



## New Beginnings: Sebastian

Angela Hartley, Development Director

The sight of Sebastian could bring you to tears.

Little more than a striped skeleton, the young stray was



Sebastian when he first arrived at Tabby's Place

somehow surviving with a gaping hole, crawling with maggots, in his cheek. A pair of green eyes was buried in his bloody face, but you'd never know it from the infection that had them glued shut. If ever a cat was in a hopeless situation, it was Sebastian.

But hopeless situations are no match for feisty love. Thanks to generous friends like you, Tabby's Place was able to accept the critically injured, FIV+ cat right away, treating his ghastly wounds and nurturing him with food, fluids and intensive care.

Even while our vet team was cleaning Sebastian's sores, the young tabby purred with pleasure. The only thing stronger than



Sebastian

Sebastian's frenzy for food is his boundless hunger to be loved.

It's only thanks to people like you that Tabby's Place can rescue cats like Sebastian. His name means "revered" – and we revere you for your generous love! - A.H.

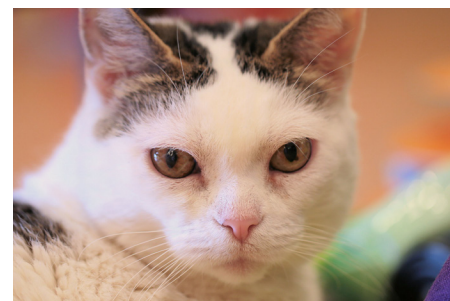
## Tabby Tenure: How Long Do Cats Stay At Tabby's Place?

Every cat who comes to Tabby's Place receives a promise: *you'll always get everything you need, regardless of cost, for as long as you need us.*

While some of our residents are adopted within days of arrival, others live out their lives here at the sanctuary, snuggled in the love of a "forever family" of staff and volunteers.

Since Tabby's Place is unusual in that we provide a sanctuary for many harder-to-adopt cats, we thought we'd take a look at the average length of stay for our 2016 alumnae/i. Here's the breakdown, in terms of number of days at Tabby's Place, for the 164 cats adopted in 2016:

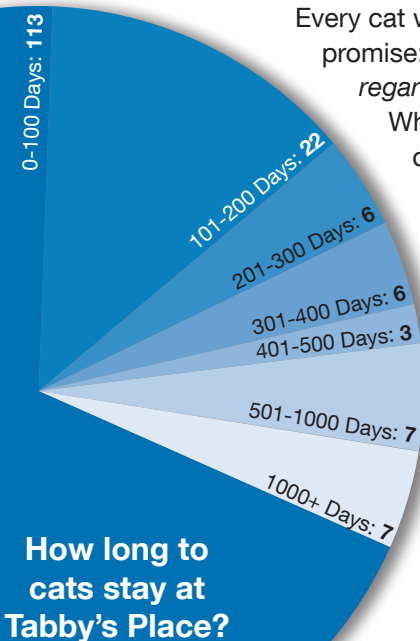
Average Length of Stay: **171 Days**  
Average For Adults: **349 Days**  
Average For Kittens: **61 Days**



At over 4,100 days, Jackie holds the record for longest stay at Tabby's Place



Tinkerbelle spent 1,883 days at Tabby's Place before finding her forever home



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# Linda Fund Luminaries: Who You've Helped This Year

Your donations to last year's Linda Fund Matching Challenge provided life-saving emergency and specialty care for the neediest Tabby's Place cats. Meet a few of the feline faces you've helped to save this year:

- One of the snuggliest cats in Tabby's Place history, Sam was diagnosed with aggressive nasal cancer. The only possible treatment was costly radiation therapy. Thanks to the Linda Fund, Sam got his shot at survival, and he's back to riding shoulders and rubbing his face into every possible head of human hair in our Lounge.
- Grace was scarcely six weeks old when she ended up in the business end of a garbage truck. She suffered a severe degloving injury and open fracture. Life could have ended in agony before it truly began. The Linda Fund provided life-saving leg amputation for the courageous kitten, who's growing up healthy and loved in her forever home.
- Creamsicle-colored and as meek as a lamb, Zach suffered for years with chronic diarrhea. To make



Sam



Zach

matters worse, the gentle cat also developed heart disease. The Linda Fund made it possible to treat all of Zach's conditions, giving him a second chance at health and happiness with his best buddies in Suite A.

- Sweet-natured tough guy Wolfie suffered a colossal crisis...of constipation. It may sound funny, but the FIV+ boy's condition was so severe, he developed deadly *hepatic lipidosis* – twice. Multiple nights of expensive, intensive care saved his life. Thanks to the Linda Fund, Wolfie is relaxed and regular once again.
- Tuxedo Trey was likely dragged by a vehicle before arriving at our door. He'd suffered an excruciating degloving injury to his front leg. Amputation would be the easiest strategy, but thanks to the Linda Fund, Trey was able to receive meticulous months of bandage changes, followed by



Tyke

cutting-edge skin grafts, saving both his life and his leg.

- The Linda Fund legacy continues in tiny Tyke. The only surviving kitten in his litter, Tyke arrived at Tabby's Place tangled in mystery. Unable to move his legs, the wee wonder is still bursting with happiness at the mere sight of a toy or the feel of warm arms. Thanks to the Linda Fund, Tyke had the opportunity to visit a world-class neurologist. – A.H.

## The Linda Fund Means Love!

The 2017 Linda Fund Matching Challenge is in full swing. Now through September 15th, your donation to the Linda Fund will be matched. Many more cats like Tyke and Sam will need us over the next year. Please give today, and save a life we have yet to meet!

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# Feeding Your Aging Cat

You're torn. Your senior cat has health issues that make nutrition more important than ever. But at the same time, you don't want to deprive your old friend of the pleasures of good food during her golden years. How can you treat your sweet senior while also being responsible about her health?

- **Keep those calories up.**

Age-related diseases like hyperthyroidism are associated with weight loss, and senior cats may become more finicky as their sense of smell dims. But cats



Good nutrition helps senior cats like Sugar to thrive

actually require more calories after around age 11. In one study, half of all cats over age 15 were found to be underweight. If your cat won't eat the "ideal" food, it's better to compromise and give her something she'll consume reliably. At Tabby's Place, we offer our elderly Lobby cats a buffet of high-quality food plus "junk food" we know they'll eat.

- **Work the water.** Kidney function often deteriorates in elderly cats, so it's crucial that they have easy access to clean water. In addition to keeping the water bowl full and fresh, mix water with your cat's canned food to increase her intake.
- Veterinarians and scientists continue to debate whether or not senior cats need a lower quantity of protein than youngsters. But, this much is clear: you can't go wrong to **seek the highest possible quality of protein** for your oldster. A highly digestible protein source, like chicken or salmon, should be the first



Bucca, like many senior cats, can be a bit finicky, which is cause for compromise

ingredient in her cat food.

- **Get creative.** If your cat's appetite wobbles, try heating her food in the microwave to a warm temperature (and stir it carefully). This will heighten the aroma for her enjoyment. You can also add small amounts of meat-only baby food (without garlic or onion), tuna juice or clam juice to entice her.
- **Some cats are social snackers,** and will eat best if you keep them company. Talk softly and pet your cat while she eats, if it encourages her.

As always, **consult your veterinarian** on your uniquely wonderful cat's unique needs. - A.H.

## Feline Futures: Plan For Your Cat Now

You don't like to think about it, but the odds are good that you'll outlive your cat. It's even more painful to consider the alternative. What would happen to your feline family member if you were no longer



The Guardian Angel Program brought Impy to Tabby's Place

here to care for her? Would your loved ones be able to take her in? What if their own circumstances change?

If the unthinkable should happen, your cats can come to Tabby's Place. The Guardian Angel Program exists for cat moms and dads who can't live with the idea of their kitties suddenly becoming homeless. You can plan ahead so that, if your cats outlive you, they can come to Tabby's Place, right when they need us, in exchange for a generous donation that will help many other cats.

Please click here to learn more about planning for your kitties, or

feel free to contact Development Director Angela Hartley at [ah@tabbysplace.org](mailto:ah@tabbysplace.org) or 908-237-5300 ext 235.



Melanie is loving life at Tabby's Place because her 'dad' planned for her to come here through the Guardian Angel Program

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# Forever Loved: Henrietta

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

In 2014, Tabby's Place rescued 14 cats from a hoarding situation in a filthy 2-bedroom apartment. None of this crew looked robust, but Henrietta seemed particularly fragile.

Hen was elderly and skinny, with greasy long black fur and one "funky"-looking eye. To top it off, she didn't seem to like us much. But, of course, we loved her, since we're Tabby's Place.

Blood work and an ultrasound showed probable cancer in Hen's liver. We didn't think she



Henrietta

would appreciate (or tolerate) much medical intervention. So we treated her conservatively, with minimal medication, and hoped for the best.

Henrietta turned out to be a survivor. She exceeded our expectations and thrived, eating like a champ and maintaining a "they'll never take me alive" attitude to being medicated<sup>1</sup>.

Along the way, Henrietta's fur began to turn silver. The color started at her spine and worked its way down slowly. We have no explanation for this phenomenon, but we like to think of it as Hen aging gracefully.

After three years, Hen seemed to be slowing down. Testing showed a



Henrietta's silvery beauty was unlike anything we've ever seen at Tabby's Place

large tumor in her liver. It was only a matter of time now. Even as she grew progressively thinner, she maintained her feisty personality. We all enjoyed the familiar sight of Henrietta sitting just inside the Community Room, anticipating the slightest sound as the imminent arrival of a meal. Her disappointment at a person arriving without food was palpable.

It seemed like Hen would live forever. But, we all know better. We sound goodbye to dear Henrietta on July 29th.

She was so tiny. It's amazing that so much personality could be packed into such a small space.

This world is much poorer without her.

<sup>1</sup>We did manage to medicate her properly, but it was not easy.

# Happy Endings: Bear

If a hug were turned into feline form, it would surely be Bear. With a bottomless hunger to give and receive love – and a rock-the-walls meow to talk about it – our striped senior was the picture of sweetness.

But life hadn't been all bear hugs for the 15-year-old cat. At some point, Bear contracted FIV. Then, when her adoring owner moved into an assisted



Bear worked hard supervising Jonathan

living facility, Bear was suddenly homeless...and likely to be deemed "unadoptable" at most shelters.

Tabby's Place, on the other hand, couldn't wait to embrace Bear.

Bear received one of her happiest hugs when she moved into prime Tabby's Place real estate: Founder and Executive Director Jonathan's office. Although we'd never consider any cat unadoptable, we had a feeling Bear might live out her golden years at Jon's side.

But there was another hug coming.

One day, a woman visited Tabby's Place specifically seeking a Special Needs cat. The adopter had survived serious adversities in her own life, and she felt called to cherish a cat who had done the same. Once she met Bear, it was all over but the snuggling.

Snuggling is a serious art form



Beautiful Bear

in Bear's new home. Bear and her new mom take blissful naps together, delighting in each other's cuddly company day and night.

Thank you for making it possible for Tabby's Place to embrace cats like Bear, and to give them the love they deserve! – A.H.

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# Tabby's Place<sup>®</sup>

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