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The Three Musketeers Get a New Home

Written by: Mary Batterson

The three of us were born into a world of unimaginable horror and misery. We had little food, no vet care, no human interaction and no love. We were born only to make money for humans.

One day there appeared a light at the end of the tunnel. We moved to a place where dogs barked all the time, and we were in tiny cages. Then the light became brighter. Gentle hands lifted us into carriers, we took a short car ride and soon heard the soft meows of others like us. Some of us went into cages again, but they were much bigger this time and no dogs barked. We felt gentle hands and soft voices telling us we were finally safe and loved for who we are, not how many babies we could produce.

Our names are Parrot, Snow and Peter. We are Scottish Folds. These are our stories.



I am Parrot. I arrived at The Cat House in January 2005 as a very tiny baby, no more than 6 weeks old. It was quickly discovered I had a very bad heart murmur. The soft voices were strained and worried for me. They said I may not live very long. I showed them! I kept eating and playing and over the months I grew. Soon I was big, no longer a kitten. Because I had been around gentle humans for so long I loved being petted, held and played with a lot. I took medicine every day for my heart, like a good boy, and I continued to grow. I lived with those who looked like me, but soon everyone in my room was gently put into a carrier, while the humans cried and said something about "a new home." What that was I didn't know, but I knew I wanted one!

I am Snow. I came from the same house of horrors as Parrot when I too was only a baby. I arrived at The Cat House in November 2006. My skin hurt so badly I could only cry with the pain. I had been infected with what the soft voices called ringworm. I also had a very bad cold. There were whispers that I was so sick I might not live. All I knew was that I hurt and I was so very hungry. But now I had soft blankets and lots of food and medicine.

Sure, my skin was naked of fur and I had scabs all over my body. But that didn't stop me from playing and loving to be held and petted. I grew fast and my fur grew back in very pretty colors. Then I lost all my fur again! This time I was shaved to help me heal and not be so itchy. It worked a little bit. They said I was so very sick at a crucial time in my life that I might not ever get well again. But the months went by and I kept growing and my fur grew back again in the same pretty colors. Everyone said what a pretty boy I had become.



(Continued on page #2)

The Three Musketeers Get a New Home (Cont.)



I am Peter. I arrived at The Cat House also in November 2005. I came from the same house as Parrot and Snow. But they got to live upstairs. I was older and lived in a dark, dank basement where sometimes other cats would be shoved down the stairs and I would be so glad to see them that I cuddled with them as much as possible. I had no idea my very existence was only to make babies to be sold.

When I was brought to the place of gentle hands and soft voices I wasn't happy. Each time someone tried to touch me, I growled and hissed and kept far away. But one lady kept talking to me very softly, telling me how wonderful I was and that I was safe. I finally let her touch me just a little bit. Each time she came to touch me, I started to trust more. You should have seen her face the first time I purred when she touched me. That was priceless! Soon I was being petted by everyone and purring all the time, but that one lady was my best friend.

One day our collective stories took a new turn. The three of us took a very long ride in a car to a hotel room. Then, all of a sudden, there were tears and hugs and kisses. We had no idea why. Soon we were going for another long car ride. When the car stopped, we found out our final destination was that magical, mythical place called "a new home!"

Finally, we had what we all had been longing for and it was much more magnificent than we could have imagined. We met again with two other kitties that we knew. Magoo and Eleanor had gotten "a new home" together, and now it was our home, too! Now we sleep together, play together and have our own forever home. See, we showed them all!

Happy Tails

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

Here are the number of cats adopted in the recent months.

May	21
June	15
July	19
August	20
September	27

Visit TCH Store

In October of 2006 TCH began construction in its online store. It's now complete and ready for shoppers. Simply point your browsers to <http://www.thecathouse.org/store/> to discover our pet beds and other kitty related merchandise.



TCH Board

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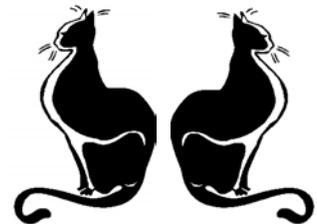
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Dr. Rebecca Arnold, DVM

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You can also help TCH raise funds by shopping at our Café Press store for shirts, coffee mugs, mousepads, license plate frames, and much more!

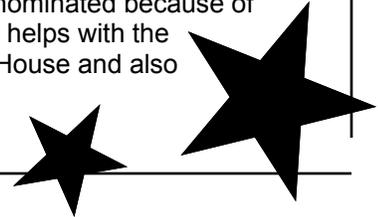


www.cafepress.com/thecathouse

The Cat House has started a new program honoring a volunteer each quarter. The first honoree is Sara Laney, who has been a volunteer at The Cat House for three years. Sara is a team leader on Wednesday evenings. She was chosen because she was always willing to step up when extra help was needed this summer. As well as being dependable, Sara is always cheerful.

The second honoree is LaTisha Holt, who has been a volunteer since March. LaTisha was nominated because of her dedication to the cats at PetsMart. She cleans twice a week at our PetsMart facility and helps with the laundry. She is always ready to contribute more. She has adopted three cats from The Cat House and also solicited a new volunteer.

Congratulations and thank you, Sara and LaTisha! We need more volunteers like you!



Spotlight on..... Sara Laney

Written by: Martha Stoddard



Spend a few shifts scooping, scrubbing, sweeping, mopping, brushing, feeding and watering at The Cat House and you'll probably run into Sara Laney. She'll be the cheerful bundle of energy with the slight Southern flavor to her speech. The one who doesn't have any cats of her own – her husband's very allergic – but is passionate about all the TCH residents.

"To me, The Cat House is really unique," Sara said. "There is no place in any other place I've lived that does anything like The Cat House. It's so important what we do." That passion is why you'll find Sara at the Q Street adoption center every Wednesday, leading the evening cleaning and feeding crew. In past years, you would have seen her on Tuesday nights instead. She started cleaning about three years ago at the C Street facility. You also might encounter her during one of the extra cleaning shifts she takes on. If you're a new volunteer, she's likely to be the person who shows you the ropes.

Sara grew up in rural Texas and came to Lincoln after getting married. She spent most of her career doing oil and gas accounting. Even after moving, she continued doing the accounting for an independent Texas oil company.

When her boss retired and that job ended, she got another part-time job and started volunteering in the Scott Middle School media center.

Three years later, the school offered her a paid position as the media center secretary. You can find her there during the school year, surrounded by photos of her four-legged TCH friends.

Squeezed in between her Cat House shifts and her paid job, Sara volunteers with the Lincoln Southwest High School theater program. She was one of the school's original theater parents when her son, now 20, attended Southwest. She also is active with the Lincoln Public Schools' Office Professionals group.



Sara and Skipper, a kitty currently available for adoption through TCH

These Wonderful Kitties Are Looking For Forever Homes

			
Cecil	Elsa	Zeffie	Mr. Cat

Find your next best friend at The Cat House!

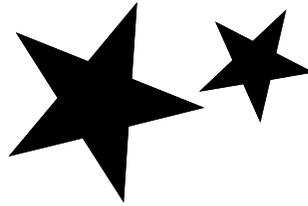
Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:00—8:00 p.m. and Sundays 1:30 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

1935 Q Street



Spotlight on..... LaTisha Holt

Written by: Martha Stoddard



LaTisha Holt had been meaning to volunteer with The Cat House for years but never quite got around to it. When she finally made the move this spring, she jumped in with both feet. Since March, she has made herself indispensable to the TCH kitties waiting for new homes at the PetsMart adoption center. She cleans cages, feeds the cats, gives them a little play time, chats with people who stop by, does laundry and has made it her mission to recruit more volunteers.

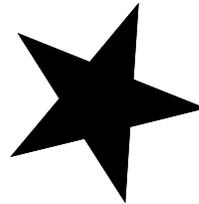
A Kansas City native, LaTisha grew up with cats and other family pets. She first came to The Cat House in 2000, soon after moving to Lincoln. She was all set to adopt two TCH kittens when a co-worker told her about two adult cats who needed homes.

LaTisha opted for the older cats, figuring they would be harder to place and the kittens could easily charm someone else. The brothers, Cassius and Wallflower, are now 10½ years old.

She came back to The Cat House this February, after she and her husband of four years got settled in a new house. Jasmine, Taylor and Comet joined the family as a result. LaTisha earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in Dec. 2006. When not scrubbing out cages or playing with kitties, she likes to cook, garden and work out.



LaTisha and Rusty, a kitty currently available for adoption through TCH



Featured Cat....Loretta!

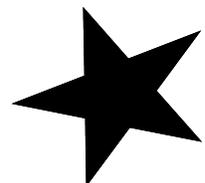
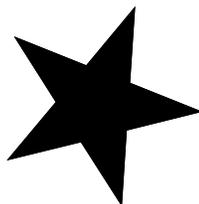
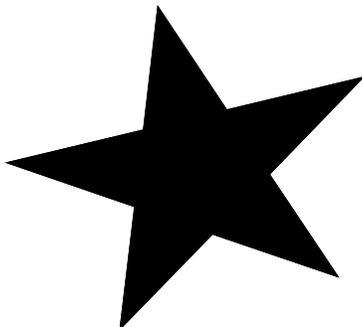
Written by: Traci Cameron

Loretta is a lovely girl who's full of personality.

If Loretta could speak, she'd relay to you how she was a Northern breed dog in her past life. Before that, she was a cuddly squirrel. Proof of her heritage and past lives can be seen by the way she carries her tail - flipped forward on her back.

Loretta is the leader of her pack. While Loretta is happy to pal around with other cats and children, as long as they agree that she's the boss, she'd be happier if she didn't have to compete for attention.

Loretta enjoys being petted, cuddled, and adored by her humans. She'll soak up as much affection as you're willing to give her. When she is in need of some time alone she will let you know....but don't worry, she always comes back with a happy purr!



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.

The Cat House will be showing kitties at several upcoming cat shows. They will also be available for adoption. We need sponsors for the entrance fees, which are typically \$30 to \$50. These shows are a great way to find homes for the cats and spread the word about TCH. If you're interested in sponsoring a TCH show cat, please contact info@thecathouse.org or call 441-9593.

Sandhills Club Cat Show	PetsMart Santa Pictures
<p>October 13, 2007 Seward Fairgrounds Seward, NE 9:00 am - 4:00 pm TCH will be selling items.</p>	<p>December 15, 2007 PetsMart 5200 N 27th St 11:00 am - 4:00 pm</p>
Hawkeye Cat Show	
<p>February 9, 10:am - 5:00 pm February 10, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Hawkeye Cat Show Iowa State Fairgrounds E. 30th St. & Grand Ave Des Moines, IA</p>	

Victoria, a kitty currently available for adoption through TCH

Help Us...Sponsor a Cat!

The more our kitties are shown to the public, the greater their chances of finding new homes. "Paws Page," a monthly feature in the Neighborhood Extra, is one way that we can advertise the beautiful faces that fill The Cat House. Each ad in the Paws Page is \$37.00. Would you be willing to help The Cat House by sponsoring an ad? If not for a kitty, do it for yourself! As a sponsor, your name (or memorial, or name of your business) will appear in the Paws Page just below the photo of TCH kitty. If none of those options appeal to you, we can simply have general TCH information printed.

Your sponsorship could be a one-time ad or repeated during the year. If interested, please e-mail donations@thecathouse.org or call the hotline at (402) 441-9593.

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

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?



If you are interested in volunteering with The Cat House, we have many positions open, everything 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, contact us by phone at 441-9593 or by email at 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



Roll Over and Help The Cat House

Written by: Beth Boal

If you're like many people, you've been putting money aside in IRAs for years. By now, those IRAs may add up to a tidy sum. But if you've gotten close to 70½ years old, you probably are realizing that you're going to be forced to take the money out, whether you need it to live on or not, and a large chunk of it is going to go to the government in taxes. Fortunately, you have options!

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 included a provision for charitable rollovers in both 2006 and 2007 from traditional and Roth IRAs for individuals over the age of 70½. So now you can help The Cat House with the money in your IRA and avoid giving 30% of it back to the government!

Here's an example: Jane, who is over 70½, must withdraw \$10,000 from her IRA even though she doesn't need the money for living expenses. If Jane wishes, she can direct a \$10,000 transfer to The Cat House prior to taking any distribution and reduce her federal income taxes by \$2,800 in her 28% tax bracket, even though she doesn't itemize deductions.

Following are important highlights and requirements for the new Qualified Charitable Distributions:

1. Distributions can be for as much as \$100,000.
2. IRA owners must instruct the trustee of their IRAs to make direct transfers to the charities they support; these transfers are not included in their taxable income.
3. The IRS is expected to take the position that a Qualified Charitable Distribution will count toward the "minimum distribution" requirements that apply to account owners over the age of 70½.
4. No charitable deductions would be allowed on the money that is transferred to The Cat House, but gift amounts will not be included in the donors' income for 2007.
5. Qualified Charitable Distributions cannot be used to fund a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust.
6. You must make the gift before the end of 2007.

In order to take advantage of this option, you have to make your wishes known, in writing, to the custodian of your IRA. With a little preplanning and a letter specifying your wishes, you can enjoy both retirement and the fact you are helping to save many more cats and kittens!

This article is not intended to be financial advice; any actions you are considering should be reviewed by your financial planner. As with all financial matters, you should consult your tax professional or financial planner to make sure of how the law is handled in your area.

Donations In Memory & In Honor Of

Kevin Ruser in memory of Elma Stalker
Phyllis Walker in memory of Rob Walker
Sue Harrold in memory of Hugo
Lowell Brown in memory of Mary Scott
In honor of Martha Stoddard's birthday
Susan Merrill in loving memory of all the kitties we've lost this past year
Kenneth Ferguson in memory of his wife, Marion
Nanciana Hamicksburg in memory of OJ and Sassy Cat



Elmo Stalker was part of the Stalker family for 15 wonderful years. He was a friend, companion and amazing lap warmer. He will be greatly missed by Anne, Mike, Michelle and Jeff. We send you all our deepest sympathies and many hugs.

**Your friends,
Kevin and Vanessa Ruser**



Special thanks to....



Thanks to you, Angel, Tallie, Willie, and Joe have all found homes.

Thank you to All Feline Hospital, Williamsburg Clinic and Nebraska Animal Medical Center for their participation in the new TNR program. If you use any of these vet clinics, the next time you are in, please tell them Thank You for supporting the Cat House TNR Program.

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.

Dry Cat Food:

Science Diet Regular Maintenance
Science Diet Kitten
Iams Regular
Iams Kitten
Science Diet Z/d (sold through vet clinics)
Science Diet R/D (sold through vet clinics)
Science Diet D/D (sold through vet clinics)

Canned Cat Food:

Iams – any flavor other than seafood
Fancy Feast – any non-seafood flavor
Science Diet A/D (sold through vet clinics)
Science Diet R/D (sold through vet clinics)
Science Diet D/D (sold through vet clinics)

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 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!**

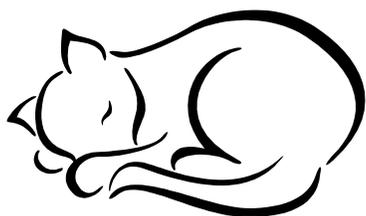


Please Select Contribution Amount:

- \$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 to learn how. Your donations may be tax deductible!



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