

New Beginnings: Bialy, Baguette & Beignet

by Angela Townsend, Development Director

Rescued as hungry orphans, Bialy and his sisters were excited to get to Tabby's Place. As their self-appointed leader, Baguette always has a lot to meow about, while gentle Beignet communicates via rumbly purrs. But brother Bialy stole the spotlight. With a huge head and an even bigger heart, Bialy appears to have *cerebellar hypoplasia* (see page three of this newsletter for more info) and/or *hydrocephalus*

(fluid on the brain). We'll have to wait until he's a bit heavier and stronger before a neurologist can diagnose Bialy with an MRI. But whatever ails our wobbly boy, we'll give him all the care and cuddles he needs.

He may be a Special Needs kitten, but don't tell Bialy he's got problems: this happy-hearted guy is bigger than his sisters and as confident as a lion. The whole trio is full of fun and ready for the super humans who will love them forever.



Bialy



Beignet



Baguette

Cats and Their Conditions

by Angela Townsend

Thanks to you, cats with Special Needs are living long, joyful lives at Tabby's Place. Every day, these cats offer us a lesson: life can be amazing, no matter what challenges you face. Far from living in gloom, these kitties take their challenges as opportunities to show their true courage and unsinkable joy. As tribute to the cats who inspire us every day, this quarter we thought we'd take a look at the prevalence of different feline conditions in the United States.

Lymphoma: .02%

Asthma: 1%

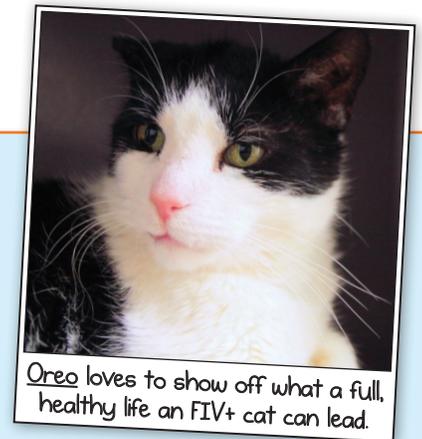
Diabetes: 1%

FeLV: 2-3%

FIV: 3%

Heart Disease: 2-8%

Obesity: 21%



Oreo loves to show off what a full, healthy life an FIV+ cat can lead.

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Estates Save Cats

by Angela Townsend

If you want to be remembered as someone who changed the world for needy cats, please remember Tabby's Place in your estate plans. In addition to offering you tax savings, leaving a legacy gift for the kitties gives you joy in knowing that your life's work will support the cats you cherish. We depend on these special estate gifts to save more cats from hopeless situations.



Gentle senior Lilac is grateful that her mom's generosity continues to help her - and many other cats.

This year, our cats were blessed by two big-hearted friends who planned ahead. "D" and "M" each chose to make their love last a lifetime - and beyond. M's generous Guardian Angel gift is helping to provide for her three kitties (Tabby's Place newcomers Lola, Lilac and Mia) and many more cats in hopeless situations. "D" only visited Tabby's Place once, but left a legacy that will feed and nurture many needy kittens and cats.

By including Tabby's Place in your estate plans, you guarantee that your love - and our ability to provide for the cats - continues and grows in the years to come. You may need our EIN # (tax ID), which is 22-3695520. For more information, please e-mail or call me any time at 908-237-5300 ext 235.



Mia

Letter of the Quarter

For my fourth grade project I decided to make little bookmarks out of popsicles' sticks for \$0.50 per bookmark. I sold them to people I knew around the neighborhood. I made \$22.50 that I'd like to donate to your animal sanctuary.

Just like you, I love cats. I have four, Carly, Rocky, Cecil and Chloe. They're so cute! You've taught me that I can do whatever I set my mind to and it feels good to do nice things for something I love (cats). Thank you.

-Karena, PA

Thanks for your letter acknowledging my donation. I probably read about Tabby's Place in a newspaper article.

My first 8 years as a volunteer (at the North Shore Animal League), I was a dog walker. For the past 2 years I've been helping out in the medical center.

Interestingly, my favorite pet of all time was a cat I rescued when I heard it crying from behind my garage during a snowstorm back in 1976. It was a tiny kitten then and was my most beloved living creature for the next 16 years.

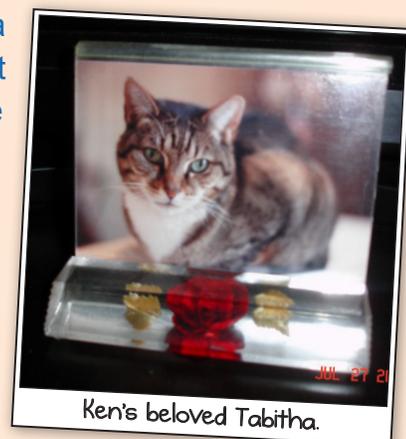
I've attached 2 photos. One shows the place of honor where I keep her photo; on the TV table. It's the only thing besides the TV that is allowed on that table. Anyone who watches TV has to see her also. The other picture is a close-up of that photo.

I'm sure I sound like a real oddball when I say that in my life (I'm 67 now), I've never loved any living thing more than I loved Tabitha.

Maybe I can come out to visit your place one day.

Keep up your great work.

-Ken, Brooklyn, NY



Ken's beloved Tabitha.



Vox Optio Veterinarius

The Truth About (Introducing) Cats & Dogs

by Denise Jeffries, Senior Veterinary Technician



Little Dave loves his big brother Junior.

When introducing your new cat to your dog, it is important to be patient and have realistic expectations. Some introductions may take longer than expected, and it's best to proceed slowly.

- Knowledge is power, so learn as much as you can about each animal's temperament and history before the introduction.
- Provide a safe room for the cat where he won't see the dog. After a couple of days, trade their blankets in order to exchange scents.
- Once your cat has adjusted to the environment, use a baby gate or screen door so he and your dog may see and smell one another without physical contact.
- Once he seems comfortable, allow the cat to be free. But first, take your dog for a long walk to eliminate excess energy. Keep the dog on a leash or place him in a crate for the first several meetings, so he is unable to chase the cat. Have a squirt bottle nearby, in case the cat becomes aggressive towards the dog.
- After several successful introductions, allow supervised "off-leash" visits.
- Keep feeding stations separate to avoid food aggression, and place the litter box in a private area.
- Throughout the process, stay calm; animals can sense your fear. It's okay to take a step backwards and start over – it's never too late for a great introduction and a happy lifelong relationship between a dog and cat.
- In severe cases, discuss other interventions (such as behavioral medication or training) with your vet.



Tabby's Place alum Zedoary & her canine sister Roxy demonstrate the real truth about cats and dogs.

Cerebellar Hypoplasia

by Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

Cerebellar hypoplasia (CH) is a disorder in which the cerebellum (the part of the brain controlling balance) does not develop normally in the fetus. One of our FIV+ cats, Edward, has CH.



Edward

CH occurs when a mother cat is exposed to the feline distemper virus during pregnancy, or during the first two weeks of a nursing kitten's life. For this reason, a mother cat should not get the feline distemper vaccine during these periods.

Kittens with CH do not manifest problems until they are old enough to walk, at which point it becomes clear there are balance issues; the kitten walks with his legs widely placed, places his feet clumsily, and leans against a wall for support. At rest, there are no obvious problems, but once he becomes focused,



Fun-loving Edward doesn't let his CH slow him down.

or tries to move, tremors and wobbliness appear. Although the kitten may appear "spastic," cats with this condition are happy, able to eat and use the litter box. It is a non-progressive disorder, so it will not worsen during the cat's life.

Edward is in our FIV+ suite, with several cats who can be aggressive. We were concerned he might be picked on because of his disability. As it turns out, he is the troublemaker, backing down from no cat, and frequently instigating arguments.

Edward has acclimated well to his life here, and like most cats affected with CH, would make a happy and well-adjusted pet.



Laws and Paws

by Angela Townsend

Cats may consider themselves above human rules, but did you know that laws have helped – and sometimes hindered – our favorite species for millennia?

1st century B.C.: Greek historian Diodorus Siculus reports that whoever killed a cat in Egypt was condemned to death, whether or not he committed the crime deliberately.

10th century A.D.: Three codes in Wales assign a monetary value, and respectable legal status, to the cat.

Early 13th century: The English “Rule of Nuns” forbids holy women to keep any animal but a cat.

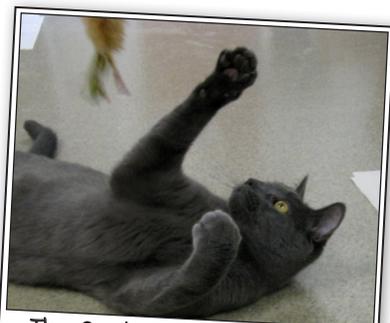
1563: A low point in cat law history, as the Witchcraft Act in England leads to the trial and execution of a cat named ‘Sathan’ as a witch.

1865: A decision of Monsieur Richard, Juge de Paix of Fontainebleau, rules that “the domestic cat is not a thing of naught, but the property of its master, and as such, entitled to the shelter of the law.”

1928: The English Court of Appeals holds that a cat’s owner is not liable for the damage the cat causes when he “trespasses.”

1934: A Kansas court holds that “the worth of the cat as a contributor to the felicity of the home is alone sufficient to require that it be regarded as property of the owner in the full sense of the term property.” This actually marked a great improvement in cats’ legal status, as it meant that the theft, mistreatment or killing of a cat was now punishable by law. However, the designation of cats as “property” has proven insufficient to ensure their protection in the decades since, as

ably discussed by About Cats’ Franny Syufy.



The feather toy may be his personal ‘property’, but Barry knows a cat is worth far more under any law that’s worth its salt.

1966: The Animal Welfare Act provides for the humane care and treatment of pets, regulation of pet sales, and the humane treatment of pets during transportation.

1970s-80s: Courts repeatedly uphold that “possessors” of a cat can claim for mental damages and/or punitive damages for harm done to their cats by others.

2003: West Hollywood, California enacts North America’s first ban on the declawing of cats. Declawing has long been banned in much of the world. In the U.S., controversy continues to follow legislation surrounding declawing, as well as mandatory spay/neuter, pet limits and feral cats.

2006: The Federal U.S. PETS Act mandates that, to qualify for FEMA funding, a city or state must submit a plan detailing its disaster preparedness plan, including how they will accommodate pets.

Until we can get the United Nations to pass a law that every cat be adored, we are grateful for each step to protect felines – and especially for the pet parents whose responsible care keeps cats out of shelters. Thank you for doing your part to “enforce” the law of love by helping the Tabby’s Place cats.



Valencia is a law-abiding citizen, so long as the laws are to her liking.



Natasha and Mrs. Jinx prefer to make their own laws.

X-rays in Time for Xmas

You did it! Thanks to your generous love, the X-ray machine is now up, running and ready to save feline lives. We couldn’t give the cats the care they need without you – thank you!



Dr. C prepares to give Trey his first in-house X-ray.

The Talking Tail

by Angela Townsend

Even the quietest cat is always talking, and learning to read her cues can help you to love her even better.

Here are some typical messages from that sometimes-comical, always-communicating appendage: the tail.

- **Erect full length:** A friendly, confident tail. May be used as a greeting to another cat or human, and can be an invitation for affection or a request for food. If his tail is quivering, your cat is very excited to see you. A friendly cat will use his tail to decrease the distance between himself and someone else. The higher the tail, the more willing the kitty may be to interact.



Jasper shows his BFF Dusty his love and friendship with his tail.



Mango's soft, fluid tail, bent like a gentle 'U,' matches his friendly greeting pose.



In case we missed his other signals, Scooter's fluffed-up tail says 'back off!'

body: The cat with this tail is likely stalking prey. Often his tail will swish slightly, anticipating the moment to pounce.

- **Wrapped around another cat or person:** A clear sign of friendship and trust. The cat who does this feels safe with the recipient of his tail-wrapping.

- **Flicking:** A ticked-off tail. Unlike dogs, cats wag their tails when they're frustrated, excited, scared or angry. When the twitching progresses to thumping, your cat is revving up for an attack. The swishing or wagging tail is a good sign that your cat has had enough petting, or that something is upsetting him.



With her tail held low and swishing, Halie is either stalking prey or irked with another cat or person.

- **Fluffed-up and arched:** The classic "scary cat" position indicates aggression or defensiveness. We also frequently see these moves when kittens are playing.

- **Wrapped around the body:** The "hugging-himself" tail may mean contentment, but can also indicate submission or anxiety. In general, this pose indicates that your cat is closed off to interaction. This can be your cat's peaceable way of creating distance between himself and others when he needs a bit of alone time.

When we know what we're seeing from our constant communicators, we become more responsive to their needs, and better able to give them the love and respect they deserve.

Forever loved: Susie

by Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

We are approaching our 1,000th cat at Tabby's Place. While I have loved them all, I do, of course, have some special loves.

Susie was one of those great loves. I had written about Susie not too long ago in an update about how she was thriving in her forever home. I won't repeat the details of how special she was.



Jonathan and Susie.

A quick read of that short article will suffice.

About two months ago, I opened an email message from Susie's owner. I was hoping for another photo of that girl, since her owner had stayed in touch with me since the adoption. I was shocked to read that Susie had succumbed to kidney disease. Apparently, it had started suddenly and progressed rapidly despite best efforts to manage the symptoms.

It took me a while to absorb the news. I couldn't believe Susie was gone.

She had been such a big part of my life, and I thought about her frequently. Occasionally I would stare at her spot in my office, where I could hear her taking to herself as she prepared her bed for another perfect nap.

I miss you, Susie, and I will always love you, baby girl. Rest in peace until we meet again.



Where Are They Now: Twinkie & Cupcake

by Angela Townsend



Twinkie & Cupcake loving their new life - and, as always, each other - in their forever home.

Each Tabby's Place cat has been plucked from a hopeless situation, but some stories are especially sad. So it was for Twinkie, Cupcake, Trifle and Strudel.

The "Dessert Kids" were plucked from a hoarder's home containing 93 cats. Having no reason to trust humans, Twinkie, Cupcake and their brothers were wary of our intentions. However, thanks to Sue M. and a devoted team of volunteers, the end of their tale is sweet.

Sue recalls, "I completely fell in love with the Dessert Kids! Twinkie loved to play, and would attack a feather toy as if she were protecting Tabby's Place from a fierce intruder! I enticed her to climb on me a little bit by putting a trail of treats up my legs. I would try to pet her when she ate the treats. Sometimes I could stroke her for a second or two, but usually I was met with a gentle but firm swat on my hand. Twinkie is a darling cat. Her personality is so huge!

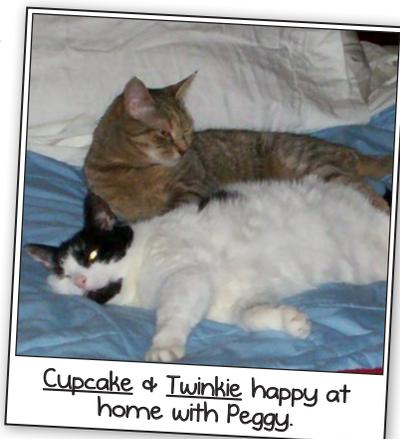
"Then there's Cupcake, the opposite of a huge personality. Most of the time, I had to lay on my stomach and reach under the chair to pet Cupcake. She enjoyed petting, but only when she was completely hidden and safe.

"I loved Cupcake with all my heart, and I was excited to hear that she and Twinkie were adopted together. I knew that a special person could work with them and turn them into wonderful house kitties."

That special person was Peggy. We were brutally honest about the Dessert Girls' shyness, but Peggy was determined: she was meant to be their mama.

Nearly a year later, Cupcake, Twinkie and Peggy are a family. Peggy reports, "Twinkie will amuse herself and play with anything. She's quite the athlete; she does hurdles over Cupcake, and she's famous for the 100 yard dash after she poops.

"Cupcake purrs every morning waiting for breakfast, and I'm able to



Cupcake & Twinkie happy at home with Peggy.

brush her if I approach her quietly. I'm getting more successful at touching Twinkie briefly. The longer they're here, the more trusting they become."

It doesn't get sweeter than this. To Peggy, Susan, and all who have been a loving part of the Dessert Kids' story, you have our eternal thanks.

Editors' note: Cupcake and Twinkie's brothers, Strudel and Trifle, are still at Tabby's Place, awaiting a loving adopter. If you are interested in Trifle and Strudel, [click here](#).

Happy Endings: Eloise

by Angela Townsend

When it comes to adoption, everyone wants kittens... right?

Lucky for a certain glamorous calico, that's not quite true. This summer, fourteen-year-old Eloise learned that there's a home for every cat.

A kind woman had been graced with happy years of loving a Tabby's Place alumna named Puff Puff. When Puff Puff, renamed Gracie, passed away this spring, her mama's heart ached...but remained open to loving again. She soon found that our calico senior was just the cat her heart needed.

Eloise's past makes her an especially fitting match for her new adopter. Eloise had once been cherished by a wonderful foster mom. Then her caretaker passed away suddenly, and poor Eloise was taken to a shelter. When Tabby's Place first rescued her, Eloise was a timid and scared senior, and spent most of her time cowering under the couch in her suite.

But today, "Weezy" is elated and unafraid. Finding joy and healing in her new mama's love, Eloise is proving that a cat's golden years can be her greatest.



Beautiful Eloise

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