



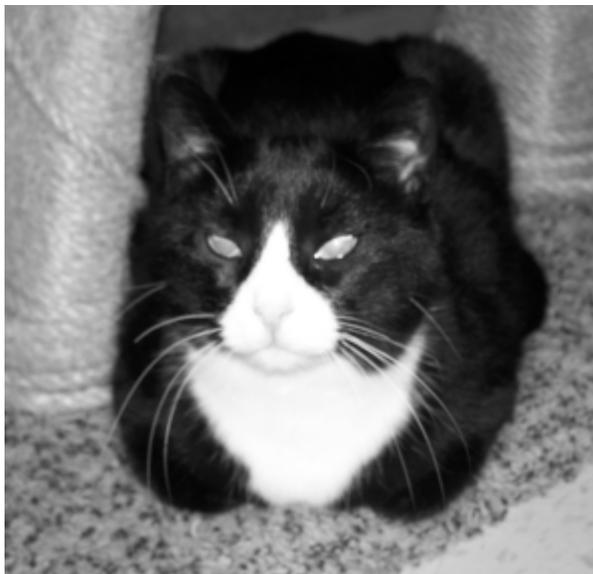
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No Less Love To Give

Written by: Gwen Lawson

Bandit is an affectionate fluffy black cat with such a long attention span that, were he human, he'd probably like to sit down and discuss literature with you. He's active and playful, but gentle and sweet as well. Between his patience, his temperament, and his gorgeous fur, he is an appealing creature. He is also infected with Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV). Bandit loves, plays, and lives as a healthy cat, but in all likelihood, will have fewer years in which to do so.



Both FeLV and its cousin, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) are retroviruses, which means that they suppress the immune system, leaving the infected cat more vulnerable to other types of infection. Both are spread through bodily fluid, such as blood or saliva, though FeLV is more communicable.

Squeaky, a beautiful tuxedo kitty with FeLV

FIV is most commonly spread through deep bites while FeLV can be spread through play, grooming, and other types of prolonged contact. As with many diseases, cats with already compromised immune systems are more susceptible than healthy adult cats. Young cats and kittens stand the greatest risk from FeLV. Cats infected before the age of one tend to suffer from more complications and, as a result, live shorter lives.

Both viruses are unstable outside the body. According to Metpet.com, the FIV virus lives only mere minutes outside a cat's body, and FeLV can only survive for twenty-four to forty-eight hours. FeLV is also easily inactivated by rubbing alcohol and other household disinfectants. All of the volunteers at The Cat House who work with infected cats have healthy cats at home, and with proper precautions, none fret over passing on the disease. Neither disease poses any risk to humans of any age. Cats can live happy, uncompromised—and sometimes, even long—lives despite the presence of either virus.

There is no specific course of treatment for cats infected with FeLV, though there is a vaccine that can be given to uninfected cats. Cats with FIV can be treated with certain immune system boosters (and, in fact, can live quite a while with the virus when they have proper medical care), but with FeLV, it's best to treat small medical concerns as soon as they arise. One young cat at The Cat House, Natalie, whose coloring is best described as strawberries and cream, takes lysine to treat an eye virus, but she was the only cat receiving specialized treatment when I visited. Some but not all of the others get medications from TCH workers. All the cats in the special needs room were active, social, alert (one shiny black cat, Squeaky, even jumped onto my shoulder to say hello), and when it was time to eat, they showed their perfectly healthy appetites. Not a single one seemed weak, ill, or unhappy.

While adopting a special needs cat might seem like a daunting prospect, the challenge comes with its own rewards. While most cats with FeLV die within three years of being diagnosed, it's impossible to say exactly how much time a cat does or doesn't have left to live; one sprightly little tortoiseshell at The Cat House, Pisa, has been thriving despite her FeLV for five years. Adopting a kitty infected with FeLV or FIV isn't adopting a cat with an expiration date, it's an opportunity to give a cat the love and the life it deserves during its shorter time on earth. After all, Bandit, Natalie, Pisa, Squeaky—and any other infected cats—have no less love to give.

Featuring..... Juliana

Written by: Faye Stevens

"Hey, Mom, did you know you had a cat and kittens under your house?"

That was the start of Juliana's association with The Cat House. She had found shelter for herself and her kittens in the crawl space of a north Lincoln house. When the homeowner's son ventured into the space to change the furnace filter, he found more than the usual spiders.

The homeowner offered Juliana an assortment of human food but knew she could not keep her, so she called The Cat House. Luckily for Juliana and family, a foster home was available. Before long, the kittens were old enough to go to homes of their own and Juliana moved to TCH's shelter.

From the beginning, Juliana enjoyed being petted, brushed, and having her belly rubbed. Although she initially did not care to be held, or sit on a lap, she now enjoys those as well. Juliana gets along with most cats, as long as they respect her personal space. At around two years old, Juliana is still quite playful. Her favorite toys are mice, particularly with tails made of feathers. Juliana is truly one of the sweetest cats you will ever meet. If you'd like to meet Juliana, visit her at our shelter at 1935 Q St.



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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

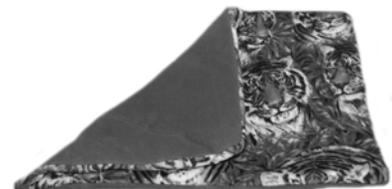
Happy Tails

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

April	17
May	16
June	24
July	28
August	38

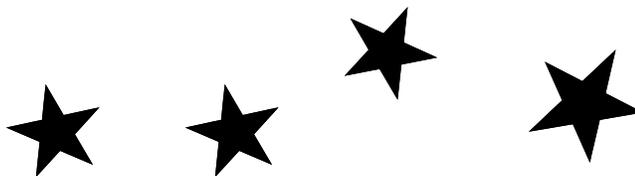
Visit TCH Store

In October of 2006 TCH began construction of 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.



Spotlight on..... Jana Wrick

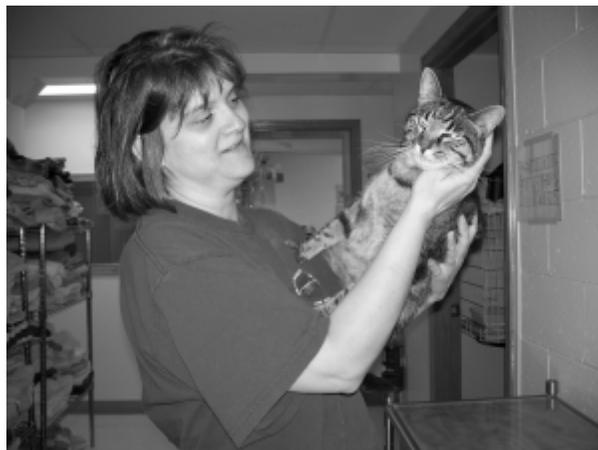
Written by: Martha Stoddard



You might say Joe, formerly known as Otis, recruited Jana Wrick for The Cat House. Two years ago, Jana was grieving the death of her last cat and wasn't sure she was ready to adopt again. She went to TCH anyway with her son, Ryan. One little kitten wasn't willing to wait. He climbed in Ryan's hood, knocked off his glasses and settled down in his sweatshirt pocket. Case closed. The kitten, Joe, went home with Jana and Ryan. A calico named Emilee came home soon after.

A few months later, Jana, along with her daughter Stephanie, was back at TCH as a volunteer. She started first on the Sunday cleaning and feeding shift. She was soon promoted to Sunday team leader. And when The Cat House expanded to the new south PetSmart store this summer, she found herself taking over the coordinator duties at the north PetSmart store.

It's a time-consuming and difficult job but one that board members say Jana does with a positive attitude and good humor. "I love it," Jana said, noting the number of store customers who stop in when she's cleaning to talk or ask questions. "It's so different. It's like being the adoption counselor and the coordinator and the cleaner."



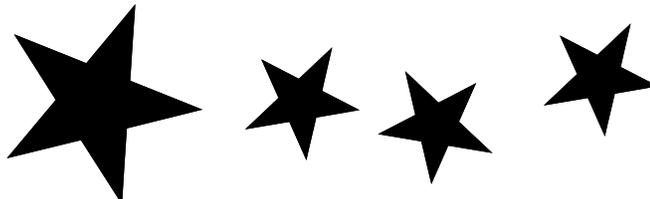
Jana Wrick with Ringo Starr

Jana has brought The Cat House home as well. She has fostered several cats, two of which joined the family. She claims Ebony refused to leave. Her daughter insisted that Lucy, a more recent foster, had to stay. Among the other fosters were Ringo Starr, who she nursed back to health after he stopped eating, and the kittens Bluebird, Blackbird and Snowbird, who had to be hand-fed.

When not helping at TCH, Jana works in residential lending at TierOne Bank. Along with the cats, she has a Pekinese dog, Riley; three children, Courtney, Ryan and Stephanie; and husband, David.

Spotlight on..... The Bedells

Written by: Martha Stoddard



The Cat House hit the jackpot when Kyndall Bedell discovered the Web site for Lincoln's no-kill shelter. Not only did she immediately sign up to volunteer, so did her father, Doug, and her mother, Vicky. That was 18 months ago. The family has been helping out ever since, aided at times by Kyndall's younger sister, Brittany. They are among The Cat House's most dedicated volunteers, according to board members.

Doug and Kyndall regularly work the Monday night cleaning and feeding shift. Doug is team leader. Vicky fills in as needed, pushing through her allergies to make sure the cats are well cared for. Brittany helps when her job and allergies permit. "It's just something that we enjoy. We're cat lovers," Doug said. "The first night, I came home and said, 'I fell in love a dozen times.'" Cleaning isn't all the Bedells do. Kyndall keeps The Cat House Web site updated, runs the MySpace page, takes photos of the cats, helps with TCH events and designs brochures and flyers. Vicky sews catnip sticks.



Kyndall and Doug Bedell with Silky and Rocky

Doug helps sell cat beds and catnip sticks at the Haymarket Farmer's Market and has staffed other TCH events. Doug and Kyndall also have recruited new volunteers. In addition, the family is fostering Rocky, a big blue-and-white cat who stopped eating at The Cat House. They fed him through a tube and later a syringe before discovering he LOVED chicken. Rocky joined the family's own cats – Cali, Jack (who has his own video on YouTube), Jude and Betsy (both adopted from TCH) – and their dog, a pomapoo named Sammy.

When not doing TCH work, Doug sells coffee for Valley Vending Service, Vicky and Brittany work with developmentally disabled people at Region V Services and Kyndall is a graphic designer with Lancaster House Printing, which is soon to become Printing Plus.



Cheera asking to be petted



Cheera enjoying a tummy rub



Cheera taking in the sunset



To our beloved soul kitty, Cheera:

We hope your spirit is chasing colorful butterflies with other sweet kitties in a green meadow filled with flowers;
 We hope you drink from beautiful clean and crisp streams;
 We hope there are many sweet children and kitties in whose love you bask, who give you affection and brush your chin;
 We hope you have a special place where you nap and enjoy the bright sunshine with all your new friends;

We hope you have as much fresh chicken as you want;
 We hope you are content and your silky fur and face is warm from lying in the sun;
 We hope you are happy like you always were and that you know no sadness and have no unmet needs;
 We hope your purr is as loud and strong as when we met you and when you transitioned;
 We hope we make you proud and continue to purr through adversity;

You are a healing spiritual messenger from the Divine and we feel honored and blessed to have had you in our lives. Until we meet again, little one, we will remember and dream of your purr, your gentleness, your grace, kindness, forgiveness and zest for life. Thanks for loving us, sweet girl. Just like our favorite song, you will forever be our sunshine.

Your purring family forever,
Vanessa, Kevin, Ethan, Shadow and Pierre Ruser

P.S. Thanks for bringing your spiritual brother Pierre aka Tea Pot into our lives. He wishes he had met you in this life. We love you and miss you.

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 cats 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.

Santa Claws Photos	Seward Craft Show
PetSmart at 5200 N 27 St Saturday, December 6 Sunday, December 21 PetSmart at 2801 Pine Lake Rd Sunday, December 7 Saturday, December 20	Seward County Fairgrounds North 14th Street Seward, NE November 15 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Youngers Community Days	
Saturday November 15 th starting at 6:00 a.m. The \$5 coupon books are available now and contain many coupons for great discounts that day.	

Second Chance for Love

Written by Martha Stoddard

Want to give your cat some national publicity and help The Cat House at the same time? Enter the Hill's 2008 Second Chance Contest, sponsored by the company that makes Science Diet pet food.

To enter, you must write a short essay containing between 50 and 150 words or submit a video clip less than 30 seconds long which describes how you and your adopted or rescued pet gave each other a second chance for love. A photo of your pet is encouraged but not required.

Contest winners will receive prizes for themselves and their pets. They will also win donations from Hill's to the animal shelter they designate. Top prize is a VIP photo shoot in New York City with a professional pet photographer and a \$10,000 donation to the shelter.

For contest rules, go to: www.hillspet.com. But hurry, the final deadline is Nov. 4.

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 or 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. Facility maintenance
4. Transport cats
5. Newsletter committee
6. Adoption counselor
7. Adoption follow-up
8. Fund-raising committee
9. Photography



A Tribute to Susan Merrill

One of the TCH volunteers recognized in the April 2008 newsletter was Susan Merrill. It was with great sadness that we learned of Susan's death in July. Susan was a very special person, and her acts of kindness and dedicated service will never be forgotten by her friends at The Cat House. Below is a tribute to Susan from Faye Stevens, President of The Cat House.

Susan Merrill was one of the most unselfish people I have ever known. In spite of the health issues she faced, I never heard her complain. She always seemed to be in good humor and had a great sense of humor. Susan cheerfully took on work for The Cat House, without any expectation of thanks or recognition. Many times, I'd find out that she had spent entire days at Q St, filing, doing laundry, and spending time with the cats. Or a set of shelves would magically become organized. No one asked Susan to do these things - she would just see that something needed to be done and do it. For many months, even while hospitalized, Susan was our one-and-only catnip stick stuffer. On top of this, I doubt a week went by that Susan didn't come up with some new idea about how we could improve things for the cats. And that's what it was all about for Susan - helping the cats. Over the years, she fostered many cats and kittens, including socializing several ferals.

Our hearts go out to the family - two-legged and four-legged - that Susan leaves behind.

Donations In Memory & In Honor Of

In memory of Kenneth Liggett, an ardent cat lover, from Mrs. J K Miller, Anna Mary York, Laurie & John Tavlin, Karen & James Schurr, Richard & Joan Waller, Sylvan & Ina Sivits Luhning, Elmer & Janice Miller, Bev Parrish, Joel & Jerlene Mosley, Herbert Howe, Twila Liggett, MJ Stanley, Katherine Speicher, Pam Koepping, Jennifer Johannes, Dr. Rebecca Arnold, Dr. Shelley Knudsen, and the staff of All Feline Hospital, and the St. Elizabeth Wound Center Staff who wrote "many of Ken's clients found comfort in Ken's special friends...cats!"

In memory of Tori Ann from Alma Vlasak

In memory of Sandra Kay Lieske from Lowell Brown

In memory of Ron Preston from Terry & Diane Peirce and Mr. & Mrs. Harry Millsap

In memory of Doris Jorn

In memory of her cat Buzz from Cherie Thiel

In memory of Myrna Warren from Gargean Barber

In honor of her friend Pat McCauley in lieu of exchanging birthday gifts from Kathy Koboren

In memory of her friend Jean Hartnett's cat "Beppo" who is dearly missed by Angie Zmarzly

In memory of her mother, Mary Kathryn Matkin, who would be happy to know money is being used to improve the lives of animals from Gina Matkin

In memory of Harold and Erma Jahn from Alma Vlasak

In memory of Amy Leavitt who loved cats from Katie & Amos Joseph, Mike & Kim Morris, Box Awesome, Lucinda Zmarzly, Paul Stanfield, Gregory Lucchesi, Vanessa Robertson, Members of A "Girl Named Captain", Phyllis Cohn, Shannon Helms, Thomas Stavros, Fine Pueblo Pottery, and David Cavalier

In honor of Beth Boal from Nancy & Delbert Boal

In memory of Susan Merrill from Lowell Brown

In memory of Marilyn Wilhelms from Jean & David Lake

In memory of Cheera from Kevin Ruser and Vanessa Pertusa

In memory of Rosie and thanks to All Feline from Roma Reeves

In memory of Dale Nelson from Dr. Rebecca Arnold, Dr. Shelley Knudsen, and the staff of All Feline Hospital

In memory of Mary Matkin from Betty James and Lisa Betts

In memory of Hugo from Sue Harrold

In memory of Doris Jorn from Betty Lee Spiedell

In memory of Ron Preston from Patricia Stone, Connie Gaskill, Ernie & MaryLou Wilson, Jim & Marcia Summers, Jan & Bob Hein, Gary, Marjie & Matt White, Robert & Carole Dreher, Linda & Jerry Nelson, Olga Nielsen, Edna Ficken, Wanola Myers, Barb & Kim Baumert, Wanda Sabotka, Larry Stuchlik, Roger & Pat Standage, Jay Staley, Larry Laux, Dick Wenske, Brenda Clonch, Randall & Dana Hein, Tom, Laura & Katie Preston, John, Tonja, JW & Anna Bohling, Ed & Betty Kohout, Carl & Sue Newsome, and Jan Preston

Special thanks to....

**Dr. Shelley Knudsen from All Feline Hospital
for donating her time to make onsite vet visits twice a month.**

These Wonderful Kitties Are Looking For Forever Homes			
			
Baby Doll	Goldie	Minnie	Sterling

Visit our shelter at 1935 Q Street on Tuesday and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. and Sundays from 1:30 - 4 p.m. You may also visit TCH kitties at the PetSmart adoption centers located at 5200 N. 27th Street and (NEW!) 2801 Pine Lake Road.

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 C/D (sold through vet clinics)

Canned Cat Food:

Iams – any non-seafood flavor
Fancy Feast – any non-seafood flavor
Science Diet A/D (sold through vet clinics)
Science Diet R/D (sold through vet clinics)
Science Diet C/D (sold through vet clinics)
Science Diet Kitten Food (sold at Petco and PetSmart)

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
Dawn 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
Small Paper or Styrofoam Bowls
Fragrance free dryer sheets (for sensitive skin)

Miscellaneous:

Stainless steel non-tip food/water bowls
Meat flavored baby food (chicken, turkey, beef, or ham)

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:



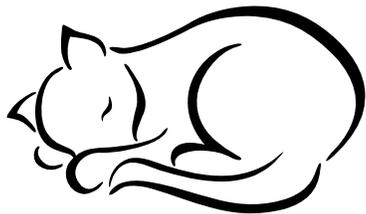
- \$10
- \$20
- \$25
- \$30
- \$40
- Other \$ _____

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.

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 copies of The Cat House Chronicles to your e-mail address instead of mailing you a printed copy; rest assured though, if you do not have access to a computer, we will continue to send the newsletter to you by mail!

If we can discontinue sending you a paper copy of The Cat House Chronicles and instead send your copy of the newsletter to your e-mail address, please send your name, home address, and e-mail address to info@thecathouse.org. Please use "Newsletter" as the subject of the e-mail.



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