



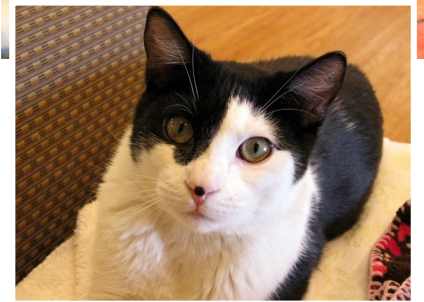
## New Beginnings: Ivan

by Angela Townsend, Development Director

Ivan's life began on the hardscrabble streets of New York City, where he was attacked by a crowd of cats. We thought this was the cause for his funny gait...but our vet discovered that Ivan had been born with kneecaps that pop painfully out of position (*luxating patellae*). It's a kitten's job to play, but Ivan had to lay down every few steps due to pain. Fortunately, Tabby's Place was able to give Ivan a

healing haven. Following a first surgery and cage rest, Ivan is on his feet again. Ivan will soon receive surgery on his other knee, but for now he's loving life in our lobby, where he greets visitors and hangs out with his hero, Geoff.

Please help with Ivan's surgery and care by [sponsoring him today](#).



## The Linda Fund

by Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

Emergency and specialty medical care saves lives at Tabby's Place. Ranging from \$35,000 - \$150,000 annually, medical costs are the largest expense in our mission of rescuing cats from hopeless situations.

This year, thanks to you, we established the Linda Fund to help cover these expenses. We wanted to celebrate the Linda Fund's launch by showing you our "Linda Fund-type" expenses for the past two years.

The data is pre-Linda Fund (so, no expenses were charged to the fund). The amounts are by "medical service" as categorized by the providers.

**Emergency:** Diagnosis and management of acute and urgent aspects of illness and injury; primary providers of ongoing in-hospital care.

**Surgery:** Evaluation and treatment by veterinary surgical specialists.

**Radiology:** Diagnosis and treatment by x-rays, MRIs, ultrasounds and CAT scans.

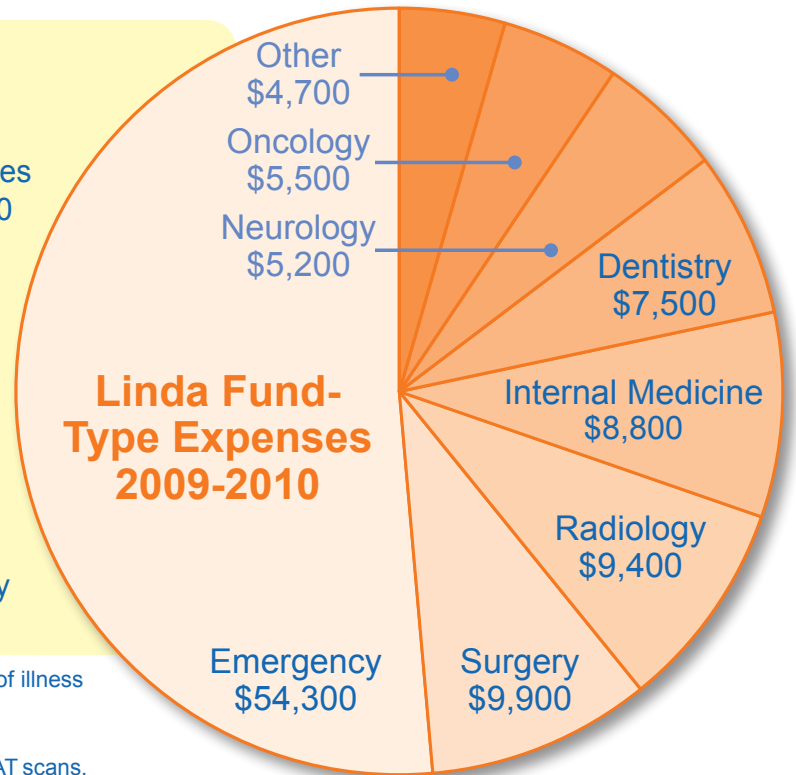
**Internal Medicine:** Diagnosis and (nonsurgical) treatment of diseases of the internal organs.

**Dentistry:** Diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the mouth, teeth and gums; dental procedures are not typically considered life-saving, but for cats with severe heart disease and extreme dental pain, these procedures mean the difference between life and death.

**Neurology:** Diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the nervous systems.

**Oncology:** Diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

**Other:** Categories of Cardiology, Ophthalmology & Endocrinology summing to less than 5%.



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# Letter of the Quarter

About 5 years ago, I lost my mom, aunt and sister. [...] My sister had cats (or, as she called them, 'her kids'). She had continually asked me, 'What's going to happen to my kids?' I always promised they would be okay, no matter what I had to do.

My attorney had a pamphlet on Tabby's Place, and called about my sister's kids. [...] So I brought her kids – Twinx, her daughter Peanut, and Zippy – to Tabby's Place through the Guardian Angel Program. Sure enough, Twinx & Peanut were adopted by a single lady just like my sister. Zippy, who was always a loner, picked a lady of her own – also a single woman with a home, just like my sister.

Thanks to Tabby's Place, [...] my sister's kids found themselves living in the same type of scenario as they'd known with my sister. The money was so worth spending. I felt like my sister was looking down with a smile, knowing that her kids were going to be okay.

I've never forgotten about Tabby's Place, and I feel good sponsoring those lucky little ones who find their way there. I now try to donate what I can, when I can. Animals are very special and loving, and so many need help. If everyone just gave one dollar, it would add up and much more could be done to help those in need.

I do not feel special. You at Tabby's Place are the special ones, giving love and assistance to all those little ones every day. God Bless you all and all the little ones under Tabby's care.

-Sonia from PA



Peanut & Twinx



Flower's averted gaze tells us she's nonthreatening.



In context, Dusty's narrowed pupils suggest a strong feeling of happiness at seeing a human friend.

## The Eyes Have It by Angela Townsend

Even as they touch our souls, cats' eyes sing the secrets of their mind. Know how to read their peepers:

### If Your Cat's Eyes Are ... They're Probably:

#### Averted

Feeling defensive or uninterested; saying she's nonthreatening.

#### Narrowed

Considering something of interest; focusing on details.

#### Dilated

Taking in as much visual information as possible; feeling surprise, fear, or interest.

#### Staring At You For More Than a Few Seconds

Challenging you to stay away. A cat finds a prolonged stare threatening, and may use a long-distance stare to control others.

#### Blinking or Winking

Very content and feeling safe. Friendly cats initiate "eye-blink hellos" with one another, and use the blink to maintain good relations with others.



With her dilated pupils, Twinx is surprised and excited to see her visitor.



Tashi's blinks tell us he's feeling safe and affectionate.



## Why TNR? by Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

Feral cats are those who have never been handled by humans. Cat advocates fear for their welfare, while naturalists worry about the impact on wildlife (especially birds). Both groups have valid concerns, and agree on the goal of minimizing feral cat populations. So what is the best and most humane way to do so?

Traditionally, communities attempted to eradicate feral colonies by trapping and euthanizing. Although this has gone on for decades, we still see many ferals at shelters across the country.

Recently, communities have conducted feral cat management via TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release). This entails humanely trapping, neutering and releasing ferals to their original areas. Caretakers provide ongoing food, water and shelter.

TNR offers a major advantage in controlling the population: altered cats cannot reproduce, and will not allow new, un-neutered cats into their territory. If these cats were euthanized, new cats could move in, bringing new breeding potential.

So does TNR work? In a study started in 1989 on the Stanford University campus, a TNR coalition sterilized 500 cats. Over 60 kittens were trapped, socialized, and placed in homes. By 1994, only 4 new kittens were found. The campus currently has 300 cats, who are healthy and cared for.

But more exhaustive research is needed to confirm the success of TNR programs. Nevertheless, for many animal welfare advocates, TNR seems to be the most humane way to help the least fortunate felines.



We're delighted that Bunny and her babies are at Tabby's Place. TNR can help prevent litters who may not be so lucky.



Mouse was born at Tabby's Place, but most homeless kittens will not be so fortunate. TNR can help prevent their plight.



Lilliana is blessed to be growing up at Tabby's Place

## Cherishing Kittens

*by Angela Townsend*

Calling all kitten-cuddlers: the littlest love-bugs need you.

It's the peak of kitten season, and you have the chance to sponsor the Tabby's Place babies. You may not be able to adopt 25 bundles of fluff...but you can help nurture them and save their lives.



Please help nurture little ones like Havarti, Bleu and Velveeta.

A sponsorship of the Tabby's Place toddlers makes a sweet gift for a new mom or mom-to-be. Or, open up your heart and become a "kitten parent" yourself by sponsoring the babies who need you most. Click here, or contact Angela at 908-237-5300 or at@tabbysplace.org, to help save the littlest lives.

## Save the Date for Catoberfest 2011

We invite you to Catoberfest on Saturday, October 1st, from 11am – 4pm, at Tabby's Place. Festivities include:



- A book signing and reading by Gwen Cooper, author of *Homer's Odyssey*
- Free classes on dog and cat behavior
- Q&A with Tabby's Place's veterinarian
- Low-cost microchipping for cats and dogs
- Blessing of the Animals • Free tours of Tabby's Place
- A silent auction • Live music • Refreshments
- Vendors • Free goodie bags for the first 500 guests

## Tabby's Place Newsletter

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



# Enough Yet Already: Problem Meowing

by Angela Townsend

If your kitty's yammering isn't the cat's meow to you, there are steps you can take to keep her happy...and quiet.

- **Go to the vet** to rule out medical causes. Excessive vocalization can indicate pain, hyperthyroidism, kidney disease or cardiac problems. Senior cats may meow more as they experience confusion or sensory loss. The meow is your cat's loudest way of asking for help.

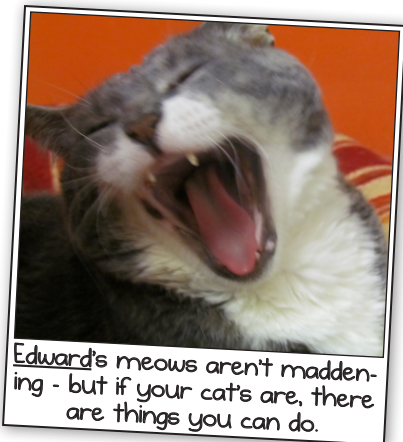
- **Simple reassurance** may soothe your cat's soul. Changes in the household (like a new family member or different schedule) may explain increased meowing. If something has upset her, your cat may crave more time with you.

- Your cat may have learned that meowing is the **best way to get what he wants**. Our cats are "dedicated scientists" who learn through experience to get their needs met. If this is the case, your cat will stop meowing when he either gets what he wants or learns it's not working:

- Once you've ruled out medical causes, **ignore** your cat's high-decibel demands. Even negative attention (yelling, spraying with water) reinforces the meowing.

- "Vocal blackmail" may get worse before it gets better, as your cat amps up what's worked before. **Hang in there**; if you give in now, he'll think that louder, longer meows work best.

- Feed, cuddle and play with your cat at **regular times each day**, so



Edward's meows aren't maddening - but if your cat's are, there are things you can do.



'Excessive' meowing is quite normal for motormouth Mango.

he'll know when he can look forward to getting what he needs.

- If your cat cries out of hunger, consult with your vet about possibly **feeding** him more, or switching to a more filling diet. An automatic feeder can help, as your cat may meow at it instead of you.

# The Story of Sprite

by Dr. Laura Collins

I met Sprite when she was brought to another shelter at which I work. She came from a hoarder household of 51 cats who were in-bred. Several, including Sprite, were born blind and walked with an odd step, raising their paws like gaited horses.



Blind baby Sprite

Sprite was scheduled for euthanasia due to her blindness. The normal, healthy cats were going to be hard enough to place. There wasn't enough space, or time, for Sprite.

Despite her difficult kittenhood, Sprite trusted people. When picked up, Sprite wrapped her paws around you and purred. When you called her, her ears pricked up, and she raised her head to locate you so she could come rub on you. Her charm was irresistible.

Happily, Tabby's Place came through for Sprite. For the first time in her short life, people gave her a reason to trust. Sprite has been at Tabby's Place for three months, ensconced in the Community Room. She has plenty of cat friends and visitors who are entranced by her. I'm sure she will leave Tabby's Place for a forever home soon. She will be missed, but she will be in the loving home she has deserved since the day she was born.



Sprite and Dr. Collins



Kendall commonly has a lot to say.

**Interested in Volunteering at Tabby's Place?**

Go to: [www.tabbysplace.org/volunteer.html](http://www.tabbysplace.org/volunteer.html)





# Forever Loved: Yasmine

by Jonathan Rosenberg

Yasmine had a rare medical condition that required emergency surgery. The surgery saved her life, but an unlikely side effect left her impaired neurologically. Yasmine was moved to the Lobby, so we could keep an eye on her. It's difficult to explain her behavior; everything was there, just slightly "off center."

Her fragility and vulnerability were unmistakable. But those qualities gave Yasmine an uncanny power: she penetrated immediately to the soft, compassionate spot in the hearts of all who met her. It was impossible to feel unhappy around her.

Despite her infirmities, Yasmine used the litter box faithfully, fed herself and could even defend herself (in a fashion) when necessary. She thrived in the Lobby for years and was a favorite of many people.

Earlier this year, a vet check showed that Yaz was in early kidney failure. As many of you know, kidney disease is a roller coaster: the disease can remain mild for months, or even years, or it can advance with ferocity.



Beloved Yasmine

Yasmine declined rapidly. We watched her inexorable fade on a daily basis. When we knew it was time to let her go, I held her gently and told her how much she would be missed. That was an understatement.

The world is much poorer without Yaz.



Yasmine, forever loved

# Forever Loved: Lily

by Jonathan Rosenberg

The day Lily arrived, our vet picked her up and Lily wrapped her arms around Dr. C.'s neck. It's a great memory, but my favorite Lily story (read on) shows that our little orange girl had some serious attitude.

When Lily was diagnosed with cancer, we felt she deserved to live in the Lobby, living her "last days" getting the human interaction she craved. Lily spent most of her time high on the Reception Desk, a position befitting her superiority.

One day a nice, elderly lady paused from petting Lily to point something out. In a flash, Lily reached around with her left paw and popped the woman between the eyes. The woman uttered a startled gasp as her glasses flew. Fortunately, she was a cat lover.

Lily's cancer went into remission, and her "last days" became 2 ½ years. When it eventually reappeared, Lily moved into the Medical Facility, where she became our Vet Tech's best friend. Once again, her cancer went into remission.

This spring, the cancer got the best of brave Lily. She left this world peacefully, surrounded by many people who loved her dearly. She will not be forgotten.



Darling Lily



We miss Lily every day

## SILENT AUCTION FOR SPECIAL FELINES

Every penny of the proceeds from the Silent Auction at Catoberfest (page 2) will care for needy kitties at Tabby's Place – but we need your help. The kitties request your donations of:

- Signed sports memorabilia
- Trips (stays at vacation homes or timeshares)
- Airfare vouchers, coupons, points
- Entertainment tickets (sports, concerts)
- Gift cards (retail, restaurant)
- Fine jewelry and designer luxury accessories
- Unique experiences (hot-air balloon rides, VIP tickets)
- Electronics
- Gift baskets

To donate, please contact Danielle at [dr@tabbysplace.org](mailto:dr@tabbysplace.org) or 908-237-5300 x450.



# Happy Endings: Oreo, Fern & Mervyn

by Susan Nardi, Adopter

When I walked into the FIV+ Suite at Tabby's Place, I knew that two of the cats would join my family.

There was Oreo, passed over for years for being "too ordinary." Well, Syd, nee Oreo, is special. From the moment he came home, he adopted the attitude that he had waited 10 years for this and was not going to waste a minute. Where I go, he goes. What I eat, he wants to eat. Even my coffee is at risk.

Miss Fern, my timid girl with the weepy eyes, also came home that day. Her eyes are better now, but "timid" may be an understatement. It is going to be months before I know what it is like to hold or snuggle her. Right now, I'm happy with her purr when I am allowed to brush her, rub her chin or wiggle my fingers through her fur.

I thought Mervyn might have the hardest time adjusting. Did I say Mervyn? It broke my heart to leave him behind when Syd and Fern came home. So, on Memorial Day weekend, Mervyn joined us. Who can look at that wonderful cross-eyed face and not smile? Snow may be on the ground before I can actually touch him. But Mervyn is a happy camper discovering the other felines.

I hope my fur family is as content as I am.



Syd, nee Oreo



Miss Fern



Mervyn

**Calling All Social Networkers!**  
Join the cats on Facebook and the Tabby's Place blog today.

# Where Are They Now? Pikachu, Kimiko & Miyagi

By Jean Corriveau, Adopter

Kimiko, Miyagi and Pikachu came to live with me in Pennsylvania this spring. Fortunately, this journey for the world travelers was only a brief 30 minute drive from Tabby's Place.

I'm already enjoying some progress with the Okinawans. Pikachu, aka Bright Eyes, likes to be combed every day. He particularly enjoys when I scratch the side and top of his head, and indicates his pleasure by purring and rolling over. He definitely is a belly boy, and he's always the first at the food dish.

Miyagi, Mr. Long Legs, scales tall bookcases in a single bound. I'm sometimes able to gently stroke him while he finishes his treats.

My Little Girl, Kimiko, is still extremely shy and prefers to keep her distance, although she has laid a paw or two on my leg while licking up treats.

I am surprised at how vocal they are. If one cat is alone, he'll start howling for the others. They may be just checking in to make sure all is well and that they are still together. They are still Ninja-like if I move too quickly, but now their speed is starting to be rather like slower Tai Chi moves.

The cats and I thank all the Tabby's Place bloggers for their good wishes for our new journey together. The blog has helped me to gain insights on these beautiful creatures. Thank you all at Tabby's Place for your good works.



Pikachu and Kimiko in their new home.

*And then there were three...*

*Orange stripe, grey stripe... and even cat torbie  
Come to Tabby's Place from far across the sea  
Giant Pikachu, petite Kimiko and gentle Miyagi  
And then there were three.*



Miyagi, Pikachu and Kimiko cuddle up in their forever home.