

New Beginnings: Kimiko, Miyagi & Pikachu

by Angela Townsend, Development Director

A group of big-hearted American military families and Japanese nationals discovered Tabby's Place online, and knew it would be the perfect haven for three tabbies running out of time at an Okinawa shelter. The shelter was scheduled to close, at which time the trio would face euthanasia by gassing. The Okinawa team considered it a long shot that a sanctuary halfway around the globe might take three terrified cats. But, they had to try.

An active-duty Marine personally paid for medical care, and an Air Force staff sergeant called Tabby's Place. Thanks to their devotion – and Tabby's Place's willingness to rescue cats regardless of distance - the Okinawan littermates made the 35-hour journey from Okinawa to Ringoes, NJ. Today, Kimiko, Miyagi and Pikachu are safe and learning to trust their friends at Tabby's Place. With a haven of their own and an international family of fans, we trust that our brave globetrotters can now look forward to long, love-filled lives.



Kimiko



Miyagi



Pikachu



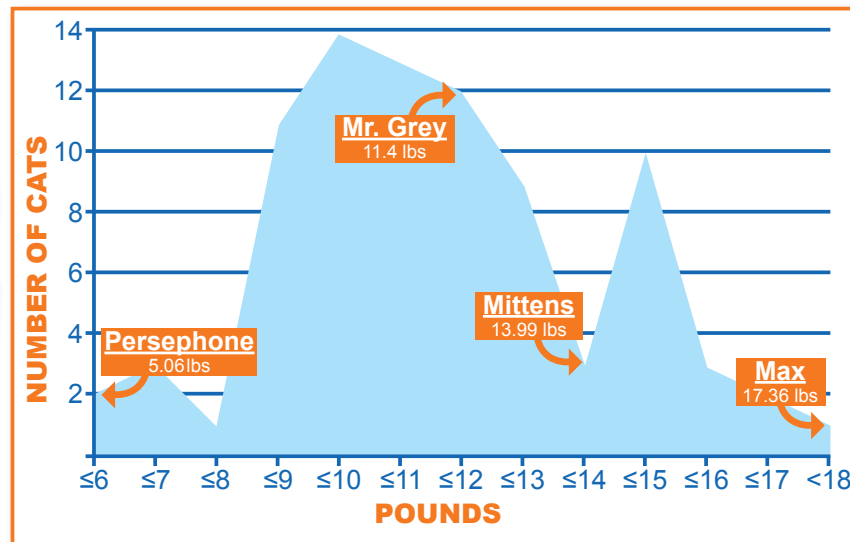
She may be our tiniest cat, but Hootz's personality outweighs everyone else combined.



At nearly 18 pounds, Max is presently our heaviest cat.

928 Pounds of Purrs* by Angela Townsend

Pound for pound, we think the Tabby's Place cats offer the sweetest half-ton on the planet. Attitude counts far more than poundage in the feline realm, where we have gentle giants like Raja (15.42 pounds) and bossy Napoleons like Natalie (9.96). From our "value-sized" felines in the Weight Management Suite to little peanuts like Jade (6.32), we know each cat is worth more than her weight in gold.



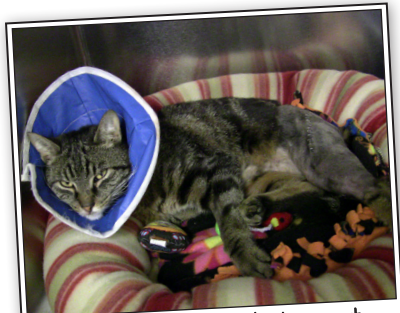
*The total weight of the 84 adult, non-quarantined Tabby's Place cats, as of May 1, 2010.

What's Inside?

Parasites In Cats	3	Love Beyond A Lifetime	5
Inter-cat Aggression.....	3	Forever Loved: Pepper.....	5
Geoff & The Open House ...	2	Room For One More.....	4
Letters of the Quarter	2	Where Are They Now?	6
		X-Ray Machine Update	4
		Happy Endings: Tiny.....	6

Microchipping Miracles

by Angela Townsend



Geoff is bravely enduring post-surgical cage rest, but he's glad he's finished with the less than stylish e-collar pictured here.

In April we received a phone call about a skinny tabby with a broken leg, who had been picked up 4 hours away from Tabby's Place. Animal Control in Luzerne County, PA had rushed the ailing cat to a veterinary hospital, where a quick scan detected a microchip. That chip was meant to reunite Geoff with his

adopter in the event that he was lost, but, sadly, the phone number for his family was disconnected. Fortunately, the microchip database provided contact information for Geoff's former home... Tabby's Place. We immediately arranged for Geoff to come home and have surgery on his broken femur. Thanks to a microchip smaller than a grain of rice, this tabby would be saved.

Today, Geoff has pins and staples in his leg, and he's expected to make a full recovery. Through his entire ordeal, he's

hardly paused his purring, and he will make happy "biscuits" with his paws for anyone who shows him affection.

To help other cats and dogs to have happy reunions, Tabby's Place will be holding our 3rd annual Low-Cost Microchipping Clinic and Open House on Saturday, October 9th. In addition to meeting Geoff (if he isn't adopted by then), visitors can have their cats or dogs microchipped for \$39.99 (including lifetime registration) and enjoy tours of Tabby's Place, free mini-classes on feline behavior, a Blessing of the Animals, and visits with vendors including Best Friends, the Philly Soft Pretzel Factory, and a pet "communicator." Magic 98.3 will be broadcasting live from the event, which will also include a free goodie bag for all attendees.

For more information, or to adopt Geoff, contact me at 908-237-5300 ext 235 or at@tabbysplace.org.



Handsome Geoff's spirit has remained sweet and sunny through all his trials.



We are so grateful that Geoff made his way back to Tabby's Place in his time of need.

Letter of the Quarter

"I wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed my visit to Tabby's Place. I greatly appreciate you taking time out of your busy day to show me around so I can visit the kitties. [Desi](#), [Mrs. Jinx](#) and I became fast friends. [Tiny](#) also seemed to really enjoy having me scratch his ears and rub his back. At one point I thought Tiny was about to climb up on my shoulder to get closer to me. Tiny purred like a jet engine when I was rubbing his ears. I spent part of my time in that suite going from Desi to Tiny administering ear tickles. Mrs. Jinx and I had a very nice chat. We all enjoyed ourselves very much.

My dream is that one day all of the kitties will get their perfect and loving forever homes.

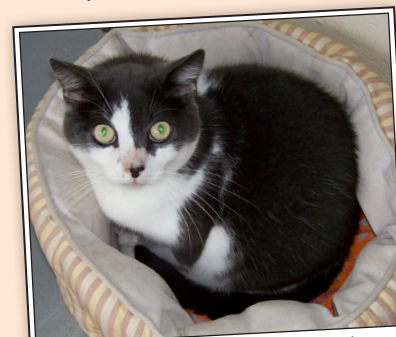
[Tabby's Place alumna] [Rumor](#) was thrilled to hear that everyone at Tabby's Place remembered her. When I got home...Rumor climbed onto my lap. She seemed to be trying to snuggle closer to me as I was telling her about my visit. We exchanged several head bumps during our chat. I like to think that she is sending her love to everyone at Tabby's Place. My other cat, Sammy also seemed to enjoy hearing about my visit.

Happiness is being snuggled by two purring cats.

- Carole, Clinton, NJ



Rumor



Desi loves visits from friends like Carole ... and he hopes to meet you too.

Parasites In Cats

by Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian



Kittens like Cashew are especially vulnerable to parasites.

Kittens are especially vulnerable to parasites. This is due to their immature immune systems, and the parasites that are transmitted in utero or through the mother's milk. The most common intestinal parasites are roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms and coccidia.

Roundworms and hookworms, although unrelated biologically, can be transmitted in 3 ways: consuming infective soil, nursing from an infected mother, or from prey. Additionally, hookworms can burrow through any part of the skin touching the ground. Once ingested, the parasites migrate through the intestinal tract, to the liver and the lungs, from whence they are coughed up and swallowed, ending up back in the intestinal tract where they can cause diarrhea or vomiting. Roundworms and hookworms are rarely infectious to humans.

Cats contract tapeworms by ingesting fleas, which release tapeworms to live in the cat's intestinal tract. Unless your cat eats a prey animal with fleas, it must be infested with fleas in order to develop tapeworms. It is essential to use good flea control whenever tapeworms are found. The

treatment for tapeworms usually works with one dose, although many veterinarians will repeat the treatment a few weeks later to ensure the flea control has had time to work. People can only get tapeworms by swallowing an infected flea, and cannot be infected by contact with a pet.

Cats are infected with the single-celled organism *Coccidia* by ingesting the oocysts (thick-walled spores) shed in feces by infected animals. Two types of *Coccidia*, *toxoplasma* and *cryptosporidium*, can affect humans, although these parasites are almost always contracted from consuming contaminated food or water, rather than from pets.

Fecal samples are recommended for all kittens and on a yearly basis to screen adult cats for intestinal parasites. Because kittens are most frequently affected, many veterinarians recommend preventative deworming of kittens even if there is no definitive evidence of infection. Deworming is a safe and effective way of preventing disease.

Fortunately, each of these parasites can be treated simply and effectively, and they pose no reason to fear. You cannot contract these parasites through direct contact with your cat. A combination of regular veterinary care and common-sense hygiene will help to keep your cats – and you – parasite-free.



Little Dave and his siblings came to Tabby's Place with parasites, but have made a full recovery.

Vox Optio Veterinarius

Inter-Cat Aggression: Can't We All Just Get Along?

by Denise Jeffries, Senior Veterinary Technician

Introducing another cat into your household can trigger inter-cat aggression, a common problem for cat owners. Use the following steps to introduce your new cats to help



Nuttin has been a bit notorious for his aggression towards certain other cats...



...but he has learned to live peacefully with suitemates like Jasper.

prevent this problem:

1. Place the new cat in a "safe" room (that is, a quiet room, closed off from the rest of your home but containing everything your cat will need, such as litter box, food, water, bedding and toys) to allow him to become more familiar with the new house and the associated smells.
2. After a few days, switch some bedding and scratching posts between the new cat's safe room and the other cat's area, to exchange scents.
3. Start feeding each cat by the closed safe room door. This way, they are close and can smell each other, but there is a barrier and positive reinforcement (meal time) involved.
4. If things go well for a few days, use a large dog crate, baby gate or screen door to provide separation while allowing the cats to see and smell one another. Continue to use positive reinforcement such as food,

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treats, toys and affection.

5. If there are no signs of aggression after several of these meetings, open the door for a full introduction. Provide plenty of playtime and affection for both cats, and allow for multiple feeding and litter box areas so there is no competition.

6. If there are signs of aggression during any of these steps, go back one step and try again in a couple of days.

Helpful Hints:

- Use a remote source of discipline (e.g., squirt bottle) to stop aggression before it escalates. Yelling, screaming or physical discipline do not work and can exacerbate the

problem. Use your voice and touch as a positive reinforcement. Make sure you provide lots of playtime before each introduction event. This will help relieve your cats' excess energy and anxiety.

- Have realistic expectations. Some cats may never learn to be friends, but they can learn to live together respectfully.

- Some introductions go quickly without incident, while others take time and patience. Do not be surprised if it takes several weeks to months for some cats to adjust.

- In severe cases, medication may be used during the process. Make sure you speak with your veterinarian to determine the best course of action.

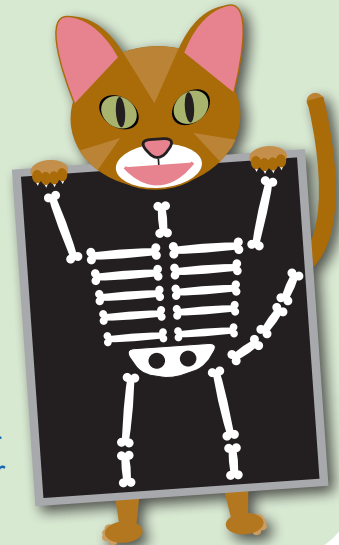


Tabby's Place is now on Twitter!

Start following the cats and retweeting their adventures today!

X-ray Machine Update

You made it possible for the cats to have their own X-ray machine right here at Tabby's Place, and things are moving along with getting it installed. At press time, we are working on scheduling the installation. It's a bit of a complicated process, since the power company must shut things down at their end before we can begin. But it won't be long before the X-ray machine will be helping us to save and care for cats in need. Thank you for making this possible. Keep an eye on the next newsletter for another update.



Lilly would love to be your special virtual adoptee.

Room For One More... Virtually

by Angela Townsend

"I would love to take him...but I don't have the space right now."

It's one of the most common remarks we hear at Tabby's Place. A wonderful person falls in love with a kitty, but has a "full house".

What if you could add to your furry family without adding another cat to your household? Well, you can: "virtually adopt" a cat by becoming a monthly sponsor.

As a sponsor, you will provide for a kitty who needs your extra care. Our Special Needs kitties, from diabetic Mittens to cancer survivor Lilly, would love to join your family.

Sign up to sponsor your new family member here, and you will receive monthly photos and updates on the lucky cat of your choice. For more information, please feel free to contact me at at@tabbysplace.org or 908-237-5300 ext 235.

Love Beyond a Lifetime: Planning For Your Cat's Perpetual Care

by Angela Townsend



Webster was missing his person terribly when he first came to Tabby's Place, but he has since become very happy and bonded to the staff here.

It's a question none of us likes to ponder: what would happen to our cats if we were no longer around to care for them? But for our own peace of mind and our cats' lifelong care, the most loving thing we can do is make plans in advance.

• The best option is to keep your kitties in the family (or extended family of friends). Talk honestly with your dear ones about your cats and their needs. Would any of your loved ones be willing to take your cats? It's best to make a plan with multiple folks, in case of changing circumstances.

• You can also have peace of mind by planning for your cats to come to Tabby's Place. We offer a haven for cats whose parents have enrolled them in the Guardian Angel Program. For a fee of \$15,000 per kitty (which is not due until your cats arrive), your cats can come to Tabby's Place immediately at the time of need. For more information, you can contact me at 908-237-5300 ext 235 or at@tabbysplace.org.

• You can find additional resources on planning for your kitties' lifetime care with 2nd Chance for Pets. They offer an extensive list of sanctuaries and perpetual care facilities, as well as information on other options for your cats' long term well-being.



Pitzel came to Tabby's Place when her beloved person passed away.

We all hope that we and our cats will be happy and healthy for many years to come. One of the most loving things we can do in the meantime is to plan for the worst, but expect the best – for every family member.

Forever Loved: Pepper

by Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

Pepper was my office-mate for 2.5 years, almost exactly 2.5 years longer than she was "supposed to live," after being diagnosed with two kinds of cancer at age 16. Pepper was never one to do "what she was told," and she continued that trait after being diagnosed with a third kind of cancer this past March.



Pepper's devotion to Jonathan was legendary.

Despite the odds, she continued to do amazingly well for six weeks. Admittedly, she slowed down and spent less time on my desk. But she still enjoyed human interaction and eating (her two favorite hobbies).

Those weeks were very difficult for me, as I watched her body wasting. It was so incredibly painful, yet intimate, as I tended to her medications, cleaned her and made sure she was comfortable. Pepper had been an amazingly faithful office-mate, and I was happy to be able to return the favor.

Finally the day came when Pepper would not eat and was non-reactive to human attention, even mine. I would never be ready for Pepper to leave ... but I also knew that she was ready. She went very gently in my arms, surrounded by the love of many other staff.

It is still hard to believe that she is no longer with me physically. I lost a dear friend and a great love. We cared for each other for those 2.5 years. I wouldn't change a thing.

Rest in peace, baby girl. I will see you again.



Beautiful Pepper

Where are they Now?: Ember (Emma)

by Sheila Abrams, *Adopter*

I adopted my beautiful girl Ember (formerly Emma) in March 2009.

Ember is strong-willed, with a distinct personality. I've always felt that my furry "kids" have the right to be themselves and my obligation is to respect them for who they are while expecting them to respect me. So Ember and I get along fine.



Glamorous Ember when she was known as Emma at Tabby's Place.

She is not a lap cat, but she will come and put her front paws on my knee and ask to be stroked. She likes to play with her "fishing pole" cat toy when she's in the mood, and also likes to carry around little mouse toys. I think she "kills" them early in the morning, when I sometimes hear lots of noise from the living

room. She has actually killed three real mice in the past year and accepted congratulations with modesty.

She lives side by side with Maxie, my 12-year-old dog. They don't interact a lot, but will relax in the same room. If Maxie begs for table scraps, Ember comes and begs too, although she rarely eats what I give her. She really prefers her cat food, but likes being part of the action.

She is a loner, like some people, and chooses to move around under her own steam, without human interference. I can understand that. She has bitten twice in 14 months, and both times she targeted men. One was at a rabies clinic, and the man thrust his ungloved hand into the crate with the intention of pulling her out. I would have bitten him myself.

She is healthy and looking spectacularly beautiful. I'm not big on "purebred" cats or dogs for their own sake, but have always thought Maine Coons were gorgeous, and that's what she seems to be.

I love her dearly and am very grateful that Jonathan and company took care of her for 3 years, until I came along looking for her. Our little family of 3 is a match made in heaven.



Ember enjoying the warmth of her new home.

Happy Endings: Tiny

by Angela Townsend

In his three years at Tabby's Place, Tiny earned a reputation as a bruiser, and required creativity in keeping the peace in his suite. As smart as he is handsome, Tiny learned that guarding the litter boxes meant he could control all 18 cats in the room.

With time, patience and behavioral medication, Tiny came to accept the fact that other cats exist, and he became a benevolent dictator over Suite C. Tiny always adored people, and always, he waited for the family that would love him for his quirky, hyper-confident self.

This spring, that family arrived, and they were smitten with Tiny from the first meeting. The confident MEOW and outstretched, "love me" arms with which Tiny greeted them were all the proof they needed that this was their future cat.

In classic Tiny fashion, our big guy wasted no time telling his new family how he feels about them: it's love. Best of all, Tiny is getting along just swimmingly with his feline housemates, fellow Tabby's Place alumni Greta and Pause.

It may have taken three years to find them, but Tiny's family was worth every moment of the wait.



Tiny and his big personality are now cherished in a forever home.



Tiny is loving life with his new family

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