



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.

Grieving the loss of your cat

By Ann Adams

Losing a cat is hard. They become part of our daily lives and are often synonymous with family and home. So how do you cope with such a loss?

Begin to accept your loss. Initially, the death of a pet is hard to accept. You expect them to greet you when you get home. You might even think you catch a glimpse of them or hear them. During this time, it's important that you be patient with yourself. Your grief is real and valid. Do not compare it to that of others or allow others to minimize the pain of losing a pet.

Talk about it. Share your feelings with others who also loved your pet or who have

experienced a similar loss. Allow yourself to feel your grief and let others know that you are struggling. Sometimes there is a feeling of guilt that comes along with grief. You may begin to question if you did enough for your cat or if you made the right decision. Talking about this with others can help you move past those feelings.



KC, beloved Cat House resident, passed over the Rainbow Bridge on 6/28/2017

Memorialize your pet. Everyone has their own way of paying tribute to their pets. For you it might include a ceremony, the spreading of ashes, a photo book, or even a written tribute. There is no wrong way to memorialize your cat.

Take your time. It is important to remember that there is no prescribed path or timeline for your grief. Some people prefer to remove items that remind them of their cat immediately, while others prefer to keep them around. You should do whatever feels right for you.

Grief isn't something that you move on from—it's something that you carry. The love that you have for a pet that has passed stays

with you and can become the foundation for new love when you are ready. It may help to think of your cat as having left a vacancy in your life that may one day be filled in part by another cat in need of a loving home. If you are unable to adopt again, you will always have the memories of your cat, and over time, those memories won't hurt as much.

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 the cathouse.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
- Daily care, feeding, room cleaning, and socializing of cats
- 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	13
May	17
June	21
July	29
August	42

Volunteer Spotlight:

Veronica Cammarata

By Allison Hunter-Frederick

Cats and talking are two of Veronica Cammarata's favorite things, so it's natural she became a volunteer at The Cat House.

First things first. Cats became part of Veronica's life around 25 years ago, while she and her husband were still in their

home state of New Jersey. It happened when the couple stopped at a flea market.

"We saw a rescue group with some kittens," Veronica said. "I had my eye on them. Two of them kept poking my husband and we adopted them. All of our other cats have been ones we found or others couldn't care for. We moved from New Jersey with five cats."

The couple moved to Lincoln 10 years ago. They originally planned to stay only until they retired, but they fell in love with Nebraska and have made it their home. A couple of years after their move to Lincoln, Veronica landed a job with Nelnet. She enjoys working at a call center because it allows her to solve problems. "I like helping a person who is upset find answers and turning enemies into friends."

Currently, they have one cat. He was found in a Kohl's parking lot when he was just a kitten. He couldn't be brought into the shelter because he had abscesses and so they fostered him. "My husband kept saying we wouldn't adopt because we still had three cats," Veronica said. "I knew we would and so I let him say it. Now the two have a love affair."

It was about eight years ago that Veronica discovered the TCH website. She liked that the shelter is no-kill and immediately signed up to help. Initially, she cleaned rooms on Monday mornings. Veronica said the shift is one of her favorites, explaining: "I get the most interaction with the cats and I make friends on my cleaning shift."

Over the years, the list of Veronica's duties has expanded to include cleaning the Blue Unit rooms on Tuesday afternoon. She also helps work open hours on Sundays. "When you find an adoption match," Veronica said, "it's very rewarding."

When she applied to help at TCH, she didn't know about its Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program for feral cats. When a volunteer coordinator noticed that Veronica's application listed TNR experience, Veronica was asked to handle TNR calls. She gladly accepted and draws on her experience of having cared for a feral colony of about

30 to 40 cats in New Jersey.

No matter the need, Veronica has always been happy to help. Veronica has helped at Catsino Night and Meow and Chow, two major TCH fund-raising events. She also has lent a hand with Santa photos at Petco.

Although naturally shy, Veronica has done news interviews to promote TCH fundraisers. "The first time I did it," Veronica admitted, "I thought I'd die. My husband said I'd be fine. When I started talking, I was okay, but it took me a long time to watch." Most of the TCH volunteers dislike the task, but Veronica finds it draws on her two favorite things: cats and talking.

Veronica says she has "so much respect for what TCH is and has become." She sees the shelter as such an important part of Lincoln that she includes it on her tour of the city for out-of-town friends. Some of these friends have even become regular donors. To Veronica, volunteering at TCH is a fun and rewarding experience. "Once you start, you can't stop."

Catnip sticks, pet beds, and carrier liners!

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



Almond Joy

By Jeff Kennedy

Almond Joy is quite the cat. She is a striking beauty. Her classic dark tortoiseshell coat has rich tones of auburn, brown, and black, and her large green eyes are particularly expressive. But ask anyone who

has spent any amount of time with her--her appearance is only part of her charm. Her personality is what wins your heart. She is extremely clever. At one point during her stay at The Cat House, she surprised volunteers by figuring out how to unlatch and open her door. A special clip had to be used to keep her safely in her room. In addition to smart, she is sweet. Quick to jump on any accepting lap for cuddling and petting, Almond Joy loves

to spend time with people and would love to meet a person to call her own.

At 11 years old, Almond Joy has had her share of experiences in life. She has met a lot of people and earned many admirers. At this stage of her adult life, the best next experience for her would be for a person who loves a calm,

sweet, intelligent cat to take her home to a quiet environment and appreciate all she has to offer.

Almond Joy currently resides in room P16 in the Purple Unit of The Cat House.

Bruce

By Jeff Kennedy

Bruce is a gentle giant. At only three years of age, the gray tabby cat with a white throat has grown to more than 16 pounds. His demeanor is so laid back, he can often be found stretched out in

> his room, cat-napping, without a care in the world. Other times, he can be found chasing a ball around his room or fighting the throw rug. When a human visits him, he will look at them, slowly rise and saunter over, and bump his head against them hoping to be petted. He will gladly sit beside you and enjoy getting his fur stroked for long periods of time. He has all day for this if you do.

Bruce has tested positive for the Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). This means that his body carries a virus that may lower his immune system, causing him to be more susceptible to infections and illnesses. The good news is that FIV+ cats can live full, normal lives and can even share a house with cats who haven't tested positive.

Bruce lives in room B3 in the Blue Unit at The Cat House. It's pretty hard to miss seeing him when you're walking down the hallway outside his room, and even harder to leave him after you've spent time with him



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



Bayou (FIV+) – 11 years



Paisley – 6 years



Erle Stanley – 7 years



Payday – 5 years



Cora - 3 years



Scotch - 11 years



Calendar of Events

Fall Blessings Arts & Crafts Fair

October 12 / 9 am to 4 pm Abbott Sports Complex 7600 N. 70th Street

Meow & Chow

October 19 / Doors open at 5 pm Center for People in Need 3901 N. 27th Street Fundraiser for TCH & LAA

St. Mark's Fall Arts & Crafts Show

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

Seward Craft Show

November 16 / 9 am to 3:30 pm Seward County Fairgrounds

Holiday Spectacular Arts & Crafts Show

November 30 / 9 am to 4 pm Abbott Sports Complex 7600 N. 70th Street

Santa Photos at Petco

TBA - December

Lincoln Women's Expo

January 18, 2020 / 10 am to 5 pm **January 19, 2020** / 10 am to 4 pm **January Event Center**

Lancaster Event Center 4100 N. 84th Street

Keeping the fun in your cat's playtime

By Allison Hunter-Frederick

While researching low-cost fun for cats, I discovered a long list of common household items that cats like to play with. Unfortunately, I also soon realized that many of these are dangerous. Whether you give your cat do-it-yourself toys or store-bought toys, the safety of those toys should be a top concern.

TOYS TO AVOID

Experts recommend that all of the following should be kept out of your cat's reach:

- Aluminum Foil
 - *J*11
- Dental FlossFeathers
- Gift Bows
- Paper Clips
- Pins and Needles
- Hair Ties Plastic Bags
- Ribbons
- Rubber Bands
- String and Yarn
- Tissue Paper

While your cat might enjoy playing with any of these items, they can all pose risks to your cat's health; for example, small items can be a choking hazard, feathers can lacerate your cat's mouth, and plastic bags can suffocate your cat.

It's also far too easy for cats to chew or swallow listed items. If your cat swallows pieces of aluminum foil, they can perforate your cat's stomach lining and require surgery. Or if your cat swallows pieces of gift bows, the pieces could cause gastrointestinal blockages or lacerate the intestinal wall.

String-like materials receive a particularly bad rap for being lethal. They can cause damage to your cat's intestines. Experts advise that if you find string that's been partially swallowed (or coming out of the rectum) don't try to pull it out, as it could cause fatal intestinal damage. Instead, take your cat immediately to the vet. String-like materials also can cause strangulation.

TOYS THAT NEED SUPERVISION

Although do-it-yourself or store-bought toys might be safer, many of them should only be used by your cat under supervision. These toys include plush mice, plastic balls, toys that dangle, and wand toys.

Continued on page 5

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

CANNED CAT FOOD OR PACKETS

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

SUPPLIES

- Brooms
- O'Cedar Light 'N Thirsty cloth mop refills
- Paper towels and bathroom tissue
- Kitchen and office size trash bags
- Copier/printer paper

* sold at vet clinics

CAT LITTER

• Non-clumping, regular clay litter (no clumping, pine, or newsprint type litter)

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

Donations in memory & honor of...

In memory of

Marjory Langner from Janet Williams, Theodore Kooser, Beckler's Implement Co., Kathy Miller, Christie Larson, Nancy Elwell, and Vickie Sandven

Bonnie Smith from Veronica Cammarata

Jeanette Jensen from Nebraska Community Blood Bank

Barbara Funk from Gregory Osborn, Eva Ortiz, G. Anne Mulligan, Ronald and Rita Freeman, Diane Lewis, Amy Weber, Robert Tallichet, Carol Strasheim, Karen Koinzan, Sandra Skillett, Tami McLaughlin, the Matt Hunter family, and Midwest Housing Equity Group, Inc.

Gale Ogg from Robin Ogg

Tigger, sweet companion of Connie Stentz, from Lincoln Community Foundation

Pica from Sarah Vodicka

Kate Kane from G. Anne Mulligan

Lyle Lehecka from Nancy and Larry Lehecka

Jeannie Birdsall from Sherri Buford, Gary Ryken, Sharon Schuldt, Thomas and Karrie Dudley, Micheline Young, Sheila Grossnicklaus, Linda Kuehl, Wayne Skoda, Harry Tilley, Suzann Meierdierks, Steven Jensen, Shirley Znamenacek, Marlene Stehlik, Diane Murphy, Jeanette Smith, Faye Stevens, and John Birdsall

Mary Rich from Victoria Rasmussen Hughes and Megan Seefus Phoebe Hahn-Larson, a beloved cat, from JohnCarl Denkovich

Ripley, Thomas, Mattie, and Crystal from Denise Wiemer

Katie, beloved cat of Denise Wiemer, from Joan Stahly Rouse and Denise Wiemer

Harlan Weingart from Jack Campbell, Christine Kline, Susan Pope, Harriette Lococo, Michaela Rasmussen, Cheryl Peterson, David Barber, Thelma Zabloudil, Shawn Meister, Cheryl McPherson, and Kristal Malone

Bob the cat from Joan Krick

Don Allen from Judy Allen

Wylie from Denise Wiemer

Snowball from Mary Kuzma

Ted, Pat McCauley's cat, from Susan Shearer

Gerald Huenink from Kathy Stark

Bobbin from Susan Schrader

Abby, beloved cat of Dena and Sven Noe, from Julie Manes

Elizabeth Meyer from Linda Knox

Dauber from Travis Blase

Shirley Ann Moog from Frank and Cheryl Sadro

Norma Patzloff from Rachel Foster, Jane Bromfield, Patsy Harpster, Sue Kempkes, and Errol Vanicek

In honor of

Rosemary Shields, O'Malley, and Ebony from Wayne Skoda

Jeff and Carrie Casavant from Megan Yank

Samantha Evan's birthday from Judy and Eric Kok

Granite and Logan from Kimberly Skeels

Aniseed from Lynne Nevin

Jordan Blenner from Alice Blenner

Cheryl's birthday from Gary Fehr

Dean Jackson's birthday from Samantha Cooper

Ann Casement from Christine Barnett

Erin's birthday from Gary Fehr

Sparkle from Megan Gates

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

Keeping the fun, continued

Plush Toys: The sad reality is that sometimes the prettier the toy, the more harmful it can be. Many mice have plastic eyes, noses, and whiskers glued on, which your cat could chew off and swallow. Mice also may have feathers on them, which can pose multiple risks. If ingested, the feathers could create a choking hazard or the sharp points on the quill end of the feather could cut your cat's paws or mouth. Some mice have toxic fillings such as polystyrene beads, nutshells, or beans.

Finally, while remote-controlled mice are fun for you and your cat, they should always be put away when done playing as your cat could suffer harm if it were to get access to and remove the batteries. Your cat could damage a battery enough to cause leakage, and the acid could burn your cat. Also, just like other small objects, batteries can cause choking or intestinal damage.

Balls: As a whole, balls are considered relatively safe for cats, but there are still precautions to consider. For example, only give your cat balls that are too big to swallow. Ping pong balls and practice golf balls (the ones with holes in them) are considered a good size for cats.

Some versions of the popular sparkle balls are unfortunately small enough for a cat to swallow. If your cat does swallow a sparkle ball and doesn't vomit it up, it can cause internal damage or obstruction. Finally, many balls include a bell inside as a lure. If your cat manages to swallow this bell, the metal can break down in your cat's stomach and expose your cat to toxins.

Dangling Toys: Toys that dangle from the edge of a table or over a doorknob present a dual hazard of intestinal damage or strangulation. The latter can happen if the string is long enough that a cat can become tangled in it.

Wand Toys: Despite their popularity as an interactive toy, wand toys can be dangerous. Many of them have an elastic string which a cat can swallow if it breaks, and if swallowed the string can loop around the intestines.

CONCLUSION

Some of the safest toys are objects that aren't even designed to be used by cats, such as paper bags (with the handles removed) and boxes. This doesn't mean you can't use other toys. Simply remember to supervise your cat during playtime, just as you would supervise a toddler. In addition, regularly inspect your cat's toys for signs of damage or wear and replace them as necessary. And, finally, put any potentially harmful cat toys in a secure spot when playtime is over.

Another happy adoption story: From grumpy to sweet

By Claire Jordan

Samantha was a resident at The Cat House for several years, waiting for the perfect someone to take her home. Volunteers knew her as a striking Siamese mix with an often grumpy attitude. She welcomed attention at times and growled and groused about it at other times.

Luckily, Anna came along one day and, knowing she wanted to adopt a senior cat, she was introduced to Samantha. When Anna was growing up, her family had a cat named Sam, so she was immediately drawn to Samantha. It helped that Samantha was immediately drawn to Anna, too. The moment they were introduced, Samantha was on Anna's lap purring away, and at that moment Anna knew she was adopting her.



Samantha was on edge for the first few days after Anna took her home. Then, one night she pushed open the door to the room she was confined in, jumped onto Anna's bed, and curled up next to her. Soon, Samantha became queen of the

house, especially when sitting atop her cat

Anna describes Samantha as incredibly sweet. She loves to cuddle and chase things, especially a laser pointer and a wand with a string attached. Even though Samantha is considered a senior cat, she still enjoys running laps, also known as "zoomies," around the house. Anna's favorite thing about Samantha is that she's really loving and talks a lot. She's developed the habit of greeting Anna at the door when Anna comes home, weaving in between her legs. Samantha has become a constant reminder of all the good things in life, and she has helped Anna through the good times and the bad.

Sally dishes about the v-word (veterinarian)

Dear Sally:

I'm about to adopt a new cat. He's so sweet and loving. I'm hoping we can have many years together. What can I do to help this new cat live a long, healthy life?

Signed, Worried and wondering

Dear Worried:

Congratulations on your new family ... Wait, is that my supper coming? I can't talk if it's suppertime. Oh, false alarm. Sorry. ... So you want to help your cat be healthy? Good for you. It's important to think ahead about these things. Of course, having a healthy cat means you need to pick a good food and to cat-proof your home to minimize the chance of accidents. You should get to know what stresses your cat and take steps to eliminate or ease those issues. You need toys and scratching posts and warm laps to make your cat happy.

But probably the most important thing you can do is take your cat to the v-v-v-veterinarian. There. I said it, I said the v-word. I hate vets. I hate having to leave my cozy box and my window shelf and getting poked and prodded by someone in a strange-smelling office, no matter how nice that person tries to be. Worst of all, I hate to

admit that going to the vet has been good for me.

Even if your new cat seems healthy and is not due for any vaccinations, it's a good idea to take the cat to your vet for a getacquainted visit. The vet will do a thorough, hands-on examination of your cat to check for problems that aren't immediately apparent. That's important because cats are good at hiding health problems until they become serious. It's part of their defense against predators.

During a visit, the vet likely will look at your cat's mouth, eyes, ears, skin, and back end. They may clean the ears and anal glands. They will check the cat's temperature, listen to the heart and lungs, test the joints, and feel for internal organs through the abdomen. The vet may give vaccinations to prevent serious diseases. They also may treat for fleas, ear mites, or worms, which are not only uncomfortable but can cause health complications. If concerns are found, the vet may draw blood or do additional procedures. The vet may test for feline leukemia (FeLV) or feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) if your cat has not already been tested. (All cats at The Cat House have been tested.)

See why I'm not fond of vets? There's nothing dignified about all that manhandling! But it's true that vets often have good advice for people. They can answer all kinds of questions about cat behavior and things like what litter is good, what plants are dangerous, and how to pick out healthy foods. ... Speaking of food, have you seen my supper? Someone usually brings it about now. Do you suppose it is that person coming around the corner? How exciting! Oh, false alarm again. ... Back to your new cat. Don't be afraid to ask the vet lots of questions. If your cat needs medicine or treatment at home, make sure you understand how to give them properly before you leave the vet's office. The more you know, the easier you can make life for your cat. That is your goal, right? ... Oh, at last! There's my supper!

Gotta go, Sally



Flying with your cat: What to think about before you take off

By Claire Jordan

So, you're going to fly and you plan to take your cat with you. It can be done with some thoughtful planning. Here's what you need to know before taking off with your furry friend:

First, know the policies and procedures of the airline you're flying with. Each airline's policies on flying with pets is a little different, so it's important that you know what paperwork is needed, the potential additional costs, and recommended dimensions of the carrier so that your cat can travel safely and comfortably. Make sure you clarify whether your cat can ride in the cabin or is expected to be in cargo.

Get any supplies that will make the trip less stressful for your cat. There are plenty of products specially made for felines that help relieve stress, like calming collars or pheromone wipes. If you know your cat gets extremely stressed in certain situations, it may be a good idea to visit your vet and ask about medication to help reduce anxiety.

Depending on the length of the flight,

you may need to think more about what to put in your cat's carrier. In case your cat has an accident, it's best to line its carrier with a potty-pad; traveling on an empty stomach will also reduce the chances of nausea. Additionally, it is a good idea to pack portable dishes for food and water, treats, paper towels, and even a few latex gloves in case you need to clean up after your cat.

Know that when you go through security, the carrier must go through the x-ray and you'll have to carry your cat with you through security. Make sure your cat is wearing a leash and harness so it can't escape, and put it safely back in its carrier before gathering the rest of your belongings once you're through security. Keep the carrier closed otherwise—scared cats can get out of very small openings.

These are just a few important things to think about when flying with a cat, but always be sure to do diligent research before any sort of travel with your pet.





Quizno – 1 year

Litter Box Rally nets funds, foundling

By Alma Vlasak

Sun, sand, volleyball, and kitten rescue—what could be better on a mid-September Sunday afternoon?

Spike's Beach Bar & Grille was the site of the 5th Annual Litter Box Rally. Megan and Matt Yank, long-time TCH volunteers, were the organizers of this two-bracket sand volleyball event, which benefits The Cat House, Lincoln's only no-kill cat shelter. The 21 teams that signed up raised \$2,108 to help the shelter!

In the middle of play, a kitten appeared on one of the courts, requiring that all play cease while the little tabby was captured. The kitten appeared to be thin and was looking for food. Following the event, a check of appropriate agencies and the area was made to see if she belonged to anyone. Wilson Spike is now living in a TCH foster home until she gets big enough to come in for adoption.

Team Purrpare to Lose won the gold bracket, and Free Range Kitties took first in the silver bracket. A variety of prizes went to the winners.

Among the raffle prizes were a wine basket from Junto Winery, t-shirts from the Mellow Mushroom, and a gift card to the Venue restaurant.





We need your 1

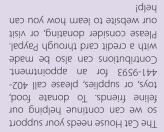


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