



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

Linda Petro

Henry Grabb

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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CAT ANGEL NETWORK’S NEXT CHAPTER

by Elaine Richert

With the passing of our president Charlotte Jay on March 29, 2025, Cat Angel Network is embarking on a new chapter. For the past 29 years, our shelter has been located on Charlotte’s private property, and we were blessed through her generosity to be able to operate there with the nominal fee of \$1 a year.



Now the property has passed to her heir, and CAN is in the process of purchasing the shelter building and the dwelling, both located on a beautiful 2 acre lot. The goal is to preserve the use of the shelter, so important as a place for new surrenders to be evaluated and quarantined and also as a haven for our old and less adoptable kitties. Now CAN will have a permanent home to serve as the heart of our organization.

Change always brings challenges, and this purchase is no exception. The initial cost, the repairs needed on the 50 year old house to prepare it for rental, plus the need of a new roof on the shelter are all a strain on our finances.

Our budget’s first priority is always the care of our cats. Veterinary expenses are the highest during kitten season as hundreds of our little ones go for their spay/neuter surgeries. In addition we always have to expect that some of our kitties will need extraordinary services at Emergency or Specialty Hospitals because of their serious, and costly, medical needs (See page 3 for some of these cases).

Handling these cat care bills plus planning for the costs of the new property were what prompted the establishment of “Charlotte’s Fund” in the Spring, 2025, Newsletter. As of this date, we are very grateful to have received \$22,464 in donations.

(cont’d on page 2)

Harvest Wonderful Deals at our Annual CAN Auction November 2nd 2025

(1ST DAY AFTER CLOCKS GO BACK ONE HOUR)

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, November 2nd from 2-4:30 p.m. which is the first day after daylight savings time ends. 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 27th), and \$25 at the door, or Oct 28th forward. 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. Your name will be on a list of attendees, so you will only need to check in at the

(cont’d on page 4)



Sweet Kitties Aquarium



Kitty Korner

Next Chapter

(cont'd from page 1)

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

If you know of cat-friendly contractors who may be willing to help with discounted or donated services in the areas of (1) roofing, (2) electrical, (3) septic, (4) water purification, (5) landscaping, (6) minor home repairs, or (7) Property Management, please notify me at elainerichert@aol.com. In addition, continuing donations, large or small, can be sent to Charlotte's Fund at CAN, Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464. Every dollar helps!

Everything we have done in the past has been accomplished through the support of many cat lovers. "Together, we CAN make a difference" is not just a motto, but a testimony to the power of what a committed community of people can accomplish. There is no doubt that Cat Angel Network will make this "Next Chapter" the best ever, with the ability to continue and expand our mission of helping abandoned cats and kittens in our local Pottstown and Downingtown areas! 🐾

Why I Donate My RMD

by Anonymous Cat Lover

When I turned 72, I was told by my financial advisor that I had to start taking what is called a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) on my Tax Shelter Annuity. Typically the amount taken is added to income for tax purposes. That meant I would pay 22% of this RMD in taxes.

My tax advisor mentioned that if the Annuity Company was instructed to donate the RMD amount DIRECTLY to a 501(c)(3) charity, the amount would not be added to my income and no taxes would be paid. The entire amount would go to support the cause I love. WIN WIN! 🐾

Meet Our Volunteers

Meet our new Shelter Manager, Bethany Shewman!

Bethany (Beth) Shewman grew up in Pittsburgh, the middle child of three. She and an older sister and younger brother enjoyed bike riding, playing wiffle ball, and kickball with neighborhood kids. Summer vacations were spent swimming and playing in the woods at the family farm/hunting camp in the woods of Clearfield County.

Beth is an insatiable reader, resorting to cereal boxes when no books were allowed at the breakfast table. She attended North Allegheny School, Allegheny Community College, and Robert Morris University for business management. As a kid she delivered newspapers, babysat, and worked at Burger King. After college she worked for an accountant doing taxes and data entry and then as an office manager.

Beth and her husband, Richard, met on a blind date in 1991 and will celebrate 34 years of marriage in October. They lived in Pittsburgh for 10 years before moving to the Pottstown area in 2000. Richard is from Kimberton but graduated from the University of Pittsburgh. They have 3 adult daughters: Sara, Katherine, and Elizabeth who all love kitties and help at the shelter.

In the spring of 2022, Marlene Karpinski, a long-time CAN volunteer, asked Beth to help with her shift at the shelter. At first, she wasn't sure of the time commitment so she would just play with the kitties on Saturday night. Eventually, she began to help with feeding, watering, and scooping. When Beth met Charlotte she was so inspired by her passion for helping cats that she was hooked!

A health issue made Beth realize that "life is short, and you should take time to do things that you love." Cat Angel Network's shelter was something she truly loved: "To see terrified kitties learn to trust and love people and finally find great furever homes makes my heart happy!"

Knowing that the cats needed to be seen to get adopted, she began helping them meet potential adopters at PetSmart and "found another level of happiness when I saw one (or two) kitties go to their new homes."

At first, Beth didn't think she had the time needed to volunteer, but she soon realized that even an hour once a week caring for the kitties makes a huge difference. The rewards are so much more than the time it takes out of one's schedule. In Beth's eyes the most important benefits of volunteering are the friends you make, the satisfaction and purpose you feel, and the realization that everyone giving just a little time helps an organization like Cat Angel Network fulfill its mission.

As Charlotte became a little less mobile in recent months, she came to depend on Beth to "take care of her kitties in the shelter." When she came home from the hospital in January, she asked Beth to take over managing the shelter, making sure that things ran smoothly and all the kitties were well taken care of. We welcome Beth and are grateful that she's accepted this responsibility enthusiastically. We know Charlotte is watching over her and cheering her on. 🐾



Beth Shewman



225

ADOPTIONS
JAN 1 - JUNE 30, 2025

Jasper Jay, first adoption of 2025

Ask "Angel"



KITTIES NEEDING EXTRAORDINARY CARE

QUESTION: A friend of mine recently contacted CAN after finding a kitten with a severe eye injury. She sent a picture to one of your volunteers, and it was obvious to CAN that the suffering kitty needed immediate treatment. It was a weekend so that meant a trip to an emergency hospital. I myself have cats and know that emergency surgery costs thousands of dollars. How are you able to cover this, as you must provide care to dozens of seriously sick and injured cats every month?

ANSWER: Thanks for your question! The "behind the scenes" reality of animal rescue is that it is very expensive. You probably see pictures of severely neglected, sick, and injured animals on social media daily. Usually there are many comments following each picture, expressing sympathy and pleading that "SOMEBODY SHOULD DO SOMETHING!"

Why are there so many comments like this and few if any offers of actual help? The main reason is money. Good Samaritans may find themselves with a bill of thousands of dollars which can rapidly increase as more complications are discovered. In addition, they take on the hours of care that animal will require. Yet some individuals and rescues do reply and do help, knowing the commitment.

Cat Angel Network is often able to "do something" for that suffering kitty for two reasons. First and foremost is the ongoing generous support of our donors. Through fundraisers such as our Annual Auction in the fall & newsletter appeals, we are able to partially cover our monthly vet bills, typically \$10,000+. For the remainder of the bills, and especially for the high bills for emergencies, we are blessed to fall back on the past bequests of supporters who have generously included CAN in their wills.

The second reason we're able to help is the discounted support we get from many in the veterinary community who value what we do for unowned kitties found sick or injured. We rely on vets and emergency / specialist hospitals that offer us a discount, usually 10-15%.

Here are just a few of the many gravely injured and ill animals helped by the funds of Cat Angel Network supporters:

Uno, a 2 month old kitten suffering from a protruding eyeball needing removal, plus anemia requiring a transfusion. **Cost: \$3,000**

Odin, brought to CAN the same day as Uno from a different location. He also needed eye enucleation. **Cost: \$2,000.** Both Uno & Odin are recovering nicely and will soon be adoptable.

Autumn, 10 year old calico who was spayed by CAN after a neighbor reported that the cat had been reproducing in the neighborhood for years. The spay surgeon noticed an ear tumor which turned out to be a malignant growth. **Cost for removal: \$1,600.**

Blackie came to us with a seriously broken leg caused by a cruel leg-hold trap. A specialist fixed the break with a metal plate. **Cost: \$5,000+.** Blackie, now Penny, was adopted into a wonderful home!

Lily and Mango are two of the many kittens we see every year with an ear polyp requiring removal. These kittens have continuing congestion problems that are not solved by antibiotics. A scope is done to see if the issues are caused by a polyp. **Typical cost: \$2,600**

Hyperion suffered a leg injury requiring Femoral Head Osteotomy surgery, followed by 6 weeks of cage rest. **Cost: \$4,800**

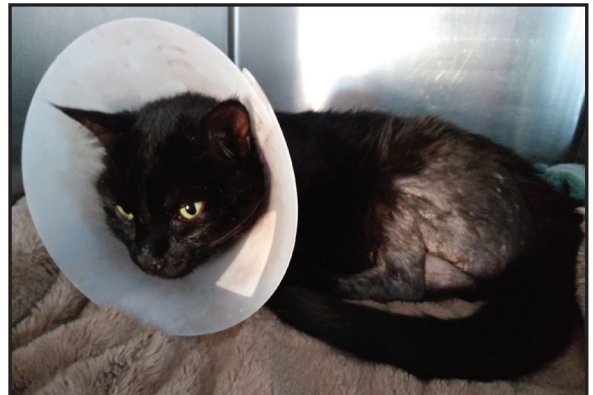
The tiny kitten Tamale was treated at two vet clinics and then hospitalized at a Specialty Center for two days to treat a serious virus that killed her two siblings. **Cost: \$1,743** 🐾



Uno



Odin



Blackie



Autumn

Auction

(cont'd from page 1)

door. We strongly encourage ticket purchase in advance and appreciate receiving your ticket return coupons or PayPal payment as early as is practical. Tickets at the door will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dress/Health Please wear comfortable clothing and perhaps wear layers as the temperature in the hall can change as more people arrive.

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).

What type 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 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. Please make sure to put your name on your items.

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 - catangelpa@aol.com (or call or text him at 484 947 3684) 📞

DONATE STOCK TO CAN AND AVOID CAPITAL GAINSTAX

Cat Angel Network has recently partnered with stockdonator.com, allowing anyone wishing to donate stock to do so without paying capital gains tax. The process is quite easy and just takes about five minutes. Besides required personal information, one must provide the stock ticker symbol, the name of the brokerage firm, and the account number. Once the donation is made, both Cat Angel Network and the donor will receive regular updates on the liquidation of the asset as well as when the funds will be sent to CAN. Stockdonator.com is among the oldest and most trusted platforms of its kind and has a very low fee structure of 1.9 percent. If you are considering a donation to Cat Angel Network, stock donation is a great way to take advantage of an opportunity to avoid capital gains tax while maximizing the impact of your gift. 📈



2025 AUCTION TICKET PURCHASE AND DONATION FORM

\$20

UNTIL OCT 27

Please return this form with your check made payable to Cat Angel Network in the envelope enclosed.

All tickets will be held at the door.

Tickets purchased after October 27 and at the door will be \$25.

Ticket purchases cannot be refunded. If, for some reason you cannot attend, please consider your ticket purchase to be a donation.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Number of tickets		x \$20ea =	Ticket total:	
			Donation amount:	
			TOTAL ENCLOSED:	