

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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CALI'S COLUMN

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

Photo in a Flash by Kimberly McCarty

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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
info@thecathouse.org
www.thecathouse.org
facebook.com/thecathouse

BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

Debbie's dream

By Martha Stoddard

The dream that became The Cat House began during a road trip by two cat-loving friends. It was 1998, and Debbie Borner, who bred and showed cats, and Dr. Becky Arnold, who started All Feline Hospital, were headed back to Lincoln from a veterinary convention. They got to talking about their lives, their hopes and their dreams for the cats of Lincoln.

That conversation gave birth to what remains, 15 years later, Lincoln's only no-kill shelter, a place where cats are welcomed no matter their temperament or age or health and where they live almost completely cage-free until they find forever homes.

"If it weren't for The Cat House, there would be an awful lot of animals that wouldn't be taken care of," Bill Borner, Debbie's husband, said, looking back.

During the months after that road trip, Debbie gathered a small but determined group of people to form the first TCH board. They included Nicole Narboni, Mark Clinton and Deb Reinhardt. Beth Boal joined the board soon afterward.

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Raw food revolution

By Ann Stubbendeck

There is a food revolution taking place. People are starting to ask questions and demand answers about what exactly is in the food they are eating. People want food that fortifies them and promotes a healthy body. Pet owners are also starting to demand this same consideration when it comes to the food they feed their beloved pets. Pet food manufacturers are starting to take notice and react to this demand.

Nature's Variety is one such company answering this call. They are a small, independent pet food company that works out of the Midwest and has manufacturing facilities in Lincoln. Their mission is to provide pet owners with a healthy, holistic option when dealing with the health and nutritional needs of their pets. Their website provides numerous testimonials from elated pet owners who tried everything to resolve their pet's health issues and finally found some relief through the relatively simple act of placing their pets on a raw food diet.

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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, 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
- Volunteer training program assistance
- Volunteer scheduling assistance
- Filing
- Grant writing
- Fundraising
- Feral/TNR program

Happy Tails Stats

Here are the number of cats adopted in recent months.

April	22
May	21
June	13
July	30
August	24
September	26

Featured volunteer: Betty Wolff

By Jeff Kennedy

Betty Wolff began volunteering at The Cat House more than 10 years ago when she joined a cleaning and feeding crew. Over the course of those years, Betty has also had volunteer duties making adoption follow-up calls and serving as bookkeeper for four and a half years. But if you talk to Betty for a while, you find one of her favorite volunteer jobs is the one she still does, sewing pet beds.

Retired from full-time teaching, Betty still works part-time with special education students. During summer school this year, the group had a theme of animals where they toured a veterinarian's office, Camp Bow Wow, and The Cat House. Betty wanted to share with the students what she does for TCH so she asked them to assist in making cat and dog beds that would later be sold at the Farmers' Market. The kids chose their fleece fabric, which Betty sewed together with batting and then showed the children how to "turn" the beds. The project was a great success, with one little boy being so proud of his bed, he wanted his parents to take him to the Farmers' Market so he could show it to them.

Betty and her husband Kermit Wolff's relationship with TCH began long ago when the shelter was located on C Street. At that time, there were a large number of cats rescued from a hoarding situation on South Street. The Wolffs adopted a



cat from that group, a traumatized girl named Maizy. Maizy overcame her health-related and stress-related symptoms by living in the quiet loving atmosphere Betty and Kermit provided.

Since then, the couple has adopted two more Cat House cats, a beautiful brown tabby with a

classic bulls-eye pattern named Stella and a handsome black and white boy named Brady. Although both cats belong to both people, Brady has become more Kermit's cat. Kermit is a lover of all animals and Betty tells (with a sense of humor and a little spousal pride) a recent story of how he rescued a hummingbird that had become trapped in their garage by taking apart a section of the garage wall.

Not one to let retirement become too relaxing, Betty has volunteer responsibilities with many Lincoln businesses and organizations including ushering at the Lied Center and helping at one of the local hospitals. She also enjoys quilting and has been married to Kermit for 27 years.

Next time you're at a Cat House sales event, look for the beautifully sewn cat beds and you'll see the care and precision that Betty adds to her volunteer work for the shelter.



5700 Old Cheney Road

402-420-5758

causeforpawslincoln.com

Monday, Tuesday & Saturday 10 am-5 pm

Wednesday through Friday 10 am-6 pm

Closed Sunday

Donations in memory & honor of...

In memory of

Ann McFall from Diane Mountford, Francesca Hilger, Maureen Mausbach, Michael & Jacqueline Thompson, & Jean Krull

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Princess Sweet Pea Gizmo from the Lillich Family Fund

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Pioneer from Christopher Green

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Jack Smith from Janice Settell, Mary Baker, Options in Psychology, Lumir Vajgrt, Faye Stevens, Lee & Janet Anderbery, Dave & Kris Ficke, Mark & Miriam Chermok, Don & Cindy Uhrmacher, Blanche Marchesi, Eldon & Arden Ficke, Suzanne Wolford, Duane & Ruth Burd, & Don Sandell

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Lori Anderson from Alrine Kraft, Ramona Anderson, Jordan Anderson, Barbara Jaeger, Esther Weidner, Laurel Muff, & Sally Buchholz

Lorra Richards from Tim Smith

Mari Pesek from Chelsey Manhart

Molly from Barbara Dibernard & Paula Einemann

Pat McCauley's cat Bert from Bruce & Teri Robertson

Louse Deaton's sister from Deb Comstock

Ronnie Sutton from Tracie Edison

Steven McGill from Lynnette McGill

Tommy from Erin Dempsey

Wallace Howell from Sharon Buss

Lily Licker from Larry & Suzie Meierdierks

In honor or celebration of

Holly Smith's graduation, from Elizabeth Benson

Jeanne Holdren from Bobbette Lehl

Martha Stoddard from Hugh Stoddard

Special thanks to

Dr. Shelley Knudsen

Dr. Kelly Jordan

All Feline Hospital

Wachal Pet Health Center

Williamsburg Veterinary Hospital

Vondra Veterinary Clinic

Pitts Veterinary Hospital

BK Pet Necessities

Cause For Paws

Nature's Variety

Petco

PetSmart

Debbie's dream

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They began small. In 1999, the fledgling group got permission to use the PetSmart adoption center at 5200 N. 27th St. to house and show cats for adoption. Many of the first cats came through All Feline Hospital. At one point, the group even worried whether they might run out of cats. But it didn't take long before word got out and people started calling about cats needing a place to go.

As more cats came in, the group started housing those that were not ready to be shown at PetSmart in an apartment above a garage. They recruited new volunteers to care for cats and build the organization. One volunteer launched a trap-neuter-release program. Others showed the cats to potential adopters at PetSmart.

The board was debating whether to take a major step—getting an actual shelter building—when Lincoln Animal Control seized 79 cats and 2 dogs from the home of an animal hoarder.

The TCH board decided they had to act. They drew public attention to the situation,

bringing in both donations and volunteers. They negotiated with city officials about taking in the rescued cats. They rented a neighborhood office building and converted it into cat-friendly rooms.

In August 2003, they moved 40 cats into what was dubbed the C Street facility. The downstairs became the home for rescued cats with the feline leukemia virus. But zoning restrictions meant the public could not visit the C Street facility to meet cats. So, the next year TCH took another big step, renting a building on P Street to serve as its first adoption facility.

TCH moved into its current home at 1935 Q St. in 2005, a much larger place where all of the cats not at PetSmart or in



Cats gather around volunteer Steve Hankins at TCH's first shelter on C Street.

foster homes could live and where people could come to meet and adopt them. Debbie Borner had moved on by then, but new board members were carrying on her dream.

This year, as TCH celebrates its 15th anniversary, the shelter and Debbie came together again. When health problems recently prevented the Borners from keeping

their cats, TCH took them in. Bill Borner said the couple was "forever grateful" there was a place for the cats to go.

It's a place that exists because of Debbie's dream—and because of the hundreds of volunteers and supporters who continue working to make it a reality.

"Debbie was very happy to be a part of it," he said.

Calendar of Events

Please join us in participating or celebrating the following events.

Seward Cat Show

October 12 / 9 am-5 pm

Seward County Fairgrounds

Cats & Crafts

October 19 / 6:30 pm

The Cat House, 1935 Q Street
Create Halloween themed crafts.

Meow & Chow

October 26 / 5-9 pm

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

St. Mark's Craft Show

November 9 / 9 am-4 pm

84th & Pioneers

Seward Craft Show

November 16 / 9 am-3:30 pm

Seward County Fairgrounds

PetSmart Adoption Event

November 16 & 17 / 10 am-3 pm

5200 N 27th Street

Meet cats and talk with TCH volunteers.

Garage Sale

November 22 / 9 am-5 pm

November 23 / 9 am-3 pm

The Cat House, 1935 Q Street

Odell Craft Show

November 30 / 9 am-4 pm

Odell, Nebraska

Cats & Crafts

December 7 / 6:30 pm

The Cat House, 1935 Q Street
Greeting card night for adults.

Cats & Crafts

December 14 / 6:30 pm

The Cat House, 1935 Q Street
Cat ornament night for children.

Lincoln Women's Expo

January 25 / 10 am-6 pm

January 26 / 10 am-5 pm

Lancaster Event Center

Raw Food Revolution

continued from page 1

The Cat House turned to Nature's Variety to assist in restoring health to four different cats that suffer from Manx syndrome and/or inflammatory bowel disease.

Sloopy was the first TCH cat to be placed on the raw food diet. When Sloopy was placed on the diet she weighed in at less than 5 pounds. She had been on many medications and several different diets that had not produced positive results. Being placed on the raw food diet saved Sloopy's life. She began to put on weight and regrow a healthy coat of fur. All other TCH cats that have been put on this diet have also thrived.

Before pet food manufacturers such as Nature's Variety came along, pet owners wanting to provide a raw diet for their animals had to do all the work themselves. This can be time consuming and stressful. It also carries risks if owners do not practice food safety. Luckily, Nature's

Variety is currently being sold in Petco stores as well as in several veterinary clinics around Lincoln, making it much easier for pet owners in search of help and relief to provide this type of diet for their animals.

A raw food diet is the closest mirror to what your pet would have been eating ancestrally in the wild. This diet can be a better option than medications that sometimes carry negative side effects, if they work at all. A cat's digestive system is not meant to handle many of the grains and fillers that are put into certain types of cat food. They can develop allergies and sensitivities to these unnecessary ingredients that may lead to serious health issues that disrupt and impair not only their quality of life, but that of their owners as well. If your cat is experiencing failing health or digestive issues, a raw diet could be the answer.

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, W/D, R/D, C/D 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 (ground or minced)
- Science Diet A/D, W/D, R/D, C/D, 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
- Swiffer
- Hand sanitizer

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) (no rubber backs)
- Rotating teeth combs for cats
- "Slicker" brushes for cats
- "Cable Cuffs" or "Cable Clamps" cable management tool
- Pet carriers, hard plastic with metal doors
- Large litter boxes without covers
- Aluminum trays (no smaller than 8"x13")
- Lint rollers

* sold at vet clinics

Trista

By Mindy Peck



Trista is a 10-year-old beauty of a feline. Her regal manner and dignified aura reveal her as a true lady. She is a silent observer watching the action from a place of honor; one might go so far as to call it her throne. She has a specific chair that is hers, and hers alone, in The Cat House main room. It is from this vantage point that she surveys

her kingdom and manages her subjects.

But don't let her royal attitude fool you: This lady is a kind and friendly feline. She is also a head "bopper" and, while this may seem like common cat behavior, it is well known that through this action she is claiming you as one of her human subjects, transferring her scent to you...and demanding attention.

Trista has a beautiful thick coat of brown and black fur. She has short legs and a thick body. Tracing her royal ancestry, TCH volunteers believe she has Maine Coon in her blood. While small in stature, she exhibits some trademark characteristics, including long hair tufts between the toes, a silky thick coat, and the general face and the rectangular body shape of the Maine Coon breed. Her beautiful coat will need to be groomed to keep the lady looking fabulous. Trista is a real beauty, classy and elegant, a cat who is looking for her forever home, aka, her new kingdom.

Bruiser

By Lindsay Soucek



When you meet Bruiser, he gives you a slitted glance from his comfy spot on the chair. You might think, "How many shots has he fired? Was it five or six shots?"

I felt lucky.

At first glance his striking facial features seem rough, but at second glance they reveal a convincing poker face. When he senses your guard is down, he rolls over for a gentle belly

rub. Then he makes you lose yourself in his big green eyes.

He came to TCH after being trapped with a feral colony along 28th Street. He was treated for several bite wounds on his front right foot. During his recovery it became clear that he wasn't feral, and he won the hearts of many quarantine volunteers.

During routine testing, it was discovered that Bruiser was FIV positive. Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) severely weakens a cat's immune system. Infected cats that receive supportive medical care and are kept in a stress-free indoor environment can live a normal lifespan.

Because Bruiser is FIV+, he would do best with an easy going housemate or in a one pet household where he can lounge and happily accept loving ear scratches, or chase a golf ball around. If you're looking for a loyal companion with a tough name and sweet disposition, you can meet Bruiser in TCH's Penthouse where he currently resides.

These cats are looking for forever homes.



Pumpkin – 10 years



Lucy – 11 years



Rooster Catburn – 7 years



Speckles – 6 months



Missy – 2 years



Sheba – 2 years



Chloe – 5 years



Tigger – 2 years

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.

All photos courtesy Patrice for Sisters Photography.

Happily ever after

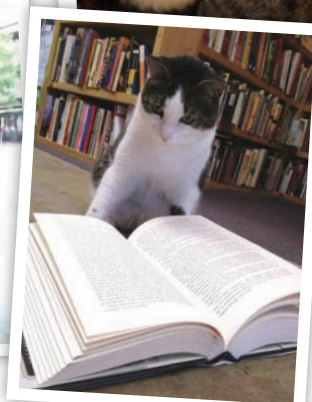
By Ann Stubbendeck

A good book is something that can truly enrich the lives of all who read it. A Novel Idea Bookstore in downtown Lincoln is where used books go when they need to find new homes. Cinnamon Dokken and her staff have been buying and selling gently used books since 1991. A Novel Idea is home to many famous characters, but not all of them are embodied in print. The bookstore also is the home of two very lucky Cat House alums, Padric and Eddy, who have developed quite a fan base.

Padric and Eddy are actually not the first felines to call A Novel Idea home; they are in fact second editions. First there was Silas, a lovable tomcat who endeared himself to patrons and anyone walking by the shop who might happen to catch him lounging in the front windows. Silas passed away after 14 years of service and store owner Cinnamon Dokken knew the position of shop cat could not be left vacant. The shop received an influx of condolence cards when word of Silas' passing spread—some even came from foreign countries. Offers of cats were also extended to the bookstore. Cinnamon knew she wanted a rescue cat but was unable to decide from where to adopt. She placed two jars on the bookstore counter. One jar was for donations to Capital Humane Society, the other for The Cat House. The plan was to adopt a cat from whichever shelter received the most donations. In four weeks the book store patrons had donated \$1,500 to Capital Humane and \$3,100 to TCH. The funds were given to the shelters, and Cinnamon headed to TCH to adopt a new shop cat.

Cinnamon, along with bookstore manager, Katherine Bergstrom, was first enamored with Eddy. At just 18 months old, he was a very sociable guy. He enjoyed being showered with their attention. It was clear that his friendly, easy going demeanor would be a good fit in customer service. Young Padric, who was seven months old, had initially gone undetected

by Cinnamon and Katherine. He had been quietly napping in some out-of-the-way spot, but upon waking decided that he, too, might like some of the attention that was being doled out to his roommate Eddy. Padric, unaware that he was being



interviewed, quickly proved himself to be an excellent cuddler and an equally adept socializer. Cinnamon and Katherine decided then and there to expand the shop's cat department and adopted both.

The expansion proved to be a success, and things are going very well for Padric and Eddy. Asked what it's like conducting business in a shop that also serves as a home to cats, Cinnamon said, "It softens everything and makes work feel comfortable—more like home. It has a great effect on our customers. Generally, people tend to put their guard up when they are out in the world. However, when they come into our shop and Eddy gives them a friendly 'meow,' that drops quickly. They smile, bend down to pet him and have a little 'cat-chat.' You can actually see people relax."

Four years into their employment, Padric and Eddy are old pros at the book

business, and they certainly earn their keep. And yes, some people come to the bookstore just to see the cats. Cinnamon said, "People come in all the time to see the cats. Many students, who have left home for the first time, find that they miss their cats terribly. Eddy and Padric serve as surrogates. Our boys sort of belong to the neighborhood. They are extremely

popular," she said. They are so popular, in fact, that they are the subject of their own calendar, now in its second run, titled "Books, Cats - Life is Good," which features photos of the cats along with quotes.

Ultimately, Padric and Eddy's only job at the bookstore is to just be cats. Cinnamon puts it best, "They live as they live—romping around, soaking up the love, finding the sunny spots on the floor, curling up together in their basket. Exploring the shop and playing with the staff and customers gives them endless entertainment. You can tell by how they sleep that they have no worries." In the end, a bookstore devoted to finding homes for used books came together with a shelter committed to finding good homes for deserving cats to write the happiest of endings to this adoption story.



118 N 14th St / 402-475-8663

River and her kittens

By Jeff Kennedy

On Sunday, August 4, at 2:46 p.m., a call came into The Cat House hotline voicemail. A woman traveling eastbound on I-80 reported seeing a mother cat and four kittens at the Blue River rest area. She reported that the mother, who was under a foot bridge, was starving and asked if someone from TCH could help.

The call was the beginning of a rescue operation lasting four days and involving the coordinated efforts of many volunteers.

On the first day, Tracy and Belinda Gillam and Becky Williams began the search and rescue—finding the area, spotting the cats, and placing live traps—so that the cat and kittens could be brought to safety and given much needed medical attention. The mother cat was named “River” due to the proximity to the Blue River.

During the course of the 4-day trial, the Gillams and Becky and Becky’s children Alexi (11) and Derek (7) were joined by fellow volunteer rescuers LaTisha Holt and Gail Schraeder. The team took turns working different shifts from early morning to late at night, keeping an eye on the cats and the traps, trying to keep the young feline family from meeting any harm.

Becky recalls, “We all showed how important teamwork was in rescuing River and her kittens. It wouldn’t have been possible without everyone’s cooperation and dedication.”

River was trapped first, but that left the four kittens on their own to fend for themselves. The team knew they had to work fast, but struggled to get the kittens successfully into traps, not even seeing them for almost two full days. Then on August 7, what was to be the final day, there was a breakthrough.

There were three traps set for the kittens. The team checked the first trap and it was empty. They walked to the



second trap, also empty. With heavy hearts, they went to check the third trap and saw that there was a kitten in it. Then upon closer inspection, the other three kittens were seen standing

outside the trap next to their sibling. Within two hours, the remaining three kittens were caught.

According to Becky, “It was such a good feeling to be able to reunite River with her kittens.”

Sadly, one of the kittens, a little male, did not survive. However, his sister, Dawn, and two brothers, Grayson and Sunny, are thriving in their foster home with their mother River, thanks to the willingness and coordinated efforts of a concerned traveler and a number of determined volunteers.

A holly, jolly fund-raiser

By Lindsay Soucek

Like the stores that are beginning to line their shelves with holiday paraphernalia, The Cat House will be getting an early dose of Christmas cheer. It is time again to begin work on the Christmas ornament fund-raiser. This will mark the third anniversary of a project by volunteers Patrice Scharfen and Jodi Heiser.

For the second year in a row, the majority of the ornaments will be made by the Irving Community Outreach Program, a group of Irving Middle School students. The program is designed to show the students the value of volunteering.

New to the project this year will be Jodi’s Animal Rescuers in Training (A.R.T) club from Blumfield Elementary, in Ralston. She says the students already know much about TCH from her and are excited to learn about other Nebraska animal rescues and volunteering opportunities. They will be making their ornaments at Blumfield Elementary.

The front of each ornament will feature a photo and name of a cat currently at TCH. The back will be information on TCH. All photos and information will be provided by Patrice. The volunteers will assemble and decorate each ornament with holiday stickers and other unique embellishments. They will sell for \$5 each, with all proceeds going to support TCH. Ornaments will be sold at Duteau Chevrolet and Subaru and at Earl May at 48th Street and Highway 2. If you want to get more holiday shopping done in one trip, there also will be ornaments at the TCH garage sale, scheduled for November 22 and 23.

4th ANNUAL
**MEOW
— AND —
CHOW**
fundraiser for
Lincoln Animal Ambassadors
& The Cat House
**BINGO PRIZES
RAFFLE FOOD FUN
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 26**
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.
Support provided by petco
foundation

Cats and Crafts

By Mindy Peck

The next Cats & Crafts event is coming up Saturday, October 19, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. This event will have a spooktacular black-cat theme, where we will make black cat masks. Kids are encouraged to come in costume!

A Cats & Crafts event is a fun opportunity for kids to come in, create a craft, learn about The Cat House, and, of course, meet the cats. Registration is required, and space is limited so register early. There is a \$20 donation per attendee and 100 percent of the money goes to benefit TCH.

Previous Cats & Crafts events have raised nearly \$2,700! Let's make this next event a success and raise more money for the cats. For more information and to register, contact Jodi Heiser, jheiser4@gmail.com or call 402-450-2748.

Cats & Crafts Costume Night



Save the Date!

The Cat House presents
**CATSINO
NIGHT**
5
Saturday **APRIL**
SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE 16TH & L STREETS

Cali's column

Dear Cali:

I saw a television show recently in which a cat expert advised some people to take their cat out for walks on a leash and harness. It looked pretty fun. Can I do that with my cat?

Signed, Ready to Roam



Dear Roamer:

Walk a cat on a leash? What an outlandish idea. Why, I can't imagine I should ever want to step outside and get my beautiful paws dirty or wet. There's probably all manner of disgusting creatures out there. Dogs, for example, or ruffian cats. There might be fleas, too. How dreadful!

However, I suppose there may be some cats that do not share my sense of propriety. They actually would like seeing new things and smelling different smells outside and would be willing to wear a leash and harness to get there. Some cats consider such trips entertaining and fun. As I always say, there's no accounting for tastes.

But I digress. You asked for my advice about taking your cat out on a leash and you shall have it. The first step is to think about your cat's personality and whether she would enjoy being outdoors. Is she confident or cautious? Does she like new things and new people or does she hide under the bed whenever your friends come over? Can you handle her if she gets frightened? Be honest, now. I've heard of nervous cats being taken outside and getting so overwhelmed and terrified they slip out of their harness and disappear.

I've also heard of some Cat House alums that love their time outside on a leash. If your cat seems like an outside prospect, your next step is to find a good harness and leash. The harness has to be made for a cat and fit snugly without hurting her. There are several varieties online. The best come in an "H" shape and look kind of like a tiny jacket. Make sure the harness fits well because cats are very flexible. You should only be able to get two fingers between the harness and the cat.

Be patient on the next steps. Your cat needs to get used to the harness and leash very slowly, over days or maybe weeks. Try setting the harness and leash near the food dish at first. Then put on the harness, give a treat and take it off right away. Move on to leaving

the harness on for longer around the house. Next, attach the leash and let your cat drag it around. Be sure you are nearby to supervise, so she doesn't get caught on something and hurt herself. Now, try walking with your cat in the house. Let the cat lead, of course. At each step, stop before the cat starts protesting. Use treats to make the process fun and rewarding.

If all has gone well, you are ready to move outside. At first, just take a few steps out the door and let your cat get used to the new sights and sounds and smells. Your cat will let you know if she is ready to go farther. Be sure to watch out for dogs, bicycles and other hazards. Do not let your cat climb trees with a leash. Be aware of things that could surprise her. If she gets startled, go back to a known, safe spot. Don't push her too far and let her explore at leisure. Remember, this is supposed to be for your cat's enjoyment, not for punishment. Oh, and just ignore your neighbors if they laugh at you.

Finally, if your cat resists all of your efforts, don't fret. She's probably just a sensible sort like myself, who appreciates nature on the other side of the window.

Sincerely, Cali



P.S. Here are a couple of websites with additional tips about walking cats on leashes:

<http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/cat-behavior/teaching-your-cat-walk-leash>

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/29/garden/training-a-cat-to-walk-on-a-leash.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

Your cat's age in human years

AGE OF CAT	EQUIVALENT AGE IN HUMAN YEARS
1 year	equals 24 years
2 years	equals 36 years
3 years	equals 42 years
4 years	equals 45 years
5 years	equals 48 years
6 years	equals 51 years
7 years	equals 54 years
8 years	equals 57 years
9 years	equals 60 years
10 years	equals 63 years
11 years	equals 66 years
12 years	equals 69 years
13 years	equals 72 years
14 years	equals 75 years
15 years	equals 78 years
16 years	equals 81 years
17 years	equals 84 years
18 years	equals 87 years
19 years	equals 90 years
20 years	equals 93 years

Use this chart to find out how old your cat is in "cat years." The cat's age will translate into a human age of roughly the same maturity as the cat.

Using this calculation, the 20-year-old cat is now a respectable but believable 93 years old. And a 9-month-old cat is 18 years old, a teenager in every sense. Above 20 years add 2 human years per cat year. Remember that humans mature much more slowly than all other animals. This chart also works for (cough) dogs.

Try it out and see!



Patience rewarded

By Martha Stoddard

It didn't take Mia long to adjust to her new home. Within two hours of arriving at Wanda Drake's house, she was giving head butts to her new human companions and purring contentedly before settling down on a cozy fleece bed. Not bad for a cat who spent her last 10 years living at The Cat House.

Mia has been one of the shelter's longest residents. She and her kittens were among the 79 cats and two dogs that Lincoln Animal Control rescued from a hoarder's home in 2003. The situation prompted TCH to get its first shelter building so the group could take in 40 of the rescued cats. Mia's kittens quickly found homes. But she remained. Despite her beautiful classic

tabby markings, she was easily overlooked by potential adopters. She was a cautious cat, who would stay just out of arm's reach. Mia liked to watch people, usually from a safe perch, but she would not get too close to most.

Wanda Drake was among the exceptions. Wanda is a TCH volunteer who has dedicated hours to working with the less social cats. She arrives at the shelter with a bag full of toys and endless patience. Over time, she wore down Mia's



reserve and a love affair blossomed.

Mia lit up every time Wanda came in, and this petite, patient cat claimed a special place in Wanda's heart. So it only seemed natural when Wanda finally decided to adopt Mia and bring her home. And, with Wanda at her

side, Mia didn't have any trouble making the transition out of shelter living.

It hasn't been long since the adoption but it seems fair to expect that Wanda and Mia will live happily ever after.

give
To Lincoln Day
May 16, 2013

Update

The second annual Give to Lincoln Day held May 16, 2013, was a joyful event for cats and volunteers alike at The Cat House (TCH). We were honored to receive \$36,035 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.

We were especially pleased to win a \$1,000 special prize for having the fifth largest number of individual donors totaling 236 contributors.

The funds raised during this event went in large part to help defray the cost of our many spay/neuters, dental work for the cats, and general expenses.

Plan to give next year and make 2014 the best year yet for your TCH feline friends.



THE CAT HOUSE
THE NO-KILL ALTERNATIVE
PO Box 23145
Lincoln, NE 68542

**A NO-KILL SHELTER THAT
BELIEVES EVERY CAT AND
KITTEN DESERVES A CHANCE.**



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Make checks payable to: The Cat House
Mail to: PO Box 23145, Lincoln, NE 68542

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!

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