

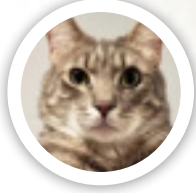
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jacey Rader
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THE CAT HOUSE Scoop

© Essence in a Flash by Kimberly McCarty

VOLUME NO. 22 | ISSUE NO. 1 | SPRING 2022



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.

Curious about catios?

By Ann Adams

It's officially spring! The birds are chirping, the bunnies are hopping, the squirrels are scurrying—and your cat is most likely glued to cat reality TV, aka your windows and doors, just trying to keep up with the local critter social scene. You may be asking yourself, "Wouldn't my cat love to go outside?" Yes, perhaps it would. People like to sit on patios when the weather is nice, and cats can also enjoy this sensory delight with something called a catio!

What is a Catio?

Catios are enclosures that allow indoor cats to safely get a taste of the great outdoors. The idea is to offer your housecat mental and physical enrichment while also keeping it out of harm's way.

Catio Tips

Premade catios are available to purchase from many retailers. A quick Google search will yield a variety of results starting around \$150 and going all the way up to \$800+. If that is out of your price range, there are some more affordable tent-style options that may work for you.

Continued on page 4

Helping the shy cat blossom

By Allison Hunter-Frederick

So you have a new cat who is shy and cautious, wanting to dash into the back of the closet or the top of the cabinet every time you appear. Now what? Can you ever become friends? The answer is yes, but it takes patience. To help your new cat warm up to you, provide it with a safe space, a predictable routine, and positive reinforcers. As your cat's body language becomes more relaxed, you can push it out of its comfort zone.

To set up a safe space, start out by not only putting your new cat into a quiet room, but also put it in an enclosed space within that room with enough space for a litter box, scratching post, feeding station, and cat cave. (My family uses a pet playpen.) The small space will help your new cat acclimate more easily to its environment, while also allowing you to introduce yourself to it. Otherwise, fearful cats tend to hide behind or under furniture, only venturing out when no one is around, which makes gaining their trust difficult.

Next, provide a predictable routine. Bring meals, hang out, and play at the same time each day. With our current foster cat, I bring her meals in the morning and the evening.

Continued on page 4

Wish List

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 Iams – 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
- Paper towels
- Kitchen and office size trash bags
- 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

CAT LITTER

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

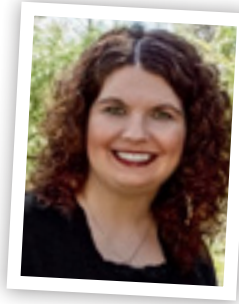
MISCELLANEOUS

- 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

Volunteer Spotlight: Jacey Rader

By Anne-Marie Maher



Jacey Rader's fierce and caring nature has led her to impact the lives of many—both with and without fur. That calling first began with her career of over 17 years as a probation officer with the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Jacey said, "I'm very devoted to helping people—whether it's youth or adults—make changes in their lives after they've been placed on probation. I really believe in redemption and transformation, and the power of everybody to change the course of their life."

That advocacy reached far beyond her career. In 2004, she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Jacey now speaks on behalf of those who have been diagnosed and are seeking help in making decisions about their healthcare. Yet again, Jacey didn't stop there. In 2020, her search for meaningful volunteer work began. With a busy schedule already, Jacey needed flexibility. The Cat House was her purrfect match, giving her the opportunity to give back to the community while working with her schedule.

She had only just adopted her first cat the year prior, but quickly fell in love with their funny, sweet nature.

"I had always been a dog person before," she laughed.

With so many volunteer opportunities within The Cat House to choose from, Jacey found that the adoption counselor role offered great versatility while utilizing her own personal strengths of reliability and good judgement. Jacey can take her volunteer work on the road if need be, through making calls, answering emails, and reviewing applications.

As an adoption counselor, Jacey interviews adoption applicants. She looks for people with an open mind who strive to continue learning how to be the best pet

parent they can be.

"They don't have to know everything about cats, but they have to be open to learning about best practices. We've learned a lot about how pet ownership has evolved in general," Jacey said.

When first going to The Cat House as an applicant, Jacey stresses the importance of having an open mind, meeting all the cats, and seeing who they best connect with. As many people have experienced before, sometimes the cat chooses you.

After the adoption, Jacey follows up to see how new cats are getting along in their new homes and offers tips for helping with any issues that arise. Patience is imperative throughout the entire adoption process, especially with kids or other pets in the household.

Introducing new cats too quickly to the household is a common issue that can be easily avoided. Cats often are very frightened when they are first moved to a new place with unfamiliar people and need to be given the time and grace to adjust.

Jacey said, "Introductions always go slower than what people expect. It's really important that we normalize that for people and be that reassuring voice on the other end of the phone to give resources and advice to make the transition easier."

It may take weeks or months for the cat to fully integrate, but the patience is more than worth it for the reward of a new, loving family member.

Jacey added, "I think that it's important that we advocate for the relationships that animals can bring to us, even the ones that aren't outwardly reciprocal. I want to encourage people to give a cat a chance because doing so really made a huge impact."

While Jacey has given immeasurable time and passion to The Cat House, she has found that The Cat House has given back to her in return. Jacey describes the volunteers at The Cat House as encouraging and caring, even offering her help and resources her when she needs help with her own cats at home.

To learn more about volunteering, visit <https://thecathouse.org/volunteer/>.

Happy Tails Stats

Here are the number of cats adopted in recent months.

September	27
October	30
November	22
December	43
January	41
February	36

Rally

By Brenda Luers

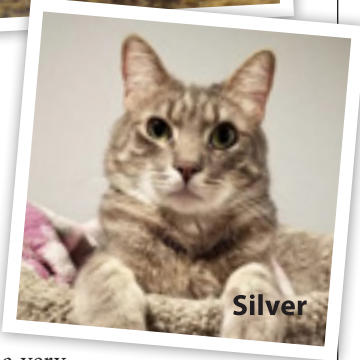
Meet Rally! Rally is a stately cat with the face of a lion; short, fawn-colored fur; and soulful, amber eyes.

As his name suggests, Rally exemplifies resilience and the ability to recover one's health and spirits after experiencing adversity. He lived a long time in the vicinity of a trailer park. He recently came to TCH after all the stray cats in that area were evicted. During his time at the trailer park, Rally lost part of one of his ears because of a lack of proper care. It was unfortunate, but we think it gives him a cool cat look and he doesn't seem to mind.

Remarkably, despite having been on his own for so long, Rally is a very trusting and affectionate cat. He will rub his face against yours if you let him. He purrs contentedly whenever he is petted and absolutely loves to be brushed. It is a luxury he surely never experienced in his prior situation.

Rally seems truly grateful to finally have a warm place to sleep and regular meals, and he basks in the attention of the friendly people who visit his room. You will see from the first time you meet him that he has a lot of love to give.

Rally is looking to finally have a family and a home. He is sure to be an appreciative and steadfast companion.



Silver

By Brenda Luers

Meet Silver! Silver is a petite prince with short, silky silver fur in a tabby pattern and bright citrine eyes. He is a good-natured cat of many talents and is sure to shine brightly in someone's home.

Silver and his littermate Blackie are our resident "Property Brothers." No matter how their beds, blankets, and toys are arranged after cleaning their room, absolutely everything has been moved somewhere else by the following morning. Silver clearly has lots of ideas, and he isn't afraid to put those ideas into action.

But Silver is more than just a cat with a penchant for interior design. Silver is a smart, active cat who loves to play. Silver and Blackie have devised a clever game where one carries around a strand of string in his mouth while the other chases it, which is super fun to watch.

Silver also has extremely good manners. He is always waiting by the door to welcome you. He has been the room's ambassador for several visiting cats. He is a quiet and considerate cat and gets along very well with everyone--cats and humans alike. Silver is exceptional in his eager yet laid-back "cattitude."

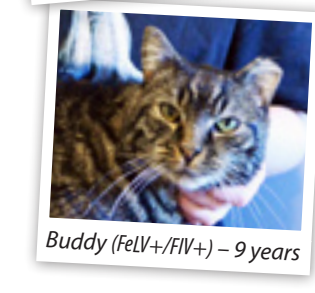
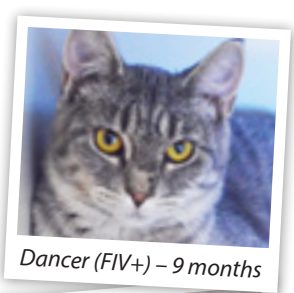
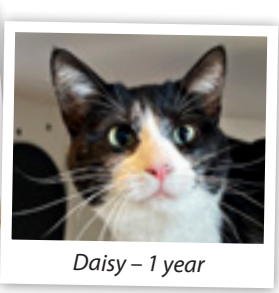
You might be surprised to learn that Silver had humble beginnings in a garage, where he and his littermates were fed but did not have much contact with people. Thankfully, the person who was feeding them recognized the young cats could flourish in the right environment and brought them to TCH so they could find good homes.

Silver was initially a little uncertain about all the people who come and go so frequently at TCH, but he has made lots of progress in learning to trust us. He will let people approach and pet him. He might sometimes still seem a little reserved, but a stable home will bring out Silver's full shine.

Silver is gentle, smart, playful, and polite. It will be rewarding to be the person who wins Silver's heart.

These cats are looking for forever homes.

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



Calendar of Events

Give to Lincoln Day

May 26 / Midnight to 11:59 pm
Option to give May 1 through 26
at thecathouse.org/give

Haymarket Farmers Market Saturdays, June 25 through

August 6 / 8 am to Noon
Booth on 8th St. between P and Q
Pet beds, catnip sticks, and other
items available.



The 11th annual Lincoln Community Foundation's Give to Lincoln Day (G2LD) is scheduled for Thursday, May 26.

As in years past, non-profits will share a proportionate part of a \$500,000 match based on the amount of money raised on G2LD.

We are often asked where we get the money to run the shelter and care for the cats that come in. Most of our money comes from donations, adoptions, and retail sales, but our biggest opportunity to raise money comes during G2LD.

Funds raised on behalf of TCH pay for spay/neuters, other necessary veterinary procedures, and our Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) program.

G2LD has been mainly an online donation campaign. Check for the link on The Cat House website or go to givetolincoln.com. Gifts can be made online at this site beginning May 1 to qualify for G2LD totals and match funds.

Your generosity and caring will let us continue our work here in 2022 for the Lincoln community. We thank you.

Helping the shy cat blossom, continued from page 1

I eat with her during my breakfast and lunch. Before bed, I play with her.

There are many ways you can be a quiet presence. I start by sitting a few feet away from a shy cat and then slow blinking. Slow blinking is the equivalent of smiling to a cat: it lets a cat know you're friendly and encourages it to be receptive to you. When my slow blink is reciprocated by a new shy cat, I let it know that I respect its space by leaving immediately. If reciprocation is unlikely, I'll accept any movement that shows the cat has let down its guard, or I simply leave and try again later.

Once your new cat has had time to settle into its new environment, begin making brief visits to its room. I play "Relax My Cat" on YouTube or nature sounds. As I begin to extend my visits, I also read aloud or turn on a podcast. During each visit, I sit quietly at a distance comfortable to the cat. I might extend my hand to see if the cat is open to interacting with me, but I never force contact. My goal in the first several weeks is encourage the cat to feel safe with me.

Once your cat feels safe with you, the next step is to find out whether your cat likes treats or toys. How those treats and toys are offered should depend on the degree of your cat's shyness. When a cat is too fearful to approach me, I'll offer a treat on a telescopic spoon, or I'll begin my attempts to play by using a laser pointer, balls, string toys, or wand toys with feathers. After you figure out what your cat likes, begin using those things when you visit so your cat begins to associate you with good things.

As your new cat becomes more relaxed, you can try gradually pushing it out its comfort zone. You can do this in numerous ways: sitting closer, staying longer, playing a variety of sounds, holding out objects for your cat to sniff, and offering treats in your hands.

Eventually, you can allow your new cat



to have more space. Just remember to go slowly, and don't give it more space until it's comfortable with the space it has. Open the door to one room at a time rather than all at once. Also, every time you open a new room, you'll need to repeat everything you did to get your cat to feel comfortable in the smaller space.

As your cat begins to step out of its comfort zone, always offer a choice. Place a food dish both inside and outside of the playpen and provide a trail of treats between them. Do the same with litterboxes and scratching posts: one of each inside the playpen and one of each outside the playpen. As for toys, dangle a toy in the playpen and then outside of the playpen. Your cat can choose to stay in the playpen, but chances are your cat will eventually choose to leave the playpen.

Finally, there's working towards being able to touch your new cat. Start by bridging the gap. If your cat is food motivated, put treats on a telescopic spoon that over time you shorten. When your cat is close enough to touch, see if you can touch any part of its body, all the while continuing to offer treats. If your cat is toy motivated, see if you can rub a catnip toy or wand toy along your cat's back. Eventually, you should be able to rub your hand along your cat's back.

If you have adopted a shy cat, The Cat House thanks you. Shy cats can take more time and patience to bond with than the average cat, but the relationship you build with them can be rewarding and strong.

Curious about catios?, continued from page 1

Are you a builder? Consider constructing your own catio! Make sure your design will give your cat access to shade, includes durable screen materials, and is made using pet-safe paint and building materials.

Once your catio is set up, add in some cat toys, scratchers, mats, cat safe plants, and a water bowl—everything your cat will need to have the best day ever.

Safety Reminders

It is a good idea to always supervise your cats while they are enjoying their catio. Check to make sure there are no toxic plants or chemicals near the location of your catio and that the catio has not developed any holes or loose spots from which a cat could escape.

Donations in memory & honor of...

In memory of

Tracy and George from Denise Wiemer
Nancy Jelinek from Leo Jelinek, Rod Eldred, and April Skoda
Colleen Miller from Natalie Umphlett and Ashley Fargo
Oliver from Lindy Onishi
Alexander Epperson from Kimberly Knox
Ed and Pat (Murphy) Roth from Jan Roth-Schoonover
Robinson Brown from Dianne Johnson and Chris Reynolds
Joyle Moyer from Sandra Dingman
John and Spot Marshall from All Feline Hospital
Betty Willemsen from GERALYN ELS, Marjean Newcomer, Carolyn Cook, Carol Stokes, Irene Moore, Deborah Loecker, Kathy Asboe, Scott Marshall, Sharon Paden, Irene Thomassen, Linda Little, Kathleen Wenzl, and Laurie Haszard
Indy, longtime cat companion of Morrie Enders, from Judith Gibson
Deb and Sheri Cerveny from Deanna Overton
Tara (aka Tidy Girl) from Jody Cass
Grace Delaney from Sherrie Spilde
Leslie Roper from Kathryn Bellman, Analise Alloway, Tracy Willet-Gomez, and Sandra Johnson
The Sinkler Cats from David and Sharon Sinkler
Christine Anderson from Anita Friehe
Cliff Jones from Jerry Tyrrell
Smokey from Edward Boone
Audrey F. Bartolome from Susan Harris
Sparkle, my friend's cat, from Sarah Vodicka
Eliza from Wendy Bonaiuto
Ruth Wodder from Rebecca Wodder and Kevin Kantor
Mary Grabowski from Craig Grabowski, Martha Rus, and M.K. Wallen
Jim and Muffy from Sandra Mertlik
Toast and Moe from Nancy Settles Baker
Martini from John and Brenda Roby
River from Haley Brogan
Mr. Spook from Jenna Henderson
Sophie and Zolie from Anita Friehe
Mr. Black from Mary Karen Lewis
Ms. Kitty from Craig Herman
Coral from Sarah Rosenau
Raine and River Terry's kitties from Kelsey Husk
Bill Parrott from Patricia Parrott

Bryan Stowe from Lori Anderson Stowe
Patricia Terpstra from C.L. Alexander, Donna Osentowski, Nancy Arensdorf, Debra Suesz, and Barbara Glaser
Max T. Cat from David Johns
Gabby, Lana, and Rod Warner's cat from Mary Chisholm
Judy Weidenfeller from Jerry Tyrrell
Paula Russell from Susan Sapp, Mallory Rogers, and Keith Peters
Jean Lewis from Mary Crable
Lacy and Hazel from Denise Wiemer
Jackson Julius Peepers from Joyce McArthur-Johnson
Katie from Randy and Cindy Bloom
Hazel from Sarah Vodicka
Muffy from Terri Hahn
Ethel from Charisa Ramsey
Maximus from Jeanette Nakada
Norma Ann Patzloff from Errol Vanicek
Sharon Maddox from Bonnie Miller
Joyce Dewey from Jamie, Marcia, Michelle, and Jen
Lonnie Francisco from Eldon Schoonveld
Dean Gadeken from Evelyn Gadeken
Geraldine (Jerry) Hall from Loyal Park
Joy Frame from Thelma Simpson
J. Beverly Doran from Patricia Tripp, Alice Fisher, and Allen and Linda Fisher
Carolyn Call from Ted Call
Pudge from Christen Million
Patricia Kohout from Elizabeth Kohout and Phyllis Nazari
Janet Maxine Day from Joe Montemayor, Margaret Allen, Ronald Day, Donald Gibbens, and Sheila Brown
Lilly DeVore from Kelly Robare
Angela Harney from John McMorrow
Janice Anderson Kim Salama
Cady, beloved fur baby of Judy Gibson and Barbara Dibernard, from Gina Matkin

In honor of

Katherine Miratsky and her beloved Sundance from Rebecca Miratsky
Pokey, Leo, and Tyson from Lauren Sparks
Dan's birthday from Amy Sterling
National Cat Day in October from Whitney Lake
Cecelia's birthday from Jessica Wendt
Geoff Balliet and Karin Dalziel from Sandra Black

John and Melissa Pedersen, Sandie and Robin McConnell, and Patti and Peter Rohman and family from Theresa Wagner
Gizmo and Pumpkin from Bill and Sandy Spielman
Sunny and Marley (aka Honky Tonk and Jazz) and Faye Stevens from Julie Stepanek
Sophie from Jo Ann Pappas
Pat Kessler from Colby Lamb
Toby from Carol Knolle-Faulkner
Woody, Rosie, and Leroy from Suzon Ahern
Dan and Heather Busch from Jennifer Miller and Katelynn Farris
Veronica and Mike Cammarata from Gina Smith
Emily from Carolyn Harp
Kat Courtney Morrow from Andrea McCain
Fae from Julie Petersen
Tigs and Smudge from Julie Pollard
Sue Howe from Robin Howe
Erica Koppenhoefer, a colleague at History Nebraska, from Michael Hale
Sue Yaussi and Windsor Kitty from Lori Yaussi
Jan Wigodsky from Vivian Mason
Mary Grabowski from John Grabowski
Peaches' adoption from Julie Sheldon
Alexandria N. Wright from Richard Wright
Fern, Wilbur, Leaf, and Windy from Edgar and Rebecca Cahoon
Elise Ehlers' graduation from UNL from her mother
666 Fantasy Football points for the black cats from Dustin Small
UBT Pet Drive from Katherine Stous
Geoff's birthday from Gary Nuut
Erin Miller's birthday from Kama Ogden

Special thanks to

Dr. Kelly Jordan	Cause For Paws
Dr. Shelley Knudsen	Nature's Variety
All Feline Hospital	Petco
Wachal Pet Health Center	Tractor Supply
Vondra Veterinary Clinic	
Pitts Veterinary Hospital	
Creature Comforts Mobile Veterinary Service	

Thank You!

Tech-savvy options for cat entertainment

By Courtney Lillard

Do your cats seem bored or lazy? They may have found the perfect home with plenty of food, warmth, treats, and love, but sometimes they may yearn for more motivation to be active (don't we all!). Consider trying a modern approach to entertaining your cat through cat TV or similar apps.

Cat TV consists of videos on the Internet used to stimulate your cats, including videos with mice, birds, squirrels, or fish. These images bring out their predator instincts and allow cats to focus their attention on a screen. While it doesn't replace their amusement when looking out a window, it can become a reliable substitute if they are unable to see much activity outside.

Search for these phrases online to find a variety of video ideas:

- Birds chirping in spring
- Swimming pond fish
- Mice activity for cats
- Birder King channel

Enrichment apps are similar to cat TV in that they can attract your cats' attention. Like toys, these programs react to touch, allowing your cats to be involved instead of merely watching the animals or items. However, these programs should not replace physical toys or interacting with your pet. They should assist in maintaining your cats' mental health.

Here are some popular apps to get started:

- Pocket Pond 2
- Cat Alone
- Game for Cats
- Cat Playground

For those cats who find it engaging, make sure to always keep an eye on your cats in case they decide to channel their inner lion. No one wants to deal with a damaged screen!

Betty White Challenge

Betty White brought happiness, laughter, and love to people everywhere within the sound of her voice. An iconic actress and comedian, she brought joy to all who knew of her. She passed away December 31, 2021, at 99 years of age. In addition to her work in the entertainment industry, she was a passionate animal welfare advocate.

Her advocacy spanning decades touched people and animals around the world. It seems most fitting that as word of Betty's passing sparked across the internet, a campaign to honor and memorialize her began.

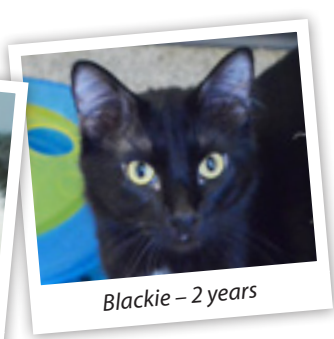
The Cat House (TCH) here in Lincoln was the recipient of at least 130 donations totaling just under \$5,100, according to Faye Stevens, president of TCH. These thoughtful donations will help enhance the work of TCH in the community through TNR and continued outreach as we take in cats and kittens for adoption.

Betty's memory will live on wherever people extend a helping hand to organizations and individuals who support the care of animals

We thank you for your love and support.

Thank you to those who donated to TCH in honor of Betty White:

Kelsey Tatro, Tara Scott, Bill and Sandy Spielman, Jerry Tyrrell, Jan Adams, Caroline Wehrwein, Heather Swartz, Pat Caudill Cole, Veronica Cammarata, Mary Crable, Molly Peters, Timbre Wulf-Ludden, Barb Tisdale, Karen Petersen, Denise Wiemer, Ann Baxa, Joyce McArthur-Johnson, Patrick and Kay Werblow, Sonya Brakeman, Lori Waiss, Carol Tucker, Melissa Baker, Jean Cotter, Robin Prochazka, Sue Center, Anne Baden, Suzann Meierdieks, MI Industries, Carol Knolle-Faulkner, Dayna Souza, Terri Hahn, Teresa Lorensen, Kayelynn Roche, Dona Logan, Kern Family Trust, Cheryl Schoneweis, Laura Chapman, Claire McDowell, Emily Beach, Jacey Anderson, Jacque Points, Amanda Boies, Abigail Benz, Meghan Winchell, Antigone Jackson, Kelly Farrell, Megan Lantis, Cheryl Bullard, Kelly Kolb, Valerie Bartels, Bridgette Blumenthal, Julie Righter, Kama Ogden, Jordan Bonge, Angela Noelle, Courtney Hiller, Jordan Blenner, Shannon Poppe, Duane and Margi Puckett, Cayenne and Gregory Joyce, Annette Hinrichs, IBM Employee Services Center, Lorelei Koeppel, Charisa Ramsey, Mallory DeVol, Kini Allen, Julie Cole, Kimberly Foust, Louise Kirkbride, Tina Wolf, Heather Duckers, Katherine Wielechowski, Alex White, Donna Elsasser, Sara Pickrel, Gail Huggenburger, Sarah Comer, Whitney Gour, Christina Richardson, Melissa Kelly, Gina Matkin, Debbie Hoelt, Alicia Baldwin, Jennifer Bauer, Jennifer Crowther, Merry Kellogg, Rebecca Miratsky, Dana Petersen, Samantha Bates, Amy Christensen, Julie Siemsen, Aubrey Wassung, Grace Snoke, Dawn Debus-Jackson, Deanna Overton, Shirley Rogge, Mary Reinders, Heidi VanLangingham, Barb Atkins, Darrell Menninga, Teresa Brown, Cheri Polenske, Mariah Haffield Nickel, Heather Kestler, Holly Wichita, Amber Morrison, Patrice Scharfen, Lee Peters, RoJo Productions, Jonathan Gordon, Kelle Nys, Eric Borden, Matthew Papa, Tiffanie Stauffer, Kaleena Schuette, Chelsea Musfeldt, Caroline Hogan, Jennifer Beaune, Lauren Sparks, Vanessa Montz, Joseph Hopwood, RaeAnna Hartsgrrove, Michelle Witzki, Jeanette Nakada, Robert Hartsgrrove, Bradley Wharton, Jill Channell, J. Scott Stewart, Coral Bryant, and Dennis and Phyllis Gaibler



Almond Joy says color-personality links not black and white

Dear Advice Cat:

I am looking to adopt my first cat and hope you can help. People tell me to be wary of tortoiseshell-colored cats because they have something called “tortitude.” I see that you are a tortoiseshell cat yourself. What is tortitude and is it real? Do cat personalities depend on their color?

Signed, Color me confused

Dear Confused:

Wow! You noticed my picture? I feel like a celebrity! First I get to write The Cat House advice column and now people are paying attention to me! This is the best thing ever! (Well, almost as good as supptime.)

So, you want to know if tortoiseshell cats like me have attitude. That’s what tortitude means, you know. It’s a combination of the words “torti” and “attitude.” People made up the word because they think tortoiseshell cats

can be feistier and more demanding than the average cat. They also say the same about calico cats, who have the same black and red colors as torties along with white patches.

The same people who told you about tortitude probably also claimed that red (orange) cats are the friendliest and social, while black cats are more aloof, white cats are calmer, and blue (gray) cats are more fun-loving.

There’s not much research to say whether these perceptions are real. One recent study says torties and calicos are somewhat more likely than other cats to hiss, chase, bite, swat, or scratch humans. It was done by scientists at the University of California, Davis, based on online surveys of cat owners. The study said black-and-white cats and blue- (gray) and-white cats show slightly more of those traits while solid-color cats were less likely to show attitude

than other cats.

I’m not convinced. Having seen lots of cats come and go at The Cat House, I have seen cats of many different colors with many different personalities. One torti may have plenty of attitude while the next is sweet and friendly, and so on. Certainly, people who come in with preconceived ideas about cat colors and behaviors can pass up some great cats.

In addition, as a proud torti, I have to say I resent being type-cast. I can be as sweet as the next cat--as long as I get my way, and I hardly ever swat at people. I like to play, and I enjoy having people spend time sitting with me. I don’t think that adds up to tortitude. Truthfully, it could describe a lot of cats.

You’ll have to excuse me now. I have to do my best friendly-cat dance to remind the people here about supptime. It’s only an hour away.

Until next time, Almond Joy

Perfect match gives Khaleesi reason to trust

By Allison Hunter-Frederick

Life hadn’t been kind to Khaleesi, and in turn she hasn’t always been the kindest to people. In fact, during her years at The Cat House, she had earned herself a reputation of being a biter. Just as bad, her biting wasn’t predictable and therefore wasn’t easy to avoid, but that didn’t stop Lisa Frederick from wanting to adopt her.

“I knew my next feline friend would be a black cat so that’s what drew me to her,” said Lisa, “but her cute little face is what stole my heart. The name TCH gave her was pretty cool too!”

When Lisa first started looking for a cat to adopt, she still had an elderly cat at home that was enjoying being an only cat, and for that reason she decided to put her decision to adopt on hold. “After my cat passed, and I saw Khaleesi still hadn’t been adopted, I knew I had to rescue her!”

During the application process, Lisa was informed about Khaleesi’s rough start in life. Khaleesi had ended up at TCH after being removed from a meth house, where she lived as a kitten. Along the way, she developed terrible skin allergies. Lisa knew that she would need a lot of patience and love, but she was not deterred.

Instead, Lisa formulated a game plan. Not only did she visit Khaleesi regularly at TCH, but she also brought her a piece of her

clothing to accustom Khaleesi to her smell and the smell of her new home. Lisa also prepared for her arrival by buying toys and setting up a cat tree that would give her a view of the backyard.

Lisa’s thoughtful preparations set Khaleesi up well for success. “Khaleesi was almost instantly comfortable in her new home,” said Lisa. She quickly began hanging around with Lisa. In addition, “she demanded to sleep in my bed the first night and she’s slept with me every night since.”

Of course, when life has been unkind to one in the past, one doesn’t immediately begin to trust and Khaleesi’s unpredictable biting did not immediately change in her new home.

Although biting has remained an issue with Khaleesi, Lisa shared that there has been progress. She’s been working on getting her to accept affection. Khaleesi bites less often “when she’s tired of being shown affection or just because you’re close to her.” She now looks forward to chin scratches, pets, and hugs. In addition, Khaleesi has “learned to control the strength of her bite when playing.”

Lisa said that Khaleesi continues to become more comfortable with her and trust her more every day. According to Lisa, a few of her new favorite things are playing



fetch with hair ties, being brushed, getting a massage with the vibrating back massager, and being kissed on her forehead. Khaleesi has also developed some traditions, such as napping in the sunshine after breakfast, helping Lisa make the bed so she can get under the covers and play, and lying on the heating pad when Lisa is using it.

Although her life had a rough start, Khaleesi has finally found her perfect match and now has a reason to trust. Lisa shared, “It has been wonderful watching her progress emotionally knowing how she didn’t trust humans to begin with. Her snuggles before going to bed at night are the best. I love everything about Khaleesi!”



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