



# CAT ANGEL NETWORK



Together, we CAN make a difference!

Visit our website at <http://www.catangel.org> and send message under "Contact."

## CAT ANGEL NETWORK 2025 Board of Directors

Elaine Richert

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Maryellen Barbarish




Ann Kunsch

Elizabeth Starr

Dr. Denise Atkinson Hall,  
*Veterinary Advisor*



## 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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## Charlotte Jay and Cat Angel Network

Cat Angel president Charlotte Jay passed away peacefully on March 29, 2025.

by Elaine Richert

Words can not express what Charlotte has meant to so many of us and how deeply we are feeling, and will feel, her loss. Her many titles: Co-founder of Cat Angel Network, CAN President for 28+ years, Shelter Manager, & passionate cat lover, can't even begin to fully encapsulate her huge personality and the way it has touched so many four-legged and two-legged lives.

Those of us in the Cat Angel Network Family who knew and loved her are heart-broken, but we will carry forward her legacy (as she made us promise!).

### Charlotte and the Story of CAN:

A single decision by Charlotte to help a single cat for a single week marked the humble beginning of Cat Angel Network almost twenty-nine years ago in August, 1996. It started with a phone call from a cat rescuer about a pregnant cat on a Lancaster farm. The kitty was in danger, and the lady begged for someone to care for this cat for a week until she returned from vacation.

Charlotte and I were horrified by the rescuer's story of what might happen to the cat, and since she was not expected to give birth for several weeks, Charlotte agreed to house the kitty in the storage room of a detached garage on her property. But the kitty, named Mrs. Gray after a cat Charlotte had as a child, decided she couldn't wait, and on the first day of her "visit," five baby boys were born in Charlotte's lap. The rescuer never returned to pick up the kitties. Forever homes were found for Mrs. Gray and two of her boys, and these became CAN's very first adoptions. Charlotte became our first "foster failure" by adopting the other three!

News has a way of traveling fast, and it wasn't long before people began calling to get help with a cat shot with BB's, a thin stray, and unwanted cats at a housing development. With each additional cat, the thought was, "Well, it's just one more – no big deal." However Charlotte's small storage room was overflowing, and we knew a plan was needed to continue to take "just one more." A system was set up for the intake, care, and adoption of kitties. As expenses (and the number of cats) grew, a "next step" was required, that of transforming our informal project into a bona fide, non-profit corporation.



The process is neither easy nor inexpensive. There are pages of complicated forms to fill out, and thousands of dollars in fees to be paid. Luckily Charlotte was an expert in handling administrative details, and by March, 1998, we had a registered name and were granted our 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt status. We were now allowed to solicit tax deductible donations so we wouldn't have to continue funding out of our own pockets. Cat Angel Network was on its way!

Many capable people were needed to handle the myriad functions of operating an organization and so a Board of Directors was formed. Charlotte became Cat Angel Network's first president. With her help we came up with a mission statement that has guided us to this day: CAN would operate as a no-kill, all volunteer organization dedicated to the rescue, spay/neuter, and adoption of abandoned cats. CAN's motto "Together, we CAN make a difference!" reflected the acknowledgement that it would take the efforts of many caring volunteers to do this work.

We have indeed been blessed over the years with attracting many hard-working, cat loving volunteers. Some of our volunteers agreed to

*(cont'd on page 2)*

by **Maryellen Barbarish**  
**April 4, 2025**

## Those Left Behind



Charlotte's Bobby Cat in New Home

As dedicated volunteers heard of the passing of our President, Charlotte, their expressions of sadness were often followed by, "But what will happen to Charlotte's beloved kitty, Bobby Cat?" Bobby had a rough start in life – as a young kitten, his left eye had to be removed. Although Charlotte knew a one-eyed kitten could be easily adopted, she nursed him back to health herself, fell madly in love with him, and kept him as her own.

Now, you may think that it would be easy to find a home for Bobby Cat within our organization, but making room for just one more isn't always easy in a busy rescue, where volunteers have their own cats and dogs and many also foster cats to be placed for adoption. As of the day Charlotte passed away, we had no clear path, until a caring volunteer called her sister to talk about losing her dear friend and expressed concerns about finding a home for Bobby.

Just when we all needed a happy ending, Bobby Cat found his new fur-ever home, after just one phone call! After a very short time, Bobby was showing signs of bonding with his new family by seeking out tummy rubs, watching TV with his dad, relaxing in the "nest of love" his new

mom made of towels taken from Charlotte's home, and (of course) just sprawling out on the sofa and being a couch potato while his new mom and dad lovingly petted him.

By the end of his first week, he was off and exploring the house. As his mom dotes on him with food and new toys, she loves to dream about all the wonderful things waiting for him once he has completely settled in, such as relaxing in front of a big window, where he will be entertained by all the birds and squirrels who come to visit her many feeding stations on the deck.

As so many of us face similar situations where a precious pet is left behind, please consider a final gesture of love by reaching out to see if someone you trust may help if you cannot do so yourself. The truth is that cats, dogs and other pets acclimate to new environments quickly when given love and patience, because in the end, their need to be loved is as great as their ability to so freely give it away.

We know that Bobby Cat will have a wonderful life with his new family and that Charlotte is smiling down upon us all, knowing that her beloved Bobby Cat has found so much love with his new Cat Angels. 🐾

## Charlotte Jay

*(cont'd from page 1)*

become foster parents, and these foster homes enabled us to increase the numbers we could help. Charlotte helped set up our partnerships with the Downtown Petsmart in early 1999 and the Pottstown Petsmart in October, 2005, and these locations gave us ideal outlets for increasing adoptions.

Raising funds to cover the extraordinary expenses involved has always been a challenge. Charlotte started a newsletter mailed to CAN supporters twice a year to keep them abreast of what CAN was doing. This has been one of the reasons we have been so fortunate to have the continuing generous support of our adopters and donors. Charlotte has also been very active in our Benefit Auctions held every year in late October. This event at Ludwig's Corner Fire Company includes both silent and live auctions of all-donated items. It has been and continues to be a highly successful and popular event.



CAN's First Kittens

## Shelter Addition, 2002



The funds raised through these efforts were instrumental in turning that detached garage on Charlotte's private property into a heated and air-conditioned seven room shelter that includes a small storage area and a bathroom dubbed the "CAN CAN." Volunteers installed flooring and painted walls, including the addition of beautiful stenciling in each room. Slowly but surely the shelter was outfitted with cages, cat trees, and all the equipment necessary to comfortably care for cats and kittens and prepare them for adoption. Today hundreds of kitties every year pass through the meticulously maintained rooms of the shelter on their way to foster homes or to Petsmart. Other cats, especially the shy and senior ones, have become life-long residents that Charlotte doted on and today are lovingly pampered by our shelter volunteers.

It is so satisfying to look back over the years and think about the thousands of kitties who have been touched by the work of Charlotte's brainchild. Where would they be if she had not decided to open that storage room to Mrs. Gray in August of 1996? She and the many volunteers, fosters, trappers, veterinarians, donors, adopters, etc. who have been a part of this almost 29 year journey have to know that they have indeed "made a difference." Looking forward, we are committed to standing together to improve and expand the efforts started by Charlotte. We pledged to her that the work will continue! 🐾

## Ask “Angel”



## Providing for your cat after you're gone

**QUESTION:** A few months ago a friend of mine passed away unexpectedly. I just found out that her heirs took her 12 year old cats “somewhere,” and I am so fearful they may have been euthanized. This has me in a panic about the future of my own cats. What recommendations do you have for preparing for the responsible placement and care of my pets after I am gone?

**ANSWER:** Your question is such an important one. Too often many of us don't like to think about our passing and therefore do not adequately prepare for it. Our wills often include the disposition of our “stuff” but don't mention our beloved pets. Sometimes we assume family and friends will do the right thing and care for them the way we would. Sadly, that is not always the case. Stories of cats being dumped outside, abandoned in apartments, brought to a kill shelter, or outright euthanized are not unknown to those of us in the rescue world.

Therefore we need to make diligent preparations AND enlist the help of every cat-lover we know. Our friends and family need to know our wishes NOW and know where to find all the records they will need to make sure the pets go to a good place.

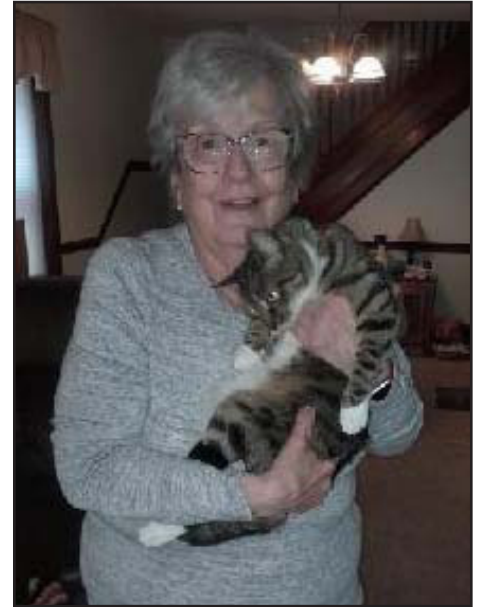
First, locate all of your cats' medical & adoption records and keep them in a place that EVERYONE in your family and all your cat-loving friends know. Ask your vet for copies of any paperwork you don't have. Make sure your cats are up-to date on their wellness checks and vaccinations. Make sure they are on the medications they need, and the meds are labeled and easily found by others. Procedures they need such as dentals should be done by you.

Why is this so important? You want to make helping and placing your cats as easy as possible on those left behind. Bereavement is a stressful time. If family & friends think it's going to be a hassle to place your cats, they are less likely to follow through. Not knowing the ages, spay/neuter history, health & vaccination records can cause frustration in answering the questions of rescues or potential adopters.

It is much easier to find homes for your cats if relatives & friends know as much as possible about your cats, and that includes knowing their personalities and likes & dislikes. Leave notes about their dispositions and info on how to find clear digital pictures of the cats in your phone, on your computer, or in an album. Rescues such as Cat Angel Network are often willing to post the cats on their internet pages such as Petfinder to help find adopters for the cats. Clear digital pictures and detailed writeups on each cat make that easy to do.

It is extremely important for heirs to know if your pets came from a rescue and the contact info for that rescue. The adoption paperwork may have a clause that the cats must/can come back to them if the adopter can no longer care for them. That will ensure the cats go back to the rescue.

Secondly, include your wishes for the care of your cats in your will. Designate the most responsible, cat-loving member of your family or friends as their caregiver and leave money to that person for their care. Ask the designated person's permission to do this and tell them the exact arrangements after it's done. Sometimes people make arrangements with the rescue from which they adopted the cats, and this rescue is named in the will as the caretakers for the cats and money is allotted for their care until adopted.



CAN volunteer Mary Jacobs holds the cat Sage adopted after her friend passed away.

Thirdly, talk to friends and relatives about your concerns for your cats and see if any are willing to commit to adopting your cats after you are gone. Sometimes friends do that for each other – “I'll take your cats if you commit to taking mine.” Touch base frequently about promises of this sort as things can change as time goes on, and health problems, etc., can make fulfilling a promise difficult.

Fourth, go through your list of Facebook and email contacts and make sure all pet-loving friends know where you got your pets from, especially if you know that the rescue will definitely take them back. Cat Angel Network was able to safely get back two of our cats when a friend of the deceased in another state found out about the death through the grapevine and knew he had adopted the cats from CAN. She emailed us and we checked up on the cats that were alone in his house for two weeks after his passing. Without her intervention, we would not have gotten them safely out of there as he had no relatives or local friends.

The more of these suggestions you follow, the more likely you can rest easy now, knowing you have done everything possible to ensure a happy ending for your cats!

Included on this page is a picture of the cat Sage who enjoyed a loving, safe placement after her owner passed away. 🐾

It's spring, and that means Cat Angel Network is flooded with messages about mother cats and their babies. In most cases a mom cat taken into foster care needs lots of good food and basic necessities, and she does the rest with the kittens. But some, like Buttercup, need a knowledgeable and diligent foster caretaker to ensure the survival of mother and kittens.

Buttercup came to CAN when her babies were just two days old. It was obvious from the start that she was struggling. Underweight and sick, she was just not strong enough to make enough milk for her babies. Foster mom Keri Julian went into high gear, bottle feeding the kittens every two hours,

### Buttercup – One Mother Cat's Story

taking them to work by day and giving supplemental feedings by night when they were back with their mom.

Buttercup was given antibiotics and lots of enticing wet and dry foods. She slowly started gaining strength and, after a week and a half of devoted care, she got her milk back and completely took over feeding her babies.

The little family is doing beautifully now, not just surviving but thriving, thanks to one of our amazing CAN foster moms! 🐾

# Cat Angel Network’s 2024 Auction Hit New Fundraising Record! 2025 Plans are Underway

## SAVE THE DATE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>

This past October we held our annual benefit auction and raised a whopping \$17,000!! Attendees had many wonderful items to choose from in the silent auction, and bidding was often brisk! The well-attended auction helped us meet our ever-increasing veterinary expenses and remain “in the black” for another fiscal year without raising adoption fees.

Our 2025 benefit auction will be held on Sunday November 2nd in Griffith Hall at Ludwig’s Corner Fire Company. If you would like to help with the auction, please contact Henry at [catangelpa@aol.com](mailto:catangelpa@aol.com). Below are some areas where we do need additional help.

1. Setup on Saturday morning and/or teardown on Sunday (requires about an hour for each and involves some heavy lifting).

2. Table Coordinators: We are in desperate need of additional silent auction table coordinators. It’s loads of fun to coordinate a table!

3. Help with advertising – we need a dedicated team to get the word out to the general public about our event through social media, articles in free newspapers such as Community Courier, etc..

4. Donate an item for the auction. We are particularly looking for experience-type packages to put in the live auction but are interested in all new items with a value of \$25 or more.

It takes many hands to create the organized and enjoyable auction we have all come to expect, and we could use additional helpers for 2025. Every bit of help is appreciated!



THANK YOU!

### Happy Holly Spays Donations Help CAN through Winter Blues

This year’s Happy Holly Spays Fundraiser brought in a tail-wagging \$16,000!! With kittens and adult cats constantly needing our help, your generosity has helped us through the winter and early spring, when bills often far exceed donations. Thanks to everyone who donated to help us help so many cats!!

# \$16K RAISED

### Cat Angel Network, into Perpetuity

Charlotte’s fondest wish was for Cat Angel Network to continue as a vital part of our area into perpetuity. As we look toward our future, we must raise the funds to bring the dream we all share to fruition. Our future plans include a permanent home base for CAN, but to make this dream a reality, we must raise \$300,000. While this is a lofty goal, we know that many will want to honor Charlotte’s memory with a contribution, and if you have been considering making a sizable contribution to our organization, this would be an excellent time to make dreams come true. Of course, we welcome ALL donations in support of our ongoing financial needs. Every donation makes a difference in the life of a cat, and we could not do what we do without your support. Donations of \$250 or more will go into our building fund and all other donations will go to support our never-ending veterinary bills. Thank you so much to everyone who supports our mission!

### Charlotte’s Fund - CAN into Perpetuity

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



Donations for Charlotte’s Fund may be sent to:  
Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464, or donate online at [www.catangel.org](http://www.catangel.org)