



New Beginnings: Bambi

by Angela Townsend, Development Director

Consider her the Lauren Bacall of Tabby's Place. At 13, our Ragdoll beauty may no longer be an ingénue...but her beauty and grace have only gotten richer with age. Cast off by a breeder due to age and Special Needs, Bambi ended up in a Southern shelter. But hope was on the horizon, and soon Bambi had a starring role at Tabby's Place. Today, our fluffy star is feeling good thanks to a prescription diet and the promise that we'll always love her just the way she is. She's dreaming of the role of a lifetime in her forever home – but, until that happens, we'll cherish her sweet spirit and ageless style.



Average & Extraordinary Ailments by Angela Townsend

At Tabby's Place, we've had the privilege of caring for cats with some, frankly, quite-strange conditions. From Tony's acromegaly to Yasmine's nasopharyngeal stenosis, our cats' needs have expanded our knowledge, deepened our love, and sent us to specialist veterinarians in search of the best care.

We thought it would be interesting to compare the most common Special Needs among Tabby's Place cats with the chronic conditions most often seen by veterinarians:

Top cat conditions for pet insurance claims in 2009¹:

1. FLUTD
2. Gastritis/vomiting
3. Chronic renal failure
4. Hyperthyroidism
5. Diabetes
6. Enteritis/diarrhea
7. Skin allergy
8. Dental disease/periodontitis
9. Ear infection
10. Eye infection

Most common chronic conditions among Tabby's Place residents²:

1. Dental disease
2. Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)³
3. FIV
4. Chronic renal failure
5. Heart disease
6. Diabetes
7. Cerebellar hypoplasia
8. Eye infections and other ocular issues
9. Cancer
10. Hyperthyroidism

¹ From VPI: <http://veterinarynews.dvm360.com/dvm/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=656830>.

² Current residents as of September 28, 2011

³ IBD may include both VPI's categories #2 and #6 above, as it can present with either or both of these symptoms.



Like many senior cats, Kendall has early chronic kidney disease.



Nuttin has diabetes, heart disease, IBD, FIV and cancer - but he's living well and loving life.

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All (About) Ears by Angela Townsend

It's amazing what our cats' ears will tell us. Ears are a key piece of cats' communication equipment. In fact, some wild cats have ear tufts or distinctive markings, so as to make ear signals even more visible. Let's listen:

If Your Cat's Ears Are ... She's Probably:

Forward, tilted slightly to side

Content, relaxed

Slightly back

Anxious or annoyed; protecting her ears from unpleasant sounds

Flattened far back and down

Fearful; trying to be submissive and non-threatening by making herself "smaller"

Flattened sideways

Fearful and aggressive – a combination of the forward-pointing "alert" ears and the lowered/flattened "fear" position¹

Widely swiveled, but not flattened

Puzzled; not yet sure how to react to what she's facing; "lesser confusions" are expressed with just one ear in this position

Upright

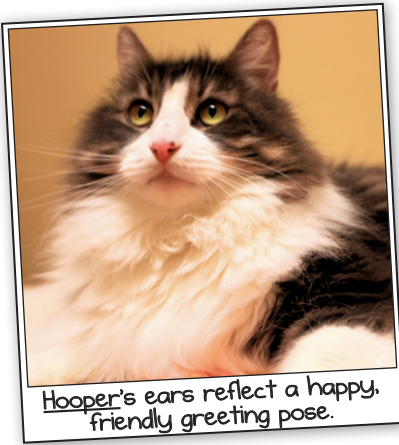
Happy and alert; a friendly, interested greeting pose

Twitching

Anxious, with rising agitation

Swiveling

Interested and listening carefully



Hooper's ears reflect a happy, friendly greeting pose.



His face says he's snoozing, but Trey's ears tell us he's interested and listening.



With his ears back, Tashi appears anxious about his water therapy.



Finnegan's upright ears reflect his alertness and excitement.

¹Note that, if your cat keeps her ears in a flat, horizontal position on a regular basis, even when she's content, this could be a sign of mites or another medical problem, and warrants a vet visit.

Letters of the Quarter

I am so sorry to have heard the news of Dusty's passing. Your mails with regards to him were always a pleasure to receive. We enjoyed his antics. It felt to me like

such a trooper would always pull through. I will gladly carry on with my contributions; I will let you know to which one of the Special Needs kitties I would like to pass my donation in the next day or two.

This may sound strange, but I cherish the one photo that you sent me a while back of Dusty – it is actually up on our 'cat wall' (we have a passage wall filled with cat pictures, and his is one of them). So to us he was a part of our

extended cat family.

All the best and keep up the good work. From the SA cat clan.

**Regards,
Pierre, South Africa**

Editor's note: Read Jonathan's tribute to Dusty on page 4.

Please transfer my sponsorship to Sylvia. I look forward to following her progress. My cat Jerome had the same heart condition but unfortunately did not make it. I hope Sylvia continues to thrive in your good hands.

I would also like to be able to extend my best wishes to Oreo's new family. I cannot think of a more worthy selection for adoption. I only met Oreo once

and he stole my heart. Lucky is a one cat guy; otherwise, I might have been tempted. It was always a consolation knowing Oreo was being well taken care of; but, the thought that he now has his own home is very heart warming.

I want to wish his adoptive family the best of luck and also let them know that they have made a lot of people very happy (in addition to themselves). Having lived with more than one health challenged cat, I can say that the bond

is even stronger when you are 'chosen' by a Special Needs animal - and the gifts these little kitties bring to their human companions are immeasurable.

**Best regards,
Ilene, New York, NY**

Editor's note: Hear from Oreo's new adoptive family on page 5.



Dusty



Oreo

Feline Vaccinations (Part 1)

by Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

While cat owners are usually aware that their cat gets a regular FVRCP vaccine, they are typically uncertain about the diseases targeted by this crucial vaccine. While widespread vaccination has made the diseases uncommon, they are still around and worth knowing about.



Gabriella

FVRCP is a combination vaccine, immunizing against *feline viral rhinotracheitis*, *calicivirus* and *panleukopenia* (feline distemper):

- *Rhinotracheitis* is a herpes virus (not transmissible to humans) that causes conjunctivitis (inflammation of the mucous membranes of the eyes), sneezing, fever and oral ulcers.
- *Calicivirus* is a virus that causes similar symptoms, though it also has a virulent form that can be life-threatening. This component of the vaccine creates only partial immunity, lessening the severity and duration of the disease.
- *Panleukopenia* is a viral disease causing severe vomiting, diarrhea and immune suppression. It is most common in kittens, and has a high mortality rate. "Panleuk" is very hardy, and can survive in the environment for up to a year unless it is killed, most commonly with dilute bleach.

A less common, indirect result of panleukopenia is *cerebellar hypoplasia* (CH). If a pregnant queen is vaccinated or infected with panleuk, a kitten's cerebellum (the part of the brain controlling balance) can be damaged. Exposed kittens can vary widely, such that some kittens in the litter are normal, while others are severely affected.



Gabriella doesn't let CH get in the way of a high-energy, happy life at Tabby's Place.

At Tabby's Place, we have four adult cats affected by CH to different degrees (meet them on page 4). Though their balance is wobbly, their quality of life is good. For instance, our most severely-affected cat,

Gabriella, is unable to walk, but can propel herself by kicking her legs. She chases toys with her front paws, and loves to sit in the sun and be petted. Gabby can move into her favorite bed by herself, and even tries to use the litter box, although frequently is unable to make it successfully.

Since the advent of the FVRCP vaccine, panleukopenia has become much less common, and the severity of the upper respiratory diseases has lessened. At Tabby's Place and around the world, the feline distemper vaccine has saved countless lives.

The Cute Disease

by Angela Townsend

Tabby's Place has a bumper crop of cats with the condition Jonathan once dubbed "the cute disease:" cerebellar hypoplasia (CH). Cats with CH have impaired motor skills, so they wiggle, wobble and tumble like toddlers. While we wouldn't wish an ailment on any cat, CH is fortunately not progressive, harmful or painful, and it does not shorten a cat's life span. As our CH cuties prove, it's also unable to quench their sense of joy

CH sweethearts do need a bit of extra attention, clean-up time and medical care – and they'd love your friendship. If you have room in your heart for a cat with "the cute disease," please sponsor Chickadee, Gabriella, Ike or Edward today – or "collect them all" with a four-in-one CH sponsorship by clicking [here](#).



Chickadee is our newest CH sweetheart.



Edward is living well with CH and FIV.



Ike is a sweet, gentle soul.

Forever Loved: Dusty

by Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

Dusty was a staff favorite ... and a vet nightmare. He was large, strong and the poster child for fractious ("easily irritated, difficult to control, unruly"). Besides being FIV+, Dusty collected a number of additional diseases over the years and required several multi-day visits to veterinary hospitals. It was common to get a call from a vet saying that Dusty was fine to go and would we PLEASE come and get him as soon as possible.

But we loved Dusty and suffered with him through cancer, heart disease, inflammatory bowel disease, an undiagnosable skin condition and life-threatening dental disease. In fact, when Dusty was diagnosed with cancer, we knew his time was short, as the prognosis was a few months, at best.

Dusty was never one to listen to authority, and 1½ years later he decided to get heart disease. A year after that, he developed dental disease so severe that pain medication stopped working. His only hope was dental surgery, but his progressing heart disease made him a poor candidate. We held our breath as he went to see a team of specialists at the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dusty needed two separate procedures. He passed both with flying colors, much to the dental specialist's amazement. In fact, they were so amazed at how "good" he was feeling that they begged us to come and get him.

Dusty seemed indestructible. But, he wasn't. Eventually, the cancer came back with a vengeance and Dusty started slowing down. Early one morning, we knew it was his time to move on. Dusty went peacefully, in the midst of the many people who loved him. Any day now, I expect to get a call from the Rainbow Bridge, asking us to come and get him ASAP.



Darling Dusty

Gifts to Make Your Loved Ones Purr

by Angela Townsend

Three words get us all a little bit anxious: *holiday gift giving*.

But this year, our cats are excited to say that they're not anxious at all – and they would love to help you make this the easiest holiday ever.

When you shop the Tabby's Place Gift Catalog, you can choose a gift that's as kindhearted and unique as your loved ones.

Instead of yet another sweater (*yawn*), why not buy your Dad 3,000 pounds of kitty litter? Dad will get a beautiful card announcing your gift, with photos of what you're doing for needy cats in his honor. The Tabby's Place cats will get that much-needed litter (or food, toys, or whatever you choose).

And rather than a gadget she doesn't need, why not get your wife a beautiful Virtual Gift Basket? Save mama cats and kittens with this perfect gift, and your wife will get a heartfelt card...while mother cats and babies get the care and rescue they need.

Click here to experience the cats' gift catalog. They've been working harder than all the elves on the North Pole to make your holiday gift giving a breeze.

Editor's note: We'll be adding lots of goodies to the gift catalog between now and the holidays, so keep checking back for the latest cat-loving gifts.



Make Christmas sweeter than ever by nurturing cats at Tabby's Place.



Little Sesame wants to make your holiday gift giving fun and easy.

Order your Limited-Edition 2011 Catoberfest T-Shirt, just \$8 + shipping!

Contact Danielle for details.

Tabby's Place Newsletter

Number 9.4 | 4th Quarter, 2011
 © 2011 Tabby's Place
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Jonathan Rosenberg
Editor Angela Townsend
Design & Layout Adam Sullens

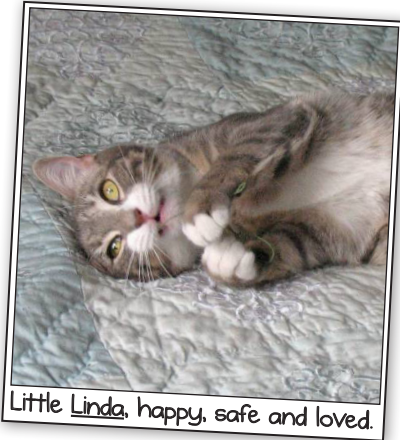
Published quarterly by
Tabby's Place:
A Cat Sanctuary
 1100 US Highway 202
 Ringoes, NJ 08551
 (908) 237-5300
info@tabbysplace.org

For a free subscription, go to:
<http://www.tabbysplace.org/>

Where Are They Now? Linda

by Judy Nason, *Adopter*

You may remember [Linda's heart-wrenching story](#). Although alone and suffering, Linda caught a huge break: she found her way to Tabby's Place. Tabby's Place provided her with extensive, expensive medical treatment and lots of love. Not only did she live, but she thrived.



Little Linda, happy, safe and loved.

As a volunteer, I fell head-over-heels and wanted desperately to adopt her. I did not know how my two adult cats would react, but I convinced myself that they might like a kitten friend. Boy was I wrong.

When I brought Linda home, I followed the steps for a [proper introduction](#). Although I was committed to being patient, I secretly hoped that I would come home and find Alley, Pearl and Linda, paw in paw, singing "We Are the World."

Alley voiced her disapproval of Linda by fluffing up, hissing and spitting. After so much adversity, Linda was not afraid of anything. Linda would hide, only to leap out when Alley walked past, cuffing wildly with her tiny paws. Pearl didn't care—at first. But Linda learned that if she pounced on Pearl, Pearl would run, and Linda could chase her.

Linda will be one year old on October 24th and I have never seen a happier cat. She spends her time well, whether "on safari" in the basement, trying to squeeze inside the printer, playing with the TV screen or pawing at raindrops.

There is only one thing that Linda can't do. She cannot scratch her left ear because of the damage to her left rear leg. But I am more than happy to do that for her.



Linda snuggling her sister Pearl.

Linda does know how to love. She tells me how happy she is through chirps, purrs and sandpaper kisses. I think that Linda has brought out the best in

all of us. Her courageous struggle touched many people.

Epilogue: For this update, I wished I had one of those photos we all love to see - the one where the adopted kitty is curled up with the other cats. Two nights before the deadline for this story, Pearl was sleeping on the couch. For the first time, Linda quietly hopped up, curled up next to Pearl and went to sleep.

Happy Endings: Panda

by Jane DeHaven, *Adopter*

Panda, who was living under the pseudonym "[Oreo](#)" at Tabby's Place, wanted to send his best regards to all his friends and to let them know what he's been up to since finding his forever home just before Memorial Day.



Panda chills out in his loving home.

Mild-mannered Panda by day now becomes "Panda-monium" at night. This sweet, shy big guy has really blossomed, and has his new mom and dad wrapped around his paws. He can still be timid and likes to spend his days napping, but he's come a long way from the Weight Management Suite.

Living with vociferous roommate [Hawkeye](#) at Tabby's Place, Panda was so shy, he spent much of his time hidden. As king of the hill in his new home, he's become a furry little alarm clock who routinely lets his people know in no uncertain terms when it's time for cat breakfast (regardless of the clock). And Panda knows how to navigate his little head under the nearest hand to announce when he's available for pets and snuggles. He has been keeping to his diet, and his hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is still in check.

Panda's paperwork says that he's 13 years old, but he has so much energy that we're positive he can't be more than 3. We couldn't love him more if he were twins, and we thank everyone at Tabby's Place for taking such good care of him until he found his way into our hearts.



Panda living the dream in his forever home.



Catoberfest

at Tabby's Place®

We extend a special thanks to the donors and sponsors whose kindness made Catoberfest exciting and whose generosity is helping to save cats' lives:

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Bethany Cortale

Dear Tabby's Place Family,

We had a feeling Catoberfest was going to be a blast...but you positively dazzled us with your whisker-twirling generosity.

From the bottom of all our hearts (feline and otherwise), thank you for donating an amazing \$36,000 and for making Catoberfest a joy we will treasure for the rest of our lives. It is an honor to serve the cats with such loving, selfless, and just-plain-fun folks as you.

Love,
The Tabby's Place Staff & Cats

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