



*Editor's note:* Before we write another word, we'd like to say "thank you" – and "wow!" and "holy moly!" You made 2015 the best year ever for our cats. Together, we saved nearly 300 cats, up from an average of 130 just a few years ago. For the first time, Tabby's Place raised over \$1 million – all thanks to you. Check out page 7 for a special report on how you made 2015 a "million dollar year." Along the way, we hope you enjoy our answers to some "million dollar questions."

## New Beginnings: Olive

Angela Townsend, Development Director

In 2014, a tiny tuxedo cat found herself parked in a perilous spot: paralyzed, incontinent and alone, stalled in a parking lot, short on friends and hope. Little Olive was barely able to move...but love was about to move mountains.

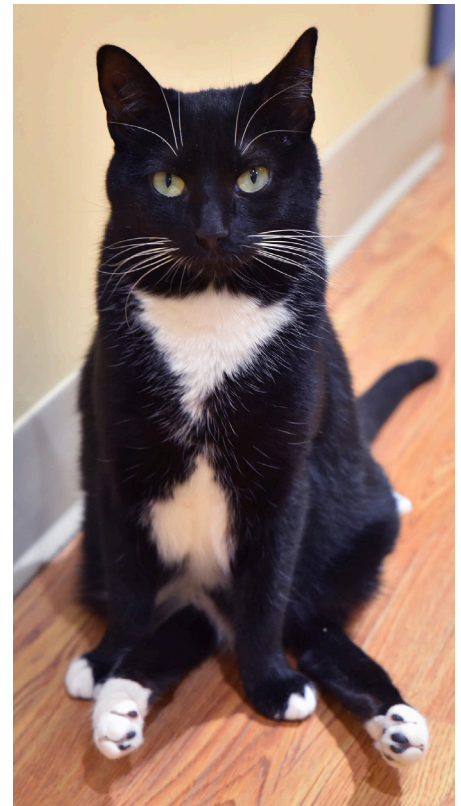


Awesome Olive

A passerby took compassion on Olive, and whisked her from danger. Soon, Olive found safety with a uniquely patient foster family. Eventually, though, even these saintly souls were pressed to the limit. Olive needed a lasting haven.

Tabby's Place was just the sanctuary Olive needed. Having nurtured paraplegic cats like Bagheera, Tashi and Dot, our team knows how to keep such a special kitty healthy. And, with you on our side, Tabby's Place has the resources for a cat like Olive's costly care. We can't thank you enough for believing, with us, that loving Olive is worth it.

Olive reminds us of her priceless worth every day. A pallet of pimentos could never compete with our girl's zesty personality. Within a few minutes in Olive's presence, you nearly forget her disability in the face of her determined moves, funny meows, and fearless chatters at



Olive gets around our Lobby faster than many able-bodied neighbors

other cats. There's not one ounce of fear in this little feline – and not one roadblock ahead on the path of love.

## Million Dollar Question ▶ Do Cats Really Love Us?

*At first blush, this question may seem absurd – offensive, even. Of course my cat loves me!*

But if you saw recent headlines, you know: some researchers are saying rotten things about our favorite species. Based on a study at the University of Lincoln in London, news outlets have screamed "Sci-

ence Confirms It: Cats Don't Love Us" and even "Your cat might not really care about you". So is the love we're sure we share just wishful thinking?

First, let's take a closer look at that British study. Scientists conducted a modified version of the

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Once we earn their trust, even timid cats like Bubbles truly do love us

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Ainsworth Strange Situation Test, devised to measure “secure attachment.” When presented with an unfamiliar environment, dogs turned to their caregivers for reassurance. Cats, on the other hand, explored the new space. Lead researcher Daniel Mills noted, “In strange situations, attached individuals seek to stay close to their carer, show signs of distress when they are separated and demonstrate pleasure when their attachment figure returns, but these trends weren’t apparent during our research.”

But does a lack of measurable separation anxiety mean a lack of love? Feline behavior expert Celia Hammond cautions that we



**Morgan is skilled at showing visitors just how much love a cat can give**

shouldn’t conclude that cats don’t develop close, attached relationships to us; these bonds simply aren’t based on the need for security. Cat behavior expert John Bradshaw agrees. Noting that dogs evolved to be “almost obsessively” dependent upon people, cats simply “prefer to deal with things in their own heads.”

Unlike dogs, cats aren’t pack animals, and they don’t depend on other creatures (including us) for comfort when faced with the unfamiliar. This means, not that they don’t love us, but that they don’t “need” us the same way dogs do – and that they do *choose* us.

Human history bears this out. People are believed to have domesticated dogs 32,000 years ago, selecting for traits like friendliness. Cats, on the other hand, were never “domesticated” in this way. For the last 9,500 years, cats have chosen to keep company with humans. Whether this was for companionship, “the fringe benefits of human society” (e.g. food), or a combination thereof, the fact remains: cats choose to spend their lives with us.

If you’d like even sturdier proof than your cat’s heartfelt head-bonk, look to the feline brain. Cats have many similar or identical brain structures to humans, including those areas associated with emotions (such as serotonin and dopamine receptors). Brain areas associated with

love, happiness and affection are remarkably similar between humans and cats.

At Tabby’s Place, we’re true believers: a cat’s love is as deep and real as our own. Thank you for helping us to love each one to the utmost! – A.T.



**Some cats, like BooBoo, are bubbling over with obvious affection**



**Others, like precious Bacon, speak a quirkier ‘love language’...but their love is no less real**

## Million Dollar Question

# Why Won’t My Cats Get Along?

Nancy Meyer, Feline Behavioral Consultant, [Adopter](#), [Benefactor](#) & [Volunteer](#)

You thought you chose the perfect companion for your cat, but the two of them can’t stand each other. Why is this happening...and what can you do about it?

**1. You thought your cat wanted a companion.** But realistically, you’re the one who wanted the newbie. Cats are extremely territo-

rial. As much as you love the new adoptee, work needs to be done to assure your resident cat that this intruder will be a non-threatening addition to the household.

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**In a decade at Tabby’s Place, Jackie has never cared for other cats, but she lives peacefully with them in our lobby**



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**2. You chose a less-than-ideal match for your cat.** It might seem that a kitten would be the perfect playmate for an adult cat. Nothing could be further from the truth! The high energy level of a kitten can be



Max was initially not thrilled about having to share his world with other cats

a source of constant torment for your adult cat. (That doesn't mean things won't work out; more on that in a moment.)

**3. You were so excited, you rushed through the introduction.** A step-by-step introduction process is critical in getting your new cat to be a part of your cat "colony." Many undesirable behaviors can occur if the introduction is too hurried. Ideally, you should be reading your cats' body language to determine whether you should move to



But he's learned to tolerate – and even love – neighbors like Sammy

the next step. But don't despair: you can always "rewind" to a previous step to get your cats back on track. Click [here](#) for Tabby's Place's recommended introduction process.

**4. You already had an existing behavior problem in the house.** If your original cats aren't getting along, a newcomer will pick up on the tension, and things may escalate.

The longer a behavior issue has been going on, the more difficult it becomes to eradicate. But take heart: your veterinarian and specialists in feline behavior can help restore harmony to your household. If you feel that you have done everything you can to correct the problem, enlist the help of a professional.

**RECOMMENDED READING:**

- Tabby's Place, [Cat to Cat Introductions](#)
- Tabby's Place, 2nd Quarter 2014 Newsletter, [What You Need to Know About Cat Introductions](#) (scroll to page 5)
- International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants' [Cat Division](#), and [Cat Consultant Finder](#)

**Million Dollar Question** Is This An Emergency?

Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

Your cat is sick. Is this a "rush him to the emergency vet at 2AM" situation, or can you make an appointment in the next few days...and how do you tell the difference?



Bertie doesn't love seeing the vet any more than your cat – but he benefits from it nonetheless

Let's talk about definite emergencies first. **Immediately go to the vet if your cat is:**

1. Hit by a car or suffered any major trauma
2. Unable to walk
3. Seizing and not stopping (called *status epilepticus*)
4. Having difficulty breathing. If your cat is home and opening his mouth to breathe, that is always an emergency. Occasionally a normal cat will do this when severely stressed, but it is never normal in a cat at rest. Cats are notoriously good at hiding respiratory symptoms, so an adult cat showing any respiratory effort should be seen

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Quick medical attention kept Adelaide's recent upper respiratory infection from becoming severe

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immediately.

5. Trying to urinate but unable to do so
6. Suspected of having eaten something toxic

**Your cat should be seen by a vet within the next few days in the cases of:**

1. Limping
2. Diarrhea
3. Hair loss/scratching
4. Ear infection (although these can be quite painful, and therefore should be addressed promptly)
5. Fleas/ticks
6. Dental disease (unless the cat is unable to eat)
7. Vomiting (as long as the cat is still eating and acting normally)

**Still uncertain? Evaluate the following:**

1. Check your cat's gum color. Is it

pale or grey/blue? If so, your cat should be seen immediately, as this can indicate anemia. A cat's gums should be slightly paler than your own.

2. Is your kitty responsive to you as normal? Will he come if called, eat if given a treat, purr or rub as normal when petted? If "no" in combination with other symptoms, then he should be seen.
3. Is your cat able to walk normally? If not, he should see the vet immediately.
4. How severe are the symptoms (i.e. an animal vomiting once daily for a week but still eating is probably not an emergency, but should be seen within a few days)?

Call your veterinarian, or if she is closed, call the closest emergency clinic; they will help you determine if your cat needs to be seen immediately. (Click [here](#) to find your closest

emergency vet clinic.)

Anything you perceive as an emergency should be seen regardless of whether it is on this list. It is better to be examined and found healthy than to wait and have your cat's health deteriorate.



**It's always better to err on the side of taking symptoms seriously, especially for Special Needs cats like [Wilhelmina](#)**

### Million Dollar Question

## How Do I Make My Cat Happy?

It's a worry that's chased us all: is my cat truly happy? We can all commit to make 2016 a year of even greater joy. Let's resolve to give our cats the right kind of...

- **Fun:** Playtime builds your cat's bond with you; gets her heart rate up while keeping her weight healthy; and, most importantly, makes her outrageously happy. Try



**Human or feline, there's a great peace in being loved for who you are – as Wolfie knows full well**

different types of toys until you find her favorite; some cats prefer bird-like toys, while others like "insects" or "mice." While many cats love wands with dangling items, others are excited about having you toss small toys for them to chase. What matters most is that you're actively making the toy "alive."

- **Food:** We're all prone to teach our cats that food = love (exhibit A: the Weight Management Suite at Tabby's Place). But, while we shouldn't go bananas with treats, the right food can keep our cats happy and healthy. Recent years have witnessed an explosion of healthy and delicious new options. A high-protein, low-carbohydrate food may be a bit pricier per bag, but your cat will require less of it than a food laden with "fillers" – and her zest for life will be worth every penny.
- **Freshness:** Keeping your cat's



**Playtime is paramount to Pepita's happiness**

litter box pristine can have a big impact on her contentment. This means scooping it every day, and emptying and disinfecting it at least every two weeks.

- **Furmination:** Brushing isn't just

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for long-haired cats. Especially as they age, cats can use our help with grooming, and many of them relish "spa time" with their favorite person. What if your cat hates being brushed? Experiment with different types of brushes and combs. Some cats who loathe traditional brushes enjoy unconventional models, or even being groomed with rubber gloves.

- **Faithfulness:** Ultimately, it all comes down to love. Whatever you expected from your cat when you first adopted her, she's surely gone on to surprise you. Rather than wishing or forcing her to be something she isn't (say, a lap cat or a cat who likes to be carried), marvel at the unique treasure she is, and love her for all her quirks. She loves you just as you are. – A.T.



Abundant affection makes Piper happy enough to drool

## Forever Loved: Colleen

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

On Wednesday morning, 11/25/15, I was driving in for early rounds, when I got a text message from Sanctuary Associate Jane: "Come to the Medical Area immediately when you arrive." No cat was mentioned. This could only mean that a cat who was very special to me was in dire shape.

I arrived to find Colleen, on the exam table, receiving heat support and showing minimal signs of life. Jane was on the phone with Denise, our Senior Vet Tech, keeping Colleen stable until Denise arrived. What had happened? Colleen was fragile...but



Colleen

she had been "fragile" since her arrival in 2011.

Colleen came to us from a crowded shelter, where she was adored, but in jeopardy due to her medical/behavioral issues. Colleen had been striking herself repeatedly on the left side of her face. Dental examinations revealed no problem, but her continued self-traumatizing actions were damaging her eye.

Our medical team diagnosed Colleen with epilepsy, which was managed easily with drugs. But the facial pawing continued. Specialist visits finally showed that she had inflammation of the trigeminal nerve, a very painful condition.

We managed to get her symptoms under control, with some careful experimentation and fine tuning of medications. Colleen always seemed frail, but she thrived for nearly five years. She was a favorite of staff and volunteers and, thus, spent many happy hours snoozing in loving arms.



We still see Colleen out the corners of our eyes in the Tabby's Place lobby

For some reason, just seeing her walking around the Community Room and Lobby gave me great joy.

Jane had come in that Wednesday morning to find Colleen alive, but comatose. When Denise arrived, we tried desperately to stabilize her, but it was in vain. Colleen's little heart was failing. It was time to let our baby go.

She went very peacefully, surrounded by employees and love. She left a huge hole in our hearts. We will have to make do with our memories of that delicate girl and the happiness she brought to so many people.

## Where Are They Now? Cory & Opal

Lynnette Logan, Adopter & Donor

*Editor's Note: We've learned not to use the word "unadoptable" at Tabby's Place. Still, sometimes we can't help but assume a particular cat is a "lifer." Such was the case with ultra-shy Opal and anxious*

*Cory. Opal would permit only a few friends to touch her; Cory, no one at all. We cherished them as they were and continued to work with them, grateful we could be a lifelong haven for these two gentle souls.*

*But after 6+ years with us, Cory and Opal were adopted by the same spectacular family. And that was just the start of the miracle...*

Opal has become such a little love bug. She loves attention and being pet and will scold us if we stop petting her. She has become

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very social and enjoys exploring the house – no more hiding for her! Our little gem shines brighter with each passing day. What a joy she is!

I thought Opal would be shy around strangers and hide. I was wrong! About 15 minutes after



**Opal has overcome her shy streak**

guests arrived, Opal was greeting them, welcoming them to our home. She made quite an impression! I never thought that the extremely shy cat who hid in her little house during daylight hours would become such an ambassador.

Cory has changed quite a bit since his adoption, too; he has become much more sociable. He likes to hang out in our sunny living room in the morning with Opal and Buggy (our other cat), and he will often sit in the family room in the evening with John and I and the other cats. He will often allow us to pet him, especially if we are handing out treats.

He was very quiet when we first adopted him, but now Cory will meow at us when mealtime approaches. We had a guest come to



**Cory and Opal love their sunny new life together**

our home a couple of weeks ago, and Cory sat fairly close to her. Progress with Cory has been slow, but steady, and we love our little tuxedo boy.

Please thank everyone at Tabby's Place for keeping Opal and Cory safe and loved before we had the honor of adopting them!

## Happy Endings: LaFawnduh

Everyone loves a kitten. But in the lovefest for little ones, mama cats are often forgotten. After giving their all to raise their babies, brave moms see their kittens adopted... while they continue to wait.

Such was the case with LaFawnduh.

Mom to the "Napoleon Dynamite litter," this beautiful young mom found little luck with adopters. Although LaFawnduh delighted in human attention, sometimes that delight devolved into nips and scratches. Then there was her attitude towards other cats: "ugh!" LaFawnduh was so repulsed by other kitties that she spent virtually all her days in the solarium just to avoid them. If a newcomer unwittingly attempted to be her friend, he'd quickly learn – *ka-pow!* – that LaFawnduh was not in the market for feline friends.

She was, however, in the market for lasting love. The right home

would be four years in the making... and well worth the wait.

Our team introduced the adopter to room after room of Tabby's Place cats, but her heart couldn't forget a certain big-eyed tabby. LaFawnduh had made her choice, and the adopter was happily helpless to resist. As if to ensure that her new "mom" would accept her for all her quirks, LaFawnduh even bit the adopter while sitting in her lap.



**LaFawnduh was always a little wary about other cats at Tabby's Place**

"Well," laughed the adopter, "that's a cat for you."

At last, LaFawnduh would be somebody's baby – forever.

Today, LaFawnduh (now known as Cleo) is thriving in her forever home. And, yes; she is, in fact, the one and only cat. – A.T.

*You can help mama cats like LaFawnduh, and their kittens, by donating a Mom and Kittens Virtual Gift Basket at Tabby's Place. Thank you for your kindness!*



**But in her forever home, she can truly relax as queen of the castle**





# Tabby's Place®

## A CAT SANCTUARY



### 2015: A YEAR IN REVIEW

#### POPULATION

**109**

Total cats in residence\*

**66** Special needs cats

**26** Elderly cats  
Over 12 years

**18** Longtime residents  
Loving life at Tabby's Place for 5+ years

**16** FIV+ cats

**15** Cats in the lobby  
Welcoming visitors daily

**13** Kittens  
Under 12 months

**6** Incontinent cats  
We love them just the same

**5** Diabetic cats

**2** 3-Legged cats

\*All figures are as of 12/24/2015

#### FACILITY

Tabby's Place is

**7,100**

square feet and contains...

**5** Cat Suites  
Large open rooms where cats are housed.

**4** Solariums  
Rooms with mesh material in place of the exterior walls. This allows the cats to enjoy fresh air and sunshine.

**3** Adoption Rooms  
These rooms are like miniature living rooms where we house shy or senior cats, or cats who need a special diet.



#### ADOPTIONS



2015 was our best year yet for finding forever homes. Thanks to all our awesome adopters.

##### Adoptions

■ Since Founding 1352  
■ In 2015 165

#### VOLUNTEERS & STAFF

**150** Active Volunteers

**6** Sanctuary Associates  
Cleaning, medicating & loving our cats daily.

**2** Veterinary Professionals  
1 Veterinarian & 1 Senior Veterinary Technician.

**1** Sanctuary Operations Manager

**1** Founder & Executive Director

**1** Development Director

**1** Volunteer Coordinator

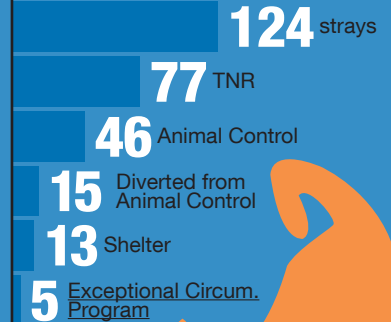
**1** Administrative Assistant

**1** Help Desk Attendant

#### CAT SOURCES

**280**

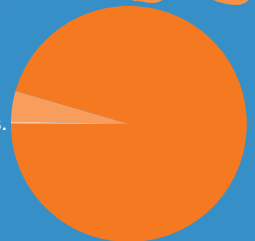
Cats joined the Tabby's Place family in 2015. Here's where they came from:



#### REVENUE

You make this labor of love possible. Thank you for your amazing generosity to our cats.

■ Individual \$1,138,000  
■ Foundations \$48,000  
■ Corporations \$4,000



#### 2015 ANNUAL EXPENSES

**\$1,105,000** Total Expenses

##### 2015 Expenses

■ Administrative \$248,000  
■ Medical \$419,000  
■ Operations \$438,000

##### 2015 Medical Costs

■ Emergency Vet & Specialists \$124,000  
■ In-House Vet \$112,000  
■ Meds & Supplies \$107,000  
■ Medical Testing \$37,000  
■ Food \$13,000  
■ Equipment \$4,000

Thanks to you, 2015 saw our cats cracking the \$1 million donation barrier for the first time, while crushing the previous best year by a whopping 21%. Income was \$1,190,000, while expenses were \$1,105,000, yielding a net profit of \$85,000.

Last year was a watershed year for Tabby's Place. I am more than gratified and looking forward to working with you to help more cats in the years to come.

For those of you keeping score, I want to correct an error in the financial numbers provided in the 1st quarter 2015 Newsletter. In reviewing the numbers for this year, we found that a 2014 expense had been placed in the wrong category. The correction is shown in the table below.

Year	2014, in Newsletter	2014, corrected
Operations	\$369,316	No change
Medical	\$427,784	\$397,784
Administrative	\$176,243	\$206,243

This did not affect our federal or state filings, as the mistake was made during preparation of the Newsletter.

