

**VOLUNTEER
SPOTLIGHT**
Wayne & April
PAGE 2



FEATURED CATS
Lucy, Shyla & Butler
PAGE 5



CALI'S COLUMN
TCH elder, Cali,
shares her wisdom.
PAGE 7



THE CAT HOUSE Scoop

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VOLUME NO. 15 | ISSUE NO. 2 | FALL 2015



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

Nose prints and dishwashers: New TCH home pleases cats and people

By Martha Stoddard

The cat nose prints peppering the windows offer the first clue that The Cat House's new home has been a hit. The smudges are evidence that the cats have been busy watching cars and squirrels and flies and birds and people outside their windows. Only a handful of cats got to enjoy such views in the old building, which had few windows. Now almost all can watch the world go by or see daylight turning into night.



continued on page 3

Feline aggression

By Ann Adams

Cats have a reputation for being no-nonsense creatures, but when their general sense of superiority crosses the line to aggression, it can cause problems in your home. There are several types of aggression that cats can display, and it's a good idea to rule out any health issues that could be the underlying cause, especially if the behavior is a new one for your cat. Your vet can examine and test your cat and help you decide the best way to restore peace to your home, for the sake of you and your cat.

If your cat becomes aggressive during playtime, this is referred to as play aggression. Play aggression can usually be dealt with by changing the way you play with your cat. Using cat toys instead of your hands and feet will keep your cat from thinking of your limbs as toys that should be attacked for sport. Regular play with designated cat toys will keep your cat from becoming bored and understimulated, while strengthening the bond that you and your cat share. If your cat becomes aggressive during a play session, simply stop play and your cat will pick up the message that you do not want to play with it when it is acting aggressively. If your cat becomes aggressive at the end of a play session, try rewarding it with a treat to divert its aggression.

continued on page 6

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, come in during open hours to fill out an application, 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
- 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



Volunteer Spotlight: Wayne & April Skoda

By Jeff Kennedy

When a person visits The Cat House's new building to take a tour, they often remark on the high quality of craftsmanship in the shelter's rooms with the beautiful benches, the detail on the cats' shelves and the precise fit of the doors. The visitors become even more impressed when the tour guide tells them that all the skilled carpentry work was done by TCH volunteers. Much of that volunteer labor came from the creative minds and skilled hands of Wayne and April Skoda.

Wayne and April first heard about TCH from friends Matt and Megan Yank. The Yanks were active volunteers and had many good things to say about the volunteers and the shelter. So when Wayne and April decided it was time to adopt another cat, they came to The Cat House and adopted Manny ...then Guy ...then Mister.

Interested in giving back to the shelter,

Wayne learned that Matt had been building cat scratching posts and trees for TCH to sell. Wayne knew he could do that, too, having experience building things and doing construction projects. A meeting with TCH representatives to discuss the cat trees revealed there was an even greater need: the organization had purchased a new

building and was going to begin tearing down the inside structures to make way for the future home of TCH. So began the couple's first task—being a part of the demolition team.

April recalls, "It was a lot of work, but a lot of laughs. We made a lot of friends during those days."

The demolition was followed by installing drywall, building window ledges, installing screens, hanging doors and, of course, constructing and installing the beautiful benches in each of the cat rooms.

TCH President Faye Stevens said of the Skodas: "They never have an 'it's good enough quality for a cat shelter' attitude when they're constructing shelves and cabinets. While many carpenters might just



put a supposedly straight piece of countertop against a theoretically straight wall and fill in any irregularities with caulk, Wayne and April will scribe the countertop to precisely fit the wall. This is why the benches and countertops in the shelter look so great."

Wayne and April's creative thinking and problem solving also is on display in the creative layouts of food storage areas in both kitchens and the lower level bedding storage, as well as the scratching posts that double as shelf supports on interior windows.

As the project moved on, Wayne and April moved from task to task efficiently but with great precision. After the cats moved into the rooms, there was still much work to be done. Stevens noted that the couple take extra steps to keep cats comfortable while they are working in their rooms.

In fact, on more than one occasion, the two take small breaks from work to go interact with the cats. Wayne became buddies with Sally, and Frank and Mesa stole April's heart. When Frank and Mesa each were adopted, April bought purr pads to go with them so they could have something of The Cat House in their new homes.

April summarized the work as rewarding and part of a team effort. "I can think of no other volunteer organization in Lincoln or maybe Nebraska where the people put so much into it. The work done at The Cat House not only impacts the cats, but also the community. We are honored to be a part of it."

Happy Tails Stats

Here are the number of cats adopted in recent months.

April	19
May	25
June	13
July	25
August	39
September	30

Donations in memory & honor of...

In memory of

Jaz and Precious from Burdetta Thrapp
Archelle 'Shelly' Harrison from Tamisa Whitley
Jay Fremont from Dave Stryker and Marion and Mary Cosand
Mary Cox from Linda Wunderlich
Mary Mulligan from Phyllis Weisser, Jane Bromfield, George Mink, Anne Renner, Cindy Thomson, Karen Donnelson, Elizabeth Benson, Deb Hart, Sandra Dingman, Marion Mulligan, Rosemary Young, Greta Mulligan, Geraldine Draney, Joann Nelson, and Richard Fleming
Charlotte and Yellow Cat from Karen Lewis
Luetta Hurlbert from Pam Ackles
Elizabeth Lidie from Sally Fine
Phyllis Roth from Marvin Roth and Melissa Deloach
Marguerite Campbell from Barbara Kreifels and Carolyn Jones

Porsche from Denise Wiemer
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Robert White from Patty Zeleski
Donald Loyd Allen from Ryan Poyer, Dawn Smith, Judy Malisch, Beverly Mach, Miriam Weber, Jerris Schreiter, Gail Lanning, Donna Kolc, Mary Kay Gibson, Jennifer Griffin, Bonnie Trausch, and Judy Allen
Marianna Dvorak from Toni Boward, TMCO Inc., Michael and Mary Cords, Jody Dickerson, David and Lois Fisher, Gay Rogert, Dennis Duckworth, Nadine and Ronald Fricke, Richard and Vionne Fabricus, Carol Beem, Audra Cotton, and Cheryl and Edward Slavik

Kim Cummins from Rhonda Heiserman
Hugo Kaiser from Anna Pressler
Orlando from Analise Alloway
Kristi Czichotzki from Jan Zierott
Leonard Polivka from David Polivka

In honor of

Sara Voboril-Porte from Misty Petersen

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
Walmart

Thank You!

New TCH home

continued from page 1

But look and listen and other signs of success will show up. There's Mickey, calling for some of her special people. In the old place, she didn't have special people. Although she had a room to herself, she was unhappy with life in the shelter and everyone associated with it.

Now, she can enjoy private space without other cats getting right up in her face. And she's relaxed enough to start enjoying attention from select people.

Down the hall, Dumpling moves from window to door to window and back around to keep up with everything going on in the Green Unit. She's happier, with plenty to keep her interested and the other cats far enough across the hall so they don't annoy her. She's so happy, she permits people to pet her for longer.

Life in the Blue Unit is calmer than in the Penthouse area of the old shelter. Here, the rough, tough male cats, who had gotten infected with feline immunodeficiency



virus from fighting on the streets, can be separated. Rooms built to accommodate varying numbers of cats mean that friends can live together, while those who don't get along do not have to put up with each other.

The new building has been good for volunteers, too. The volunteer work areas are more spacious and pleasant. There are three dishwashers, instead of one, and laundry is easier to do with washers and dryers easily accessible. The office is outside of the cat areas, which should protect the computer, printer, and paperwork from dust, hair, chewing, and other hazards. A well-equipped vet room, with plenty of secure storage, is

making cat health care easier.

Faye Stevens, the TCH board president, said the new location along O Street has made The Cat House more visible to the community. More people learned about TCH because of news stories about the move. The number of visitors during open hours was higher than usual during the slow summer months and several cats have gotten new homes and families as a result. Among them are some with special needs, who had been overlooked before.

Calendar of Events

Sandhills Cat Club & Midland Cat Fanciers Cat Show

October 10 & 11

Ramada Plaza Hotel
3321 S. 72nd Street (72nd & Grover),
Omaha

Meow & Chow

October 17 / Doors open at 5 pm
Scottish Rite Temple, 16th & L Streets
Fundraiser for TCH and Lincoln Animal
Ambassadors

Granite City Dine & Donate

November 4 / 11 am–midnight
6150 'O' Street

St. Mark's Craft Show

November 14 / 9 am–4 pm
84th & Pioneers

PetSmart Charities Adoption Event

November 14 & 15
5200 North 27th Street

Seward Craft Show

November 21 / 9 am–3:30 pm
Seward County Fairgrounds

Cats N Crafts

TBA – December

Santa Photos at Petco

TBA – December

Lincoln Women's Expo

January 23, 2016 / 10 am–6 pm
January 24, 2016 / 10 am–5 pm
Lancaster Event Center



Thank you Lincoln!

give
To Lincoln Day
May 28, 2015

The fourth annual Give to Lincoln Day held May 28 was an exciting event for cats and volunteers alike at The Cat House (TCH). The organization received \$35,034 as a result of donor generosity.

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.

TCH also received a \$300 special prize during an hourly special drawing sponsored by Allstate.

This year TCH is especially grateful for this support as volunteers and contractors alike worked to complete the new building at 3633 "O" Street. The donated dollars transformed a tired office building into a vibrant, one-of-a-kind cat shelter. Thank you to all TCH donors and supporters for helping make this happen.

Plan to give next year and make 2016 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.

DRY CAT FOOD

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

CANNED CAT FOOD

- Science Diet or lams – kitten & adult – *turkey, chicken, salmon (ground or minced)*
- Fancy Feast – *turkey, chicken, salmon (Classic)*
- Science Diet A/D, M/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

- 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

Lucy

By Ann Adams

Lucy is a sweet red tabby with bright big eyes. She can be a little shy at first, but a bit of patience and love goes a long way with her. Lucy enjoys being talked to and petted. If you put your hand out and let her come to you, she will give you a sniff and allow you to shower her with some pets and praise.

Lucy recently lost her best friend, Ricky. The two of them were inseparable. Ricky had a heart murmur that shortened his life. When Ricky was sick, Lucy insisted on staying close by his side. Lucy was accustomed to always having her pal, Ricky, around, and she is going to need some extra love and support.

Lucy is still a youngster and would fit well into a family or home that would be willing to help her through her initial shyness. Lucy has a history of bonding well with other cats and would likely be a good fit in a multi-cat home. Everyone at The Cat House loves Lucy, and we're sure you will too.



Shyla & Butler

By Martha Stoddard



Butler and Shyla could be the stars of a romance novel. He would be the dark, handsome hero, tough on the outside, soft on the inside. She would be the beautiful heroine, nurturing but strong. They met at The Cat House four years ago.

He had a mysterious past, spent roaming the streets. She was rescued from an animal hoarder's home, along with 28 other cats. He was not wild enough to be considered feral but was very cautious around people. She was the mothering type, regularly taking other cats under her wing, including some youngsters who might be hers.

Neither will reveal how the romance began, but it soon became clear they were meant for each other. Shyla brought Butler out of his shell. Butler gave Shyla undivided devotion. Together, they are a model couple. The two of them would love to find a home but only if they can go together and only if they can find an understanding human.

Butler has feline immunodeficiency virus, or FIV, which weakens the immune system and makes cats more susceptible to infections and disease. With proper care, FIV-positive cats can live for many years without any signs of illness. Shyla has feline leukemia virus, or FeLV, another virus that weakens the immune system. Again, proper care can lengthen the life span of FeLV cats.

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.



Sugar – 7 years



Dolly – 15 years



Sunny – 4 years



Jack (FIV+) – 1 year



Maggie – 7 years



Katchu – 7 years



Mosley (FIV+) – 2 years



Monkey – 1 year

Feline aggression

continued from page 1

If your cat goes after people in an attempt to engage them in play, the use of a squirt bottle can train it to understand that this is not acceptable behavior.

Not all cats are the same, and they don't all enjoy being petted or handled in the same manner. If you find that your cat displays aggression when you pet or handle it in a certain way, you should stop. Take your cues from the cat, let it tell you where and when it likes to be petted, as well as when it has had enough. Petting-induced aggression can easily be avoided and eliminated when you learn and adhere to your cat's body language. Flattened ears and a rapidly twitching tail are key indicators that a cat does not want to be touched. Respecting your cat's boundaries will help eliminate petting induced aggression.

Many cats are fearful of going to the vet and can lash out during and after a vet visit. This is an example of fear aggression. This happens because the cat is fearful of the situation and is displaying aggression as a way of defending itself. Cats need to feel secure and in control of their surroundings. Fear aggression can occur at home as well. If you know that your cat is prone to fear

aggression in the home, it's a good idea to arrange your furniture in a way that allows for escape routes and hiding spots. In doing this, you are providing your fearful cat with a way to not feel trapped in a situation, whether by another animal or a person that they distrust. If the source of your cat's fear aggression is constant or ongoing, it is important you attempt to help your pet overcome this by eliminating the source of fear whenever possible. Putting high perches in place in your home can help your cat gain a sense of security and control over its environment.

Multi-cat households will sometimes experience dominance aggression, where one cat attempts to establish the alpha role. This can be very stressful for the cat that is on the receiving end of the aggression. If this is happening due to a new cat being introduced into the home, there is a chance that the aggression will subside once the cats get used to one another and settle into their roles. Ongoing dominance aggression can be cause for great concern and medication may be necessary, especially if the dominance aggression is having a negative impact on the life of the non-aggressive victim cat. In these

extreme cases, a vet can prescribe behavioral medication, like Prozac or Elavil, to reduce the aggressive behavior. These types of medications act as a mild sedative and may be a necessary form of treatment for cats that have displayed long-term, ongoing aggression.

You should never try to handle or grab a cat that is displaying aggression; instead it should be left alone. Shutting it in a room, away from stimulation for a period of time, will help it relax and be able to rejoin your home in a more peaceful mood. It is also important to remember that an aggressive cat is not a bad cat; rather it is a cat that requires a certain degree of understanding from the people it interacts with. If your cat is aggressive toward and fearful of strangers, try shutting it in a room away from unwanted company. Working to avoid instances of aggression will lead to a more happy and well-adjusted cat.

If you have any concerns about your cat's aggression, it is always best to speak with your vet, who can help you gain further insight into the source of the aggressive behavior and the steps you can take to curtail it.

Join TCH and Lincoln Animal Ambassadors at the 6th Annual Meow & Chow

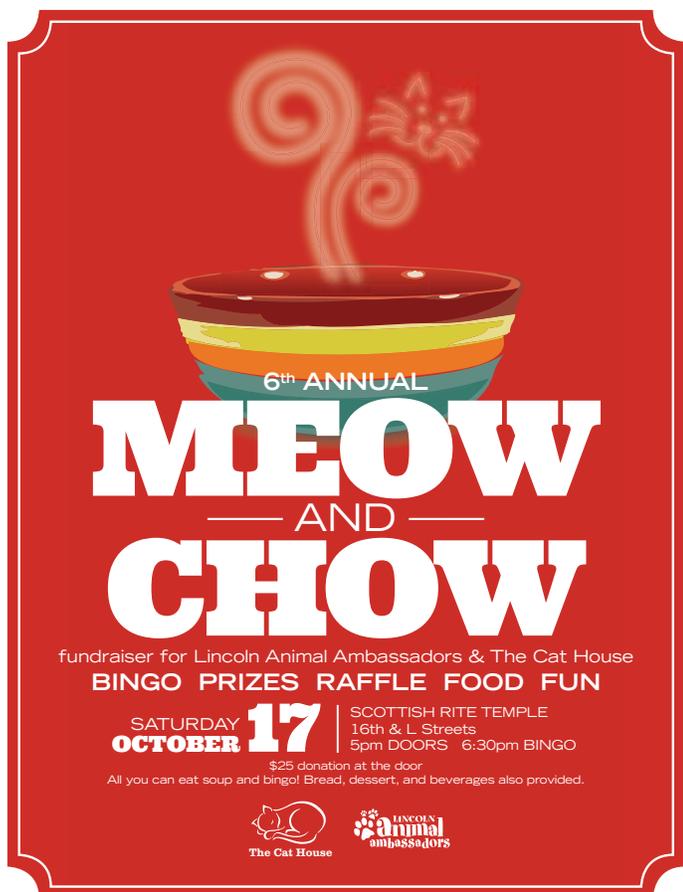
There's no better way to kick off fall, Halloween, and the start of the holiday season than with the sixth annual Meow and Chow.

This soup supper and bingo night put on by The Cat House (TCH) and Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA) benefits both non-profit organizations by providing much needed operating funds.

In addition to donated soups from various businesses, there will be bread, desserts, water, and beverages.

The raffle will feature grand prizes which include an iPad Air 2, 64 GB; Coach purse and wallet; a handmade cat design quilt; and two football tickets to the Nebraska vs. Iowa game along with Husker themed tailgate accessories.

Grand prize tickets will be sold in advance, and winners of the top four designated prizes need not be present to win.



6th ANNUAL
MEOW AND CHOW
fundraiser for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors & The Cat House
BINGO PRIZES RAFFLE FOOD FUN

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 17 | SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE
16th & L Streets
5pm DOORS 6:30pm BINGO

\$25 donation at the door
All you can eat soup and bingo! Bread, dessert, and beverages also provided.

The Cat House | LINCOLN animal ambassadors



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10 am–6 pm

Closed Sunday

The importance of microchips: Tony's story

By Jeff Kennedy

Carol Ringenberg is a strong proponent of microchipping cats. She has living evidence of the power of a microchip in the form of her cat Tony—a cat she didn't think she would ever see again.

Tony, a handsome Bengal, was adopted by Carol in 2011 when he was a kitten. His name at the shelter where she adopted him was Roy, but Carol decided to call him Tony. Tony's life was full of happy playtime and loving moments with his person, until a very cold winter day in late 2012/early 2013.

Carol traveled a lot for work. When she arrived home from one of these trips, she was unloading her car, making trips back and forth into the house. Sometime during one of those trips, Tony sneaked out the open door into the snowy winter evening. He had never been outside in the almost two years he had lived with Carol.

Carol noticed his absence from the home about an hour later. Alertly, she took all the right steps. She notified Animal Control, called neighbors, and reached out on social media. When the next day came and Tony hadn't showed up, Carol began a campaign to locate her beloved Bengal. She walked through the neighborhood several times a week, ran advertisements in local media, and even visited the Capital Humane Society to

see the deceased cats that had been brought in. No sign of Tony. He had disappeared.

Weeks turned into months and months turned into years with no sign of Tony. When Carol moved to her new townhouse in 2015, over two years since Tony vanished, she decided it was finally time to let him go. She collected his toys and donated them to Goodwill. She put away Tony's food and water dishes. Her only hope now was that he had found a home where he was safe and loved.

Then in August, just months after Carol had moved to her new home, a stray cat was found outside in Carol's former neighborhood by a friend of a Cat House volunteer. The cat came to TCH and that's when volunteer Tami Peshek used her training and experience to scan for a microchip. When she found a microchip, Tami contacted the microchip company and was given the cat's name (Roy) and name and contact information of a Lincoln resident, Carol Ringenberg.

Tami left messages for Carol, who was out of town, letting her know that Roy had been found. When Carol received the messages, she wondered, "Who is Roy?" However, one of the messages indicated Roy was a cat and Carol remembered his former name. She was dumbfounded. "They found Tony?"

A reunion between the two was set up when Carol returned to Lincoln. When she arrived at The Cat House, she saw her Bengal buddy, and picked him up and hugged him. Tony seemed very content to be in her arms again.

The Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association published a study that found less than 2 percent of lost cats that entered animal shelters were reunited with their families. The return-to-owner rate for microchipped cats was dramatically higher at over 38 percent.

Carol stated, "I never would have found Tony again, if it wasn't for his microchip. That is the only reason he came back to me." It is so important to have a cat microchipped, even if he or she stays inside all the time.

Carol will never know where Tony was during his time "on the lam." She is very grateful for anyone who might have fed him or opened their home to him. Now that he's home, she says he's the same ol' Tony. After being separated 2½ years, they have a lot of catching up to do.



Cali's column

Dear Cali:

I know you usually give advice to people, not cats, but I hope you will help me. See, my person gives no thought to the future. She walks across streets where there are lots of fast, scary cars. She drives a car herself, in all kinds of weather. She rides bicycles, flies in airplanes, and doesn't take shelter during storms. It scares me. What if something happens to her? Where would that leave me?

Signed, Nervous Nellie



when their people get sick or injured or die. Sometimes those cats are forgotten or forced onto the street or even euthanized because there were no plans for them.

So, here's what I have to say to your person: Start thinking about those terrible possibilities and make arrangements for your cat.

First, find at least two responsible family members or friends who will agree to look after your cat temporarily if something happens to you. Provide them with care instructions, the name of your cat's vet, keys to your home, and information about the permanent care provisions you have made for your cat. Carry a wallet card with names and contact information for these emergency caregivers. Make sure they know how to reach each other.

Second, choose someone to be your cat's new person on a permanent basis. Consider people you know and trust as animal caregivers when looking for a permanent caregiver. Talk to the person and make sure he or she is willing and able to look after

your cat. Choose a backup person as well, in case your first choice can no longer take your cat when the need arises. Put together information about your cat—and keep it updated—to help the new caregiver. Keep it with your important documents.

Third, put your wishes in writing and set aside some money for your cat's care. You can create a trust for your cat, which would be valid if you are incapacitated as well as if you die. The trust can specify what you want for your cat if something happens to you. A trust also can be a way to provide funds to help the new caregiver look after your cat properly. A will is another document you can use to give directions about your cat's future, although it could get tied up in legal issues. A newer and more informal document that lays out your wishes is a pet protection agreement. You can learn more about these options by looking on the Internet and talking with an attorney.

There you are, Nellie, dear. Just scratch out this column and show it to your person. I hope she takes it to heart and you can calm your nerves.

Sincerely, Cali 



THE CAT HOUSE
 THE NO-KILL ALTERNATIVE
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 Lincoln, NE 68542

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 BELIEVES EVERY CAT AND
 KITTEN DESERVES A CHANCE.**

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THE CAT HOUSE | THE NO-KILL ALTERNATIVE

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- Please select your contribution amount:**
- Other \$ _____
 \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500



**We need your
 support!**

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!

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