



Tabby's Place®

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Newsletter No. 7.1 | First Quarter 2009

New Beginnings: Tashi

by Angela Townsend, Development Director

Little Tashi was found in a feral colony in Ohio, where the colony's caretakers saw that he was unable to walk or control his bladder. They enlisted animal lovers online, and soon Tashi's fan club covered the nation. With a recommendation from Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, Tashi's rescuers contacted Tabby's Place. We had just found a loving home for our first paraplegic resident, Bagheera, and we knew we could give Tashi the love and care he needed.

We're altogether smitten with this little one. Tashi navigates his world astonishingly well, and loves playing with other kittens and snuggling into hugs. As happy as he is, veterinary specialists have great hope that Tashi's future will be even better: he still has considerable motion in his back legs, and extensive physical therapy might help him to walk again.

Are you in love with our Tashi, too? Check out video of Tashi playing with Rhubarb, and a ZooToo news story on Tashi!

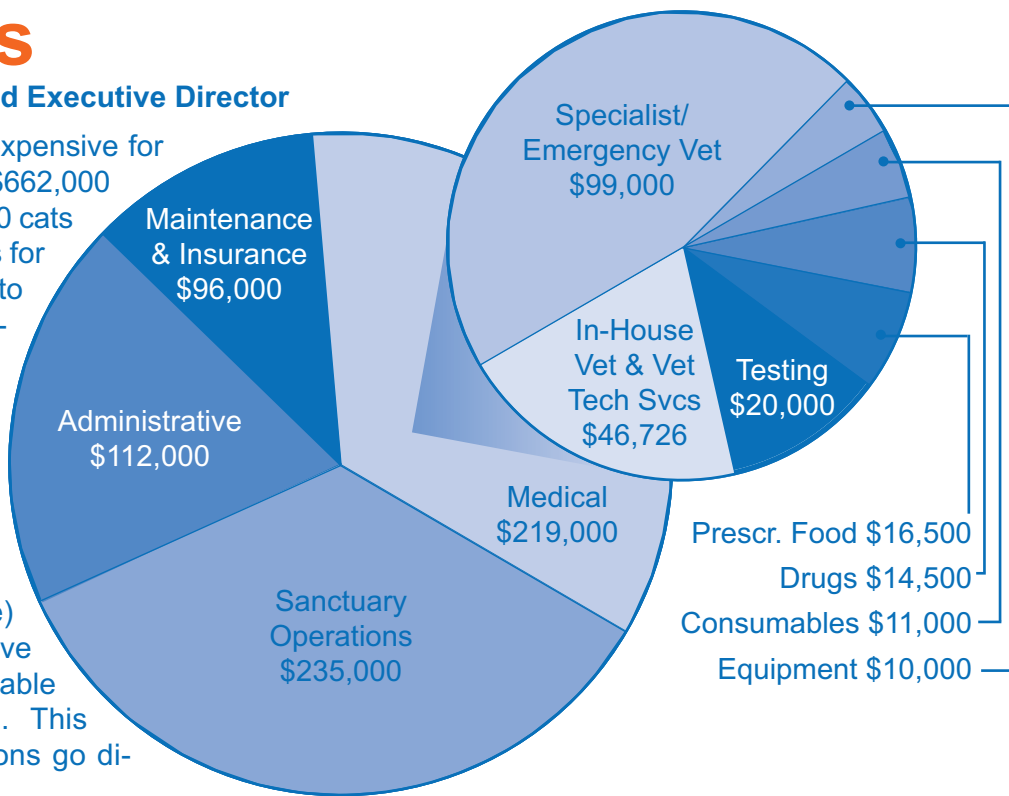


2008 Expenses

by Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder and Executive Director

Compared to last year, 2008 was expensive for Tabby's Place, requiring approximately \$662,000 to provide sanctuary and care for the 100 cats we have at any time. Our medical costs for 2008 grew by almost 50%, due largely to a heavy need for specialty and emergency medical services. In addition, Sanctuary Operations required an additional 40% as we became fully staffed for the first time and our Special Needs cats required very high levels of care.

We are proud that we were able to decrease our overhead (Administrative) costs by 7% in absolute terms. In relative terms, these costs went from a respectable 23% of budget to an outstanding 17%. This means that even more of your donations go directly to helping the cats.



What's Inside?

Winter Wisdom for Cats2
 Tabby's Place Everywhere.....2

Vox Optio Veterinarius3
 Feline Herpes3
 Help Special Needs Kitties4
 Meet Denise, Senior Vet Tech.....4

Forever Loved: Tails5
 Pet Loss Support5
 Happy Endings6
 Where Are They Now?.....6

To see this newsletter, and all previous newsletters, online, visit <http://www.tabbysplace.org/newsletter-archive.php>

Winter Wisdom for Whiskers

by Angela Townsend

The old phrase “not fit for man or beast” is apt for frigid weather – so please bring your cats indoors when the weather outside is frightful. If you know of cats that are outdoors in the winter, these tips can make it a safer season:

- **Honk your car horn before starting the engine** – the engine block is a popular haven for cats trying to warm themselves.
- **Provide insulated shelter.** We recommend a small cat house with easy escape, elevated off the ground to prevent moisture accumulation. Many Tabby's Place cats prefer the enclosed outdoor solaria even on the coldest days, and they're grateful for our heated Dogloos.
- **Make sure your cats have fresh water at all times.** Water can freeze within an hour in cold temperatures, but a deep, heated plastic water bowl will keep it from becoming a Popsicle.
- **Outdoor cats burn more calories** in cold weather to produce more body heat. If possible, monitor kitty's weight, and provide high-quality food.
- **Wipe off the kitty's paws if he comes indoors,** to remove ice or road salt, which can cause dry paw skin, or even harm a cat if he grooms and ingests the chemicals.
- **If possible don't leave any cat unattended outdoors,** and avoid leaving her outside for long periods of time. Wind chill can threaten a cat's life, so pay heed to local TV and radio for weather warnings.



Blankets and heated water bowls keep things comfy for outdoors-lover Fern in the solarium.



Good buddies Dusty and Jasper love the heated Dogloos in the FIV+ Solarium.



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Tabby's Place Everywhere

by Angela Townsend

We're enlisting you to get every cat lover on the internet into the Tabby's Place family. Here's how you can help:

- **Bloggers:** You've got the megaphone – use it for our kitties. Tell your audience about Tabby's Place, your favorite cats at the sanctuary, and how you got excited about changing the world for cats.
- **Facebook friends:** Join our Cause and recruit your friends.
- **The whole wide web:** Got another idea? Go for it. Let's make sure every cat lover on the internet has a chance to love the Tabby's Place cats. You can send your suggestions, and links to your Tabby's Place postings, to Angela or Jonathan.



Precious, Venice, Star, Natasha & Anastasia have their own 'social network.' Get yours engaged on behalf of the Tabby's Place cats!



Vox Optia Veterinarius

by Denise Jeffries,
Senior Veterinary
Technician

Feline obesity (pictured in this helpful [chart](#)) contributes to health problems, including heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and arthritis. If you have a tubby tabby and want to trim some of his weight, here are some answers to common questions:

My cat acts hungry all the time and meows when I go into the kitchen. Your cat may simply be adjusting to the new feeding regimen. Also, because pets receive much of their attention in the kitchen, some associate feeding time with attention. Create affection outside of the kitchen.

I have multiple cats, and they don't all need to be on a diet. Separate cats during mealtime by placing them in separate rooms. Pick up all food bowls when finished. This helps create a feeding schedule and keeps them from eating each other's food.

I don't have time for scheduled feedings. Buy an automatic pet feeder, which allows you to provide set amounts of food at designated times. Or you can dispense measured amounts of food in the morning and before bedtime.

My cat is lazy. A "lazy" cat is bored and overweight. Re-introduce playtime.

I reduced the amount of food, but he hasn't lost weight. Not every diet works for every cat. You may need to switch the diet to better suit your kitty's metabolism and activity level. Work with your veterinarian to find the right diet for your cat.

Our pets depend on us to keep them healthy and happy. It's up to us to provide them with proper nutrition and exercise.

Remember to discuss all new feeding and exercise plans with your veterinarian. If you have a question about cat health and behavior, contact [Denise](#) – your question may appear in a future column!



[Fuzzy](#) may be handsome, but there's a bit too much of this FIV+ boy to love. He's just gone on a diet, which is good news for his diabetes.



Playtime and a reasonable limit on food intake are important to keep [Franny](#) comfortable - carrying extra weight can worsen her arthritis.

Feline Herpes: Not as Bad as it Sounds

By Laura Collins, DVM

Fearsome as it sounds, a diagnosis of *feline herpes* is nothing to be overly concerned about – as adorable Mahalia reminded us. [Mahalia](#) came to us from Brooklyn, NY as a tiny two-week-old kitten, with her [mother](#), [brother](#) and [sister](#). She wasn't at Tabby's Place long before we diagnosed her with feline herpesvirus, a common upper respiratory infection.

Just how common is herpes in cats? If your kitty came from a shelter, the odds are high that she was exposed to the virus. The virus is not transmissible to humans, but, like human herpes, lies dormant and can cause recurrent symptoms. Symptoms generally include sneezing, conjunctivitis, nasal discharge, fever, and occasionally skin lesions around the face. In adult cats, herpes is almost never life-threatening.

Antibiotics are not effective in treating herpes, although they are often used to avoid secondary infections. Other treatments include eye drops and immune stimulants. There is also a vaccine for herpes, which is usually part of a vaccine given regularly by your veterinarian. While this vaccine doesn't prevent the disease, it mitigates the symptoms and speeds recovery. Fortunately, adult cats with herpes usually have no symptoms and require no medical treatment.

Feline herpes is most serious in kittens, like Mahalia, who have immature immune systems. Many kittens, including Mahalia, require supportive care such as subcutaneous or intravenous fluids to survive the infection. Mahalia also developed a corneal ulcer in her left eye, which developed into a *sequestrum* (a pigmented area of the cornea). In Mahalia's case, the sequestrum does not appear to cause discomfort, and we expect it to heal on its own.

In the meantime, Mahalia is a happy little girl, romping with sister [Tori](#) and friends [Rigatoni](#) and [Pesto](#). The next time you're ready to add to your feline family, don't let a diagnosis of herpes turn you away from a wonderful cat like Mahalia who can lead a long, healthy life.



Adorable [Mahalia](#), seen here with sister [Tori](#), survived herpesvirus and is growing up to be a happy, healthy girl.





We are delighted to have a team member of Denise's skill and compassion, and our cats are blessed with a tireless and talented advocate.

Meet Denise, Senior Vet Tech

by Angela Townsend

A passion for animals has been close to Denise's heart for as long as she can remember. After her first job with a grooming kennel, she realized her true interest was improving animals' quality of life through medicine. Denise worked at a veterinary hospital as a Senior Technician for eight years, eagerly consuming wisdom and information. When Denise lost one of her beloved cats to cancer at the tender age of six years, she determined to plunge into rescue work, so as to "give back to these wonderful creatures that give us so much."

Denise feels honored to work for "such a well-run facility that provides excellent medical care and has some of the best people I've ever met, staff and volunteers." When asked if she has a favorite Tabby's Place cat, Denise offers a glimpse of her compassion for cats as she says, "I honestly can't answer, 'cause so many here have a piece of my heart."

Help Kitties With Spare Change!

by Pat Powell, **Benefactor** (and proud sponsor of *Hillary*, *Ringo*, *Crystal* and *Desi*, proud Mom to felines *Angel Rose*, *Buddy Lynn*, *Celia Charlene*, *Marla Chanelle*, *Tobias Bartholomew McPud*, and *Fluffy Barkley Masterson*)

Pocket change has been getting some bad press. After all, what can we really do with the quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies that find their way into our lives? In a nutshell, plenty!

In 1989 I read an article about saving pocket change. The author recommended putting the coins accumulated each day into a container until it is full. A leftover carafe from a long gone coffee maker served as my "piggy bank" and off I went.

Twice a year I emptied the carafe out and rolled the coins while I watched TV. Each rolling session yielded close to \$200. My husband thought I might have gone a bit off the deep end...until the day I suggested we do some landscaping to our yard. Where were we going to find an extra \$4,000 for that?

No problem! All that coin rolling had yielded \$4,080! Pocket change really does have power. And we can use that power to help the wonderful **Special Needs** kitties at Tabby's Place! Dropping coins from a vending machine into a kitty bank on a desk at work or filling a leftover coffee carafe on a closet shelf are perfect opportunities to bring our spare coins together to give those very special furballs happy and love-filled lives at Tabby's Place.

Editor's Note: Do you, like Pat, have a great idea for a future Tabby's Place newsletter article? We'd love to feature your writing! Send ideas and submissions to [Angela](#).



Jackie would appreciate some pocket change in her basket.



Natasha would love to help you get rid of that spare pocket change.



Magnificent **Mittens**, a diabetic with IBD and heart disease, loves all of his sponsors.

Another Way to Adopt

by Jennifer Wesh, Resident Associate & Development Assistant

Can't bring a new kitty home right now? Virtually "adopt" one of Tabby's Place's **Special Needs** cats by becoming a monthly **sponsor** for as low as \$14/month. Your kindness helps us to give cats with conditions like diabetes, FIV and cancer the TLC they need. Each month you'll receive an update, including photos, on your special kitty's health and happiness. You can even give a gift sponsorship to a loved one. It's a great way to add a dear kitty to your family without actually bringing one home. For more information, visit our website or contact [Angela](#).



Forever Loved: Tails

by Peter Dodge, [Volunteer](#) & [Benefactor](#)

[Tails](#) joined us a few years ago along with his two brothers, [Toby](#) and [TJ](#). Toby and TJ were [adopted](#), and eventually Tails was put on "hold" - at long last he had found his forever home. Unfortunately, shortly before he was to leave for home, Tails went into congestive heart failure. After exhausting all medical treatment, sadly, Tails succumbed at Tabby's Place on October 7, 2008, surrounded by people who loved him.

Tails was an affectionate, good natured cat who would never fail to run up and welcome you in his own "chatty" way. It always seemed that your day was just a little bit better after spending time with him. He was a dear friend to us all, and will be missed more than words can tell.



[Tails](#) adored humans and fellow felines, including [Jan](#), the 'little patchwork quilt.'



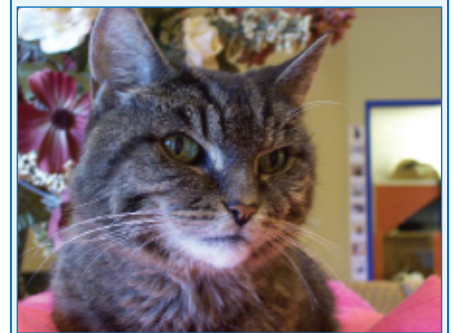
[Tails](#) and [Vinny](#) were deeply bonded buddies.

Editor's Note: We thought it fitting that Peter should bid our dear Tails a fond farewell, as Peter was Tails' faithful volunteer "socializer." Peter worked closely with him from the time Tails was a hissing, spitting ball of terror to Tails' happy days as the consummate cuddle-bug. Special thanks to Peter for his patient love and care for Tails.

Pet Loss Support

by Angela Townsend

There are no words to describe the ache of losing a beloved feline. But you do not need to be alone in your grieving. The following is just a sampling of the resources available online.



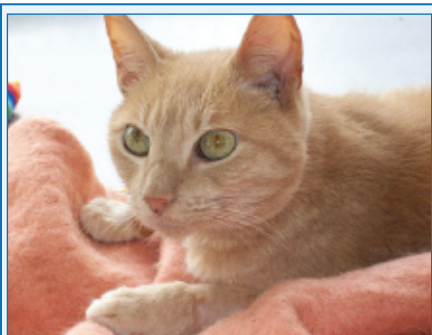
[Dainty Lara](#) left us, at the age of 17, with many sweet memories.

- [Franny Syufy](#) of [About Cats](#) offers many compassionate and helpful articles.
- The [Pet Loss Support Page](#) and the [Argus Institute for Families and Veterinary Medicine](#) both offer thoughtful articles and links, as well as directories of counselors, support groups and hotlines.
- [Petfinder](#) has compiled a collection of resources from around the web.
- The [American Veterinary Medical Association](#) offers a list of pet loss helplines.
- Several veterinary schools, including [Michigan State University](#), the [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#), [Cornell University](#), [Iowa State University](#), [Tufts University](#), offer helplines for grieving pet parents.
- Many sites, including the [Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement](#) and [About Cats](#), allow you to submit online memorials for your beloved pet.
- [Lightning-Strike](#) offers a forum where you can connect with other grieving pet parents.
- [Wealth of Resources](#) offers just that.

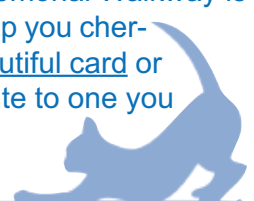
Remembering Loved Ones

by Jennifer Wesh

We each have someone special we forever hold in our heart, whether they have four legs or two. One way to honor the life of your beloved person or pet is to create a permanent tribute on our [Memorial Walkway](#). Leading to the peaceful Cherny's Garden, where cats loved and lost at Tabby's Place rest, the Memorial Walkway is a celebration of forever-loved ones. We would be honored to help you cherish the memory of your dear one on our Walkway, or with a [beautiful card](#) or plaque. We invite you to contact [Angela](#) to create a loving tribute to one you hold dear.



Beloved [Taos](#) is dearly missed and forever loved at Tabby's Place.



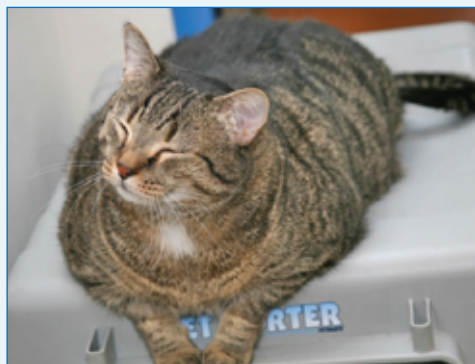
Happy Endings: Amstel and Caesar

by Angela Townsend

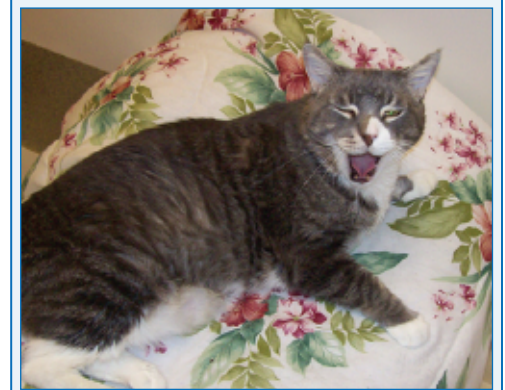
One Special Needs adoption is delightful. Two at once is spectacular. And when the cats going to their forever home together are already buddies, it's a grand day indeed.

Such was the happy ending to Amstel and Caesar's journey at Tabby's Place. Both well-regulated diabetics, both supremely mellow and both a bit plus-sized, these older tabbies were longtime roomies in our Special Needs suite. Caesar and Ami were both fan favorites among staff, volunteers and visitors for their gentle ways and good looks (in fact, Jonathan proudly carries a tote bag with Amstel's photo, and Amstel's picture graced the Tabby's Place 5th Anniversary cake). But their advanced age and need for insulin injections deterred would-be adopters for years.

Then along came a pair of volunteers with hearts huge enough for our big, beautiful duo. Today Amstel and Caesar are thriving in their forever home. We even hear that Caesar, always a "slow-moving vehicle" at Tabby's Place, has become quite kitten-like in his old age, gleefully tearing around his new home at top speed. We couldn't be happier for these cuddle buds.



Amstel, the famous 'smiling cat' of Tabby's Place, has more reason than ever to smile in her forever home.



Massive and marvelous Caesar loves romping in his forever home.

Where Are They Now: Bagheera



By Ginny Carhart, Administrative Assistant

During his three years at Tabby's Place, Bagheera – 'Bags' - was a large part of my day. In fact, we were 'best friends.' Over the years, many people inquired about adopting our beloved paraplegic boy, but when they learned the level of care required, they knew it wasn't a good fit.

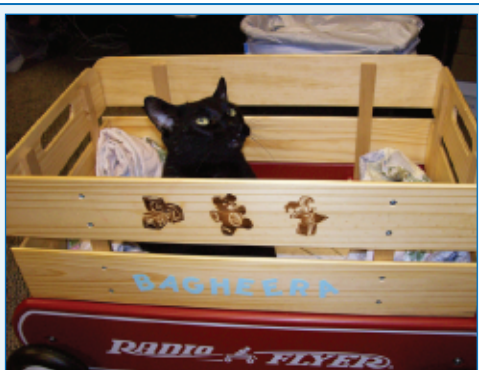
That was true until Susan Mango, DVM came along. Dr. Mango was looking to adopt a Special Needs cat, and drove four hours from Connecticut to meet Bagheera. I was at the emergency vet picking up one of our residents when a fellow Tabby's Place staff member called, telling me that Bags' forever home had come. My heart just about stopped.

I called Jonathan to make sure it was true, and he said YES. Dr. Mango was kind enough to wait for me to get back before taking Bags. It was a day I knew would come.

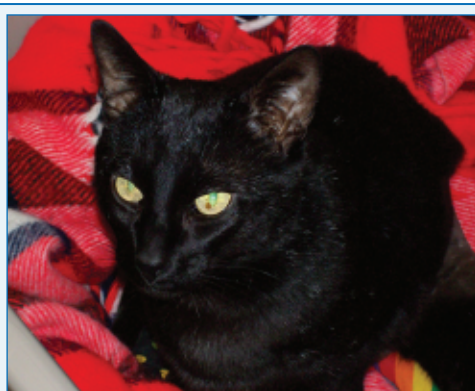
I talked to Dr. Mango that night to see how Bags did on the ride home, and, as I expected, he was a trooper. I talk

to Dr. Mango often, and Bagheera is doing wonderfully. She takes him to work every day, where he is spoiled by everyone. At night, Bags snuggles on the couch with Dr. Mango. Bags' forever home is truly everything we could have dreamed for him.

I will never forget my time with Bags. There will always be a special place in my heart for him, but I know there is nothing better than having your own person -- and Dr. Mango is perfect for him.



Bags' zest for life - and his customized Radio Flyer - followed him to his forever home in Connecticut.



Beautiful Bagheera will always have a piece of our hearts at Tabby's Place.

