

## 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



### A Special Message From Tabby's Place Founder & Director, Jonathan Rosenberg:

Tabby's Place opened its doors five years ago, on October 5, 2003. What started as my dream in 1999 has led to five incredible years of saving cats – yet this is just the beginning of the story. I'm going to keep the celebration low key and just reflect briefly on some of our most vivid and poignant memories. In fact, we are doing 5x5x5: five categories, each with five items, from our first five years. I hope you enjoy them.



Mango<sup>1</sup>

## Five Years of New Beginnings

by Jonathan Rosenberg

**1. Furthest:** Mango<sup>1</sup> travelled all the way from a shelter in Arizona, where he was a staff favorite, despite two 'convictions' for inappropriate elimination. Happily, Mango was adopted and has mended his ways in his new home.



Hanna<sup>2</sup>



Tumbles<sup>3</sup>

**2. Most Amazing:** dear Hanna<sup>2</sup> was alone for over a week when her owner died. This sweet tabby was found by EMS workers. She ended up here, was eventually adopted, and is thriving in her new home.

**3. Most Cutest:** Tumbles<sup>3</sup>, the orange tabby kitten, was saved from a pack of attacking dogs. Tumbles had cerebellar hypoplasia, a non-fatal congenital disease that affects his ability to walk. Tumbles lived in our Lobby and kept us in stitches with his antics. He was adopted by a volunteer and is now a large, handsome boy.



Lady<sup>4</sup>

**4. Oldest:** Lady<sup>4</sup> was 20 years old when she came to Tabby's Place after her owner died. She lived in the Lobby<sup>5</sup> and was a classy lady until she finally left us a year later.

**5. First:** Thomas<sup>6</sup> was our first Tabby's Place resident five years ago. Thomas is a loveable, FIV+ orange tabby. Thomas was adopted, and returned, twice. We enjoy having him here, but are saddened that he does not yet have a forever home.



Thomas<sup>6</sup>

## 5 Years of Cat Stats

<b>Cats Saved:</b>	<b>625</b>
<b>Special Needs<sup>7</sup> Cats Saved:</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>Cats Adopted:</b>	<b>444</b>
<b>Special Needs Cats Adopted:</b>	<b>55</b>

\*October 5, 2003 through August 26, 2008

## What's Inside?

Special Needs Snapshot .....	2	Cherny's Garden.....	4
Five Years of Special Needs .....	2	Five Years of Forever Loved .....	4
A Most Special Gift .....	3	Tabby's Place Staff .....	4
Five Years of Miracles.....	3	Cats & Crisis: Emergency Planning ..	5
Vox Optio Veterinarius .....	3	Five Years of Amazing Adoptions..	6

[1] <http://www.petfinder.com/petnote/displaypet.cgi?petid=4941639>  
 [2] <http://www.petfinder.com/petnote/displaypet.cgi?petid=8045167>  
 [3] <http://www.petfinder.com/petnote/displaypet.cgi?petid=7108579>  
 [4] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=197](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=197)  
 [5] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/take-a-virtual-tour.html>  
 [6] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=13](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=13)  
 [7] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/what-is-a-special-needs-cat.html>

# Special Needs Snapshot: Anastasia

by Laura Collins, DVM

Anastasia<sup>1</sup>, a petite tabby who has been a Tabby's Place resident since 2004, is very personable and always looking for a lap. Anastasia has inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), a condition in which inflammatory cells invade the gastrointestinal tract. This causes a thickening of the bowels, leading to malabsorption of food, and often vomiting and diarrhea.

The only way to definitively diagnose IBD is to obtain biopsies of the stomach and intestines, which "Ana" had done in May, 2006. Sometimes, veterinarians will treat the disease without a definitive diagnosis. If the treatment works, then we're probably correct in our diagnosis of IBD. However, if the treatment doesn't work, there could be another disorder, even cancer.

Anastasia, like most felines with IBD, is a happy cat with an excellent quality of life as long as she stays on her diet and medication. Some cats with IBD are lucky enough to go into remission, and can stop medication, although they usually remain on a special diet.

But in many cases, a low allergen diet is not enough. Anastasia, for example, requires two medications to suppress the inflammation. Anastasia will probably not be able to discontinue her medication, but, for an adopter with the patience to administer her medications and maintain her diet, sweet little Ana would be a cherished companion for many years.



IBD doesn't take a drop of the sunshine out of Ana's days.

# Five Years of Special Needs

by Jonathan Rosenberg



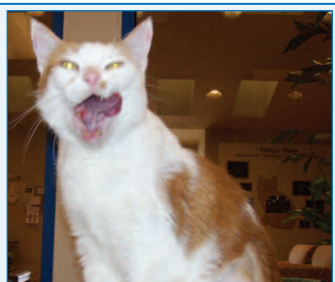
Bagheera<sup>2</sup>

1. Bagheera<sup>2</sup> became a paraplegic after being hit by a car in 2004, but quickly became a favorite at Tabby's Place. He needed a lot of care and attention, but had a wonderful personality and surprisingly high quality of life. Bagheera was adopted<sup>3</sup> in 2008.



Hillary<sup>4</sup>

2. Hillary<sup>4</sup> is a spry 19 year old torbie who lives in the Community Room. She was quite crazy when she came to us in 2004, but has mellowed into a sweet old gal. She has a very loud purr and is amazingly healthy.



Tony<sup>5</sup>

3. Tony<sup>5</sup> is a handsome, loveable orange and white boy who came to us with out-of-control diabetes. Our veterinarian eventually diagnosed Tony with acromegaly, a rare disease that causes excessive secretion of growth hormone. Thanks to expensive radiation treatments, Tony is still with us. There is no cure for the disease, so we treasure every day with him.



Yasmine<sup>6</sup>

4. Yasmine<sup>6</sup> is the frontrunner in rare diseases. She has nasopharyngeal stenosis, a condition in which breathing is very difficult. This cuddly gray girl had emergency surgery at the University of Pennsylvania veterinary hospital, where she was only the ninth case they had seen. The surgery went well, but Yasmine furthered her rare condition lead by suffering a rare reaction to a common sedative. She lost virtually all neurological function for several weeks. Fortunately, she regained a significant amount of function and now lives happily in our Lobby.



Mittens<sup>7</sup>

5. Our 500th rescue, Mittens<sup>7</sup>, was thrown out by his owner when Mittens was diagnosed with diabetes. Mittens was then attacked by an animal and suffered multiple wounds, which abscessed. Handsome tabby Mittens has recovered amazingly well and is now a friendly, outgoing resident of our Lounge<sup>8</sup>.

[1] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=171](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=171)  
 [2] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=225](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=225)  
 [3] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/adopt-a-cat.html>

[4] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=100](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=100)  
 [5] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=489](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=489)  
 [6] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=519](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=519)

[7] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=488](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=488)  
 [8] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/take-a-virtual-tour.html>



# A Most Special Gift by Angela Townsend

The holidays are about celebrating life, and you can celebrate your friend or relative, and a precious cat, all at once. About 1/3 of our cats have special needs<sup>1</sup>. Whether diabetic<sup>2</sup> or asthmatic<sup>3</sup>, elderly<sup>4</sup> or FIV+<sup>5</sup>, these wonderful cats would be at the top of the euthanasia list at most shelters, but at Tabby's Place, their lives are cherished. Click on over<sup>6</sup> and sign up to give your friend or relative a gift sponsorship of Crystal<sup>7</sup>, Patch<sup>8</sup>, or any of our Special Needs kitties. Your loved one receives monthly updates and photos of their cat, and you enjoy the satisfaction of helping care for a cat whose needs once put her in a hopeless situation.



What a sweet gift: Crystal<sup>7</sup> cuddling her way into your loved one's life.



Patch<sup>8</sup> would love to help you give the perfect gift ... a Gift Sponsorship of Patch himself!

# Five Years of Miracles

by Angela Townsend



Pepper<sup>1</sup>

1. Pepper<sup>9</sup> was diagnosed with not one, but two, forms of gastrointestinal cancer in late 2007, and was not expected to survive into 2008. But, this 16-year-old tortie is not only surviving, but thriving. Her secret? Pepper is Jonathan's office mate, and has flourished on the "best medicine": lots of love.

2. After being lost for five months, Al/Gavin was lucky enough to wander into the Rosenbergs' garden. Jonathan and Sharon named him Gavin and brought him to Tabby's Place, where Kelly Cahill had just begun to work. The last thing



Al / Gavin & Kelly

Kelly expected at her new job was a miraculous reunion with Al – "Gavin" - her beloved Special Needs cat who had slipped out of her home 5 months earlier.



Miracle

3. We can't imagine how a kitten could survive a trip through the sewage treatment at a wastewater plant, with rushing water traveling 7,000 gallons/minute. Somehow, little Miracle did just this, and made his way to Tabby's Place, and on to a loving home.

...continues on next page

# Vox Optio Veterinarius\*

By Denise Jeffries,  
Senior Veterinary Technician

In this new column, our Vet Tech answers your questions about cat care, health and behavior. Send your questions to Denise at [dj@tabbysplace.org](mailto:dj@tabbysplace.org). This column does not substitute for your veterinarian, who is your first resource for feline questions. *Always talk to your veterinarian before starting a new program with your cat.*

## Question: Ouch! Why does my cat bite me?

**Answer:** Most negative feline behavior is due to boredom or stems from natural behaviors. Cats are intelligent, inquisitive animals and require stimulation. Their mouths are often their first "go to tool" since their paws lack the dexterity and nimbleness of human hands.

### Recommendations:

1. Start your cat on a regular feeding schedule. This stimulates him, gives him something to look forward to, and helps your cat to view you as a provider.
2. Make sure he gets an adequate amount of daily play time, which alleviates excess energy and is mentally stimulating. Place fun and stimulating toys around the house.
3. Never use your hands as a toy.
4. Stay alert to your cat's body language, and stop petting him at the first warning signs (twitching tail, flattened ears) that a bite is coming.
5. Use a calm and comforting voice to praise and talk to your cat. He will love the attention and absorb your calm energy.
6. Always reward good behavior with whatever your cat likes best, such as affection from you, interactive play, or a food treat.

With love, patience, and consistency, your cat will eventually understand acceptable behavior so you may live happily together.



[1] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/what-is-a-special-needs-cat.html>  
 [2] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=355](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=355)  
 [3] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=414](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=414)  
 [4] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=254](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=254)  
 [5] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=363](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=363)

[6] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/specialneeds.php>  
 [7] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=555](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=555)  
 [8] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=477](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=477)  
 [9] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=407>  
 \* Latin for "Voice of the Veterinary Assistant"

Five Years of Miracles continues from page 3



Oreo<sup>1</sup>

4. Even Houdini couldn't out-elude Oreo<sup>1</sup>. Oreo's great escape nearly cost him his life; he was found after being trapped inside a wall for three weeks. Today Oreo is living large as the heftiest resident of our Restricted Feeding room.

5. Shortly after arrival, diabetic Sammie<sup>2</sup> was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and given



Sammie<sup>2</sup>

three months to live, "if he's lucky." We let him move into our Community Room<sup>3</sup>, knowing he'd enjoy the low feline 'population density'. Sammie proceeded to be a walking miracle, for three years, until he left us in January 2008.

## Cherny's Garden by Angela Townsend

We created Cherny's Garden to celebrate the life of a cat who left a deep impression in our souls: Cherny. A real "outdoorswoman," cuddle-bug Cherny loved strolling through the grass on a harness, and we know she would enjoy her garden. She would be proud to know that her legacy helps cat lovers celebrate the lives of dear ones they've lost. If you cherish the memories of each cat you've loved, consider having a brick engraved<sup>4</sup> on the Memorial Walkway leading to Cherny's Garden. Your kindness helps us to keep giving our all for every cat who needs us.



Consider having a brick engraved on the Memorial Walkway<sup>4</sup>.

## Five Years of Forever Loved



Cherny<sup>5</sup>

by Jonathan Rosenberg

1. Cherny<sup>5</sup>, my favorite Tabby's Place cat, had a spinal injury as a kitten that led to incontinence. Cherny was patient as we experimented with ways to manage her random "watering," even wearing a diaper without complaint. Cherny remained cheerful in the face of everything life threw her way, including oral cancer, a paralyzed tongue from failed surgery and ringworm. Cherny left us after a long battle with her cancer.

2. Dainty Lillian<sup>6</sup>, who had glaucoma, was our best lap cat and the favorite of many people. Lillian developed cancer in her ear flaps and went through a series of successful surgeries. Much to our dismay, she developed a different cancer in her right ear. Again she bravely underwent surgery. Unfortunately, Lil's cancer returned and took her from us in March of 2008.



Lillian<sup>6</sup>

...continues on next page

[1] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=406>  
 [2] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=176](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=176)  
 [3] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/take-a-virtual-tour.html>  
 [4] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/memorial-walkway.html>  
 [5] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=139](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=139)  
 [6] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=126](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=126)

[7] [jr@tabbysplace.org](mailto:jr@tabbysplace.org)  
 [8] [rice.danielle@gmail.com](mailto:rice.danielle@gmail.com)  
 [9] [dj@tabbysplace.org](mailto:dj@tabbysplace.org)  
 [10] [at@tabbysplace.org](mailto:at@tabbysplace.org)  
 [11] [sr@tabbysplace.org](mailto:sr@tabbysplace.org)

## Tabby's Place STAFF

Meet the people behind the cats at Tabby's Place. You can reach all of us crazy cats at 908-237-5300; dial the extensions below for particular individuals.



Jonathan Rosenberg<sup>7</sup> x226  
 Founder & Executive Director



Danielle Rice<sup>8</sup> x450  
 Sanctuary Operations Manager



Denise Jeffries<sup>9</sup> x236  
 Veterinary Technician



Angela Townsend<sup>10</sup> x235  
 Development Director



Sharon Rosenberg<sup>11</sup> x415  
 Volunteer Coordinator





# Tabby's Place STAFF



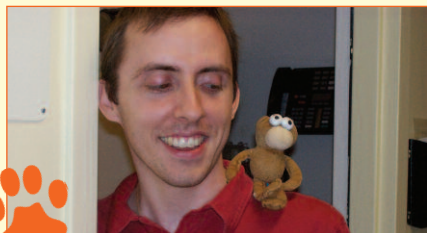
Ginny Carhart<sup>9</sup> x234  
Administrative Assistant



Laura Collins, DVM, Veterinarian



Kelly Cahill  
Associate & Development Assistant



Vance Chiara, Associate



Karina Jewitt<sup>10</sup>, Associate



Jennifer Wesh<sup>11</sup>  
Associate & Development Assistant



## Five Years of Forever Loved *continues from page 4*



Prissy<sup>1</sup>

Sammy was so people-friendly that we had to let him live in the Lobby, where he charmed everyone. Sammy was diagnosed with liver cancer and given a grim prognosis. Sammy didn't listen and just kept going and going and going. He had an incredibly strong will to live.



Corey<sup>4</sup>

3. **Prissy**<sup>1</sup>, a pretty orange tabby, was the perfect "Lobby<sup>2</sup> Cat." Prissy had diabetes and heart disease, but never let that stop from her greeting every visitor. Prissy "knew" that the only reason to visit Tabby's Place was to see her. We lost Prissy after a series of illnesses related to her diabetes. She was "full of herself" until the very end.

4. **Sammy**<sup>3</sup>, a gorgeous Maine Coon, showed up at the ripe old age of 18.

He finally succumbed to the cancer at age 20.

5. Our 100th cat was **Corey**<sup>4</sup>, who was blind, deaf and emaciated when he came to Tabby's Place. Nonetheless, Corey (who had gorgeous long orange fur) had an incredible attitude and always appreciated the smallest attention or kindness. He was an amazing cat and his loss was very hard on all of us.



Sammy<sup>3</sup>

# Cats & Crisis: Emergency Planning

by Angela Townsend

We all hope not to find ourselves – and our cherished cats – in the midst of a disaster, but love demands that we be prepared.

- **The Basics:** Always have 3-7 days of non-perishable food, and at least 7 days worth of bottled water, for each person and pet. Aluminum roasting pans make great disposable litter trays, which you can fill with shredded paper for litter.

- **Have A Destination:** Red Cross disaster shelters will not accept pets, so identify hotels, friends and relatives, or boarding facilities outside your immediate area that will accept them if you need to evacuate.

- **Designated Caregivers:** [Ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)<sup>5</sup> recommends a "buddy system" whereby you and a loved one can check on one another's pets, and evacuate them if necessary. Your "buddy" should have duplicates of other items on this list (supplies, medical records, etc.).

*...continues on next page*



Biscuit<sup>6</sup> and Cashew's<sup>7</sup> great escape may have been foiled here, but proper planning can prevent a more heartbreaking separation in the event of a disaster.



Tabby's Place has a plan in place to care for our precious cats, such as Precious<sup>8</sup>, in the event of a catastrophe.

[1] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=61](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=61)  
 [2] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/take-a-virtual-tour.html>  
 [3] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=124](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=124)  
 [4] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=109](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=109)  
 [5] <http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/pets.html>  
 [6] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=588>

[7] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=589>  
 [8] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=537>  
 [9] [gc@tabbysplace.org](mailto:gc@tabbysplace.org)  
 [10] [karinacfx@yahoo.com](mailto:karinacfx@yahoo.com)  
 [11] [jw@tabbysplace.org](mailto:jw@tabbysplace.org)



**Cats & Crisis: Emergency Planning continues from page 5**

- **Medical Matters:** Keep a photocopy of your cats' medical records in a waterproof container, along with a two-week supply of their medications.
- **Safety Sticker:** Post notification where it will be visible to rescue workers, stating the number and types of your pets, your name and phone number, and the name and number of your veterinarian. You can create your own sticker or obtain one for free<sup>1</sup> from the ASPCA.
- **Identification:** A collar with tags is great if it stays on, but for the most permanent ID with the best chance of reuniting you and your kitty, have your cat microchipped.
- **Each Other:** More than anything else, your comfort and compassion will give your cat security and hope when her world seems to be crashing down.

In addition, the American Red Cross provides free tips on pet first aid<sup>2</sup> and disaster preparedness<sup>3</sup>. The American Veterinary Medical Association<sup>4</sup> and the Cat Fanciers' Association<sup>5</sup> offer advice on getting through a disaster with your cats.



# Tabby's Place™ Newsletter

Number 6.4 | Fourth Quarter, 2008

**Executive Director** Jonathan Rosenberg

**Editor** Angela Townsend

**Designer** Adam Sullens

**Contributors** Laura Collins, DVM  
Denise Jeffries

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 or to view past newsletters, go to:  
<http://www.tabbysplace.org/>

© 2008 Tabby's Place



# Five Years of Amazing Adoptions

by Angela Townsend



Malcolm<sup>6</sup>

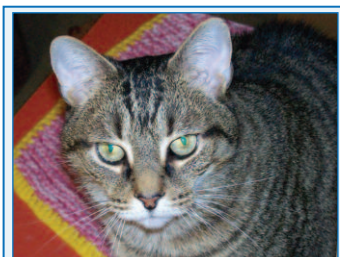
1. Deaf and diabetic, but never dull, sweet snow-white **Malcolm**<sup>6</sup> was a joy to be around, but his special needs usually got him scratched off would-be adopters' lists. That is, until he enchanted a loving family happy to give Malcolm his life-saving insulin in exchange for his charming company.

2. Only one litter of kittens has ever been born at Tabby's Place, and it didn't take long to realize that little



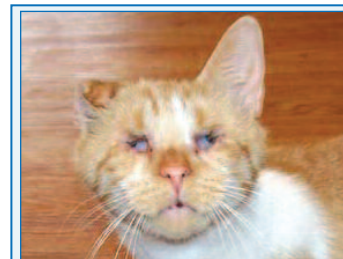
Halo and Twig<sup>7</sup>

**Halo and Twig**<sup>7</sup> were different from their siblings: Halo couldn't move around very well, and Twig could barely move at all. The two were diagnosed with severe cerebellar hypoplasia, which limited their mobility and ability to do "normal cat things" like using a litter pan. We expected to have the "twins" with us for their entire lives, and we were thrilled when an exceptionally patient family decided to take them home.



Tigger<sup>8</sup>

3. **Tigger**<sup>8</sup> stole many hearts with his cuddly ways and bottomless hunger for affection, but his history of inappropriate elimination kept him at Tabby's Place for a long time. Tigger's dream in life came true when a young couple decided to love him in spite of his checkered history.



Bellis<sup>9</sup>

4. Our **Bellis**<sup>9</sup> brought the biggest response to any newsletter article in a long time, and more than a few would-be adopters. Now our darling eyeless girl has a forever home of her own, complete with new feline friends, including another blind kitty.



Bagheera and his happy new mom. [Read more](#)<sup>11</sup> about Bagheera's amazing adoption online at [tabbysplace.org](http://tabbysplace.org).

5. No cat was more "Special Needs" than our **Bagheera**<sup>10</sup> (see page 2). Lest we had any lingering doubts that there are no "un-adoptable" cats, Bags' day came at last. A kind veterinarian was moved by his story and knew she could provide him the 'round-the-clock care he needs. We couldn't have designed a more perfect forever home for our boy. Now we know that absolutely anything can happen for any cat, however "hopeless," however needy.

**We'll keep doing our part to make amazing "anythings" happen for every cat in our care!**

[1] [http://www.aspc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pets\\_rescuesticker](http://www.aspc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pets_rescuesticker)  
 [2] <http://www.redcross.org/services/hss/tips/march/martip99.html>  
 [3] [http://www.redcross.org/general/0\\_1082\\_0\\_62\\_44.00.html](http://www.redcross.org/general/0_1082_0_62_44.00.html)  
 [4] <http://www.avma.org/disaster/default.asp>  
 [5] <http://www.cfainc.org/articles/disaster-planning-tips.html>  
 [6] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=268](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=268)

[7] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=270](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=270)  
 [8] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=354>  
 [9] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/newsletter/Newsletter-6.3.pdf>  
 [10] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=225](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=225)  
 [11] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/updates/update.php?i=1227&f=1>