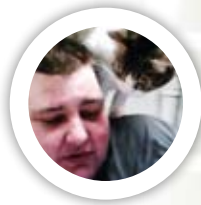


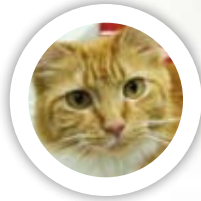
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Sonna Wellington
PAGE 2



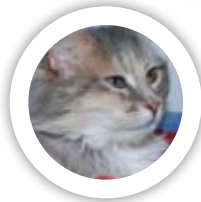
FEATURED CATS

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VONDA'S VIEWS

Opinionated Vonda
shares her wisdom.
PAGE 7



THE CAT HOUSE Scoop

Cat pictured: Nytro

VOLUME NO. 10 | ISSUE NO. 1 | SPRING 2010



ADOPTION FACILITY

1935 Q Street
Lincoln, NE
Tuesdays & Thursdays 6–8 pm
Sundays 1:30–4 pm

PO Box 23145
Lincoln, NE 68542
Hotline: (402) 441-9593
Fax: (866) 817-8819
info@thecathouse.org
www.thecathouse.org

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Consulting Veterinarian

The Cat House is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all volunteer organization, funded entirely by donations and adoption fees.

From hand-feeding to hospice care

By Martha Stoddard

Heather Hulinsky has done it all when it comes to fostering cats for The Cat House. She's cared for pregnant moms and the kittens they bore. She's bottle-fed abandoned kittens. She took in a sick cat that needed a feeding tube to regain his health. And she provided a loving home for Adelaide, a 19-year-old cat left on The Cat House doorstep, during her last five months of life. "We've done the gamut," she said.

Hulinsky is just one of the many TCH volunteers who open their homes to cats in need on a temporary basis. People who foster cats play a vital, although behind-the-scenes, role for The Cat House, according to President Faye Stevens. During the height of kitten season, there may be half again as many cats living in foster homes as are staying at the Q Street shelter and at PetSmart North.

Kittens comprise a large portion of the cats in foster homes, Stevens said. Those homes help kittens in many ways. In some cases, they can be lifesavers. The tiniest kittens need constant care if they come in without a mother. They need to be bottle-fed throughout the day

and night, every two hours at first. They also need to be kept cleaned and warm. It takes a dedicated person to make that kind of around-the-clock commitment.

Kittens old enough to be weaned, or those who come in with their mothers, also benefit from being in homes instead of the shelter, Stevens said. For one thing, there's always a shortage of space in the shelter. Kittens can't be adopted until they reach two pounds and are large enough to be spayed or neutered, usually at about 10 to 12 weeks.



continued on page 3...

Volunteer Opportunities

The Cat House has a very hard-working and dedicated crew of volunteers committed to improving the lives of cats in Lincoln and the surrounding area.

If you are interested in helping, you can fill out a volunteer application online at www.thecathouse.org or contact us by phone at 441-9593 or e-mail at volunteer@thecathouse.org.

You're in for a rewarding experience!



Opportunities to help include:

- Care, feeding, exercising, and socializing of cats
- Laundry
- Facility maintenance
- Facility organization and restocking
- Transporting cats to and from vet clinic
- Newsletter articles, photography, and production
- Assisting with communication to volunteers and/or the public
- Adoption counselor
- Post-adoption follow-up calls
- Volunteer training program assistance
- Volunteer scheduling assistance
- Website design/creation
- Filing
- Fundraising
- Photography
- Feral/TNR program
- Foster home

Spotlight on... Sonna Wellington

By Martha Stoddard

Sonna Wellington blames it all on Whisper. Before meeting the tiny kitten with the fatal illness, she was just one of The Cat House cleaners at PetSmart North. A friend got her started there. But when Sonna learned Whisper's days were numbered, she volunteered to let him spend those last days at her home. That was nearly 3 years ago. Whisper wound up being the first of several special needs cats Sonna has fostered. Some have been terminally ill, others just difficult.

The experience with Whisper also got Sonna more involved as a Cat House volunteer, and one thing led to another. She started working some open hours. Now she works almost every Tuesday and Thursday and plenty of Sundays as well. She offered to help return calls to people wanting to turn in cats, as well as make calls to prospective adopters. Now she serves as the Intake Coordinator and the Adoption Coordinator. She also has worked on the TCH computer system.

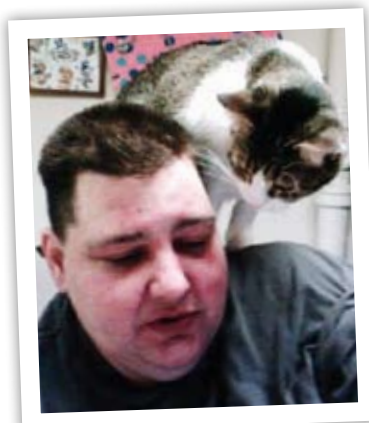
"She takes a lot of initiative, thinks of things that need to be done and, not only

that, she does them," said Faye Stevens, TCH president. "She has maybe a little nontraditional appearance, but once you get to know her, she has a heart of gold there."

Sonna, 47, came to Lincoln about four years ago. She grew up and spent most of her life in Massachusetts. Her last stop before Lincoln was in Portland, Ore., where she worked part-time for the Portland Winter Hawks hockey team. Hockey remains one of her passions and, if allowed, she will attach hockey

names to any cat around.

Long before ever encountering TCH, Sonna used to be a dog person. She was converted by a cat that showed up at a friend's house. The friend couldn't keep him, so Sonna agreed to take in the friendly polydactyl (multi-toed cat). Named Yzerman for a hockey player, the cat hit it off with her dog and the rest is history. Many more have followed. She still has one of Yzerman's kittens, now 18, who was born before she realized the critical importance of spaying and neutering.



Catnip stix, pet beds, and carrier liners for sale!

To purchase, stop by the shelter, or visit www.thecathouse.org/store. Watch for us at the Haymarket Farmer's Market this summer!

Coloring books now available!

The Cat House coloring book, filled with wonderful illustrations, tips and puzzles. Perfect for the young (and old) cat lovers!



Donations in memory & honor

In honor of Jim Nothnagel from Stefanie Toler
In honor of Gerald Chaffin from Bruce & Donna Nelson
In honor of Pat Pike & her cat Bob from Charlene Neely
In honor of Dale Stunkel from Michelle & Bill Cita
In honor of Karen McCluskey
In honor of Silky
In honor of Martha Stoddard's birthday from Sally & Bob Stoddard
In honor of Carly from Earl & Bobbie Colgan
In honor of Parker Draper-Moore from Judith Gibson
In honor of Gracie from Debra Wicks
In honor of Holly's birthday from Mrs. George Matzen
In honor of Kathy Day from Douglas & Diane Waldbaum
In honor of brother Ric Litzken & sister-in-law, Daria Pierorazio, from Sandy Mafa
In honor of Diane from her husband, Wade Latzel, & friends
In honor of Cheera from Vanessa Pertusa
In honor of Lucy from Karen McCluskey
In honor of Linda Meiningner from Jean Ley, Carol Phillips Cole, & Butch Haws
In honor of Gloria Lampe from Randy & Carla Wichard
In honor of sister-in-law, Judy Tuma, from Tracy Tuma & Weldon Ponder & the kids Zoe, Roscoe, Molly & Schuttiza
Christmas gift to John & Melissa Pederson, Patti & Peter Rohman & family, & Sandie & Robin McConnel from Theresa Wagner

In honor of Kristin Krejci from Stuart & Sue Krejci
In honor of Luan Yerck from Leslie Ball
In honor of Rachel Mack from John & Pam Marchant
In honor of Vanessa Pertusa Ruser's birthday from Kari Stoakes
In honor of Tigger from Emma Anderson
In honor of Dorothy Harris from Diana Harris
In memory of Katie Sue & Duncan from Larry & Suzie Meierdierks
In memory of Samantha from Doug & Stephanie Kielian
In memory of Cassie Martin's mother, Karen Martin, from the Monday night "cleaning crew" at The Cat House
In memory of Elisabeth Leinfeller whom long-time residents of Lincoln may remember, with her long dark hair and scholarly glasses, as one of the first adults they ever saw riding a bike from her homes in the Near South through downtown Lincoln to the University. As an Austrian, she thought nothing of it but it made a vivid impression on Nebraskans in the early 1970s.

Special thanks to

Dr. Shelley Knudsen from All Feline Hospital for donating her time to make onsite vet visits to The Cat House.
BK Pet Necessities for providing wonderful cat furniture for TCH cats and donating a percentage of sales.
Cause For Paws for donating a percentage of sales and a portion of proceeds from the Cause For Paws Fashion Show and Valentine's Dance.

From hand-feeding to hospice care, continued...

In the meantime, TCH can take in other cats who need rescuing. There are also health concerns. Kittens don't have strong immune systems and can't get their first vaccines until they are six weeks old. Kittens benefit from the time they spend with humans in their early days. For those raised on the streets, the exposure to humans can make a huge difference in being able to charm their way into a forever home. Foster homes with children or dogs provide an added bonus.

But it's not just kittens that need foster homes. Some cats just don't adjust well to a place with so many other cats. Others need more medical attention, such as those with diabetes who need to have their food intake monitored and get insulin injections regularly. "Some of those foster homes end up being pretty much permanent," Stevens said.

Many volunteers foster cats temporarily and then give them up when they get old

enough to be adopted or return to health. But a fair number wind up adopting some or all of their foster cats. Hulinsky adopted two of hers—an adult who was rescued from a problem breeder and had been through two failed adoptions and a kitten who was the lone survivor of her litter. Others she has been able to let go to find homes through the shelter. "We have enough with our permanent population," she said.

Would you like to foster?

Fill out a volunteer application online at www.thecatshouse.org/volunteer

With the number of cats needing help, TCH always is looking for additional foster homes, Steven said. There are few hard and fast requirements. "The main thing we need from fosters is the time and

attention for the cats," she said. A place to segregate foster cats from any permanent residents is helpful. A schedule that allows time to spend with the cats is good. People who can bottle-feed kittens are a particular need, as are homes for special needs cats. TCH covers medical expenses and, in most



cases, food for the foster cats. People interested in fostering cats should start by filling out the volunteer form, which is available online at www.thecatshouse.org or from the shelter at 1935 Q Street or at

PetSmart North, 5200 N 27th Street.

Calendar of Events

Please join us in participating or celebrating the following events.

Lincoln Earth Day Celebration
 April 24, 2-6pm
www.alleycat.org
 for more information

Be Kind to Animals Week
 May 2-8
Adopt A Shelter Cat Month
 June

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors 2nd Annual Wine & Howl
 May 22, 11am-5pm
 Prime Country Winery

Midlands Cat Club CFA Cat Show
 August 28
 Kroc Center, Omaha, NE

Cat-N-Around Cat Club ACFA Cat Show
 October 2-3
 Des Moines, IA

Sandhills Cat Club CFA Cat Show
 October 9
 Seward County Fairgrounds
 North 14th Street, Seward, NE

Seward Craft Show
 November 20
 Seward County Fairgrounds
 North 14th Street, Seward, NE

Your cat's age in human years

AGE OF CAT	EQUIVALENT AGE IN HUMAN YEARS
1 year	equals 24 years
2 years	equals 36 years
3 years	equals 42 years
4 years	equals 45 years
5 years	equals 48 years
6 years	equals 51 years
7 years	equals 54 years
8 years	equals 57 years
9 years	equals 60 years
10 years	equals 63 years
11 years	equals 66 years
12 years	equals 69 years
13 years	equals 72 years
14 years	equals 75 years
15 years	equals 78 years
16 years	equals 81 years
17 years	equals 84 years
18 years	equals 87 years
19 years	equals 90 years
20 years	equals 93 years

Use this chart to find out how old your cat is in "cat years." The cat's age will translate into a human age of roughly the same maturity as the cat.

Using this calculation, the 20-year-old cat is now a respectable but believable 93 years old. And a 9-month-old cat is 18 years old, a teenager in every sense. Above 20 years add 2 human years per cat year. Remember that humans mature much more slowly than all other animals. This chart also works for (cough) dogs.

Try it out and see!



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 441-9593 or email info@thecathouse.org.

DRY CAT FOOD

- Science Diet Regular, Maintenance, & Kitten
- Science Diet Light – Adult
- Iams Regular & Kitten
- Royal Canin Baby Cat
- Science Diet W/D, R/D, C/D or Z/D*

CANNED CAT FOOD

- Science Diet or Iams – kitten & adult – turkey, chicken, salmon (ground or minced)
- Fancy Feast – turkey, chicken, salmon (ground or minced)
- Science Diet A/D, W/D, R/D, or C/D*
- Purina NF*

CLEANERS

- Tide Free liquid laundry detergent (*sensitive skin*)
- Scent-free dryer sheets (*sensitive skin*)
- Clorox bleach (*regular type*)
- Anti-bacterial hand soap
- Dawn dishwashing soap
- Dishwasher soap
- Clorox disposable wipes
- Hand sanitizer

CAT LITTER

- Non-clumping, regular clay litter (*no clumping, pine, or newsprint type litter*)

SUPPLIES

- Brooms
- O'Cedar Light 'N Thirsty cloth mop refills
- Paper towels & bathroom tissue
- Dixie heavyweight disposable bowls, 10 oz
- Large trash bags (*heavy duty*)
- Kitchen and office size trash bags
- Copier/printer paper

MISCELLANEOUS

- Stainless steel non-tip food/water bowls, 8 oz
- Meat flavored baby food (*chicken, turkey, beef, ham*)
- Small chenille or cotton reversible bath rugs (*no rubber backs*)
- Catnip in bulk
- Rotating teeth combs for cats
- "Slicker" brushes for cats
- "Cable Cuffs" or "Cable Clamps" cable management tool
- Pet carriers, hard plastic with metal doors

* sold at vet clinics

Wish List

Trooper

By Martha Stoddard

Trooper had fallen on hard times before he came to The Cat House. His home was an old car, which he shared with his owner and a German shepherd. Maybe then, maybe before, he wandered the streets. Somewhere along the way, he got in a fight with the wrong cat and became infected with feline immunodeficiency virus. The virus is spread through deep bites.

When a friend of the owner's finally brought Trooper to TCH, he was tough-looking and a bit shy. He was placed in the special unit with other cats that have FIV or feline leukemia. It didn't take long before Trooper realized he was on to a good thing—food every day and plenty of it, lots of people to love him, and other cats to play with and wrestle. He filled out. His fur grew longer and silky smooth. He soon was claiming every lap that came along and greeting every visitor. The only thing that would make his life better is a real home of his own.

FIV attacks and weakens the immune system, making a cat susceptible to infections and diseases that don't usually affect healthy cats. There is no cure, but FIV is a slowly developing disease. Trooper could live for many years, even up to a normal lifespan, without any signs of the illness. Stop by our shelter at 1935 Q Street to meet him.



Tigress

By Denise Anderson

A red tabby is hardly a fair description of this wonderful little girl. Tigress is a playful, 5-year-old, medium-haired cat whose fur is soft as silk. She prefers to assess new people from a distance but enjoys the company of friends up-close. Once she gets to know you, she will be the first one on your lap to ask for attention. She will stay with you as long as you pet her, and probably even longer. She is not shy about asking for more attention—whether it be a warm lap or a quick rub. She is extremely good with children and knows how to use her claws appropriately. She is a true friend who would be a loyal companion for your entire life. Tigress's previous owner passed away, with her cats keeping her company until the very end. Will you show this beauty that you can be her forever owner? Please stop by and meet Tigress. You will not be disappointed.



These cats are looking for forever homes.



Visit our shelter at 1935 Q Street on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6–8 pm and Sundays from 1:30–4 pm. You can also visit The Cat House kitties at the PetSmart adoption center located at 5200 N 27th Street.

JUST FOR FUN!

Cat House Hero

(read/sung to Juke Box Hero, by Foreigner)

Rewritten by Richard Barnes

Driving through the rain, dodging the road rage
Had a crappy day, but that was all to change
As you rang the bell, you couldn't picture the scene

Walking through the door, it was like nothing you'd seen

You heard the meows, from near and away
You saw hope in their eyes, it just made your day

Bent to pet a small cat, then a second and a third
Didn't know their names, but you knew for sure
All those cats, with hope in their eyes
Didn't take long, to understand
You could hear their purrs, from way down low
Was a one-way ticket, only one way to go
So you started workin', ain't never gonna stop
Gotta keep on working 'till every cat makes it to the top

**You're a Cat House hero, got hope in your eyes, a Cat House hero
Just look at those cats, Cat House hero, hope in their eyes
Cat House hero, hope in your eyes, they'll all get love tonight**

A fresh litter box in place, then food for all
You saw your own shadow, as you wiped the wall
Like a trip through the past, to that day in the rain
And all those cats, made your whole life change
Now you need to keep on working, you just can't stop
Gotta keep on workin', those cats will make it to the top

**You're a Cat House hero, got hope in your eyes
You're a Cat House hero, every cat has their lives
Yeah, Cat House hero, hope in your eyes
With all those cats, hope in their eyes
You'll come alive, come alive tonight**

Yeah, you gotta keep on workin', just can't stop
Gotta keep on working, those cats gotta make it to the top

**Be a Cat House hero, see the hope in their eyes
You're a Cat House hero, got hope in your eyes
With care and love, hope in their eyes
You're a Cat House hero
They just need a home, they'd share their love
You're a Cat House hero, hope in your eyes
You're a Cat House hero**

A Success Story...

Tara aka Tidy Cat

By Richard Barnes

No one will ever really know just what Tidy Cat and her 12 feline friends experienced while living amidst the horrors of domestic abuse. Tidy Cat (so named because of her

relentless obsession with maintaining a nearly perfect litter box) came to The Cat House as a first-time mother, with two of her four kittens still with her (the others went elsewhere when rescued) and only three legs to stand on.

Tidy Cat is a three-legged cat due to complications at birth that left her missing the lower half of her back left leg, but she was a survivor who wasn't going to let the past or her physical disability get in her way. All it took for her to improve was a little time and a bit of luck. The time was spent at The Cat House; the luck showed up in 2005, when Jody Cass and her son Ian went looking to add a friend to their family.

Jody says they didn't exactly adopt Tidy Cat; Tidy Cat adopted them. She adopted Ian, to be more precise. One would assume that a cat coming out of such an awful past might be a lot more cautious of people, but Tidy Cat took to Ian at first sight, and was on her way to a new home, a new name, and a whole new start at life.

When I stopped in to visit the Cass family, Tidy Cat (now called Tara) was enjoying the afternoon in her bed upon the couch. She honored me with an interview and a couple of pictures. In fact, she kept an eye on me the whole time I was there—a common occurrence, as Tara is very protective of her family that gave her a second chance.

When Tara came to the Cass home she joined two male cats (Pounce and Keegan), a dog (Abby), and a handful of hermit crabs. She wasn't fazed. A few hisses, an appropriate swat here and there, and Tara quickly settled into her new home. With her furry friends in line, she took to watching over and, in her own way,



taking care of her new people.

Jody related how, when she was recovering from back surgery and spending a nearly two-week stretch in bed, Tara

was by her side the whole time, and being quite particular about who she was going to allow in the room. Jody's daughter Kristen said that Tara gets very concerned whenever she hears raised voices, and Ian added that Tara is very watchful of Kristen's boyfriend when he's over, going as far as "tattling" on him to Jody when he's in the kitchen alone.

So how does a cat get along with just three legs? Tara answered this question by playing with her favorite feather, climbing the back of the couch, and easily moving from one room to the other. Jody added that Tara has never not been able to do anything any other cat would do—including climbing heights as well as stairs. Actually, there is one thing—the Casses help Tara when she's got an itchy left ear.

Today, Tara is the only cat in the Cass home. Pounce and Keegan have passed away, and Abby is coming to the end of a good 16-year run. There's still one hermit crab, but Tara shows little interest in it these days. Jody mentioned that when they as a family think the time is right, they might look into a new feline friend for Tara. If Tara takes to another friend the way she's taken to the Casses, that'll be one lucky cat.

The Cat House has many wonderful cats waiting for a home, but there's one cat in particular who's worth mentioning here because of his connection to Tara's success story. Bourbon came from the same abusive house that Tara came from when the survivors were rescued, and he has been cared for at the Cat House ever since. Bourbon remains very cautious and shy, but if he could find the right home with lots of love and understanding, another success story could begin.

Vonda's Views

Dear Vonda,

We just adopted a cat whom we love dearly, but we notice that he is scratching the furniture and it is driving us crazy. What can we do to stop this? Thanks for all your help.

Sincerely, Frustrated

Dear Frustrated,

Thank you for writing to me. First off, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Vonda and I currently reside at The Cat House. Everyone here knows me and understands I am not shy when it comes to giving my view on life. By the way, why is your name Frustrated? Shouldn't it be a normal name like Dick or Jane? Just kidding (I really do have a funny bone).

If your cat is scratching your furniture, please understand that we all love to do it. It is totally normal, like playing with a feathered teaser (my favorite thing of all times), or meowing that we are hungry.

I would like to start by saying, please do not get him declawed. It really hurts a lot and it can make him afraid of you! Next, try not to punish him for scratching, because it does not work. If you do this, he may

find ways to get even, such as throwing up in your favorite shoes or leaving "presents" around the house, if you know what I mean. Anger does not solve anything, especially when it comes to us wonderful cats. You can try trimming his nails so they cause less damage. It doesn't resolve the issue but it's a good start.

Have a question for Vonda?

Email her at info@thecathouse.org
Selected questions will be answered in the next newsletter.

Next, buy or make him something you would like him to scratch instead. A nice scratching post would be my suggestion. Rub catnip on it and give him treats when he uses it properly. We love to be praised for doing the right thing.

Another idea is to make the object he is currently scratching less appealing (as long as it doesn't hurt your furniture or him). Put double sided tape or plastic/aluminum foil in that spot, or use a squirt bottle when you are around. Yuck, I can't stand getting wet personally and all self-respecting cats would agree with me.

Also, make sure your guy has plenty of exercise. If he is bored, he may be doing this to let you know. Try and keep him stimulated with toys (did I tell you my favorite toy is a teaser?),



a nice cat perch by the window and plenty of play time. If none of these work, you can always come and adopt me. I will have a good talk with him and fix the situation.

Thanks for writing and don't forget to visit me.

Yours truly,

🐾 VONDA

Happy Tails Stats

Here are the number of cats adopted in recent months.

October	20
November	27
December	38
January	45
February	24
March	31

We had a record breaking year for adoptions in 2009. A total of 347 cats found their forever homes. Thank you!

Interested in adopting? Fill out an adoption application online at www.thecathouse.org/adoption

2nd annual wine & howl fund raising event

**Saturday, May 22
11am-5pm**

rain date May 29

**Bring your dog*, a blanket,
and enjoy the country air!**

*Please have your dog on a leash.

**@ Prime Country Winery
12120 SW 142nd St
Denton, NE**

Suggested \$1 Donation

**Vendor Exhibits
Wine Tasting ◦ Gift Raffle
Food ◦ Live Music**

For more information: www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org
To sign up for a vendor booth (\$100, non-profits \$50), or to donate a raffle ticket item, please email info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org

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

The costs to operate the facility continue to grow. One way of reducing costs is to minimize the number of newsletters that are printed and mailed out to our supporters. We are, therefore, asking if we can send future issues of The Cat House Scoop to your email address instead of mailing you a printed copy. Rest assured though, if you don't have access to a computer, we will continue to send the newsletter to you by mail!

If you'd like to receive The Cat House Scoop by email, please send your name, home address, and email address to info@thecathouse.org. Please use "Newsletter" as the subject of the email.

We need your support!



Please select your contribution amount:

- \$10 \$20 \$25 \$30 \$40 \$50
 Other \$ _____

Make checks payable to: The Cat House
Mail to: PO Box 23145, Lincoln, NE 68542

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KITTEN DESERVES A CHANCE.

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