



New Beginnings: Bubbles

Angela Townsend, Development Director

We see many adorable cats at Tabby's Place. But recently, we may have met the cutest feline ever to walk this earth.

Feast your eyes on cross-eyed Bubbles. Her photo scarcely does



Bubbles is learning to feel safe at Tabby's Place

her justice; fun-sized and frisky, Bubbles is fizzing over with charm.

But Bubbles' life was less than charming a few months ago. The tiny cat was the outcast of a feral cat colony. The other cats took to pummeling our little girl, preventing her from eating. Weak and frightened, Bubbles wobbled through her days in fear.

But joy bubbled over when the little cat came to Tabby's Place. Even after all she's been through, Bubbles adores other cats. She's thrilled to share her life with gentle souls like Sheldon and Paco in our Special Needs Suite. Bubbles is less



Bubbles

sure about humans, but we're happy to give her the time and tenderness she needs to learn to trust us.

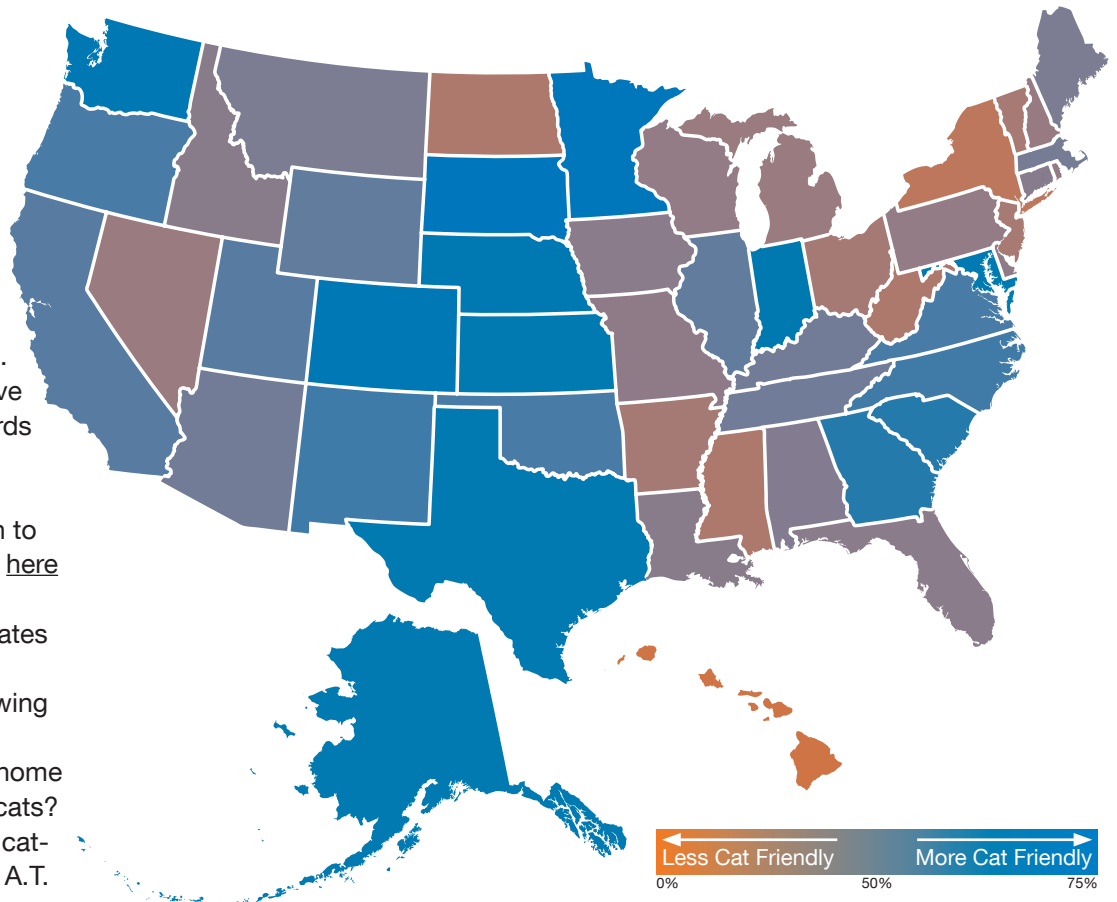
She may have crossed eyes, but Bubbles sees clearly now: life is beautiful. Thank you for making this possible for her at Tabby's Place.

Flats for Cats

There's so much to do when you plan a move: box your books, call the cable company...and, most importantly, make sure your landlord is cool with your cat. Over 70% of U.S. renters have pets, but only 40% of landlords permit cats. That may sound dismally low, but remember that many landlords are open to compromise. (Click [here](#) and [here](#) for tips on negotiating.)

[Here's a look](#) at which states have the highest and lowest proportions of landlords allowing pet cats.

Having trouble finding a home that's right for you and your cats? Click [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#) for cat-friendly rentals nationwide. – A.T.



Birthday Wishes Really Do Come True

Sharon Buck, Tabby's Place [Supporter](#)

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have little."

– Franklin Delano Roosevelt

For my recent "milestone" birthday, I planned a party for the important people in my life. Friends

asked the inevitable, "What do you want?" I really didn't need anything. Yet, I wanted the event to matter in a significant way.

My husband and I have been involved with Tabby's Place for many years. Why not expand our support by asking the special people in our lives to help the Tabby's Place cats?

We immediately contacted Development Director [Angela](#) about how to make the big day a success. Tabby's Place provided donation forms, brochures, pictures and a poster. We were overjoyed at how quickly our handcrafted donation bucket began filling up with gifts!

We encouraged our guests to visit Tabby's

Place on their own, either online or in person. Who knows? Maybe they will make a new furry friend.

This has been among my happiest birthdays ever. That's thanks to knowing that my loved ones' donations will support the neediest cats and kittens.

Your own wishes can come true, just like mine, by considering donations to Tabby's Place in lieu of gifts for your next significant event.

Editor's note: We thank Sharon (and husband Rob) for making their celebration a gift of love to our cats. Sharon's dear ones donated enough to care for all 100+ Tabby's Place cats for an entire day.

Would you like to party for the cats, too? Please contact Angela at at@tabbysplace.org or 908-237-5300 ext 235. The kitties need you as their ambassador and hero!



Rob and Sharon's Tabby's Place party display

Ask the Behaviorist

Feline House Soiling: Separating Fact from Fiction

Nancy Meyer, Feline Behavioral Consultant, [Adopter](#), [Benefactor](#) & [Volunteer](#)

Contrary to popular belief, your cat is not being spiteful when eliminating outside the litter pan.



Even kittens like Hope are naturally meticulous, and most litter box problems can be solved

This behavior is a signal that something is wrong in her world:

- Infections, cystitis, arthritis, diabetes and other **medical issues** can cause a cat to stop using the litter box. If it hurts her to eliminate, your cat may associate the box itself with pain. It's essential to bring your cat to the vet before considering other causes.
- Cats are naturally very clean. The number, size, location of **pans** and choice of **litter** can be **crucial** to litter box compliance.
- **Anxiety-related marking** may be a response to a change in the environment, especially the core areas where the cat sleeps, eats or plays.



Keeping Angelo's feline lower urinary tract disease under control encourages good litter box habits.

- Cats may target items with **unfamiliar scents** (such as new furniture, or luggage after a vacation) for urine marking.
- Marking in stairways, halls, doorways or the center of rooms indicates **stress originating inside of the home**, perhaps from dominant pets, new people

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in the household, active children or remodeling.

- Inappropriate elimination by windows or doors suggests a **perceived threat outside**, from such stressors as a stray cat in the yard or a dog being walked

on the street.

Whatever the cause of your cat's frustrating behavior, it's important to remember that she's not "being bad" or trying to anger you. In our next issue, we'll explore how best to resolve the problem.

RECOMMENDED READING:

- American Association of Feline Practitioners, [Feline House Soiling: Useful Information for Cat Owners](#) (PDF download)
- Humane Society of the United States, [Preventing Litter Box Problems](#)
- Tabby's Place, [Inappropriate Elimination](#)

Feline Dental Disease, Part III: Feline Chronic Gingivostomatitis (FCG) Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

Feline chronic gingivostomatitis (FCG) is the least common, but most painful, dental disorder affecting cats.

Unlike other dental diseases, FCG (also known as *lymphocytic plasmocytic stomatitis*, or LPS) is a disorder of the gums and soft tissue surrounding the teeth, back of the mouth, and sometimes the tongue. It is primarily the result of an extreme response of the immune system to a viral or bacterial stimulus.

Several viruses have been associated with FCG, including calicivirus, FIV, and FeLV. FCG can also be an exuberant reaction to the bacteria present in all cats' mouths. It is diagnosed primarily by the classic appearance of severe inflammation affecting the entire mouth.

Extracting the teeth is the best



Even young cats like [Rose](#) can develop LPS

way to treat FCG. This almost always involves extracting all the teeth behind the canines (the cat's front "fangs"), but sometimes, the canines and incisors also.

This may sound drastic, but afflicted cats are in so much pain that they will literally starve themselves to death. Extracting the teeth cures about 30% of cats, and significantly helps another 40% of cats in combination with medication. The sooner extraction is done, the more successful the outcome.

Although other treatments, such as corticosteroids, antibiotics, and laser therapy, can be helpful, none of

these therapies should be used as a primary treatment. These should be reserved for cats who have not responded adequately to extraction of all the teeth, since this is by far the most successful treatment.

Clients are frequently



[Lorelai](#) hopes you'll remember the importance of regular dental care for your cat

concerned about how their cats will eat after dental extractions. The answer is, they will eat much more comfortably – and with a better appetite. Cats don't chew like we do, so toothless cats eat quite easily.

Dental extractions can be life-saving for cats with severe FCG. I have seen cats go from 6 lbs to 14 lbs within months after full mouth extraction. I have also seen affected cats screaming from pain as they try to eat or groom themselves. My heart goes out to them, as I imagine how difficult it must be to be hungry, but know that eating will bring tremendous pain.

As always, consult your veterinarian on an appropriate plan for your cat.

Santa Cat Needs Your Help

You provide our cats with love, medical care, and a safe haven year 'round. But did you know that Tabby's Place receives 30% of our total annual income in November and December alone?

That means our kitties depend on your holiday donations in a big way. The gift you give right now will help care for kitties all year long.

You can make this a happy, healthy holiday for cats from hopeless situations. Please give today. You can even shop our Gift Catalog, and pick a present that puts all those fruitcakes and sweaters to shame.

Thank you for including our cats in your holiday joy! – A.T.



You can make this a happy holiday for Special Needs cats like Mango

Forever Loved: Bonnie

Jonathan Rosenberg,
Founder & Executive Director

The last quarter has been emotionally brutal in terms of losses¹. This made it especially difficult to choose a cat for this article. I finally decided on the loss that was the most painful for me.

Bonnie was a sweet, quiet tabby who was adopted in 2005, but returned 7 years later, after her owner's death. Now elderly, Bonnie endured a string of maladies that would have tried the patience of Job:

- She almost starved to death



Bonnie was happiest helping in the office

in Suite B, due to her shyness. During her long recovery, we moved her into the Community Room, where she would have fewer roommates and we could keep an eye on her.

- After a single steroid dose, she developed a bleeding stomach ulcer and had emergency surgery. Another long recovery followed.
- A few months later, Bonnie developed a nasal drip. After many months on antibiotics, the drip persisted. A CT scan showed terminal nasal cancer. Bonnie had cutting-edge radiosurgery that would buy her several good months, and minimize her time away from home for treatment.

Through all of this – the surgeries, poking, prodding, medicating (orally, nasally and subcutaneously) – Bonnie remained loving, patient and good-natured. She never complained, but seemed to know that she was loved and we were helping her.

Even when the



Bonnie

cancer began to ravage her body, Bonnie was sweet, bright-eyed and eager for contact. Inevitably, I would find her sitting right inside the Community Room door with an inquiring look on her face.

It tore at my heart each time I saw her. Part of me wished she would rage against the unfairness of her life. It would have made it easier for me, I guess. But Bonnie would have none of that. To the moment we let her go, she remained as gracious as ever.

I still cry when I think of her. She was an amazing being, and I feel blessed to have known her.

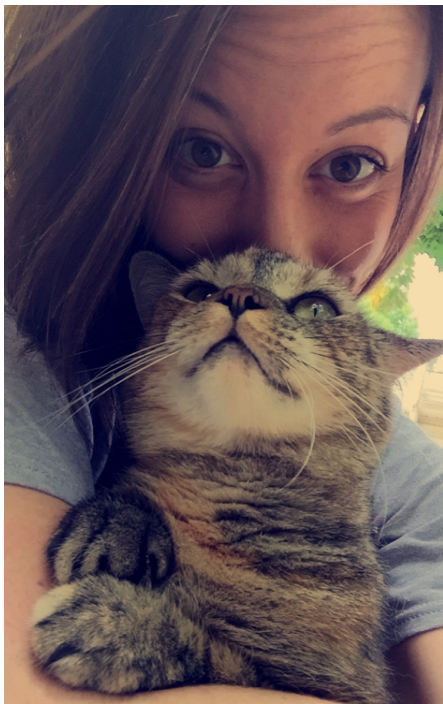
¹ Including icons like Lacey, Psi, Hobbes and Peachy.

Where Are They Now? The Last Petals Picked: Violet & Daisy

Way back in 2012, a bright bouquet of cats came to Tabby's Place from Georgia. One by one, these enchanting girls were all picked by loving adopters.

All, that is, but Violet and Daisy.

Oddly enough, the two friendliest "Flower Girls" were left in the field. As the years went by and the sisters got ever sweeter, we scratched our heads. How could so many adopters overlook such beautiful, loving,



Violet's adopter renamed her Cocoa for her warm heart – and she's living up to her sweet new moniker

hilarious cats?

It seems Daisy and Violet were simply waiting for something very special.

Daisy was plucked first. A big-hearted woman came to Tabby's Place seeking a balm for her broken heart. One after the next, she'd lost her cherished cats to the ravages of age. She longed for a new best friend. The moment she met Daisy, a bond was forged. The two are now inseparable, and Daisy has her human all to herself. It's everything this little wildflower dreamed of: never a fan of cats (including her sisters), Daisy always adored people.

That left the largest, loudest and most lovable of all the flower girls: Violet. In three years at Tabby's Place, Violet gained 4 pounds, 100% in confidence, and dozens of smitten fans. Her fate as the last Flower Girl was baffling.

But weird waits can be worthwhile.

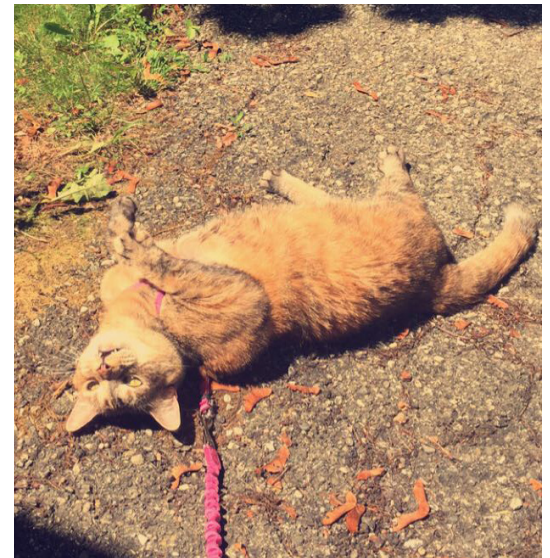
Violet finally found her forever home with the sister of a Tabby's Place staff member. In the first hour after bringing Violet home, her new "mom" sent us photos. Violet was lolling in her arms, rolling on her bed, and



Darling Daisy's loving home was worth the wait

making it clear that this was oh-so-meant-to-be.

After three years at Tabby's Place, Daisy and Violet left us missing them deeply – but also delighting in the mystery of how love comes right on time. – A.T.



Violet's new life includes walks in the sunshine (on a leash, of course)



Cats remind us that every day is precious, and their love lives on long after they've left us.

Like your cats, you can be remembered for your love. By remembering Tabby's Place in your estate, you'll ensure that your legacy will be kindness for the most vulnerable creatures. Long after you've left this earth, your goodness will echo in the lives of the cats you

save.

If you have questions about making a bequest to Tabby's Place, please contact Angela at at@tabbysplace.org, 908-237-5300 ext 235, or Jonathan at jr@tabbysplace.org, 908-237-530 ext 226. We would be honored to talk with you about how your love can outlast a lifetime. – A.T.

Happy Endings: Kitty [Lyn Rodrigo, Adopter, Benefactor & Volunteer](#)

Editor's note: [Kitty](#) was so kind as to give Lyn the byline for this article.

My name is [Kitty](#), and I'm here with a public service announcement: microchips save lives. I know that for certain, because it happened to me.

I was born in 1998, which makes me a senior citizen in the world of cats. The day I came to Tabby's Place in 2005, was the luckiest day of my life...so far. I found a safe haven, and I was microchipped.



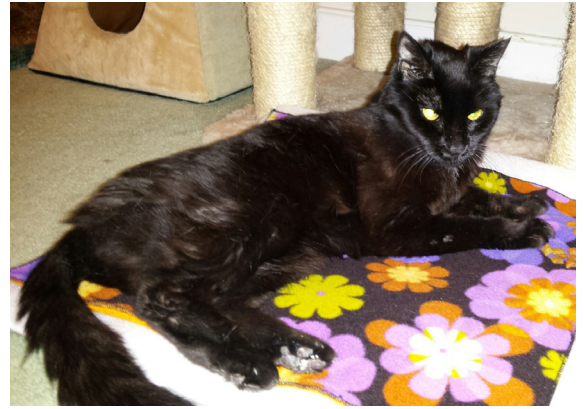
[Kitty's first night at home](#)

Soon, I was adopted, and life was good. My family and I moved to Georgia. But after ten years, I somehow became separated from that family and ended up on the street.

One day, a kind person picked me up and took me to a shelter. Senior cats like me are usually considered "unadoptable" at public shelters, so my future was uncertain. But, like most shelters, this one scans new arrivals for a microchip. Each cat's microchip has a special number that can be used to contact her owners.

The phone numbers registered with my chip were outdated, and the shelter people couldn't contact my family. But, the original phone number registered to the chip was Tabby's Place. As soon as the Tabby's Place staff heard I was in Atlanta and needed help, they went into action.

A great organization called [Imagine Home](#) worked with a team of volunteers to drive me north. The journey took over two



[Kitty cuddles up in her forever home](#)

days and many people working together.

Little did I know that one of the ladies who picked me up for the last leg of the relay would turn out to be my new momma. I think she knew it that day. She and my new poppa are Tabby's Place volunteers, and they visited me every week. Finally, they just knew they had to bring me home to join their feline family, which also includes Tabby's Place alumni [Joe](#) and [Bialy](#).

And *that* was truly the luckiest day of my life!

You can help protect kitties like Kitty by [donating towards microchipping expenses at Tabby's Place](#). Thank you for your kindness!

Your Holiday Wish Can Come True

If all you want for Christmas or Chanukah is love, the cats can help.

You can make a big difference for the kitties -- and warm your own heart -- by asking friends and family to [donate](#) to Tabby's Place [in your honor](#).

If you have enough scarves and candles, send loved ones to [this link](#) for your cat-saving holiday gift.

Thank you for being our cats' holiday hero!

