

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Cheryl Johnson  
PAGE 2



## FEATURED CATS

Neko, Yoshi, Smudge  
and Grayson  
PAGE 3



## ADVICE CAT

Almond Joy  
PAGE 7



# THE CAT HOUSE Scoop

© Essence in a Flash by Kimberly McCarty

VOLUME NO. 22 | ISSUE NO. 2 | FALL 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

### BOARD MEMBERS

Faye Stevens *President*  
Julie Dahlke *Treasurer*  
Jeanné Lillich *Recording Secretary*  
Belinda Gillam *Director*  
Martha Stoddard *Director*  
Sandi Nieveen *Director*  
Alma Vlasak *Director*  
Laura Wong *Director*  
Christine Nieman *Director*

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

## Cat finders: Think before you scoop up that seemingly lost kitten or cat

By Anne-Marie Williamson

Imagine you're taking a light, Sunday afternoon stroll in your neighborhood. Out of the bushes you hear a high-pitched, faint "meow." You inch closer to investigate. A fluffy, black kitten pops out and rubs affectionately against your leg. What a dream! You scoop up your new furry family member and take it home to live happily ever after.

Wouldn't that be wonderful? However, think twice before scooping up that seemingly lost kitten or cat. Although it may seem like you're innocently saving a lost soul, think about how you would feel if a stranger scooped up your cat and mistakenly took it home. Here are some things to consider.

First, try to determine if the cat is feral, a stray, a lost pet, or an indoor/outdoor pet. A feral cat does not have a caretaker and has had little to no contact with humans. Feral cats will not approach you and will run away/hide if you attempt to come toward them.

*Continued on page 5*

## Black cats: A tail of misunderstandings

By Mary Morton

As the crisp, cold air of fall settles across the Northern Hemisphere, boots and flannels return to style, pumpkins are plump on their vines, and the stereotypes for black cats reach their peak. Black cat iconography is heavily seen in Halloween-themed movies, books, television series, and decor. Usually, the black cat appears as a sign that bad luck will befall the protagonist or the black cat is in cahoots with a witch casting evil over the land.

Where did this tie between black cats, Halloween, and bad luck originate from? The superstition associating black cats with bad luck is rooted in the European fear of darkness. In mythology and religious practices of the Middle Ages, black cats were associated with death: either foreshadowing death or stealing the souls of the recently deceased. This fear later carried over to the Salem Witch Trials, when ownership of a black cat could be cited in charges of witchcraft.

Many of these old beliefs have contributed to the myths that we commonly hear today: black cats are bad luck, black cats are witches/part of the occult, and black cats are mean.

*Continued on page 7*

# 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](http://thecathouse.org) for updates.

You can fill out a volunteer application online at [thecathouse.org](http://thecathouse.org), come in during open hours to fill out an application, or e-mail questions to [volunteer@thecathouse.org](mailto: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.

March	24
April	28
May	29
June	30
July	35
August	53
September	38

# Volunteer Spotlight: Cheryl Johnson

By Ann Adams

Cheryl Johnson is a self-proclaimed crazy cat lady. She adopted her first cat at age 3 and became instantly obsessed. This obsession has led her to a life of caring for cats—whether they are feral cats found in her neighborhood, the 10 cats she keeps in her own home, or the many cats at The Cat House.

Cheryl has worn a variety of hats during the 13 years she has spent volunteering at TCH. As the Friday evening crew leader, she has a standing date with the cats and crew to oversee room cleaning, laundry, dishes, moving cats, and assisting with new intakes. Cheryl calls this the perfect end to her week, saying, "I like to joke that being with the cats is much cheaper than therapy. It is so rewarding to work with the shy cats and to watch their progress as they learn to trust."

In addition to her work on Friday nights, Cheryl regularly works open hours—giving tours, answering questions, and helping those who are looking to adopt their perfect match. She also assists the TCH retail coordinator with everything that goes into the making of fleece pet beds and catnip sticks. Cheryl can be found working most of the public retail events and craft shows where TCH sells these items.

Ten years ago, Cheryl started the *Cards for Cats* project with a goal to raise enough money to purchase a new computer for the TCH office. The project was a success and Cheryl didn't stop when she reached her goal. She continues to channel her creative energy into these handmade cards and says, "My Cards for Cats project is my hobby



gone out of control. I enjoy making the cards, TCH benefits, and I love to see and hear the reactions of people who buy and receive them."

Cheryl is always thinking of new ways she can help TCH. Her photography hobby is showcased on the walls of the shelter—where beautiful canvases are hung displaying pictures she has taken of her beloved subjects—the cats at TCH. Her photography also makes its way onto the TCH social media channels when she crafts posts featuring cats who are available for adoption. Cheryl even turned some of her cat photography into holiday ornaments, which raised \$300.

TCH has many volunteer opportunities, and Cheryl has done (and even created) many of them. When asked if she has a favorite volunteer activity, Cheryl said, "I love everything I do to help TCH because it's an amazing organization that always puts the care and well-being of the cats first."

To learn more about volunteering, visit [thecathouse.org/volunteer](http://thecathouse.org/volunteer).

## Time to shop!

Holidays are fast approaching. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years are all times to celebrate, get together, and express our appreciation for those in our lives.

The Cat House (TCH) will be bringing their homemade catnip sticks (two sizes), pet beds (two sizes), and carrier liners to several venues this fall/winter. See the Calendar in this newsletter.

We always enjoy seeing old friends at events we've frequented in the past. However, times change and so do the events we participate

in. We want everyone to have a chance to get their favorite cat toys and beds so remember that we sell from our retail area on the lower level of TCH back/south entrance during our regular open hours. Open hours at TCH, 3633 "O" St, are Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoon from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

If you want to purchase items and have them shipped, contact us at [info@thecathouse.org](mailto:info@thecathouse.org).

# Neko & Yoshi

By Trenton Hohbein

Neko and Yoshi have been furry testaments to the healing power of proper love and care. The life of a feral cat is hard, but for some feral cats adjusting away from that life can be almost as difficult. Born in June 2021 as a part of a feral litter, Neko and Yoshi are two tabbies coming from the school of hard knocks. Catz Angels in Fremont took in and cared for the family until March of this year when the duo came to The Cat House in hopes of finding a forever home after testing positive for feline leukemia virus, which compromises their immune systems but doesn't mean they are sick.

From a feral group to our loving care, Neko and Yoshi both have made extraordinary progress. For months they would hide from volunteers but now they are a couple of happy and social cats that love feeding time and soft pets. If you visit Neko and Yoshi, it can be difficult to tell the two apart with very similar coat markings and coloring. Neko has some brownish coloring in her fur, and Yoshi has more distinguishable facial markings. But a fun way to tell is by scratching their backs; if it stands up or curls around in delight, you're likely petting Yoshi, and if it hangs out on a high place waiting for skritches, it may be Neko!



Neko



Yoshi

# Smudge & Grayson

By Trenton Hohbein

Smudge and Grayson are two special cats who have endured hardship and overcome adversity on their path to happiness and health. They were recovered from a garage in St. Paul, Nebraska, and had obvious signs of neglect. After leaving that life behind in January of this year, at just about 9 years old, Smudge and Grayson joined The Cat House family and began their journeys to recovery.

Grayson, the blue tabby domestic short hair (DSH) with the piercing green eyes, was the first to warm up to volunteers and allow them in his space. Smudge, the white and brown tabby DSH, has taken a little longer and still requires some respect for his personal space. The two are bonded, meaning that they are best friends and need to be adopted together. You can often find them sharing a bed. Regardless of the time taken to settle and learn to trust, the volunteers and staff at The Cat House are immensely proud of both Smudge and Grayson!



Smudge



Grayson

## 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.



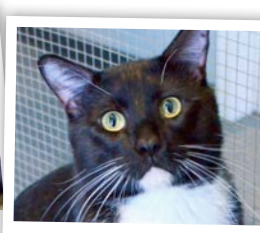
Ethel - 4 years



Ruu - 14 years



Sylvie (FeLV+) - 1 year



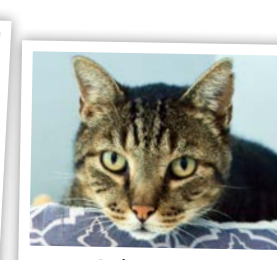
Wyatt (FIV+) - 3 years



Vonnie - 3 years



Kyrie - 1 year



Bob - 9 years



Sparkle - 9 years



Lemongrass - 4 years



Furcules (FIV+) - 6 years

# Calendar of Events

## Seward Junior Women's Annual Holiday Craft Show

**November 19** / 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Seward County Fairgrounds  
Ag Pavilion, Seward, NE

## Nerdmass – Craft and Vending Show for nerds, geeks, and gamers

**December 3** / 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Downtown Doubletree  
1616 Dodge St.  
Omaha, NE

## 2022 Falling Snow Craft Fair

**December 17** / 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Lancaster Event Center  
4100 N 84th St.

## Lincoln Women's Expo

**January 21, 2023**  
**January 22, 2023**

Tentative dates  
Lancaster Event Center



Jeffery – 1 year



Boba-bay – 1 year



Theodore – 5 months

# Patience and love turn Mystery into a gift of grace

By Allison Hunter-Frederick

Mystery's life had started out rough. She and her two siblings had been born to a feral mom. Moreover, for the first 8 weeks of her life, she had minimal exposure to people. As a result, when she and her siblings went into foster pet care, they spent their first few weeks hiding and hissing whenever their foster pet parents visited them in their foster room.

After 2 months of receiving lots of positive reinforcement in foster care, Mystery's siblings began to wait at the door of their playpen when it was mealtime. They also warmed up to their foster parents, playing and allowing themselves to be handled.

Mystery's progress was slower. While she no longer hissed at her foster parents when they visited her, she still regularly greeted them with a wide-eyed stare, flattened ears and whiskers, and a crouched stiff body.

It took another month of her foster parents working with her before Mystery finally joined her siblings in vying for treats. A few weeks after that milestone, she allowed her foster parents to stroke her with a wand toy. Around that time, although she positioned herself at a safe distance, she also began showing curiosity about the guests that her foster parents would invite over to visit her and her siblings. With just a few days left in foster care, Mystery discovered the joy of being petted!

After 5 months of being socialized in foster care, Mystery and her two siblings entered The Cat House and became available for adoption. Mystery's brother was adopted almost immediately, and 4 months later her sister was adopted.

Over time, Mystery learned to run up to the door of her room in the shelter to greet visitors, but still several months passed without anyone showing real interest. Then one day her wait was over.

A woman named Suzi Roberts asked to adopt her. "She had a rough start," said Suzi, "and I believed I could provide a good home for her." Suzi also liked Mystery's pretty eyes and her gentleness.

To prepare her home for Mystery, she



bought a new pet bed for her, along with blankets, dishes, and toys. Then she started Mystery out in her bedroom, the quietest room in her house, with lots of hiding places where Mystery would feel safe.

Once Mystery had settled into her new home, Suzi wanted to give her a new name. "I was going to name her Maggie but it didn't fit her. I chose Annie because it means grace. She is a gift of grace to me and both of us need a lot of grace."

Initially, Mystery, now Annie, was timid and even fearful of everyone but "her foster family and her Cat House family," said Suzi. With lots of time and patience and love, Annie has become comfortable in her new home.

According to Suzi, Annie is getting better at communicating with her or maybe Suzi is just getting better at understanding her. Annie has begun to make eye contact with Suzi. She will now greet Suzi's friends who come over regularly and expects to be petted by them. If a group visits Suzi, Annie will go from person to person to get petted. She also enjoys getting brushed.

Suzi has had many special moments with Annie and can't imagine life without her. One of her favorite moments is "when she runs from window sill to window sill and her tree on a hunt." Suzi says Annie is so quick it makes her laugh.

To future adopters of timid cats, Suzi offered this advice: "It's important to meet them where they are at. Take it slowly and on their terms. You need to earn their trust so they feel safe. Annie is at a place where she like body rubs and rubbing her head on my body. She isn't comfortable with being picked up. That might change and it might not but that's okay. She's a treasure."

# Donations in memory & honor of...

## In memory of

Arlan Neben from Wanda Neben, Melvin Luetchens, Richard Meyer, and Nancy Oluffsen

Migs Moody from Kara Vlasin-Marty

Jan Day from Donald Frank, Stacie Walton, Rodney Smith, Diane Freese, and Ellen Snow

Donald Rutt from Daniel Rutt

Virginia Dittrich from Patricia Karabel

Ed and Pat Roth from Jan Roth-Schoonover

Abby from Leslie Gerlach

Jim and Muffy from Sandra Mertlik

William "Bill" Parrott from Patricia Parrott

Bill Harm from Robin Knowlton, Susan Batten, Michele Jensen, and Jerry Tyrrell

@Ms5000Watts's Tobias from Nicole Laughlin

Snickers from Lois Anderson

Sharon Renter from Christopher Mackey

Michael Baker from Lynne Adams, Jessica Bik, Cher Powell, Cheryl Golden, Christy Hargesheimer, Joel and Susan Latta, David Cook, Mary Ann Losh, Terri Schuster, Nancy Rowch, and Janis Thelen

Molly May Luedtke from Carolyn Cummins

Elizabeth Ella Hall from Carolyn Cummins

JoJo from Marcia Swanson

Trixie from Mark Surmann, Melinda Wilhelmy, and DeAnn Stover

Daniel James O'Hara from Paul and Ann O'Hara; Elizabeth O'Hara Veon; Annette Duff; Susanna DesMarais; R.B. Harse; John and Mary Beth Lindsay; John and Nancy Gerrard; Tim Clements; Allan and Justine Peterson; Stuart and Anne Wheeler; Thomas and Elizabeth Haley; Kent and Peggy Apthorpe; Jerome and Susan Prazan; Eric Odgaard; and Janet Cutshall

Freddie Stoddard from Sven Noe

Samantha, April, and Gizmo from Linda Lybarger

Sally Stone from Christina Tyler

Janet K. Miller from Judith Lawson, Carolee Heileman, Madelyn Springer, Hyla Robbins, Beth Gonzales-Mensing, and Kirsten Gonzales-Augestad

Klaus from Oskar & Klaus (Mick and Bethany); Cheryl Montone; and J. Wolny (with heartfelt thanks for sharing him with the world)

Dorothy Schweitzer from Gary Schweitzer, Glenda Schulz, and Robert Matzke

Rollie from Sean Hagedwood

Charlene Lautzenheiser from Barbara Lautzenheiser

Halo (Heather and Steve Wherry's beloved cat) from Jennifer Smice

Woody from Veronica Cammarata

Andrew J. Hornyak from Kevin Miller

Ruth Rehor from Connie Sahn

## In honor of

Kitty on her 5-year adoptersary from Kaitlyn Waller

Kimmie's birthday

Jackson's birthday from Courtney Roberts

Scott Middle School MAD Fair and Addy Andersen from Kelly Andersen

Mike O'Donnell's 71st birthday from Kyle O'Donnell

Jaxson's birthday from Lily Jarecke

Esme Lupher's birthday from Sarah Larkin

Levi's birthday from Lisa Preuit

Marie Hansen and Alex Sturtz's wedding on June 4, 2022, from Mary Flood

Barney from Mary Sullivan and Will Spaulding

Alex Martinez's birthday from Kelly Novak

Susan Lowry from Prudence Coccodrilli

Great Cat Baxter Harse from Angela Harse

Elise's birthday from Kim Ehlers

The kind neighbors who donated bricks and pavers to turn our girl's final resting place into a flower bed from Amy Dalton

## Special thanks to

Dr. Kelly Jordan

Cause For Paws

Dr. Shelley Knudsen

Nature's Variety

All Feline Hospital

Petco

Vondra Veterinary Clinic

Tractor Supply

Wachal Pet Health Center

Pitts Veterinary Hospital

Creature Comforts Mobile Veterinary Service

# Thank You!

## Cat finders: Think before you scoop up that seemingly lost kitten or cat, continued from page 1

They will likely avoid eye contact and look clean since they are well adapted to life outdoors and know how to take care of themselves. If you find a feral cat, reach out to The Cat House for the trap-neuter-return program.

A stray cat is a cat that once had a caretaker but has left or lost its home. Strays are generally more trusting of humans, but these cats can become feral as their contact with humans dwindles. Under the right circumstances, a stray cat can become a pet cat again. A lost cat is a pet that has gotten out of its home. An indoor/outdoor cat has a home, is not lost, and spends at least part of its time outside.

If you have found what you believe to be a stray or lost cat, follow these steps:

**1. Give it a safe space.** Approach the cat slowly with a gentle voice. Abrupt movements or loud sounds may startle the cat and cause it to run. Utilize cat-friendly food to coax a frightened cat into approaching you. Once the cat is in your care, put it in a room away from other pets. Give it food, water, and a litter box.

**2. Look for identification.** Check to see if the cat has a tagged collar with information. If you have encountered a lost pet, the owners have likely posted flyers nearby and on social media sites. Call local shelters for a microchip scan and to report

the lost cat. Check with neighbors to see if anyone knows the cat. If all efforts fail, put out a "lost cat" ad with the shelters, on local lost and found Facebook groups, and on your own social media sites.

**3. Find the pet a home.** If you've followed the previous two steps and have had no luck reuniting the pet with its caregiver, you can adopt the cat yourself, rehome the cat, or call nearby shelters.

Feel good knowing you did a good deed in returning a lost pet to its owner or finding a stray pet a new, loving home.

# 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](http://entirelypets.com)
- Gift cards to Tractor Supply, Walmart, Target, Petco, or PetSmart

\* sold at vet clinics

# Fighting the fear of Feline Immunodeficiency Virus

By Kris Rasmussen

To celebrate Halloween, people of all ages and backgrounds will seek out thrills such as haunted hayrack rides and ghost tours that are designed to elicit fear. These activities are generally considered to be what the spirit of Halloween is all about, which is why most people who wish to be scared seek them out without hesitation. In other words, the fear associated with the Halloween season is easily understood and desired.

What is less understood but still widely feared by many current and would-be cat owners is feline immunodeficiency virus, or FIV. FIV is a common infectious disease that is present in 2.5 to 5% of healthy cats in North America. The virus attacks a cat's immune system, making it less effective at fighting off normally harmless bacteria and viruses that have the potential to cause severe illnesses and/or infections. There is currently no definitive cure for FIV.

There are also a variety of prevalent myths associated with FIV that make the disease seem even scarier, leading to many FIV-positive cats in animal shelters around the world being passed over by potential adopters (and eventually being euthanized in some cases). These include (but are not limited to):

- The myth that FIV is airborne and is easily spread from one cat to another through regular contact (i.e. playing, sharing food/water bowls and litter boxes, grooming, etc.).
- The myth that cats with FIV die young and have significantly shorter life spans than FIV-negative cats.
- The myth that humans and other pets (i.e. dogs) can contract FIV by coming into contact with a FIV-positive cat.

With misconceptions like these, it's no wonder people are hesitant and afraid to adopt a FIV-positive cat. But fear not!

Extensive research conducted about the virus in recent years has proven these myths to be false. For instance, the Cornell Feline Health Center at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine states that the primary method of transmission of FIV is through deep bite wounds from a FIV-positive cat. In other words, it is extremely

unlikely for the virus to be transmitted through casual, non-aggressive contact. The Center also explains that FIV is a highly species-specific disease, meaning humans and other pets such as dogs cannot contract it.

Perhaps most reassuring of all is the portion of the Center's research that details the fact that FIV-positive cats can live long, normal, and healthy lives if their environment is managed carefully. The Center recommends taking the following steps to create such a safe environment for a FIV-positive cat:

- Spay/neuter the cat to prevent the spread of FIV to kittens through mating and to reduce the urge to roam and fight with other cats outside.
- Keep the cat indoors and isolated from sick cats to prevent the contraction of diseases.
- Feed the cat nutritionally complete and balanced diets (avoid uncooked food and unpasteurized dairy products to minimize the risk of foodborne illnesses).
- Schedule regular wellness checks with the cat's veterinarian.
- Facilitate a stable social structure in households with multiple cats to prevent fighting/biting (i.e. slowly and carefully introducing/supervising cats).

It may seem like a terrifying fate for a cat to be diagnosed with FIV. Fortunately, current and prospective owners of FIV-positive cats can face the fears they have regarding the virus by taking extra precautions and steps to ensure a healthy environment for their vulnerable furry friend.

Many FIV-positive shelter cats who have been the unfortunate victims of FIV stigmatization are (and have been) patiently waiting for their fur-ever home--including several residents of The Cat House. If you're looking to welcome a new cat into your home, we encourage you to come check out our available cats--including those that are FIV-positive. Our volunteers are available during open hours to answer questions and address any concerns you may have about FIV and caring for a cat with the virus.

# AJ gives advice on how to make fleas flee

Dear Advice Cat:

Please help! My people can't seem to figure out how to get rid of fleas, and the little blood-suckers are making me (scratch, scratch) miserable. They crawl all over me and suck at me, and those spots are very itchy. Plus, (scratch, scratch) I think they are sapping my energy. Do you know how to get rid of these pests?

Signed, Hate those creepy crawlies

Dear Hate:

Oh, my goodness! That sounds terrible! I sure am learning a lot about how other cats live from writing this column. It makes me appreciate the staff around here, who work really hard to stay ahead of those nasty fleas. Gosh, it makes my skin twitch just thinking about them, and I haven't had a flea in years.

First, your people need to understand that fleas are not just nuisances. They can give you tapeworms, which lead to stomach issues and diarrhea. They can suck enough blood to cause anemia, especially in kittens. They can carry one type of bacteria that

causes cat scratch fever in humans and another that causes haemobartonellosis in cats, which can be very serious. Some cats are especially sensitive to fleas and can scratch enough to cause open wounds.

So, how to get rid of them? Tell your people to start by checking you for fleas. They can look for tiny dark specks in your fur, which could be actual fleas or flea dirt (a nice name for flea poop). Another way is to use a special flea comb, with very fine teeth. Make sure they check the neck, armpits, lower belly, and near the tail. If it doesn't bother you too much, they can comb several times a day to remove adult fleas, flea dirt, and eggs.

Next, they should use a flea treatment. There are several types, and your vet can advise your people about the best option. Most treatments are applied once a month to the back of the neck (where you won't be tempted to lick the treatment off). Common brands are Frontline, Advantage II, Revolution, and Bravecto. Your people can start the process with Capstar, a pill

that kills fleas within 30 minutes but doesn't prevent more fleas from hatching out or jumping on. The treatment may need to be repeated monthly to be effective. Switching back and forth among brands may be helpful as well.

Meanwhile, your people need to get rid of fleas in your environment. Have them vacuum rugs daily and discard the vacuum bags. Get them to wash your bedding and other fabrics where you hang out. This should be done weekly in hot water. Make sure other flea-prone pets are treated, especially dogs because they go outside. Finally, and I hate for your sake to suggest this, but baths can help reduce the number of fleas. Just make sure the bath is at least a couple days before or after getting a flea treatment. Make sure you let them know if you will not tolerate a bath, though.

Whew, that's a lot of thinking about creepy crawlies! I think I need to give myself a good bath and then see what's coming for supper.

Until next time,  
Almond Joy



Pepper – 9 years



Angel – 5 years



Louise – 7 years



Sunkist (FeLV+) – 3 years



Carlos (FeLV+) – 1 year

## Black cats: A tail of misunderstandings, continued from page 1

All these myths lead many to decide, "Well, I guess I shouldn't adopt a black cat." We're here to set the record straight on why you should consider a black cat just as equally as any other color patterned cat for a companion.

If you've ever been so lucky as to spend time with a black cat, you might already know that they are ready to purr up against you and are way too cuddly to be a witch. The most evil thing a black cat could be accused of is knocking over a glass on your counter or demanding food at 5 a.m. Though, like cats of all color patterns, these behaviors are more related to a cat's

spunkiness and communication skills, not their desire for destruction and chaos.

Black cats shouldn't get a bad rap just because some people think they look sneaky. Actually, they are considered good luck in many cultures. In Scotland, it's lucky for a strange black cat to arrive at your doorstep. In Japan, black cats are thought to help single women find suitors. Despite the superstitions out there, most of the world acknowledges black cats as cute—not creepy.

You should choose a cat that is right for you based on your interaction in-person with your fur-riend so you can

get to know each other's personality. A cat's temperament is individual and can't be reasonably predicted just by how a cat looks. Don't stay away from a black cat just because of age-old superstitions and myths; you could be missing out on your newest best friend! Your perfect match could be the pretty black cat waiting for you at a local shelter. Not to mention that black cat fur means less light colored fur showing up on your clothes!

Don't be a fraidy cat. Put the old myths and fairy tales behind us and show black cats the love they deserve.



**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!**

NON-PROFIT ORG  
 US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 PERMIT NO. 800



© Essence in a Flash by Kimberly McCarty



**THE CAT HOUSE | THE NO-KILL ALTERNATIVE**

Make checks payable to: The Cat House  
 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.

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