



# CAT ANGEL NETWORK



Together, we CAN make a difference!

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## CAT ANGEL NETWORK 2018/19 Board of Directors

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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 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Concert for Cats on Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>

All cat and/or music lovers are invited to attend the 20th Annual Cat Angel Network Benefit Concert at 7 PM on Sunday, April 14th. 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 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.

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.

Please help us by filling out the coupon on page 4 and mail in your donation! Donations of \$25 or more received by Monday, April 8th will be acknowledged in the program. 



## Featured Cats: Nick and Nancy

Nick and Nancy are a beautiful brother and sister duo, who were born in August 2016. They were rescued from the woods behind a car lot in Downingtown, PA, and were brought indoors to begin their new lives.



Nick

Nicky is a very sweet and outgoing kitty, who just loves attention and enjoys having his tummy rubbed. He is a very loving lap cat who wants to be around people; but most importantly, he is the ultimate companion to his beautiful calico sister, Nancy. Nick bathes Nancy when they are cuddling together (he also will try to bathe the people he loves too!). When it comes to playtime, he enjoys playing with other kitties; but it is playing with Nancy that makes him the happiest. It is easy to see just how much Nick loves his sister.

Nancy is a very sweet, but shy, kitty who loves her brother possibly more than she loves playing with her stuffed toys! She is active and playful, especially when Nick joins in. The pair sleep together on their foster mom's bed during the day. Nancy loves to be petted while she is sitting beside you; but she prefers to come to you on her own. She enjoys being out and about in her foster home; and while she's never far from Nick, she does get along with other kitties as well.



Nancy

(continued on page 2)

## Burke: A Miraculous Discovery

We rescued a dear sweet kitty who has been named Burke in honor of his guardian angel. His story is heartbreaking. A local realtor was preparing a vacant apartment for rental after the former renters abandoned it. When the realtor opened a closet door, he found an emaciated,



Burke enjoying a snack

traumatized, starving brown tabby kitty who had no water or food - nothing. Judging from the condition of the closet and of Burke, he must have been there for quite a while in total darkness. He was terrified and when the door opened, the daylight in the room was blinding to him as a result of being trapped in pitch black darkness.

The kind realtor contacted CAN and within minutes, Burke's new life was about to begin. The shelter volunteers have all fallen in love with him and he is slowly beginning to trust. His big, scared eyes are slowly becoming used to the light and his heart is beginning to believe in love. Thank goodness for the kindness of the realtor for calling us.

We're all so happy for Burke's progress and that he will eventually be looking for a new loving home with a family who will never forsake him. 🐾

## Nick and Nancy

*(continued from page 1)*

Nick and Nancy are such a wonderful pair of young kitties who are patiently waiting for their new family to come along. Given that Nancy is a bit shy at PetSmart, adopters often overlook the pair, never knowing how much richer their lives would be if they took a few extra moments to understand how frightening it can be from inside a cage in a busy store. However, CAN understands and will do whatever we can to reach the purrfect owner(s) for this pair, who want nothing more than to spend the rest of their lives together, in a home where the love they give will be returned for years to come.

Nicky and Nancy are very bonded and MUST be adopted together. If you are interested in adopting Nick and Nancy, please visit either the Downingtown or Pottstown, PA PetSmarts, or apply online at [www.catangel.org](http://www.catangel.org). 🐾

## Meet Our Volunteers

We began including the Volunteer Spotlight column in the CAN Newsletter in 2010. Over the years we've highlighted many amazing volunteers, but because we can only include 2 in each issue, there are many more unsung, and we thank each of them from the bottom of our hearts.

As you read the stories in this and past issues you will notice that CAN volunteers come from all walks of life. Their backgrounds are different but each brings their own set of strengths and skills, and especially their love of cats, to our wonderful organization. Our kitties benefit from every CAN volunteer who cares for them.

If you are considering volunteering with CAN please know that whatever time you can give will make a difference in a cat's life. There are a variety of ways you can help and each person has something valuable to contribute.

### Patrick McCann

If you look at the volunteer schedule at the Pottstown PetSmart store you will very likely see Patrick McCann's name in more than one slot. He not only volunteers for several shifts each week but often covers when another has a last minute need.

Patrick grew up, and lives with his parents and younger sister, in Boyertown. He lost a beloved cat, Shadow in 2007. These days his special kitty

is Layla. A software developer, Patrick runs a business from his home. He first became aware of CAN from a magazine at the library and then a recruitment ad in the Pottstown Mercury. He submitted an application and trained to work in the PetSmart adoption center and at weekend adoptathons. Patrick helped with our annual fundraising auction in October and a volunteer picnic last summer.

Patrick enjoys the flexible schedule and working with many caring volunteers. It's also important to him that CAN is a no-kill rescue. Volunteering at weekend "Meet and Greet" days "allows me to help cats in need, while sharing my love and enjoyment of cats with prospective adopters." He also enjoys watching and playing with the kitties when he does a scoop and feed shift. Most of all "it's just really, really fun and an especially awesome feeling each time a cat goes to his or her forever home.

### Nancy Howell

Nancy Howell has been rescuing animals since she was a small girl growing up on Long Island: ducklings, squirrels, rabbits and the occasional neighbor's dog which her mom would then make her return. After moving to PA in 1989 she volunteered with several rescue groups in Lehigh Valley and worked as a Special Olympics swimming and volleyball coach.

The summer after moving to Chester County with her 14 cats (most from an uncontrolled colony in Bethlehem), she became involved with Cat Angel Network when a friend found a

stray and could not keep the cat in her apartment. Nancy got him into a carrier, named him Ty, and he eventually found his forever home through CAN. Some Downingtown volunteers might remember Nancy walking Ty around PetSmart on a leash-yes some kitties can be leash trained! Many cats rescued by Nancy from nearby parks, parking lots and her own neighborhood have found homes through CAN and the efforts of volunteers who cover the weekly PetSmart adoptathons.

Nancy's two brothers still live on Long Island so her CAN friends have become her family in PA. She worked with AT&T Mobility as a paralegal/contract specialist for over 14 years. Previously she worked for a tower company, with T-Mobile, Chrysler First, and various law firms. She received her paralegal certificate from Cedar Crest College in Allentown and has played competitive volleyball: doubles, coed, and women's for more than 20 years. In her spare time she likes hiking, kayaking, and antiques.

Nancy volunteers at weekend adoptathons and helps to train new "Meet and Greet" volunteers. She feels it is important to be friendly and talk with people, be supportive and allow visitors to talk about their own fur-families. Even people who are not interested in adopting at the moment should have a good "take-away" experience. Most important to Nancy are "the friendships she has made through CAN...someone is always willing to help and go above and beyond, which is the heart of rescuing animals." 🐾

## Ask “Angel”



### What is the healthiest food for my cat?

**QUESTION:** My cat passed away recently, and I have just adopted another kitty. I was wondering what food you recommend to get him started right for a long and healthy life. My last cat was overweight and had urinary tract and other health issues. He ate what I considered to be a good quality dry food all his life, but I am hoping to find out if there's a better alternative for my new kitten friend. Any suggestions?



**ANSWER:** The choice of what food is best for our feline companions has become a complicated issue in recent years. The pet food industry is a multi-million dollar business that produces an ever-increasing and changing number of products every year. Their marketing departments bombard us with advertising that promotes the benefits of this or that food. Dry foods, we have been told, are good for cats' teeth. They are now made in formulations for kitten, adult, seniors, sensitive systems, urinary tract, healthy weight, hairball prevention, gluten-free, even for specific breeds like Siamese or Maine Coons. It can seem overwhelmingly complex to feed a cat.

In reality, cats' dietary needs are simple – they require meat to survive. Unlike humans and canines who can thrive on a vegetarian diet, cats are obligate carnivores which means they must eat a primarily meat diet. In the wild they are eating rodents & birds, which are meat protein with lots of moisture included in each meal and very little carbohydrates. Compare that to the formulation of dry food – lower protein, and some of that from plants which cats' bodies are not able to utilize well, high carbs, and little or no moisture. The typical highly-processed dry food is not even close to a natural diet for a cat. Why then do cats eat it, if it's so unnatural? The reason is that the baked and dried product is sprayed with something called “animal digest” to make it smell and taste very enticing to cats.

Vets like Dr. Lisa Pierson are now recommending canned food as the preferred diet for cats. On her website [www.catinfo.org](http://www.catinfo.org), Dr. Pierson reports that she has been seeing increasing instances of cats with obesity, diabetes and urinary obstructions in her practice. She is convinced that the wide-spread use of a dry food diet is a major contributor to this alarming trend.

She cites two immediate benefits to a canned food diet. First, most canned foods contain a higher percentage of the meat-protein that cats need to thrive. Wet food typically contains low percentages of plant-based carbohydrates that cats' bodies were not designed to run on. Without the excessive and unnatural percentage of carbs like corn, wheat, rice, & soy, canned food is a healthier alternative in the prevention of obesity and the many health problems associated with it.

The second benefit of wet food is increased moisture. A cat's urinary tract is much better off with an appropriate amount of water flowing through it. Cats are not big water drinkers and are used to getting their water with, and not in addition to, their food. As Dr. Pierson points out, “A cat's normal prey contains approximately 70



to 75 percent water. Dry food only contains 5 to 10 percent water whereas canned foods contain approximately 78 percent water. Canned foods therefore more closely approximate the natural diet of the cat and are better suited to meet the cat's water needs.” This is why she states that urinary issues like cystitis and blockages can be almost entirely avoided with this diet.

Based on this information, we highly recommend a canned diet for your new kitten. Although 100% canned is best, even a part canned/ part dry diet is better than all dry food. Sometimes dry food is seen as being more economical, but Dr. Pierson believes that even the least expensive canned foods are better for our kitties than the

best dry foods. Another important factor to keep in mind is that the small difference in cost can be more than offset by the avoidance of future medical bills to alleviate a urinary blockage or other health crisis. For those of us who dearly love our kitty companions, providing the best possible diet for them is a small price to pay for them to avoid pain and live a long and healthy life.

*IMPORTANT NOTE TO THOSE WITH A DIABETIC CAT ON INSULIN: ALWAYS CONSULT WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN BEFORE CHANGING THE DIET OF A DIABETIC CAT ON INSULIN. THE SWITCH TO A CANNED FOOD / LOWER CARBOHYDRATE DIET OFTEN IMMEDIATELY LOWERS THE NEED FOR INSULIN AND CAN RESULT IN A DANGEROUSLY LOW BLOOD SUGAR LEVEL IF INSULIN AMOUNTS ARE NOT ADJUSTED BASED ON BLOOD SUGAR TESTING BEFORE MEALS.*

Reference: “Feeding Your Cat: Know the Basics of Feline Nutrition,” by Dr. Lisa A. Pierson, DVM on her website [www.catinfo.org](http://www.catinfo.org)



### Flea Market - Save The Date

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 18, 2019 for our 4th Cat Angel Flea Market at Norco Fire Co., rain or shine. The flea market will be held from 8am-1pm. Get an early start on your spring cleaning. We will be looking for donated items and volunteers to help on the event day. More information will be coming soon - follow our Facebook page or check our website for updates.



### 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](http://smile.amazon.com) and choose Cat Angel Network as your charity. Then remember to always navigate to [smile.amazon.com](http://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!

## 2018 Auction Report

On October 28th, 2018, Cat Angel Network celebrated our annual fundraising auction. This year's auction was well attended by more than 100 attendees who participated in raising more than \$15,000!

This year our auction results were greatly enhanced by two major contributions. Rental of the hall was subsidized by two wonderful CAN friends. The catering function, food and service were all donated by another loyal CAN friend and supporter. Attendees enjoyed unique gourmet treats such as kabobs, melon skewers and many other culinary delights. Many complimentary comments praised the high quality of the food and décor.



As in past years, Bud and Annette Smith of Smith Auction Company ([www.smithauctionco.com](http://www.smithauctionco.com)) donated their expertise, providing a fun - filled afternoon of bidding and buying.

There were many highlights to this year's auction and among the many goodies up for auction were a handmade cherry coffee table, fine art jewelry, and a signed and numbered Richard Bollinger framed print. Our clever table coordinators filled fifteen silent auction tables with amazing finds which were quickly claimed by excited shoppers. If you would like

to have a copy of the auction booklet you can send a request to Henry Grabb at [catangelpa@aol.com](mailto:catangelpa@aol.com).

While next year's auction (October 27th) may seem like a long time from now, we are already in the early planning stages. Silent auction table coordinators are seeking bargains and collecting items, a wonderful volunteer is writing to theatres, museums, and orchestras seeking admission tickets, and many other volunteers are already busy planning the next 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 the email above. 🐾



### C.A.N. 2019 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      \$250 and up
- Archangel      \$100 to \$249
- Angel            \$50 to \$99
- Puss in Boots    \$25 to \$49
- Tail Wagger     up to \$24

Thank you for your continued support!

Please indicate the name(s) in which your donation of \$25 or more should appear in the "Sponsors" section of the program (please print):

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Donations for our 2019 Concert may be sent to:  
Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464.



### Donate Your Car to Help CAN

Through [www.donationline.com](http://www.donationline.com), you can donate your car to Cat Angel Network with a few easy steps. Simply go to the website, or call 1-877-227-7487 to find out if your car is eligible for donation. Most cars are eligible even if they are not running. Generally, DonationLine will accept cars that they can sell at a wholesale auction for more than the cost of towing and processing.



The process is easy and painless, and most of our car donors have reported that their vehicle was picked up within a few days! In addition, since DonationLine is a national company, your friends and family members outside of this area are eligible to donate cars to Cat Angel Network as well. Since we began this program last year, we have had a steady stream of car donations from across the country.

Car donation is an outstanding way to help Cat Angel Network and remove the stress of dealing with selling a car that you are no longer using.

