

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Tami Peshek

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THE CAT HOUSE Scoop

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ADOPTION FACILITY

3633 "O" Street
Lincoln, NE
Tuesdays & Thursdays 6-8 pm
Sundays 1:30-4 pm

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Lincoln, NE 68542
Hotline: 402-441-9593
info@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.

TNR who? TNR what? A primer

By Ann Adams

What is TNR?

TNR stands for Trap-Neuter-Return. TNR programs are a humane way of controlling the population of free-roaming and feral cats within a community. The cats are trapped, vaccinated, spayed or neutered, and physically examined by veterinarians. The left ear of each cat also is ear tipped, which is the universal sign that the cat has been neutered or spayed. TCH also microchips every cat before it is returned to its outdoor home.

What are the benefits of TNR?

TNR is beneficial to both cats and communities. The cats live healthier lives because they are vaccinated and have received vet care. Since the cats have been altered, they also coexist more peacefully with other outdoor cats in their territory and the population of cats in the area decreases.

Many communities adopt TNR programs because the programs help to stop the breeding cycle while stabilizing feral cat colonies. TNR programs are proven to be more successful than catch-and-kill programs when it comes to controlling feral cat populations. Removing

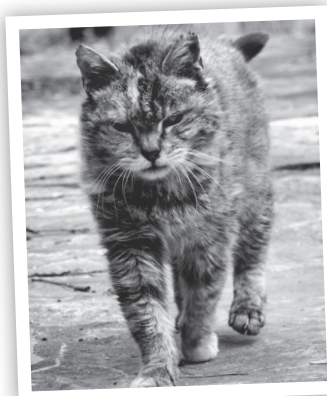
cats from an area does not stop the growth of the cat population, rather it allows new cats to move in and begin the repopulation process. TNR is a life-saving and effective solution to controlling the feral cat population. Kittens and tame cats trapped through TNR are often adoptable.

What can you do to support TNR?

TCH and other groups work with volunteers to undertake TNR efforts in the Lincoln area. If you observe feral cats in your neighborhood and are interested in helping them through TNR, please complete the TNR interest form on our website at www.thecathouse.org.

A Cat House volunteer will contact you to gather more information and to describe the process. TCH also loans out live traps, with a deposit. All TNR requests must go through this process to ensure vet care can be scheduled.

Donations of money and time also assist our TNR program. Volunteers are needed to make phone calls and educate the public about the TNR program. To volunteer, please fill out the volunteer application on the TCH website.



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 thecathouse.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 | 19 |
| May | 21 |
| June | 22 |
| July | 36 |
| August | 27 |
| September | 30 |

Volunteer Spotlight: Tami Peshek

If cats could talk then TCH volunteer Tami Peshek would be the talk of the town because she is the person who ensures that TCH is stocked with catnip sticks throughout the year.

Probably the most important retail item TCH sells at the shelter, various community craft shows, and the Haymarket Farmers Market is the catnip/polyester catnip stick. Each and every stick is hand stuffed and sewn by volunteers and is available in two sizes. All of this is done under Tami's supervision. She organizes various stick stuffing parties and ensures all supplies are ordered or available to make these ever popular toys that so enthrall the felines who are lucky enough to get them.

Tami started volunteering at TCH as a way to meet people 10 years ago, but she is quick to add that she stays for the cats. Like many other volunteers, she has taken on a variety of tasks to benefit TCH. Her first job at the shelter was on a cleaning team. She soon became a team leader. The popularity of catnip stick sales increased during this time,



and soon Tami stepped up and took over the demanding job of ensuring the availability of sticks for TCH. In the process she introduced large size "kick" sticks to the retail program.

Tami still makes time to volunteer during some open hours. In the past she has also done interview calls and worked special events. The Mother of All Garage Sales (MOAGS) is a spring event that Tami added to the fundraising events for TCH in 2014. It proved to be popular as well as successful for the shelter.

Like so many volunteers, Tami has a full-time job as a team leader with NTT Data Services, an insurance premium-processing center here in Lincoln.

Tami's earlier background includes serving 4 years on active duty with the U.S. Air Force. Today, Tami serves as a member of the local Marine Corp League Cornhusker Detachment 320. Currently, the league is working with homeless veterans in Lincoln through a non-profit program called Heroes Into Homes. Tami is a board member and Partners Relation Director for the group.

Scratching the (right) surface

By Claire Jordan

Cats are often criticized for scratching places or objects people don't want scratched, like luxury furniture or carpet. What most people don't know, however, is why cats scratch in the first place and why it is so important for them to have multiple outlets like scratching posts to satisfy all their scratching needs.

Cats don't scratch to make their family upset, but rather because of instinct. Scratching is an important part of a cat's overall health and well-being.

One reason cats scratch is to stretch out their bodies and feet. Scratching can also give cats the boost of energy they need after a long cat nap. Cats will often greet you by scratching because they associate the good feeling they get when scratching with their excitement of seeing their owner again! Cats also have scent glands in their paws, which allow them to not only communicate by scratching but to mark their territory as well.

Many people believe another reason cats scratch is to sharpen their claws, which is only somewhat true. When cats scratch, the outer layer of their claws, called the sheath,

falls off, giving them fresh, sharp claws.

Now that you know why cats scratch, it would be nice to know what cats like to scratch and when. If your cat is constantly scratching on your personal items or other objects you deem unacceptable, then it's best to get a large cat tree or scratching post with a coarse surface for it to use.

Remember, it is never the cat's fault for scratching—scratching on personal belongings is just a cat's way of communicating with you that it doesn't have anywhere else to scratch.

Once you have a cat tree or scratching post, or if you already have one but your cat isn't using it, coax it towards the post by using catnip or its favorite toy. Do this often and soon your cat will associate its new scratching post with catnip and toys, which means your furniture and carpet will finally be left alone! Positive reinforcement is always the best way to train a cat and shape its natural instincts into something that is acceptable for a household, not a forest.

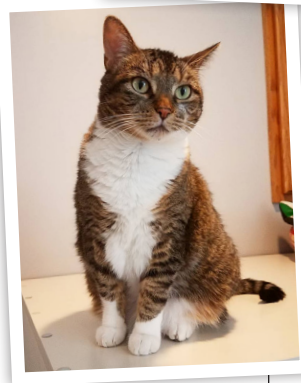
Abby

By Jeff Kennedy

Abby is a lady. She sits on a table in her room in a stately pose looking out her window basking in the rays of sunshine. When a person enters her room, she will look to see who it is and take a long stretch before jumping down to greet them. Not overly gregarious but not standoffish either, Abby is a cat who is beautifully balanced between humble dignity and graceful affection. Imagine a feline version of Elizabeth Bennet from *Pride and Prejudice* and you wouldn't be far off.

Abby came to The Cat House as a very shy kitten--so shy that she would often hide when people entered her room and pull away if someone reached out for her. Over the course of her time spent at the shelter, through the patience and nurture of the volunteers, Abby has come out of her shell to become a sweet cat with a love for the people who care for her.

Abby would do well in a home with other cats or be fine as the only cat in the house. She seems to like her surroundings to be quiet and calm, but she has done well with a few very boisterous cat roommates. Abby is adaptable and will be a loyal cat to a person, given time to acclimate to her new home. You can find Abby in the Purple Unit of The Cat House. Be sure to meet this beautiful, short-haired, classic tabby.



Humphrey

By Jeff Kennedy

Humphrey may appear shy at first, but that is only because his roommate Myles is an energetic cat excited to meet people and jump and play. But don't let Humphrey's comparatively low energy level fool you. He is a cat who is very social and loves nothing more than to be held and petted and will instinctively snuggle his 14-pound frame against a person to maximize the contact.

In his life before he came to the shelter, Humphrey lived at an apartment complex, belonging to seemingly no one and everyone at the same time. Multiple people living in the complex would feed him and talk to him, and he would happily eat the food and give a happy meow in return. When Humphrey was taken in to be neutered, it was discovered that he tested positive for the Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). That diagnosis ended Humphrey's stay as an outdoor cat at the complex, but he was ready for an indoor life with regular meals and a roof over his head anyway.

FIV+ cats have suppressed-immune systems but do not require any special medication. The only restriction to raising a cat with FIV is that they must be kept indoors due to their weakened immune systems. These cats generally live as long as cats without the virus, provided they are seen by a veterinarian regularly and whenever they come down with a cold, etc. Humphrey is approximately 4½ years old and is accepting visitors/cuddle buddies in his room in the Blue Unit of The Cat House.

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.



Libby – 4 years



Precious – 8 years



Tripoli – 10 months



Norris – 1 year



Myles (FIV+) – 2 years



Harper – 8 years



Sundance – 4 years



Freya – 6 years

Calendar of Events

Fall Blessings Arts & Crafts Show

October 6 / 9 am – 4 pm
Lancaster Event Center
4100 N 84th Street

Meow & Chow

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

Autumn Splendor Craft & Vendor Show

November 3 / 9 am – 4 pm
Lancaster Event Center
4100 N 84th Street

St. Mark's Fall Arts & Crafts Show

November 10 / 9 am – 4 pm
St. Mark's Methodist Church
84th & Pioneers

Seward Craft Show

November 17 / 9 am – 3:30 pm
Seward County Fair Grounds

Holiday Spectacular Arts & Crafts Show

December 1 / 9 am – 4 pm
Lancaster Event Center
4100 N 84th Street

Santa Photos at Petco

TBA – December

Lincoln Women's Expo

January 26, 2019 / 10 am – 6 pm
January 27, 2019 / 10 am – 4 pm
Lancaster Event Center
4100 N 84th Street



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 D/D or C/D Stress*
- Royal Canin Baby Cat
- Calm or Royal Canin Rabbit*

CANNED CAT FOOD OR PACKETS

- Science Diet or Iams – kitten & adult – turkey, chicken, salmon (ground or minced)
- Fancy Feast – turkey, chicken, salmon (Classic); Grilled Delights with Cheddar; or Broths sold in pouches
- Hartz Delectables – sold in packets
- Science Diet Light
- Science Diet A/D or C/D Stress*
- Royal Canin Rabbit*

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 (unscented)
- Copier/printer paper

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

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

Donations in memory & honor of...

In memory of

Leo from Pat Caudill Cole
Larry Goettsch from L. Robert Puschendorf
Jim L. Miller from Mike Greenwald
Cougar from Jenna Woods
Sophie from Jo Ann Pappas
Denny Blinde from Leonard Eckhardt
Rebecca Wilcox from Sara Arow

Luther A. Blessing from Bernice Wiebeck, Irene Williams, Janelle Duffy, Robert McDowell, Janet Case, Patricia Dunn, Jeffrey and Laurie Atkinson, Gerald and Linda Bushnell, Charles and Karen Brown, Leah Bjerrum, David and Candice Johnson, Linda Sabatka, Diana Peterson, PBX Club of Lincoln, Marron Zimmer Keady, Barbara Fricke, Stephen and Debra De Garmo, Thomas and Patricia Runge, Joel and Dee Ann Thomas, Robert and Ruth Anderson, Suzanne Christopher, Holly P., Linda B., Kelley Billington, Michael and Mary Poskochil, Marjory Smith, and the Boatman Family

Lois Hubert from Les Hubert, Helen Bolen, Joyce Morian, Gary and Mary Gerkin, John and Marie Powell, and Lionberger Veterinary
Edward Roth from Melissa Deloach
Robbie from Susan and Richard Bollwitt
Roger Myers from Jan and Bob Hein and J.C. Preston
Ruth Berzins from Gayle Norris
Kreacher from Jonathon Hall
Jane Swanson from Barbara Bode
Onie, kitty of Arlys and Ken Reitan, from Judith Gibson and Barbara DiBernard
Gracie from Donnette Noble
Gracie, kitty of Gina Matkin and Randy Reinhart, from Judith Gibson and Barbara DiBernard
Marilyn Rooney from Civitas, Inc.
Gracie from Kathryn Hindmand
Steve Abariotes from Elizabeth Walker
Diamond from Denise Wiemer
Bruce Lee Toovey from Pamela Toovey Higby
Don Allen from Judy Allen
Drew from Catherine Cecava
Padric of A Novel Idea Bookstore from Denise Wiemer and Jonathan Gordon
Ollie, Charlotte's cat, from Jerry Tyrrell
Sassy from Denise Wiemer
Carol Heying from Debra Shea
Kateeta from Barbara DiBernard
Sheket, Dan Marburg's cat, from Carrie Richardson
Max from Todd Moran

In honor of

Her parents' wedding anniversary from Tanya Leise
Judith Gibson's birthday from Sarah Gibson
Sam's birthday from Harleigh Ealley
Soda Pop from Tim Mittan
Onyx, Wall-E, and babies from Tara Jasinski
Elizabeth Brodersen's 51st birthday from Melody Crowl
Klaus from Joseph Rousseau and Eva Viezel
Rosie Goergen from DeAnna Wolfe
Mike Cammarata from Michael Cammarata
Sox and Ninja from Sheila Glencer
Katie Whitten and Jason Amick's wedding from Lisa Rosar and Troy Stentz
Jeremy and Debbie Arent from Megan Yank
Enzo from Kaye McMahon
Sigourney from Jessica Coope
Mikala Kirchoff's birthday from Kathryn Hagel-Pitt
TC's 14th birthday (Judy's kitty) from Judy Allen
Norman, a much-loved cat, from Beth Ina
Rainy from Alistair Schroff
Larry Kubert's birthday from Alicia Kubert
Jon and Cadie Lammers' wedding from Mary Smith
Sarah from Emmaly Garbers
Amy and Mandy Proskovec's marriage from Kathleen Curnow
Susan Leishman from Elizabeth Post
Human Newman, a great and honorable cat, from Robert Holbert
Deb Pearson's birthday from Kasey Breinig
Nancy Peterson and Mark Watermeier's marriage from DeAnn Stover
Megan Moncure's birthday from Gary Fehr
Erin Moncure's birthday from Gary Fehr
Carra McClelland and her cat Gurlie from Bonnie Robb
Martini from John Roby

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 | |
| Nebraska Animal Medical Center | |

4th Litter Box Rally

By Alma Vlasak

Twenty-six teams came together in mid-September for the 4th Annual Litter Box Rally at Spike's Bar & Grille to raise money and awareness for The Cat House.

This record number of teams helped raise \$2,833 to help cats seeking their forever home. As TCH is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, all proceeds go to the direct support of the cats.

The top team in the volleyball tournament was Poots Scooper. Purrrpair to Lose placed second, and Here for the Pussycats placed third. The top team won TCH t-shirts, gift cards, caps, and "swag," including koozies, candy, etc.

A raffle with community-provided prizes was conducted. Royce Barraza won a pair of Husker vs. Illinois football game tickets.

The event was organized by Megan and Matt Yank and Jenn Frey. See you next year



Catnip sticks, pet beds, and carrier liners!

To purchase, stop by the shelter, or call the hotline at 402-441-9593.



2445 S. 48th Street

Monday, Tuesday, & Saturday 10 am–5 pm

Wednesday–Friday 10 am–6 pm

Closed Sunday

Thank You!

Abby and Abbott find true love

By Claire Jordan

Abby and Abbott lived at TCH for so many years they started to seem like lifers. Abby, a red tabby, is so sweet and immediately purrs the second she is touched. Abbott has a beautiful cream and white coat and loves to relax in his bed while being petted. Despite their friendly personalities, they were overlooked by adopters for quite some time.

Most visitors were put off because the two cats have feline leukemia (FeLV), a virus that weakens a cat's immune system. Although Abby and Abbott were healthy, the virus usually shortens a cat's lifespan, which can be scary to potential adopters.

Abby and Abbott's eventual adopter, April, had been coming to TCH for quite a while before even deciding that she wanted to adopt. But soon enough April had fallen for Abby and decided she wanted to take her home, no matter her diagnosis.

April had received advice from TCH

volunteers that it would be best if she adopted two cats, which she was a bit hesitant about at first. But after seeing how Abby and Abbott got along and relied on each other for baths and cuddles, she knew Abbott had to come home with her and her future husband. April decided to take Abbott because she believed that he was going to end up being an awesome cat. He was a bit shy while at TCH but always loved to be petted. April saw something in his sweet but sensitive personality and was willing to open her heart.

When she first brought the two cats home, Abbott was very shy. He hid under the bed for a few weeks, then began to come out during the night and explore his new home on his own time. April knew Abbott was going to



need time to adjust, so she was very patient and gentle with him.

Now, Abbott loves to be petted and becomes upset whenever April takes her hand off of him. Abbott is such a lovable cat and just needed the right home

to show off his amazing personality. As for Abby, April loves it when she jumps on shoulders because she just can't get enough attention. Abby also loves taking naps on laps and is very cuddly.

Abby and Abbott can be very different, but April believes they are a perfect match for each other. To this day, April and her husband love Abby and Abbott and their company, and the cats have a wonderful home and a family with which they can share their love.

The Cat House hits a milestone

Twenty years ago, the dreams and work of a small group of Lincoln cat lovers gave birth to The Cat House (TCH). Since then TCH has expanded its work, but it remains Lincoln's only no-kill feline shelter. Here are some highlights from the past years:

A small group of Lincoln cat lovers filed incorporation papers for TCH.

1998

Lincoln officials rescued 79 cats and 2 dogs from an animal hoarder on South Street. TCH renovated a small building in Lincoln's Near South neighborhood into a shelter and took in 40 of the rescued cats.

Simba was among those rescued and quickly became a TCH icon.



TCH took in more than 20 cats left homeless by Hurricane Katrina. The organization rented a new and larger shelter at 1935 Q Street.

Neff, now known as Klaus, became known for his ability to open latched doors.

Loretta claimed her place as office manager.



2005

1999

The organization started using a PetSmart adoption center to house and show cats for adoption. Other cats lived in foster homes.



2004

Officials rescued 146 cats at a home on Linden Street. TCH took in 43 of these cats. The organization also rented its first adoption center, at 18th and P streets.

Steve and some of the Linden cats swarming him.

P St. building, TCH's first adoption center.



2010

TCH and the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors worked together to hold the first Meow & Chow bingo fundraiser.

Sally advises on finding the right pet sitter

Dear Advice Cat:

I am supposed to go out of town for my daughter's wedding but that would mean leaving my precious cat, Baby. I'm thinking of skipping the wedding to stay with Baby, but my daughter objects. What should I do?

Signed, Torn



Dear Torn:

Hello, hello! Are you the person bringing my dinner tonight? You're not? That's a disappointment. I love dinner . . . and breakfast . . . and my special snacks. So, what's that you need? Advice? I thought Luigi was giving the advice, but then I forgot, when he passed on he left the task to me. I'm Sally, and I've seen a lot here.

You say you are torn between taking care of Baby and going to your daughter's wedding? There's a simple answer to make both of them happy—hire a pet sitter to come into your home and look after Baby while you are at the wedding.

The pet sitter will take care of Baby's needs, give her cuddles and comfort, and keep an eye on your home. That way, Baby can stay at home in familiar surroundings, which means less stress on her. She'll be fine if you pick the right person for the job.

Finding the right person isn't too hard either. Start by . . . wait, is that person bringing my dinner? Oh, never mind . . . as I said, start by figuring out what Baby needs. Does she need to be given medications? Does she need lots of play time? Does the person need to know how to deal with shyness? Aggression? How often does someone need to come? In addition, are there some housesitting tasks you want the person to do, such as watering plants?

Then look around for pet sitters. Ask friends, neighbors, or co-workers who have pets for their recommendations. Check with your veterinarian's office. There are some websites online. You may have a trusted friend who would do the job.

Next, start checking out your options. Remember that you are entrusting this person with responsibility for your pet

and your home. Look for someone who can provide the services that you and Baby need. Check their pricing, including whether they charge by the day, the visit, or the pet and whether they charge extra for certain services.

Interview the candidates by phone to narrow down the list. Ask for references and check with them. Make sure you ask how reliable the person is. Finally, have the prospective pet sitter visit your home and meet Baby. Once you decide on a sitter, be sure you are both clear on the expectations. You may want to get them down in writing.

When you leave, be sure to provide your contact information, the contact information for Baby's veterinarian, and emergency contacts if something happens to your home. Also, think about a backup plan in case something happens to the pet sitter. Is there a friend or neighbor who would pinch-hit if necessary?

Wait, there's my supper! I see it! Oh, boy! Oh, boy! Gotta go, Sally

TCH added the second-floor Penthouse area to provide more space to its immune-compromised cats, including those positive for feline leukemia virus (FeLV) or feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV).

Pisa lived well beyond the life expectancy for cat with FeLV.

Sloopy had a rough road but lots of devoted fans.



2011

Catsino became a new annual fundraising event.

2013

Cats were moved into the new adoption shelter in June.

The new shelter building.

Cali ruled during her years at TCH, passing away at more than 22 years of age.



2015

Cat Love Therapy program was launched to bring cats to people in nursing homes and assisted living homes.

2012



TCH bought the building at 3633 "O" Street, and volunteers started renovating the new facility.

2014



TCH celebrates its 20th anniversary.

2018



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

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



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Mail to: PO Box 23145, Lincoln, NE 68542

Please select your contribution amount:
☐ Other \$ _____
☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500



**We need your
support!**

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!

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