



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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Join Cat Angel Network as a Volunteer!

We are a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit, All Volunteer Organization

Over the almost 28 years of Cat Angel Network’s existence we’ve had many amazing, dedicated volunteers and ultimately CAN would not exist without these volunteers. **There are no paid positions within CAN.** As you can imagine the need for volunteers never ends. Along with a great love for cats each volunteer brings their own special skills. Whether it’s feeding kitties and cleaning rooms at the shelter, organizing projects, or sitting quietly with a frightened or sick kitty each volunteer makes a difference in the lives of kitties passing through CAN.

If you have a few hours a week or even once or twice a month, please fill out a volunteer application at: www.catangel.org. Our volunteer coordinator will be happy to call, answer your questions and set up training. Student volunteers under 18 will need to have an adult able to partner with them.

We are currently in need of volunteers for our shelter in Pottstown and both PetSmart stores (Pottstown and Downingtown) to:

- Help foster and socialize cats and kittens until they find their forever homes.
- Help with cage set up and breakdown when we hold weekend adoptathons at the PetSmart stores
- Help meet and show cats and kittens to potential adopters as an adoption - greeter.
- Help feed and care for cats and kittens at the shelter or one of the PetSmart locations. Both morning and evening shifts are available.
- Assist in our efforts with community cats in TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return)

If you have your own fur babies at home but just can’t get enough we can help you get more kitty time. If you can’t have a cat of your own due to rental restrictions, family allergies, etc. you can help many deserving cats and kittens and get your kitty fix as often as you like as a CAN volunteer.

Don’t forget to check out the volunteer spotlights in this and past issues of our newsletter to read about the varied backgrounds of volunteers who’ve made a difference to CAN and our cats. 🐾

Enjoy Hauntingly Good Deals At Our 2024 Cat Angel Network Auction To Be Held Sunday October 27th

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 PM. 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 27th from 2-4:30 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.

(cont’d on page 4)

Meet Our Volunteers

Perhaps it was fate that brought **Diane Deffobis** to the laundromat on a cold February afternoon in 2018. Her washing machine was on the fritz, so while the clothes spun Diane perused the bulletin board where a CAN newsletter caught her eye and the rest, as they say, is history.



Diane was born, raised and still resides in Pottstown. She considers herself a nurturer and as an only child shared that childhood with a revolving cast of pets: turtles, fish, hamsters, birds, rabbits and finally Mimi, the dog and Buttons, a grey tabby. During her high school years she taught Sunday School to a class of three- year olds and was a camp counselor for three summers, all while tending to the current animals in her care. A proud graduate of Pottstown High School, Diane pursued a teaching degree from Bridgewater College in Virginia. She taught first, second, and third grade in the Pottsgrove School District, retiring in 2005 after 34+ years.

Shortly after that fateful day at the laundromat Diane attended a CAN volunteer meeting, trained at the Pottstown PetSmart and began helping as a greeter and with cage set up/breakdown for weekend adoptathons. Ultimately, she found her niche at the shelter, giving her lots of “one-on-one” time with the kitties.

Diane and husband, Jerry, enjoy traveling and at home they can be found tending to two yellow labs, Zoey and Putter, Lizzie, a CAN rescue and Sweet Pea.

Diane loves hanging out with the kitties at the shelter and considers her shifts “Zen time.” On occasion, her son, Tim joins her, filling litter bins, water bowls and doing some general maintenance and repairs at the shelter making for a team effort!

Diane treasures her time with the cats, and enjoys meeting and working with other CAN volunteers. She is thrilled to be part of the team and can always be counted on. CAN is so grateful to have her as a devoted team member.

Jillian Shesko loved fostering cats for another rescue but after a move made the travel distance too far she hoped to find a kitty rescue closer to home. One day she and her daughter were visiting the kitties in the adoption center at PetSmart when she saw a CAN flyer asking for volunteers and fosters. It didn’t take long for Jill to fill out an application and join the CAN family.

In addition to fostering, Jill is “helping boost CAN’s Social Media presence.” She is behind many CAN Facebook posts and asks that supporters share those posts as it’s a great way to share stories about the CAN mission, our adoptable kitties, and hopefully recruit new volunteers and fosters.

Jill and her husband, Colby, are parents to: Aubrey (7), Austin (5), and Autumn (2). The family shares their home with dogs Cooper and Bodhi, and kitties Rocky and Daisy. The family also includes 4 goats: Chester, Oliver, Buster,



and Skeeter.

The first time fostering can be a little scary just because of the unknown. Each new foster or litter is different. Jill credits many veteran volunteers who are on their “umpteenth” time fostering, and have seen it all, with giving advice and helping her over the rough spots. She suggests new foster parents find a “buddy” to answer questions and give guidance. Her foster buddy is Nancy Fuhrman (Fall 2023 spotlight). “Nancy has been nothing short of amazing, answering all my questions and sending me to the right people when I have an issue. I appreciate her so much.”

To date, Jill has fostered 13 kitties. She says “it definitely gets easier the more you foster and gain experience. Taking care of the kitties just becomes second nature and part of the normal routine of your day.” 🐾

Special Cats Seeking Special Homes Just like people with disabilities or health issues, special needs cats deserve the highest quality of life possible. For any cat, nothing beats life in a home with a person who loves them and takes care of them. While most people are charmed by cuddly little kittens, we have been fortunate enough to find many dear souls over the years willing to make a wonderful home for a special needs cat. Meet a few of our special needs cats who are waiting for a person just like you!

BEANS

Beans and his brother, Frankie, were surrendered to Cat Angel when their owner went into assisted living. Frankie was adopted, but Beans was eventually diagnosed with Diabetes and is currently living in another foster home.

Beans is a friendly ten year old who loves attention. Now that blood sugar has stabilized he is ready for a happy future with someone to share his love. He would be a wonderful companion to someone without other cats, living in a quiet home. 🐾



Ask “Angel”



Neighborhood Cats, What Should I Do?

QUESTION: Several strays appeared in my yard this past winter, and I didn’t have the heart to see them go hungry so I started feeding them. Now my neighbor is complaining to me that “my cats” are in his yard, fighting and mating at night, and he expresses concern that they will reproduce and have the neighborhood overrun with cats. He blames me for the cats hanging around, saying if I wouldn’t feed them, they would go away and the problem would be solved. They’re not really my cats, but I feel that I’m being made the scapegoat for the situation just for showing compassion. Help! What should I do that would be the right thing for both the cats and the neighborhood? This is getting extremely stressful!

ANSWER: Cats seem to “know” the right house to go to when they’re looking for a kind stranger to offer a meal. Luckily, there are many people like you whose compassionate natures will not allow them to turn away from any living creature in need. Being kind is ALWAYS the right thing to do! And being kind, in this case, means following BOTH parts of the “Golden Rule” of feeding strays:

“FEEDING A STRAY? NEUTER OR SPAY!”

Now, most people who hear this say, “What? I’m fond of these cats, but getting them spayed and neutered sounds overwhelming. I can’t pick any of them up, and even if I could catch them, isn’t it expensive to have them neutered? Is this really necessary for ME to do?”



Making the effort to get some help in neutering these cats is the most compassionate thing you could ever do for their future well-being. As you’ve noticed in your neighborhood, one or two stray cats can “fly below the radar” for a while, but once that number starts increasing, people who don’t love cats as you do start complaining and making calls to places to “take them away.” And that usually ends badly for the kitties.

So it’s up to people like you to take the step of

calling a group like Cat Angel Network to learn about the widely used and effective program called T-N-R (Trap-Neuter-Return). It involves borrowing a humane trap and learning the simple steps to using it to catch each stray. Information about “Low Cost / No Cost” Spaying and Neutering services is provided so arrangements can be made to halt the population growth. People who have completed a T-N-R program often say that it was a much easier process than they ever expected.

The following story is a typical example of this. A lady called CAN for advice on the six strays in her backyard (a mother cat and her five half-grown kittens). With our guidance, she trapped all six and had them neutered and vaccinated within the space of a little more than two weeks! Four of the six cats turned out to be females. Without the dedication of this one animal lover, this spring there would have been 12- 24 kittens born to those four females (usual litter size is three to six kittens)! In another six months, THOSE kittens would have been old enough to reproduce. Eighteen to thirty cats would have been loose in her neighborhood and, with about half being females, the population of cats would have exploded. And with that explosion would have come a lot of pain and suffering for those unwanted strays.



This cat heroine single-handedly made a HUGE difference to the kitties in the scope of her sight. So often people feel overwhelmed and wish they could do something to help when they hear of the plight of the millions of unwanted cats that are killed every year. Well, this lady did SOMETHING!

I hope that you and all the other caring people who fill up food bowls “for the strays” will follow this lady’s example. One backyard at a time, this will make a better world for cats!



CHARLIE, CONNER & CARLY

Charlie and Connor were born April 15, 2023, in their foster home. Unfortunately, their mom tested positive for leukemia. Tabitha had acted as a mother to another kitten, Carly, who was alone and not part of Tabitha’s litter. All three kittens tested positive for the FeLV virus.

A year has passed, and all these kitties are healthy and happy living in another foster home where they are kept separate from other cats but have a wide range to roam around. They all love to play and are very affectionate.

Studies of leukemia cats have shown that cats that stay in a home environment rather than a shelter have a much better outcome. There is also evidence that some cats’ immune systems will control the virus and in some cases overcome it. Charlie, Carly and Connor are wonderful cats and are available for adoption. 🐾



Annual Benefit Auction

(cont'd from page 1)

Where do I get tickets? The price of admission is \$20 per person in advance (by October 20th), and \$25 at the door, or Oct 21th through 27th. 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 or any major credit card. 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 online payment by October 15th. Tickets at the door will be available on a first come, first serve basis.



Dress/Health? Since the auction is four 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 even remotely ill.

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). Also, we could use help advertising the event. We can send you a flyer to print out via email (contact Linda Petro at cscdpeach2@aol.com). 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. (Contact information appears at the end of this article.)

What types of items are acceptable for the auction? Unique items, restaurant gift certificates, 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 13th. 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 \$100.00. 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). 🐾

2024 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 20 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.



Holly Spays Donation Update



Our annual Happy Holly Spays Happy Neuter Year Campaign raised \$18,000 to help with our multi-tasked mission of placing cats and kittens into forever homes, trap, neutering, and returning colony cats to help stem the tide of unwanted cats and kittens, and to end suffering through rehabilitation of cats in special need situations. Thank you so much to all of you who donated so generously to help us achieve our goals these past months.