

# The Cat House Chronicles

Volume #6 Issue #1

A Publication of The Cat House

April 2006



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## The Cat House is Movin' On Up!

*Written By: Beth Boal*

Up the street, that is. It seems like only yesterday we moved into our P Street location, so you might wonder why we are so excited about our recent move to 1935 Q St. There are so many reasons – and so many great things about the new Q Street location – that I'll just give you the highlights.

The P Street location was always intended to be short-term. It was an experiment in creating an adoption environment that was, for the most part, cage-free and more like a home. It turned out to be a great success and we learned a great deal from our time at P Street. However, we found ourselves needing 'more' – more space, more cleaning capacity, more ability to quarantine, and mostly a way to have more kitties, from ALL our locations, at one place.



*Stephanie Kielian cleans litterboxes*

So late in 2005, we began renovating 1935 Q St., which had previously been doctor's offices, to meet our needs. What a wonderful place it has turned out to be! The best part is that visitors can meet so many more kitties at one time. We continue to do adoptions through the generosity of the PETsMART, 5200 N. 27<sup>th</sup> St., but now we can give potential adopters access to almost every cat listed on our website (except kitties being fostered). Q Street allowed for a lot of behind-the-scenes improvements as well. We have two very large grooming-style sinks that accommodate our need for more space for cleaning those litterboxes. We have a separate kitchen (this time with a dishwasher given to us by a generous donor) to do our food prep and cleanup. And while we probably will always generate so much laundry that we continue to count on volunteers to help in that area, we finally have onsite laundry facilities – again, with equipment donated by our friends.

One of our biggest concerns – and where most of our money is spent – is always the health of the kitties. In our new facility, we have two quarantine rooms, which have fans to vent the air outside and not re-circulate it through the facility. There are cages to facilitate better care and segregation of sick kitties, including some particularly roomy deluxe cages that were also given to us by a very generous donor. We now have a nice large vet room where our



*Dr. Knudsen and Jess give Popeye a physical.*

visiting vet, Dr. Knudsen, has everything she needs for her onsite visits. Of course, we continue to add things and make changes as we go, but all the important features are in place. So much work, and so much generosity from friends, went into getting our new facility up and running. Volunteers spent endless hours planning, painting, renovating and exhausting themselves; we can never thank them enough. In addition, much of the new equipment came through donations from many generous friends. Without these folks, we never could have succeeded!

Please feel free to come see our grand new facility! We are currently open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 pm to 8 pm, and Saturdays from 11 am to 2 pm. Even if you aren't planning to add a kitty to your family, we have wonderful cat toys and other items for sale. We have expanded our extremely popular cat bed selection into dog beds as well. So, if you're a pet lover of any sort, stop by for a visit. And don't forget to check out our website at [www.thecathouse.org](http://www.thecathouse.org). See you soon!

## Featured Kitty..... Lilly

*Written By: Nicolette Brenton*

Lilly is one of several cats rescued from a basement on Linden Street in 2004 that still resides at The Cat House today. Like most of the Linden cats, she is very friendly and loves attention. What sets her apart from the rest is her small stature. Although full-grown, she is only about half the size of any of her relatives. Just don't tell her that! What Lilly lacks in size, she more than makes up for in personality. She loves to play and has a fondness for ping pong balls. She adores chasing them and will let nothing get in her way. Once she catches her ball, she is loath to let anyone get ahold of it, no matter what their size! Our Lilly gets along nicely with other cats and would make a fun addition to any home.



## A Little Spit and Polish

*Written By: Stephanie Luther-Dahmke*



"...it isn't where they come from that matters, it's where they 'land' and receive shelter from life's storm." Beth Boal, Vice-President of The Cat House, wrote in her Linden Street anniversary letter to The Cat House supporters.

The "Linden Street" cats arrived at The Cat House via Capital Humane Society in August of 2004. Lincoln Animal Control had rescued 146 cats from a 12' by 13 ½' basement on Linden Street in Lincoln, NE; hence the name, Linden Street cats. It's now been over a year since 43 Linden Street cats arrived at The Cat House and they have persevered and prospered. Their coats are now white, fluffy and free of urine stains and mats.

Their once weak immune systems have been bolstered thanks to the tireless efforts of The Cat House volunteers who helped them fight everything from pneumonia to eye ulcers to tough upper respiratory infections.

The Linden Street cats have adjusted very well to life at The Cat House. They are a warm and loving group of cats that love to be brushed, play with crinkle balls and hang out with their siblings. Several have been successfully adopted and the new owners report how the Linden Street cats have blossomed in their new environment.

Just goes to show a little spit and polish can uncover a diamond in the fluff. There are still several Linden Street cats available for adoption at The Cat House's Adoption Center at 1935 Q street. Please stop by for a visit.

## Happy Tales

Many kitties have found happiness thanks to the efforts of The Cat House.

October	9 adoptions
November	10 adoptions
December	12 adoptions
January	20 adoptions
February	16 adoptions
March	19 adoptions



## TCH Board

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Sandi Nieveen



## Collecting Gone Wild

*Written By: Leslie Brestel*

Collections are fun to have. They are a physical symbol of your interests and tastes. However, collections can take over the collector. Such is the case with animal collectors. Not many studies have been done on animal collectors but current studies, such as "Health Implications of Animal Hoarding," find animal collecting to be dangerous to animals and humans as well.

Animal collecting, also referred to as animal hoarding, is when individuals, or groups of people accumulate large numbers of animals and often fail to properly care for them. Hoarding is also defined as the accumulation of possessions that are useless and/or interfere with the ability to function. It currently is not labeled a disorder, however, it has many symptoms of obsessive-compulsive disorder.

There are no clear profiles for animal hoarders. Research has shown that the majority are women or are single, divorced, or widowed. Half are elderly. Many hoarders in the research survey had others living with them who were completely dependent on the hoarder for care. Most were living in unsanitary and dangerous conditions. Many hoarders exhibit self-neglect and a variety of psychological conditions. Due to their neglectful behavior, most hoarders are in violation not only of animal cruelty laws, but also social service laws.

Hoarding may begin by acquiring a few animals and letting them breed, which eventually leads to an overwhelming amount of animals. Another way hoarding may start is continual adoption of new animals because no one else will take them. In a recent study, the common theme for the accumulation of animals is love for the animals. Sometimes the hoarder views the animals as their children. If nothing is done to slow or stop the accumulation of animals, the number becomes so large it is difficult or impossible to give them the care and attention they need.

Since hoarding behavior is neglectful to not only the animals, but to the hoarders as well, local health and human services officials should be notified of any behavior that may be deemed neglectful, such as a foul odor coming from a home. If a complaint is not taken seriously the first time, try again. Sometimes it is difficult to get action because signs of neglect such as a foul odor are not direct hazards to the community. However, these signs may point to a larger problem within a home.

While truly stopping a hoarder is a complex issue, one deterrent could be reminding them that animal protection laws in all 50 states specify animals must be kept in sanitary facilities and receive proper nutrition and medical care. Many hoarders can be persuaded to relinquish most of their animals if they are allowed to keep one or two.



## Donations in Memory Of

Barbara Clement in memory of Buster

Judy Smith in memory of Donna Taylor

Ladona Ann Powers in memory of Ron Powers and Pasha

Al & Jean Hulbert in memory of Shirley Becker

Ann Bruce in honor of Bruce & Ingrid Hutchings

Katherine & Richard Evans in memory of Isabel

Doug Hruby in memory of Jagger

Traci Cameron in memory of Topper

Susan Merrill in memory of Rocky

## Available for Adoption



**Lica is another beautiful kitty available for adoption through The Cat House.**

**Lica is 6 years old and is an absolute love. She likes to be the center of attention so a quiet home with no other kitties would be her preference. To visit Lica, please come to The Cat House during our open hours – she'll be happy to greet you!**

**1935 Q Street  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 6-8 p.m.  
Saturdays 11-2 p.m.**

## Three Cheers for Cheera

Written By: Vanessa Pertusa-Ruser

I first saw Cheera when I visited The Cat House, thinking about adopting another kitty. Everyone there had nicknamed her “Cheera-pet.” My first impression was that she was this tiny little skinny torti kitty with huge ears – and she just stole my heart. We kept visiting other kitties at The Cat House, but none of them touched my heart like she did. Beth informed me that she had sinusitis, which made her sneeze a lot, as well as a balance problem that would make her always have her head cocked. She inspired me when I saw how happy she was despite all her physical problems. I could not stop thinking about her sweet eyes, so after much thought I adopted her.



**“Purring is the best way to face adversity”**

After I brought her home, Shadow (my first cat and Cheera’s adopted sister) was very jealous and would try to bite Cheera. But as with all good sibling rivalries, the worst soon passed. Now they run after each other and, even though Cheera is half of Shadow’s size, she sometimes gets brave and teases Shadow

by swatting at her tail or jumping on a paper bag that Shadow happens to be occupying. Of course, like any naughty kid, she then immediately seeks cover behind my legs or jumps in my lap before Shadow has an opportunity to catch her.

Cheera’s sinus condition has gotten better with Science Diet food and hypoallergenic litter. She is a true doll. She fills my days with pure joy. She loves to bask in the sunlight and seeks out patches of sun whenever and wherever she can find them. One of my favorite sounds in the world is definitely her purr. I think humans should learn from Cheera. Despite everything she has been through in her short life, she still the happiest cat I have ever seen – she is always purring. No matter what we humans go through, we should always remember that purring is the best way to face adversity.

## The Scottish Fold

Written by: Carly Runestad

What breed of cat can be traced back to one common ancestor, has been likened to an owl, a teddy bear, and a rabbit, and has an unusual habit of sitting up in a “Buddha” position, or flattening out like a bearskin rug? *The Scottish Fold!*

The Cat House currently has several straight-eared Scottish Folds who are looking for a warm, loving place to call home. People who adopt any of them will be getting a cat whose ancestry can be traced back to a barn cat in Scotland.

While there are a number of historical references to folded-ear cats, the documented and recognized ancestor of all Scottish Folds was “Susie,” a barn cat found in the Tayside Region of Scotland.



*Betsy*

William Ross and his wife, Marcy, were fascinated with Susie, and when she had a litter containing two folded-ear kittens, the Rosses acquired the female and named her Snooks. Snooks’ son was bred to a British Shorthair and so began the breed known today as the Scottish Fold.

Despite their name, not all Scottish Folds have folded ears. In fact, all Scottish Fold kittens are born with straight ears, and it is not until the kittens are about three weeks old that the ears begin to fold (or not). In addition to the unique ears, Scottish Folds have large rounded eyes, which give them a sweet, wide-eyed expression.



*Hocus*

The breed is typically a medium-sized, stocky cat with a rounded, well-padded body and a dense coat. They are sweet-natured cats and, although seldom vocal, have soft, chirpy voices.

Stop by The Cat House Adoption Center, 1935 Q St., to see these gentle cats.

## Upcoming TCH Events

Please come to the following TCH events. All donations and profits from items sold will go to help defray the cost of housing the kitties and seeing to their medical needs. If you're interested in volunteering or adopting, any of these events would be a good opportunity to speak with a TCH volunteer.



*Happy adoption: Norma Patzloff with Snoopy and Charlie*



*Happy Papa Mark Dahmke with "son" Puck on his shoulder*



*Armand Cameron winning first place at the Seward cat show 2005*

### Petco Spring a Pet Fundraiser

March 13 – April 16  
PetCo at 4701 O Street  
9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Purchase an Easter ornament in \$1.00, \$5.00, \$10.00, or \$20.00 amounts. Proceeds go to The Cat House

### PETsMART Spring Adoptathon

May 6 and 7  
PETsMART 5200 N 27th Street  
10:00am – 3:00pm

Come and find a special friend for life or find out about volunteering.

### Des Moines Regional Award Cat Show

May 27 and 28  
Des Moines Fairgrounds  
3000 East Grand Avenue  
10:00am – 4:00 pm

Who will win? Come see!

## WANT TO VOLUNTEER?



If you are interested in volunteering with The Cat House, we have many opportunities available, from making phone calls, to medicating cats. If you are interested in helping you can fill out a volunteer application online at [www.thecathouse.org](http://www.thecathouse.org), contact us by phone at 441-9493 or by email at [volunteer@thecathouse.org](mailto:volunteer@thecathouse.org).

#### Opportunities to help include:

1. Care, feeding and exercising of cats
2. Laundry
3. Help with the facilities
4. Transporting kitties
5. Newsletter committee
6. Volunteer coordinator
7. Adoption counselor
8. Adoption follow-up
9. Virtual foster care
10. Fund raising committee
11. Advocacy committee
12. Photography

*The Cat House Chronicles, a publication of The Cat House, founded in 1999 as a 501(c)3*



*If you are interested in submitting articles, taking pictures or helping out with the production of the newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Committee at [editor@thecathouse.org](mailto:editor@thecathouse.org)*

# Update on the Trap-Neuter-Release Project

*Written By: Leslie Brestel*

The Cat House's Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) program, started last year with the blessing and support of Lincoln Animal Control, is off to a good start. The goal of the program is to better manage wild, or feral, cat populations. The first TNR project resulted in 11 cats from one location being trapped and spayed or neutered. Two of the cats were found not to be feral. One of those already has found a home, the other will soon be adopted out. According to Beth Boal of The Cat House, the average cost per cat was \$66.18 which included: spay or neuter surgery, recovery at a veterinary clinic, vaccination for rabies and distemper, micro chip installation, treatment for fleas and ear mites, and tests for feline leukemia (FeLV), feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), and any other disease the veterinarian felt necessary. There is currently a second TNR project taking place in Lincoln. So far, 15 cats have been trapped, with one having to be euthanized because it tested positive for FIV. Currently there is no average cost yet for the second project.

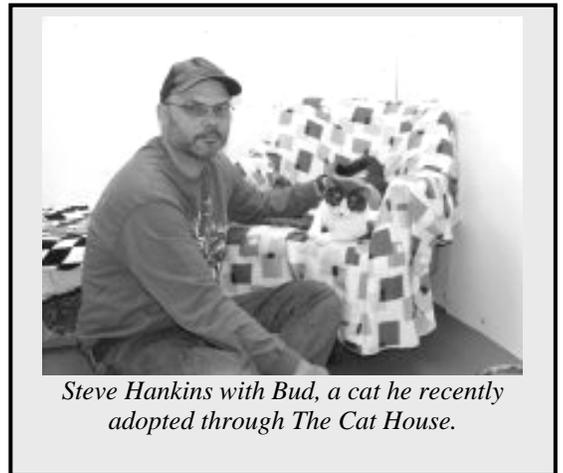
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## Spotlight on..... Steve Hankins and Bruce Batterson

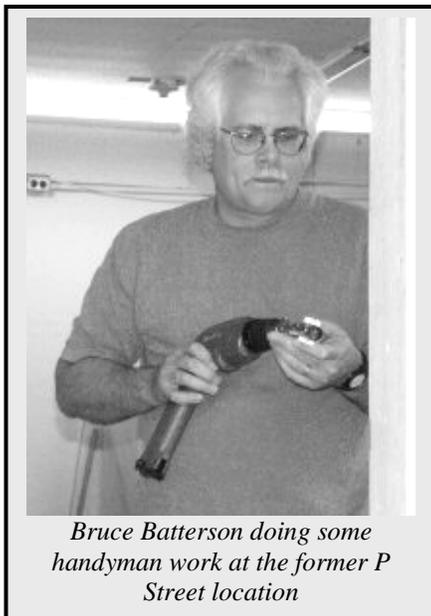
*Written By: Martha Stoddard*

When cat condos need constructing and sinks need installing, when screens need replacing and buildings need transforming, who you going to call? For The Cat House, the answer has often been volunteers Steve Hankins and Bruce Batterson. The two put their handyman skills to work regularly for the benefit of the cats and volunteers.

Bruce has been volunteering for about three years, Steve for not quite two. Both said they got started because of their wives. Steve said his wife, Faye Stevens, dragged him along at first to play with the cats while she cleaned. Pretty soon, he started feeling guilty. He offered to do a few tasks, then a few more. Now he's co-coordinator of the Q Street Adoption Center, helps with cleaning every Friday night and tackles repair and building projects as needed. He also builds scratching/climbing posts for sale by The Cat House and for use by the cats there.

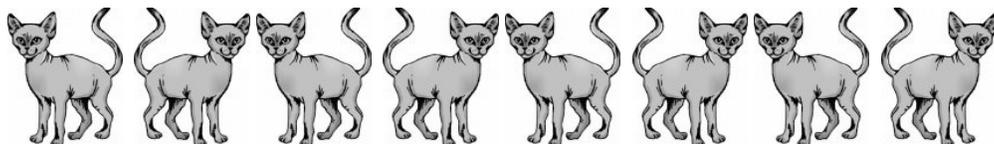


*Steve Hankins with Bud, a cat he recently adopted through The Cat House.*



*Bruce Batterson doing some handyman work at the former P Street location*

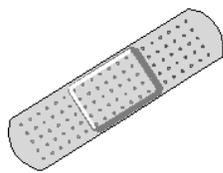
Bruce said his wife, Mary Batterson, now president of The Cat House, recruited him to help with projects that seemed to come up from time to time. Those included turning the P Street location into a usable adoption center and, later, getting the Q Street center ready for use. Between projects, Bruce teaches business at Peru State College. He and Mary have been married 25 years, have two sons, one granddaughter and share their country place with 10 cats. Bruce is the favorite of Pansy, adopted through The Cat House. Steve works as a mechanic for Apache Camper Center in Lincoln. He and Faye have been married 20 years. They share their home with Sarah Jane, Rio, and Bud – all former Cat House residents.



## Special thanks to....



**Capital Heating and Air**



**Dr. Knudsen**

### ALL FELINE HOSPITAL

Rebecca L. Arnold, D.V.M. • Shelley Knudsen, D.V.M.

"To Enhance The Human-Feline Bond Through Medicine and Education"

"All Felines and Ferrets Welcome"



**Nohavec Plumbing**



**Capital Electric**



**J & J Development**



## The Cat House Wish List



*There are many ways you can help. In addition to monetary donations, you can donate items that we use in the day-to-day care of our feline friends. To arrange a drop-off time and location, you can call us at 402-441-9593, or email us at [info@thecathouse.org](mailto:info@thecathouse.org).*

### **Dry Cat Food:**

- Science Diet Regular Maintenance
- Science Diet Kitten
- Iams Regular
- Iams Kitten
- Science Diet Z/d (sold through vet clinics)
- IVD Duck & Green Pea (sold through vet)
- IVD Rabbit & Green Pea (sold through vet)
- IVD Venison & Green Pea (sold through vet)

### **Canned Cat Food:**

- Iams – any flavor other than seafood
- Fancy Feast – any non-seafood flavor
- Science Diet A/d (sold through vet clinic)
- IVD Duck & Rabbit (sold through vet clinic)

### **Cat Litter:**

Any brand of non-clumping, regular clay litter is fine. We do not use clumping, pine or newsprint type litters.

### **Cleaners:**

- Clorox Bleach – regular type
- Purell Hand Sanitizer
- Dial Anti-Bacterial Hand Soap
- Ivory Dishwashing Soap
- Clorox Disposable Wipes

### **Supplies:**

- Paper Towels
- Large Trash Bags (Heavy Duty)
- Kitchen Size Trash Bags
- Office Trash Can Size Trash Bags
- Bathroom Tissue
- Copier/Printer Paper

### **Miscellaneous:**

- Large stainless steel non-tip food/water bowls
- Non-breakable Mixing Bowls
- Non-breakable Water Pitchers

The Cat House needs your support so we can continue helping our feline friends.  
Please consider donating, or visit our website to learn how you can help!



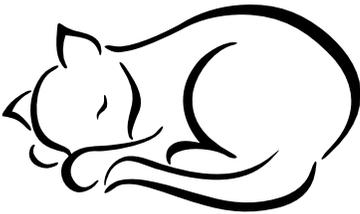
**Please Select Contribution Amount:**

- \$10
- \$20
- \$25
- \$30
- \$40
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to  
The Cat House and mail to  
PO Box 23145, Lincoln, NE  
68542**

**To donate food, toys or supplies, please call  
402-441-9593 for an appointment.**

**Contributions can also be made with a credit card  
through Paypal. Visit [www.thecathouse.org](http://www.thecathouse.org) to  
learn how. Your donations may be tax deductible!**



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