



New Beginnings

Tiana and Her Tots

Angela Hartley, Development Director

Barely more than a baby herself, soft grey Tiana became pregnant while living in a house full of un-neutered cats. Animal Control intervened, removing all the cats from the hoarding situation. Tiana found herself homeless and running out of time, but about to give birth.

Tabby's Place is a haven for cats from desperate circumstances, so we eagerly embraced Tiana. The snugly expectant mom with the



Of course, Tiana herself gets oodles of affection, too

rock-the-house purr was safe at last...and she had her babies the second night she was with us.

Tragically, two of Tiana's kittens were stillborn, leaving her with five healthy babies to nurture. We've seen a lot of good cat moms at Tabby's Place, but something about Tiana's gentle mothering was especially sweet.

And, as it turned out, Tiana's sweetness would be called upon quickly.

Hours later, a tiny grey kitten was found cold and motionless in a good Samaritan's garage. The kind person rushed the newborn to Tabby's Place. Our valiant staff revived baby Maeve, but her condition was fragile. At just a few days of age, she really needed a cat mom.

Anxiously, we placed Maeve with Tiana and her babies. Orphaned



Mama Tiana takes tender care of her kittens

kittens won't always take to adoptive moms, and vice versa. But we needn't have worried. Tiana was a cat with a calling, and she immediately embraced Maeve. Soon, miniature Maeve was nursing beside her new siblings. Ever since that day, the family has shared a beautiful bond.

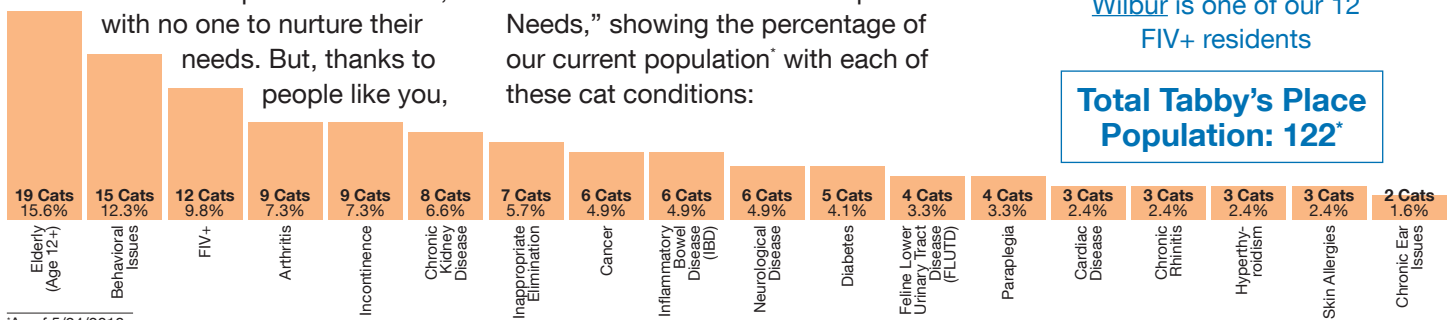
It's only because of people like you that Tabby's Place can answer our calling: to rescue cats and kittens in crisis. The best is yet to come for Tiana and her tots, but many kitties will need us in the months ahead. Please consider sponsoring our Kitten Fund, so we can be there for these brave little families.

State of the Special Needs

As a true friend to the Tabby's Place cats, you know that we have a special place in our hearts – and in our sanctuary – for kitties with Special Needs. These courageous cats are especially likely to find themselves in hopeless situations, with no one to nurture their needs. But, thanks to people like you,

Tabby's Place is a haven for kitties who overcome the odds to thrive through serious medical issues.

We thought you might enjoy a snapshot of the special cats you're helping to nurture at Tabby's Place. Check out this "state of the Special Needs," showing the percentage of our current population* with each of these cat conditions:



*As of 5/24/2018



Wilbur is one of our 12 FIV+ residents

Total Tabby's Place Population: 122*

Common Cat Health Hangups

From acromegaly to nasopharyngeal stenosis, the Tabby's Place cats have faced some of the rarest conditions known to the feline world. But, whether at Tabby's Place or in your home, the average cat is far more likely to face one of the following blips on his medical screen. We hope these links help you to feel more confident caring for the most likely annoyances your cat may encounter.

1. Feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD) (also known as FUS): This refers to a group of symptoms rather than a single condition. Cats with FLUTD may strain to urinate, urinate in inappropriate places, or excessively lick the urinary opening. Your veterinarian can determine whether your cat has bladder stones, a blockage, a urinary tract infection, kidney failure or another cause. Treatment may involve medication and/or special diet.

2. Vomiting/gastritis and diarrhea/enteritis: Like FLUTD, tummy troubles can have a host of causes, from hairballs to parasites to inflammatory bowel disease or cancer. Your vet can figure out the cause – and the cure.



Stress-related bouts of gastritis can strike even healthy cats like little Nala

3. Chronic renal failure (also called CRF, CKD or CRI): It is estimated that 30% of elderly felines will face kidney disease. If your cat is age seven or older, it's wise to check for CRF during each annual exam. CRF is usually treated with a combination of medication, special diet and/or fluid therapy. Early symptoms include frequent drinking and urinating, weight loss, decreased appetite, and kidney or bladder infections.

4. Hyperthyroidism: Like CRF, this condition is common, affecting over 10% of senior cats. Common signs include weight loss, increased appetite and diarrhea. Fortunately, hyperthyroidism can be effectively treated with medication, radioactive iodine treatment or surgery.

5. Diabetes: Like Type II human diabetes, the cat counterpart is increasingly common – and very treatable. Symptoms include increased drinking and urination, sudden weight loss despite increased appetite, and lethargy. A prescription diet may be enough to keep some cats' blood glucose (BG) levels controlled, but most will require insulin injections. You can easily monitor your cat's blood



Missy's diabetes is well controlled with diet and insulin

glucose levels and administer insulin at home.

6. Skin allergy: Molds, mildew, fleas and even human dander can irritate your cat, causing itching or hair loss. Fortunately, feline allergies are treatable.

7. Dental disease/periodontitis: If your cat is avoiding his kibble, it may not be due to tummy troubles. Painful teeth affect many – if not most – cats at some point in life, and it's wise to discuss preventative dental care with your vet before trouble strikes. Symptoms of dental disease include decreased interest in food,

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At age 16, Max has acquired several common cat health issues, including hyperthyroidism and chronic kidney disease



Dental disease doesn't dampen Shifty's sweet spirits

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reluctance to be touched near the mouth, drooling, chewing on one side of the mouth, and bad breath.

- 8. Eye and ear infections:** Allergies, mites, yeast and bacteria can all get your cat's ears itching like mad. Red and uncomfortable eyes may be caused by the feline herpesvirus or a bacterial infection. Both are generally treatable with antibiotics or other medications. - A.H.

Recommended Reading:

FLUTD: Cornell Feline Health Center, [Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease](#)

Vomiting and diarrhea: Ernest Ward, DVM, [Gastroenteritis in Cats](#)

CRF: Cornell Feline Health Center, [Chronic Kidney Disease](#)

Hyperthyroidism: Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, [Hyperthyroidism in Cats](#)

Diabetes: Ernest Ward, DVM, and Robin Downing, DVM, DAAPM, DACVSMR,

[CVPP, Diabetes Mellitus in Cats - Overview](#)

Skin allergies: Pet Health Network, [What is Bothering Your Cat? It Could Be Felin Allergies](#)

Dental disease: Laura Collins, DVM, [Feline Dental Disease, Part I, Part II and Part III](#)

Ear infection: Pet MD, [Inflammation of the Middle Ear and External Ear Canal in Cats](#)

Eye infection: Jessica Vogelsang, DVM, [Cat Eye Infections](#)

Ask the Behaviorist

Is My Senior Cat Going Crazy?

PART 2 Nancy Meyer, Feline Behavioral Consultant, Benefactor, Adopter & Volunteer

So your vet has diagnosed your elderly cat with [Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome](#). Along with possible medical intervention, there are steps you can take to make your cat more comfortable:

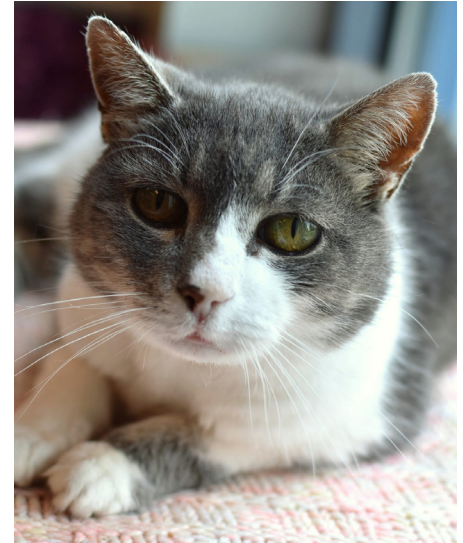
- 1. Maintain consistency in her environment.** Your cat's food, water, sleeping areas and litter boxes should not be moved unless absolutely necessary. This will help prevent disorientation.
- 2. Provide additional areas with comfy beds** if your cat decides she wants more alone time. You



Senior cats like [Carley Rose](#) need extra TLC to feel secure

might want to consider setting up a "safe room" for her to retreat into when having guests over.

- 3. Don't fall victim to the Velcro Cat.** It's OK to give her attention, but also encourage solo exploration. Puzzle feeders and motorized toys are great for active seniors. A cat tree with a view of a bird feeder can be another welcome diversion.
- 4. "Where is my litter pan?"** Your cat really can forget where it is. **Providing multiple pans on every floor of your house will help.** A litter pan with low sides can provide easier access to seniors. Consistency is also important for litter box compliance; now is not the time to try out a different texture litter or a different box.
- 5. Give your cat plenty of options to keep busy while you are sleeping.** This will help address the behavioral component of nighttime vocalizing and wandering. Do not wake up and give her attention; instead, provide toys and electronic feeders that dispense food at set times. Night lights can also ease disorientation, which is most likely to happen in the evening.



Super senior [Juliana](#) has experienced some age-related confusion, but a stable environment and lots of love help to keep her comfortable

- 6. Be patient.** Just like humans suffering from cognitive dysfunction, cats can act fearful and tense for what appears to be no reason. Allow your kitty to chill out in a comfortable retreat, then shower her with attention when she does interact with you.

Recommended Reading:

ASPCA, [Older Cats with Behavior Problems](#)

Cornell Feline Health Center, [Cognitive Dysfunction](#)

Ilona Rodan and Sarah Heath, Editors, [Feline Behavioral Health and Welfare](#)

Pam Johnson-Bennett, [Feline Cognitive Dysfunction](#)

Pet MD, [Dementia \(Geriatric\) in Cats](#)



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Forever Loved: Ali

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

It seems like forever since Ali came to Tabby's Place. She was a beautiful white cat that had been surrendered to a local vet. The vet and staff did not want to put Ali down, and there was nothing wrong with her ... except that she was painfully shy.

They kept her in hopes that she would "come around," given time and attention. But she didn't, so they reached out to Tabby's Place. We were happy to be able to take her in 2007. We figured she just needed a touch of the "ol' Tabby's Place



Ali in her cozy last stop at Tabby's Place, the Community Room

magic."

But, Ali was more than painfully shy. She was pathologically recalcitrant and seemed willing to die rather than be handled. We tried many approaches: Forced attention, medication, frequent human visits, playing a radio. Nothing worked. She was intractably introverted.

We finally realized the cure was worse than the disease ... so we left her alone. She lived in a small room with a large window and several gentle, elderly female cats. I often wondered if she was happy. The usual feline clues were absent or unapparent. But she was eating fine and was healthy.

Then one day, we realized she had become "elderly." She had lost most of her eyesight and often appeared confused. We moved her to the Community Room so we could keep an eye on her. She handled the move well, and despite being more visible, seemed comfortable. She



Ali

even allowed some restrained human attention.

Was she happy now? I don't know. But she was loved, and we cared for her as best we could. And she continued to relish eating.

She was frail for a very long time, and we fretted over her regularly. One day, we knew it was time. I felt like I was at the deathbed of a relative with whom I had never reconciled. It was very difficult. But she was ready to drop the body that had served her for so long, and my discomfort was irrelevant to that truth.

She left very peacefully, surrounded by many people who loved her dearly.

Rest in peace, sweet angel. I hope you're happy.

Love Now, Give Later

Your love for cats transcends time. There will never be a day when you don't want to do everything you can to help cats in need. And by working with Tabby's Place, you can make sure you're always here for the kitties.

By including Tabby's Place in your estate plans, you can ensure that your love will last beyond a lifetime. A few simple plans now can save hundreds of cats' lives in the years ahead. You can plan today



You can leave a legacy of love for the cats who need you most

to make sure you leave a legacy that shows what – and who – matters most to you.

Estate gifts are generally the most significant, life-saving donations Tabby's Place receives all year. Please plan to leave a legacy of compassion. The cats are counting

on you for love beyond this lifetime. Contact Development Director Angela Hartley at ah@tabbysplace.org or 908-237-5300 ext 235 for more information.



Little ones like Tink count on you for continued kindness

Special Needs Spotlight: Paralyzed Cats

Dr. Laura Collins, Tabby's Place Veterinarian

As a haven for cats from hopeless situations, Tabby's Place has welcomed multiple cats with hind limb paralysis through the years. Some of these courageous cats have been paraplegic, while others have been paraparetic.

What's the difference? The medical term paraplegia means the complete loss of voluntary motor function in the hind limbs, whereas paraparesis refers to partial loss. Both are associated with urine and fecal incontinence and caused by an abnormal spinal cord, such that the nerves exiting from the spinal cord do not innervate* the legs and urinary or rectal sphincter normally.

An abnormal spinal cord commonly results from congenital abnormality; trauma (external trauma like being a hit by car, or internal trauma resulting from a slipped interverte-

bral disc); or a cancerous mass.

Because it can result from a birth defect, an abnormal spinal cord is often first detected in kittenhood. These cases are non-progressive; the abilities they are born with will not usually worsen or improve with time.

Conversely, neurologic damage from trauma can improve, although it is hard to predict to what extent, and improvement can take many months. Cats with spinal tumors usually worsen over time as the mass grows and invades more of the spinal cord.

Paraplegic and paraparetic cats are usually able to pull themselves around very well with their front limbs. Some will sit up and scoot their rear ends along the floor, while others will lie on their side and use their front limbs to pull while their back legs kick. Most cats do not require a cart to move comfortably.

The most difficult part of caring for a paraplegic or paraparetic cat is managing incontinence. They should have their bladders expressed manually three times daily, and ideally the bladder should be fairly empty

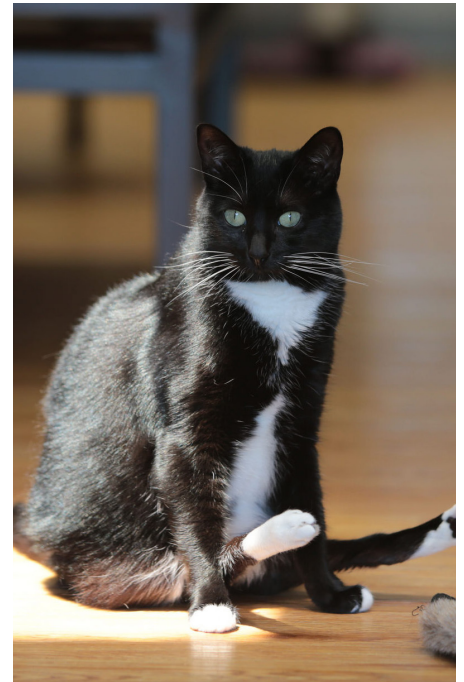
*Stimulate a nerve, muscle, or body part to action



Precious Pixie was born in St. Louis, but Tabby's Place is her home now



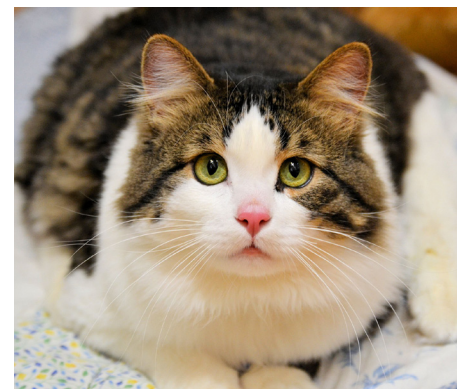
June joined us after being struck by a car in New Jersey



First found right near Ringoes, Olive now loves her life in the Tabby's Place lobby

after expression. Leaving urine in the bladder can result in chronic urinary tract infections. Fecal incontinence usually results in the cat dropping stool, unaware it is happening. Some cats do well if the stool in their colon is manually expressed at the same time as their bladder.

The quality of life for paraplegics and paraparetics can be excellent. While adopting such a cat is a lifelong commitment, but these cats can enjoy an especially strong bond with their caregivers. While adopting such a cat is a lifelong commitment, these cats can enjoy especially strong bonds with their caregivers.



Paraplegic Anka came all the way from Istanbul to Tabby's Place

The Linda Fund Is About To Launch!



The Linda Fund saved cutie-pie [Cheddar's](#) life

Watch your inboxes, compassionate people: it's almost the most wonderful time of the year for saving kitty lives.

Every spring, Tabby's Place runs the Linda Fund Matching Challenge. For a month, your gift will be doubled. The Linda Fund exists to save cats in the most serious medical crises, so your love will go twice as far for the kitties who need you most.

You'll be getting an email within the next few weeks when the Linda Fund officially launches. Please prepare your heart to help us save lives this spring – the cats need you!



Your Linda Fund donation will help Special Needs cats like [Tux](#)

Happy Endings: [Buddy](#)

Dana Maurer, [Adopter](#)

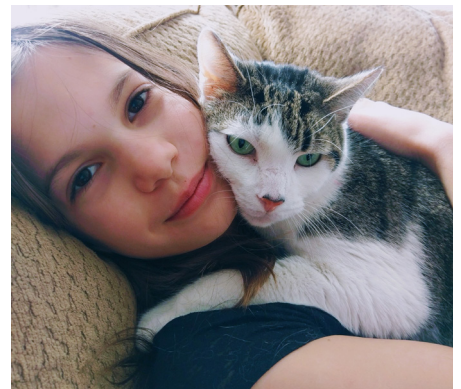
I adopted [Buddy](#) to heal a broken heart. 6 broken hearts, to be exact. In February 2018, we learned that our sweet [Abraham](#), a graduate of Tabby's Place FIV suite, had an aggressive and inoperable tumor. Knowing we were going to lose him cast a shadow on our whole family—the four human Maurers, and Abe's [cat brother](#) and dog sister.

On a cold winter day, I wandered the warm, bright suites of Tabby's

Place. I met many residents—but Buddy stole my heart. Quiet and reserved, he couldn't be coaxed by treats, instead watching his roommates with emerald eyes as they stormed for my attention. He then quietly curled up in a cubby and accepted my petting. I couldn't get enough of his heart shaped nose.

Having spent five of his seven years of life at peaceful Tabby's Place, Buddy was terrified to find himself in our rambling old farmhouse filled with the chaos of family life. He spent the first month crammed into his "Buddy Cubby", a little nook in a cat tree. We launched a campaign to win his trust. Daily, we lay by him, reading, doing homework, listening to music, playing games. We lured him with treats and Fancy Feast. The cat and dog did their part. Weeks passed, then months...and then:

Buddy came out of his cubby, and bonked his forehead against



Beloved [Buddy](#) cherishes his whole family

mine. And again. And purred. And purred some more. Over the coming days, he started to come to our calls of "Buddycat!", rolling on the floor in rapture as we stroked his fur with a rubber-bristled cat brush. And just last week, a major hurdle overcome: Buddy bravely made his way across the house into the living room, where he hopped up beside us onto the couch for some TV.

We lost our Abraham in April, and he can never be replaced. But magical Buddy, with his heart shaped nose, has helped our family heal.



A tender moment between [Buddy](#) and Dana

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