

## New Beginnings: Goldie

Angela Townsend, Development Director

Although he isn't gold in color, Goldie has the right name when it comes to his heart.

When Goldie's owner passed away, his love for Goldie lived on. Goldie's "papa" had enrolled Goldie in the Guardian Angel Program at Tabby's Place.

The senior cat's golden heart was broken when he first came to us, and it took Goldie some time to accept love again. But, today, Goldie is shining brightly and loving lavishly. He's become a favorite among humans and cats for his quietly mushy ways. Whether he's wrapping himself around the legs of a human visitor or tenderly grooming a feline roomie, this is one cat who clearly lives by the golden rule.

You can apply to adopt Goldie, or virtually "adopt" him. For information about the Guardian Angel Program for your own cats, click here, or contact Angela at 908- 237-5300 ext 235.



## 2011 Tabby's Place Expenses

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

Despite the fragile world economy, 2011 was a banner year for Tabby's Place. Thanks to your generosity, our income grew by 22%, to \$816,000.

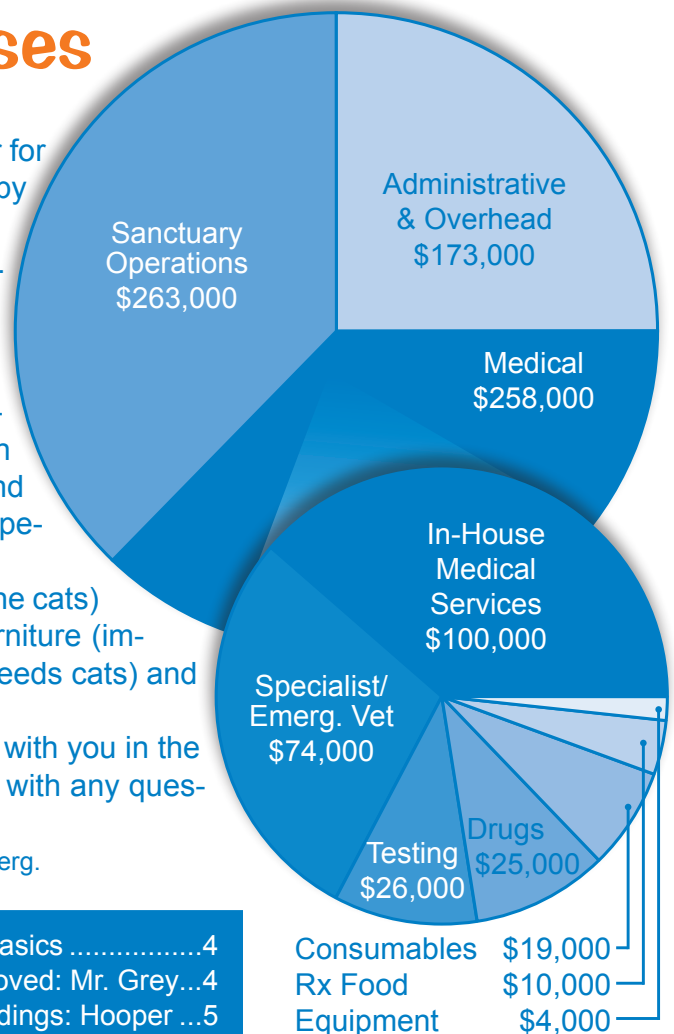
Expenses also increased, but only by 6%, to \$694,000. Thus, 2011 was the third self-supporting<sup>[1]</sup> year for Tabby's Place.

Medical expenses made up our largest cost, at 37%. Given the increasing cost of good veterinary care and the inevitability of medical emergencies, we inaugurated the Linda Fund in 2011. The initial drive and your kindness led to a starting fund value of \$66,000, dedicated to the expensive emergency and specialty medical care we require for our most fragile residents.

Our overhead (expenses not related directly to the care of the cats) crept up to 25%, from 23% in 2010. The culprits were new furniture (imagine couches after 8 years of living with a variety of special needs cats) and skyrocketing health insurance costs for the staff.

It was, frankly, an incredible year. I look forward to working with you in the future, to save even more cats. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions.

[1] Meaning, with no financial support from Jonathan & Sharon Rosenberg.



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# Why Do Cats... Scratch

Angela Townsend

*Editor's note: At Tabby's Place, we know the cats will always be a few steps ahead of us. But, starting this issue, we'll explore some of their mysteries. We begin with the case of the claws: why do cats scratch?*

If you didn't know Tabby's Place was a cat sanctuary, you'd realize within a few seconds in our lobby. Someone or something has been "sharpening" claws on our furniture. But, why? And why do declawed cats like Elmo "scratch" just as vigorously as their clawed counterparts?



Even clawless cats like Elmo leave behind scent signals when they scratch.

- Scratching is less about sharpening, and more about signaling.
- When your cat scratches an object, she's leaving visual and olfactory signs about where she's been and what she's doing. Since cats have scent glands in their

feet, even a declawed kitty like Elmo can leave cues by "scratching." Cats choose a select number of obvious items to scratch, and keep returning to those favorite spots.

- Scratching conditions a cat's claws, removing the outer sheath and giving feet and claws a satisfying stretch.



Shy shows off her scratching style.

- Cats are not scratching to be destructive or vindictive. Scratching is a basic behavioral need. If you're itchy about your cat's scratching habits, check out the excellent tips here and here. To learn why declawing is not a good option, click here.
- A cat who feels vulnerable may scratch to feel secure. You can diminish this by comforting her. Punishment will only make her more anxious. The more your cat sees you as her source of security, the happier you'll both be...and that should scratch everyone's itch.

"We live in South America and only donated \$5.00...so little! To us it's not so little, but to you there, it could have seemed a petty sum. Yet you wrote a letter, thanking us. What a great heart you have! You really thank anyone and everyone who helps, with a little or

a lot. You send a marvelous message by doing so: that any gesture adds up to change things. You encourage and give hope to those of us who are rather poor and feel powerless to change the things we wish the most to change. It makes us feel like we can do a lot.



Dot is blessed to have friends from NJ to Uruguay and beyond.

I want to dedicate my life to rescuing animals. So far I have only been able to rescue disabled birds, but I don't give up

## Letters of the Quarter

the hope of someday having a sanctuary. What wouldn't I give to have the means to quit my job and quit all the banal things of my everyday life to live with passion, doing the type of thing you do at Tabby's Place?

Your letter and affection, and your obvious kindness and hearts for saving cats and making their lives good, moved me to tears. Your openness to invite

people to know Tabby's Place also touched me. I hope God blesses you and gives you back a million times what you do for others, especially for those who cannot speak and defend themselves. Hugs a ton. I wish I could meet you and give you (and each kitten!) a big hug."

- Elena, Uruguay

"I have been a volunteer with Plano Animal Services since 2009. Researching various cat issues over time, I came to hear about your wonderful organization.

When one of my cats went missing the night before Thanksgiving, we were beyond devastated. Miraculously, she was found --- muddy and hungry, but unharmed --- in time for a late turkey dinner. My donation is from the money I was going to spend printing 'lost' flyers, and is given in gratitude for her safe recovery.

Tabby's Place looks and sounds like such a true haven of love and care for these neediest of cats. I would love to come see it in person one day. Thank you again on behalf of all our cat companions!"

- Sabrina, TX



# Feline Vaccinations, Part II: Rabies

Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

Neither you nor your cats enjoy injections, but vaccines are crucial to our health. In the last newsletter, we discussed the feline distemper vaccine. This month, we tackle two other diseases for which cats are commonly vaccinated: Rabies and Feline Leukemia.

**Rabies'** fearsome reputation is well deserved. A mammal who is exposed to rabies and does not receive treatment will suffer a painful, frightening death. The rabies virus, which can be transmitted between animals and humans, is usually transmitted by bite wounds, but can be communicated by infected saliva entering an open wound.

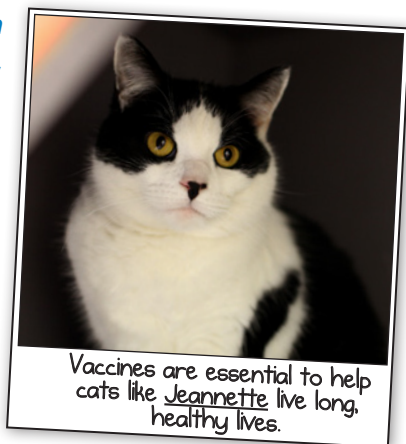
Because of strict vaccination requirements for dogs in many developed nations (including the US), it is rare in dogs in those countries. Cats are now the more common domestic animal affected with rabies, and for that reason licensing and rabies vaccination requirements for cats are becoming more common.

**Feline leukemia virus (FeLV)** can be transmitted by close contact with an affected cat, generally via infected saliva entering the mucous membranes (nose, eyes or mouth) of another cat. It can also be transmitted by blood transfusion, or from a mother to her kittens. Its symptoms include anemia, immune suppression, and cancer.

The FeLV vaccine is considered a "non-core" vaccine, meaning that it is deemed necessary only for those cats at risk of the disease. Your veterinarian may not recommend that your cat be vaccinated if the cat lives indoors and is never exposed to cats of unknown infection status.

Feline vaccinations have saved countless

lives throughout the years, but their effectiveness has led some to underrate their importance. When fewer of these diseases are seen, people tend to forget how devastating they can be, and vaccination rates drop. It is important to talk to your veterinarian about your pets' risk factors for these diseases, and to agree on a vaccination protocol to keep your beloved cats healthy.



Vaccines are essential to help cats like Jeannette live long, healthy lives.

## Tabbies Doing Time

Angela Townsend



A young member of 'Team Edna' waits near a trap at EMCFW.

The whiskered innocents were happy to leave prison. But little did Scheherazade and Edna know they'd launched a new adventure for Tabby's Place and 950 inmates.

This fall, Tabby's Place partnered with the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women, New Jersey's only women's

prison, to conduct a trap-neuter-release (TNR) project for the prison's feral cat colony.\*

The felines on EMCFW's grounds had long touched the hearts of inmates. Yet the unsterilized cats' numbers continued to climb, while wildlife, hard winters and lack of veterinary attention made their lives painful and short.

The cats' suffering came to our attention this spring, when the prison requested help with several kittens, including grey Edna and black-and-white Scheherazade. We soon learned the kittens were the latest of many generations of EMCFW cats.

Tabby's Place CFW, South Branch Veterinary Services, Lambertville Animal Hospital and Animal Alliance to make a lasting impact for the cats.

Tabby's Place trapped sixteen cats, sterilized them and provided medical care as needed. The majority of the cats have settled

partnered with EM-



Little Habib came to Tabby's Place from the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women, with his sister Scheherazade and four other siblings



Vaccines help keep Special Needs cats like Hocus healthy.



One of the feral cats enjoying a better life - and no longer having kittens - thanks to EMCFW and Tabby's Place.

back into their home at EMCFW, where inmates will monitor them over the long-term. Those cats with chronic medical conditions became residents of Tabby's Place.

In the spring, Tabby's Place will return to trap six cats who eluded us. These savvy cats include a wily old fellow

with no eyes, who inmates say has lived on the grounds for many years.

In the meantime, we're grateful that Tabby's Place's mission of love can extend to cats beyond our gates – and to the human friends who make the cats' life “behind bars” so much sweeter. We hope Edna and Scheherazade are proud of what they've begun.

*\*Why TNR? This method is widely viewed as the most humane and effective way to control feral cat populations.*

## Forever Loved: "Grey... Mr. Grey"

Jonathan Rosenberg

With all due respect to James Bond in *Dr. No*, Mr. Grey was a seriously cool cat. He sauntered around the Lobby with that certain “je ne sais quoi”. Add his affectionate nature to the mix and you had one irresistible cat.

Mr. Grey managed this in the face of multiple obstacles to perceived coolness. He came to us with diabetes, adding heart disease and kidney failure along the way. In addition, Mr. Grey had what our vet diagnosed as “floppy front foot.” Torn ligaments caused his left front foot to wave as if it were attached to his forearm with a rubber band.

Despite all of this, nothing fazed Mr. Grey. Twice-daily insulin injections? Yawn. Frequent ear pricks for blood glucose testing?



As gentle as he was handsome, Mr. Grey is deeply missed.

**Continues on the next page...**

### DID YOU KNOW?

You can volunteer at Tabby's Place if you are between the ages of 14 and infinity.

### Three thousand pounds of kitty litter.

It may not sound glamorous, but it's essential every month at Tabby's Place. From fresh litter to treats and medical supplies, our cats blaze through a lot of basics at the sanctuary.

Now you can provide those essential items with the click of a mouse...and make your favorite human happy, too.

Click [here](#) to donate a basic need like diabetes testing supplies, prescription canned food, or kitten formula. When you do, we'll send a beautiful card and e-card to your loved one, announcing your kindness and providing photos of cats you're helping.

Maybe 3,000 pounds of litter are pretty glamorous after all.

## Back to Basics



Delight a dear one and help bottle babies all at once when you donate 'virtual' kitten formula to Tabby's Place.



Donate litter and honor a loved one at Tabby's Place with the click of a mouse.



You can donate emergency medical care for Special Needs cats like Gus.



...Continues from previous page

Maybe he would open one eye. Kittens running around the lobby and jumping in his bed? Nada. He was just cool. Mr. Grey was a fixture in our Lobby and had lots of adoring fans.

Unfortunately, coolness can't overcome failing kidneys. Mr. Grey began to slow down, fading before our eyes. One sad morning, we knew it was time to let him go. Of course, he left us with grace. He was unruffled to the very end.

I look forward to seeing him again someday. We love you, Mr. Grey. Later.

## Love in Stone

Every day, the Tabby's Place cats lounge and dream in their sunny solaria. As they gaze out into Cherny's Garden, they can see a lasting tribute to your loved one.

When you purchase a brick on the Tabby's Place Memorial Walkway, you can care for these needy cats while honoring someone dear to your heart.

Through all four seasons, the kitties you're helping will gaze out over your loved one's brick while enjoying the sunshine – and the happy, healthy lives you're making possible for them.

[Click here](#) to explore the Memorial Walkway and donate a brick in your loved one's honor. Or, contact Angela at 908-237-5300 ext 235 or [at@tabbysplace.org](mailto:at@tabbysplace.org).

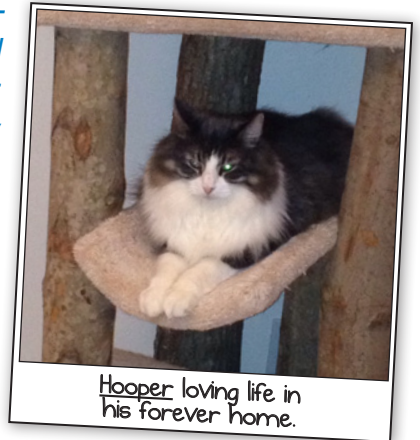


Your loved one's brick on the Memorial Walkway leads to Cherny's Garden at Tabby's Place.

## Happy Endings: Hooper

Jaime Raskulinecz, *Adopter & Benefactor*

*Editor's note: Diabetic cats have a special place in our hearts at Tabby's Place. Yet they have a difficult time getting adopted, due to the high level of care they require. It made for a splendid Thanksgiving when snuggly diabetic Hooper found his family this year. Although it's a little hard to picture super-sized, slow-moving Hooper becoming airborne, we were thrilled to receive this update from his adopter.*



Hooper loving life in his forever home.

Hooper has fully integrated into our gaggle of cats. He actually leaves the ground when playing with feather toys – I have no proof of this, so you'll have to take my word for it!

Hooper is the sweetest, gentlest mush we've ever had. He has easily adapted to the household feeding and treat routines, and anxiously awaits both. In the morning, he races down the hall into the kitchen to be first in line for breakfast. His appetite has earned him the nickname "Hoover."

Hooper is a talker, but has the smallest meow for such a big boy. Like our other Maine Coon, Max, Hooper will talk to you and answer you back. He also has a very soft purr – you hardly know he's doing it unless you feel it.

Hooper has also gotten the nickname "Lightfoot." No matter where you are in the house, when Hooper's coming your way, you can hear his footsteps!



Hooper hangs out with new housemate Max.

This boy was certainly meant for us, in so many ways. Thanks so much for all you do, and for allowing us to bring Hoover, uh, Hooper, where he belongs.

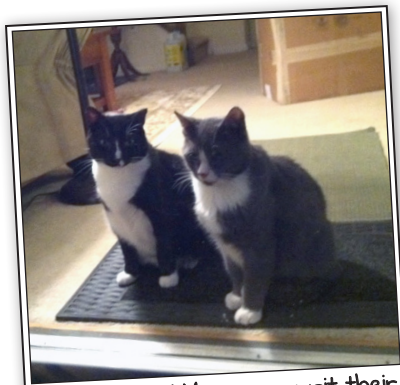


# Where Are They Now? Magnum & Terrence

Jenny Glenn, *Adopter & Sponsor*

On a freezing night in West Virginia, a bony senior cat named Magnum cried at the top of his lungs. North in Long Island, a neighborhood feral called Terrence was found limping, with a terribly injured face. Each of these gentle cats found his way to compassionate humans... only to be dealt a blow of bad news. Both Terrence and Magnum tested positive for FIV.

Although FIV+ cats can live long and healthy lives, the stigma around their condition can land them on the short list for euthanasia at public shelters. But Magnum and Terrence had a sweeter twist of fate ahead. By 'coincidence,' their far-flung rescuers each heard of Tabby's Place and put their rescued cats on the FIV waiting list.



Terrence and Magnum await their mama in their forever home.

After a short and happy stay at Tabby's Place, Terrence and Magnum made their final trek: to my home.

These adorable boys now bless my life with their loving, amusing personalities. My day begins with Magnum's 5:00 a.m. wake-up call: paws on my chest, nose snuffing deep in my ear. I can always count on Terrence's trusting full-force purr, his tummy turned up for a rub. From these morning moments through their daily mad chases up and down three flights of stairs, they are always together, best buddies, and a joy in my life.

None of this happy story would have been possible without the loving care at Tabby's Place, truly a sanctuary of hope. I continue to sponsor Magnum and Terrence's old roommates (Twix, and now Hocus), so other cats can know the love and security my boys found at the sanctuary.



Cozy times for Magnum and Terrence.

## Tabby's Place Newsletter

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### DID YOU KNOW?

Your cat is actually smelling things when he makes that funny "Elvis" smirk, with his lips drawn back in a grimace. This is called the flehmen response, and can also be seen in big cats, buffalo, llamas, and many other mammals. This funny grin allows your cat to draw scents into the Vomer nasal organ, at the base of the nasal cavity.



Nicky (family member of a Tabby's Place volunteer) demonstrates the flehmen response.

## Calling All Social Networkers!

Join the cats on Facebook and the Tabby's Place blog today!