

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

These hard-working volunteers deserve a big round of “appaws.”

PAGES 2 & 4



FEATURED CAT

Ringo Starr

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LIFE'S ROCKY

Rocky finds his perfect forever home after an eventful stay at the shelter.

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THE CAT HOUSE Scoop

Cat pictured: Sawyer

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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
Fax: (866) 817-8819
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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.

Paradise found

By Milton the cat

Editor's Note: Volunteers at The Cat House knew Milton as a beautiful, 12-year-old Maine Coon-type guy with a laid back attitude and an ability to roll with the punches. We should have guessed there was more to him from his name. Just three days after going home with Jeremy Bishop and Liz Zellner-Bishop, Milton's proclivity for prose surfaced. An email arrived that began: "Hello from Milton the Cat. I am writing to all of you from my new home to let you all know that I am doing well. I have a new brother named Socrates. We like to sniff each other front AND back!" OK, not exactly Thoreau, but pretty impressive for a cat! Over time, we received a number of emails from Milton. Here are excerpts from a couple.

"Hello to all my friends. I got to experience something interesting the other evening. There was a fire in our apartment complex. Apparently, the woman that moved in underneath us left something cooking on her stove. My humans were at the apartment complex pool. Liz smelled something burning and looked down the

sidewalk to see smoke pouring out of our building. She ran out of the pool and called out to my other human and some other workers from the apartment complex. They came racing down to the building.

"Liz was distraught because they knew the fire was underneath us. Jeremy entered the building and our apartment. My brother and I were lounging in the living room when Jeremy entered. I think my brother was licking my foot or something. He scooped up my brother and handed him to another employee. Then he looked at me and said, 'Milt!'

continued on page 3



Milton

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 email 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... Heather Hulinsky and Les Acree

HeatherHulinskydatesherinvolvement with The Cat House to the five tiny, maggot-infested kittens found near a local monastery. A rescuer took them to All Feline Hospital, where Heather's sister works, and her sister asked her to foster the kittens.



Les Acree, Heather Hulinsky & Rhianna

The creatures were so weak, they weren't expected to survive, but Heather didn't know that when she agreed to take them in. Under the care she and Les Acree provided, all five kittens lived and grew. Four went to new homes around Christmas 2007, leaving Heather with a bad case of empty nest blues.

So Heather pulled out a Cat House card she had picked up at PetSmart,

while getting kitten supplies, and called to volunteer. It wasn't long before they got their first TCH foster cat – a very pregnant Audrey, who had three kittens.

Then came four 10-day-old orphans. Then BooBoo, who wasn't eating on his own. Then Molly, Olive, Missy, Cody, Yvette, Augustus, Bacardi, Stoli, Abbott, Costello, Dolly . . .

"They take some of the hard cases and provide excellent care," said Faye Stevens, TCH president. "Most of their foster cats have been adopted or are at The Cat House adoption center now."

Heather also works open hours, showing cats to potential adopters, and makes followup calls to adopters. Les started coming along to watch the parking lot for people dumping cats. Soon he was helping stock supplies and showing around adopters himself. The couple also have helped with some special events.

Outside of TCH, Heather is program manager for in-kind donations at Cedars Youth Services. Les is the warehouse manager for SitStay.com, an online dog supply store. The couple have been together more than eight years. Heather's son, Carter, and their own cats complete the household.

Happy Tails Stats

Here are the number of cats adopted in recent months.

September.....	28
October.....	27
November.....	27
December.....	37
January.....	37
February.....	22
March.....	27
Total for 2008.....	301



Catnip stix, pet beds, and carrier liners for sale!

To purchase, stop by the shelter, visit us at the Farmer's Market this summer, or visit www.thecathouse.org/store.

Donations in memory & honor

In memory of Puff from Elinor Nevin

In memory of Abby & Tika from Pat Powell

In memory of Charline Bettag from Evelyn Taylor

In memory of Karen Beauty's cat she lost to illness this year

In memory of Harold the cat, companion of Kathy Jo Wetter, given by Andrea Bolland

In memory of Ken Liggett from Sue Smith

In memory of my beloved Rocky—a gift card to Sam's Club—from Doris Kosmos

In memory of Kenny French from Erin Dempsey

In memory of Alex the cat

In memory of Lloyd Franey and in honor of his cat Thaddeu (a Cat House alumni), who spent Lloyd's last day curled up on Lloyd's legs, from Harlan Franey

In memory of my nephew, Luke Scheffert, who was a huge cat lover, from Shelley Witt

In memory of Cheera from Vanessa Pertusa-Ruser

In memory of Verna Lautzenheiser from The Conference of Consulting Actuaries

In memory of Verna Lautzenheiser from 23rd & 24th Street neighbors: Ben & Susan Dahl & family, Joe & Connie Swenson, Martin & Rhonda Swanson & family, Scott & Leirion Baird & family, Bruce & Lori Waters & family, Justin Carlson & Liz Ring & family, Joe & Dawn Munn, Dave & Cindy Maw & family, Doug & Yvonne Meyer & family

In honor of friends at Christmas from Theresa Wagner

In honor of brother & sister-in-law at Christmas from Anne Bruce

In honor of Katrina Christiansen from Kathy Griesel

In honor of our daughter, Kristin Krejci, who enjoys volunteering at The Cat House, from Sue Krejci

In honor of Dru Fogerty from John Fogerty

In honor of Loreen Kersey at Christmas from Deedee Wilkinson

From Panther, Mittens, Sadie, and Emma Halda

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

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

Special thanks to Cause For Paws for donating a percentage of sales.

Paradise found, continued...

“Now let me tell you...that freaked me out a bit. I could hear hollerin' and smelled something funny. When my human said my name, I was like, 'Oh, heck no!' And I was off. I ran under the king-sized bed in the bedroom and hid as far back in the corner as I could get. Jeremy ran into the bedroom and flipped that mattress over. So I ran into the other bedroom and hid under that bed. Jeremy followed me and flipped that mattress over. So I ran into the living room under the couch. And that is where my human caught me. Apparently my rear end is a little too big to fit under the couch. Jeremy scooped me up and put me in my carrier.

“He handed me off to a person exiting the building and the person took me to Liz. Jeremy did a good job, even though he scared me. He and the other apartment employees went from apartment to apartment and got all the people out. They even got ALL the animals out including the ones that didn't have their humans at home.

“It was pretty scary at first because of all the sirens and what not. But when we

finally got to return home, Liz gave me some tuna. I guess that made it ok, but I hid under the bed for a day with my brother. Jeremy required a bit of oxygen in the ambulance after the excitement. I think Liz said that he is her hero.”



Milton and his human, Jeremy

From a recent email:

“Hey there, it's Milt! I am alive and well in the great state of corn. You'll have to forgive me for my most recent email silence. One of my humans has been writing enormous amounts of papers for her college classes so my time on the computer has been limited. However, I insist on sitting on her lap while she writes those papers. It's only fair since she is using my computer.

“We have recently moved within our apartment complex. I have been spending my days exploring the new townhouse that I now reside in. The windows are lovely and I enjoy basking in the sun.

“My brother and I have invented a new game called “Run Around Really Fast.” In this game, I chase him down the stairs, through the dining and living room, and then back up the stairs where we end up on the bed in a licking match. I always win of course. Then we take a nap.

“The master bedroom is my zen place. My waterfall fountain creates a nice soothing sound and I can also enjoy tasty room service three times a day or wander to the kitchen for a bit of some a la carte treats.

“I am living it up, my friends. Age never stops me. I'm like a fine wine, except if you tried to drink me the fur would get stuck in your mouth and I just really wouldn't appreciate it. I have my 5-foot perch to sleep on, a king size bed that I let my humans borrow, or my little blue bed if I'm in a cozy mood. I have my brother, my humans and I am loved. What more could I ask for?”

Calendar of Events

Please join us in participating or celebrating the following events.

Lincoln Earth Day
April 19, 1-5 pm
UNL Campus – 12th & R
Selling pet beds and catnip stix.

Be Kind to Animals Week
May 3-9

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors Wine & Howl Event
May 2, 10 am-6 pm
Prime Country Winery - Denton, NE
Selling pet beds, catnip stix and other merchandise.

Adopt-A-Cat Month
June
Watch for adoption specials!

Haymarket Farmer's Market
starting late June
Watch website for exact dates.
Selling pet beds and catnip stix.

Midlands Cat Club Show
August 15, 9 am-3 pm*
Elkhorn, NE - Elkhorn Common Ground Community
Selling pet beds, catnip stix and other merchandise.

Sandhills Cat Club Show
October 10, 9 am-4 pm*
Seward, NE - Ag Pavillion at Seward County Fairgrounds
Selling pet beds, catnip stix and other merchandise.

*Times may change, please check our website.

Spotlight on... Casey & Melody Dusseau

Casey Dusseau didn't used to be a cat person. But that was before he fell for Melody Rohleder and met her cat, Chloe. It was before he took in Chloe because Melody's roommates didn't get along with the cat, and before he and Melody got married last summer.



Casey & Melody Dusseau

Now, Casey is so much a cat convert that the couple have turned their weekly volunteer work for The Cat House into almost a date night. "We go out to eat and then we go clean cat cages," he said.

Melody and Casey discovered The Cat House when they went to PetSmart North last summer looking for a

second cat. There they found Dexter, who is now part of the household. They also found out about TCH volunteer opportunities and decided to sign up. "We'd been looking for something we could do together," Casey said.

The two now clean and feed for the cats at PetSmart North every Thursday. Casey also stops by the Q Street adoption center many Tuesday nights to spend time with the cats while Melody works. "They are just wonderful. They are an awesome couple," said Jana Wrick, the coordinator for PetSmart North.

Casey Dusseau, who is originally from Norfolk, is finishing up a bachelor's degree in computer engineering at UNL. He plans to graduate in August. He works for the university's information services department, setting up wiring on campus.

Melody Dusseau graduated in December with a double major in nutrition, exercise and health science and in dietetics. Originally from Austin, Texas, she has an internship with Verizon Wireless promoting health and wellness for the company's Lincoln employees.

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, Maintenance, & Kitten
- Science Diet Light – Adult
- Iams Regular & Kitten
- Royal Canin Baby Cat
- Science Diet W/D, R/D, C/D or Z/D*

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, or C/D*
- Purina NF*

CLEANERS

- Tide Free liquid laundry detergent (sensitive skin)
- Scent-free dryer sheets (sensitive skin)
- Clorox bleach (regular type)
- Anti-bacterial hand soap
- Dawn dishwashing soap
- Dishwasher soap
- 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

Ringo Starr

By Jana Wrick

Ringo Starr was named for the famous Beatles drummer and he is definitely not your average John, Paul or George.

Ringo Starr is a gorgeous ebony tabby who enjoys the attention of his human companions. His big eyes don't miss anything. Ringo loves to look outside at squirrels and birds and would really enjoy a home with big windows,

where he could sun himself and lounge all day. He was in a foster home with a small dog and liked to play with the dog and the doggie toys, but his favorite toys are the little mice he can toss in the air. Ringo Starr, who is 3 years old, is a big boy with the typical cat attitude – he wants his space but also his cuddle time. He likes to curl up beside you while you are watching television or reading a book.

Ringo Starr is a very special cat who is looking for his forever home. Stop by our shelter at 1935 Q St. to meet him and find out how amazing he really is. Just remember, “Don't Pass Me By.”



*Ringo Starr
Showing off for the camera!*

Life's rocky

By Melissa Lindell

As I look at a picture of Rocky, I see it in his eyes. You know, that sparkle of a new day, the mischievousness of a kitten. It wasn't always there. This is Rocky's story.

Rocky came to The Cat House because his owners were having a baby and thought that cats and babies don't mix. First he was angry, then depression set in, and he stopped eating. He probably wondered when they were coming

and needed to be fed and medicated through a feeding tube. Would he get better?

After a month of treatment, he was taken back to All Feline Hospital to see if his health had improved. The answer was an emphatic NO. He had gotten worse. Not willing to give up on him, the vet, Kyndall, and other TCH volunteers decided to give it one more go. This time it worked! Rocky pulled through and started to show improvement. His feeding tube was finally not necessary. Now to find food that he would eat. After two months of eating through a feeding tube, he was picky about what he ate. Finally, he decided he liked boiled chicken. A few weeks later when Rocky decided he wanted to be the alpha male in the house, Kyndall knew he was ready to find his forever home. Would it be hard to find Rocky's new people?

One day Kyndall got the call. Someone wanted to visit Rocky. Marsha and Scott saw him and knew he was the one. In their home, he loves to be the center of attention, inspects everything that comes into the house, and, in general, is king of his domain. He enjoys playing fetch and even has chauffeur service when someone is at home to carry him around the house. Life's not so rocky now. In fact, I would say it is purr-fect.



Rocky

back. Would someone see his value and love him again? Along came Kyndall Bedell, a volunteer at The Cat House. She saw something special in those green eyes. By the time she fostered Rocky, though, he was at half of his weight, had fatty liver disease,

These cats are looking for forever homes.



Penny – 3 years



Tigress – 4 years



Lucky – 3 years



Merry (FeLV+) – 1 year

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 centers located at 5200 N 27th Street and 2801 Pine Lake Road.

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:

- \$10
- \$20
- \$25
- \$30
- \$40
- \$50
- Other \$ _____

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

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