



# 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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## It's Auction Time!

Find Fire Sale Deals at our October 2014 Auction in Griffith Hall at Ludwigs Corner Fire Company

Mark your calendar today for our upcoming auction to be held on **Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup>**. If you haven't 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 holiday shopping. As usual, we will have many terrific donated items up for auction in a wide range of prices.



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!

**When and where is the event?** The date is Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 -5:30 p.m., with the silent auction beginning officially at 2 p.m.. Registration begins at 1:30, and those arriving early can start bidding on silent auction items as soon as they arrive. The silent auction tables begin closing at 3:30. Please arrive with ample time to socialize, eat, and peruse all of the auction items. We suggest trying to arrive by at least 2:15.

The event will be held in Griffith Hall at the Ludwigs 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 18<sup>th</sup>), and \$25 at the door, or after October 18<sup>th</sup>. Admission includes delicious hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, desserts, etc. Ludwig's Corner Market will be catering the event this year. There are no physical tickets. Just fill out the form in this newsletter and return it with your check/cash, or go to our website where you can purchase admission using a major credit card. Your name will be on the 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 payment on our website by October 18<sup>th</sup>. After October 18<sup>th</sup>, our website will indicate whether or not tickets are available. Tickets at the door will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

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## CAN Needs You

Are you a cat lover? If you've received this newsletter chances are you love cats! Have you ever thought about joining our wonderful team of volunteers? If you have a few hours a week to spare, we would love to have you help us in caring for and giving love to our kitties at the shelter or the Downingtown or Pottstown PetSmart stores.

CAN is an all-volunteer, no-kill rescue organization. We have no paid positions so volunteers are the life-blood of our organization. Some give many hours each week and others just a few. Every hour given by our volunteers makes a difference to our kitties.

At the shelter, volunteers care for and socialize kitties of all ages in seven rooms. Volunteers look forward to their weekly shifts and become attached to many of the shelter residents. The cats at PetSmart are also happy to see the special person who feeds them, makes sure they have a clean

*(cont'd on page 4)*

## Ask “Angel”

## The Five Feline Love Languages

**QUESTION:** I just adopted a kitty from your organization a short time ago. Although she snuggled with me and purred in the Adoption Center, now that she's home she hides under the bed and hisses and growls at me. I am confused and upset by her behavior. I had hoped to have a loving, close relationship with my kitty, and she seems to want nothing to do with me. Help!

**ANSWER:** Your confusion and upset feelings are common and natural reactions for an adopter in the first days and weeks after adopting a new kitty. Expectations are high for the love affair to begin immediately or at least soon after the adoption. Cats, however, like many of us, need to have that love relationship built slowly, day after day, until they feel a safety in our presence that develops into trust and eventually blossoms into love.

There is a wonderful book for humans called “The Five Love Languages,” by Gary Chapman that provides understanding of what makes an individual person feel loved. Knowledge of what we can do on our part to have someone else feel safe, secure, and cherished improves relationships of all kinds, including with our pets.

We are often asked questions about how to do this by new cat adopters like you or those forming a relationship with a kitty who has little experience with humans. Each week we get phone calls about a newly adopted kitty or a stray. People ask how they can deal with a cat who is constantly hiding, hissing, or otherwise not “warming up” to his or her human. This is upsetting to the adopter or rescuer, as he or she will think, “She doesn’t like me,” or “He doesn’t like it here.” This is rarely the case.

Cats, as a species, are nervous about change. It is not the person or home they dislike but the unknown. They wonder, “Will I be safe here? Are the people and pets I am meeting friends or foes?” And we, on our part, are not really seeing the cats’ true personalities when they first enter our homes — we are seeing their fear. There are a number of things we can do to build a loving, trusting relationship with cats in this situation. So, based on our work with hundreds of cats, here is our version of Gary Chapman’s concepts, called “The Five FELINE Love Languages.”

One of Dr. Chapman’s human love languages is referred to as “Quality Time,” making sure you spend time doing things together that the other person enjoys. For a timid kitty, this translates to mean our spending quiet, calm time in her presence. This is not possible if the cat is given

too much freedom at first and is running from hiding place to hiding place. A kitty suite should be set up before the cat’s arrival. This would be as small a room as possible, with a door, not gates. Powder rooms are ideal, though laundry rooms, offices, small bedrooms or even a large dog cage can be used. The important thing is that the cat has everything she needs in that space, including a hiding place that is readily accessible to you. We often use a cat carrier with a top that opens. Sitting in the room with the kitty while you are reading, knitting, etc., gets kitty used to your presence in a non-threatening way. Reading aloud in a soft voice is a great way to have kitty associate your voice with peace and comfort.



This leads into another love language. For humans it’s called “Words of Affirmation,” which involves speaking words of appreciation and gratitude. For cats, this affirmation can be non-verbal. Cats communicate with each other through eye contact. A stare is considered threatening, and if unbroken for a length of time, can result in one cat leaping on or attacking another because of the perceived threat. The opposite effect is achieved between cats by use of the “slow blink.” When one cat looks at another with soft eyes and slowly blinks, the other kitty often reciprocates with a slow blink. Try it with a nervous kitty – it works!

The third love language is called “Acts of Service.” Many spouses have discovered that anticipating the needs of the other and doing chores that need to be done, without being asked, is often the way to their mate’s heart! For cats, we know what they like and, for most cats, that’s interactive play. We may not always feel like waving that fishing pole toy around or flashing that laser light all over the room at the

end of a long day, but we know cats love and need that outlet for their predatory nature. **PLAY IS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO BOND WITH SHY KITTIES!** They forget their nerves and can’t resist getting involved with you. Each day brings more and more rewards as they look forward to the interactive playtime that they only get when you make the effort.



Love language #4 is self-explanatory — “Gifts.” With a new kitty, you want her to see you as the “bearer of all good things.” Every time you come into her room, good things appear. It is critically important that you bring her food to her in two separate meals so that she looks forward to its arrival (and yours!). The only exception would be if the kitty is underweight, ill, etc., and needs continual nourishment to build her up. Otherwise, she looks forward to getting her meal from you. Pick up uneaten food after a specified time so she is hungry and eager for your next appearance.

Gifts can also be anything from an elaborate cat tree because you know kitty likes to be “up high,” to toy mice and balls, down to the particular cat treats she can’t resist. Many a cat’s heart has been won through special foods or treats. Try tossing them within her grasp at first, and then throwing them closer and closer to you until kitty is voluntarily coming to your side. You may think of this as bribery or that the cat “loves the food and not me.” Consider the child whose grandmother always makes special favorite foods when the child comes over. Does







the child just love the foods, or isn't it true that the child adores grandma because he knows, through her gifts of food, that he is adored? 'Nuff said — it affects cats the same way!

Last, but not least, is the language of physical touch. With a shy or frightened cat who is not yet touchable, slowly reaching toward the cat, with the palm of your hand facing downwards, gives the kitty a chance to gingerly stretch her nose toward your hand. If she is hissing or backing up instead, try leaving your hand next to her bowl when she comes to eat. Then try gently brushing the back of your hand against her cheek. A heavy duty pair of padded work gloves (cats love the feel of the suede ones) are invaluable in starting physical touch with a very scared cat who may bat at you. Once successful touching begins, you can progress to petting, scratches, brushing, etc. Your kitty will show you what she likes!



In the world of human relationships, we know that loving partnerships are built by our words and actions. "Love at first sight" tends to be "attraction at first sight," and we learn that mature love requires effort. The same is true of our relationships with our pets. We may choose a pet because we are attracted to what he or she looks like, but love can't grow until we get to know and trust each other day by day. Unlike dogs who may love people who neglect or mistreat them, cats are choosy about those they entrust with their love. We have to earn it, and by doing so, we find the love is all the sweeter for it.

And how do we know that our kitties love us in return? By their purrs (Words of Affirmation), wanting to be near us (Quality Time), rubbing, snuggling, and head butts (Physical Touch), keeping bugs and rodents under control (Acts of Service) and dead things left on our doorstep or the favorite toy dropped at our feet (Gifts)!



## Join Us on Facebook

Want to do something to help CAN that's easy, free, and fun? All you have to do is log on to Facebook and "Like" the Cat Angel Network Facebook page! Posts on the page feature items of interest to cat lovers, including the latest information on cat health and behavior, CAN special events, pictures of cats looking for homes, weekly updates on the cats who were adopted, lost and found local pets, etc. In addition, it's a fun way for adopters, volunteers, and other supporters of CAN to be in touch with each other about a subject they love — CATS!

Facebook has revolutionized the way rescue groups have been able to communicate with their supporters and get the word out about their adoptable pets. In the past, cats and dogs needing homes were pictured on rescue websites and Petfinder. Although these were wonderful resources, pets needing homes were only seen by those actively seeking a new family member.

On Facebook, pictures of adoptable cats are seen by hundreds or thousands of people who can "Share" with their friends who may in turn "Share" with their friends. In this way, the pool of interest in a kitty who may have gone unnoticed and unadopted for months or even years can possibly result in the cat finding a home in a single day!

We presently have over 1,300 followers on our Facebook page! If you are already following our page, there's a way for you to help the cause even more. Facebook has a formula to determine what percentage of our followers will see a post. That number is determined by how many people comment on or share our status posts ("Liking" a post no longer plays a large part in the formula). So by sharing AND commenting on our posts, you can help spread the word about cats in need to the greatest number of people. More people seeing our posts results in more adopted cats, it's as simple as that. So a few simple clicks can change the life of a homeless cat forever!

We're hoping to reach our goal of 1,500 Facebook followers by October 26, the date of our Fundraising Auction at Griffith Hall in Ludwigs Corner Fire Company. Please encourage your cat-loving friends to "like" our page and join the cause of helping homeless pets! 🐾

## 9 Lives Find Special Homes

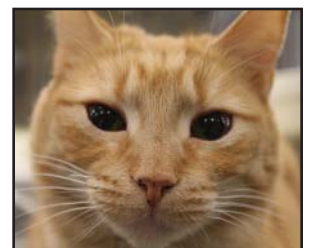
To most of us, the term "9 lives" brings about visions of a curious (and very lucky) cat, who despite some pretty daring adventures, just lives on and on, and on. This year, the term "9 lives" has a special meaning, as nine of our Special Needs Cats have found new lives with some fantastic families! No one would have guessed that we would be saying goodbye to our precious Brody, Cupcake, Frannie, Mario, Mindy, Orion, Panda, September, and Snowy, as they left their beloved foster families and moved on to a new and exciting stage of their lives.

These are cats who live with chronic medical conditions, or who have healed from previous injuries; and despite these challenges, are the most loving kitties you'll find. Many of them live in foster homes for months (and even years), just waiting to be adopted. The problem (or so we thought) was that many people would rather adopt a young kitten (or perhaps a gorgeous Maine Coon), as opposed to a kitty who is missing an eye, or a limb, or perhaps a ten-year-old.

Earlier this year, we hosted two special adoption events, featuring our Special Needs Cats. We posted color photos and stories outside of our Downingtown adoption center. For three consecutive weeks in February and May, we brought them into the store, hoping that perhaps one or two would be lucky enough to find new homes. What we found was an outpouring of love and compassion, and an overwhelming desire from many to make one of these kitties a part of their family.

Today, we celebrate the "9 lives" that will be forever changed, and we look forward to bringing more of these loveable kitties to our weekend adoption events for you to meet. We will continue to post pictures and stories of those who patiently wait, such as Baby, Blossom, Blue, Brutus, Goldie, Janice, Ruby, Spot, and Staccato.

Adopting a special needs cat is so easy! Please stop by one of our adoption centers at PetSmart in Downingtown or Pottstown and talk to a volunteer about filling out an adoption application, or visit us at [www.catangel.org](http://www.catangel.org). 🐾



Blossom

## It's Auction Time!

(cont'd from page 1)

**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 one or more businesses or individuals cover some of our upfront costs. A donation of \$650 will cover our hall rental expenses. One donation of \$1000 or two donations of \$500 will help to defray our catering expenses.

**What type of items are acceptable for the auction?** Gift baskets, gift certificates from restaurants, super markets, department stores, etc., practical items, jewelry, items of value, and bottles of wine tend to go well at the auction. We generally only accept brand new items, unless a used item has significant value and is in excellent shape.

What is the deadline to donate items? The deadline is October 13th. 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 or check is preferred. This year, we are planning to take credit cards for those spending more than \$100 at the auction.

**Dress?** We suggest "business casual."

**Still have questions or want to help?**

Please contact: Henry Grabb  
at catangelpa@aol.com  
(or call 484 947 3684)

Thank you for  
your continued  
support!



### Cat Angel Network 2014 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 (until October 18th; after October 18th, ticket price is \$25).

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.

## 15th Annual CAN Concert Delights Audience, Raises Funds

Our 15th annual Cat Angel Network Benefit Concert raised over \$9,000 to help us with our rescue efforts. Held in Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre at West Chester University, the event featured many fun and beautifully performed musical selections, many accompanied by cat video. We are so thankful to the many performers and donors who made this event a success. Our 16th annual concert will be held Sunday, March 29, 2015 at 3 p.m. Watch our website and spring newsletter for an exciting announcement about a voice competition for young singers to be held as part of our 2015 event! 🐾

## Smile, Knowing Your Purchases With Amazon Can Help Cats

We are pleased to announce a new and easy way that you and everyone you know can help Cat Angel Network when you buy products from Amazon. Just follows these simple steps:

1. Visit <http://smile.amazon.com>
2. On the home page, find the area where you can select your charity and choose **Cat Angel Network**.
3. Buy your products as you normally would.  
If you already have an Amazon account, you won't need to set up anything new for this to work.
4. Ask your friends and family to do the same.

Cat Angel Network receives 1/2 of 1 percent of all purchases from everyone who selects Cat Angel Network as their charity. While this may seem like a small amount, the potential for income is excellent if a large group of people sign up. It's a very easy way to help Cat Angel Network with hardly any effort. Thank you for all you do and for helping us spread the word about this new opportunity! 🐾

## CAN Needs You (cont'd from page 1)

litter box, and especially allows them time to play. Volunteers who help with our weekend adoptathons are an integral part of the adoption process and get to see many CAN kitties meet their forever families for the first time.

For cat lovers, just a few hours of your time will be more rewarding than you can imagine. CAN is always in need of volunteers in all of our locations but presently we have a great need at our Downingtown PetSmart. All volunteers receive training and orientation. Please consider making a difference in the life of a CAN kitty. To volunteer, please fill out a volunteer application at either of our PetSmart stores or online at [www.catangel.org](http://www.catangel.org). The volunteer coordinator will call to talk to you and answer your questions about being a Cat Angel volunteer. 🐾

