



## New Beginnings: Georgia Flowers

Angela Townsend, Development Director

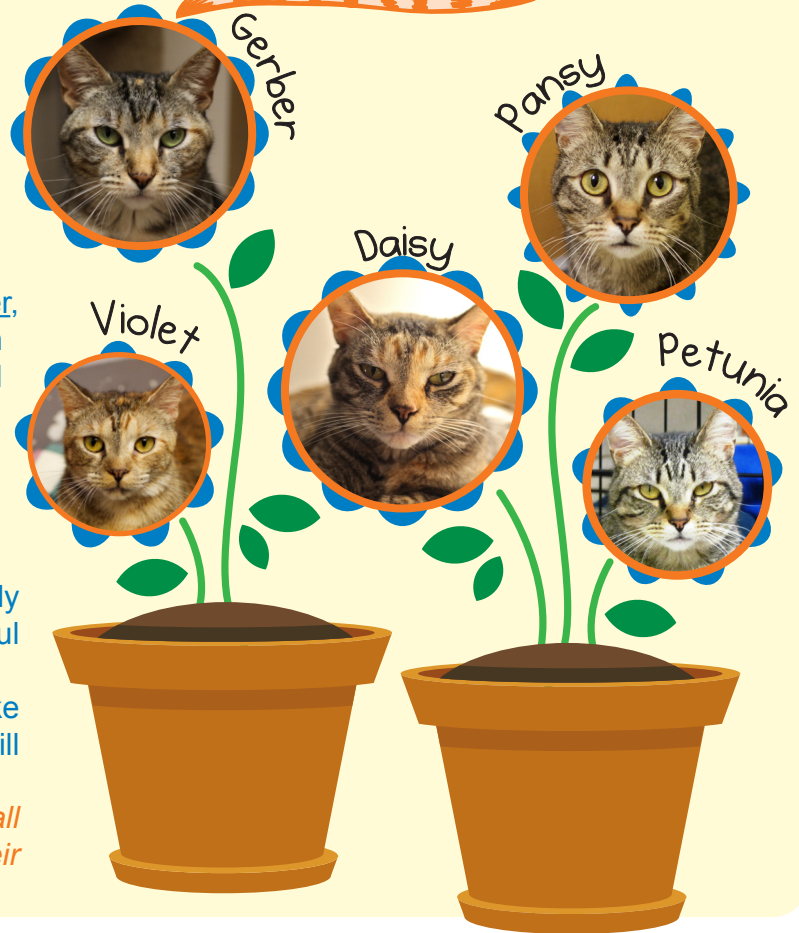
They came from Georgia with a disclaimer: "They're not exactly peaches."

It's true that the girls were scared Southerners in the beginning. As beautiful as magnolias, Gerber, Petunia, Pansy, Violet and Daisy also had as much bite as lemon meringue pie. Bounced from a high-kill shelter to a Georgia rescue, then north of the Mason-Dixon Line to Tabby's Place, these belles had reason to be rattled.

With time and tender attention from staff and volunteers, our Georgia girls are learning to let love in. Today, Gerber, Daisy and Violet are positively peachy in their affections towards humans, and playful Pansy and Petunia are making major progress.

Summer peaches may be sweet, but we'll take these Georgia girls any day – and, we trust, so will their future adopters.

*Gerber, Petunia, Pansy, Violet and Daisy are all available for adoption as of this printing. Click their names above to find out more.*



## Whither Those Whiskers? Where People Adopt Cats

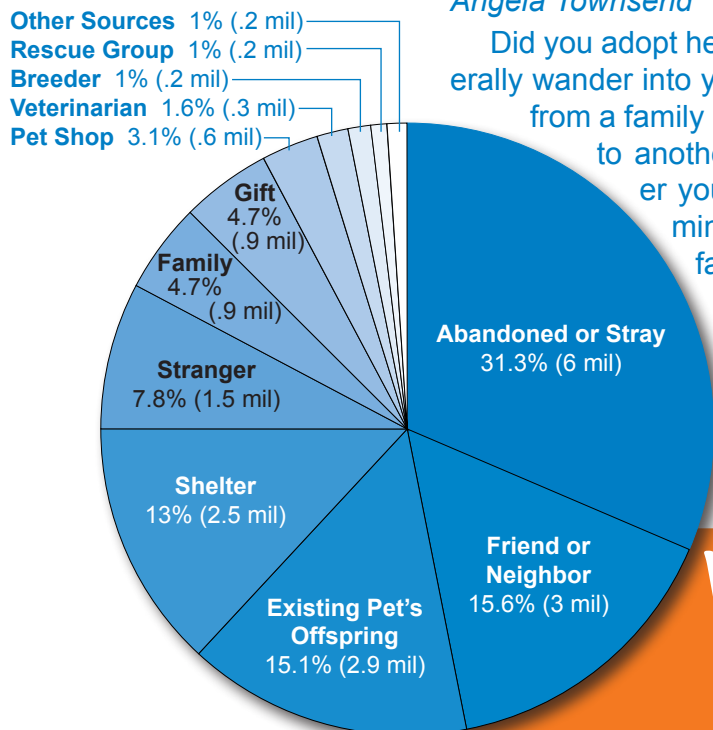
Angela Townsend

Did you adopt her at Tabby's Place, or did he literally wander into your life? Maybe your cat came from a family member – or perhaps she's kin to another kitty in your home. However you came together, it's always a mini miracle when a cat finds her family.

This quarter, we look at the most common ways in which cats find their humans. Source from which households acquired at least one cat<sup>[1]</sup>.



<sup>[1]</sup>[http://www.petpopulation.org/BirthandDeathRateEstimatesJAAWS7\\_4.pdf](http://www.petpopulation.org/BirthandDeathRateEstimatesJAAWS7_4.pdf)



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# Why Do Cats...Bite?

Angela Townsend

Yours is the hand that feeds her, loves her, and would fend off wild dingoes for her...so why does your cat insist on biting you?

A cat who bites his adoring owner may be...

• **Playing:** Your cat may be trying to meet his need for play. Virtually all play between cats consists of mock aggression (picture a litter of kittens creating their own version of Wrestlingmania). Redirect this behavior to appropriate "attackables." A variety of toys can enable your cat to expend his energy and fulfill his predatory instincts. Make time to play with your cat with appropriate toys (such as feather wands) each day, and he won't take matters into his own teeth. If your cat is a kitten, train him properly not to play with your hands.

• **Poorly-trained:** Don't let kittens play with your hands, feet, or anything else you'd rather they not attack as adults. If you've already "created a monster," it's not too late. Give your cat time-outs by walking away the moment he begins to bite. Provide appropriate toys to bite and attack, and be consistent. If it's feet he favors, carry toys with you and toss them in your cat's direction when he's about to pounce on you. Even old cats can learn new tricks.

• **Peeved:** Some cats walk away when they've had too much affection, while others snap at you. Your cat isn't being mean or saying he doesn't love you; he's simply, and suddenly, become over-stimulated. Read the signs that he's had enough petting, such as a swishing tail, dilated eyes or shifting position, and stop touching him as soon as you see them. Respecting his signals is a way of showing your love.

• **Petrified:** Never try to pet, approach or reassure a cat displaying defensive or offensive signals. Unless absolutely necessary (as when taking him to the vet), don't put your cat in a position where he cannot escape.

• **Painful:** Any sudden change in behavior can be your cat's way of alerting you to a medical issue. If your generally-docile cat suddenly begins displaying aggression towards you, a vet visit is in order.



Playful Hootz sometimes forgets that fingers aren't toys.

### Recommended Reading:

- [Aggression, Biting & Rough Play in Cats](#) (WebMD)
- [Cat Aggression Towards People](#) (Humane Society of the United States)
- [Cats' Aggression Towards People and 9 Tips To Stop Cat Bites](#) (About Cats)
- [Feline Behavior Problems: Aggression](#) (Cornell Feline Health Center)
- [Nervous and Aggressive Cats](#) (Messy Beast)
- [Play Aggression in Cats and Petting Aggression in Cats](#) (Conscious Cat)



Feisty Katrina is less likely to bite when we respect her boundaries.

## Letters of the Quarter

Hi Tabby's Place Angels,  
I found your site via a Facebook video of

Tashi 'walking' to inspect a baby goat. I clicked the [link](#) to find out a little more about Tashi, and I was blown away with what I found.

I have two cats, who I love as my children. I wish you guys were further south, as I live in GA. I took your [virtual tour](#) and watched several of your videos, and I'm literally moved to tears. I just had to tell you how much I appreciate what you do for the cat community!

I will definitely be making [contributions](#) to your sanctuary and will offer my assistance in any way that I can. I shared your link on my Facebook page and will do my best to drum up further support. I have a long list of animal lovers on my friends list, so maybe I can send some new supporters your way! If there is anything I can do from here in the Peach State, do not hesitate to ask.

Again, thank you for everything that you are doing for these wonderful animals. My boys, Max and Bandit, send their gratitude as well!

-Amanda, GA

Of the 7 cats in our home, 5 of them were from a local rescue. Two were very wild and do not easily trust. It has only been in the last few months that they will come



Cecille is grateful for people like Amanda and Amanda, who have patience for timid cats.

to us and allow us to pet them.

I greatly admire the dedication it takes to care for even one cat the way he deserves - much less a hundred of them. Y'all are doing great work. I wish I could have donated more, and perhaps in the future when I'm able, I will be able to [sponsor](#) one of the very special kitties at Tabby's Place.

Just know that your mission is appreciated, even from across state lines. Bless all the amazing staff and [volunteers](#) that make life worth living for the cats in your care. There aren't words to express it: You are all amazing people.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

-Amanda, TN





# No Fleas, Please

Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

From a flea's perspective, your cat is a feast. Fleas are parasites who feed on your cat's blood, causing painful itching, skin disease, and, possibly, health problems.

The most common flea problem is *allergic dermatitis*. A cat with a severe allergy to flea bites can scratch or chew the area where she was bitten until it is raw and infected.

*Flea bite anemia* occurs when the cat has so many fleas that she suffers significant blood loss. It is most common in kittens, due to their smaller volume of blood. Treatment frequently requires a blood transfusion to save the cat's life.

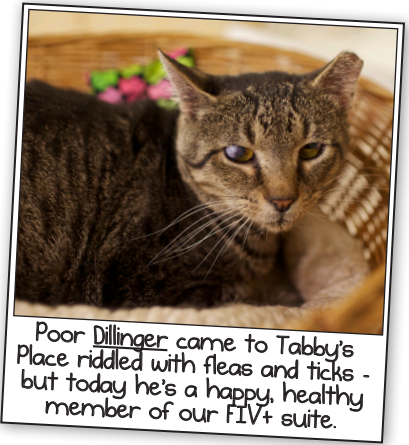
*Feline infectious anemia* is caused by a bacteria carried by fleas. The bacteria act as a parasite to the cat's red blood cells. The body's immune system destroys the parasitized blood cells, causing anemia.

Fleas also transmit *tapeworms*. The tapeworm eggs are ingested by the flea, where they mature. When your cat ingests the flea (by grooming), tapeworms de-

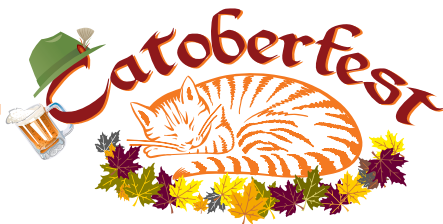
velop. The only way a cat can get a tapeworm is by ingesting a flea, so typically a vet will begin flea control at the same time a cat is treated for tapeworm.

The best way to avoid any of these diseases is to prevent flea infestation in the first place. There are quite a few effective and safe flea products, but cats are particularly sensitive to some of the chemicals used in over-the-counter products. NEVER use a product with *permethrin* in it, as it is fatal to cats. Permethrin products should be used with caution even on dogs in households where cats could be exposed.

You can obtain safe, effective flea control products from your veterinarian. These products are applied topically, to the skin at the back of the cat's neck. The treatment is then slowly released through your cat's hair follicles, and will grant her effective protection for approximately one month before needing to be reapplied. An alternative option is an oral flea preventative, available as a flavored tablet and administered once a month. Your veterinarian can help you decide on the most effective and safest product for your cat.



Poor Dillinger came to Tabby's Place riddled with fleas and ticks - but today he's a happy, healthy member of our FIV+ suite.



## CATOBBERFEST 2012 is coming on Saturday, October 6th.

Join us from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm for a spectacular silent auction; a book reading by Gwen Cooper, author of New York Times best seller Homer's Odyssey; live music by Catster's official

Cat Lady, Sarah Donner; free cat and dog behavior classes; a Q & A with the Tabby's Place veterinarian, Dr. Collins; sanctuary tours; and much more.

Can you help with Catoberfest? **THE CATS NEED YOUR GROOVY DONATIONS FOR THEIR SILENT AUCTION.** If you have items to contribute to the auction, please contact Danielle Rice at [dr@tabbysplace.org](mailto:dr@tabbysplace.org) or 908-237-5300 ext 450. We can't wait to meet you at Catoberfest!



Run, don't walk, to Catoberfest (open to cats, dogs, and people too).

## The Linda Fund

On behalf of our tiniest tabby: thank you to all who supported the Linda Fund.

Thanks to your compassion, Tabby's Place raised \$87,000 for the care of our most fragile felines. Your donations were doubled by generous benefactors, so your love went twice as far for the kitties. You've enabled us to cover all the cats' critical care, cancer treatment and cardiac care needs for an entire year.

Baby Dot and all of our cats thank you. It gives us peace of mind to know that our cats can count on you for their deepest needs.



Baby Dot



# Kindles of Kittens

Angela Townsend

Lilies are springing open, sunny days are lengthening...and, across the Northern Hemisphere, kittens are being born. Spring and summer herald the return of "kitten season." What should you do if you find a litter?

- If you don't see the mama cat, don't assume she's gone for good. If the kittens are clean and chubby, their mother is likely still in the picture. Abandoned babies will be dirty and meowing with hunger. Watch from a distance to see if mama appears within a few hours.
- Leave kittens with their mother at least until their eyes open. At the fragile earliest stages, they need the antibodies in their mom's milk.
- If mama is unapproachable, she and her kittens should stay in their nest until the kittens are weaned, as long as it is a safe location. Provide food, water and shelter, and monitor the family daily. Leave the nest alone as much as possible, so as not to threaten mama.
- Once the kittens reach around eight weeks of age, you can trap and neuter the family. Click here for photos of kittens' age progression, to estimate the stage of development.
- If the kittens have truly been abandoned, follow the guidelines here and here to care for them in their infancy.
- If you are unable to raise the kittens, contact Alley Cat Allies for a list of "Feral Friends" who can help.
- We recommend these tips from About Cats and Best Friends Animal Society for finding kittens loving homes.

We believe that cats have uncanny "radar" for people with big hearts. If a family of kittens has found you, you have the opportunity to start their lives on the path of love.



Lentil and his brother survived infancy thanks to big-hearted humans.



Billie Rae and Sallie Mae had their mama present through their fragile babyhood, but not all kittens are so lucky.

### Recommended Reading:

- Kitten Care Handbook, by Kitten Rescue
- Orphaned Kittens, by Sue Freeman
- Found Baby Kittens, by Austin Pets Alive
- How and When to Care for and Socialize Feral Kittens, by Alley Cat Allies

# Forever Loved: Polly

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director



Polly

Polly was a "cat-lover's cat." You know: a cat that didn't fit the vaunted paradigm of "family pet." Polly didn't like most people, and she disliked other cats. She particularly despised kittens, what with their running around and having fun. They were just so "out of control."

We moved Polly into the Lobby when we discovered she had heart disease. It was better for her, as there were fewer cats around and comfy couches to lie on.

Of course, we loved Polly. And, over time, she began to warm to many employees and volunteers. She remained ever cautious, but if she had known you for a few months and you had proven yourself safe, Polly could be downright sweet.

As the years passed, Polly developed asthma and had to learn to tolerate daily treatments with an inhaled steroid. It was difficult for her, but she adjusted. Treating heart disease and asthma is tricky, but Polly was thriving, to our great delight.

Eventually, Polly's kidneys began to fail. As for so many cats with concurrent heart disease, this was too much for Polly's body. Shortly after diagnosis, it was her time. We let dear Polly go. She went very gently and was surrounded by her favorite people (and no cats).

We loved Polly simply because she was ... Polly. We expected nothing in return. This made it very easy to love and care for her. An interesting lesson for all of us.



Polly

## The Cats Want You In Their Social Network!

**Blog:** <http://www.tabbysplace.org/felis-catus/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tporiginalgroup/>

**Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/#!/tabbysplace>

**YouTube:** <http://www.youtube.com/tabbysplacesanctuary>

**Pinterest:** <http://pinterest.com/tabbysplace/>



# Advocating For Your (Feline) Neighbors

Angela Townsend

You're a good neighbor to feral felines. But what can you do about humans who are leery of cats in the community?

- Approach neighbors with grace and an open heart. Your empathy and warmth go a long way in making friends for the cats.

- Many folks fear the unknown. Alley Cat Allies offers a printable [resource](#) on basic information about feral cats. Neighbors may be reassured by learning the [facts](#) about why feral cats do not pose a health risk.

- Is a landlord or official ordering the cats' removal? Personalize these sample letters to [neighbors](#) or [leaders](#), and set up a meeting to address their concerns. Your ability to engage compassionately can make a difference. Present [relevant information](#) to these folks, who may compromise once they know the facts.

- Neighborhood Cats offers a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on persuading local officials to approve TNR. Leaders can be convinced by [studies](#) showing that removing feral cats doesn't work, while TNR is supported by [research](#) around the world.

- [TNR ordinances](#) and [other laws](#) affecting ferals may apply to your situation or provide a model for your community.

- Practice [conscientious care](#). If cats' feeding stations, shelters and litter areas are well-maintained, neighbors are less likely to complain. Help neighbors accept the cats' presence by proactively addressing [common concerns](#).

## Recommended Reading:

- [Conflicts with Property Management or Animal Control: How to Live with Cats in Your Neighborhood](#) (for neighbors who may not be thrilled about feral cats' presence); [How to Resolve Issues about Cats with Others, Preventative Measures, Troubleshooting With Community Members](#) (Alley Cat Allies)
- [Advocacy Materials](#) (a wealth of downloadable articles, presentations, flyers and educational materials to share)



With friends like you, ferals like Dobro can have sweet lives in every community.



Semi-feral Gorgonzola is grateful for compassionate advocates.

You can even help neighbors to keep cats [out of their yards](#).

- [Advocate](#) by writing letters to the media with facts about ferals.

- You are not alone in your labor of love. [These resources](#) can help you find others who have gone through similar struggles – and succeeded on the cats' behalf.

## Happy Endings: Bialy

*Bialy Rodrigo, cat (with assistance from Lynda Rodrigo, [Adopter, Volunteer & Benefactor](#))*

It's been almost 3 months since I left Tabby's Place. While I miss everyone there, I'm really happy with my new family. They loved me before they even met me.

My new momma and poppa are long-time friends of Tabby's Place. While looking at the website one evening, they saw [my picture](#) and [Joe's picture](#). They instantly wanted to meet us. When they did, they knew that they needed both of us. But since my poppa-to-be had recently recovered from a major health scare, the future seemed scary and uncertain. They thought it best that I stay at Tabby's Place while Poppa recovered. Joe went home with them at that point. (That's ok, because they really didn't want to take me away from my Uncle [Tashi](#). Uncle Tashi recently went to his furrever home, too, but I bet you already know that.)

Momma and Poppa [volunteer](#) at Tabby's Place every week, and I was always the first and last kitty Momma held and played with. I knew she loved me, because sometimes I saw little tears in her eyes.

When Momma's birthday came, Auntie Karina (Tabby's Place's Volunteer Coordinator) put a purple collar and bow on me. I think she knew I would get to go home soon...she must be magic and see



Bialy in the warmth of his forever home.



Bialy does his best impression of 'Uncle' Ike.

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the future! Two days later, Poppa's doctor declared that everything looked great, Poppa's medical treatment had done its job, and all the bad stuff was gone. Poppa immediately turned to Momma - with tears in *his* eyes this time - and said, "Let's go bring Bialy home." What a birthday present: Poppa's going to be fine, and then ME!

It was hard for me to leave Tabby's Place, but it turned out great! I love it here (and I even wrote about it on the [Tabby's Place blog](#)).

I bet I'm even more spoiled now than I was at Tabby's Place, but that's 'cause I'm a "Special Needs" kitty. That means I'm "Special" 'cause I'm from Tabby's Place, and I "Need" to be spoiled...because I'm special!

I hope all my sponsors know how much their support and love helped me and still helps all my friends at Tabby's Place. I love you all; thank you for helping me find my furrever family!

PS: I have an email address, if you ever want to "talk" to me: [Bialy907@comcast.net](mailto:Bialy907@comcast.net).

bring happiness to our lives. Yet, looking back, we could never have imagined just how much joy they would bring.

Seeing Tashi and Gabby's courage, determination and unconditional love inspires all of us daily. They make us laugh with their adorable escapades. Gabby and Tashi have such unique personalities and are so clever, but mostly they show us to never give up, even when life can get you down.

My family and I can very easily look past the special needs that Tashi and Gabby have. We see two sweet little ones who can do everything any other pet can do; they just do it in a slightly different way that might take a bit longer. Both Tashi and Gabby definitely know how to enjoy themselves. So as long as they are happy, then all of us are happy too!

We are looking forward to many, many years of enjoying each day to the fullest with our precious angels.



Gabby and Tashi love their new life together.



Tashi enjoys - yes, enjoys - a bath in his new home.

# Where Are They Now? Tashi & Gabriella

Rori Weidner, Adopter

I can hardly believe that it has been seven months since Tashi and Gabriella came into our lives. I guess the saying, "time flies when you're having fun," applies perfectly to life with our precious angels.

Having both Tashi and Gabby with us makes every day special. We feel more blessed each day that we were able to adopt our babies.

On that January day at Tabby's Place, my family and I knew in our hearts that we were doing the right thing - for all of us - by adopting Tashi and Gabby. We knew, even then, that they would



Although they never met at Tabby's Place, Tashi and Gabby have become best buds in their forever home.



Gabby in her Easter Bonnet.

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