



New Beginnings: D'Artagnan



Angela Townsend,
Development
Director

It's a long way from 17th-century Paris to a lonely NJ roadside – but a contemporary kitten has courage in common with a Three Musketeers swashbuckler.

The six-week-old smidgen was found injured and immobile, and a veterinarian recommended euthanasia. Instead, a happy set of circumstances brought the kitten to Tabby's Place.

The paralyzed kitten was named D'Artagnan (for the Alexandre Dumas character) to inspire a courageous recovery. However, little "D'Art" needed no assistance in the daring department. Even when he could move only one leg, D'Art used it to play and to reach for his human friends. Despite his injuries, D'Artagnan had a joie de vivre bigger than a baguette box.



Even during his recovery, D'Artagnan was a playful, happy baby.

Today, D'Art fearlessly launches through the Tabby's Place lobby, hurtling after toys, humans, and especially the love of his life: fellow Special Needs kitten Dot.

Paralyzed? Pshaw. D'Artagnan is a modern-day hero – and his greatest adventures are yet to come.

How Much Is That Kitty In The Window?

Adoption fee for one Tabby's Place cat: \$135

Adoration of one Tabby's Place cat: Priceless

You can't put a price on feline love. But it's fair to ask: why do you need to bring more than milk money if you want to adopt a Tabby's Place cat?

Beyond her priceless companionship, your new furry family member comes "equipped" with all the essentials and more. In fact, you are actually saving money when you save a feline life for \$135:

Deworming	\$14.00
Spay	\$331.00
or Neuter.....	\$226.00
Flea & Parasite Treatment	\$45.75
Microchip with Lifetime Registration	\$84.99
FIV/FeLV Test	\$62.00
Rabies Vaccine	\$30.00
FVRCP Vaccine Series	\$50.00
Fecal Exams.....	\$64.00
Physical Exam	\$58.00

TOTAL

Male Cat	\$635+
Female Cat	\$740+



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Why Do Cats... Hate Travel?

Angela Townsend

Take a cat out of his comfort zone, and you'll soon *both* be uncomfortable. Cats disdain being "out of their element."

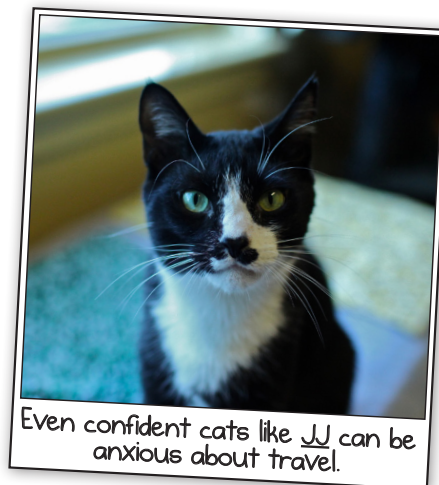
But why is travel or moving so traumatizing for a creature that's generally so confident?

- Cats are extremely territorial, and your home is your cat's turf. Kitties understand the world as divided into territories, each owned by a cat who may not appreciate intruders. Drop your cat into a new environment – the car, the vet's office, your new apartment – and she won't be sure whose turf she's trampling. When she hides, your cat is preemptively protecting herself from the unknown "owner" of this unfamiliar territory.
- Unlike dogs, who hunt in packs throughout a large territory (and who often enjoy travel), cats are solitary hunters who each command and understand a small, well-defined turf. For your cat, the "adventure" of leaving her known world is not fun or exciting – it's seen as dangerous.

- Whoever first said "knowledge is power" was thinking like a cat. Your kitty takes great comfort in knowing every inch of her environment. If it's known, it's home.
- "Cause and effect" is a system your cat understands. Most cats have not been delighted by what they find after being put in a car, carrier or strange new room – and those unpleasant experiences linger in their memories. But, positive reinforcement can help. If your cat learns that travel can lead to terrific things, he will be less likely to fight it tooth and nail.
- We well-meaning humans may unintentionally "tell" our cats that new situations are scary. What tone of voice do you use when comforting your kitten on the way to the vet? If we respond in a pitiful tone (as we may be inclined), we're reinforcing that the car ride or new situation is, indeed, a tragedy. Talking to our cats in our usual voice can reassure them that this is a safe experience.



With positive reinforcement, Colleen has learned to accept and even enjoy her weekly in-house 'travel' to see a veterinary acupuncturist.



Even confident cats like JJ can be anxious about travel.

Recommended Reading:

- [The Cat's View of Territory](#), Cats International
- [Moving the Cats](#), Pamela Merritt
- [Cat Car Travel](#), Amy Shojai
- [Feline Friday: Why Cats Hate Vets & What To Do](#), Amy Shojai

Forgotten Felines

Did you know that several cats have lived at Tabby's Place for six, seven or even eight years?

Now you can nurture these old-timers. Cats like Mango, Cookie and Maggie are charming characters who have been overlooked for too long – and they'd love your help in living well at Tabby's Place.

Your monthly sponsorship will help to provide for a veteran feline's needs – and reassure her that she's not forgotten after all. We'll send you monthly updates and photos on your special kitty, and you'll give her a life of love at Tabby's Place. You can also give a gift sponsorship. Click here to let one of our Forgotten Felines steal your heart.



After six-plus years at Tabby's Place, Maggie is one of our longest time veterans.

Monitoring Your Cat's Health: What To Look For At Home

Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

Our cats are more than our friends; they are our charges. Since they cannot talk, it can be hard to know when they're ill. But below are some things to watch for at home.

Change in energy level: If your cat is sleepier and less playful than normal, and doesn't do his typical behaviors (like greeting you at the door), this may be a sign that he isn't feeling well. On the other hand, some diseases, most notably hyperthyroidism, can cause a **marked increase in energy**. Common symptoms are howling or pacing at night.

Change in appetite: This is easiest to monitor if your cat is fed at specific times. If you leave food

out all day, your cat may miss a few meals before you notice. Surprisingly, some diseases, most commonly hyperthyroidism and diabetes, can cause a **significant increase in appetite**.

Weight loss: Gradual weight loss can be difficult to appreciate at home, so it is a good idea to have an accurate scale to monitor weight.

Change in grooming habits can be a sign of systemic disease. Arthritis, dental disease and myriad other conditions may cause a cat to stop grooming as well as usual. On the other hand, skin allergies may make your cat overgroom her coat or even pull out her hair.

Frequent or chronic vomiting or diarrhea: I don't worry about vomiting, as long as it is occasional and not associated with loss of weight or appetite. If these symptoms occur together, however, consult with your vet.

Drinking or urinating excessively can be a symptom of diabetes, kidney problems, or hyperthyroidism. If you notice that you have to refill your cat's water bowl more frequently, his litter box is soaked, or his clumps of litter are larger than usual, a vet visit is in order.

Straining to urinate or defecate, crying when eliminating, or eliminating outside the litter box can be symptoms of constipation, diarrhea, or urinary tract problems. **Straining to urinate without producing urine can be an indication of a cat with a urinary blockage, a life-threatening situation that**



requires immediate veterinary attention.

Crying while eating, difficulty chewing, dropping food, hypersalivation, and bad breath can be symptoms of oral pain. Dental disease is very common in cats and can be quite painful.

Ultimately, you are the person who knows your cat best. "Normal" behaviors vary from one cat to the next. Some cats are very energetic, or never miss a meal, while others are finicky, or more laid-back. Any change in your cat's normal behaviors may be a harbinger of problems.

If you have concerns about your cat's health, a visit to your veterinarian may help to lead to an early diagnosis of a problem, or may alleviate your concern when the doctor pronounces your cat in the best of health.



Faithful monitoring can be life-saving for a Special Needs cat like Mona.



Kittens like Regina benefit from loving watchfulness to catch any hiccups on the road to a healthy adulthood.

Recommended Reading:

- [Know When to Call Your Veterinarian for your Cat](#), About Cats
- [Know the Signs Your Cat May Be Sick](#), CATalyst Council
- [Nine Signs You Need to Take Your Cat to the Vet](#), Catster
- [The Subtle Signs of A Sick Cat](#), Petfinder



Forever Loved: Elmo

Jonathan Rosenberg,
 Founder & Executive
 Director

"Limited patience." That was the note next to Temperament on Elmo's intake record, dated May 22, 2005. I would have called the regal silver tabby "grumpy," but I can't argue with the assessment.

Elmo was a cat who grabbed everyone's attention. He was a big, handsome boy who appeared approachable. Unfortunately, attention wasn't all he grabbed. He often ended up giving admirers a "li'l love nip." Ok, it was a bite.

I loved Elmo, but knew that his chances of adoption were slim. And, I always felt sorry for him. There was something in his demeanor that pulled at my heart.

But, after just one year with us, an adopter fell in love with him and decided she was okay with the biting. We were elated for Elmo and followed his progress as he acclimated into the home and moved out of state with the family.

Alas, in 2011, Elmo was returned. The reasons were unclear. But, it didn't matter: once a Tabby's Place cat, always a Tabby's Place cat. We were grateful to the adopter for delivering him back to us from a thousand miles away.

Elmo didn't seem himself when he returned. Thinking he might be depressed, we moved him into the Lobby. He perked up, but again declined rapidly. We knew he had kidney disease, but suspected something else was at work.

Further diagnostics revealed GI lymphoma. We started him on chemotherapy, and Elmo seemed happy for many months. He had mellowed over the years. He stopped biting (mostly), and he enjoyed lap time and eating. I was happy for him.

When his time came, we held him and helped him pass on. I miss him. I hope he was happy.



Elmo loved his golden years in the Tabby's Place lobby.



Elmo



Where Are They Now? Francis, Brando & Rusty

by Brent Haynes,
 Adopter & Ike Sponsor

It is hard to believe that it's been 4 years since we adopted Francis, our first Tabby's Place cat. We looked at quite a few cats, but Francis lured us in with his love of tummy rubs. He will always be mercurial, running from people one minute, then seeking out people later in the day. After four years he is becoming braver, coming to be petted when he is in the mood.

We came back to Tabby's Place the next year and picked out Brando, the tailless tabby who was always seen snuggling with Rusty. Choosing Brando was a no-brainer: he was cute and affectionate. We were surprised that no one had snapped him up. He is still the same sweet boy who loves to bump heads with people. We did discover that he is a champion mouser, though, and that he seems to feel the need to be "tough" around other cats. He is a lot more loving when no one else is watching.

The only down side to adopting Brando was that his best buddy, Rusty, wanted nothing to do with us. He hissed and batted when we tried to approach him, and it did not seem like a good idea to try to adopt him as well.



Rusty and Brando loving life in their forever home.



The boys chill out together.



Francis loves his family.

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Still, he stayed in our minds. We visit Tabby's Place fairly often to see the cats, and we could see that the volunteers were getting Rusty to come out of his shell. Finally, the time just seemed right to give him a try. He certainly didn't want to come home with us, and we figured that he would be a long-term project. Brando and Rusty picked up where they left off, though, and, surprisingly, within a week he was letting us pet him a little (maybe Brando told him we were OK).

Since then, Rusty has become something of a glutton for petting. If you approach him incorrectly he will run, but if you let him come to you he will take all the pets you can give him. It makes us happy just to see him happy.

Anyway, the three boys, plus Sly the incumbent cat and their nemesis, Katy the dog, make for a happy furry home. We'll have to see what present or future Tabby's Place resident will make a home with us next.

Editor's Note: Brent has just added long-time Tabby's Place resident Tanya to his happy family. Congratulations!

Happy Endings: Gary

Heidi Hawryluk and Ryan Post, Adopters

We came to Tabby's Place to adopt a new cat, and started our exploration with some younger kitties. But then we came upon a grey cat sleeping under a cat house. We asked, "who is this kitty?" It was Gary, who had come to Tabby's Place at the ripe old age of 12. The only adopter he'd ever known had passed away, leaving Gary homeless...and slated to be euthanized at a public shelter. Instead, he'd come to Tabby's Place, but his age caused most adopters to pass him over.



Gary at Tabby's Place.

Once we heard Gary's story, we were sold. The big selling points for us were his older age - and his sweetness.

Gary may be a senior, but he plays like a kitten. As an older cat, Gary is a gentleman in our house, respectful of

furniture and keeping out of trouble. (This is one of the benefits of adopting an older cat.)

In our hearts, we both feel very strongly about giving older animals a home. We feel it's better to save an animal that most likely will be overlooked due to advanced age.

In our home, Gary loves sleeping in front of the windows, chasing string, and getting as much attention as he can. We enjoy coming home from work and having him and our dog greet us together. He is truly a loving cat, even to our dog.

Gary's been comfortable since the day we adopted him, and he has seemed grateful to be in a home again. He quickly settled into his new family, and he knows this is his forever home.



Gary cuddles up in his forever home.



Gary helps his new family on the computer.

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<http://www.tabbysplace.org/>





at Tabby's Place®

We'd like to express a special thanks to the vendors and sponsors whose kindness made Catoberfest so delightful - and whose generosity is helping to save our cats' lives.

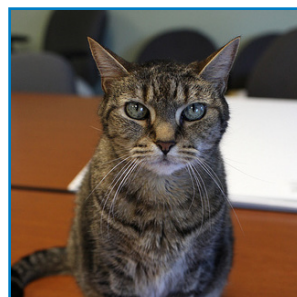
Dear Tabby's Place Family,
We thought Catoberfest 2011 was amazing...but you made October 6, 2012 a day our cats will never forget.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for donating a spectacular \$43,000 to nurture our cats. And thank you, every bit as much, for making Catoberfest a true feast of joy.

We (feline and human alike) are blessed to have you in our lives. Thank you for being your amazing selves!

With love and gratitude,
Tabby's Place Staff,
Volunteers & Cats

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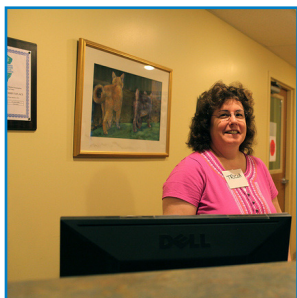
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