



FEATURED CATS Merlo, Sterling & Otis PAGE 5



THE CAT HOUSE

VONDA'S VIEWS

Opinionated Vonda shares her wisdom.

PAGE 7



VOLUME NO. 10 | ISSUE NO. 2 | FALL 2010



ADOPTION FACILITY

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

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

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

LOST CAT

8-YEAR-OLD
BLACK, SHORT-HAIRED MALE
HIS NAME IS SPENCER
IF FOUND, PLEASE CALL
XXX-XXX

By Denise Anderson

This is not a sign you want to have to plaster in your neighborhood. One day last year after I got home from work, I found my husband and children yelling for our cat Spencer. Somehow Spencer escaped in the morning when we left for work, and he had been outside all day.

If you find yourself in this situation, first make sure your cat actually is gone—sometimes a cat is merely sleeping in a seldom used hidey-hole or shut inside a drawer, a closet, etc. Open doors and check drawers to verify that your cat is not somewhere in the house. Also check around the outside of the house and in the neighborhood; your cat may be hiding under shrubs waiting for your return. Try and make the sounds that usually get your cat to come to you (e.g., call out your cat's name, shake treats in your cat's bowl or in the original package), but remember that a cat in distress may not come to you when it is called.

Following are steps you should follow if you are unable to find your cat.

- **1.** Call Animal Control or go online to http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/animal/index.htm if you live in Lincoln.
- **2.** Call the Capital Humane Society or your local city's animal shelter.
- **3.** If your cat is chipped, call the company (e.g., HomeAgain, AVID, etc.) to see if they will send out an alert about your lost cat to all the vet offices and animal shelters in the area.
- **4.** Ask your neighbors to search their garages, outbuildings, deep window wells, or any place where a cat could be trapped.
- **5.** Put your cat's bed, blanket, or toys that smell like your cat, or even like you, by the back step or outside a door so that your cat can identify its own home by scent. If your cat has not been outside before, there are no visual cues that your cat can use to find its home. Check the cat's bed often to see if the cat has returned.
- **6.** Call the local newspaper and ask them to run an ad with info about your cat and whom to contact if the cat is seen.
- **7.** Make flyers with pertinent information about your cat and whom to contact if the cat is seen, and put the flyers up in the neighborhood.
- **8.** Ask The Cat House (TCH) to post a flyer at Q Street in case any TCH volunteers live or work in the area where your cat was lost.

Look for your cat at dusk and early morning. Walk around your neighborhood and call your

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Volunteer Opportunities

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

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

You're in for a rewarding experience!



Opportunities to help include:

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

Spotlight on... Pisa's Buddies

By Martha Stoddard

Pisa needed every one of her nine lives to survive seven years. But even nine lives might not have helped if she hadn't had a special group of Cat House volunteers known as the Pisa buddies—to keep

her going. See, Pisa had feline leukemia, a virus that weakens a cat's immune system and typically shortens its life. She was infected as a kitten, which usually means an even worse prognosis. Not Pisa, though. This beauty had "tortitude" and she was not about to let anything get the best of her.

Pisa came to The Cat House in 2003, one of a large group of cats removed from the house of a hoarder. Like her, several of the cats had feline leukemia. It was because

of these cats that TCH created what has become the Special Unit. Most of the others in the original Special Unit passed on some time ago, but Pisa lived on, a queen who demanded fresh, cold water, clean bedding and attention on her own terms. "We were fortunate she let us take care of her," said Julie Dahlke, the Special Unit coordinator. "I think Pisa figured that was our job."

A couple of years ago, Pisa started showing signs of a neurological problem, most likely related to her leukemia. As time went on, she wobbled more and climbed less. She had a harder time getting into the litter box and began struggling to eat. For months, the Special Unit volunteers adapted their care to meet her abilities. In April, she came down with ringworm and had to be separated from the other Special Unit cats.

That's when the Pisa buddies began. They were Mark Brunner, Angie Carmen, Patrice Scharfen and Dahlke—volunteers dedicated to her care. They came in twice a day to patiently hand-feed her and give her water from a syringe. They changed her bedding and cleaned her fur, at least as much as she would allow. (She was still a torti, after all!) Lowell Brown came in several days a week to hold her, comb her and spoil her with

salmon juice. The Cat House medicators, Alisha Borisow, Kara Garside and Lacey Gerbig, spent extra time caring for Pisa during their medication rounds.



Dahlke explained the reason for the efforts: "We (at TCH) make a commitment to these cats that we will take care of them to the end, whether it's hospice care or euthanasia or finding them a foster home." And Pisa put up a brave struggle, rallying time and again. Her eyes remained bright and alert even as she lost her abilities. "Our little trooper," the Pisa buddies called her. But there was a week in mid-September when she started struggling to breathe and didn't rally. She was euthanized with Dahlke, Brown, and the three medicators beside her.

Happy Tails Stats

Here are the number of cats adopted in recent months.

April	28
May	26
June	32
July	34
August	28
September	31

Donations in memory & honor of...

Madonna Skinner, who was an avid cat lover, from Nancy O'Donnell, Ralph and Patricia Opfer, and Blaze Skinner

Patricia Stone from Jan Preston, Jeanette Stamm, Joanne Hranac, Carole Steffen, Bob Fauver, Karen Kammann, Jan Preston, Olga Nielsen, Janice Nielsen, and Jim and BJ Smart

Paul Conley from Diane Conley, David Ryan, Allen Graves, Deanna Harris, and Nona and Richard Bailey

Gertrude Johnson, who always loved cats and had many of them in her life, from her daughter, Linda Brockman

Norma Kammann from Karen Kammann

Betty Kosmos, a lifelong cat lover, from Doris Kosmos

Alanna Moore's 22-year-old cat, Pepper, from her sister, Nora Horton

Lazer from Shawnadee Morris

Sammie from Lois Delashmatt

Spaz, a very good boy who helped Shirley Flynn again discover and love kitties

Licorice from Colleen Mertins

Paul Conley from Marilyn Gorham

Patricia Stone from Dalene KrebsD

Peggy O'Nell, a cat champion, from Nanciana Hamicksburs

Susan Krejci, for her birthday, from her sister Leanne Rickert

The Anderson Cats, who now enjoy catland with Grandpa Dale and Beverly from Denise and Doug Anderson

Mary Lou from Bobbie Colgan

Silky from Don Wendling

Stella and Georgia from Travis and Julane Amen

Victoria from The Andersons

Snoopy from Norma Patzloff and Snoopy's kitten Charlie

Hershey, the cat who belonged to Diana Harris, a TCH volunteer and passionate advocate for cats, from Dorothy and JoAnn Stransky

Special thanks to

Dr. Shelley Knudsen from All Feline Hospital for donating her time to make onsite vet visits to The Cat House.

BK Pet Necessities for providing wonderful cat furniture for TCH cats and donating a percentage of sales.

Cause For Paws for donating a percentage of sales.

Nature's Variety for donating food for Sloopy.

November is Adopt-a-Senior-Cat Month

The Cat House is celebrating November as Adopt-a-Senior-Cat Month, when any cat 7 years or older can be adopted at a special price.

We have loving, healthy senior cats, looking for that one special home to cherish them for the rest of their life, and they don't ask for much: just a warm place to sleep, good meals and plenty of love.

During Adopt-a-Senior-Cat Month, take the opportunity to get acquainted with the older cats available at The Cat House. Visit the shelter online at www.thecathouse.org.

Lost Cat continued...

cat's name, stopping often to listen for a faint meow. Many times, owners panic and walk and call, but they do not stop to listen. Walking slowly to call and listen will give the cat time to recognize your voice and respond to the calls. There is a chance your cat will hear you and respond to you or to someone else calling its name. If someone spots your cat, ask them to remain quiet and not make any sudden movements because the cat may become spooked and run away again if it is approached by someone other than you or a family member. It's usually best if you, the owner, approach the cat. Remember, be slow and persistent when walking, calling, and listening; rushing will not help in this matter.

In the end, we were reunited. Spencer showed up at 2 a.m. acting like nothing had happened. We are now doing a nose check prior to leaving the house to ensure this doesn't happen again, and Spencer has been leash trained so he has an opportunity to go outside supervised.



Calendar of Events

Please join us in participating or celebrating the following events.

Meow & Chow BINGO Night

November 6, 6 pm
Fundraiser for TCH and
Lincoln Animal Ambassadors
Scottish Rite Temple
16th and L Streets

National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week November 7-13

Adopt-A-Senior-Cat Month November

Seward Fall Craft Show

November 20 9 am-3:30 pm Ag Hall at Seward County Fairgrounds

Santa Photos at PetSmart & Petco

December
Dates TBD
Lincoln

Hawkeye State Cat Club Cat Show February 12 & 13, 2011 Altoona, Iowa

A Success Story...

The "mower kittens" find happiness

By Martha Stoddard

Jeanne Pomajzl wasn't looking for any more cats when she stopped at the North 27th Street PetSmart to buy food last fall. She had some at home and was plenty busy trying to get strays spayed and neutered in her small town of Weston. She couldn't refuse her granddaughter, who wanted to stop and see cats at the adoption center there. And they couldn't refuse the little, part-Siamese kitten who claimed them there.

"There was just something about him we couldn't pass up," Pomajzl said. "He just climbed up our legs and sat in our laps." It turned out the kitten had been part of a litter found by a farmer cutting hay. His mower hit their mother and killed her. But the five kittens hiding underneath her were unharmed.

The Cat House took them in and found a foster home to care for them until they were old enough to be spayed or neutered and adopted. Now the kitten and his sister were staying at the TCH adoption center at PetSmart waiting for someone to take them home.

That someone wound up being Pomajzl, who decided she should keep the siblings together. NeeKo and his sister, LeLa-Ling, adjusted quickly to their new home, making friends with everyone who stopped in and getting along easily with the other cats. Often the resident cats can be found in a big pile together.

Over the past year, NeeKo has taken on the role of big brother to the rescue kittens Pomajzl brings home. He plays with them, watches over them and lets them climb on him. At night, he sleeps outside Pomajzl's door—"like a dog," she said. LeLa-Ling likes to chat with Pomajzl and stuck by her side when she was sick recently. "They're so loveable, so friendly, so full of mischief," Pomajzl said. "They're just so personable." Now that's a happy ending.

In addition to monetary donations, you can donate items that we use in the day-to-day care of our feline friends. To arrange a drop-off time and location, you can call us at 441-9593 or email info@thecathouse.org.

DRY CAT FOOD

- Science Diet, Regular Adult & Kitten
- Science Diet Light Adult
- · lams Regular & Kitten
- Royal Canin Baby Cat
- Science Diet W/D, R/D, C/D 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 (ground or minced)
- Science Diet A/D, W/D, R/D, C/D, or K/D*
- Purina NF*

CLEANER

- 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
- 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
- Dixie heavyweight disposable bowls, 10 oz
- Large trash bags (heavy duty)
- · Kitchen and office size trash bags
- Copier/printer paper

MISCELLANEOUS

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

Sterling & Merlo

By Martha Stoddard

Sterling and Merlo have hardly known a life outside The Cat House. The brothers were just kittens when they wandered into a trap set up in a colony of feral cats. At three months old, they were beyond the age when kittens born wild can easily be socialized to live with people.

Susan Merrill, a dedicated TCH volunteer, decided to try. She spent many patient hours with them at her home and the kittens slowly got used to having her nearby, but they were still extremely cautious when they came to the shelter.

There, they learned very slowly to trust other people. They got used to the TCH volunteers who showed up regularly. Potential adopters were another story. Sterling and Merlo were overlooked time after time because they hung back, while other cats grabbed people's attention.

grown up to be solid, handsome tabbies. Each passing month sees them relax and

Three years later, the brothers have Merlo enjoy people more. Some days, they can be found at the door to

their room, waiting for someone to come in and pet them or play.

They would reveal even more of their personalities in a home of

their own, a luxury they have never known. Sterling and Merlo

like spending time with each other and would do best if adopted

together. Stop by our shelter at 1935 Q St. to meet them.

Sterling

Otis

By Martha Stoddard Otis has traveled far in search of a lap to call his own. He's still looking. handsome gray cat with the tidy white paws came to The



Cat House from a shelter in Grand Island.

They, in turn, took him in from a South Dakota rescue group. Neither group kept him because he tested positive for feline immunodeficiency virus, a disease spread cat-to-cat by deep bites. For some shelters, that's enough reason not to put a cat up for adoption or even keep a cat alive.

At TCH, Otis joined the cats in the Special Unit. He's happy enough there, with people to feed and look after him, but he's not as happy as he could be in a home without other cats or with only one or two laidback ones. The person who gives Otis such a home will be rewarded with hugs, purrs and lots of lap time. At five years old, Otis probably could be tempted to play a bit, too.

FIV attacks and weakens the immune system, making a cat susceptible to infections and diseases that don't usually affect healthy cats. There is no cure, but FIV is a slowly developing disease. Otis could live for many years, even up to a normal lifespan, without any signs of the illness. He could share a home with other cats if they are not overly aggressive. Stop by our shelter at 1935 Q St. to meet Otis or any of the other cats in the Special Unit.

These cats are looking for forever homes.



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



Shelter Cats

They may be small, but you should see their hearts. Shelter cats aren't broken.
They've simply experienced more life than other cats.
If they were human, we would call them wise.
They would be the ones with tales to tell and stories to write.
The ones dealt a bad hand who responded with courage.

Do not pity a shelter cat. Adopt one. Be proud to have their greatness by your side.

Feline-ality[™]

Here's a guide to the "feline-alities" of our furry friends. The following descriptions were written from the perspective of cats waiting to be adopted.

Private Investigator

I'm working undercover to keep an eye on you and your household. You may not even know you're under surveillance. I can vanish into thin air if anyone or anything interferes with my investigation. If you need a cat who knows how to stay out of trouble and will always keep your secrets, I just might take your case.

Secret Admirer

When it comes to relationships, I'm very level-headed. I don't leap in paws first, if you know what I mean. But give me a little time, and then I'll shower you with purrs, head-butts, and plenty of lap time. In the meantime, you may not see a lot of me, but I'll be thinking a lot of you!

Love Bug

Do you seek affection? I do! If you also like petting, purrs, and paws kneading your lap, I think we might have a LOT in common. I'm looking for "someone who enjoys quiet times and togetherness." Could that someone be you?

The Executive

I have to say, I'm a busy cat. First, I've got to check out what's happening out the window. Next, I'll see if any closets or cupboards need looking into. And then there are my naps—can't be late for those. I can fit a little socializing into my schedule. Shall we plan on breakfast and dinner? I hope you like kibbles.

Sidekick

Like all sidekicks, I'm just plain good

company. I like attention, and I also like my solitude. I don't go looking for trouble, but I'm no scaredy-cat, either. If you are looking for a steady companion to travel with you on the road of life, look no further.

Personal Assistant

You're working on the computer? Let me press the keys. Reading the paper? I'll hold the pages down for you. Watching TV? I'll just plop in your lap so you can pet me. I love an orderly household, don't you? I'll help you with all your chores, and I'll help you relax when we're done. You'll wonder how you ever managed without me.

MVP

I'm a savvy cat who knows the score. I'm pretty unflappable, too. I don't mind entertaining myself, but a human companion at the other end of the couch and a nice scratch behind the ears always make my day. If you're looking for a resourceful addition to your team, think about signing this Most Valuable Pussycat.

Party Animal

I'm a cat on a mission: PARTY! I love to play and explore and test my limits. I'd love to play with you, but I can make a toy out of anything: pencils, post-it notes, potatoes. If you're looking for some laughs and someone to liven up the party, think about inviting me.

Leader of the Band

I'm a cat who does everything in a big way. I not only like to be in the middle of things—I like to lead the parade. I'm an adventurous cat, but I'll still make plenty of time to show you my affectionate side. I'm the demonstrative type, you might say. Want a cat who's brimming with confidence? That's me.

© www.aspca.org

Catnip stix, pet beds, and carrier liners!

To purchase, stop by the shelter, or visit www.thecathouse.org/store.

Coloring books!

Filled with wonderful illustrations, tips and puzzles.

Tees and sweatshirts now available!

Please visit the shelter to purchase one of our new tees or sweatshirts, available in many colors!



Vonda's Views

Dear Vonda,

We recently adopted a very young cat, but for some reason when we got him home and introduced him to our other cat, he didn't get along with her. He is a wonderful cat, but we do not like the tension it has caused in the household. We are wondering if we should get rid of him or what. We are hoping you can help.

Thanks,
Sad for Drew Kitty;-(

Dear Sad for Drew Kitty ;-(

WOW, you seem to have a big problem here. If I had to guess, and I am usually correct, you just opened the cage and dropped this Drew right next to your other cat and the trouble started. This is really not the way to introduce a new cat to a household no matter how many pets you have. You think I may be a little blunt, but, hey that is okay, you are only human.

I personally would not "get rid of him." What really happened was that the cats got off on the wrong paw, and they need time to adjust to each other. Remember, cats are extremely territorial, and she just saw him as an enemy not as a friend. Patience is the key to making the situation work.

The first thing you need do is give the cats time to adjust. I would recommend isolating him in a room that has a door. Give him fresh food, water, toys, scratching post, litter box, etc. Make sure you spend plenty of time with Drew and make him feel comfortable. He needs emotional and physical security so he can relax. Make sure the door has a gap at the bottom so both cats have the opportunity to smell each other without actually seeing each other. Also, you can take the bedding each one uses and switch it with the other one so they can check each other out. Cats do a lot of things by smell. I personally love the smell of duck. Speaking of duck, feed each cat on opposite sides of the door so they begin to adjust to one another while they are doing something pleasurable.

Next, let your other cat smell your clothes and skin after you have played with Drew so she is again aware that he is in the house (this also works in reverse). Spend plenty of time with her to make sure she feels comfortable and try to minimize the tension.

After that, put your girl cat, along with her food, water, toys, and litter box, in a favorite room of the house. Let the new cat out to explore your house for brief periods. Stay close by while he roams to allow him to feel comfortable with you and not feel stressed with the big space now available to him. Then put him back in his "safe" room. Try and do this several times a day. When you think they are ready to meet (I would recommend waiting a minimum of 1 week if not 2 weeks), you can start the introduction process. Remember to try and remain calm throughout the process; if you are stressed, they will be stressed also.

Have a question for Vonda?

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

Now, let both cats roam freely throughout your home for the first time. Be prepared to stay close by when this happens. Try to do this around the time they normally eat a meal. Remember, you may hear some hissing, that is to be expected (cats have to show you their displeasure of making a change in their routine). Feed them in each other's presence, placing their food dishes at a comfortable distance apart. Wait only a few minutes after they have eaten to confine the cats to their quarters until the next time they eat. If either of the cats seems stressed or will not eat, remove the food bowls and confine each cat to its own safe place with its food. Although some cats could lose a few pounds, this introductory period is not the the right time to lose weight.

Try again when both cats are calm. If a second attempt fails, remove their food and confine them again. Wait until they have regained their composure to try again. As things settle down, allow them to spend longer periods together after they have eaten each meal. Move their food dishes gradually closer to each other at successive meals. If problems occur at

any time during the introduction process, return to the preceding step.

Another idea is to use a synthetic pheromone such as "Feliway"(r) to help both cats become more comfortable and relaxed. It is a plug-in thingy that can be purchased at some vet offices, pet stores, or online. I think The Cat House sells it too.

Remember, do not force the cats together. They will learn to accept each other on their own when they are ready. Do not shower your new cat with attention in front of the other cat until she accepts him as part of the family.



Be patient. Some cats are less sociable toward others and less willing to share their space. If the cats are consistently aggressive toward each other, it may be necessary to medicate one or both cats. Anti-anxiety medication can be prescribed by your veterinarian. It can be surprisingly inexpensive and generally can be phased out after the cats have adjusted to each other. Both cats are likely to experience some anxiety during the transition period, though one cat will likely react more strongly. Unless there is a medical reason not to use medication or one cat seems completely unbothered by the other, both cats are likely to benefit from medication.

If these suggestions do not help and it still is not working out, my last resort would be for you to adopt me and I will whip the cats into shape. You can count on me to make it all work out for you and for me. Did I ever tell you that I love to play with strings?

Have a great day, and I hope it works out for you!

Vonda

P.S. This also works well with dogs and children.

The Cat House needs your support so we can continue helping our feline friends. To donate food, toys or supplies, please call (402) 441-9593 for an appointment. Contributions can also be made with a credit card through Paypal. Please consider donating, or visit our website to learn how you can help!

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

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

We need your support!



Please select your contribution amount:		
\$250	☐ \$500	
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2		
	mount:)	

THE CAT HOUSE | THE NO-KILL ALTERNATIVE



