



Tabby's Place®

1100 US Highway 202 • Ringoes, NJ 08551 • (908) 237-5300 • www.tabbysplace.org

Newsletter No. 7.3 | Third Quarter 2009

New Beginnings: Paprika

by Angela Townsend, Development Director

Surprisingly, Paprika has no hard feelings over her nickname of “Fat Pepper” (referring to Jonathan’s beloved office-mate, to whom Paprika bears a startling resemblance). In fact, even though she’s known hard times in a cage at a crowded shelter, snuggle-bug Paprika doesn’t seem to have any hard feelings about anything. At nearly 19 pounds, Paprika is presently our largest kitty, and a member of our Weight Management Suite. With her jolly personality, angelic face and zestful love for both people and other cats (especially roommate Vinny), we hope Paprika is soon bound to be the spice of a forever family’s life.



Paprika

Where Our Supporters Come From?*

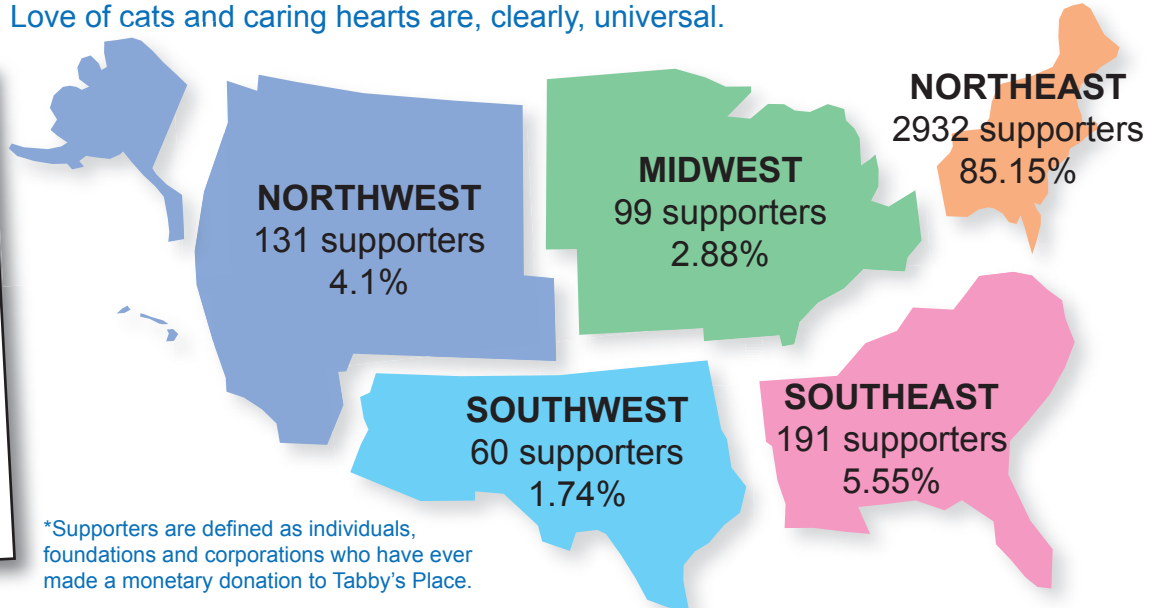
by Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

Last quarter, we showed you where our cats have come from. For this newsletter, we thought you might want to see where our supporters are from. I am pleased to say that our donors represent every state in the US, as well as eight other countries. Not surprisingly, the vast majority (80%) of them come from the tri-state area (NJ, PA, NY), but it warms our hearts to know that people from states thousands of miles away care enough to help our cats.

And, I must say that we are especially tickled to have donors in such exotic (to us) places as the United Arab Emirates and Bulgaria. Love of cats and caring hearts are, clearly, universal.



Out of all our cats, Mango came the furthest distance to Tabby's Place, all the way from AZ. But his human friends come from all over the world!



*Supporters are defined as individuals, foundations and corporations who have ever made a monetary donation to Tabby's Place.



England
6 Supporters



Canada
6 Supporters



Mexico
2 Supporters



New Zealand
2 Supporters



United Arab Emirates
2 Supporters



Bulgaria
1 Supporter



Hong Kong
1 Supporter



Wales
1 Supporter

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Welcoming your new cat

by Angela Townsend

If your new addition will be meeting other furry family members, a patient introduction is vital (in fact, we have a whole page of tips on staging the perfect cat-cat or cat-dog introduction on our website). But, even if it's just you and your new kitty, some key steps can make homecoming day as sweet and stress-free for both of you:

- Start your new cat out in her own “**safe room**.” This can be a bedroom, bathroom or another quiet place, outfitted with a cozy bed, litter box, toys, food and water (both at a distance from the litter box). Starting out in a small space will help her feel safe as she gets to know you and her new world in a “bite-sized” way. After the first day or two, if your kitty seems ready to explore some more, open the safe room door. As she gets to know every

nook and cranny of her forever home, she'll feel secure knowing she can retreat to her own special room.

- Sit quietly in the room, speak to your new sweetie in soft, reassuring tones, and **let your kitty set the pace** of interaction. Some cats will prance out and head-butt your hand immediately, while others may take days, or even weeks, to feel safe. Don't take it personally – even if you've taken your new cat from a cold cage to the Taj Mahal, all she knows right now is that she's left her home base. Make sure she has a personal space to hide (like a cat tree or bed), and let her initiate those first cuddle times.

- **Playtime** is a great way for your new cat to learn that you're her friend: even a scared new kitty may be enticed to play with a feathery wand toy, and the trust-building hormones released during play can lead to cuddles and connection.

- Above all, **don't get frustrated**. Some cats will hide or hiss at you for several days before making the first steps of trust. Your patience here will pay off for years to come. Many a cat who has trembled under a bed for a week has turned out to be an affectionate love-bug, given enough time and reason to trust.



A safe space of her own will help any cat, like Griselle, to feel secure and begin to trust you.



Like Kurt, your new kitty will just need time to learn to trust you.



Playing together will help your new cat to trust you, as Larry demonstrates.

Letters of the Quarter

Editor's note: since we've looked at where our supporters come from in this issue, we thought it would be fun to spotlight some kind words from a couple of our cats' international friends.

I've just watched the CBS News story about Tabby's Place, here in Australia. I just wanted to say "You guys are great!!!!!!" It's heartwarming to see that someone is willing to put not only their money, but also their heart, into caring for the unloved, unwanted and hard to place cats of that part of the world. My heart was particularly touched by Tashi, and the way you're working with [him]. I wish there were more people like you in the world. Keep up the great work and please give Tashi and all the other Cats a cuddle and scratch from me.

- **Faye, Australia**



I am grateful that there are kind people like...Tabby's Place to help take care and comfort those helpless cats...My sister is sponsoring Ben, and I am sponsoring li'l Crystal...I heard about this site from my sister, who...loves to help all kinds of animals... hope you can contact her too, cause [it's] all thanks to her to share this amazing Tabby's Place with me...hope to always keep in contact...I'll try to tell my friend and people around here about this site, and hope they'll sponsor other cats too.

- **Biba and Rose, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**



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Executive Director Jonathan Rosenberg

Editor Angela Townsend

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(908) 237-5300 • info@tabbysplace.org

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VOX OPTIO VETERINARIUS

Canned Food vs. Dry Food

by Denise Jeffries, Senior Veterinary Technician

Unlike dogs and people, which are omnivores, cats are true carnivores, and depend solely on the nutrients in animal flesh for their survival. Because of this, the higher protein, moderate fat, and lower carbohydrate profile of canned foods may be more compatible with a cat's natural physiology. Canned foods contain higher proportions of fats and protein, and relatively lower amounts of carbohydrates. Dry foods have a larger proportion of carbohydrates (carbohydrates are required to form the "nuggets").

Research suggests that cats' hunger is driven by protein intake, meaning cats feel satiated only after ingesting sufficient protein. If a food is high in carbohydrates, cats may be taking in excessive calories in the form of carbohydrates while trying to reach their necessary levels of protein. Contrary to many people believe, canned food may be the best choice to help your cat maintain an appropriate weight.

But, dry food may have some advantage when it comes to dental health. In theory, foods that require chewing are more likely to prevent the accumulation of plaque, and some dry foods have additives that are abrasive and remove food particles. Unfortunately, these foods only work appropriately if your cat chews. Some

cats swallow their food without doing much work. In these cases, certain types of prescription diets or treats may be useful.

Many people prefer feeding dry food because a full bowl can be left out all day without spoiling. While this is more convenient for owners, some cats may benefit from scheduled feedings. At the very least, owners should be sure they can measure the amount of food their cats eat so they can make appropriate adjustments. Working together with your veterinarian, you can find the food option that best suits your cat's unique needs.



'Canned or wet food?' Maggie says, 'Both.'



Angelina shows off her great love for dry food.

FIV: Not a Death Sentence

by Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

At 20 years old, Nickey is flourishing, despite the fact that she carries the feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). This virus, which affects approximately 2% of cats, is in the same family as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and has similar symptoms. Fortunately, FIV cannot infect humans (and vice versa).

FIV is typically transmitted through bite wounds from an infected cat, and most FIV+ cats are males who go outdoors. You cannot transmit FIV by petting an FIV+ cat and then interacting with another cat. FIV can be the cause of a myriad of complications due to the virus' immune-suppression. Most commonly, we see chronic gingivitis/periodontitis and upper respiratory tract infections. We have also seen some cancers associated with FIV infection, the most common of which is lymphoma.

If your cat has been diagnosed with FIV, the most important thing you can do for her health is to keep her indoors. This will protect other cats, and will protect your cat from infections from other cats. There are some therapies that may help stimulate her immune system, but there is no cure for FIV. Veterinarians typically deal aggressively with complications, to help the cat stay healthy for as long as possible. The average lifespan after an FIV+ diagnosis is 5 years, but, as Nickey demonstrates, FIV+ cats can live long, happy lives.

Nickey has been lucky not to be affected with many of the typical FIV complications. While she was diagnosed recently with lymphoma, she responded very well to surgery and chemotherapy. In fact, recent ultrasounds reveal no sign of the cancer, and Nickey's energy level and quality of life are higher than ever. At 20 years old, Nickey has outlived most cats, and due to diligent medical care has been remarkably healthy and happy.



Nickey



At age 20, Nickey is the epitome of all a cat can be, FIV+ or otherwise!



Tashi's 1st Birthday Wish

by Angela Townsend

The homeless, paraplegic tabby toddler of last summer is now a happy, beloved "teenager" – and he's learning to walk!

In just one year, Tashi's gone from flopping about, fish-like, to really walking, thanks to thrice-daily physical therapy, hydrotherapy in his very own tank, and lots of love from big-hearted friends near and far (that would be you!).

Tashi's wish for his first birthday is that you'll help to make more miracles possible for him. Click [here](#) to help pay for Tashi's medications, therapies, and visits to specialists. Or, "adopt" Tashi by becoming his sponsor, and receive monthly updates as he continues to dazzle you with his determination. Thank you for making Tashi's 1st birthday a real celebration!



Little Tashi isn't so little anymore, and he's hoping for a BIG, beautiful first birthday!

Forever Loved: Ringo

by Jonathan Rosenberg

I am privileged to have met and cared for almost 800 cats since Tabby's Place opened. They were all special in their own ways. But, even among so many wonderful felines, Ringo was a standout.

Ringo came to Tabby's Place in May of 2006, at the age of 14 years, having been abandoned by his owner when Ringo became diabetic. During the next 2.5 years, he was diagnosed with heart disease and inflammatory bowel disease.

Ringo always appeared fragile, yet he thrived in the Lounge, where he was admired and loved by an endless stream of human fans. Ringo was possibly the most loved cat to have resided at Tabby's Place.

Much to our joy, a wonderful couple fell in love with Ringo early this year and he finally had his "forever home." Sadly, in April, Ringo's kidneys began to show signs of failure and his health declined rapidly. Within a few days, it became clear to his new family that it >>



Ringo adored life in the Tabby's Place lounge, and was adored by all who passed through.

Do Fence Me In by Dr. Laura Collins

As a pet owner, I love watching my cats play and providing them with stimuli they enjoy. Most cats would love to enjoy the breeze, scents and sounds of the outdoors. But, I have several concerns for my outdoor feline patients:

- **Trauma** – being hit by a car, falling from a tree, or getting shot by a BB gun.
- **Ingestion of poisons** such as anti-freeze, rat poison or toxic plants.
- **Feline leukemia (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV)** – life-threatening, incurable viruses transmitted by other cats.
- **Fleas and ticks.**
- **Getting Lost** – Anyone who has lost a cat can tell you how hard it is never to know what happened to their beloved pet.

My solution for these concerns was to build an outdoor enclosure for my cats. It is accessible through a window, and they can jump into it whenever the window is open (or meow until someone opens it). This enclosure protects them from the possibilities of trauma, poison ingestion (I make sure it's clear of toxic plants), FIV and FeLV, and getting lost, and I ensure that my cats have flea and tick prevention.

I built the enclosure about 6 years ago from a kit I ordered online. A good carpenter would find it easy to build one from scratch. It was simple to build, and comes with shelves onto which your cats can jump and sit. I also dragged in a tree stump for them to play with, added some mulch in which they could dig, and voila: the perfect cat playhouse. Every cat I've had since I built it has enjoyed going out in it. One of my cats brings her play mice out into the enclosure to play with. I've found actual caught dead mice, too, which the cats lovingly brought into the house to share with me. My cats love it, it adds a new dimension to their lives, and I have fun watching them from inside or outside.



Tabby's Place alumna Stormy loves sunning and playing in her enclosure.

was time to let him go.

I had the sad honor of being by his side as he left this world peacefully. I (and many, many others) will never forget this magnificent, gentle boy. Rest in peace, baby boy.



Where Are They Now: Julius

“The Cutest Kitten in the World”

by Karina Jewitt, Sanctuary Associate

The day I walked into the vet room to meet my latest “bottle baby,” Julius, I was hopelessly in love. He was the cutest thing I had ever seen. He is still known around Tabby's Place as “the cutest kitten in the world.”

I spent eight wonderful weeks raising Julius: watching him learn to eat, to play with toys and to slowly need me less and less. On the day Julius left, I was so happy he'd found his special someone, but sad because I would miss the boy who'd been a big part of my life. His new mommy immediately fell in love with his sweet charm and gentle ways, and Julius settled into his new home wonderfully.

Today, Julius sleeps with his “mommy” every night and follows her around during the day. Julius' owner wanted Julius to have friends while she was away, so she adopted Katje and Yoshi. Julius loves to play and wrestle with “his” kittens, but when nighttime comes he's back to snuggling in bed with his mommy. I have had the honor of babysitting Julius twice when his owner left town. It was wonderful to spend time with him again, and to see how his personality has developed. He is still the sweet, loving boy I remember. Julius just had his first birthday, and his owner told me she had a birthday party for him. She said Julius continues to be such a joy, and every time she thinks of him she breaks into a smile. It makes me smile and warms my heart to know my baby Julius is so loved.



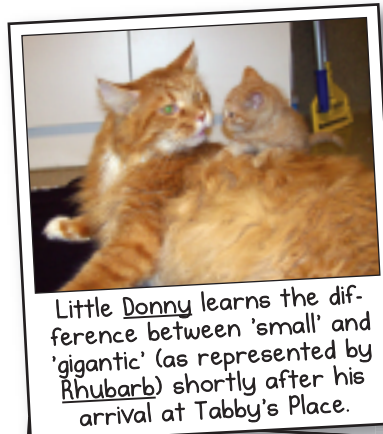
Grown-up Julius admires his baby picture in last year's Tabby's Place calendar.



Julius with 'his' kittens, Katje and Yoshi.



Julius, still the cutest kitten in the world.



Little Donny learns the difference between 'small' and 'gigantic' (as represented by Rhubarb) shortly after his arrival at Tabby's Place.



Donny and best friend Tashi romp on Donny's first day of freedom after cage rest.



Donny snoozes just hours before leaving Tabby's Place for his forever home!

Happy Endings: Donny Brook

by Angela Townsend

Donny Brook came to Tabby's Place with the odds stacked against him, but his unsinkable sense of joy has carried him through. When Donny and his family came to us from a high-kill urban shelter, they were desperately ill. With 'round-the-clock care, Donny (plus mama Kim and brother Ulysses) made it through...only to face a fresh challenge.

It was painfully clear that little Donny had difficulty walking. A few X-rays later, Donny was diagnosed with a severe congenital dislocation of both knees. He needed at least one major surgery, and three months of cage rest – an eternity for any kitten!

But Donny made the most of post-surgical life in his lobby cage, and became fast friends with Tashi. The two often reached through their respective crate bars to tap each other. Still, the best was yet to come.

Alix, a Tabby's Place volunteer, had always loved Donny. She knew that he might need additional surgeries, and began creating a “Donny fund.” Then, on the very happy last day of Donny's cage rest, Alix brought him home with her. Today, Donny is a happy-hearted, healthy “teenager,” loving his new life.

