

Tabby's Place®

A CAT SANCTUARY



EDITOR'S NOTE

It's Linda Fund season, and the luckiest cats are taking over our newsletter. Every featured kitty has benefited from the Linda Fund, Tabby's Place's reserve for extraordinary medical expenses. We hope their stories touch your heart.

Right now, you can [donate](#) to the Linda Fund and have your gift matched. Your gift will go towards life-saving emergency and specialty care, and it will be doubled by generous matching donors.

[Please take this opportunity](#) to help keep the promise we make every cat: "You will always receive everything you need to thrive, regardless of cost."



Linda Fund Profile: "Peg-Leg" Pete

Angela Hartley, Development Director

Black and white and scared all over, [Pete](#) came to Tabby's Place with three-and-a-half legs. His front left leg was a pawless stub, likely the result of an injury in the womb. As a stray cat, Pete had gotten around just fine, as do most three-legged cats. But what if something should happen to one of those three legs?

Pete sadly found out. When a Good Samaritan spotted him, his sole front foot had a large, painful mass. He was forced to put his weight on his injured paw, wounding himself worse and worse by the day.

To call Pete's situation "desperate" would be an understatement; but Tabby's Place exists for cats like him. We immediately provided intensive

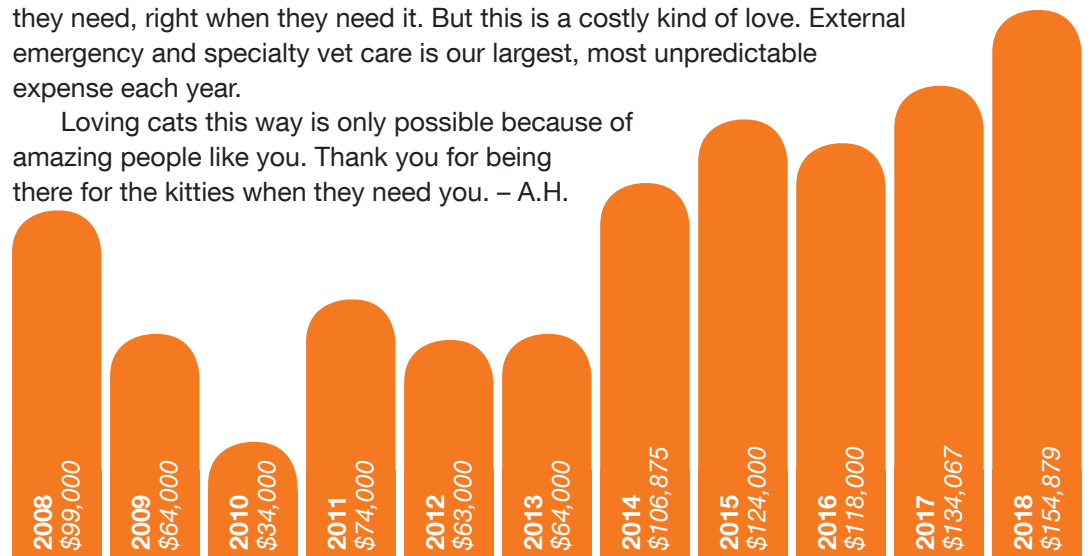
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Linda Fund Expenses

Cost is never an impediment when it comes to our cats' medical treatment. We embrace the cats who need us and treat their illnesses with exactly the care they need, right when they need it. But this is a costly kind of love. External emergency and specialty vet care is our largest, most unpredictable expense each year.

Loving cats this way is only possible because of amazing people like you. Thank you for being there for the kitties when they need you. – A.H.



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care to soothe his pain. Pete vaulted over his early shyness, jumping into this whole “love” thing with all three-and-a-half legs. Remarkably patient for his bandage changes, he rolled gleefully for belly rubs, and would



hug you back if you picked him up.

Just when it seemed life was restarting on a better foot, a larger problem stepped in. The appearance of the mass on his right front paw led our vet team to fear cancer. That could lead to a long road of amputation and possibly prosthetics.

We braced ourselves for the worst, prepared to do whatever

Pete needed. But the biopsy results made us jump for joy: Pete did not have cancer, but instead a severe case of “pillow foot,” or plasma cell pododermatitis. This is a relatively



common disease of the feline paw pad, which can be treated with medication and wound care. Thanks to cleaning, re-bandaging and proper medication, Pete made a full recovery.

The only sorrow in this story? We miss Pete at Tabby’s Place; he’s danced his way into a loving forever home.

Linda Fund Profile: Charlie the Conqueror

Lisa Lauria, Development Associate

Charlie first found his way to Tabby’s Place in 2013 with a host of challenges. He was underweight, FIV+, and had an infected microphthalmos (underdeveloped eye) that required enucleation (removal of the eye).



We soon learned that Charlie was also diabetic and had Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). He was the picture of desperation.

Despite all this, Charlie craved human interaction--so much so that he jumped into the car of the Good Samaritan (now a Tabby’s Place volunteer) who brought him to us. Charlie became a favorite among volunteers and staff, charming everyone with his easygoing demeanor.

Last summer, Charlie became a “forever foster” with our Director of Volunteers. Tabby’s Place would continue to provide for Charlie’s medical care, while he lived out his years in the comfort of her home. Charlie wasted no



time settling in to his pampered life.

But just a few months later, our one-eyed charmer faced a new

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Please donate to the Linda Fund today!

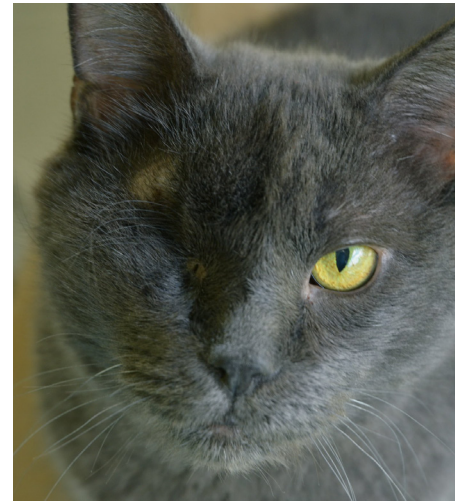
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medical crisis. He began losing weight, urinating in strange places, and just not acting right. Charlie had developed hyperthyroidism and a heart murmur. He started on medication to regulate his thyroid, but things only got worse.

Charlie's IBD symptoms flared, and he became severely anemic; his body was turning on him. Emergency and intensive care brought Charlie back after two blood transfusions, an echocardiogram, and, eventually,

radioactive iodine treatment. Charlie had experienced a rare reaction to his thyroid medication.

Once again, thanks to the Linda Fund, Tabby's Place was able to save our gentle gray mush. Today, Charlie is again "fuller figured" and bursting with charm from the comfort of a human bed in his very own house—a home that he shares with little [Jude](#), the "poster kitten" for the 2019 [Linda Fund](#). The seeming odd duo is ready to conquer all that comes their way.



Linda Fund Profile: Southern Belle [Rose](#)

You'd have a hard time finding a brighter blossom than [Rose](#). Whatever the challenge, the tiny teacup rose found a way to bloom.

When we met Rose, she was barely out of kittenhood. She'd been struck by a car in Virginia, an ordeal that left her incontinent and goofy-gaited but undaunted. Rose was gleefully greedy for love. She didn't just want a stem; she wanted the full garden of life.

As part of our incontinent crew, Rose lived a carefree and healthy life for five years at Tabby's Place. Other than occasional diarrhea and needing a bit of help keeping herself clean, the fearless flower had no real medical issues.

Until 2018.



Suddenly, rambunctious Rose began fading. What began as strange unsteadiness progressed to dehydration, abdominal and spinal pain, and a disinterest in food. Next came a mysterious head tilt. A neurologist diagnosed Rose with an inner ear infection that had penetrated to her brain. Then, an MRI detected a spinal lesion that could be either cancer or another infection. Unable to walk and unwilling to eat, our brightest bloom was in the fight of her life.

Aggressive antibiotic therapy and close cooperation with the neurologist would be Rose's only hopes for survival. We reached the brink of believing we had lost the battle and would have to say goodbye, only for Rose to rally. Day by day, wobbly and head-tilted but here to fight on, Rose began to walk, eat, and thrive.

Today, there is no sign of the lesion in Rose's spine. Blooming in our Lobby, Rose is again the living



embodiment of bliss.

Rose is one of the most poignant examples of the life-saving power of the [Linda Fund](#). Without immediate, costly and aggressive care throughout her illness, she would have faded in the summer of 2018. But today, she is fully, phenomenally alive.

Rose has so much joy that she overflows to others. As part of our Aged to Purrfection program, Rose makes visits to nursing homes, where she dotes on seniors in need of tenderness and hope. —A.H.

Linda Fund Profile: Neera the Seer

With splendorous eyes the size of moons, blind [Neera](#) always seemed to see beyond the ordinary world. Needy and noble all at once, the elderly tortoiseshell came to Tabby's Place as a stray, only to go from love to love.

Neera arrived as a mystery, with no medical records and no ability to describe her past. But what she couldn't say, her left leg shouted: she had a large, painful swelling, presenting as an abscess but without the usual evidence of infection. Even with pain medication, Neera avoided using the leg, yet initial biopsies and X-rays showed nothing more than soft tissue swelling.

We had no answers...but we had a Tabby's Place cat in pain. It was



time to assemble a "dream team" of specialists, involving Internal Medicine, Oncology and Surgery departments. At last, a picture began to emerge. CT scans indicated either cancer or an infection eating away at Neera's leg bone and causing it to fracture. No amount of antibiotics would reverse the damage. Neera's only hope for a pain-free life would be leg amputation. But, you can dance through life just fine on three legs.

Through it all, Neera was a placid, purring peace sign of a cat, giving and receiving love in her gentle way. It's as though she saw the life ahead in advance: pain-free, healthy and whole...and ensconced in love in an adoptive home on a



bus-turned-tiny-house.

Neera's Mom, Tabby's Place associate Breelan Koch, adds: "Neera has not only adjusted to losing her sight, then a leg, moving to a sanctuary, and then a bus...she has blossomed.

She is The Queen. She rules the bed as her preferred domain, and is always tucked in close to us at night... usually with her head on my pillow. She is hilariously enthusiastic about mealtimes; her purr is like a monster truck rally; and her love is given fiercely. She's perfectly strange in all the right ways, and we love her endlessly." -A.H.



Linda Fund Profile: Shifty

When you think of the most devastating illnesses, "dental disease" may not come to mind. But for a cat like [Shifty](#), it can be a fate worse than death.

Shifty came to Tabby's Place through our Trap-Neuter-Return ([TNR](#)) program. After initially hinting at having a sweet temperament, Shifty took a sharp turn for the cranky. Angry, anxious, and unwilling to be loved, Shifty was a very unhappy boy.

Our vet team soon discovered the source of Shifty's sour spirit. The elderly cat had an extraordinary case of dental disease, living in agony. Even after

treating hundreds of cats with dental issues, our vet team was startled by the severity of Shifty's case.

Once again, it was time to call in the specialists; once again, the [Linda Fund](#) made it possible.

Dental disease can often be treated with a combination of extractions and medication. That would be just the start for Shifty. The brave, aching boy would need a visit to a specialist, who could remove all of his tooth roots, nearby bone, and affected gum tissue. Even so, aggressive steroid therapy would be a

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permanent fixture in Shifty's life.

But the "meanness" that once



seemed so steely was anything but permanent. In a slow-motion miracle, Shifty slipped from anger to affection. The cat who once growled and snapped has become a bottomless pit for cuddles and chow. Once antsy and unable to get comfortable, Shifty is now blissfully shiftless, lazing the day away in our Lounge. With his mouth off his mind, he's free to feast on (many) dishes of wet food and an all-day stream of admirers.

Unable to eat and unwilling to open himself to love, Shifty once had a mouthful of misery. But thanks to the [Linda Fund](#), one old cat is

defying his name and his diagnosis day by joyful day. –A.H.



Linda Fund Profile: Forever Loved [Miriam](#)

The oldest friends are often the truest friends. That was never more the case than with [Miriam](#).

We first met Miriam as a miniature Impressionist masterpiece, a classic ("swirl") tabby with wondrous whorls of color storming down her back. Unsurprisingly, baby Miriam was adopted in a flash.

Years later, adult Miriam was returned to Tabby's Place. We were happy to keep the promise, "once a Tabby's Place cat, always a Tabby's Place cat," but saddened that Miriam had lost her home. We resolved to do everything to make her happy.

But Miriam could not be happy – at least, not in a suite full of cats. The big, bountiful cat was anxious among her neighbors. A simple



procedure would soon send her over the brink. After having a benign lump removed from her neck, Miriam obsessed on her healing wound, tearing it open repeatedly. Neither medication nor bandages nor goofy cat sweaters could keep her from self-injuring. It was time to call a specialist.

A neurologist diagnosed Miriam with feline hyperesthesia syndrome, a complex condition with no single clear course of treatment. After exhausting all other options, we determined that Miriam would need to live free of other cats – no easy feat at a cat sanctuary.

And so Miriam became our vet team's faithful, stubborn, alternately grouchy and gleeful office mate for over six years, strutting her stuff through our in-house hospital and loving life as Queen. In her long stay at Tabby's Place, Miriam became indescribably dear to staff, volunteers and visitors alike – with no cats cramping her style.

Our old, true friend developed a brain tumor in 2018. We couldn't let her down now. It was back to the specialist, courtesy of the [Linda Fund](#). We determined a course of treatment that would keep Miriam



comfortable and thriving as long as possible, without putting her through any procedures that would be overly stressful for our now-elderly friend.

Miriam lived seven months after that diagnosis, and her final months were among her most tender. Thanks to the [Linda Fund](#), Miriam knew a lifetime of love, where she was embraced for the quirky, wonderful girl she was. When renal disease whisked her away in 2019, we mourned yet celebrated a life lived in full. –A.H.

Linda Fund Profile: Victorious Rowena

Rowena seemed to have given up...but there was no way we were giving up on her.

A good Samaritan found the skinny calico on her porch, curled up as if to take her final sleep. Dehydrated, hypothermic and malnourished, [Rowena](#) would need the best we had to give – and fast. We rushed her to the emergency hospital, where she revived with supportive care. It was a thrill to see life sparkle back into her amber



eyes. But we would all need to buckle up for a bumpy ride.

Despite early hints of radiance, Rowena was still weak, and testing revealed a tumor on her parathyroid gland. In classic Tabby's Place fashion, this was a very rare condition. The only cure would be surgery, but, given Rowena's age and frailty, that could be life-threatening. Meanwhile, Rowena had also developed anemia and kidney disease. We held on tight to the brave, beautiful old cat.

With medication, Rowena's pain and swelling resolved completely, and her blood work stabilized. It was practically a dance party at Tabby's Place the day Rowena broke the 6-pound barrier, and her anemia continued to improve. Fluid therapy kept her kidneys stable, and Rowena got used to being described as "a miracle." Still, surgery loomed like a monument to fear.

But fear would not win the day, much less the cat. To our growing astonishment, Rowena simply



continued to thrive. The careful regimen we'd developed with the specialist was enough – and Rowena couldn't get enough of life.

Once curled in defeat on a porch, our miracle girl was finding her inner calico fire. And, the best was yet to come. An adopter with a heart of gold crossed the whole state of Pennsylvania to New Jersey just to meet the miracle...and the rest is forever-home history. –A.H.



NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!

Thank you for making miracles for Rowena, Charlie, Rose, Neera, Shifty, Miriam, Pete, and all the cats. Please [donate to the Linda Fund](#) now, while you still have time for your donation to be matched. We love you and so do the cats!

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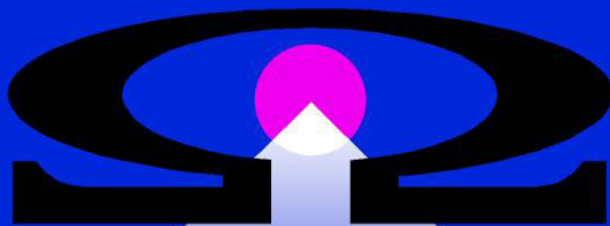


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