



Tabby's Place®

1100 US Highway 202 • Ringoes, NJ 08551 • (908) 237-5300 • www.tabbysplace.org

Newsletter No. 7.2 | Second Quarter 2009



New Beginnings: Brando

by Angela Townsend, Development Director

He's seen his share of dreadful days, but today Brando is a "contender." As a stray, he survived an accident that left his tail mangled. It would be understandable if a cat who'd known such pain and loneliness were a snarling bundle of anger, but Brando has been a true love-bug from his first days here. Even after painful surgery to repair his mangled tail stump, Brando was as sweet as syrup, nudging his big round head into any hand kind enough to scratch his chin. There will be tears when Brando is adopted, but mostly of joy for this resilient boy.

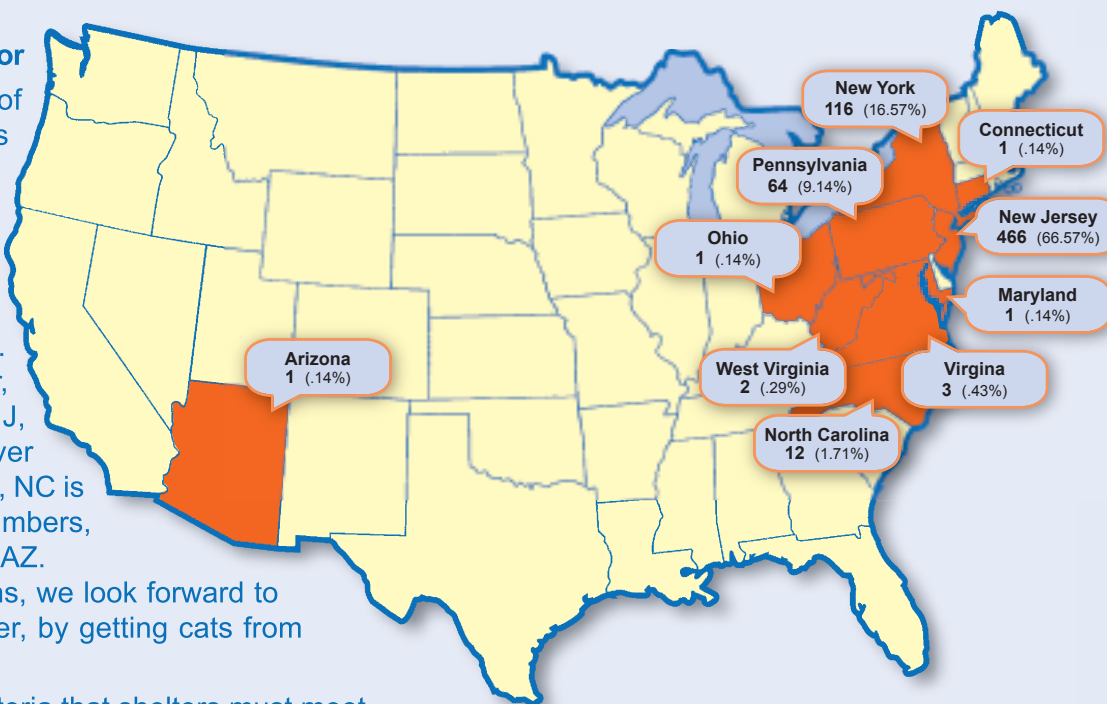
Where do Tabby's Place cats come from?

by Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

In fulfilling our mission of "saving cats from hopeless situations" we accept cats from any shelter, regardless of geography*. As expected, most (67%) of our cats have come from our home state of New Jersey. But our reach extends further, though the tri-state area (NJ, NY and PA) accounts for over 93% of the cats. Surprisingly, NC is next on the list in terms of numbers, and we have an outlier from AZ.

Over the next few months, we look forward to extending our mission further, by getting cats from GA and KY.

*Of course, there are criteria that shelters must meet.



What's Inside?

Bonding With Your Cat.....	2	Feline Finances	4	Volunteers From Afar	5
Letters.....	2	Benefactor Profile	4	Happy Endings: Ringo	6
Cats With Allergies.....	3	Forever Loved: Rhubarb	5	Where are they now: Sardi ...	6
Vox Optio Veterinarius	3	Cats on the Move.....	5		

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That Beautiful Bond

by Angela Townsend

First comes “love at first sight.” Then, once your new feline family member is home with you, the lifetime of love begins. Here are our tips for deepening your bond every day:

- **Use the power of playtime.** In addition to being healthy and fun for your cat, interactive play deepens her connection to you. Playing actually promotes release of hormones associated with trust-forming in your kitty.

- **Spend time on your cat's level** – sit on the floor, and allow him to approach and greet you at a level at which he feels comfortable.

- **Discover where your cat likes to be scratched** – and where he doesn't – and always respect his preferences.

- **Embrace routine.** Your cat will love the comfort of being able to expect meals, affection and playtime around the same time each day, and this will help her to trust you.

- **Daily brushing** can be a special bonding time. Felines are extremely tactile creatures, so touch is a key method of communicating.

- When you make eye contact with your cat, **blink slowly**, which communicates trust. (Some liken this slow blink to a feline ‘smile.’)

- **Love your kitty just the way she is.** Not every cat will be a mushy cuddle-bug or a romping dynamo. Cherish her for her own qualities and quirks – she'll reward you for it with her trust.



Tony is always up for some snuggle time!



Playtime and lots of affection makes China a happy girl!



Raja's favorite way to spend time with human friends is letting us brush her.

Letters of the Quarter

We'd like our supporters to know that we think they're an extraordinary group of people. They make our mission possible, and give generously to make our cats' lives better. Here are our favorite letters from the past quarter.

Tabby's Place brought back memories of my own precious tabby, and I felt that the amazing dedication and passion for life, whatever the circumstances, of the team at Tabby's Place simply HAD to be supported. If you REALLY care about these precious creatures, then you will be moved to support the team as I have been. The world is not so big and scary when you know that there IS a place called sanctuary, and it's in New Jersey.

-John from
London, England



On Wednesday 12/17 I had my appointment to bring cats from the Islip (Long Island, NY) shelter to your facility. Words cannot express how grateful I am to you. Because of your kindness, the lives of these cats were spared. Passed over time and time again at the shelter because of shyness or medical issues, their time was up. These cats and countless others will now get to live, and it all started the day your cat, Tabby, showed up on your doorstep. I thank God you unknowingly accepted the mission that was put before you. I was so impressed with the cleanliness of your facility. Upon arrival, I was welcomed with such genuine kindness by Danielle. I also had the pleasure of meeting several others from your staff who were equally as compassionate. Thank you again for all you have done...

-Donna from
Islip, NY





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Cat Allergies – Not Allergies to Cats

by Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

When you think about “cats and allergies,” it’s almost always about felines making folks sneeze. But did you know that cats can also have allergies?

Babs was itchy and uncomfortable when she came to Tabby's Place, with pronounced patches of hair loss. A blood test determined that Babs has atopy (allergies to air-



With her allergies under control, Babs has a happy life at Tabby's Place.

borne allergens), and is sensitive to 12 different allergens. We began a series of injections composed of those allergens, building up her tolerance to them over time. Babs has now been symptom-free for over a year.

While humans' responses to airborne allergens tend to involve itchy eyes and a runny nose, cats often exhibit

allergic symptoms as itchy skin. Typical areas affected in cats include the face and ears, causing hair loss and inflammation, or the back, causing a rash of tiny seed-like scabs (miliary dermatitis). Just by touching these itchy areas, you can sometimes elicit a response where the cat meows, or tries to chew or scratch at the area.

Treatment often involves a hypoallergenic diet, in case a food allergy is involved. For a cat who requires a short and infrequent course of medication, it is reasonable to treat with corticosteroids. Unfortunately, these drugs have serious side effects, which become more common if the cat is on them for a prolonged period of time. As an alternative, the cat can be allergy tested and given hyposensitization injections – like Babs – to decrease her allergic response. Fortunately, 50- 70% of cats respond well to these injections.

While atopy is usually a lifelong condition, finding the right treatment can give an allergic kitty like Babs a healthier and more comfortable life. Now, about that friend who always starts sneezing around your cats ...

Vox Optio Veterinarius

Dealing With Inappropriate Elimination
by Denise Jeffries, Senior Veterinary Technician

Inappropriate elimination (not using the litter box to urinate) is the most common reason cats are surrendered to shelters. Cats are clean animals, so inappropriate elimination is usually a sign that there is something wrong with the cat, or the litter box. Fortunately, there are many strategies for solving the problem and keeping you and your cat together happily:

- Start by going to the veterinarian. The problem may be as simple as a urinary tract infection.
- Never yell or use physical punishment. These contribute to anxiety, depression and aggression in your cat and exacerbate the problem.

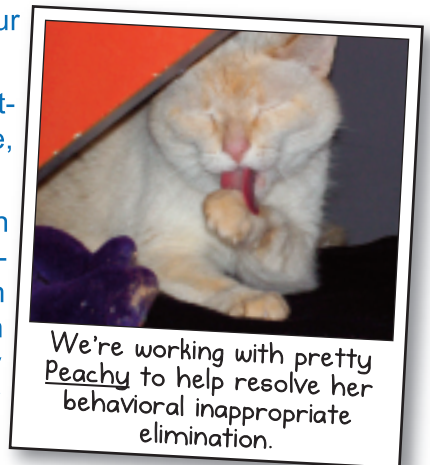


Once flagged as an 'inappropriate eliminator,' Trey has mended his ways now that his underlying medical condition is under control.

- Use clumping, unscented litter and scoop 1-2 times daily. Clean the box weekly.
- Provide one litter box per cat. In large houses, consider additional boxes. Make sure each litter box is big enough (1.5x the length of the cat's body).
- Boxes should be placed in accessible, private

areas, away from your cat's food and water.

- Try different depths of litter. Some cats like a little, some like to dig deep.
- If you catch your cat in the act, use a remote correction to startle him, such as shaking a coffee can full of coins. Or, gently place him into the litter box and praise him.
- Clean soiled areas with a cleaner designed for cat urine. If your cat smells urine or feces, he may continue to use that spot.
- Try Cat Attract, which you can add to your litter, and may encourage your cat to use her box.
- Use Feliway, designed to help reduce anxiety in cats. We use Feliway frequently at Tabby's Place, and we've found it effective at combating inappropriate elimination.
- Consult with your veterinarian, who may recommend behavioral medications or a consultation with a feline behaviorist.



We're working with pretty Peachy to help resolve her behavioral inappropriate elimination.



Feline Finances

by Angela Townsend

Among creatures great and small, the current climate of financial anxiety has reached us all. Especially in these stressful times, you and your beloved feline can bring one another tremendous comfort. Please take heart and know that there is help:



If you have a Special Needs cat like Pepper in your family, partner with your veterinarian to find ways to save on medication and vet visits.



Little Marshmallow doesn't care if you use coupons on his cat food - he's still happy to clean his plate!



Like Sylvan, your kitty is probably not stressed over the ups and downs of the stock market!

- Utilize online coupons for cat supplies. Dr. Janet Crosby offers [links](#) to pet-specific e-coupon sites.
- Buy food, litter etc. in bulk, and split the cost with a friend. Kitty items are almost always cheaper when purchased in large quantities.
- Keep up with preventative veterinary care. Annual vet visits nip health problems in the bud, saving you and your kitty both money and heartache.
- Ask your veterinarian about a payment plan. Some veterinarians will allow you to pay off an emergency bill in weekly or monthly installments. Also, don't hesitate to ask your vet for a discount, or samples of products you use. The worst she can do is say 'no.'
- Contact one or more of the [many organizations](#) who exist to help folks with the costs of kitty medical expenses.

• Educate yourself about cat care. Whether it's by reading reputable blogs online, joining an internet discussion group of cat caregivers or visiting the library, informing yourself about cat health and care will make you a savvier – and thriftier – cat parent.

Benefactor Profile: Jude Figlo

by Angela Townsend

As an [adopter](#), [volunteer](#) and [Benefactor](#), Jude has hit the Tabby's Place trifecta. From her volunteer orientation in 2004, Jude knew that Tabby's Place was "home" for her. Given that immediate resonance, it's surprising that Jude hadn't become a cat person until she met her husband in 1981.

In fact, Jude was severely allergic to cats as a child, and has frightening memories of her aunt's hairy, feisty Maine Coon, Boots. Fortunately, Jude grew up with wonderful dogs, Candy and Wendy, who helped her discover her strong connection to animals and the "unconditional love and sweetness" they offer. Over the years, Jude had a "growing realization that I needed to do more for them."

When they married, Jude's husband, Ron, surprised her with their first Devon Rex cat, Devon, followed by Liam, Finula and Neander. Their "purrs, snuggles and kittyluvin" showed Jude that cats "could be loving and affectionate," and they changed her life forever.

Today, Jude enjoys oodles of "kittyluvin" from her cats Peanut, Alvin, Ben, Jerry and Tabby's Place alumna [Dia](#), while repaying the many cats she's loved by serving as a Benefactor and chairperson of our Development Council. We thank Jude for letting the cats of her life so touch her heart that she's been moved to help change the lives of the Tabby's Place cats forever.



Jude with Dia, a Tabby's Place alumna.

Get Your Popcorn Ready!

The Tabby's Place cats are now film stars! Check out our new channel on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/tabbysplacesanctuary

Click On Over... and update your Blogroll!

Tabby's Place is proud to announce our brand new blog, [Felis Catus!](#) Visit: www.tabbysplace.org/felis-catus/



Forever Loved: Rhubarb

by Laura Jones, [Volunteer & Benefactor](#)

For as long as I could remember, all I wanted for Christmas was a cat. But year after year, no cat came from Santa. Cats eventually found their way into our home, but one of the most special was Peter Tom. After an amazing 15 years with my boy, I never thought I'd love a cat as much as Peter Tom. Then I met the biggest cat in Tabby's Place history, with a big personality to match: [Rhubarb](#). My eyes just lit up like a Christmas tree! Wouldn't you know... "Jolly" Rhubarb came home with me on Christmas Eve. Santa had FINALLY delivered. Sadly, just 6 weeks later, Rhubarb suddenly took ill. I held him in my arms and sang "What a Wonderful World" as he drifted away from me and over the Rainbow Bridge, where I know Peter Tom was waiting to welcome him. As I drove home that evening, with tears running down my face I wondered, why? Why, after 40 years of waiting for my Christmas wish, was my Jolly Rhubarb gone? Then it hit me: it wasn't Santa who delivered on Christmas Eve. It was Rhubarb. He gave me a gift I will never forget... knowing that I can and will love again.

Editor's note: Since Rhubarb's passing, Laura and her family have opened their hearts to two more Tabby's Place cats: [Angelo](#) (now Li'l Elvis) and [Trey](#).



Laura and Rhubarb

Volunteers from Afar

by Angela Townsend

If you dream of helping our cats but don't live near Ringoes, NJ, we have great news – you can be a part of the Tabby's Place family from anywhere. Our cats are looking for a few good ambassadors to tell their story. If you love the Tabby's Place kitties and want to help them in a big way, here are some tips for getting started:



Shout it from the rooftops! Baby [Tashi](#) (and all of our cats) want you to be their ambassador!

- Print out copies of our [newsletter](#), and share them with friends, family and coworkers.
- Ask your coworkers to team up to [sponsor a Special Needs cat](#) together, by donating \$14 or more each month.
- Include Tabby's Place's URL (www.tabbysplace.org) in your e-mail signature – your friends will be so curious, they can't help but click on over.
- Ask your vet to display Tabby's Place brochures and newsletters in her office. (Contact Angela by [e-mail](#) or at 908-237-5300 ext. 235 to get copies.)
- Make Tabby's Place your featured cause on [Facebook](#), and invite your friends to join.
- [E-mail](#) or call (908-237-5300 ext. 235) Angela with any other ideas you have.

Cats on the Move

by Angela Townsend

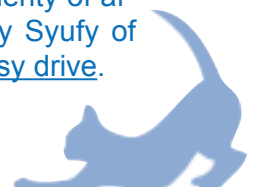
Whether a new home takes you five miles or five countries away, you can ensure a happy transition for your beloved cats:



Sweet [Puzzle](#) is no big fan of change, but introducing him to his new world slowly has helped him to adjust and enjoy life in his new suite.

- Having a hard time finding an apartment where your cats are welcome? Check out [Pets 911](#), [People with Pets](#), and the [Pet Realty Network](#). With a little time and effort, you can find a place where you can all live – together.
- Be sure to update the address and phone information on your cat's tag and/or microchip (contact the company where your cat's chip is registered, such as [HomeAgain](#), [Avid](#) or [24 Hour Pet Watch](#)).
- Request a current copy of your cat's full medical history from your current vet and keep his phone number handy, in case your new vet needs more information.
- If you're flying with your feline, check out these tips for safe air travel from the [Humane Society](#) and the [ASPCA](#).
- If you have a long drive ahead, get your feline used to car travel. Take your cat for increasingly longer rides in her carrier, and be sure to give her plenty of affection and treats each time. Franny Syufy of About Cats offers more tips for an [easy drive](#).

Follow 'Cats on the move' to the next page...





Familiar routines and favorite items, like beds, are especially comforting for older cats like Molly.

'Cats on the move' continue from the previous page...

- On moving day, create a "safe room" in your new home for your cats, with their favorite things set up for them. A bathroom works well for this purpose. Place a notice telling movers not to open the safe room door.
- Once the movers have left, be sure that all doors and windows are securely closed before letting your kitties out of their safe room.
- Rally around routine. Familiar blankets, toys, bowls and schedules are key in reassuring your kitties that they are at home, and that moving is not, in fact, the end of their world.

Happy Endings: Ringo

by Angela Townsend

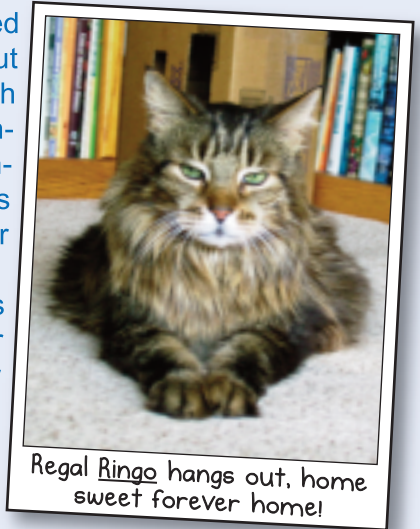
It's exciting enough when a cat is adopted after waiting 3+ years at Tabby's Place...but when that cat is 17 years old and afflicted with diabetes, neuropathy, heart disease, and inflammatory bowel disease (the "least glamorous disease"), we have a miracle. So it is that sweet, regal Ringo has found his forever home.

Ringo first came to Tabby's Place when his humans sought to have him euthanized after his diabetes diagnosis. The majestic, mellow Ringo earned a place in every heart he met.

Along the way, he also racked up the all-time high number of Special Needs sponsors.

Ringo's new family spotted his handsome face on WWOR's feature on Tabby's Place. Having cared for many Special Needs cats, they were ready to give Ringo all the TLC he needs. His happy fate was sealed when, the moment he met his new 'mom' and 'dad,' he gave each of them a kiss.

Today, Ringo is flourishing in his forever home. Thank you for making these miracles possible for the neediest cats.



Regal Ringo hangs out, home sweet forever home!



Cuddle time for Ringo and his new dad.

Where Are They Now: Sardi

by Danielle Rice, Sanctuary Operations Manager

It was at another shelter six years ago that Sardi first stole my heart with her sassy personality and exuberant purr. It wasn't exactly love at first sight, though - not for her. I remember her sauntering confidently out of her cage toward me, her face bright and cheery, but when I reached down to pet the friendly newcomer she returned the gesture with a mean right jab—typical Sardi.

Like many unfortunate kitties, Sardi was found as a stray. Sardi had special needs for which she did not receive proper care at the shelter. Ultimately, this led to Sardi requiring two surgeries after she arrived at Tabby's Place: one to have her ruptured left eye removed and a second to remove her deformed left earflap. Being the strong and determined girl that she is, Sardi adjusted quickly and assumed her position as one of our lobby greeters.

Many visitors were taken by Sardi's adorable face and affectionate personality, but most did not consider her for adoption due to her "missing parts" and the presence of a benign, but very large, inoperable tumor in her abdomen. Almost exactly three years after arriving at Tabby's Place, Sardi finally found her person. She now lives with two cats and three dogs, all of whom she keeps in line, of course. She enjoys long naps on the sofa, but eating continues to be her favorite activity. Sardi will always hold a special place in my heart. I miss her greatly, but I am thrilled that she finally has her much deserved happy ending.



Sardi continues to enjoy her favorite hobby - eating! - in her new home.

