



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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Enjoy Hauntingly Good Deals At Our 2023 Cat Angel Network Auction To Be Held Sunday October 29th

We will be putting our best paws forward for this year's gala auction, and we really want YOU to come join in the fun. The event will be held in Griffith Hall, a part of the Ludwig's Corner Fire Company with a start time of 2 p.m. As in the past, we will have 15 silent auction tables followed by a live auction, run by Bud and Annette Smith of Smith Auction Company, with approximately 45 items.

When and where is the event? The date is Sunday, October 29th from 2-5 p.m. Registration begins at 1:45. Silent auction tables will begin closing around 3:15. The event will be held in Griffith Hall, a part of Ludwig's Corner Fire Company. The address is 1325 North Pottstown Pike, Glenmoore, PA.



Where do I get tickets? The price of admission is \$20 per person in advance (by October 21st), and \$25 at the door, or Oct 22nd- 29th. There are no physical tickets. Just fill out the form in this newsletter and return it with your payment or go to our website where you can purchase admission using PayPal (no account required). Your name will be on a 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. Tickets at the door will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

Dress/Health? Since the auction is two days before Halloween, please feel free to wear a comfortable costume, don cat ears, or wear whatever attire feels seasonal for you! Masks will be optional, but please do not attend if you feel in the even remotely ill.

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A Perfect Partnership



In November of 2022 we received an exciting proposal through the online website for CAN volunteer applications. Sara Richardson, leader of Girl Scout Troop 4131 in Chester Springs, and a CAN adopter, asked if CAN would be interested in pairing with 3 Girl Scouts working toward their bronze award. After some discussion with Sara the idea was presented to the Board of Directors who brainstormed how the project might benefit CAN and help the girls reach their goal.

The Board felt that our foster homes could benefit from the project and we sent out messages asking foster parents for a wish list of items for their kitties. The girls provided some information about CAN and set up a donation collection during their annual cookie sales drive in February. The troop also earmarked a portion of their cookie sales funds to purchase two kitten incubators to help care for tiny, orphaned babies.

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Meet Our Volunteers

Suzanne Graham Thurman grew up in a small Mennonite farming community in Oklahoma where her family has lived for generations. She graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in social sciences and worked as an educator in several states over 25 years, teaching students from elementary to high school. She even taught for several years at a maximum-security prison.

Suzanne's husband is a veterinary pathologist working in pharmaceutical research. Due to his civilian and military careers the couple has traveled extensively and lived in 6 states. In 2011 they were living in West Chester when he was offered a 2 ½ year international assignment in Shanghai which they enthusiastically accepted. During her expat time, Suzanne volunteered in an orphanage and at "The Cat House", a rescue housing about 90 cats. While volunteering in Shanghai Suzanne rescued and fostered a small kitten. She was able to find a loving, forever home for him and was happy to receive photos as he grew.

While living in Asia, she had the opportunity to shop in many jewelry markets which was the impetus for her to start "Suzanne's Jewelry" upon returning to the U.S. Her jewelry is handmade in 4 small shops that each employ 5-10 young women and sold in upscale boutiques. Suzanne donates a piece of jewelry to the CAN auction each year. She sometimes uses a cat to model her jewelry in social media posts.



When Suzanne returned home she wanted to continue working with cats. An online search directed her to Cat Angel Network in 2016. Suzanne finds it very fulfilling to be a part of the CAN organization.



Rescuing cats began at an early age for **Nancy Fuhrman**. In the farm country of Lancaster County where she grew up it was not unusual to find kittens abandoned in a field as she walked home from school. When COVID curtailed her travels in 2020 and before joining CAN she was known to trap and spay/neuter any cat that walked across her yard.

Before retiring from the Downingtown School District in 2014, Nancy worked in the West York School District and Pequea Valley School District. She taught gifted students, was an art teacher, an elementary principal, and supervisor of professional development.



Nancy has two sons. Rich, who gained notoriety by hanging from the Norman Wood Bridge (safely) to untangle an osprey caught in wires. He also rescues people: water, cave, and fire rescue!

Mike and his wife Becky recently adopted a CAN kitty from the Pottstown PetSmart.

"In May 2020, I naively took in my first foster (for CAN), a feral momma and two kittens. Momma was a TNR (trap-neuter-return) but Andy and Archie were adopted successfully. It broke my heart to have to release Momma but that was a lesson in what one can reasonably do, or not do, with kitties found in the great outdoors."

Nancy names her fosters alphabetically and is up to Olivia, Nico and crew and Matteo and crew, along with the ones who come to her already named, currently Vinnie, Noodle, Simone, and Pepper. "I've learned more about afflictions and treatment of kitties with medical needs than I ever dreamed possible but nothing is better than seeing a once challenged kitty capture the heart of a potential adopter. I've had just one foster failure, although it could easily have been more. The more kitties I can adopt out, the more I have room to enjoy for the short while they are with me." Of the attached picture with Matteo and Mindy, Nancy says: "If ever two kittens were in danger of a foster failure, it's these two but I will refrain and send them off to a lucky adopter when the time comes." 🐾

A Perfect Partnership

(cont'd from page 1)

One of the guidelines for their project was sustainability so Sara, Nancy Lanza, the assistant leader and Gina Gennari, helped the girls develop and videotape a "Cat Chat Pawd Cast." The program features three cats "discussing" issues they feel are important to keep cats happy and healthy in their homes with the goal of preventing surrenders. We hope you will take some time to open the link on the CAN website, Facebook page or Instagram account and enjoy this fun, informative "Pawd Cast".

A big perk of their hard work for the girls were two tours of the shelter, in February and again in June when they presented the donated items to Charlotte, Elaine, and Ann. Holding and playing with kittens was a big thrill for the girls.

Michaela Richardson, Amelia Stewart, and Lucia Lanza, 5th and 6th grade students at West Vincent Elementary, West Chester Middle School, and St. Joseph's School respectively, worked diligently over seven months on this multipronged project and we are extremely grateful that they chose CAN as the recipient. Over the next few years as the girls progress through the Scout ranks they will work toward their silver and gold awards and we hope they may pair with CAN again.



Ask “Angel”



Cats Who Test Positive for FIV

QUESTION: I just rescued a 4 month old kitten from behind the building where I work. During his first vet visit, the kitty tested negative for Feline Leukemia but positive for FIV. He is a sweet gentle kitten, and I have already fallen in love with him. I have 2 FIV negative cats at home who get along well with each other, and I had planned to add this kitty as my third. I am getting some conflicting opinions about keeping this kitten because of his FIV status. Any advice?

ANSWER: How kind of you to take in this homeless kitty! After deciding to add him to your family, you must have been quite surprised to hear he tested positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), and your confusion about what to do next is a common feeling.

Cat Angel Network has often been in this same situation. A kitten or cat is surrendered, and the subsequent Combo test indicates an FIV+ response. When this first happened to us back in 1997 with a stray tortoiseshell kitten found in Pottstown, not much was known about this virus, but over the years the veterinary community has learned a great deal about it. And their latest information confirms what we have seen ourselves in over 26 years of fostering and adopting out FIV+ kitties. Here are the four guidelines we follow with cats testing positive for FIV, based on our experience and backed up by veterinary studies:

(1) All kittens under six months old need to be retested later because they often test a false positive. Cornell Feline Health Center (part of Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine) reports in their online article “Feline Immunodeficiency Virus”:

“Infected mother cats transfer FIV antibodies to nursing kittens, so kittens born to infected mothers may receive positive test results for several months after birth. However, few of these kittens actually are or will become infected. To clarify their infection status, kittens younger than six months of age receiving positive results should be retested at 60-day intervals until they are at least six months old.”

(2) The virus is not as contagious as first thought, and properly introduced, friendly FIV positive kitties can live with negative cats with little risk. According to the Cornell Feline Health Center’s article:

“The primary mode of transmission is through

bite wounds. Casual, non-aggressive contact does not appear to be an efficient route of spreading FIV; as a result, cats in households with stable social structures where housemates do not fight are at little risk for acquiring FIV infections.”

(3) The care recommended for these cats includes common sense practices that we have always advised for all our cats. The Cornell Feline Health Center recommends:

“FIV-infected cats should be confined indoors to reduce their exposure to infectious agents carried by other animals;

FIV-infected cats should be spayed or neutered;

They should be fed nutritionally complete and balanced diets.”

(4) It is wise to promptly take care of any health issues that are noticed in these cats. The Cornell Feline Health Center advises:

“Vigilance and close monitoring of the health and behavior of FIV-infected cats is even more important than it is for uninfected cats. Alert your veterinarian to any changes in your cat’s health as soon as possible.”

In our experience at Cat Angel Network with dozens of FIV+ cats, we have found that the vast majority of them lived healthy and long lives. Almost all have lived to be 10+ years old. The one health issue we have seen more frequently

with these cats is a redness of the gums and mouth (stomatitis). This is a treatable condition that, as with negative cats, is best taken care of early.

Our advice for your 4 month old kitten would be to have him retested after he is 6 months old (All of the CAN kittens that were retested came up FIV negative on a later test). If your present two cats are not aggressive (typical play-fighting is not a risk, but only fights involving deep, penetrating bite wounds), and you introduce the new kitty slowly and carefully, with close supervision until all are comfortable with each other, we feel that you should not experience any difficulties.

We at CAN have a special place in our hearts for cats that test FIV+. They have lived for far too long under the stigma of these three letters, often the innocent victims of misinformation that has persisted from the past. One of CAN’s missions is to help spread the much more optimistic outlook presented by the latest results of veterinary studies. These cats need and deserve the same joys and comforts of life that rescues like ours passionately seek for any other of our feline friends!

P.S. All quotes in this column are excerpted from the findings of the Cornell Feline Health Center (part of Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine). The full article “Feline Immunodeficiency Virus” can be found online.

Meet Downey



DOWNEY is an FIV+ little girl who is an excellent example of how special these little lovebugs can be. Downey is looking for her new loving forever home while she is still a young kitty with many years of love and joy to share. She is very friendly, affectionate and gentle which are qualities that are so very visible in this lovely picture of her. Downey is ready, able and willing to share many happy years with a loving family.



Annual Benefit Auction

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How can I help make this event a success?

If you would like to contribute a new item for the auction, please contact Henry (contact info is below). We could also use help advertising the event. We can send you a flyer to print out via email (contact Linda Petro at cscdpeach2@aol.com), or you can download it from our website www.catangel.org. We welcome event guarantors whose contributions will help cover expenses as well as increase our final profit margin substantially. If you would like to bring a food item, please contact Ann Kunsch: ann_fran@outlook.com. We may have room for one or two people to take an auction table. If you are considering this, please contact Henry a.s.a.p.

What types of items are acceptable for the auction?

Unique items, gift certificates (restaurants, events, local attractions, hair or nail salons, etc.), practical items, jewelry, items of value, and bottles of wine tend to go well at the auction. Since we have limited table space, we may not be able to accommodate very many larger items with a value of less than \$60.00. It is best to donate items that are completely ready to go to auction.

What is the deadline to donate items? The deadline is Sunday, October 15th. After that date, we may still be able to take high quality items that will bring a good price at the auction. Please do not bring items to the auction as last-

minute additions. The earlier we receive items, the easier it is for us to plan!

I've never been to one of your auctions. What makes your auctions so special? Our auctions are highly organized to maximize fun. You will find items for any budget and all profits go directly to our cat rescue efforts. Many people come every year and just rave about the event. Don't hesitate to come! You won't be disappointed!

What payment is accepted at the event?

Cash and checks for purchases under \$100. Credit cards can be used for purchases over that amount.

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



Update on Mila and Blackie (featured in our last issue)

Please celebrate with us! Mila and Blackie have found their loving forever homes. They are just two of the fortunate kitties who were on the verge of death without our intervention. They are amazing examples of what we can accomplish as a team – our donors, our vets and CAN. Thanks so much for your participation. The joy and rewards of working together to save precious little lives is immeasurable.



"Lot of Littles" Fundraiser Brings In \$7000

We are deeply grateful to everyone who donated to our Lot of Littles Fundraiser in our last newsletter. With so many kittens coming in this season, we are especially thrilled to have the funds to handle their spay/neuter surgeries. Without your support, we would not be able to do what we do!



New Event Alert! May 2024 Yardsale Crawl



How will this work? Individuals will volunteer to host a yard sale at their home. They can host with just their own items or act as a drop off place for other individuals who do not want to host but have items to donate. We are hoping to have at least five locations in Pottstown and five locations in the Downingtown/West Chester Area.

If you would like to participate in the yard sale crawl, please add your name to the contact list by emailing Ann at: ann_fran@outlook.com. We will have more information in our spring 2024 Newsletter.

2023 Auction Ticket Purchase and Donation Form

All tickets will be held at the door.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

I have enclosed a check totalling \$ _____ for _____ tickets. Tickets are \$20 each.

I have enclosed a check for \$ _____ as a donation to help save cats' lives.

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

Tickets purchased after October 21 and at the door will cost \$25. Ticket purchases cannot be refunded. If, for some reason, you cannot attend, please consider your ticket purchase to be a donation.

