



New Beginnings: Tadpole

Angela Hartley, Development Director

She may look like a snowflake, but don't call her fragile: Tadpole is storming life with grace and grit.

The little cat's courage is hard-won. Tadpole and her brother Toad were born to a stray mama cat on a Manhattan street – a rough start to life by any measure. But Tadpole's



Tadpole in her tiny days

tale was uniquely dire; she was born paralyzed.

Tadpole's mom, Froggie, didn't abandon her "imperfect" baby, but the little family faced scant hopes for a happy future. Winter was coming, and few shelters can handle a paralyzed kitten's needs.

But thanks to people like you, Tabby's Place is here for cats like Tadpole. Through a joyous series of events, our snowy sweetheart and her family were able to be home for the holidays, in a haven where all their needs would be met at last.

Today, Tadpole is a feisty, freewheeling "teenager," gifted at scrambling up and down cat trees with her strong front legs. Although she'll require a lifetime of special care, she's bursting with bliss, just the way she is, and we adore her



Tadpole

beyond measure.

If you'd like to join Team Tadpole and help provide for her needs, [click here](#) to sponsor her. Thank you for helping to save this strong, sweet snowflake.

2019 Financial Summary

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

Early in 2019 we began work on Quinn's Corner, our first expansion since opening in 2003. In addition to our day-to-day operations, we were now managing a major project with lots of moving parts.

From one financial perspective, this hasn't meant any change. There is just more money flowing in and out, some of which involves the new project.

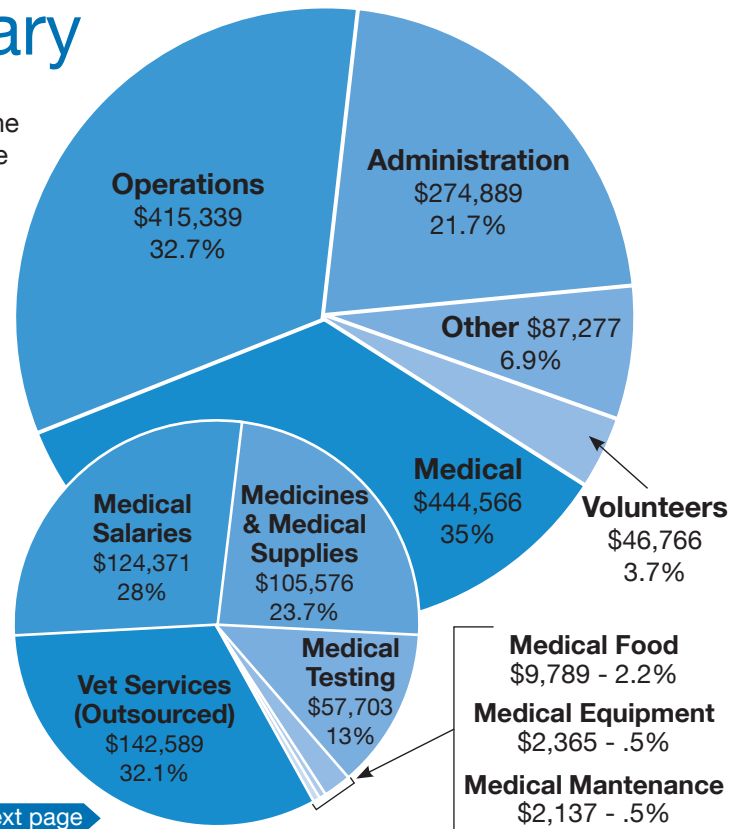
In practice, however there were two important changes to "business as usual:"

1. The money for Quinn's Corner is "restricted," available only for the construction and operation of Quinn's Corner. This is handled with a dedicated account and careful bookkeeping.
2. We've needed to manage the budget for our day-to-day work with-

out conflating the income/expense streams, so we have a true picture of how our core mission is performing.

In this Newsletter, we'll look at our finances for our ongoing (non-Quinn's Corner) work. This makes the numbers directly comparable to previous years. I will also summarize the net result for Quinn's Corner

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finances¹. The next Newsletter will have further details on Quinn's Corner finances.

With that in mind, I am pleased to report the following results:

	2019	2018	2019-2018
Income	\$1,437,140	\$1,132,034	\$305,106
Expenses	\$1,268,836	\$1,236,690	\$32,146
Net Income	\$168,304	(\$104,656)	\$272,960
Quinn's Corner (restricted)			\$77,888

Thanks to your generosity, income grew by over \$300,000 (2.6%), while expenses edged up only slightly (0.25%), leaving us with net income of \$168,304. The pie chart shows details about the expenses.

You can also see that we have net income of \$77,888

for Quinn's Corner. This is over and above the grant money we have received to date.

We are thrilled to be in such a strong position heading into construction for Quinn's Corner. This is an exciting time, and I look forward to working with you to save cats from (even) more helpless situations.

¹All of the financials details will be available in our IRS 990 filing, which we will be happy to send you at your request. Please contact Development Associate Lisa Lauria at ll@tabbysplace.org or 908-237-5300 ext 601 for details.

Smitten with Special Kittens

They turned up at Tabby's Place "early"...but they're right on time to change your life. They're our clowder of FeLV+ kittens, and they've stolen our hearts.

Tabby's Place will formally welcome cats with FeLV (feline leukemia virus) when our upcoming Quinn's Corner expansion is completed (click [here](#) for more details, and look forward to a special newsletter all about Quinn's Corner this spring).

But long before we could break ground on Quinn's Corner, we found

ourselves with a family of FeLV+ kittens. Ready or not, they were here, and they needed us. Tabby's Place turned our Kitten Suite into a special little world just for them...and they're loving every inch of it.

Visit this special suite at Tabby's Place, and you'll be greeted with gusto by giddy youngsters, living full, rich lives despite their diagnosis. [India](#), [Kolsch](#), [Ale](#) and their friends are some of the sweetest, goofiest, most enchanting cats at Tabby's Place, and they'd be thrilled to tumble into your life.

We realize it will require some special adopters to open their hearts to our FeLV+ cats. FeLV is a complicated condition with an uncertain prognosis, and it's likely these sweeties will have shorter lives than the average cat.

But we promise that adopting one of our fabulous FeLV+ kitties will forever change your life for the better. And, we're offering a special adoption fee of just \$35 (reduced from our usual \$135) for any one of

our FeLV+ crew.

If your heart is full of love, please consider an FeLV+ kitty, or two. The time is right for an everlasting bond. - A.H.



Gregarious [Gose](#) is a joy to all who know her



[India](#), [Kolsch](#) and [Lager](#) love life - and each other

Feline Love Languages

Every so often, news outlets run cynical stories declaring that cats don't feel love, but are simply skilled at manipulating us. We know that's a bunch of bologna at Tabby's Place. But sometimes we all look at our cherished cats and wonder...do you really love me?

Cats may not show love in the ways you'd expect, but if you

learn to listen to your kitty's "love language," you'll likely find signs that she adores you:

- **Head-bunting:** That blissful little "bonk" your cat makes with her forehead? That's a major sign of affection. Even free-roaming cats have been observed head-bumping other cats with whom



Exuberant cats like [Rascal](#) make no secret of their love

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they're close. When your cat bunts against your face or legs, she's rubbing her scent on you, a precious declaration that you belong to her.

- **Kneading:** When your cat jumps up and starts treading her paws against you, she's drumming out



But even a quieter kitty like [Shea](#) exudes affection in his own way

a rhythm of "I love you"s. Starting in kittenhood, cats break out this behavior when they're feeling deeply content and comfortable with whoever they're kneading.

- **Grooming:** Do you have a licky cat? She doesn't think you're dirty; she's showing you her affection, and once again creating a communal scent that the two of you can share. (That's mega-mushy stuff in cat language.) Cats groom each other to reinforce their shared "scent community," and also to relax each other – an act of love we could all use.
- **Blinking:** Often called a cat's "I love you," a slow blink says that your cat feels at ease with you. Learn to look for it, and you may be surprised at just how often your cat declares her love and trust.
- **Vulnerability:** You enter the room, and your cat rolls onto her back, baring her belly. She's probably not inviting you to pet it (and, as a rule, you shouldn't), but she is telling you she trusts you with her softest, most vulnerable places.
- **Happy tail:** Watch your cat's tail for a joyful little "flick" at the top. An upright tail often expresses confidence and joy, and that little

flicker is a loving greeting. A cat may also show her love for you by twining her tail around your legs, or quivering it with delight when she sees you.

- **Scratching:** Observe the places your cat scratches around your home. It's likely you'll find they're spots you spend a lot of time. That means the areas most important to your kitty are associated with you. (Of course, if you don't like that she's scratching there, there are [solutions](#).)
- **Playing:** Cats only play when they feel safe and happy, so a cat who plays with you trusts you. Notice when your cat scampers just beyond your reach, inviting you to play; that's another "I love you!" – A.H.

Recommended Reading:

Jackson, Sarah: [Cats really do need their humans, even if they don't show it](#)

Johnson-Bennett, Pam: [How Cats Show Affection](#)

Krieger, Marilyn: [How Do Cats Show Affection?](#)

Shojai, Amy: [How Cats Show They Love You](#)

Victorious Valentines

So you have a full house, but room in your heart for one more cat? Make it a victorious Valentine's Day by sponsoring a kitty who needs you.

[Tadpole](#) is just one of over 20 Special Needs cats who would love to be your Valentine. Meet them all [here](#), and give your heart to the kitty whose eyes ask you, "Will you love me?"

By sponsoring a cat, you'll provide life-saving medication, prescription food, or other treatments each month. You'll receive monthly email updates and photos on your feline valentine, and you're welcome to visit anytime.

Please make this the happiest Valentine's Day for a cat who needs you. – A.H.



Phenomenal [Faye](#) would love to be your Valentine

[Tux](#) promises he's sweeter than a thousand chocolate kisses

Cat People are Lovable People

It's true: cat people* are the best.

We may be slightly biased at Tabby's Place, but science is on our side. Skeptical? A study incorporating the "Big Five" personality traits found that self-described "cat people" represent a "distinct subset of people." In particular, the following qualities have been associated with self-proclaimed cat people:



Cat people are [Dani's](#) favorite people

- **Openness to experience:** Cats are living works of art, so it's fitting that their admirers are appreciative of culture. Those who adore cats share their curiosity and sense of adventure.
- **Neuroticism:** Generally not seen as a positive trait, neuroticism makes us stellar at doing taxes, selecting vacuums, and generally striving really, really hard to do the right thing. Unsurprisingly, we're drawn to our kitties as calming influences and sensitive souls who truly understand us.
- **Sensitivity:** Like cats, people who identify as "cat lovers" are marked by their sensitivity. This makes us compassionate friends, loving listeners, and gentle souls in a loud world. (We're even most likely to name George Harrison as our favorite Beatle.)
- **Non-conformity:** Cats don't always abide by external constraints, and neither do their fans. Perhaps associated with openness to experience, "cat people" are interested in exploring new ideas and entertaining their imaginations.
- **Introversión:** It's not that we're shy; we just get our energy



[Clark](#) is crazy about cat people, and vice versa

from time spent alone, or with a small group of trusted friends. We cultivate deep connections, process life thoughtfully, and create a world of comfort and coziness for our loved ones. How better to recharge our unique batteries than at home with a kindred feline spirit?

- **Intelligence:** We'll just leave this one here.

So kiss your favorite cat lover this Valentine's Day...and know that we love you, too! – A.H.

**By no means is this in contrast to "dog people." All animal people are our kind of people.*

Forever Loved

Forever Loved: Charlie

More than 3,000 cats have been residents of Tabby's Place. We have loved them all.

But a few hold special places in our hearts. Charlie was one of the few, and he left a hole in our lives that can never be filled.

Charlie was brought to us by a local couple who reported that he'd jumped into their car when they opened the door. They might be willing to keep him, but he was in rough shape, and they were concerned. Charlie was emaciated, and his right eye looked terrible.

Preliminary blood work revealed that Charlie was FIV+. The couple was crushed. They had other cats and didn't want to risk exposure to the virus.

So Charlie would become a Tab-

by's Place resident. We removed his eye (which couldn't be saved) and reserved a space in our FIV+ Suite.

By the time he finished his Quarantine period, Charlie was no longer emaciated. In fact, he was quite portly (to be kind). Charlie fit right in: he got along with the other cats, he loved the food and he really loved people.

Charlie quickly became a staff and volunteer favorite. If you should take a seat anywhere in the room, you would find your lap filled with a large ball of purring fur. He got along with everyone and everything.

During his 6-year stay here, Charlie managed to develop diabetes and, much later, heart disease.

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Charlie

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He was unfazed and remained as happy and friendly as ever.

Eventually, his heart disease began to worsen, and super-foster mom and employee Karina decided to take Charlie home for some “proper” spoiling. Indeed, Charlie was treated to a soft bed, freshly-cooked chicken and lots of attention.

After several months, Charlie began to decline suddenly. We tried to stop the process, to no avail. It

seemed his body was just failing him. He passed gently, with Karina kissing him goodbye.

It’s impossible to walk by the FIV+ Suite without pausing to remember Charlie. I miss the grey, one-eyed dinosaur lumbering around the room.

Rest in peace, baby boy. – J.R.



Charlie changed us all for the better, forever

Veterinary Voice

Make Your Cat Feel Loved: A Vet’s Perspective

Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

On Valentine’s Day, we want to make our loved ones feel treasured. If your loved ones include cats, I have some suggestions for you (but don’t show them this article, or you’ll give away the secrets).

1. Make sure they’re pain-free. Cats can’t tell us what hurts, so learn to identify their subtle symptoms. For instance, arthritis frequently manifests first by a reluctance to jump. If your aging cat is less active than he used to be, discuss options for pain management with your veterinarian. You may also want to buy pet stairs, or rearrange furniture to make it easier for him to get to his favorite spots.

2. That means their mouths, too.

You know how painful a cavity can be, and cats develop a unique type of cavity that starts from the inside



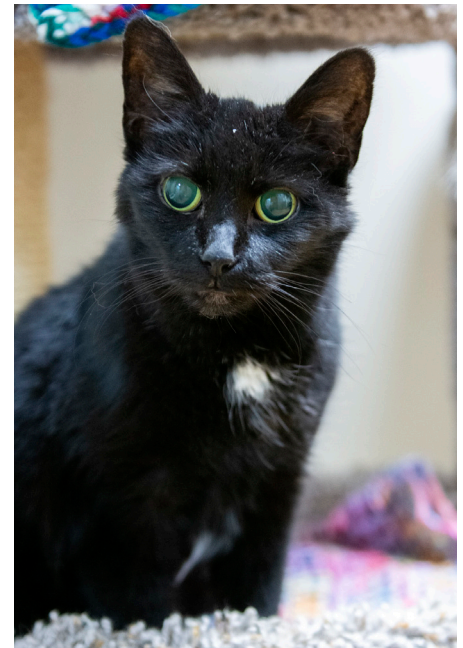
Treating Alfred’s dental disease was a way to say ‘We love you’

of the tooth and works its way out through the enamel, exposing the sensitive nerve to pain when they eat or drink. Nearly 75% of cats over age 5 will develop this painful condition, called tooth resorption. Symptoms may include dropping food or chewing on one side. Your veterinarian can do an oral exam to detect these lesions.

3. Keep your cat at a healthy weight. Many of us equate food with love, and enjoy giving our cats special treats, or feeding them ad libitum so they’re never hungry. But obesity shortens your cat’s lifespan, hastens the onset of arthritis, and predisposes her to several diseases, including diabetes, fatty liver syndrome and feline lower urinary tract disease. Treats are okay as long as they are less than 10% of the diet, and food should be measured and fed in appropriate amounts. Some cats benefit from prescription diets to maintain a healthy weight. Ask your vet to help you determine the right diet and portions for your cat.

4. Provide extra care for senior cats.

- a. Start or increase grooming your cat as he ages, as arthritis may make it harder for him to access his entire body with his tongue.
- b. Ensure the litter box is easy to



Seniors like Denni feel cherished when you take extra care to keep them comfy

- enter instead of making him climb stairs or jump in and out of it.
 - c. A heated pet bed is a luxury many older cats enjoy.
 - d. Canned food can be more appealing to cats with dental problems or a fading ability to smell.
 - e. Seniors appreciate being picked up and put down more carefully, so as not to aggravate any pre-existing arthritis.
- 5. Provide annual visits to a trusted veterinarian.** Vets are trained to recognize disease and discomfort, and we’ll be able to help keep your cat in tip-top shape for many Valentine’s Days to come!

Happy Endings: Scoots & Cleat

Jessica Brazee, [Adopter](#)

Not long ago, a sick kitten stumbled into the animal hospital where I work and ended up coming home with me. This slightly broken kitten ended up being “extra broken,” as he was diagnosed with an extremely rare neurologic disorder. In the end, I told him as he passed away that he was not broken; in fact, he was perfect. His only flaw was not living long enough.

For days, I’d sob every time his empty bed caught my eye. I struggled with the decision of what type of animal to save next. Could my heart handle being broken again? Do I “deserve” a healthy kitten? As a vet tech, am I obligated to get another Special Needs cat?

I spent hours scrolling through Special Needs adoption pages, and I cried at every one. Eventually I came across Scoots, a little paraplegic living two states away, at a sanctuary called Tabby’s Place. I gasped in excitement. Her eyes were so big, beautiful and full of life. But I was also captivated by a “normal” kitten at Tabby’s Place named Cleat...

Sometimes when you struggle with two options, the answer is clear:



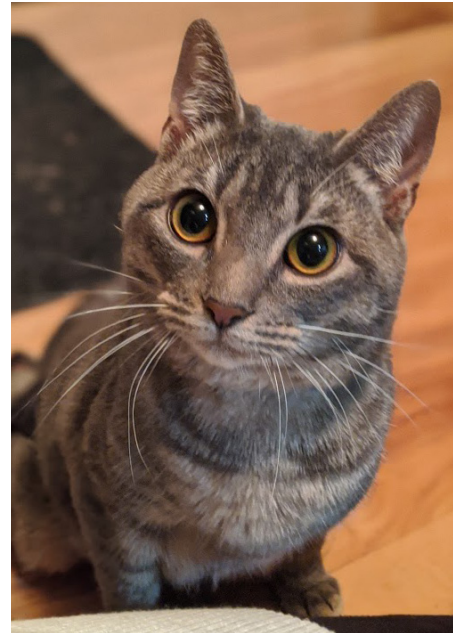
Blissful Bramble

choose both. The angels at Tabby’s Place did not think I was crazy when they received my 2:00 am request for both one paraplegic and one healthy kitten. We set up a time for me to meet Scoots and Cleat.

The day I met Scoots, she was in a horrible mood; the noises coming out of her would have scared most people away. Looking back, I’m glad I caught her on a bad day. I’d rather see her at her worst to know what I was getting into.

It took some time for Scoots to warm up to me. After all, I was the strange “bladder squeezing lady.” One day, after a horrible ER shift at work, I came home emotionally and physically drained. Of course, Scoots had an accident and was covered in her own urine, so I had to bathe her right away. She could barely hear me singing to her because she was growling so fiercely. Trying to dry her off was a whole new struggle, and I just started crying. The second my voice cracked in my singing, she stopped growling and stared at me. I attempted to sing through the tears and she started purring. She sang when I couldn’t. It was the most beautiful moment, and since then we’ve been the best of friends.

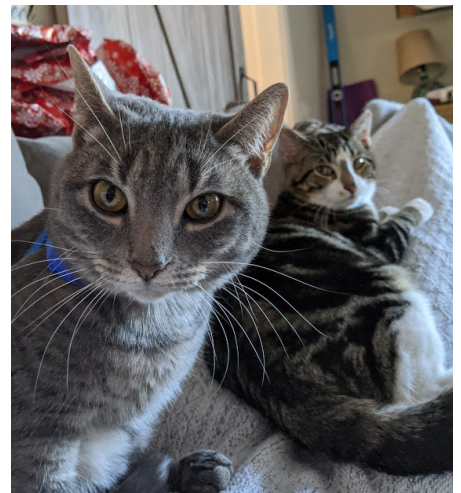
Speaking of best friends, it was the greatest idea to adopt Scoots and Cleat (who we renamed Bramble) at the same time. When I first introduced them, Scoots came out from under the bed and was spooked by Bramble playing. He began bouncing back and forth between Scoots and his toy. All he wanted to do was play, and he didn’t even realize Scoots couldn’t bounce like he did. They quickly began rolling around together, and have hardly



Scoots’ sweet new life has her starry eyed

stopped since. Scoots’ confidence has grown tremendously.

Anywhere that Scoots goes, Bramble goes with her. At bath time, he runs into the shower! Trips to the vet, trips into the patio, and trips outside on harnesses are all shared. There’s hardly a time they are apart, and it’s heartwarming seeing the two of them so playful and attached.



Scoots and Bramble love their forever home — and each other

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