



#### **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

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

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

## **Pets with benefits**

By Ann Adams

Taking good care of your cat can be costly, from the food you choose to the regularly planned veterinarian checkups. Even when you are being proactive about maintaining your cat's health, something unexpected can occur and that something may not be in the budget. Have you ever wondered if pet insurance is a good idea?

One clear benefit to pet insurance is the peace of mind it can provide.

It isn't possible to know when your cat may become sick or injured and being able to plan for the unexpected can take some of the stress out of caring for your cat. Pet insurance could even be life-saving if the costs associated with a health emergency become too high.

One downside to pet insurance is that many policies require vet bills to be paid by the policyholder first and then reimbursed by the insurance company. This may not be a big help to someone who does not have the funds to pay a high vet bill out of pocket. Many plans do reimburse up to 75-90% of claims after



the deductible is met, but if awaiting reimbursement is not an option, you may want to hold off on the pet insurance and pay into an emergency savings account for your pet instead. Just \$10 to \$20 dollars a month could add up quickly and give you the peace of mind you desire.

Pet insurance has come a long way in recent years, and pet owners now have many options from which to choose. This can be a blessing and a curse. It can make finding a

plan that fits your budget while providing the desired coverage a challenge. Pet owners are advised to look carefully at how the plans work and what they cover. Look especially at how they cover pre-existing health conditions and whether you can keep taking your cat to your regular vet.

If you are interested in learning more about pet insurance, a good place to start is with your own vet. A growing number of vets accept some form of pet insurance. Your vet will be able to tell you which type(s) of pet insurance they accept.

## 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.

April	8
May	11
June	42
July	28
August	26
September	22

## Volunteer Spotlight: Sandy Minnick

By Matthew Webster

Sandy Minnick has definitely left her mark at The Cat House. She was the painting coordinator during the transition to the current building at 3633 "O" St. "I did a ton of painting and there's not a wall or piece of woodwork I haven't helped paint," she said.

Sandy has been invaluable since she began volunteering in 2011,

especially during the move to the O Street shelter. Sandy and her husband, Mike, helped with demolition and cleaning of the current location, as well as cleaning of the previous location and moving. Mike and Sandy installed all the sturdy screens on the doors and walls, and they assembled the new cages in the cat rooms and made the stands they sit on.

Volunteering is an easy choice for Sandy because of her passion for cats. She loves their independence and personalities. She also chose The Cat House because it is a "no kill" shelter, saying, "We don't give up on the cats. This is a very caring place about helping the cats and that makes the volunteers



important and special."

Sandy retired from the Air National Guard after 25 years of service in 2002. Her husband, Mike, retired in 2015 after 40 years of service. Mike and Sandy have been married for 21 years. They have two cats, Dakota and Callie. Callie became part of the family when she discovered the water Sandy likes to set outside for

animals. Callie began showing up and, soon after, Sandy and Mike brought her into their home saying, "Callie chose us." They are still working to integrate Callie into the home; Dakota doesn't want to give up her sole dominionship just yet.

Currently at The Cat House, Sandy volunteers Wednesday mornings, trains new morning volunteers, and helps out when she can. At the previous location, she was part of the garage sale committee for several years, a very profitable event for The Cat House. She also helps with various fund-raising events, including pictures with Santa, Catsino night, and craft shows.

#### Litter Box Rally is an ace

By Alma Vlasak

The third annual Litter Box Rally, a sand volleyball tournament hosted by The Cat House, was held Sept. 10. TCH volunteers Megan and Matt Yank organized the event to raise money for Lincoln's only no-kill cat shelter, located at 3633 "O" St.

Spikes Beach Bar and Grill donated the court space, and 20 volleyball teams competed. Together, they raised \$2,400 for TCH.

Teams picked creative names like Domesticated Short Hairs and Show Me Your Kitties, with Scoregasms taking first place and Sandy Paws second place. The winning team members received a TCH t-shirt, donated gift certificates from Raising Canes, and koozies.

Two Husker football tickets, including parking, were raffled off, with Dane Paulson being the winner. Del Gould Meats helped out by sponsoring one of the teams.

Watch for more fun in 2018 with the next Litter Box Rally.



## **Donations in memory & honor of...**

#### In memory of

Nancy Weir Mead from Janice Krejci, Barbara Johnson, Kimberly Hudak, Bonnalyn Salomons, Phyllis Johnson, Phyllis Larsen, Susan Sibbel, A.B. Dietrich, Jann Richardson, and Mary Weir

Marilee Weber from Mark Arnold and Helen Sweet

Catherine and Richard from Melinda Mader Sophie from Shirley Hake

Sean Michael Roark-Viehl from Joan Frenzel

Kimberly Kleinbeck from the Allstate ABO Education Design Team

Stresla (Sydney) Langness from Lucy Krause, Verla Swearingin, Myra Meints, and Wayne and Judy Jensen

Marvin Roth from Susan Hart

Marilyn Chaffin from Jeff Smith, Rita Schriner, Clayton Anderson, Zoe McManaman, M. Herrick, Shalla Young, Barbara Stock, Emily Herrick, and Hulinsky Electric & Irrigation, LLC

Charles Hoarty from Arlene Hoarty

Roger "Bill" Mountford from Thomas Mountford

KC from Julie Dahlke

Milo from Denise Wiemer

Daniel Ore from Kenneth Ore and Denise Wiemer

Lowell Renken from Jerri Fishbeck and Anna Mary York

Jacqueline Skalak from John Skalak

Bailey from Shannon Poppe

Morris, Suzan Connell's cat, from Judith Gibson

Copper, Sven and Dena Noe's cat, from R. and S. Ferguson and Martha Stoddard

John Schuler from Catherine Newman

Sandra Schantel from Teddy and Sharon Wright and Assurity Life Insurance Company

Marsha Truell from Susan Young

Bravo from Denise Wiemer

Terrianne Loring from Emily Tyler

Betty Nettland from Mary Ramos, Faye Bernhardt, Laura Nettland, Linda Nettland, and Assurity Life Insurance Company

Stella Flynn from Miriam Pugliese

Edna Ficken from Jan Preston

Jody Pavlish from Virginia and Richard Fischer

Diana Kaye Logan from Becky Spencer

Saysha from Nicolette Brenton

Max Bjelland from Todd Moran

Jodi Dillon from Kristine Siemsen, Richard and Patricia Young, Ina Akerson, Richard and Judy Mayer, Larry and Teri Minzel, Scott and Nichole Ernst, Diana Weiser, Connie Vitamvas, Michael and Kimberly Vitamvas, James and Debra Ahlstedt, Denise Wiemer, Douglas and Cathleen Lamberty, Interiors Joan and Associates, Wellman Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc., Jennifer Joakim, Kimberly and Jay Eitzmann, April Skoda, and Julie Siemsen

#### In honor of

Bella, Nancy Weir Mead's cat, from Janice Krejci, Kimberly Hudak, A.B. Dietrich, and Mary Weir

Tommy Lee and Slick from Lynne Grasz

Judy Gibson from Sarah Gibson

Jerry Newman from Kristi Larsen

Sara Voboril-Porter from Misty Petersen

Janeen Schack from Karen Beck

Pat Monaghan from Brad Johnson

Laura Wong from April Braun

Miss Jean Fulmer from Lincoln Inspection Service,

Deb Pearson from Kasey Breinig

Chip from Debbie Vidlak

Sedlak from Wendy Shattil

Shalla Young from Sharon Lawrence

Tumbles from Timbre Wulf-Ludden

Amber Nieman from Sharon Holtgrewe

#### Special thanks to

Dr. Kelly Jordan

Cause For Paws

Dr. Shelley Knudsen

Nature's Variety

All Feline Hospital

Petco

Wachal Pet Health Center

PetSmart

Vondra Veterinary Clinic

Walmart

Pitts Veterinary Hospital

## Stanley: the accidental tourist

By Martha Stoddard

Stanley's story is a cautionary tale. It's a story about a cat on a road trip, a couple of humans who let him out of his carrier in the car, and a car window cracked open at a busy interstate rest stop. That's all it took for Stanley, a declawed, brown tabby, to wriggle out of the car and disappear into the woody area behind the Seward rest stop early this summer.

Stanley's people were headed to their granddaughter's wedding, so they had to keep going when they couldn't find him right away. They left a phone number with the rest stop host in hopes that Stanley might show up. But no one had seen him by the time the couple stopped again after the wedding. This time, they talked to Randi Hernandez, who has a job taking care of the rest stop.

Randi immediately put in a call to The Cat House, seeking advice and help. Two TCH volunteers showed up with a cat trap and trapping advice. Over the next several days, Randi caught three opossums, a skunk, and another friendly cat, but no Stanley. He did put in an appearance a few times and once, Randi managed to grab him but he got away.

She worried about Stanley because of the many dangers surrounding the rest stop. In front, thousands of vehicles driving in and out. In back, a wooded area along a creek and farm fields on the other side. The creek has several snapping turtles. The wooded area and fields likely play host to coyotes, foxes, and other dangers.

As the days went on, the TCH volunteers brought out a second trap. Stanley's owners came back and spent a day looking and calling for him, with no response. They left Stanley's carrier in hopes the familiar scent might attract him. Finally, the Friday before Father's Day, 2 weeks after Stanley escaped, Randi saw him on a bridge over the creek. She approached carefully, grabbed him by the scruff of the neck and, even though he fought, she held on long enough to get him in his carrier. His family picked him up a

few hours later.

Alma Vlasak, one of the volunteers who helped with the rescue, said Stanley's story shows the importance of using cat carriers. She said Stanley's owners had him in a carrier to start their trip but decided to let him out when he seemed to be getting along well in the car. Alma said carriers prevent cats from escaping, as Stanley did. Even normally laid-back cats can react in unexpected ways when put in in unfamiliar places or with unfamiliar people. Keeping a cat in a carrier secured with a seatbelt also can save cat and human lives in case of a motor vehicle accident. The carrier and seatbelt keep the cat from being thrown around in a vehicle and make the cat easier to rescue after an accident.

As Randi said, this story should be a lesson to people who travel with their pets. "I'm glad it turned out good," she said. "It was an adventure. We'll never forget Stanley."

## Calendar of Events

## Fall Blessings Arts and Crafts Show

October 21 / 9 am – 4 pm Lancaster Event Center 4100 N 84th St

#### **Meow & Chow**

#### **NEW LOCATION**

October 28 / Doors open at 5 pm Center for People in Need 3901 N 27th St Fundraiser for TCH and Lincoln Animal Ambassadors

#### St Mark's Craft Show

**November 11** / 9 am – 4 pm St. Mark's United Methodist Church 84th & Pioneers

#### **Seward Craft Show**

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

## Holiday Spectacular Arts and Crafts Show

**December 2** / 9 am – 4 pm Lancaster Event Center 4100 N 84th St

## Santa Photos at Petco

**TBA – December** 

#### **Lincoln Women's Expo**

**January 27, 2018** / 10 am – 6 pm **January 28, 2018** / 11 am – 4 pm Lancaster Event Center 4100 N 84th St



## Maintenance fund reaches goal

By Martha Stoddard

We did it! Or rather, you did it! Thanks to the hard work of volunteers and donations from many, many supporters, The Cat House raised the \$12,000 needed to pay for the emergency replacement of two of the

four heating and air conditioning units at the shelter.

Volunteer Heather Swartz led the fund-raising drive to cover the unexpected expense. She and other volunteers organized fund-raising nights at Noodles and Cowboy Chicken, held bake sales, and sold cat paw pendants. Proceeds from TCH appearances at local craft shows also went toward the fund.

This summer, TCH was fortunate enough to be the beneficiary of an estate, which

put the fund over the top and even provided

enough money to pay for the replacement of the other two units. The result is that TCH cats (and people) throughout the building will be cozy and warm in the winter and cool and comfortable in the summer.



## 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, Rabbit, or Venison\*

#### 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 or Venison\*

#### 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 or turkey)
- 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

## Coco

By Jeff Kennedy

Coco was found in a pet carrier by a busy street in April. She and another cat were abandoned by someone who obviously had cared for them at one time (they were in good physical condition and had collars on) but now for some reason believed it necessary to leave them alone, discarded and frightened.

Coco was especially scared and defensive and would lash out against volunteers who tried to help her. It has taken months for her to get used to trusting people again, but she is becoming more comfortable with the volunteers who visit her. She now accepts people in her room, petting her, talking to her, and playing with her.

Coco is nine years old. Her striking black and white markings make her look a little bit like she's wearing a Batgirl mask. She is polydactyl on her front paws, meaning she has extra toes, a rare interesting feature. Coco is a great cat just waiting to find the person she can bond with and trust and love.

## **Thomas**

By Jeff Kennedy

With medium length, red-and-white hair, an engaging facial expression, and a ready meow, Thomas serves as the unofficial greeter for The Cat House's Blue Unit. Cat House visitors and volunteers alike are charmed by this handsome cat's friendly

> requests for a scratch and a rub (and very few can resist complying).

Thomas was taken in from another shelter where cats that test positive for the feline leukemia virus (FeLV) are euthanized. Fortunately for Thomas, TCH knows that cats with FeLV can live healthy lives with the virus, which suppresses the immune system, if they receive proper care.

Six-year-old Thomas is a very intelligent cat who loves to play and entertain. He likes toys

he can chase like a ball or a mouse and can frequently be found playing with a round racetrack-style toy with a ball inside it. Thomas likes his feline roommates and would be ok in a home with other FeLV+ cats or with dogs but would also do well as the only pet. If you are looking for a smart, outgoing cat who loves people, then Thomas may be the guy for you.

## 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.



## Love at first swipe

By Ann Adams

It was one of those fairy tale, girl-meets-cat stories. Sydney Bonta began volunteering at The Cat House while in high school. She knew she loved cats, but she wasn't expecting to meet the one right away. Then there she was, in the very first room Sydney was assigned to clean—Dumpling. It was love at first swipe.

Dumpling didn't get along with many people, but Sydney knew she was special. She was willing to put in the extra time that Dumpling required to form a bond. Dumpling always knew when Sydney had arrived to clean her room and would respond to the sound of her voice.

While she was a high school student, all Sydney could do was dream of the day she would be old enough to submit the adoption papers. During her freshman year of college in Omaha, Sydney really missed her pal Dumpling. The day she turned 19,

she completed the adoption papers. Dumpling finally had her forever home and Sydney finally had her Dumpling.

Dumpling has a big personality, maybe even a bit of attitude, and is not always the easiest to get along with. Sydney respects that and her devotion to Dumpling has opened up

not only their relationship, but also allowed Dumpling to trust and socialize with more people and even a sister cat, named Precious.

Now, Dumpling spends her days making her signature funny sounds while birdwatching. Sydney spends her days loving Dumpling. Good things really do come to those who wait, just ask Sydney and Dumpling.





### The 'fur' bulous cat coat

By Matthew Webster

A cat has 60,000 to 200,000 strands of hair per square inch, depending on which source you use. Either way, that's a lot of hair. A cat likes to keep its fur looking shiny and smooth. If your cat's coat is unkept, it may be an indication that something might be going on with the cat

A cat's coat is a reflection of its health. If your cat's coat is looking fabulous, you know the cat most likely is healthy and strong. If your cat's coat is looking rough, then consider some of these options as starting points. The earlier you catch changes in your cat's appearance, the better. Make sure to go to your veterinarian for a checkup.

Under grooming could be the result of the cat being in pain because of aging or arthritis. It also could be due to dental decay or oral infections.

Over grooming can result from parasites and skin infections, which can lead to bald patches, thinning fur, and "hot spots" (skin irritations). This is more common in outdoor cats because of their greater risk of exposure to fleas and parasites. Cats also may over groom because of dermatitis or stress.

Dermatitis or "scabby cat disease" refers to irritation, inflammation, itchiness, and/ or crusting of the skin. The causes can vary greatly.

Patchy or scraggly coat is mainly caused by malnutrition and is common among feral cats. The cat's coat should get better as the cat's diet improves.

Lumps, tumors, or an oily coat can

represent a serious infection. Your vet might want to do a blood test.

Hyperthyroid (overactive thyroid) can result in a greasy or matted coat and weight loss, increased appetite, thirst, and restlessness. While, hypothyroid (underactive thyroid) can result in a matted or unkempt coat and lethargy, weakness, and weight gain.

Pay attention to any deviations from normal behavior—activity, appetite, mood, etc.—that your cat may display along with the changes in appearance. These changes can be key when talking with the vet.

Healthy cats are quite fond of maintaining a fabulous coat. Paying attention to your cat's coat can help you keep your friend happy and handsome.



Boutique for Cheap

#### 2445 S. 48th Street

Monday, Tuesday, & Saturday 10 am–5 pm Wednesday–Friday 10 am–6 pm Closed Sunday

## Luigi's words of wisdom



Dear KC the Advice Cat:
Help! I found some kittens
that have been abandoned
by their mom. They are so
tiny. I'm afraid they will
die. What should I do?

Signed, Tender Hearted

Dear Tender Hearted:

Buongiorno! I'm so glad you have contacted me, Luigi. I'm the new advice cat here at The Cat House. KC passed the mantle to me when he passed on this summer. Don't worry though. He taught me all he knew. Not that he was so good when it came to kittens. For that, the volunteers here look to Uncle Luigi. I even did a video showing some youngsters the ropes. They tell me the video is on Facebook, although I wouldn't know since I don't do the Internet. It was fun to do but . . . What's that? You had a question? Oh, yes. Found kittens. What to do.

Well, first are you sure they have been abandoned? Sometimes mom just has

to take a break or she's in the process of moving kittens from one spot to another. Sometimes she might be hiding from you. Unless the kittens are in immediate danger, step back and watch from a distance to see if she returns. Kittens always do better with their cat moms, especially when they are young. I remember my mom. She taught me some good lessons about getting along with other cats. There was this one time . . . Oh, yes. I was answering a question

If mom does not return in a few hours, then you have some decisions to make. Do you have time and money to take care of kittens properly? Do you have the resources to get them spayed or neutered? Can you find them homes when they grow up? Local shelters may be able to help if you cannot.

If you decide to care for the kittens and they are less than 5 weeks old, they will need bottle-feeding and care every few hours around the clock. If they are older, they still need care and attention every day for several weeks. They should see a

veterinarian to check them over, especially if you plan to let them be around your other animals. Here's a website (so they tell me) that lists signs to estimate a kitten's age: https://www.alleycat.org/community-cat-care/kitten-age/.

Kittens up to 12 weeks can be socialized, even if their mother was feral. It takes patience, and you may need a trap to catch them at first. (TCH loans out traps. A deposit is required.) If the kittens are older than 12 weeks and not friendly to people, they probably are not going to get very socialized, no matter how patient you are. But they can live happy lives as feral cats if you get them trapped, spayed or neutered, and returned to their original spot. That reminds me of the time I tried living like a feral cat, out on the street, scrounging for my food. It was awful. I lost a lot of weight and . . . Well, you probably don't need to hear my stories. You need to check on those kittens. Ciao. Speaking of food . . . Sincerely, Luigi the Advice Cat



## TCH donors come through again

By Alma Vlasak

Here at The Cat House, we celebrate many things. Most of all we celebrate the people who make it possible to continue caring for our furry feline charges.

Our building, still new to us, has been especially important in being able to care for our 150-plus cats. That mission could never be realized without our hard-working volunteers and our generous donors, who demonstrated their support during the sixth annual Give to Lincoln Day in May.

TCH received \$35,840 in donations. This infusion of support means we can address some of our ongoing maintenance needs at the 3633 "O" St. shelter, such as patching our roof.

Give to Lincoln is hosted by the Lincoln Community Foundation. Please plan to give next year on May 31 and help us make 2018 the best year yet for TCH.



# Supporting Support Supporting Sup



Please select your contribution amount:

□ Offher \$
□ \$25 □ \$20 □ \$20 □ \$200

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

THE CAT HOUSE | THE NO-KILL ALTERNATIVE

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

© Essence in a Plash by Kimberly McCarry

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



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