

# The Cat House Chronicles

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## **A Hero for Maddie**

*Written By: Martha Stoddard*

Tim Tomes could have walked away. He could have ignored the tiny cries for help. He could have taken "no" for an answer about tearing apart the truck. He could have decided to let nature take its course. He could have, but he didn't. That makes him a hero to a petite calico kitten named Madonna, who lived and found a loving home because of him. The cats who share our world benefit every day from the actions, large and small, of people like Tim Tomes. They may take in abandoned cats or give to rescue organizations. They may help shape laws friendly to cats or get feral cats spayed and neutered. Or they may simply stay alert to furry objects darting in front of their cars. In Tim's case, he began wondering about the little calico kitten when he didn't see her for a few days in early December. The kitten, which he and his co-workers called Peaches, was one of the feral, or wild, cats that live near his auto body shop. Tim knows the regulars and welcomes the cats because they keep the mouse and spider population down. He noticed Madonna especially because she was friendlier than the rest, he said. Then one day, while walking by a heavy duty truck owned by a nearby business, he heard a little meow. It nagged at him, he said. "It was just on my conscience."

So Tim checked the vehicles at his shop and at the nearby businesses, calling for the kitten and listening for her responses. He finally honed in on the front of the truck. Crawling under the engine with a flashlight showed that the kitten had somehow gotten inside the engine and was stuck between the radiator and the fan. Employees at the business told Tim to leave the truck alone and he couldn't reach the owner, he said. But he wasn't about to turn his back on a fellow creature and his co-workers agreed. They spent the next couple hours taking the truck's engine apart, piece by piece, until they reached the cold, matted kitten. Tim rushed her inside his office and set her down. She couldn't move, he said. That's when he realized she must have been hit by the fan while the engine was running and gotten her legs broken. The staff at All Feline Hospital told him to bring her right in, which he did before spending another couple hours putting the engine back together. Madonna wound up spending three months at All Feline. She turned out to have three badly broken legs and needed to be coaxed to eat at first. But Tim said her survival was amazing, given that she probably spent more than one freezing night inside the engine and more than one day riding around town with the fan spinning above her. "She just wanted to live," he said. "I'm just glad that I heard her."

He's not the only one who's glad.

So is the family who met her at All Feline about a month ago, just after she got her casts off. Madonna charmed them immediately. Soon she was sharing their south Lincoln home with their three other cats. The kitten, now about 8 months old and nicknamed Maddie, walks with a limp and has a crooked paw. But that hasn't kept her from racing around the house and bringing all her toy mice to bed with her each night. "We were just lucky. She has brought us a lot of joy," her new mom said. "It's amazing what everybody did to help out."



*"She just wanted to live," he said. "I'm just glad that I heard her." He's not the only one who's glad.*

## Featured Kitty..... Snuggles!

*Written By: Mark Brunner*



Snuggles is a large brown tabby with mackerel stripes and is about seven years old. At first meeting, you might wonder how she got her name. Snuggles can be a bit shy and unapproachable at first but is a lap cat once she is comfortable with a person. She will even lie on a sleeping person's chest. She doesn't like to be picked up, but loves attention and being petted on her head. As her size indicates, Snuggles hasn't met a treat she doesn't like, and loves to eat. She enjoys chasing shoe strings for a bit of exercise.



She currently resides at The Cat House's P Street adoption center. When Snuggles first came to The Cat House, she stayed at PETSMART, but, like many cats, had a difficult time adjusting to a cage. She was then fostered for about a year by a Cat House volunteer before being moved to P Street.

Snuggles is front declawed and gets along with other cats as long as they give her some space, but she would probably prefer a home without other animals. In the right environment, she would happily live up to her name and be a great companion.

## Happy Tales

Many kitties have found happiness thanks to the efforts of The Cat House. In January there were 16 adoptions. In February there were 14 adoptions. In March there were 14 adoptions.

## TCH Board

President:  
Mary Batterson

Vice President:  
Beth Boal

Treasurer:  
Stephanie Kielian

Corresponding Secretary:  
Nicole Narboni

Recording Secretary:  
Debbie Borner

Consulting Veterinarian:  
Dr. Rebecca Arnold, DVM

Board Member At Large:  
Sandi Nieveen

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



Iris



Zeffie



Trump



Brando

Read more about cats available from The Cat House on our website at  
<http://www.thecathouse.org>

## TCH Adoption Procedures

Are you looking to add a furry friend to your family? TCH makes adopting a kitty a fun and friendly experience. Here's all you have to do...

1. Make sure the entire family is in agreement with adding a new family member. Get the whole family involved in the decision making and selection process.
2. Visit the kitties. You can see kitties available at the P Street adoption center location, the website, or at PETsMART (5200 N. 27<sup>th</sup> St.).
3. Fill out the adoption application. You can find an application at the P Street adoption center location, the website, or at PETsMART.
4. Submit your completed application. You have many options for submitting your application to The Cat House:
  - Submit online (fastest method) through The Cat House website at [www.thecathouse.org](http://www.thecathouse.org)
  - Mail to:  
The Cat House  
PO Box 23145  
Lincoln, NE 68542
  - Fax to 888-210-7008. If you are submitting an application through PETsMART, ask an employee to fax it for you.
5. Your application will be reviewed to by an adoption counselor (and possibly board members). We try to contact applicants within a few days. If we are unable to get to your application within that amount of time, please remember we are entirely staffed by volunteers. We will get back to you as soon as we can.
6. The adoption fee for a TCH kitty is \$80. This fee covers the cost of care and feeding of the kitty while waiting for adoption. It also includes:
  - A health check by a veterinarian
  - Spay or neuter
  - Rabies vaccination
  - Distemper/upper respiratory combination vaccination
  - Testing for feline leukemia
  - Sales tax

Lincoln city residents will be required to license their new cat or kitten with Animal Control. Owner information for all pets adopted is required to be provided to Animal Control for licensing purposes. Animal Control will contact you about licensing your new pet.



Visit us at our P Street adoption center, located at 1820 P Street. While you're there you will be able to purchase cat beds, clothing, car magnets, toys, and scratching posts in addition to finding that special addition to the family!

We invite you to stop by during our new spring public hours:

Tuesdays, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Thursdays, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Saturdays, 11:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Visitation also by appointment.

For more information, please call 441-9593.



*Tell 'em Garth sent ya!*

## A Home For Firecracker

*Written by: Stephanie Luther-Dahmke*

"I thought he was so pretty and soft and loved his eyes," Jessica Good said about her newly adopted cat, Firecracker.

Firecracker came to the attention of The Cat House when Chad Borner, Cat House board member Debbie Borner's son, noticed a straggly red kitten begging for scraps outside Lazlo's.

Debbie was able to trap Firecracker and he developed into a wonderful cat Debbie found hard to let go of. "Firecracker will always be one of my fondest 'ferals,'" she said.

Jessica and her fiancé, Andrew Johnson, say the first couple of days in his new home were "a little difficult but he was always friendly, cuddly, fun and quirky."

Feeling at home now, Firecracker likes to sit in front of the computer screen and help with typing. Sometimes he carries around figurines he has found on a desk or shelf. He also likes to patiently sit in the picture window waiting to greet both Jessica and Andrew with meows when they get home from work.

Andrew and Jessica are delighted to have Firecracker and look forward to sharing their lives with him.



*Firecracker with his new mom, Jessica*



*Relaxing after a hard day of....relaxing.*

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## Norma Patzloff – A Sew, Sew Volunteer

*Written by: Mark Brunner*

Norma Patzloff is a Lincoln native who has devoted her life to education, and feels that she has been fortunate in her career to be able to help others. Her own education includes nursing school and two graduate degrees from UNL, and she has taught kindergarteners, high schoolers, and disabled children as well as teaching nursing. Norma's love of learning continued even after completing her degrees, as she audited several classes at UNL.

Norma became involved with The Cat House after hearing about the plight of the cats taken from a home on South Street in August 2003. Having recently lost a cat who had lived to the age of twenty-two, she visited The Cat House website and found Snoopy, who was pregnant at the time she was rescued, and Charlie, one of Snoopy's kittens. Under Norma's care, Charlie has now grown to twice the size of his mother.

After retiring from her long career in education, Norma was eager to continue working with people. This, together with her love of cats led her to volunteer with The Cat House.



*Norma, enjoying an afternoon of volunteering at a TCH fundraising event.*

When a back injury forced her to stop cleaning at one of our facilities, Norma was determined to continue to volunteer, and brought a blanket she had made to a garage sale held by The Cat House. Another volunteer, Alma Vlasak, noticed the blanket and approached Norma about making more of them.

Together, Alma and Norma have created many cat beds, carrier liners and other products that have sold extremely well at cat shows and at the P Street adoption center. While Norma designs the products and does the sewing, Alma supplies and cuts the materials and distributes the products.



*Snoopy & Charlie when Norma first met them at The Cat House.*

## 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.

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### TCH Adoptathon

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April 30 (Saturday)  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

May 1 (Sunday)  
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



PETsMART  
5200 N. 27<sup>th</sup> St.

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### TCH Garage Sale

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May 13 (Friday)  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

May 14 (Saturday)  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

May 15 (Sunday)  
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**\*Bag Day\***

We provide the bag and you  
fill it for \$5.00

P Street adoption center  
1820 P Street



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### Omaha Cat Show

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May 21  
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Chili Greens Golf  
& Sports Dome  
6808 Spring Street



*Tango & Cami, TCH kitties who took home many ribbons in the Lincoln 2005 CFA cat show.*

## 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](http://www.thecathouse.org), contact us by phone at 441-9593 or by email at [volunteer@thecathouse.org](mailto: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. Foster home
10. Virtual foster care
11. Fund raising committee
12. Advocacy committee
13. Photography

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*The Cat House Chronicles, a publication of The Cat House, founded in 1999 as a 501(c)3, located at PETsMART (5200 N 27th)*

***If you are interested in submitting articles, taking pictures or helping out with the production of the newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Committee at [editor@thecathouse.org](mailto:editor@thecathouse.org)***

# Congratulations to Violet, Cami, and Tango

Written by: Traci Cameron

In February Violet, Cami, and Tango (TCH kitties who have since found homes) strutted their stuff in the show ring as they were presented to judges at the Lincoln and Kansas City cat shows (household pet division). Violet took a 5th, 7th and 7th at the show in Kansas City. Cami took a 4th, 7th, 9th and 10th at the Lincoln Cat Show. Tango took a 7th, 9th, 10th and 10th at the Lincoln Cat Show. Congratulations! You are all winners and just purrrfect in our eyes.



Tango being judged

## In Memory and In Honor...

The following donations were made to The Cat House in memory of loved ones.

### In Memory of Rhonda Kay Eno

Trudee & Darrell Schweppe  
David & Sally Plants  
Leland & Janice Stege  
Carol Meyer  
Michael & Kathleen Selting  
Mary Bush

### In Memory of Julie Carpenter's cat, Miss Gertie

Beverly Pagel

### In memory of Krista Walker Seevers

Anne Bruce

### In Memory of Gene Heying

Debra & Mike Shea

*Please accept this donation in the name of my father – Gene Heying. He recently passed away and although he was an ex-marine and a pretty tough ole guy, he loved his pet cats dearly. I know he will be smiling if you can use this money to help save a furry little friend.*

*Thank you,  
His daughter, Debra Shea*

### In Memory of Plano

Our deepest sympathies to Larry & June Arnold from everyone at The Cat House.

### In Memory of Cuddles

Helen Johnson

### In Memory of Niko, Toni, & Scotty

Virginia Chramosta

### In Memory of Ted Wiese

Linda Grant

### In Memory of Evette McPherson

Mary Jackson  
Gardeners-At-Large  
Jane Tinkler  
Sue Kemp  
Martha Stoddard  
Cathy Peterson  
Danya Souza  
Nicole Narboni  
Mark Clinton  
Lynn Frankowski  
Jody Lewis  
Nancy Shelly  
Rebecca Smith  
Katrina & Keith Dailey  
Lisa Lewis  
Sue Kablitz  
Erin Stone  
Gannett Company (Chris McPherson's company)  
The Knowledge Exchange Co.  
All Feline Hospital  
Deanne Gober



## 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](mailto: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  
Newspaper

### Miscellaneous:

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

## Special thanks to....



## ALL FELINE HOSPITAL

Rebecca L. Arnold, D.V.M. • Shelley Knudsen, D.V.M.

"To Enhance The Human-Feline Bond Through Medicine and Education"

"All Felines and Ferrets Welcome"



333 N Cotner Blvd. Suite #5  
(402) 477-2711

**Thank you for your continued support and generosity!**

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!



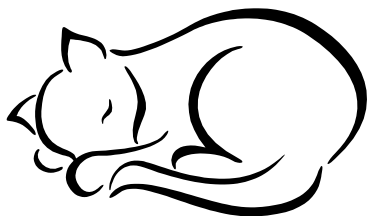
**Please Select Contribution Amount:**

- ☐ \$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](http://www.thecathouse.org) to  
learn how. Your donations may be tax deductible!**



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