

# The Cat House Chronicles

Volume #5 Issue #3

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## Help for Lincoln Ferals

*Written by: Martha Stoddard*



*A former roamer who has found a new family.*

Thanks to a new project of The Cat House, one less danger may soon threaten cats that roam the back alleys and wild areas of Lincoln. The Cat House has entered into an agreement with the City of Lincoln to undertake the first city sanctioned, trap-neuter-release project this fall. If all goes well, the hope is that the city will agree to change its policy on dealing with feral cats and adopt the TNR approach citywide, according to TCH Vice President Beth Boal.

"The fact that the city's even doing this pilot is a huge, huge success,"

Boal said. Feral cats are those that have lost their domesticity and reverted to the wild. Current city policy is to capture roaming cats and, because no one claims them and they are judged too wild to be adopted, to kill them. Last year, only 11 percent of cats captured in Lincoln were claimed. Three-quarters of the rest were euthanized.

The policy has cost the lives of countless cats and hasn't worked to control their numbers or stop complaints about them, Boal said. Other cats simply move in to claim the vacant territory, leading to the fights that often cause complaints. Nor does the policy do anything to slow down the population growth. The cats will breed to fill the available food supply. "It leaves a vacuum," Boal said. "You want that one mean, nasty male cat that keeps the others from coming in."

With the TNR pilot project, cats will be captured and taken to All-Feline Hospital. They will be spayed or neutered, vaccinated for rabies and distemper and checked for other diseases. Each will be photographed, given a microchip and eartipped for later identification. The cats will then be returned to the place they were captured, where they have established relationships. The exceptions would be kittens young enough to be socialized. TNR programs have proven successful at controlling cat populations in other places where they have been used. They also can save money for cities by reducing the need for shelters. Such programs are being used in Washington, D.C.; Atlantic City, N.J.; and Salt Lake City and are common in Australia and South Africa.

The Lincoln pilot project will focus on an area near 48<sup>th</sup> Street and Leighton Avenue. The city will pay The Cat House \$3,000 to administer the project. The Cat House will work with a volunteer or volunteers in the area to trap the cats and monitor the colony. Cats wearing a collar and license tag will be released if trapped and will not be included in the project.



*An outside kitty enjoying the sun.*

## Featured Kitty..... BOSLEY

*Written By: Mark Brunner*

Bosley is one of more than 40 cats rescued from a house on Adams Street about one year ago. Of those, 22 cats came to The Cat House. Along with Bosley was his sister, Maddie, and brothers (probably), Benny and Caruso, all of whom were fathered by Murphy.



Like most of the Adams Street cats, Bosley was a bit shy at first, but with the help of his "family" and volunteers he has adjusted into the good-natured cat he is today. He even took on the role of an unofficial "greeter" at The Cat House's main facility at C Street, joining Benny and Caruso in showing new arrivals around. Bosley loves to play and is usually the first to catch a wand toy. He gets along well with other cats and doesn't use his claws inappropriately.



Bosley is currently staying at the P Street adoption facility and hopes to be adopted into a loving home just as his brothers already have.



Name: Bosley

Age: Approx. 2 ½ years

Type: Solid Black Domestic Long Hair

## Happy Tales

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

April	7 adoptions
May	9 adoptions
June	16 adoptions
July	19 adoptions
August	21 adoptions
September	14 adoptions

## TCH Board

President:  
Mary Batterson

Vice President:  
Beth Boal

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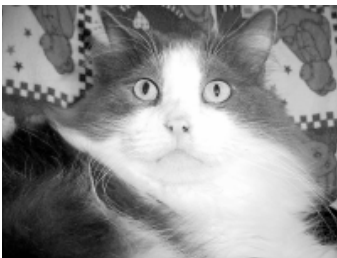
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## These Wonderful Kitties Are Also Looking For Families...Maybe Yours?



Sid



Snuggles



Victoria



Mo Man

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

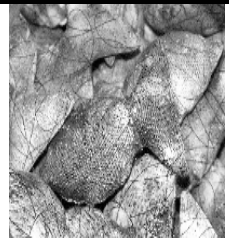
## The Comeback Cat

*Written by Martha Stoddard*



When Miss Blaze's owner died, the sweet-natured calico came very close to following. She survived because of the intervention of two special people. The first was Cheri Halda of Council Bluffs, who got Miss Blaze out of the traditional animal shelter where her owner's family had taken her. Cheri knew that Miss Blaze, at 15 years old, wasn't likely to be put up for adoption. So Cheri called The Cat House. The

other was Beth Boal, vice president of The Cat House, who nursed Miss Blaze back from a severe upper respiratory infection. Miss Blaze arrived in Lincoln with a fever of 105 degrees-plus. Normal is around 101 to 102 degrees. Beth wrapped Miss Blaze in cold towels and held her through the night. That, plus medications, brought her around. "For a 15-year-old kitty, she really bounced back," Beth said. Placed in the "girls room" at The Cat House main shelter, Miss Blaze quickly settled in with the other cats. But she loves to see visitors, purring and reaching out one white paw to anyone who will stop and pet her long, soft fur. "She's just the consummate lap cat," Beth said. Now, all she needs is a new home and some laps to call her own.



### WE'RE MOVING!

Starting in December you will be able to find The Cat House in a new location. Our new adoption center will be located at 1935 Q St. While you're there you will be able to purchase cat beds, clothing, car magnets, toys, and scratching posts as well as 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.

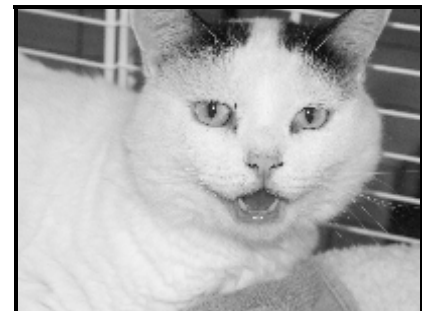
Visitation also by appointment.

For more information, please call 441-9593.

## In Memory of Linda Vavrus

*Written by Traci Cameron*

A wonderful person and hard working Cat House volunteer was taken from us on October 11, 2005. Linda, a volunteer for the past three years, was a big cat lover. What many didn't know about her was that she was an entrepreneur, a grandmother, and was a professor at Stanford University and UNL. Linda had a love and compassion for all living things which was evident by her two years in Ethiopia with the Peace Corps as well as her affiliation with Nebraskans for Peace, National Audubon Society, and Bible Study Fellowship. Linda meant a lot to people and animals alike. She will be missed.



*Tell 'em Wallace sent ya!*

## Spotlight on.....Nancy Shelley

*Written By: Stephanie Luther-Dahmke*

Someone once said, "Managing senior programmers is like herding cats." Nancy Shelley, The Cat House Volunteer Coordinator, must feel the same way at times.

Nancy manages the volunteer schedule for both the main facility and adoption center, contacts and schedules new volunteers for training, handles vacancies in the volunteer schedule, does Cat House laundry and has her own cleaning and feeding shift.

In real life, Nancy is the office administrator for Brooks Pansing Brooks law firm and herds her own group of six cats.

Her first experience with The Cat House was with a neighbor who left her cat outside all day and night. Nancy offered to adopt the cat and was refused. Concerned for the cat's well being, Nancy called The Cat House hotline. The result was that the cat got a wonderful new home and The Cat House got Nancy as a dedicated volunteer.

The cats surely appreciate Nancy's attentiveness to their well being and the volunteers appreciate her diligence, dedication and unfailing cheerfulness as the Volunteer Coordinator.



*Nancy Shelley with Ci Ci Blume, a cat available for adoption through The Cat House.*

## Hairy's New Adventures

*Written By: Stephanie Luther-Dahmke*

I have been a Cat House volunteer for over a year now. I have always had favorites. My first favorite was Scampers, followed by Red Tiger, Jasper and Arnie. Even with my ever-growing list of favorites, I never had a desire to adopt one until I met Hairy.



*Hairy getting a piggy back ride*

It was something about the world-weary look in his eyes, his big yellow stained feet, crumpled left ear and overall grumpy demeanor that made me want to take him home. Hairy had been rescued from a home that had 146 cats.

Hairy is now a permanent part of the Luther-Dahmke family. He still looks grumpy, but his eyes now look alert and happy. He is enjoying his life at Capitol Beach lounging in the sun on one of TCH volunteer Norma Patzloff's cat pads, learning how to play "stick" and even

getting piggy back rides. Instead of hiding in corners and not wanting to be picked up, Hairy now likes to give hugs, sleep cuddled up next to my husband at night and inadvertently carries his own supply of sparkle balls in his big bushy tail.

Hopefully Hairy can now forget being 1 out of 146 and be just Hairy who loves cat treats, volunteer Stephanie Kielian's catnip fish and hates the wind moving his fur around.



*Hairy - before - longing for love*



*Hairy - after - enjoying life!*

## 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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### Younkers Fundraising Day

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Go shopping to help TCH!  
Purchase a Younkers book now for \$5.00 that's loaded with savings. Come shopping on November 19<sup>th</sup> and get even more savings!

Saturday, November 19  
Younkers Fundraising Day  
Westfield Mall

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### Pictures with Santa

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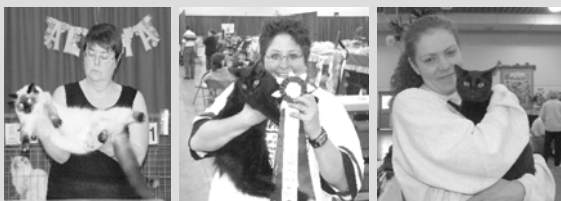
HO! HO! HO!  
Dress your prince and princess up for Santa photos. Get 2 Polaroid photos for \$10.00. Half of the proceeds go to help the kitties of The Cat House.

Saturday, December 3, 2005  
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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

### Kitties Strut their Stuff in Seward

Congratulations to Capri, Armand, Strider, and Jasmine for their wonderful performances in the Seward 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 441-9493 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

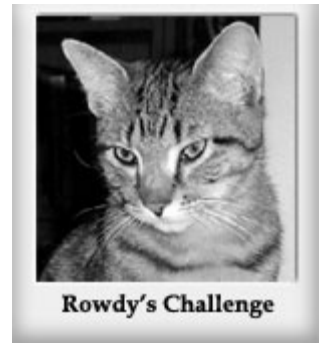
*The Cat House Chronicles, a publication of The Cat House, founded in 1999 as a 501(c)3*

***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)***

# Rowdy's Challenge

Written By: Beth Boal

Rowdy, a 'baby' born during the South Street debacle, has become a Cat House Ambassador of sorts! He was adopted by a volunteer and now, 2 years after his birth, a 'Secret Admirer' gave him a birthday present - a \$5000 birthday present! Rowdy, after a bit of persuasion, has decided to donate ALL of his birthday money, IF generous donors can pull together another \$25,000 by year-end, resulting in a Grand Total of \$30,000! We are HALF WAY to the total of \$30,000! **BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP TO GET THERE!!!** You can donate online at our website, <http://www.thecatshouse.org>, or mail your donation to PO Box 23145, Lincoln, NE 68542.



## In Memory and In Honor...

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

### In Memory of Elaine Vlasak

Jennifer Livers  
NE Dept of Roads

### In Memory of Plano Arnold

Becky Arnold  
Debbie Borner

### In Memory of MGP

Pat Powell

### In Memory of Sue Strong

Larry and Suzie Meierdierks

### In Memory of Mary Mowery

Lettie Van Hemert  
Mark & Carolyn Tyler  
Jim Mapes & Perot Systems Healthcare

### In Honor of Nikko, Scotty, & Toni

Virginia Charmosta

### In Honor of Beth Boal's Birthday

Delbert & Nancy Boal

## Help for Katrina Kitties

Written By: Suzie Meierdierks

Simba, the "office manager" for The Cat House, knows what it's like to be bedraggled and homeless. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, The Cat House shared a little bit of comfort with some of Simba's friends who had suffered the same experience in the storm.

On September 7, TCH volunteer Suzie Meierdierks took 22 beds and 12 catnip sticks made by Cat House volunteers with her to Birmingham, Ala. Suzie donated these items to the Greater Birmingham Humane Society on behalf of The Cat House. The North Shore Animal League was bringing in cats and dogs to the shelter by the truckload from areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.



*The cat house has several Katrina kitties for adoption. Stop by our P street (soon to be Q street) adoption location for a visit!*

A few days later, TCH volunteer Alma Vlasak talked to Heidi Krupp, the director of the St. Francis Animal Sanctuary in Tylertown, Miss. Heidi said people from the Best Friends animal sanctuary were helping out at their shelter. Almost all of the shelter's donor base had been wiped out in the hurricane, but with assistance from Best Friends, they were still able to function. They were receiving more than 100 animals a day. Alma sent 50 beds and 8 carrier liners, again made by TCH friends, to those kitties. The Nebraska Trucking Association paid for shipping the beds and liners by UPS.

The Cat House also is finding new homes for cats from the hurricane hit area. Four cats and four kittens arrived in Lincoln on Sept. 22 and two were promptly adopted! More may be on their way.

# 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

## Miscellaneous:

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

*Special thanks to....*

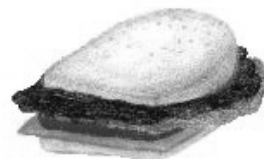


## ALL FELINE HOSPITAL

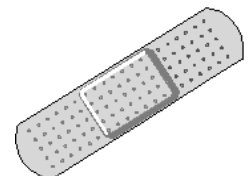
Rebecca L. Arnold, D.V.M. • Shelley Knudsen, D.V.M.

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

"All Felines and Ferrets Welcome"



**Highnooners**



**Dr. Knudsen**



**Thank you to Sitescapes, Inc. for donating a beautiful park bench to The Cat House. The bench has been dedicated in memory of Evette McPherson and Terri Rinni.**

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!

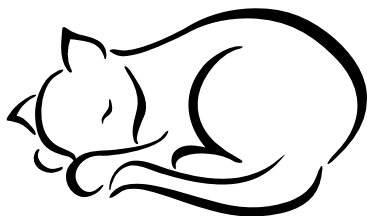


**Please Select Contribution Amount:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10           | <b>Make checks payable to<br/>The Cat House and mail to<br/>PO Box 23145, Lincoln, NE<br/>68542</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20           |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25           |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30           |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40           |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |   |

**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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