

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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Tracy Gillam,  
John Birdsall  
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## FEATURED CATS

Foley & Mimi  
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## CALI'S COLUMN

TCH elder, Cali, shares  
her wisdom.  
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# THE CAT HOUSE Scoop

VOLUME NO. 15 | ISSUE NO. 1 | SPRING 2015



## ADOPTION FACILITY

1935 Q Street  
*Moving to 3633 "O" Street (May 2015)*  
Lincoln, NE  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 6–8 pm  
Sundays 1:30–4 pm

PO Box 23145  
Lincoln, NE 68542  
Hotline: 402-441-9593  
[info@thecathouse.org](mailto:info@thecathouse.org)  
[www.thecathouse.org](http://www.thecathouse.org)  
[facebook.com/thecathouse](https://facebook.com/thecathouse)

## BOARD MEMBERS

Faye Stevens *President*  
Julie Dahlke *Treasurer*  
Jeanné Lillich *Recording Secretary*  
Belinda Gillam *Director*  
Suzie Meierdierks *Director*  
Alma Vlasak *Director*  
Laura Wong *Director*

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

## Thinking outside the box

By Ann Adams

Around 10 percent of cats experience litter box issues at some point in their lives. These issues can be frustrating for cat owners and represent a major reason why people give up their cats. But with a little patience and detective work, almost all litter box problems can be resolved.

Litter box problems commonly signify health and/or emotional problems in cats. If your cat is going outside the box, you should begin with a vet visit. Cats are not likely to want to use a litter box if they begin to associate it with pain. Your vet will be able to identify or rule out such things as bladder stones, crystals, infection, or inflammatory bowel disease that might be causing your cat pain during elimination. Once your cat has been given a clean bill of health, it's time to start taking a closer look at the actual litter and litter box you are using.

Take a look at the box itself. Watch your cat as it uses the box. Take notice of how the size and design of the box is or isn't working for your cat. Big cats and cats with long hair may not like covered litter boxes. These can make them feel cramped, trapped, and uncomfortable. The simple act of removing the lid can help some cats feel more comfortable using the box.

*Continued on page 3*

## Men who build for cats

By Martha Stoddard

Steve, Tracy, and John already have their all-the-construction-is-done, the-cats-are-moved, and the-old-building-is-cleaned-out party planned. When that day comes, they will deserve every bit of celebration.

The three have been there every step of the way as The Cat House transformed the ordinary office building at 3633 "O" St. into a beautiful, new shelter. They have spent thousands of hours on the project, including almost every weekend for the better part of a year and several vacation days from their regular jobs.

Steve Hankins got into the renovation project because he was the building coordinator at the Q Street shelter. He said he offered to help when TCH bought the new building, not realizing the job would entail gutting the building and constructing all new rooms.

"There's other things a guy could do, but this has to be done for the sake of the cats," Steve said. "When it gets done, the cats are going to enjoy it because of the windows. The people are going to enjoy it because it's better laid out, it's going to be easier to clean."

*Continued on page 2*

# 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](http://www.thecathouse.org), come in during open hours to fill out an application, or e-mail at [volunteer@thecathouse.org](mailto:volunteer@thecathouse.org).

You're in for a rewarding experience!

## Opportunities to help include:

- Care, feeding, exercising, and socializing of cats
- Laundry
- Facility maintenance
- Newsletter articles, photography, and production
- Assisting with communication to volunteers and/or the public
- Adoption counselor
- Post-adoption follow-up calls
- Filing
- Grant writing
- Fundraising
- Data entry
- Retail events
- Feral/TNR program

## Building

*Continued from page 1*

Other volunteers describe Steve as a dedicated, knowledgeable, and patient crew chief – and a pretty good grill master when lunchtime rolls around. Steve has volunteered for more than a decade at TCH and is married to the current president, Faye Stevens. He works as a mechanic at Apache Camper Center.

Tracy Gillam has been Steve's right-hand man when it comes to maintaining the Q Street shelter. So, when Steve agreed to work on the renovation project, Tracy was right there with his trademark overalls and extensive set of handyman skills.

He has been a TCH volunteer for about five years now and is married to board member Belinda Gillam. He works as a grain handler for AGP.

John Birdsall has been a friend of TCH for years, along with his wife, Jeannie. He offered to help with renovation work after the building was purchased "and it just snowballed," he said.

John wound up helping with tearing down old walls, pulling up carpet, drywalling,



John



Steve

© Essence in a Flash by Kimberly McCarty

repairing walls, removing tile, sanding, and anything else that needs to be done. As a retiree from the National Weather Service, he asked: "What else am I going to do? Play golf?"

If all goes as planned, work on the new shelter will wrap up and the cats will move to their new digs near the end of April. But volunteers will be needed to help finish the construction work, move cats and supplies, and clear out the Q Street building. People interested in helping should send an email to [info@thecathouse.org](mailto:info@thecathouse.org) or stop in at 1935 Q St. during open hours (Sunday 1:30-4 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 6-8 p.m.). To check progress on the building and the move, visit the TCH website ([www.thecathouse.org](http://www.thecathouse.org)) or the Facebook page ([facebook.com/thecathouse](https://facebook.com/thecathouse)) or watch the Neighborhood Extra in the Saturday Lincoln Journal Star.

## Book review

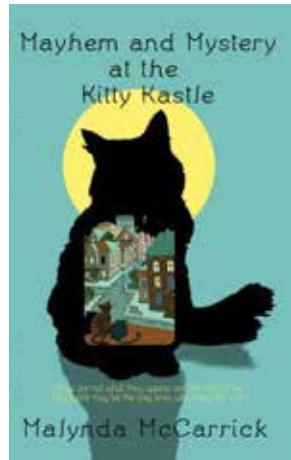
By Alma Vlasak

It was fate that brought The Cat House (TCH) and Malynda McCarrick aka Natalie Dorn to the 2014 CFA Hawkeye Cat Show in Altoona, Iowa.

The arrangement of vendors put TCH next to McCarrick as she made her books available to the public. Her fictional works meld mystery and the mystical with a little romance for good measure.

Afternoon conversations about TCH and our mission led to McCarrick taking an interest in our no-kill cat shelter and the work we do here in Lincoln.

As we joked about, "you should write a book about us," little did we know that the 2015 publication of "Mayhem and Mystery



at the Kitty Kastle" would be the result.

This quirky cat-centered mystery takes place in an old house that has been renovated for local rescue cats. The mystery starts with the discovery of large amounts of money appearing in their bank account, new monogrammed cat toys appearing over night, and passageways that don't go anywhere.

This novelette is a fun read which the author dedicated "... to the tireless workers at The Cat House in Lincoln, Nebraska."

Copies of the books are available at TCH and will be at some retail events.

## Happy Tails Stats

Here are the number of cats adopted in recent months.

October	20
November	27
December	24
January	33
February	42
March	19

# Donations in memory & honor of...

## In memory of

Fluffy from Rita Vyhildal  
Melanie Koch from Dale Brittenham  
Sammi from Lois Delashmutt  
Tyler Lynn from Victoria Rasmussen Hughes  
Charlotte from Robin Criter  
Wanda M. Lillich from her daughter, Jeanné Lillich  
Vincent, formerly P.W. from the Penthouse, from Kandra Hahn  
Hastings, Joan & Lyall Luff's much-beloved 14-year-old cat, from Anne Bruce  
Ann Youngberg McFall from Rachelle Kucera  
Frankie from Scott Mahoney  
Patricia Rader from Deborah Kuhnlein  
Karen Cook from Joan Luff  
Mia from Harry & Wanda Drake  
Myoki from Marcia & Cyril Leise  
Meeka from Cherie Thiel  
Eliza from Wendy Bonaiuto  
Oscar from Donna & Bryan Meismer  
Toby Lou from Francis & LaVance Weakland  
Kathy Owen from Sarah Walker  
Tiger, Buffy from Constance Bundy  
Pumpkin from Raymond Supalla

Sophie from Anita Friehe

Mia & Cuddles from Denise Wiemer  
Miss Kitty from Donna Giebelhaus  
Dobie from Daniel Shattil  
Scott Hawks  
Jay Fremont from Jerald Connot, Molly Klocksin, Marta Elena Gasper, Robert Davis, Cynthia Stryker, & Marilyn Garrett  
Bud from Faye Stevens

## In honor or celebration of

Zoey Moezer from Cheryl Nelson  
Belinda & Tracy Gillam from Edgar & Rebecca Cahoon  
Wick Center cat Meaghan & her person Norma from Edgar & Rebecca Cahoon  
Leah Keralis from Sari Medrano  
Patti & Peter Rohman & family & John & Melissa Pedersen from Theresa Wagner  
Fred Rickers from his wife, Margaret Rickers  
Karen Underwood, Gail Schraeder, & all TNR volunteers from Danielle Tjaden  
Harold Hull & Karen Isaacs from Jeanie & Randy Steinkuhler  
Margaret & Fred Rickers from Victoria Keck  
Emily Burbach from Steve Burbach  
Barbara from Sarah Gibson

Melba Stemm from Rhonda Walter  
Klaus Szydlowski from Christine Nelson  
Bobbie Abbott from Darren Abbott  
Silky from Don Wendling

Faye Stevens from Sharon Stevens  
Dori Bush from Matthew Bush  
Mary Chaffin from Brian Chaffin  
Beppo from Elinor Nevin  
Dianne Logan from JK Miller  
Little Man from Barbara Bodfield  
Wesley & Shadow Botham from Sarah Fanning  
Kim Huerta from Dorothy Neill  
Auggie from William Curry

## Special thanks to

Dr. Kelly Jordan  
All Feline Hospital  
Wachal Pet Health Center  
Vondra Veterinary Clinic  
Pitts Veterinary Hospital  
Schaefer's  
Cause For Paws  
Nature's Variety  
Petco  
PetSmart

## Litter box

*Continued from page 1*

Older cats sometimes stop using the litter box because it becomes hard for them to get in and out of the box. If your cat is getting older, it may need to switch to a shallower, more easily accessible box. You should also consider the location of the box in your home. Make sure that it is in a location where the cat will always have easy access to it. Automated litter boxes may seem like a nice feature for humans, but the noise and occasional malfunction of them can be a terrifying experience for a cat that can lead to a negative association.

If the box itself does not seem to be the source of your cat's problem, focus in on your choice of litter. Cats have a very keen sense of smell and litters that are heavily perfumed or dusty can be a real turn off for them. Try switching to a natural litter that does not rely on artificial means to mask litter box odors. Liners can be another factor inside the litter box that can be a source of annoyance for your cat. If you notice

that your cat is ripping the liner or getting its claws stuck in it, try removing the liner and placing the litter directly into the box.

It is important to scoop your cat's litter box regularly. Some cats prefer it scooped multiple times a day. For others, it is better to make sure that you are not hyper scooping the box. You should also avoid scrubbing the box out too often. Cats do not think their poop and pee smell bad, in fact they are important smells for a cat to experience inside their own litter box. Poop and pee are signifiers of ownership for cats and thus, their litter boxes are hugely territorial spaces. If you have multiple cats in your home, you should have one litter box per cat plus one additional box as a general rule.

The feel of the litter can also have an impact on whether or not your cat will use its litter box. Cats that have been declawed sometimes find the hard, jagged crystal litters to be painful to use. Opting for a softer litter can ease this discomfort. Lastly, the level of litter

may need to be altered. Having too much or too little litter in the box can have an impact on your cat's comfort. Adjust the levels until you determine your cat's preference.

If the box and the litter do not seem to be the issue, try focusing on the emotional needs of your cat. Has there been a change in your household that caused the litter box issues to surface? Is your cat getting enough attention and activity? Taking time to focus on the emotional needs of your cat can go a long way toward correcting litter box issues if they are more behavioral than situational. Devoting regular quality time to your cat can refocus the bond that your cat feels with you as well as the level of comfort they experience in your home.

There is not always a simple or quick solution to litter box issues. It can take a lot of trial and error to get it right. It's important to devote time, space, and consideration to the cats that share your home with you. It might take thinking both inside and outside of the box, but litter box issues can be corrected.

# Calendar of Events

## Garage Sale & Bake Sale

**April 10** / 9 am-6 pm

**April 11** / 9 am-3 pm

The Cat House, 1935 Q Street

## Catsino Night

**May 2** / Starting at 6:30 pm

Scottish Rite Temple, 16th & L Streets  
Fundraiser for The Cat House.

## Open House at New TCH Building

**TBA**

The Cat House, 3633 "O" Street

Show new TCH facilities.

## Cats & Crafts Sessions

**Dates TBA**

The Cat House, 3633 "O" Street  
(new address)

Check the TCH Facebook page for info.  
Fundraiser and education for TCH.

## Give to Lincoln Day

**May 28** / Midnight-11:59 pm

[givetolincoln.razoo.com](http://givetolincoln.razoo.com)

## Adopt-a-Cat Month

**June**

The purr-fect month to find your new  
furry forever friend.

## Wine & Howl

**June 6** / 11 am-5 pm

Deer Springs Winery, east of Lincoln  
Fundraiser for Lincoln Animal  
Ambassadors.

TCH will have a vendor booth.

## Haymarket Farmer's Market

**Saturdays, June 27-August 1**

8 am-Noon

TCH volunteers will be selling cat beds,  
catnip sticks, and other items.

## Streets Alive

**September 20** / 1-5 pm

29th & Holdrege, Clinton Elementary area

## Meow & Chow

**October 17**

Scottish Rite Temple, 16th & L Streets  
Fundraiser for TCH and Lincoln Animal  
Ambassadors.

# give To Lincoln Day May 28, 2015

The fourth annual Give to Lincoln Day will be held Thursday, May 28, by the Lincoln Community Foundation.

This event has become an important source of funds for The Cat House and is an excellent way for people to support Lincoln's no-kill cat shelter.

The Lincoln Community Foundation initiated this event as a way to raise money and increase new donor participation for non-profits in and around Lincoln.

The funds raised during this event go to help defray the cost of spay/neuters, other medical and dental work provided to the cats, and general expenses. This year funds will help us with the many costs associated with getting our new shelter at 3633 "O" Street up and running.

Plan to give and make 2015 the best year yet for your TCH feline friends.

## Catnip stix, pet beds, and carrier liners!

To purchase, stop by the shelter,  
or call the hotline at 402-441-9593.



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 [info@thecathouse.org](mailto:info@thecathouse.org).

### DRY CAT FOOD

- Any dry cat food
- Royal Canin Baby Cat
- Science Diet Original, W/D, R/D, C/D Calm or K/D\*
- Purina NF\*

### CANNED CAT FOOD

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

### CLEANERS

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

\*sold at vet clinics

### 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
- Large trash bags (*heavy duty*)
- Kitchen and office size trash bags
- Copier/printer paper

### MISCELLANEOUS

- Shallow, stainless steel food/water bowls, 16 oz or larger, with a wide bottom and low sides to accommodate whiskers!
- Meat flavored baby food (*chicken, turkey, beef, ham*)
- Small chenille or cotton reversible bath rugs (*no rubber backs*)
- Rotating teeth combs for cats
- "Slicker" brushes for cats
- Pet carriers, hard plastic with metal doors
- Large litter boxes without covers
- Aluminum trays (*no smaller than 8"x13"*)
- Lint rollers
- FortiFlora® Feline Nutritional Supplement

# Foley

By Jordan A. Blenner

Popular with the ladies, there may not be a more charismatic gentleman (cat-wise) at TCH than dashing Foley. With his beautiful, thick, medium-length locks, this buff colored guy's sweet demeanor has won him many admirers within TCH. Foley is also quite charming, especially in the summer-time when he gets a cool, lion haircut. Once the extra fur is gone, Foley likes to strut!

Born in May 2005, Foley was one of three kittens that came from Beatrice to TCH in mid-August. Twelve days later, Foley was adopted. In May 2013, Foley was returned to TCH because his guardian had passed away. Ever the resilient feline, Foley has adapted well to life at TCH. Foley can be found in one of the individual areas at the TCH shelter.

Foley can be a real showman. When given the area to run around, Foley shows off his fast moves, jumping after toys and flying through the air. Although older than the other residents in the current "teenager" room, Foley teaches the young cats how to let loose. Although he is both playful and curious, Foley also enjoys spending quiet time with human companions, being petted and combed. During these quiet moments, this handsome cat shows his gentle side.

Given his age, this king of a cat may do best in a one-cat household. Sweet and curious, majestic, yet playful, Foley provides hours of entertainment to his human companions, while filling their hearts with love. Now, this regal feline only needs to find the right castle to call his fur-ever home.



# Mimi

By Jordan A. Blenner

A patch tabby with tons of torti-tude, Mimi is a cat who knows what she wants. Described by Gail and Julie, two caretakers in the Penthouse, as sweet, strong, and sassy, Mimi loves to cuddle with her human companions--to a point. But when she has had enough petting, she will be the first to let her human friends know it!

Born in September 2007, Mimi was one of 12 cats TCH took in from one location in Lincoln in August 2011. Thinking to ease the stress of moving, TCH volunteers paired Mimi with one of her fellow cats from that

location. It was then that Mimi asserted her famous feisty side, hissing and swatting at her roommate. Volunteers quickly decided that, perhaps, Mimi would be happiest in her own room in the Penthouse. When TCH moves to its new O Street location, Mimi will again have her own room with a window to the outside world and one in the door so she can people watch.

No matter what is going on in the Penthouse, Mimi wants in on the action. In fact, she often wants to "help" with various TCH chores. According to Gail, when TCH volunteers stuff catnip sticks at the tables outside of Mimi's room, Mimi will pick up her favorite red mouse toy with her mouth and pace back and forth, waiting to join in the fun.

Although she loves people, Mimi would probably do best in a home where she is the only cat, as she tends to ignore or hiss at other cats. In addition, she has feline leukemia (FeLV), which also means a one-cat household would be best. As a cat that is not afraid of anything, Mimi has won the hearts of the Penthouse volunteers. With her dynamic personality, it's only a matter of time before she wins yours!

*Cats with FeLV have a compromised immune system, which puts them at risk of developing other illnesses, but with proper care, the disease can be managed and cats can live many healthy years. FeLV is incurable and can be transmitted to other cats through prolonged exposure to saliva and other body fluids.*

## These cats are looking for forever homes.

Visit our shelter 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.



Atticus – 6 years



Samantha – 8 years



Oreo – 12 years



Diesel – 7 years



Noisy – 2 years



Little Nell – 2 years



Julius (FIV+) – 2 years

# Litter box detectives hit the mark with Chloe

By Ann Adams

Bob and Val Nickell visited The Cat House in February 2014 after losing their cat. They were drawn to two cats, Jag and Chloe. While going through the adoption process, they were told both Jag and Chloe had tendencies to urinate outside of their litter boxes. The Nickells were not dissuaded, instead, they decided to bring home both cats. Because of Chloe's history, they took her as a foster cat at first, with hopes of adopting her later. TCH staff encouraged them with tips and suggestions for prevention and cleanup.

Bob and Val took extra care when introducing the two cats to their home, which also includes a large, friendly dog. Even though their dog was very pleased to have cats back in the house, they wanted to make sure the cats didn't feel cornered or intimidated by the dog. Jag and Chloe were given their own room with a baby gate to keep the dog out, while allowing them to come and go as they pleased. Jag was settled in after a few days, but Chloe took a bit longer.

Upon the suggestion of TCH volunteers, the Nickells placed a shower curtain and a blanket underneath the litter boxes to keep any urine from soaking into their carpet. They were very glad to have been given this tip, because they did begin to find urine

spots on the blanket daily. Initially, they had three litter boxes set out for Jag and Chloe to use. Two of the boxes were tall and open, and one was covered. They even tried using different types of litter in the various boxes.

One day, Val discovered a gap in the back of the covered litter box that urine was able to pass through. Jag is a tall cat, and it appeared that when he was using the covered box, his urine was hitting the lid and running out the back. Val sealed the gap by taping a strip of plastic to the lid. She thought she might have solved the problem, but unfortunately she had only solved Jag's issue. It was going to require additional sleuthing to get to the bottom of Chloe's litter box issues.

The Nickells diligently scooped litter boxes and kept the area around the boxes clean and free from the smell of urine. They tried numerous products to attract Chloe to the boxes. They turned to Jackson Galaxy's show *My Cat From Hell* for tips and suggestions. They began closing the blinds in the cat room in case Chloe was seeing outside animals and getting intimidated. They also tried using different levels of litter in the boxes. Finally, Val caught Chloe in the act of peeing on the blanket and hurriedly placed her in a nearby litter box. Chloe refused to finish peeing in the box.

Val began consulting with Dr. Kelly Jordan when she was at TCH, and eventually Chloe was prescribed amitriptyline for anxiety. The Nickells saw an improvement with the medication, and Chloe's accidents were reduced to a few times a week. The Nickells were encouraged but wanted total success for Chloe. They consulted their regular vet, who had hired a cat behaviorist. She recommended they dedicate at least 15 minutes a day to rigorous play with Chloe. The idea was that perhaps peeing on the floor was Chloe's way of being ornery due to feeling bored and not fully accepted in her new family.

In October 2014, Chloe was down to taking only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a tablet of amitriptyline. She became more energetic and affectionate. The Nickells continued with the daily play and introduced brushing. Chloe soon began using the litter box more regularly and was taken off amitriptyline completely at the end of January 2015. She is now using her litter box and has not had an accident since December 2014. With their success, the Nickells finally made official what they had wanted from the beginning – they adopted Chloe. The Nickells are very glad that Chloe has finally accepted them as her family and feels comfortable and loved enough to use her litter box.



## Lincoln's Choice Awards 2015: TCH receives Honorable Mention

The Lincoln Journal Star recently posted the 4th annual results for the Lincoln's Choice Awards. In January people had an opportunity to nominate their choices for 2015, with the top five finalists in 79 categories advancing for voting by the public. The survey, which was administered by a third party, resulted in The Cat House being given Honorable Mention or third place in the charity/non-profit category. Capitol Humane Society placed first, and The People's City Mission was runner up.



TCH is especially grateful for the support we have had as Lincoln's no-kill cat shelter. Since the opening of our first shelter in 2003, we have continued to operate as an all volunteer, non-profit organization.

# Creative TCH fundraising efforts by local organizations

The New Year started with new friends coming forward to help the cats at TCH by raising money. The projects undertaken by various groups provides much needed revenue for TCH, as well as giving TCH volunteers an opportunity to educate young people about cats and their care.

## Rad Katz Raffle

The Kooser Destination ImagiNation team under the tutelage of Caitlin Leuenberger, Creative Expressions Teacher, developed a service-learning project in February, which included the four fundamental skills taught and practiced in creative expressions. Skills emphasized are creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration.

The team organized the Rad Katz Raffle, which was held in conjunction with the Kooser Pancake Feed. The team raised

\$305 for TCH. Members of the Kooser Destination ImagiNation team are enrolled in third through fifth grades and include Jake Dunn, Daniel Brinkman, Greta Zastrow, Hana Mengiste, Katelyn Titsworth, Garret Carter, and Colby Morse.

Maurice Titsworth, parent, serves with Leuenberger as a team coach.

## Girl Scout Troop 20082

Another group that recently partnered with TCH to help educate and inform people about TCH was Girl Scout Troop 20082, which consists of seven girls and their leader, Jessikah Gilmore, from Lincoln.

The troop's first joint venture with TCH was selling cookies at the February garage sale at 1935 Q St. Proceeds from the sale of cookies at the event were donated to further The Cat House mission.

# Adopt me!



## Cali's column

Dear Cali:

I make sure my family is always ready in case the worst happens. We do fire drills every month. My kids know how to stop, drop, and roll. My car is stocked with blankets, flares, and emergency candy in case we get stuck in the snow. We have food, water, and first aid supplies stored in case of a blizzard or flood or terrorist attack. We keep mattresses and a weather radio ready in the basement if a tornado threatens. But I'm worried. What should I do for my cats? How do I make sure I can save them?

Signed, Like to be prepared



Dear Stressed:

You are quite right to worry about your cat. In fact, the proper order of procedure in any calamity is to save the cats first. Once that's taken care of, then you can worry about saving the women and children.

Regrettably, so many humans give little thought to how they can secure their own survival in case of disaster, let alone the comfort and well-being of their cats. I am heartened to hear you are not one of those unfortunates. I will give you some basic advice and direct you to some sources for more information.

- Most importantly, make a plan before disaster strikes.
- Think about where you might go that will take animals if you have to leave home.
- Get your cat microchipped for identification. Alert the microchip company if you get separated from your cats.
- Find a friend, family member, or neighbor who can rescue your animals if you are not home when they need evacuation.
- Get a rescue alert sticker for your door listing the number of cats inside your home.

- Assemble emergency supplies, including food, water, litter, and medications.
- Have a carrier for each cat, as they may be stressed and may not get along with their usual companions.
- Make sure your name and contact number are on each carrier.
- Leave the carriers out where the cats can get used to them well before they need to use them.
- Be aware that frightened or hurt cats can be aggressive, even if they are not that way normally.
- Know your cats' likely hiding spots if you need to find them in a hurry.
- If your cats go outside, bring them inside before bad weather hits. Practice getting them into your tornado-safe area.
- Remember that if it is not safe for you to stay in your home, it is not safe for your cats. Evacuate early to avoid problems.

Several organizations have more information and tips about disaster preparedness for pets. Check out: [www.aspca.org/pet-care/disaster-preparedness](http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/disaster-preparedness) or [www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal\\_rescue/tips/pets-disaster](http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal_rescue/tips/pets-disaster) or [www.ready.gov/caring-animals](http://www.ready.gov/caring-animals) or [www.avma.org/disaster](http://www.avma.org/disaster).

Sincerely, Cali



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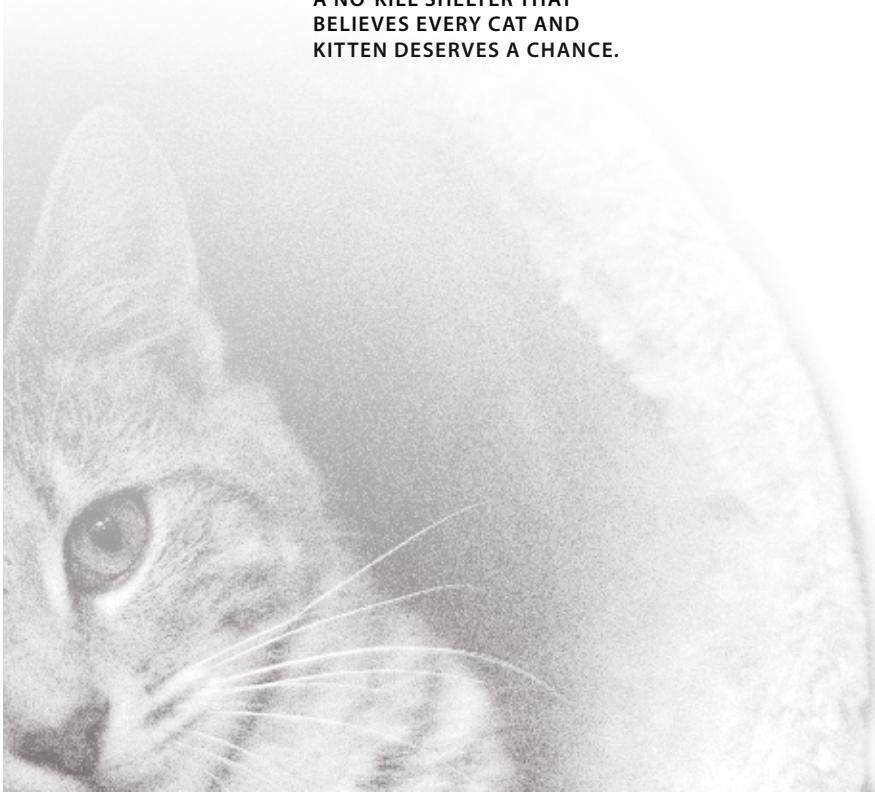


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The costs to operate the facility continue to grow. One way of reducing costs is to minimize mailing out to our supporters. We are, therefore, asking if we can send future issues of The Cat House Scoop to your email address instead of mailing you a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

The Cat House needs your support so we can continue helping oureline 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!