

The Cat House Chronicles

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In This Issue...

Honoring a Cat House Icon	1
Featured Kitty - Amos	2
In Memory of...	2
Volunteer Spotlight	3
A Super Way to Help TCH	3
Happy Adoption: Snuggles	4
Go in Peace, Mr. Wiggles	4
Upcoming Events	5
Volunteer Info.	5
Take a Look at Jack	6
Facts About FeLV	6
Wish List/ Thanks	7



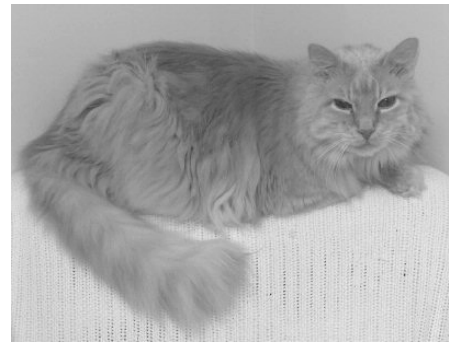
Honoring a Cat House Icon

Written by: Beth Boal

September 21, 2006, marked the close of one chapter in Cat House history. On that dreary, rainy Thursday, Simba – the cat whose before-and-after photos had come to symbolize the work of The Cat House – was laid to rest. A tumor had been discovered earlier in the year but in September its growth accelerated and took over his body.

Simba was truly a magical cat. You didn't have to even know him well to understand that.

Volunteers meeting him for the first time understood his role in the organization. Simba was our first Office Manager at the C Street shelter. He greeted volunteers as they entered and, when they left, watched from the door until they were in their car and had pulled away. Of course, it's possible that his behavior was related to food – he managed to convince each volunteer that no one had fed him yet that day... We knew it wasn't true, but fell for it anyway.



People just naturally understood his "position" by his regal demeanor.

Simba came to The Cat House from a house on South Street that was raided in early August 2003. We ultimately decided to bring in about 50 cats from that raid, but two cats pretty much made the decision for us – Simba and Piano Man. When I went down to the Capital Humane Society and saw those two, I decided I wasn't leaving until we had a plan to take as many as we could. Simba came to us looking as though he was going to take his last breath any moment. Within 3 weeks, we were amazed at his transformation. In that short period of time, he had become big and strong and truly regal. (See before and after photos, p. 2)

Trite as it may sound, Simba was truly an inspiration. He had endured much and flourished nonetheless. He was a discriminating judge of character. He often seemed gruff – usually when the other cats did not show the proper respect – but he was really a pussycat. Simba wasn't crazy about crowds or screaming children but he could be amazingly tolerant. He had the ability to assess potential adopters and pretty much made it clear who he liked and didn't like.

Simba had many admirers. People just naturally understood his "position" by his regal demeanor. In his last days, Simba seemed to "hold court" and he sat up on a shelf and received visitors who came to spend time with him. The decision to euthanize him was difficult. Simba so loved life that we didn't want to take a second away from him if he wanted to live it. Even the night before he died, when he heard his friend Alma pop open a special can of Fancy Feast, he knew exactly what it was, and jumped up and followed her to the kitchen. He didn't even let her get it into a bowl before he began devouring it.

But the tumor had grown rapidly, and it was clear that he was declining and becoming more and more uncomfortable during his last few days. On the evening of Sept. 20th, after his special Fancy Feast meal and receiving lots of his friends, he slept comfortably in a private room so no one would bother him, and received some pain medication so that he was free of pain, breathing normally and could relax. The following day, it was time to let him go. Simba was his typical self up to the very end. Things were done his way, or you were going to hear about it.

No cat could ever take the place of Simba. He was an icon of The Cat House. He will forever be not only in our hearts but in the halls, the rooms, and even in the air, at any facility The Cat House will ever be lucky enough to fill with kitties like him who need our help. Words cannot express how much he will be missed.



Simba – Before



Simba - After



TCH Board

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Featured Kitty...Amos!

Written by: Traci Cameron



Amos is a very special boy. He is a red and white short hair with a sweetly flirtatious personality. An easy going kitty, Amos loves to play and wrestle around but cuddling is his first priority. He loves to be carried around like a little baby, kissed on, have his head rubbed, and snuggle up close under covers for afternoon naps. Due to a birth defect Amos had to have

surgery on both hind legs, it was done at different intervals to ensure maximum success, and successful it was - he runs and climbs like a star. His back left leg was the worse of the two and so was not fully able to be repaired, as a result it is visibly smaller than his right leg and he walks with a slight limp, but nothing slows him down. Amos is a very intelligent boy and so needs to be provided with multiple opportunities for enrichment, among his favorite are balls, feathers, and laser pointers, his true favorite toys, however, are people, other cats, and he even likes dogs. Very outgoing and very loving, Amos is truly a miracle boy and a star kitty!

Happy Tales

Many kitties have found happiness thanks to the efforts of The Cat House.

May	15
June	9
July	13
August	13
September	21



Donations in Memory Of

Susan Merrill in memory of Mr. Wiggles
Lowell Brown in memory of Mr. Wiggles
Alma Vlasak in memory of Mr. Wiggles
Traci & Rodney Cameron in memory of Simba
Jessica Mitchell in memory of Tommy Boal
Gail & Kenny Schraeder in memory of Coolio
Lowell Brown in memory of Joyce Gene Rice
Roger & Kelly Yant in memory of Sassi

Spotlight on..... Alma Vlasak

Written by: Martha Stoddard

Volunteer Alma Vlasak admits that she tends to go a little overboard at times. That explains how she started with one cat, Nikita, acquired on the spur of the moment seven years ago, and now shares her home with 13 cats, all legal under a multi-cat household license. "I was a late bloomer," she said. "I didn't know anything about cats."

It explains how she volunteered to do laundry for The Cat House and ended up as The Cat House laundry coordinator, less formally known as the "laundry queen." She makes sure the wash gets done and there are always enough clean towels and purr pads for cats at the Q Street adoption center. It also explains how Alma asked Cat House volunteer Norma Patzloff to sew a fleece carrier liner for her cats three years ago and wound up as the driving force behind a key Cat House fund-raising activity.

Alma said the idea for selling carrier liners, cat beds and, more recently, dog beds evolved after Norma made the one for her and then some for The Cat House kitties. "The cats just loved them." So they thought volunteers might be interested in buying some. The effort snowballed from there. Alma's involvement starts with buying fleece, cutting fleece and batting, and helping decide what patterns to put together. She keeps track of the inventory, stocks liners and beds at All-Feline Hospital and has spend many a weekend at The Cat House sale tables at cat shows and other special events.

Originally from North Bend, Alma supports her cat habits by working as a safety investigator with the federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. In a few years, she said, she hopes to retire and spend even more time helping The Cat House. No telling if that help will include any encore displays of Alma's talent for gargle-singing.



Alma having a good time at the 2005 Sandhills Cat Show



Alma gargling on MY 106.3

A Super Way to Help TCH

Written by: Susan Merrill

The Cat House can benefit from your regular grocery shopping, thanks to a Super Saver fund-raising program for non-profit organizations. It is a super easy one, too. Super Saver's store brand products carry the Best Choice label. To participate in the fund-raiser, we just collect the Best Choice UPC labels for cash. For every 1,000 UPC labels sent in, The Cat House will get \$30.

Now, I know 1,000 UPC labels sounds like a lot, but if everyone pitches in, we could collect thousands of labels. I know everyone shops at Super Saver at one time or another. I have provided a collection box at The Cat House adoption center, 1935 Q St. The box is purple and located in the front room. Or you can mail your labels to: The Cat House, Save-A-Label Program, PO Box 23145, Lincoln, NE 68542.

Now, everyone go out and buy some Best Choice ice cream or paper towels or cookies or whatever at Super Saver. Then be sure to cut out those UPC labels and get them to The Cat House. The kitties thank you for all the money you'll be raising.

Snuggles Lives Up to her Name

Written by: Carly Runestad

Snuggles, a seven-year old large brown tabby with mackerel stripes, spent many months with The Cat House. She recently moved to her new home with Missy and Josh. Missy said Snuggles was a bit shy during introductions and it took a while for her to get comfortable with her new surroundings and her new brother, Silver.

Despite her initial shyness, Missy said, Snuggles can now be found curled up on their bed during all times of the day and has even been seen cuddling with Silver. It seems Snuggles is living up to her name! Since leaving The Cat House, one characteristic has gone unchanged though. Snuggles still loves to eat. Missy reported that, not only does Snuggles never turn down her own food, few mealtimes pass without Snuggles intently and passionately monitoring the table in hopes the favored human food will accidentally drop.



Snuggles is living the good life in her new home.

While many cats have favorite toys, such as cloth mice filled with catnip, or small bouncing balls, Snuggles has a unique leisure pursuit – socks! Missy said that during the night, Snuggles will often carry socks all over the house. “Sometimes we’ll wake up and there will be 20 socks just lying all over the house,” she said. “It’s also the only time that we ever hear Snuggles meow – when she’s carrying a sock in her mouth.” Welcome to your new home, Snuggles. We wish you and your family a life filled with good eats, entertaining socks, and warm “snuggles.”

These Wonderful Kitties Are Looking For Families...Maybe Yours?



Bourbon



Zoltar



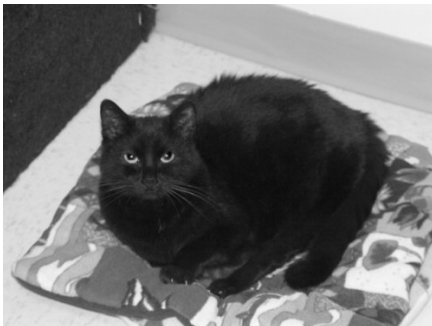
Angel



Spike

Go in Peace, Mr. Wiggles

Written by: Traci Cameron



Mr. Wiggles, a long time resident of TCH born with a birth defect that caused his legs to appear backwards, was laid to rest the morning of September 8, 2006, at 10:30 in a small plot out at Rolling Acres. It is a very peaceful environment. He was a special guy who deserves to be in a place like this. I believe in the Rainbow Bridge and am sure that Wiggles was met by Evette and Linda and many other TCH kitties who passed before him. Restored to health, I can see him up there running around chasing mylar balls and rolling in catnip fields. His

epitaph appropriately reads “Born with three strikes against him but hit a home run with everyone.”



Upcoming TCH Events

Please come to the following TCH events. All donations and profits from items sold will go to help defray the cost of housing the kitties and seeing to their medical needs. If you're interested in volunteering or adopting, any of these events would be a good opportunity to speak with a TCH volunteer.



Capri being judged at the 2005 Sandhills Cat Show

Sandhills Cat Show

October 14, 2006
Seward County Fair Grounds
500 North 14th Street
Seward, NE

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Who will win? Come see!



Evette McPherson as Santa

Pictures with Santa

Sunday, December 3, 2006
PetSmart
5200 N. 27 St.
Lincoln, NE

11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
2 pictures for \$10

Half of all proceeds benefit TCH

Other Events:

- ♦ Hawkeye Cat Show
Palace Theatre at Adventureland Park
5091 NE 56 Street
Des Moines, IA
Feb. 10 and 11
- ♦ Mo-Kan Cat Show
Kansas City, MO
March 10 and 11



HO! HO! HO!

Watch for a second "Pictures with Santa" date sometime in mid-December!

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?



If you are interested in volunteering with The Cat House, we have many opportunities available, from making phone calls, to medicating cats. If you are interested in helping you can fill out a volunteer application online at www.thecathouse.org, contact us by phone at 441-9593 or by email at volunteer@thecathouse.org.

Opportunities to help include:

1. Care, feeding and exercising of cats
2. Laundry
3. Help with the facilities
4. Transporting kitties
5. Newsletter committee
6. Volunteer coordinator
7. Adoption counselor
8. Adoption follow-up
9. Virtual foster care
10. Fund raising committee
11. Advocacy committee
12. Photography

The Cat House Chronicles, a publication of The Cat House, founded in 1999 as a 501(c)3



Temporary New Shelter Hours

Because our landlord rents out our parking lot (and the cats will be "tailgating") during Husker home games, we are temporarily changing our hours. From September 1, 2006, to November 30, 2006, The Cat House will be closed on Saturday. Instead, we will be open from 1:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Sundays.

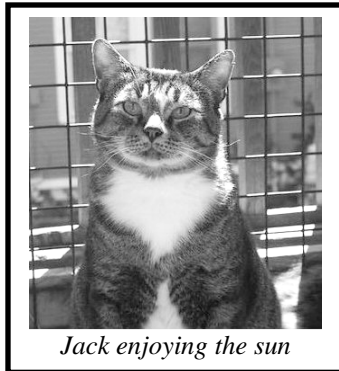
Take a Look at Jack

Written by: Beth Boal

Jack is an absolute love of a kitty who came to us in July 2004. He had been fending for himself in a neighborhood near Park Middle School and tended to stay at least arms length away from people. A previous Cat House adopter had been trying to befriend Jack and noticed he was looking more and more rough.

One day Jack decided it was OK to trust his new friend and went to her for help. She noticed he had wounds around his head and neck and called The Cat House to see what could be done. We had him checked by Dr. Becky Arnold of All Feline Hospital. The exam yielded good and bad news.

The good news was his wounds were self-inflicted from scratching. He was allergic – probably to flea bites – and had a manageable condition. The bad news was that he tested positive for Feline Leukemia. Weakly positive, but still positive.



Jack enjoying the sun

We waited 8 weeks – on the off chance that he might "throw" the virus – and retested him. Once again, he tested positive. So, he joined our other Feline Leukemia residents. Dr. Arnold estimated his age at about 2 to 3 years old at the time. He was a lean, muscular tough-guy looking kitty but a gentle, gentle soul. Jack has been with us now for more than 2 years. He's lost a bit of his taut tough-guy look and now looks a bit more like a retired football player. He's a big, solid brown tabby with white on his chest and paws and loves to be near people. Jack is a pretty laidback guy. It doesn't take much to make him happy – the chance to sit on a soft cushion beside you on the couch, to look out the window at the birds and squirrels and, of course, power-napping.

Jack is hoping for a home with a special person. Anyone interested in adopting Jack or another cat with Feline Leukemia, can contact The Cat House at 441-9593

Facts About FeLV

Q: How is FeLV (Feline Leukemia) transmitted?

A: Mutual grooming and cat bites are the main routes of transmission for FeLV.

Q: Who is most susceptible to acquiring the infection?

A: The young (85% of cats exposed under 12 weeks of age) will become persistently infected if exposed to FeLV. In cats over one year of age, only 15% will become persistently infected with FeLV.

Q: What is the prognosis for a cat persistently infected with FeLV?

A: The prognosis depends on a number of factors. Cats infected with FeLV under 1 year of age have a very poor prognosis. Cats that are infected as adults will carry a better prognosis. In general, 80% of affected cats die with three years of diagnosis.

Q: How long is the virus infectious outside the cat?

A: FeLV is extremely unstable once outside the cat and is rapidly inactivated by alcohol and most common household detergents and disinfectants. The infectivity of the virus in saliva left to dry at room temperature has been shown to decline to inconsequential levels within three or four hours.

Q: How do you diagnose FeLV?

A: Two tests: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and the indirect immunofluorescence antibody test (IFA). Your veterinarian can use the ELISA test. The IFA test must be sent to a laboratory.

Q: Can cats eliminate FeLV?

A: Most cats exposed to FeLV (70%) are capable of eliminating these infections. However, once a cat has been determined to be persistently infected (i.e., IFA positive) less than three percent will become negative.

Q: How old should a cat be to be tested?

A: Since the tests detect viral protein as opposed to antibody, virtually any age can be tested for FeLV.

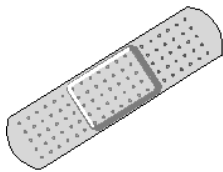
Sources:

- *Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment Of FIV or FeLV*, Dennis W Macy DVM MS, DACVIM, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
- *Cornell Book of Cats*, Second Edition
2003 Proceedings of The Central Veterinary Conference, August 23-26, 2003, Kansas City, MO.

Special thanks to....



Capital Heating and Air



Dr. Knudsen



Nohavec Plumbing



Capital Electric



J & J Development



The Cat House Wish List



There are many ways you can help. In addition to monetary donations, you can donate items that we use in the day-to-day care of our feline friends. To arrange a drop-off time and location, you can call us at 402-441-9593, or email us at info@thecathouse.org.

Dry Cat Food:

Science Diet Regular Maintenance
Science Diet Kitten
Iams Regular
Iams Kitten
Science Diet Z/d (sold through vet clinics)
IVD Duck & Green Pea (sold through vet)
IVD Rabbit & Green Pea (sold through vet)
IVD Venison & Green Pea (sold through vet)

Canned Cat Food:

Iams – any flavor other than seafood
Fancy Feast – any non-seafood flavor
Science Diet A/d (sold through vet clinic)
IVD Duck & Rabbit (sold through vet clinic)

Cat Litter:

Any brand of non-clumping, regular clay litter is fine. We do not use clumping, pine or newsprint type litters.

Cleaners:

Clorox Bleach – regular type
Purell Hand Sanitizer
Dial Anti-Bacterial Hand Soap
Ivory Dishwashing Soap
Clorox Disposable Wipes

Supplies:

Paper Towels
Large Trash Bags (Heavy Duty)
Kitchen Size Trash Bags
Office Trash Can Size Trash Bags
Bathroom Tissue
Copier/Printer Paper

Miscellaneous:

Large stainless steel non-tip food/water bowls
Non-breakable Mixing Bowls
Non-breakable Water Pitchers

The Cat House needs your support so we can continue helping our feline friends.
Please consider donating, or visit our website to learn how you can help!

Please Select Contribution Amount:

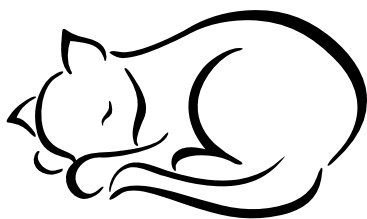


- ☐ \$10
- ☐ \$20
- ☐ \$25
- ☐ \$30
- ☐ \$40
- ☐ Other \$ _____

**Make checks payable to
The Cat House and mail to
PO Box 23145, Lincoln, NE
68542**

**To donate food, toys or supplies, please call
402-441-9593 for an appointment.**

**Contributions can also be made with a credit card
through Paypal. Visit www.thecathouse.org to
learn how. Your donations may be tax deductible!**



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