowing traps & cages, getting the contact information for low-cost/no-cost spay & neuter clinics, and adoption tips. Once you have the names of three or more local rescues, call weekly, leaving polite messages requesting advice for your situation. Persistence does pay off. Rescues are stressed and over-worked at this time of year, and repeated respectful requests DO get results!



Step Two: Decide whether it's possible to bring the kitties inside or whether the only option is to work with them outside until it's time for spaying & neutering. The common concern about bringing cats indoors is the health of the rescuer's pets. In reality, if the rescued kitties are treated for fleas and are confined in a garage, small room, or the easiest option, a dog cage (anyplace that is separate from the owner's pets), there is very little risk to resident pets. Besides flea medications such as Advantage, Frontline Top Spot, or Revolution, the most common medical treatments given soon after rescue are dewormer and FVRCP (commonly called “distemper”) vaccinations.

Step Three: Make arrangements for low-cost/no-cost spay & neuter. This is THE most important thing you can do in this whole process. Even if it's the ONLY thing done, this alone will make a huge improvement in the lives of these cats. Most clinics will neuter kittens when they weigh 3 lbs or are 3 months old, and some places will do them even earlier. If the kittens aren't ready yet, make every attempt to get the mother cat and have her spayed as soon as all the kittens have STARTED to eat on their own. Many people assume that as long as the kittens are doing some nursing, she can't get pregnant again. This is false! A female cat can go into heat as soon as her kittens are weaned, usually by six weeks of age. Many kittens will continue to do some nursing while they are eating food from a plate, but this does not prevent the queen from going into heat and becoming pregnant again.

Female kittens can go into heat as early as 5-6 months of age.

We are very lucky in this area to have access to a number of excellent spay/neuter clinics, almost all charging \$70 or less per cat. Some charge \$35 for a feral (wild) kitty in a trap. The price includes spaying or neutering, vaccinations, and an “ear tip.” An ear tip is a leveling of the left ear of a feral cat, so that there is an easily visible, universally recognized sign that the cat has been neutered.

Some local spay/neuter clinics are:

1. Forgotten Cats: clinics in Willow Grove and Trainer, PA ; www.forgottencats.org Price ranges from \$35 up, depending on factors such as whether you are working through a rescue like CAN, spaying an individual pet cat or a trapped feral, etc.

2. The Spayed Club: clinic at 800 Chester Pike, Sharon Hill, PA 19079; www.thespayedclubclinic.org ; 484-540-8436; Price for cats is \$60.

3. CCSPCA van to The Spayed Club: one day each month the Chester County SPCA teams

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Ask “Angel”

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up with The Spayed Club to offer low-cost spay/neuter services to our local community. The Spayed Club performs the surgeries, with convenient same-day pickup/dropoff from CCSPCA. (Dropoff is 6:30 am, and pickup is 7 pm.) This service is available for dogs and cats, with limited space for female dogs. Price for cats is \$60. Contact the CCSPCA at www.ccsPCA.org for the date of the next transport.

4. No Nonsense Neutering: clinics in Reading & Allentown, PA. The Reading Clinic is at 1500 Frush Valley Road, Reading, PA 19560; 1-866-820-2510; Wednesday, Fridays, & 4th Sundays by appointment; Walk-ins allowed for one trapped cat. \$35 per cat

5. Fairchild Feral Friends: 3rd Sunday of the month at the Animal Rescue League of Berks County (58 Kennel Rd., off of Rt. 724, between Rts. 10 & 176); For Feral Cats Only; E-mail Dr. Fry for an appointment at fairchildfoundation@gmail.com; Walk-ins allowed for one trapped cat; Minimum \$35 donation

All of the above clinics do an outstanding job of spaying & neutering hundreds of cats per month at a small fraction of the usual cost of these surgeries. They are making giant strides at addressing the only real, long-term solution to the overpopulation problem.

If you have a number of rescued cats who need neutering and finances are an issue, contact CAN or another cat rescue to see if they can help.

Step Four: Recuperate the cats or kittens after surgery by confining them to a dog cage or small room. One clinic, Forgotten Cats, does the recuperation on their premises by confining the cats to their traps. Male cats need at least one day to recuperate while females need three days.



Step Five: Socialize and advertise! Handling

the kittens and mother cat and interacting with them on a daily basis get them used to people. If the kitties enjoy this and can be easily petted and held, they will make good family pets. The ideal way to find responsible and loving homes is through people you know - your network of friends and acquaintances at work, church, school, among family and neighbors, etc.



An additional option is to advertise, using the newspaper, social media, posters at vet offices and pet stores, etc. This can be an effective way to find homes as long as you are careful.

First, never, ever, ever advertise the cats as “Free.” This can attract unsavory characters who look for unfortunate free animals for their own sick purposes. Free animals also give the impression that the care and medical attention that has been given is not worth anything and that the cats themselves are worthless commodities that are easily obtained and easily discarded. A true animal lover will never be upset about an adoption fee that reflects the valuable medical care that the kitty has received.

Secondly, ask the person for a vet reference and call this vet to make sure the adopters have actually had pets and have given them good care. What if the interested party has never had pets? Ask for a parent’s or other relative’s vet reference. If this isn’t available, use your own good judgment. If you feel uneasy during the interaction or notice “red flags” in some of their actions or words, don’t go through with the adoption. Innocent lives are in your hands, and it is better to be safe than sorry. You will feel very warm and fuzzy vibes when the right people arrive. They will be happy to provide their vet’s name because they are proud of the way they care for their pets, and they will be thrilled to find out the kittens are already vetted at such a reasonable rate.

Thirdly, rescues like CAN are usually very willing to post pictures and write-ups of the

kitties of Personal Rescuers on their website, which is linked to Petfinder. This is called a “courtesy listing,” and it can be a very effective way to bring your kitties to the attention of people searching for a pet. CAN will also do the vet check and a phone interview with the prospective adopter, if you wish.

What if, after weeks of working with the kitties, they do not respond to interaction with humans and are still frightened and wary? These cats are truly feral and will be much happier as outdoor cats in a situation where they receive food, water and shelter. Ideally, they can be returned to the location where they were found. If this is not possible, they can be re-homed to a barn or other safe location where they can live out their days as the free “wild things” that they are. Most rescuers are pleasantly surprised after a feral colony of cats has been neutered and released, how happy, healthy, and cohesive the group becomes!

These are the five steps to making a difference in the lives of that mother cat and kittens you found. Is it easy? Quite honestly, sometimes it is and sometimes it isn’t. Is it satisfying? That answer is more predictable – “Absolutely!” 🐾



“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Announcing Our Upcoming Auction ~ October 23rd

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will be on an advance payment 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 Paypal payment by October 15th. After that date, please call or email Henry to secure tickets for the event. 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. We can send you a flyer to print out via email. In addition, we would love to have a business or individual donor cover the cost of the senior center. This expense is \$500.00. If you would like to cover this cost, please contact Henry.

What type of items are acceptable for the auction? Gift baskets, restaurant gift certificates, jewelry, items of value, and bottles of wine to name a few. If you would like to have us purchase an item at wholesale from Pure Country Weavers and list you as a donor, please contact Henry.

What is the deadline to donate items? The deadline is October 9th. After that date, we may still be able to take high quality items that will bring a good price at the auction.

What payment is accepted at the event? Cash and check only. Absolutely no credit cards.

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Cat Angel Network 2012 Auction Reservation Form

Please return this form with your check payable to Cat Angel Network. Your name/s will be included on the Reservation list at the door.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

I have enclosed a check for the amount of \$ _____ for _____ reservations at \$20 each.

I have enclosed a check for the amount of \$ _____ as a donation.

Reservation purchases cannot be refunded. If, for some reason, you are unable to attend the auction, please consider your reservation purchase to be a donation.

Please make checks payable to **Cat Angel Network** and mail to:
Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464.

Save Money and Lives with Ambit Energy

Would you believe that you can help save cats' lives every time you turn on a light? Taking advantage of a rare and unique opportunity, Cat Angel Network has partnered with Ambit Energy to supply electricity to our friends in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Here are some FAQs about switching your electricity.

How can I compare my current rate to Ambit's rate? The best way to compare is to go to www.catangel.joinambit.com. At this web address, enter your zip code to find what products/prices Ambit offers in your area. Ambit offers variable rates, fixed rates, and green energy. Current comparable rates are as follows:

- PECO (.0898 per kWh) vs. Ambit (.079 kWh for variable and .078 cents kWh for 12 month fixed plan)
- PPL (.07993 cents kWh) vs. Ambit (.0684 cents kWh for variable and .0724 Cents kWh for fixed)

Ultimately, the best way to compare current rates is to compare your current bill to the rates listed by Ambit at the web address above.

How complicated is it to switch? It could not be much easier. All you have to do is fill out the information online. Ambit handles it from there! You will either get a verification call, or, using your home phone, you can call an automated phone number to verify your order.

Will I be stuck with two bills? No. You will still get just one bill from your electric provider (PECO, PPL, etc). They will continue to handle everything but the generation portion of your electric needs.

Can I trust Ambit Energy? Absolutely! Ambit is one of America's fastest growing companies, and maintains an "A" rating with the BBB (Better Business Bureau)!

How does Cat Angel Network benefit? When you switch to Ambit energy, every month Cat Angel Network will earn between \$2 and \$9 per month for your usage over 200kWh. If we can get 100 people to sign up, we will have an amazing new source of income to help us in our endless fight to end suffering. 🐾



Meet Our Volunteers

Maryellen Barbarish (Downingtown) Maryellen Barbarish and husband, Tom live in rural Honey Brook and often find kitties in need of help, as happened several years ago when a friendly mama cat found shelter, with her 6 kittens, in their garage. Since the family dog and cats were all rescues, it seemed obvious where Maryellen's heart was leading, and her vet recommended she consider volunteering with Cat Angel Network.

She began her CAN career in 2007 at the Downingtown PetSmart weekend adoptathons. Although employed full-time, Maryellen devotes many hours to CAN as a Foster Team Leader, mentoring and supporting foster parents in the Downingtown area. For several years, Maryellen has worked closely with the CAN Board of Directors and this summer became its newest member.



In addition, she also acts as the Adoptathon Coordinator at the Downingtown PetSmart, assigning cages for kitties ready for adoption, typing the heartwarming and often funny stories provided by the foster families, that help to find those forever homes for our kitty angels.

"All of these responsibilities keep me very busy and give me an opportunity to get to know many of our cats. So it seemed only logical that I should also be the census keeper for the organization. I submit a monthly report of all cats in our foster homes, those adopted and TNR's (trap/neuter/return). These statistics help CAN to obtain grants and plan our expenses." Family and friends call Maryellen "a walking encyclopedia" because she knows so much about so many CAN cats. This is a great compliment to Maryellen because her hope is to make a difference in the life of even one kitty. Of course, she has been instrumental in finding loving homes for many kitties since volunteering with CAN. She encourages anyone who loves animals to become a volunteer. "It doesn't take long to see results; and you quickly realize that you've not only made a difference for a kitty in need but your life will be changed, too."

Laura Schwartz (Pottstown) Laura Schwartz came to Cat Angel in the way many volunteers do: she was looking to adopt a cat. Not just any cat, but a Siamese. Turns out her husband, wanting to gift her with the Siamese variety, made the fatal mistake of uttering the words: "I've already talked to a breeder," which sent Laura off in search of rescues. Although CAN didn't have any Siamese to offer, she was impressed with the health and good care provided to our kitties and submitted a Volunteer Application.

After starting as a Greeter in the Pottstown PetSmart Adoption Center, Laura's role steadily grew. She became a foster mom quite by accident when her husband insisted they stop by the SPCA to look at a dog; instead they brought home a pregnant cat. Plunged into kitty motherhood on Mother's Day that year, she's never looked back. Rescue and fostering has become a regular family event, with husband, Joe, turning out to be an extraordinary socializer of the most difficult feral kittens and daughter, Keighley, taking on the task of bottle feeding several orphan kittens for her high school senior project.



Laura is responsible for organizing many exhibitions and fundraisers in which CAN participates, including cat shows, pet events at local stores and even a scrapbook convention! Her public relations skills have come in handy in securing column inches in area newspapers and online sites. She's even appeared on a local television talk show in support of cat rescue in general and Cat Angel Network in particular.

In addition to being a Cat Angel to her foster kitties in her purposely redesigned Kitty Foster Room, Laura is also a Search Angel, helping to reunite adopted adults with their birth families through Internet research. Like our own cats and kittens, Laura is adopted and found her family through perseverance, skill and the newly-popular DNA testing for genealogical purposes.

Maximize the Impact of Your CAN Volunteer Hours

In recent years corporate America has come to recognize its obligation to the global community and this responsibility frequently translates into encouraging volunteerism by employees in their local communities. As a non-profit corporation CAN depends heavily on monetary donations and grants to meet the expenses of caring for our kitties and we are always grateful for donations made by individuals and companies.

Fortunately, an increasing number of businesses now have programs which allow employees paid hours each month to volunteer for an organization of their choice or a local non-profit chosen from a list provided to employees.

Other programs provide rewards and incentives to employees who volunteer outside of work hours. One of our volunteers recently received a monetary award from her company for her many volunteer hours and she then donated that award to CAN.



Volunteer programs vary from company to company but are definitely on the increase. Why not check with your company to see if they have a volunteer match program? If not, encourage them to consider setting one up. If you, or someone you know, work for a company that has a program in place, please let us know the name of the company. You can e-mail our Volunteer Coordinator, Ann Kunsch (ann_fran@windstream.net) with the information. A future issue of our newsletter will explore this subject in greater depth with a listing of local companies that support CAN through volunteer programs. 🐾