



ADOPTION FACILITY

3633 "O" 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 thecathouse.org facebook.com/thecathouse

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

Vet visit days: Stick out your tongue and say "meow"

By Martha Stoddard

Whether you have the responsibility for one cat or more than a hundred cats, there are times when they need veterinary care. At The Cat House, most of the routine care is provided by Dr. Kelly Jordan of Wachal Pet Health Center. She donates one Saturday a month to give

shots, draw blood, perform examinations, and assess weepy eyes, bald spots, stiff joints, litter box misses, rotten teeth, and other cat health problems.

Dr. J, as she is known at TCH, said she volunteers her services because she enjoys working with and helping out the cats and volunteers, in spite of the times she has been peed on, pooped on, or scratched by patients.

"I like offering help any time it's truly appreciated," she said, "and TCH takes excellent care of the cats, which I appreciate." Dr. J started doing the vet visits about 4 years ago. She followed Dr. Shelley Knudsen of All Feline Hospital, who had done them for many



years. Vet visit days can be a whirlwind, with a succession of cats coming and going from the exam room. Some enjoy the variety in their day. Others make it very clear they are unhappy. Dr. J holds the record for the longest vet visit, which lasted 10 hours. The

average is closer to 6 hours.

During the visits, Dr. J is aided by one of the TCH medicators and a crew of volunteers. The medicator, often a veterinary student, holds the cats during the exams. The volunteers add notes in the medical records, track changes in medication, handle other paperwork, and fetch cats to and from their rooms. They also greet recent adopters and foster parents bringing in cats to be seen.

Suzie Meierdierks, the TCH medical coordinator, plans and oversees the visits. She starts with a list of cats that are due for routine vaccinations, cats that are reaching their senior years and need blood work done,

continued on page 2

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.

Our volunteer needs change frequently. We encourage you to check our website at the cathouse.org for updates.

You can fill out a volunteer application online at 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:

- Open hours
- 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
- Filing
- Grant writing
- Fundraising
- Data entry
- Retail events
- Feral/TNR program
- Foster care

Happy Tails Stats

Here are the number of cats adopted in recent months.

October	18
November	28
December	27
January	27
February	39
March	13

Volunteer Spotlight: Amber Nieman

Amber Nieman was younger than several of The Cat House cats when she first started volunteering at the shelter. She was 13 then and came in with her mother, Christine Nieman, and brother, Brett, to help clean rooms. Some teenagers might have found it annoying to spend so much time with a parent. But Amber said she "absolutely loved" helping out the cats.

The other volunteers loved her cheerful, hard-working attitude.

More than 7 years later, Amber is still volunteering. She is a team leader for the Tuesday cleaning and feeding crew, and on Thursdays she does the specialized cleaning of quarantine rooms. She helps with the monthly weighing of cats and has started volunteering with the monthly visits from the veterinarian--both jobs where younger legs and knees are welcome. Recently, she



began fostering two cats that were not doing well at the shelter.

Belinda Gillam, the facility coordinator, said Amber has always pitched in when asked. "I can always count on Amber and she has been with us for a long time," she said. "Whenever I need someone to step up, she's there."

Outside of her TCH hours, Amber attends Southeast

Community College part-time and works close to full-time at a local bowling alley. She also bowls in two bowling leagues, but she always makes time for the cats.

"I keep volunteering at TCH because I absolutely love the cats, even with all of their different and difficult personalities, and it makes me feel good to be doing something that makes a difference in the community," she said.

Vet visit days—continued from page 1

and new intakes that need to be examined and possibly microchipped and tested for feline leukemia and feline immunodeficiency virus. Volunteers and medicators also suggest cats based on their observations. Some of the cats are identified through the monthly weight checks on all cats. The list usually includes some recent adoptees that need a vaccination and cats in foster homes that need care.

One of the benefits of moving into the current building was creating a room dedicated to veterinary needs of the cats.

In the last building, the vet room doubled as cat living quarters. Dr. J recalled that she had to work especially carefully in the previous shelter so that an upset patient did not set off the resident divas, Liberty and Sally.

But she also recalls the heartwarming times, such as seeing Simply Red transform from being a very sick, bedraggled stray into a good-looking boy with a bit of an attitude.

Meierdierks said that having a vet provide routine care at TCH makes a big difference for the cats and for the shelter. The cats benefit from not having to be put in a carrier, then driven across town and potentially having to wait in a strange place with scary sounds and smells. They also can be seen when a problem may be small and more easily treated.

TCH benefits by being able to stretch its funds and volunteer time. Along with

the donated veterinary time, the shelter saves money by being able to arrange directly for laboratory work and purchases of vaccines, tests, and medications. In addition, shelter volunteers do not have to spend time transporting cats, except for the times when more immediate care is needed. TCH is honored and blessed to have access to the knowledge and hard work provided by Dr. I and TCH volunteers.



Donations in memory & honor of...

In memory of

Aidan Curry from Grandma and Grandpa Brock

Anne Bruce from Penny Schmuecker

Beppo from Lynne Nevin

Bette McCaffrey from Elizabeth Barry

Bill Murray from Deanne Isaacson

Brian Elias from Patricia Metcalf

Charles Conner from Marian Conner

Charlie from Patricia Rice

Dexter from Brian Hutson

Dear friends no longer with us from Cynthia Rice

Wonderful cats that shared their lives with them from Richard and Wilda Lyons

Her sister from Pamela Firebaugh

Laci from Lois Anderson

Doris Knerr from Regina Francke

Gene Cotter from Stephanie Esteves, Karen Lafler, Marilyn Maude, and Sheila Hicken

Grover from Kyndall Bedell

Sable (Sophia) from Elizabeth Smidberg and Theresa Entriken

Irene Keifer from Dennis Krei

Jackie Witzki from Cody and Christina Nilson

Jay Fremont from Cynthia Stryker

Jean Bullen from Denise Wiemer

Jezebel, Olivia, and Elly from Kerri and Rick Egner

Jim and Muffy Mertlik from Sandra Mertlik

Jim Mertlik from Steve Schappaugh, Jerry Wray, Margaret Sieber, Marcia Van Andel, and Brenda Stocks

Joan Luff from Kathryn Walker

Kathy Wolf from Rena McLaughlin and Roxann Nuzum

Linda Gray from Baker's Friday Night Group

Lois Zeisler from Terry Zeisler and Duane Madsen

Margaret Dickmeyer from Denise Scholz, Julie and Loyson Mahoney, Mary Moberg, and Lois and Henry Schmahl

Margaret and Dick Dickmeyer from River City Theatre Organ Society Mary Ann Rosenberger

Mary Clark from Steven Stueck, Remi Aguila, Deonne Herman, Leona Bellinger, and Habitat, Inc.

Mary Swing from Carole Curry, Marjorie Snodgrass, Coddy Houchen, Carroll Segrist, Lois Frogge, Analise Alloway, Alice Buckner, Lorrie Dahl, Carrie Swing, Kathleen McBride, and Lisa Gengenbach

Nick Garcia from Michael Minnick and Betty Glanz-Garcia and your Windcrest Family

Pumpkin and Lana from Heidi Gouthro

Roger Mountford from McKenzie Barry, Mary Mountford, Diane Mountford, and Thomas Mountford

Rose Schleif from Phyllis Schreiner, Ann Neal, M.E. Nelson, and William Biggs

Sarabi, beloved cat of Gary and Cara Bentrup, by All Feline Hospital

Scratch and Dent from John Clancy

Shannon Moncure from Tessie Blendowski, Julie Dill, Andrea Holbrook, Anne Vidaver, Tom and Viola Polk, Gale Pokorny, Cheryl and Ken Hassler, Arbor Day Foundation, Elizabeth and Larry Bady, Randy Deprez, Jill Flagel, Cindy Elder, Michael Henry, Brian and Karolyn Husa, Elizabeth Ann and Ralph Kernes Krause, Denise and Ross Marino, Pearl Betty Meyer, Greta Mulligan, Rob and Melissa Nickolaus, Gary and Cynthia Schuerman, Richard and Josephine Tyrrell, Tom and Rogene Wheeldon, Ira Zimmer, William Oberg, Greg and Amy Wurst, John Jackson, Mark Burbach, Kathleen Kane, and Vicki Woolman

Shirley Mae Brockman from Gary Salzman

Sophie from John DeVol

Teresa Hope from Cindy Nix

Terrianne Loring from Denise Hessler

Tinkerbelle from Joan Zimmerman

Winston from Vance Birkmann

Madelgine from S.J. Andersen

Pets that passed on this year from Vicki Huss

In honor of

Silky, 23 years young, from Don Wendling

A friend from Pamela Firebaugh

Jeff Travis from Jonathan Travis

Darla from Jeff Travis

Snickers from Lois Anderson

Ash, Dakota, and Shadow from Karen Rotschafer

Wayne Skota from Andrea Kessler

Patricia Ullrich from Rita Ricaurte

Tina from Andrea Wenke

Domino from Julie Smith

Mary Auth and Jim and Carol Bartley from Robin Bryan

Windsor from Lori Yaussi

Hartz and Nazari family from Vicki Huss

Jennifer James, Lee James, and Caitlin James from

Jackson Julius Peepers from Joyce McArthur-Johnson

Petunia and Peter from Heidi Gouthro

Nola from Ann Billesbach

Slick from Steven Hubert

Mike and Veronica Cammarata from Michael and Angie Cammarata

Dianne Logon from JK Miller

The mailman from the Tolliver Family (Dennis and Carol Mathias)

Clementine's birthday from Jaime Johnson and Clementine

Addison's birthday from Addison Chloupek

Clementine from Jayne Draper

Tucker, Tail-Or, and Jillian from Rebecca Vandebogart

Special thanks to

Dr. Kelly Jordan

Dr. Shelley Knudsen

All Feline Hospital

Wachal Pet Health Center

Vondra Veterinary Clinic

Pitts Veterinary Hospital

Cause For Paws

Nature's Variety

Petco

PetSmart

Walmart



Boutique for Cheap

2445 S. 48th Street

Monday, Tuesday & Saturday 10 am-5 pm

Wednesday-Friday 10 am-6 pm

Closed Sunday

Calendar of Events

Give to Lincoln Day

May 18 / Midnight-11:59 pm Check thecathouse.org for fundraising link

Adopt-a-Cat Month

June

The purr-fect month to find your new furry forever friend

Wine & Howl

June 3 / 11 am-5 pm Deer Springs Winery, east of Lincoln Fundraiser for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA)

Haymarket Farmers Market

June 24-August 5 / 8 am-12 pm TCH volunteers will be selling cat beds, catnip sticks, and other items

National Feral Cat Day Global Cat Day

October 16

globalcatday.org

Meow & Chow Date and Location TBA

Fundraiser for TCH and LAA

St. Mark's Fall Arts & Crafts Show

November 11 / 9 am-4 pm 84th & Pioneers

Seward Junior Women's Craft Show

November 18 / 9 am-3:30 pm Seward County Fairgrounds



Sleeping with cats

By Ann Adams

Does your cat keep you up at night, or have you ever wondered why your cat sleeps on your head? Whether your cat is a rowdy at night or a cuddly companion, sleeping with cats can take some getting used to.

It is common and normal for cats to become active at night. Many cats spend their days napping while their humans are out of the house. This can mean that they become active at night. If the behavior of your nocturnal animal is interrupting your sleep, there are some ways to get him on your schedule. Try establishing a regular play session in the evening. Quality playtime will help to burn off some of that late night energy, as well as increase the bond that you share with your cat. Make sure that you are an active participant in the play. Giving your cat the attention that he craves during your waking hours will help to eliminate the urge to get crazy at night.

A lot of cats like to sleep on their owner's head at night, but why? Warmth is one possibility. Another could be related to scent. Cats are very territorial animals, and they like to assert their dominance in large part through the transfer of their scent onto things they are trying to claim. If your cat sleeps on or near your head, he is most likely telling you that you belong to him. Another possible reason for this sleep position is that your cat trusts you and views you as a security measure. Cats only rest in places that feel secure to them.

While anything that interrupts your sleep can be frustrating, it is important to remember that everything your cat does is for a reason. Making slight modifications over time can do a lot to improve the situation and allow both of you to enjoy the comfort of sleeping together.

Catnip sticks, 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
- Science Diet Optimal or Light
- Science Diet M/D, C/D Stress*
- Royal Canin Baby Cat
- Royal Canin Calm or Royal Canin Rabbit*

CANNED CAT FOOD

- Science Diet or lams kitten & adult *turkey, chicken, salmon (ground or minced)*
- Fancy Feast turkey, chicken, salmon (Classic), or any Grilled Delights with Cheddar or Broths sold in pouches
- Science Diet Light
- Science Diet A/D, M/D, C/D Stress, or Z/D*
- Royal Canin Rabbit*

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
- Swiffers
- 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 and bathroom tissue
- Kitchen and office size trash bags
- Copier/printer paper

MISCELLANEOUS

- Meat flavored baby food (chicken, turkey, ham)
- Small chenille or cotton reversible bath rugs (no rubber backs)
- Large litter boxes without covers
- Aluminum trays (no smaller than 8" x 13")
- Lint rollers
- FortiFlora® Feline Nutritional Supplement
- Gift certificates to entirelypets.com
- Gift cards to Tractor Supply, Walmart, Target, Petco, or PetSmart

* sold at vet clinics

Samantha

Samantha is a cat of contradictions. When it comes to people in general, she acts as if she can take them or leave them. She certainly

doesn't go out of her way to seek attention and is downright prickly with some individuals. But as many young visitors have discovered, Samantha has a real soft spot for children and she welcomes gentle petting from them. Another peculiarity is that she's been known to enjoy a bit of human company, even an occasional lap, while grumbling and grousing loudly at the same time.

Samantha came to The Cat House because her person moved and did not make arrangements to take

her along. She is an 11-yearold Lynx Point Siamese and is front declawed. Samantha is not a fan of other cats, so she would do best as an only cat. If you would like to meet her, stop by the shelter at 3633 "O" St. during open hours.

Morrie

Morrie would be happy to spend Tuesdays with you--or any other day of the week. Just be prepared to keep him busy with plenty of toys and new things to watch and do. Morrie is a young cat with

> lots of energy, and he loves to play. He likes to be the center of human attention, even if that means pushing other cats aside. Morrie doesn't mind acting goofy, so he can be very entertaining.

Morrie is a 3-year-old, solid blue cat that came to The Cat House from another shelter. He was picked up as a friendly stray cat but turned out to have feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV)

so the shelter called TCH, which is one of the only shelters in Nebraska that adopts out FIV cats. FIV weakens a cat's immune system, but, with care, cats with the virus can live a normal lifespan. If you would like to meet Morrie, stop by the shelter at 3633 "O" St. during open hours.



These cats are looking for forever homes.

Visit our shelter on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6–8 pm and Sundays from 1:30-4 pm.



Picture purr-fect

By Ann Adams

Cats are some of the most beautiful creatures in the world, and the internet is full of funny and striking cat pictures. But do you ever find that your own cat photography falls flat? Whether you are using a phone or an expensive camera, these tips will help you take a cat pic worthy of posting.

Be patient. Most cats don't like being told what to do. Instead of struggling to pose your cat, try catching them in the act of doing something amazing, which could include playing, sitting in a box, basking in the sun, or just sleeping. A good trick for getting their attention, and possibly inciting them to do the thing you are attempting to capture, is to use toys to lure them in. Getting their attention with toys, or even intriguing sounds, will increase the chances that they will look engaged in the photo. You know what gets your cat's attention, do that and be quick to snap.

Get on their level. If you want to capture your cat's good side, get down on their level. Pointing your camera downward toward them will not usually yield a very interesting shot. Getting on their level will allow you to take in more of your subject. Plus, you crawling around on the ground might help grab their attention and make them more comfortable with the presence of the camera.

Frame your shot. Background clutter can ruin a good shot. Frame your shot to exclude anything unsightly from the background. If your camera has a depth effect feature, this can help to blur the background while keeping your subject in clear focus. Try laying out a blanket or throw that provides a nice contrast to your cat's coat. This will help you create an appealing backdrop for your photo.

Use natural light. Avoid using a flash when photographing cats. The flash may frighten them and will not yield a good shot. Cat's eyes are reflective and will glow when a flash is used in low light. Using



natural light will allow you to capture an accurate representation of all your cat's features. Sunlit whiskers and sharp eyes will add a dynamic touch to your pictures.

Make the everyday extraordinary. Basically, everything your cat does is beautiful and amazing. Make an effort to capture the everyday moments that make life with your cat something to be cherished.

Let us know if these tips helped elevate your cat pics by posting your best shots to The Cat House Facebook page, using the hashtag #PicturePurrfect to show off your fabulous feline!

Nicco finds a lap

By Martha Stoddard

Nicco is evidence that the third time really can be a charm. Twice this 7-year-old tabby and white cat went home from The Cat House with adopters. Twice those adopters returned him, saying he was too scared and shy to make a connection with them.

Then Sue and Neal Peterson came into his life. Sue said she had seen Nicco several times on the TCH website and liked him, but the couple had come in to see another cat when they first met Nicco. He jumped right into Neal's lap, amazing the volunteer who was showing them around. It wasn't long before they fell in love and took him home with them.

The Petersons were prepared for Nicco to adjust on his own timeline. They knew he had originally been found on the streets of Waverly. Nicco was a young kitten then but old enough to have learned wariness of humans. Although he learned to be comfortable at the shelter, he never lost his cautious streak.

The Petersons set him up in his own room with a screen door separating him from the rest of the house. Sue and Neal visited him every night. As Sue tells it, she



time lying on the floor, reaching out and talking

to Nicco, who watched her from under the dresser. But he came out at other times and became friendly with their other cat at the screen door. Within a couple of months, the Petersons opened the door so Nicco could roam farther. And they were patient.

The TCH volunteer who followed up on Nicco's adoption offered them several tips. She said Nicco liked brushing, so they started holding out a brush to draw him near. She said he liked treats, so they started luring him closer with goodies. He enjoyed playing and hanging out with their

other cat, Murphy, before her recent death.

Slowly, slowly he started hanging out closer to his humans, too. As the months went by, he started to allow pets, one hand at first, then both hands. He allowed them to sit next to him, then started crawling into their laps. Now, Sue said, he talks to them, insists on belly rubs when she gets home from work, plays with toys,

He's still careful, she said. Sudden noises, like Neal's loud sneezes, startle him. He's not keen on being picked up. But he's come a long, long way in the 15 months since he came home with them. "It makes you have patience, which is a good thing to learn," Sue said. "He's such a sweet, sweet boy. It's been kind of cool."

On the move, with KC



Dear KC:

I have to move to a new place, but I have a cat. What am I going to do with her?

Signed, Ready to Pack

Dear Ready:

Does nobody respect a guy's naptime? Especially when you have a question like that. You take your cat with you, of course. Problem solved. I'm curling up to go back to sleep. What's that? You say the new place doesn't allow cats? Well, why are you moving there? You wouldn't give up your child to find a new place to live, so why would you give up a furry member of your family? Start over and look for a place that will accept your cat.

Ask other pet owners for recommendations. See if local pet shelters know of cat-friendly rentals. Check online for listings that indicate pet policies of

local rentals. Even specialized housing, like retirement apartments, often have some accommodation for pets.

Sell yourself and your pet. Sometimes, a landlord will allow your cat if he or she can be convinced that you are a responsible renter and pet owner. Let them know that you understand their concerns about keeping the place in good repair and not letting litter box odors build up.

Get documents from your veterinarian showing that your cat is spayed (neutered if you had a male cat) and up to date on her vaccinations (she is, isn't she?). Point out that she is litter box trained and uses a scratching post regularly. Get a letter of reference from your current landlord showing that you are a responsible pet owner. Some websites have suggestions for putting together a pet resume.

When you find a likely place, be sure to ask about additional fees, deposits, or requirements. Get those fees and requirements in writing. Make sure that the lease you sign matches the agreement you have with the landlord or rental agent. If the lease has a no-pets clause, make sure that is removed (or crossed out and initialed) before you sign it.

Now, a word about your cat during the actual move. Most cats are not fans of having their favorite things packed away in boxes and their lives turned upside down. Moving day can be especially difficult, with people coming in and out. Put your cat in a room with the door closed and a "do not disturb" sign on the door during the move. Place her, in her carrier, in the car last. At the new place, again put her in a room with the door closed until everything is moved. Depending on her personality, you may want to leave her in the room for a day or more until she adjusts to the new place.

Got it? Good. My bed is calling. *Signed, KC*



GiveToLincoln.com

Give to Lincoln Day, a project of the Lincoln Community Foundation, is taking place May 18. This event serves as a "cat-alyst" for nonprofit organizations such as The Cat House in furthering their missions.

For TCH, this means that everyone can participate in helping Lincoln's only no-kill cat shelter. Help us to care for and rehome cats and kittens into the lives of love and happiness that they richly deserve.

Funds raised during this event go to help defray the cost of spay/neuters, other medical and dental work provided to the cats, and general expenses. Monies will also be used to help support our Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program for local feral cats.

Your donation will help to continue saving lives and finding loving homes for the affectionate, engaging felines that come to TCH. Help us make 2017 purr-fect! Check thecathouse.org or watch local news reports for the fundraising link.



SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE 16TH & L STREETS

Doors 6:30 PM Gambling 7:00-9:00 PM Raffle Drawing 9:30 PM

\$25 ENTRY FEE includes gambling money. Complementary hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and non-alcoholic drinks. Cash bar. Silent auction and raffle. Top prizes include an iPad, \$250 Target Gift Card, and tickets to the Tim McGraw and Faith Hill concert in Omaha.

Must be 21 years of age to consume alcohol. All proceeds benefit The Cat House, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

Supporti We need your



Please select your contribution amount:

□ Other \$

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

THE CAT HOUSE | THE NO-KILL ALTERNATIVE

consider donating, or visit our website to learn made with a credit card through Paypal. Please for an appointment. Contributions can also be food, toys or supplies, please call 402-441-9593 continue helping our feline friends. To donate The Cat House needs your support so we can

how you can help!

llism yd we will continue to send the newsletter to you though, if you don't have access to a computer, of mailing you a printed copy. Rest assured House Scoop to your email address instead asking if we can send future issues of The Cat mailed out to our supporters. We are, therefore, the number of newsletters that are printed and grow. One way of reducing costs is to minimize The costs to operate the facility continue to

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



A NO-KILL SHELTER WHERE THE PHILOSOPHY IS THAT EVERY CAT AND KITTEN DESERVES A CHANCE!



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

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