



New Beginnings: Greystoke & Edgar

Angela Townsend, Development Director

On a raw and rainy January morning, a good Samaritan noticed a suspicious, soaked box in the alley near her home. Upon opening it, she found two cats. Who would shutter their hopes in such a heartless way? Why would someone dispose of these boys like old newspapers?

We'll never answer those questions, but brothers Edgar and Greystoke aren't worried about that – or anything else. Through a happy series of circumstances, the bouncy boys came to Tabby's Place, where their box burst open to a life full of possibility. Despite their ordeal, Greystoke and Edgar are healthy and amazingly friendly, eager to trust again. From the hour they arrived, they've lavished our staff with affection.

Edgar and Greystoke are grateful to have made it from the alley to the arms of love. And, we're grateful to you for helping Tabby's Place to rescue these brave boys.



Greystoke



Edgar

2016 Tabby's Place Expenses

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder and Executive Director

Thanks to your generous contributions, our 2016 gross income climbed 10.5% over 2015, reaching \$1,231,000.

It is only a slight exaggeration to say that all of our donations come from individuals (as opposed to corporations, governmental organizations or private foundations). In fact, individuals like you donated 96.6% of our 2016 income. So, when you wonder whether your "small" contribution matters, be assured that it does.

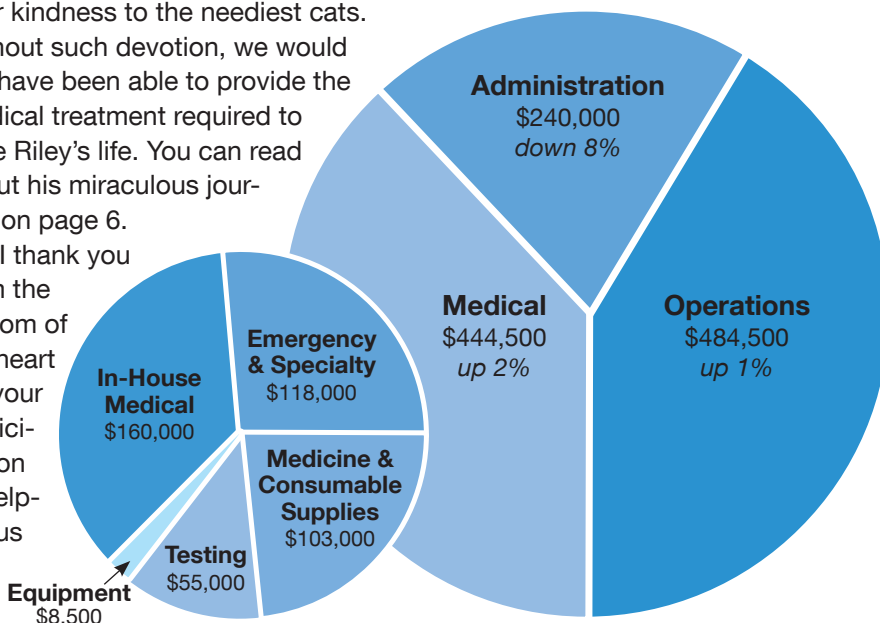
Adding to the good news, expenses increased by only 6%, totaling \$1,171,000, as shown in the following chart.

The bottom line: a net profit of \$61,000.

We are astounded and gratified by your support of our mission and your kindness to the neediest cats. Without such devotion, we would not have been able to provide the medical treatment required to save Riley's life. You can read about his miraculous journey on page 6.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your participation in helping us

save the most vulnerable cats. I look forward to more of the same in 2017.



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The Choice of a Lifetime

You remember it all like it was yesterday: the way you first locked eyes with your cat, the moment you knew he was meant to be yours.

We happily admit there's much beyond explanation in that magical connection. But even as you let your heart guide you to your next feline family member, it's a good idea to invite your head along. When you're about to adopt a cat, consider the following:

- **Energy:** Kittens are cute beyond description, and a constant source of comedy. They are also extraordinarily – and exhaustingly – energetic. It's usually best to either adopt multiple kittens together, or to add a kitten to a home with another young cat. Still have your



Shy cats like [Puzzle](#) yearn for patient people who will love them just the way they are

heart set on a singleton? If you're willing to keep a baby cat amused with wand toys and high-flying interaction, and to be vigilant about keeping her safe from the perils of her own curiosity, a lone kitten may be right for you.

- **Everyone Else:** A kitten may prove especially threatening to your mature cat, given youngsters' tendencies to pounce on everything that moves. It's best to choose a cat whose age and energy level matches his new "sibling"'s.
- **Essence:** Are you dreaming of a lap cat? A kitty who loves to play with wand toys? Seek those characteristics from the start. While cats can and do "bloom" in homes, it's not fair to expect a shy cat to behave completely differently in a short period of time. If cuddliness is a must-have, seriously consider an adult cat. With adults, what you see is what you get, while kittens' personalities aren't yet fully developed.
- **Effort:** One of the most rewarding experiences in life is nurturing a shy cat's trust. If you are patient, up for the challenge, and comfort-



As an energetic teenager, [LuEllen](#) craves companions who will play with her

able with whatever progress your nervous friend does (or doesn't) make, consider an overlooked timid cat. It's an extraordinary gift of love to cherish a skittish cat exactly as she is.

- **Expenses:** Does your family have room in your budget for a Special Needs cat? The answer may be "yes." While conditions like diabetes can require costly care, other chronic issues, such as FIV, may require little or nothing in the way of additional expenses. – A.T.

RECOMMENDED READING:

- [Choosing the Right Cat For You](#), Humane Society of the United States
- [Choosing an adult cat](#), International Cat Care



[Henrietta](#)



[Patches](#)



[Faye](#)

Valentines Needed

Calling all big-hearted humans: the following cats are in serious need of love.

As Valentine's Day approaches, [Henrietta](#), [Patches](#)

and [Faye](#) are in need of sponsors. These sweet ladies have the lowest numbers of sponsors of all the cats at Tabby's Place.

Will you open your heart to

a furry Valentine this year? You can even give a Valentine's Day gift sponsorship to a loved one. Faye and friends are counting on your love.

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Early Socialization: From Feral Kitten to Lap Lover

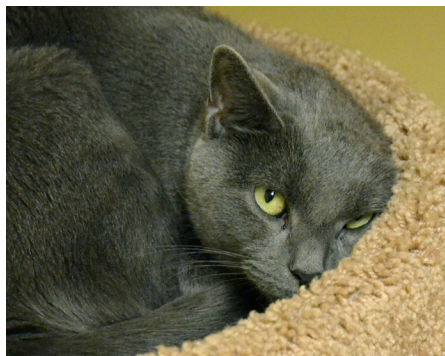
Nancy Meyer, Feline Behavioral Consultant, [Volunteer](#), [Adopter](#) & [Benefactor](#)

Editor's note: As Tabby's Place's resident behavior expert from the very beginning, Nancy has worked with all kinds of quirky cats. This article begins a series of case studies from her experiences. – A.T.

Many people refer to any stray cat as “a feral.” Properly defined, however, feral cats are the offspring of abandoned domestic cats.

A true feral cat will be as wary of humans as a wild animal. If they have any hope of being socialized to humans, feral-born cats must have at least minimal human handling before 16 weeks of age. After this point, the socializing “window” slams shut.

For this reason, Tabby's Place does not take in adult feral cats for adoption but instead runs a [TNR \(Trap-Neuter-Return\) program](#) for these cats. Kittens can be socialized, but we must always make certain we



[Sneaky](#)

are “in the window.”

Sometimes, however, it's complicated.

We opted to take in 6-month-old [Sneaky](#) when her feral colony's home was sold from under their paws. When Sneaky was in one of our Quarantine cages, she seemed to respond well to our socializing attempts. This all changed when she was released into a suite. Sneaky had never known positive human handling during “the window,” and now she was a true feral.

Sneaky lived at Tabby's Place for several years and never lost her mistrust of humans. Still, her story has a happy ending. A wonderful opportunity came up for Sneaky to live out her life in safety, yet still on her own terms, at a horse barn, along with another feral kitty, [Ferret](#).

With a very different kittenhood, Sneaky's fellow Tabby's Place alumna [Zoey](#) had a very different story. Zoey was born outdoors too, but the property owners handled her from a young age. Tabby's Place trapped Zoey at three months of age. Since she was already out of “the window,” we put her through our TNR program ... but three months later, we had to come back for her.

Little Zoey had developed a serious head tilt, for which she would require surgery. Given her medical



[Zoey](#)

issues, Zoey could not be safely released outdoors. We needed to socialize her and find her an indoor home.

Following her positive early interactions with humans, Zoey was receptive to our socializing attempts. She loved wand toys, learning various commands, and, most of all, laps. Although she was born to feral parents, Zoey became the ultimate lap cat. Specifically, my lap – I adopted her over a year ago!



[Zoey enjoying Nancy's lap](#)

Blessed Bequests

You love cats. You're giving everything you can to help them. But, you wish you could do more.

One of the most significant ways to help is to name Tabby's Place in your will. Estate gifts are generally the largest and most life-changing donations our cats receive. A few simple lines in your will today can save hundreds of cats' lives years from now.

There are many ways you can leave a legacy of love for the Tabby's Place cats. We recommend talking with your attorney or estate planner about your options. If you have questions, feel free to contact Angela at 908-237-5300 ext 235 or at@tabbysplace.org. Oh, and you might need our tax ID#, which is 22-3695520.

Thank you for cherishing our cats with love beyond a lifetime!



You can leave a legacy of compassion for cats like [Cammi](#)

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Wonderful Water

Most of us pour our cats a fresh bowl of water each day without giving it much thought. However, our cats could use a bit more encouragement to stay properly hydrated.

In the wild, cats get their required intake of water from prey. This may be why pet cats are remarkably bad at drinking enough water on their own. Your cat's body is roughly 80% water, and, like humans, cats depend on proper hydration for their bodily functions. Adequate fluids are especially essential for cats with such common conditions as kidney disease and feline lower urinary tract disease. Drinking enough water can



Adequate water is especially essential for Special Needs cats like diabetic Reese

help your cat to live a longer, healthier life.

How can you increase your cat's fluid intake?

- Use ceramic, glass or stainless steel water bowls, and wash them daily. Many cats dislike the taste of plastic, which can harbor bacteria. Experiment with bowls to figure out which kind your cat likes best. (One study found that cats definitely drink more water out of a "favorite" bowl.)
- Place your cat's water bowl in a different location from her food. Cats in the wild avoid water sources near their food, as this water may be contaminated by dead prey.
- Be diligent about changing your cat's water every day. This will also allow you to monitor her fluid intake. An increase or decrease in drinking can be a sign of a serious underlying issue, such as kidney disease or diabetes.
- Offer your cat more wet food, which can contain up to 80% water. Even better, mix a bit of warm water into the wet food, creating a tasty "slurry."



Chloe is one of the many Tabby's Place cats who enjoy fountains

- Consider a cat water fountain. Just be sure to clean it thoroughly and often, as these can quickly grow bacteria.
- Get creative. Let your cat drink out of a dripping faucet, or offer her ice cubes, or frozen broth from canned cat food, to lick. You can even give her bottled water to see if she prefers the taste. – A.T.

RECOMMENDED READING:

- [Does Your Cat Need To Drink More Water?](#), Dr. Eloise Bright
- [7 Creative Ways to Encourage Your Cat to Drink More Water](#), Jason Carr
- [How to encourage your cat to drink](#), International Cat Care
- [Cats Need Water](#), Pam Johnson-Bennett
- [Dehydration in Cats](#), WebMD

Forever Loved: Adelaide

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

We were doing a rough count of cats at a nearby stable where we were planning to do TNR, when a wizened old calico sauntered out from a horse stall. She was very friendly but quite old, so we asked whether they wanted us to make her a Tabby's Place resident.

We were told that she was spayed, had lived here "forever" and was happy. She certainly seemed comfortable on the property and looked like a tough old bird. I expected to see her spit a stream of tobacco juice at any moment.

Fast forward to summer 2015. One of the stable's clients called.

Something was very wrong with Adelaide: she couldn't eat, and her mouth looked horrible. We scooped her up and brought her in. It didn't look good. Her nose was devoid of fur, often a sign of cancer. Her mouth looked like raw hamburger meat. In addition, she was FIV+.

Our vet did a biopsy of Adelaide's nose and gum tissue and put her on antibiotics and pain medications. We waited anxiously for the results. To our delight, her nose was just inflamed by sun exposure. There was no cancer. As expected, she had severe stomatitis, a painful oral disease. Removing most of



Adelaide

Adelaide's teeth resolved her mouth pain.

We introduced her to the FIV Suite with some trepidation. Tiny Adelaide was a mouse in a room full of lions. But, on her first day, Adelaide walked around and fiercely punched every cat in the head. This set just

[continues on the next page](#)

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the tone she wanted.

The other cats were afraid of her, which gave her easy access to laps. She took full advantage of this and quickly attracted a horde of fans.

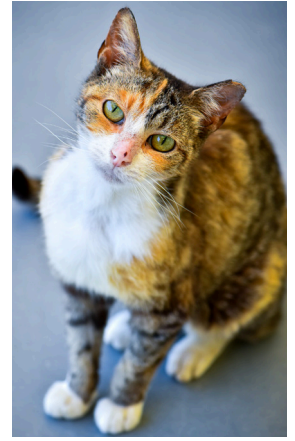
Adelaide thrived for a year and a half, glorying in snuggles, sunshine and food. But, beginning in mid-2016, her age caught up with her, and her kidneys began to show symptoms of disease. The progres-

sion was rapid, and we couldn't staunch the downward spiral.

We knew it was time to say goodbye to dear Adelaide. She went very peacefully, with the grace we would expect of her. Adelaide had lived her life to the fullest, and she left gently, surrounded by many admirers.

I imagine Adelaide across the Rainbow Bridge, sitting on a rocking chair on her porch, corncob pipe in mouth, yelling obscenities at the

kittens playing in the yard. She is greatly missed.



→
Tiny Adelaide had colossal confidence

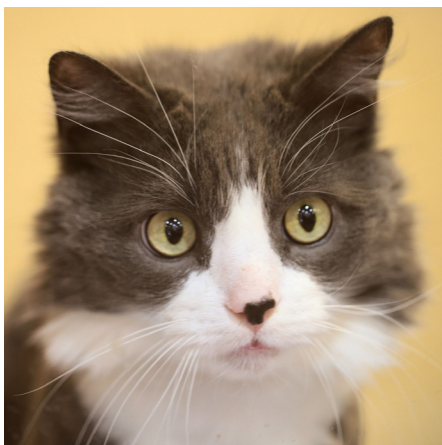
Getting Your Cat To The Vet

Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

Many people fear visits to the veterinarian for the simple reason that their cats *hate* their carriers. The struggle can be epic, resulting in scratches, bites and the feeling that we have betrayed our furry friend's faith in us. ([This](#) video rings all too true for many of us!)

There are, however, simple steps you can take to make vet visits less traumatic for everyone:

- **Familiarize your cat with the carrier** by making it a place of comfort and safety. Leave the carrier out at all times, so it isn't associated with traumatic travel. Place a cozy blanket inside, and consider sprinkling catnip or misting the carrier with [Feliway](#)¹.



Take it from [Owen](#) – if your cat looks like this when the carrier comes out, you may need a new strategy

- **Feed your cat in the carrier**, so she associates it with positive experiences. Start by placing her food bowl near the carrier, then move it in gradually over a period of days.
- On the day of the vet visit, **pack up when your cat will be hungry**, so she will be more willing to go in the carrier for food.
- **Once your cat is inside of it, cover the carrier with a towel.** In nature, a fearful cat will hide, choosing not to see the source of her fear, so this will help relieve her anxiety.
- Most cats like to be **elevated and away from dogs**. If your veterinarian has a separate waiting area for cats, or can place you in a quiet exam room, that is ideal. If not, keep your cat in the car for as long as possible while awaiting your appointment.
- **Pack a towel from home**, misted with Feliway, to place on the exam room table.
- **Bring your cat's favorite treats or toys**, which may help her to relax.
- **Sedation may be helpful** for certain procedures. Discuss this in advance with your vet. Negative experiences are not easily forgotten, and will add to your cat's trepidation about future visits.
- **Consider a "social visit" with**



[Adam](#) is not one of our most cooperative patients at Tabby's Place

your veterinarian. Bring along your cat's treats and toys, so she can have a positive experience with the office and staff. Remember, the staff at your veterinary clinic does this because they love animals, and they would rather have a positive interaction with a friendly cat than cause your kitty to be afraid.

There is a movement in veterinary medicine to help our pets to be more comfortable and cooperative in the office. The American Association of Feline Practitioners offers a certification called "[Cat Friendly Practice](#)," and Dr. Marty Becker offers a "[Fear Free Certification](#)" for both dogs and cats. Ask your veterinarian if they have become certified in either program, or search online to find a certified practice.

¹A synthetic feline pheromone that can help cats feel more comfortable in their environment.

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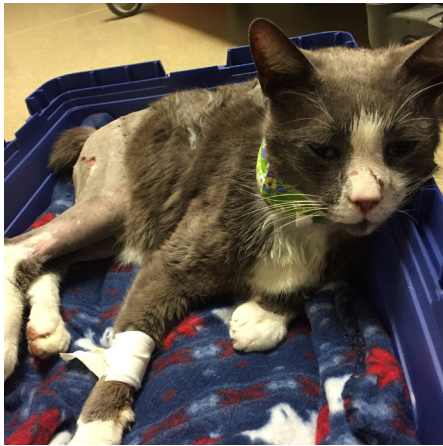
Happy Endings: Riley

“Riley” is a funny name for this particular cat, really.

If ever there were a “life of Riley,” it wasn’t his.

The skinny grey-and-white stray was moseying along, minding his own business when his life and body were shattered. A catastrophic car accident left Riley clinging to life, with broken bones and a dangerously swelling brain. Animal Control was called to the scene of the accident, and the officers realized this cat was extremely unlikely to live.

Still, they placed the call to



Riley after his surgeries

Tabby’s Place. Thanks to generous friends like you, we were able to give our best for the cat who had faced the worst. Several surgeries and many weeks of intensive care later, the shattered stray survived...and then some.

As Riley regained his health and strength, he also rebounded in courage and good cheer. Few cats on earth loved to be loved more than Riley, but he’d also let us know when he’d had enough. Undaunted by his darkest days, Riley was as feisty as he was fun. He settled into our Special Needs Suite gleefully, and enjoyed showing off his good spirits and funny, stumpy tail to visitors.

Perhaps the life of Riley was within reach, after all.

Still, Riley was chronically overlooked by adopters. There was no good explanation...except that perhaps, he was waiting for someone very, very special.

This winter, we found out that was precisely the case.

The life of Riley is now in full swing, as our brave boy laps up the



Riley shortly before his adoption

love of his very own person. We hear that Riley’s wasted no time making his forever home his own, and his new “mom” falls further in love with him every day.

All the odds were against this broken boy a few short months ago. But long odds are a shortcut to Tabby’s Place – and all the love we have to give. Thank you for giving your love so generously and making Riley’s resurgence possible! – A.T.

Valentine’s Day Gift Idea For Cat Lovers – And Their Cats!

Now, your cat has the opportunity to have her own “copy” of Shop Cats of New York! This toy was made to look just like the iconic book, which showcases beloved felines residing in a range of New York City businesses from a hotel to a Pilates studio and beyond.

Each catnip toy includes organic catnip and features the book’s cover photograph. In addition to making

your cat happy, you’ll be benefiting the Tabby’s Place cats. Three dollars of every purchase goes to Tabby’s Place.

“Shop Cats of New York” catnip toys are hand sewn in Philadelphia using organic USA grown catnip.

[Click here](#) to delight yourself, your cat, and the Tabby’s Place cats this Valentine’s Day.



Kip loves his Shop Cats of New York toy – and your cat will, too!

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