



New Beginnings: Carrot

Angela Townsend, Development Director

How does a kitten end up at a “high-kill” shelter? Why would a creamsicle-colored sprite in the prime of life end up moments from euthanasia?

And when a cat is as charming

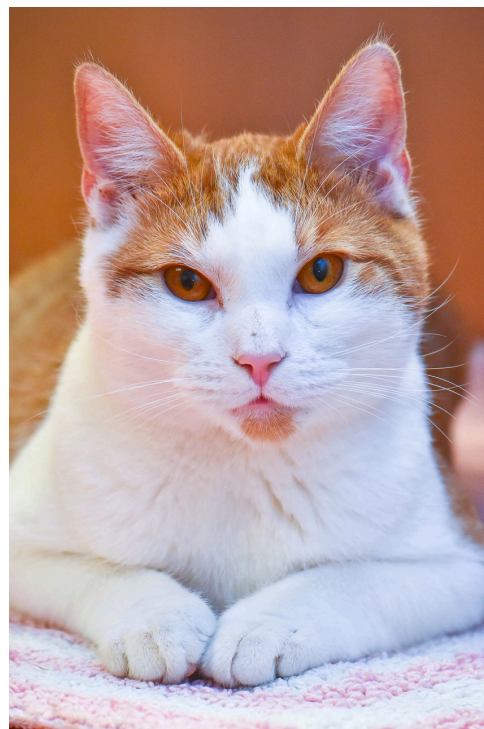


Baby Carrot loves life at Tabby's Place

as Carrot, what's a little incontinence between friends?

Tiny teenager Carrot has touched hearts all along his rough road. Kindhearted rescuers spirited him out of a crowded shelter. But Carrot again faced euthanasia, so an eleventh-hour call to Tabby's Place saved his life. Now that he's here, he's safe and loved forever.

Due to an injury, Carrot is “in-completely continent” and unable to fully empty his bladder on his own. He's also prone to be a bit leaky. Despite this, Carrot is one of the most gleeful cats Tabby's Place has met. Come meet or sponsor our little dynamo, and you're in for jumbo joy.

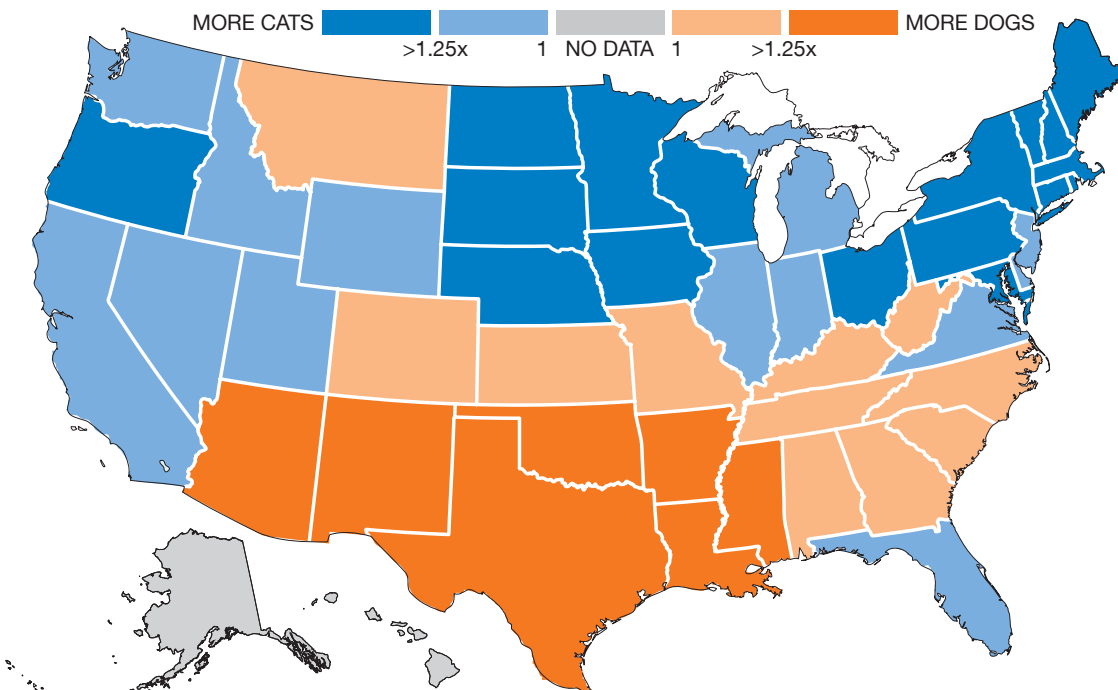


Carrot

Cat State, Dog State

Every election cycle, we hear talk of red states and blue states. But at Tabby's Place, we're proud to bring you the hard-hitting data you really care about: cat states and dog states.

The market research firm Euromonitor found that the Northeast and Midwest favor felines, while the South is dogs' domain¹. Check out the map below to see if you're in cat country. A word of advice to presidential hopefuls: adopt a rescue kitty or two before 2016 – Iowa and New Hampshire are both “cat states.” – A.T.



¹ No data provided for Alaska and Hawaii. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/07/28/where-cats-are-more-popular-than-dogs-in-the-u-s-and-all-over-the-world/>

Your New Cat is Terrified of You...Now What?

She was smitten with you at the shelter – so why is your new cat treating you like a monster now that she's home?

Don't panic: many a friendly feline has tumbled into fear when she first goes home. You can help your new family member realize she's safe:

- Confine your kitty to one room and give her the opportunity to "own" a manageable territory before she has to face the whole house. Place her food, water, litter box and cozy beds in that room.



Initially fearful, Piddy ultimately settled in nicely at Tabby's Place -- and was adopted.

- Keep the routine consistent. Start your cat on the food and litter she used in her previous home. You can gradually transition her to your preferred brands once she feels more secure.
- If your cat is hiding, spend time near her safe spot without forcing her out. If you offer a non-anxious presence by reading quietly nearby, or talking in a calm tone, she'll start to understand that she can trust you.
- Provide multiple retreats, such as high-sided beds and boxes. If your cat has several places where she feels safe, she'll be less likely to hunker down in one particularly frustrating location (like under a bed).
- Initiate interactive play. Even a nervous cat may be curious about a flash of feathers, and playtime releases trust-enhancing hormones in your cat.
- Provide an interesting environment, full of toys and places to jump and explore. Curiosity will overcome fear as she explores her new digs.



With love and patience, timid cats like Hocus can learn to trust

- Always let your cat come to you. Don't chase or pull her out, or insist upon picking her up, which will only slow down her progress.
- Add a Feliway diffuser to your cat's room. This product mimics feline pheromones and naturally reduces your kitty's stress level.
- Don't get impatient. It's not unusual for a cat to hide for several days or more before finding the courage to emerge. This is *not* an indication of your cat's long-term behavior – whatever you do, don't give up and return your kitty to the shelter after just a few days.

In her previous shelter, your kitty felt confident interacting with you because she already knew her territory. She'll know her new home soon, and your patience will be rewarded. – A.T.

Nurture Nervous Nellies

If you've loved a shy cat, you know – these anxious angels are worth every bit of patience. Once they learn to trust you, they love you forever.

Tabby's Place has shy sweeties who need your tenderness. If you can't adopt, but you want to help a cat learn to love, please sponsor one of our nervous nannies. You can care for Dina, Sneaky or Sonora – and it will mean the world to them to have you cheering them on. – A.T.



Sonora

RECOMMENDED READING:

- Humane Society of the United States, My New Cat Is Hiding and/or Not Eating
- Pam Johnson-Bennett, Helping a Fearful Cat
- Marilyn Krieger, Making a New Cat Feel at Home
- Dr. Shelby Neely, Ask The Cat Doctor: New cat is scared and hiding



The Truth About “Tortietude:” Does Coat Color Influence Behavior?

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

We sometimes pass judgment on cats based upon their coat color. But is there any proof of a correlation between coat and character?

A recent study at UC Berkeley examined how cats’ colors factor into adoption decisions. Cat owners rated various colors of cats on their perceived traits. Although participants stated that a cat’s personality was the most important factor, survey results indicated that color plays a part in which cats get homes.

Orange and bicolored cats were considered friendly, while black, white and tricolored cats were seen as antisocial. White cats were perceived as shy, lazy, and calm.



Lovely Indie would contest the claim that white cats are lazy



Tricolor Kima is timid...but not because of her coat color

Black cats were believed to have less extreme character traits across the board. This might explain why they are considered mysterious – and why they tend to get passed up for adoption.

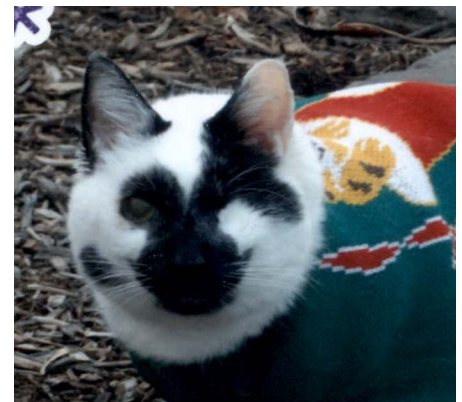
Although there is no scientific evidence that these perceived differences actually exist, adopters’ beliefs have serious repercussions for cats. Research supports the phenomena of “black cat syndrome”, whereby black cats are less likely to get adopted. Additionally, many cats end up in shelters because their behavior did not meet owners’ expectations.

I confess that coat pattern was a factor in one of my own adoptions.

This particular bicolor cat, Tabby’s Place alumnus Dean, was incredibly friendly, with one-of-a-kind markings. Would I have adopted a black cat with the same personality? I will never know.

We do know that his wonderful personality was not due to his coat color. On the other hand, it’s likely his striking looks attracted a high level of human attention, which, in turn, shaped his gregarious personality.

Remember: positive interactions between you and your cat, not color, will always be the key factor in the development of desirable personality traits.



Nancy adopted the uniquely handsome Dean for more than just his markings

The Linda Fund Is Coming!

You yearn to do more for needy cats – and now you can.

Coming in late spring, The Linda Fund Matching Challenge gives you the chance to have your donation doubled. Every penny you give will help provide life-saving care for cats like Casper, in their hour of greatest need.

Watch your email inbox – your love can go twice as far for the cats who need you most. – A.T.



Luminous Casper seeks your support in the Linda Fund

Tabby's Place: A Cat Sanctuary

SUMMER CAMP For Kids!

Daily Activities Include:

- Learning About The Cats
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- Guest Speakers
- ...And Much More!

Open to Kids Ages 8-11

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Feline Dental Disease, Part I: Periodontal Disease

Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

Over 70% of cats over the age of 4 have some degree of dental disease. Cats' dental diseases fall into three major categories. In this issue, we'll review the first: periodontal disease.

Periodontal disease also afflicts humans and dogs. It results from bacteria (plaque) attaching to the tooth, which mineralize within days and become calculus. As calculus ages, infection at the gumline (gingivitis) develops, and bone loss (periodontitis) occurs. As the disease



Even young cats like [Steve](#) can develop dental disease



[Mario's](#) dental disease was so severe he needed most of his teeth extracted -- but today he's feeling great

progresses, you may notice bad breath, loose teeth, bleeding gums, and painful chewing.

Since bone loss occurs below the gumline, we can't see it in a conscious cat. To properly examine a cat's mouth, we use general anesthesia. While the cat is "out," we scale any calculus and polish the teeth to slow down the formation of

plaque.

Further treatment depends on the severity of the disease:

Stage 1: Gingivitis
Treatment: *Cleaning and polishing the teeth*

Stage 2: Early Periodontitis
Treatment: *Deep scaling and sometimes the application of a local antimicrobial*

Stage 3: Established Periodontitis
Treatment: *If the owner is able to brush the cat's teeth daily, see Stage 2. If not, see stage 4.*

Stage 4: Advanced Periodontitis
Treatment: *Surgical extractions*

Regular brushing, dental diets, dental treats and some water additives can be helpful. (Check out the [Veterinary Oral Health Council](#), which has evaluated many products.) As always, your veterinarian is your best resource.

Pedicures for Patches: Trimming Your Cat's Claws

You like your couch, but you love your cat. But declawing is inhumane, so you're resigned to shredded sofas. Take heart: you can (likely) save your furniture and your cat's claws with a trim.

Veterinarians will gladly perform this painless procedure on your kitty for you. But, you can do so right at home:

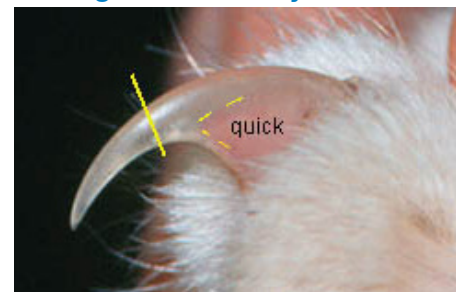
- Familiarize your cat with having her paws handled:
 - Choose a time when your cat is peaceful and sleepy, and a place where she's unlikely to be startled.
 - Sit your cat on your lap, facing away from you.
 - Take one of your cat's front paws between your fingers, and gently massage her paw. Gently squeeze a toe pad enough to extend her claw, hold for a

second, then release and give your cat a treat.

- Keep up this routine every day or two, until she seems comfortable with having her paws handled.
- Familiarize yourself with your kitty's claws:
 - As you press her toe pad to extend her claw, look for the pink part of the nail (the "quick"). When you're ready to clip her claws, you'll steer clear of this sensitive area, which contains nerves and blood vessels. (Visit links below for photos and videos.)
- When you're ready to trim:
 - Obtain a pair of cat nail clippers (available in most pet supply stores). With your cat's claw extended, as described above, note where the quick is located.



Gently press your cat's paw pad to expose her claw. Photo used by kind permission of the [WSU College of Veterinary Medicine](#).



Cut your cat's claw within 2mm of the quick, shown here in this photo from the [WSU College of Veterinary Medicine](#).

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Position the clippers halfway between the end of the quick and the pointed tip of the claw.

- o Clip off just the sharp end of the claw, release your cat's toe, and immediately reward her with a treat.

- o Let your cat set the pace. If she's still calm after having one nail trimmed, continue on to the next. If she's getting squirmy, let her go. Many cats do best with having just one or two claws trimmed a day. – A.T.

RECOMMENDED READING:

- ASPCA, [Trimming Your Cat's Claws](#)
- Dr. Eric Barchas, [A Vet's Perspective: How to Trim Your Cat's Claws, and Why You Should](#)
- Humane Society of the United States, [Trimming a Cat's Claws](#)
- Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, [Clipping a Cat's Claws](#)
- WebMD, [Cat Nail Clipping](#)

Forever Loved: Ginkgo

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

"Ginkgo is a genus of highly unusual non-flowering plants." (Wikipedia)

I can't comment about the non-flowering part, but our Ginkgo was highly unusual, in a good way. "Gink" came to us in 2010 and immediately charmed all with his Maine Coon-like good looks and wonderful personality.

But with all he had going for him, Ginkgo was lacking one thing: his colon. Ginkgo had a severe case of megacolon¹, which required that most of his colon be removed. The surgery was successful, and Ginkgo was able to live comfortably. Unfor-



Ginkgo flaunted his cauliflower ear with pride

tunately, a common side effect of this procedure is "leaky butt."

At Tabby's Place, "messy" is our middle

name, so Ginkgo fit right in. Ginkgo lived in our Lobby and happily smushed with any human in range.

He did not endear himself with the cats, however. We came in one morning to find that Ginkgo had been on the losing end of a fight, leaving him with a permanently folded ear. But, instead of running his good looks, it leant him a rakish² air.

In late 2013, we noticed that he was losing weight. Testing showed that Ginkgo had GI lymphoma, which we began treating with an oral



Ginkgo

chemotherapy drug that has yielded good results for us. The diagnosis saddened all of us, particularly volunteer Patty, who was especially close to Ginkgo.

Patty approached us with the idea of fostering Ginkgo. He would have the best of both worlds: a home of his own, backed with medical treatment at Tabby's Place. He thrived for another year and a half, including frequent visits for evaluations and treatment, which gave us a chance to see him.

Out of the blue, Patty called us in January 2015 to report that Ginkgo had taken a sudden turn for the worse, and she had rushed him to the emergency vet. We immediately contacted the vet to discuss his situation. But, before we could even consider options, Ginkgo's heart stopped.

I can still see his fluffy body cavorting across the Lobby and whizzing past my office. He may be gone from this plane, but I know he lives on in the hearts of many.

¹Megacolon: n. abnormal, chronic dilation of the colon.

²Rakish: "a man who is habituated to immoral conduct, particularly womanizing."

What is a "Special Needs cat?"

You've heard us use the term "Special Needs" at Tabby's Place – but what, exactly, are we talking about?

Tabby's Place uses the phrase to describe a cat who needs extra care to thrive. Our Special Needs crew includes cats with chronic medical conditions, like diabetic Meatball (who needs daily blood glucose monitoring

and insulin injections), as well as cats with behavioral challenges like shy Sonora (who requires extra socialization time and tenderness).

Special Needs cats may be higher-maintenance than the average feline, but we're honored to "maintain" them. You can give your love to a Special Needs cat by clicking here. – A.T.



Meatball hopes you'll open your heart to Special Needs cats like him

Where Are They Now? Casper

Editor's note: This column checks in on cats previously featured in "New Beginnings." Although most of our cats go on to be adopted, Casper's story is so extraordinary that we wanted to update you on his progress right here at Tabby's Place.



[Casper](#) celebrates his first anniversary at Tabby's Place

When [Casper](#) found his [new beginning](#) at Tabby's Place in 2014, veterinarians warned us to limit our hopes.

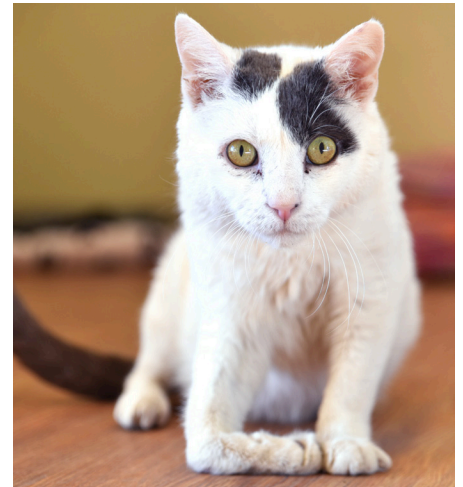
We are notoriously bad at doing that.

Yes, Casper had something sinister in his spine – located in such a precarious location that a biopsy would be too dangerous. Yes, Casper also had kidney disease. Yes, Casper went on to acquire diabetes, dental disease, and more.

But "yes" was Casper's unflinching answer to life – and our answer to Casper.

Through grace, grit and a raft of special treatments, the once-paralyzed cat learned to walk in his own halting bounce. Through the direst warnings, Casper just kept living, and loving, and mooching every crumb of wet food in his path.

Over a year after those grim warnings, Casper is thriving. The Tabby's Place lobby is his empire,



[A year after his predicted 'expiration date,' Casper is walking, playing and living life to the utmost in the Tabby's Place lobby](#)

and each person he meets soon surrenders to his greedy, gleeful love.

You've helped to make this improbable joy possible for Casper – thank you for believing in him with us, and for loving him so generously!

Happy Endings: Brielle

Every cat is a treasure. But some cats are so darling, so delightful, so downright dazzling that we know they'll be adopted in a flash.

And then...they aren't.

When this happens, there's only one explanation: the highly eligible



[Brielle](#) on her first day in her forever home

cat must be waiting for someone very special. It seems that's exactly what's happened for [Brielle](#).

With Dachshund-like legs and a tail like a squash racquet, Brielle was a study in cuteness. Her abbreviated limbs only made her more irresistible.

Not that she needed any help in that department. Brielle's sweetness was matched only by her spark. Snuggling up a storm with humans or refusing to take other cats' baloney, Brielle was a force of fun in the Tabby's Place Community Room... for over a year.

Our staff had just shared yet another chorus of laments – "Why hasn't anyone fallen for Brielle?" – when our little love's ship came in. Brielle's new family was everything we could have dreamed of. Three generations, including a veteran Tab-



[Brielle](#)

by's Place volunteer, would cherish Brielle forever. Best of all, the family matriarch would be home to cuddle Brielle 'round-the-clock – and Brielle would be the one and only cat to consume those cuddles.

We couldn't be more blissed-out for little Brielle, and we're grateful for the reminder that true love is worth the wait. – A.T.

Hungry for more cat tales? Visit the [Tabby's Place blog!](#)

