

# Tabby's Place® A CAT SANCTUARY



## Special Edition: The Linda Fund Supercats

You love it, we love it, and the cats love it: it's time for the Linda Fund Matching Challenge.

It's that splendid time of year when your love goes twice as far for the cats who need you most. Between now and October 7th, your donation to Tabby's Place will be doubled.

This isn't just any donation: your gift today will support the Linda Fund. Inspired by a kitten who survived severe burns in 2009, the Linda Fund covers the costs of emergency and specialty care for the

most helpless cats.

The cost to save their lives is high. But Tabby's Place is devoted to cats in the most desperate circumstances. Once a cat comes to us, he receives the promise: *you will get everything you need to thrive, whatever the cost...and all the love we have to give.*

We hope you'll enjoy meeting some of the cats you've helped to save through the Linda Fund this past year...and we hope they'll inspire you to give from the depths of your heart.



Little Linda inspired the Linda Fund in 2009, and thrives today in her forever home

## New Beginnings: Benny

Angela Hartley, Development Director

When you're one small cat trembling in the wake of disaster, you need to search the entire globe for hope.

With a moonlike face and a heart of gold, Benny was the sweetest street cat on either side of the Atlantic. But the 2020 Beirut blast left him with severe injuries to his hind end, and nowhere to turn. Kind rescuers scooped him up but lacked the resources to heal his hurting little body.

It took an international search to find a sanctuary willing to say "yes" to Benny. Fortunately for the weary wanderer, Tabby's Place is known world-wide as the ultimate refuge for cats with nowhere else to turn. And so, the sweetest stray on the planet made a lifesaving, 6,000-mile journey into the arms of love.

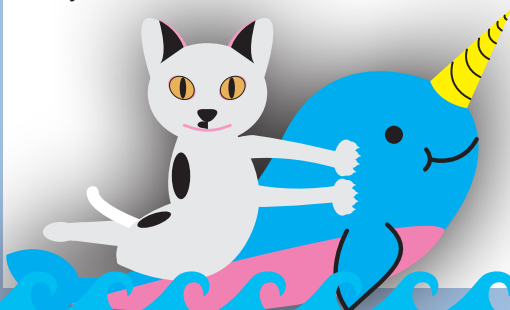
Benny received tender, intensive care at a world-class specialty hospital, including multiple surgeries, amputation of his wounded leg, skin grafts, frequent bandage changes over many months, and blood



### Benny

transfusions. Amid his treatments, Benny beamed with love and peace, developing a reputation as a giddy goofball.

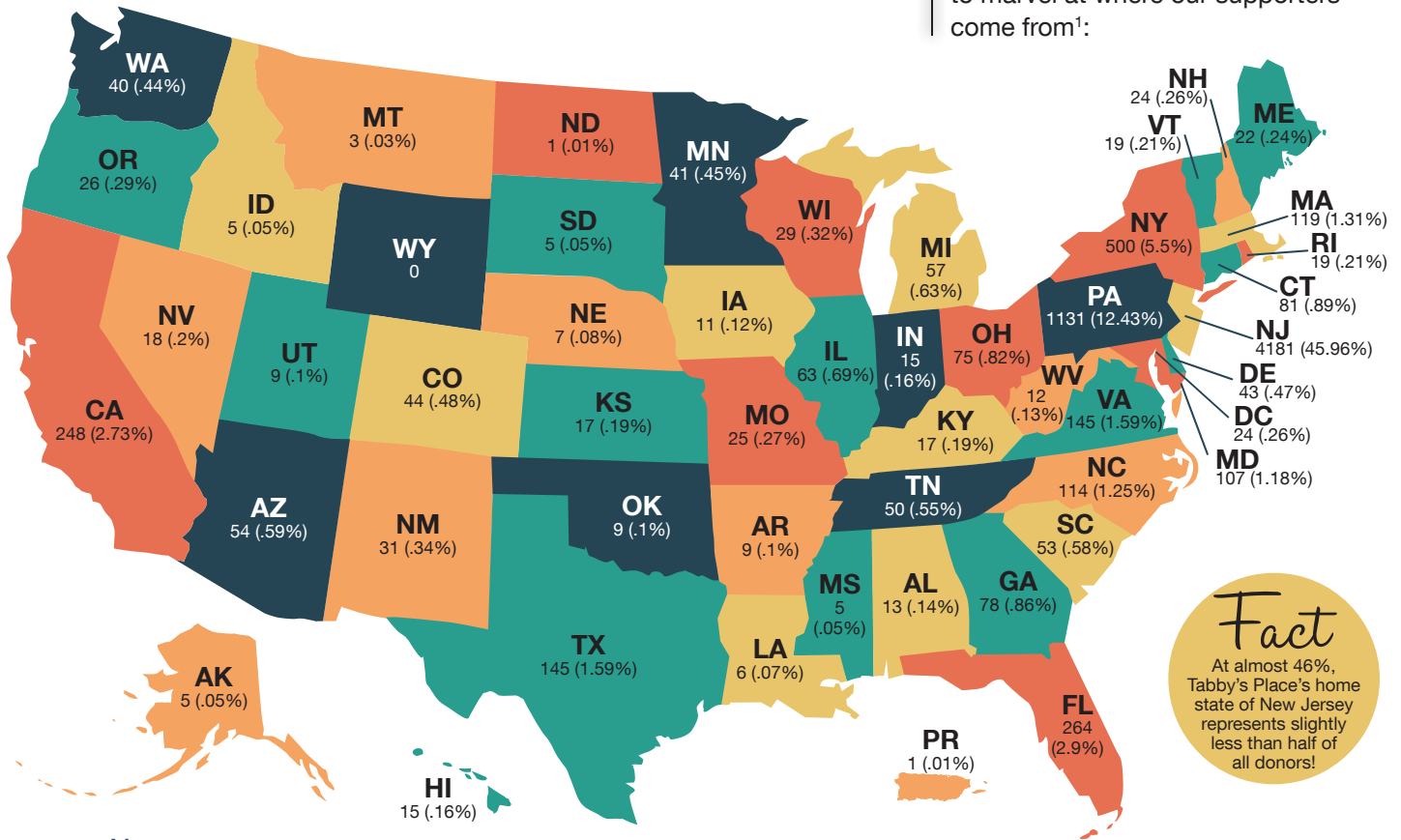
Today, even as his treatments continue, the Lebanese love bug is basking in kindness and hope. That's only possible thanks to the Linda Fund...and to friends like you, who love beyond all limits.



# World-Wide Love: Where Our Supporters Come From

Angela Hartley, Development Director

Love leaps over all borders, and the Tabby's Place family includes beloved folks and felines from nearly every continent. Benny from Beirut, Lemon from Oman, and all our cats invite you to marvel at where our supporters come from<sup>1</sup>:



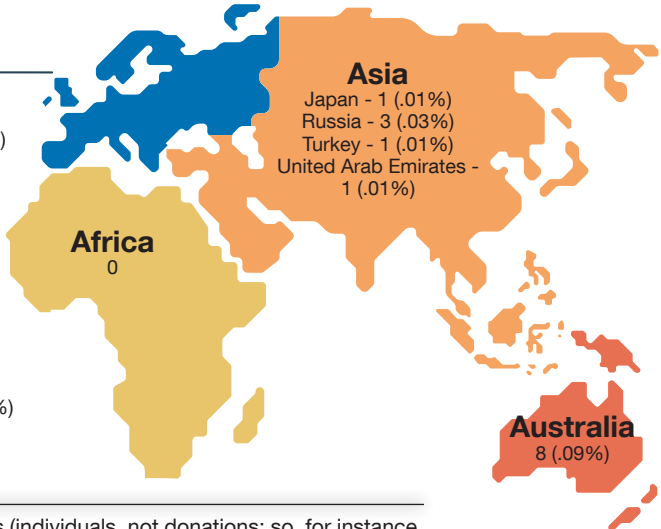
*Fact*  
At almost 46%, Tabby's Place's home state of New Jersey represents slightly less than half of all donors!

*Totals*  
United States: 8035  
International: 87  
Unknown Location<sup>2</sup>: 976  
Total Donors: 9098



*Fact*  
Tabby's Place donors represent 24 countries!

- Europe**
- Belgium - 1 (.01%)
  - Bulgaria - 1 (.01%)
  - Czech Republic - 1 (.01%)
  - Denmark - 1 (.01%)
  - France - 2 (.02%)
  - Germany - 5 (.05%)
  - Iceland - 1 (.01%)
  - Ireland - 1 (.01%)
  - Italy - 1 (.01%)
  - Netherlands - 5 (.05%)
  - Norway - 1 (.01%)
  - Spain - 1 (.01%)
  - Sweden - 1 (.01%)
  - Switzerland - 2 (.02%)
  - United Kingdom - 16 (.18%)



<sup>1</sup> Statistics reflect active donors (individuals, not donations; so, for instance, someone who gave 20 times is only counted once) from 2016 – 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Includes anonymous, social media, etc.

Map graphics courtesy of Vecteezy.com



# Linda Fund Supercat: Raya

Angela Hartley, Development Director

A kitten's life should be one unbroken beam of sunshine. But one wee ray had to find her way through scary shadows this summer.

Tortoiseshell toddler Raya was looking for a warm place to dream when she crept inside a truck engine. A turn of the ignition changed her life, leaving her with



Raya upon arrival at Tabby's Place

severe trauma to both front legs. In a flash, the big-eyed baby lost her left front paw and a right front toe, sustaining excruciating injuries.

Good Samaritans rushed Raya to Tabby's Place, knowing us as a haven that can heal the most hopeless. Using Linda Fund donations, we rushed Raya to a world-class emergency hospital, where she was bandaged, had an IV catheter placed, and received intensive care to treat infection, rehydrate her tiny body, and remove what remained of her left foot.

Weeks of bandage changes would follow, but Raya was determined to glow. The happy-go-lucky kitten made it her mission to be sunshine for everyone around her, delivering laughter and hope. Even as she struggled with setbacks and we made the tough decision to amputate Raya's left leg, our



Our thriving 'Raya sunshine'

beaming baby girl loved life to the fullest. With a spirit brighter than her fiery fur, Raya has healed our weary hearts more than we could ever repay.

Today, Raya's rocky road has burst open into a field of full sunshine: she's been adopted into an amazing forever home. Thank you for being the light of her life through your generosity to the [Linda Fund!](#)

# Linda Fund Supercat: Samantha

Angela Hartley, Development Director

Still waters run deep, and stoic Samantha is as intense as the Mississippi. But until recently, our gentle elder's banks overflowed with pain and worry.

Samantha came to Tabby's Place at a ripe old age, weary from too many journeys. She'd once been cherished in a home, but somehow ended up in a shelter. The chaos and clamor overwhelmed her sensitive



heart, and she curled up into herself for comfort.

Comfort was hard to find, as Samantha suffered from excruciating stomatitis, an auto-immune disease of the gums and teeth. Chronic herpesvirus clouded her aging eyes, causing pain and discharge. Gentle as a lamb and sleek as an otter, the ancient brown tabby suffered without complaint, growing thinner and quieter.

But Tabby's Place can't abide seeing any cat suffer, and our senior friend was about to board a sturdy boat bound for healing. We brought Samantha to a gifted specialist, who removed all her teeth and devised a protocol of steroids and pain medication. An ophthalmologist treated her aching



Stately senior Samantha

eyes, and continual tweaks to Samantha's medications have kept her comfortable.

The [Linda Fund](#) provided a beautiful new life for a beautiful old cat. Free from agony, Samantha has dared to bloom. The once-solemn senior claimed fresh confidence, boldly demanding our affections. Of course, we're more than happy to oblige.

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As you read this article, Samantha is sunning herself in the

Tabby's Place Lounge, where she lives free from pain, lavished with love by a steady stream of staff and

volunteers. Her golden years gleam with peace, as hope floods the shores of Samantha's days.

## Linda Fund Supercat: Elliot

Angela Hartley, Development Director

Whatever the dictionary may say, we know the ultimate definition of "cuteness": Elliot.

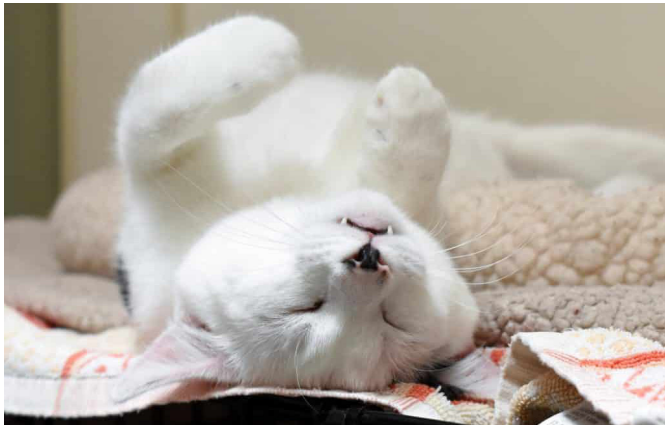
You'd be hard pressed to find a more adorable kitten than our smiling clown. But, not long ago, Elliot's hardscrabble life was no laughing matter.

Elliot was found as a fragile newborn kitten, injured and grieving. His litter had been attacked by a

larger animal, and wounded Elliot, peppered with puncture wounds, was the sole survivor. By the time Elliot came to Tabby's Place, the little white cat was suffering severe constipation, painful ulcerations to his bottom from fecal scalding, and a desperate need for tender hearts who would take him exactly as he is.

Happily for Elliot, Tabby's Place majors in tender, tenacious, unconditional love.

In the midst of his pain, Elliot was an amiable acrobat, leaping and loving with endless energy. His silly sweetness didn't falter during his trips to a world-class specialist, who helped us to devise a protocol of medications and prescription diet.



Thanks to the Linda Fund, Elliot's worries are few



Awesome Elliot

Through trial and error, we found just the right combination to keep Elliot comfortable...and zanier than the entire circus.

Today, Elliot is the giddy ringleader of our Kitten Room. He's taken it upon himself to teach tinier toddlers how to enjoy life to the fullest, and he makes us laugh so hard, we forget all our troubles, just as he's forgotten his. Elliot's triumph was only possible thanks to the Linda Fund – and to friends like you. Thank you for filling his life with mirth and magic!

## Linda Fund Supercat: Tallulah

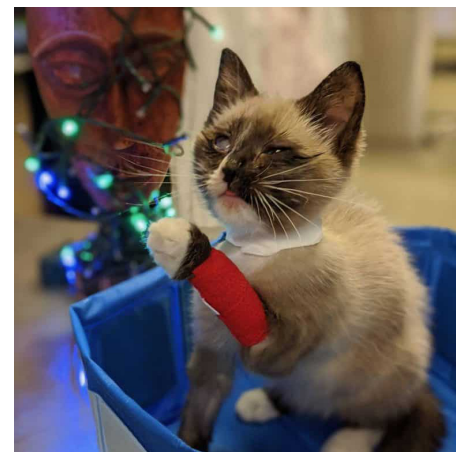
Angela Hartley, Development Director

Every cat's life matters, no matter how long or short. Tallulah's tale ended far sooner than we would have wanted. But thanks to the Linda Fund and friends like you, her life was an unbroken song of love.

Little "Lu" was found as a baby in a feral colony, suffering severe dehydration and an upper respiratory infection (URI). The Linda Fund enabled Tabby's Place to fly into action right when she needed us, rushing her to a world-class emergency hospital for intensive care.

Life and music returned to Lu's eyes, but the exotic little angel was not quite "right." Her URI would not seem to resolve. And so, it was back to the hospital for a specialty consult. A CT scan and rhinoscopy revealed that Lu suffered severe rhinitis, with remodeling of the cartilage in both nostrils and a stricture farther back in her nose.

Tallulah's condition was delicate, requiring a careful cocktail of steroids, antibiotics, and antivirals. Gentle attempts to balloon open her nasal passage were unsuccessful,



Tiny Tallulah

and she required repeated visits to specialists for a corneal sequestrum,

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chronic herpesvirus with secondary



Tallulah was treasured every day of her life (including by her sizable foster siblings)

bacterial infections, and steroid-induced diabetes. To some, it might seem a lot of effort for one small, speckled cat.

But Lu would have been happy to prove such naysayers wrong. Despite her fragile condition, she belted out life's lyrics with gusto, loving every minute – and making massive amounts of

mischief – in her foster home. The tiny empress ruled over cats, (very large) dogs, and humans alike, delighting in a song all her own.

Tragically, Tallulah passed away unexpectedly shortly before this article was written. Even as our hearts are shattered, we're forever grateful. Thanks to you, little Lu knew many months of good health and vibrant joy, and she never knew a moment in which she wasn't adored. We will bear her melody in our hearts for all our lives.

## Forever Loved: Pingu

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

Pingu was named after a character in an animated children's TV series. And, like her namesake, Pingu's journey was a scene from a cartoon: picture a tiny cat, running for her life from the jaws of a hungry fox, but scooped up at the last possible moment by a friendly policeman.

But this was no cartoon...this was the situation that led little Pingu to Tabby's Place.

When we entered her story, the tiny kitten was only seven weeks old and barely touched the one-pound mark. She was dehydrated, with a severe URI that had invaded one of her eyes.

But, none of this could diminish Pingu's spirit: even as we rushed her to the emergency vet, she was



Pingu was cherished by friends of at least three species

happy to snuggle in a staff member's arms and purr her loudest.

Although Pingu's eye was permanently scarred, she seemed to recover. Our own uber-foster mom, Jess, took Pingu home to nurse her to full health. During periodic checks with our vet, Pingu seemed to be doing well, though our vet described her as stubbornly "non-thrifty<sup>1</sup>."

But Pingu was happy and fit right in at Jess' household, quickly making friends with the entire family, including two children, numerous cats, and two large dogs. Frequent updates and photos from Jess showed her "having a blast," with cartoon-cute hijinks aplenty.

Just when her life seemed to have turned the corner, Pingu began to show distressing symptoms. She would spike intermittent fevers, was frequently lethargic, and her appetite waned. Our vet examined her and was at a loss for an explanation. The only viable diagnosis seemed to be FIP<sup>2</sup>, a deadly viral disease that is impossible to diagnose definitively and has no known effective treatment.

Jess resigned herself to caring for Pingu as best she could, making sure she was well hydrated, fed and, above all, cherished.

Sadly, little Pingu did not



Beloved Pingu

have long. She began to have seizures, and Jess rushed her to the emergency vet. They were not optimistic, but worked hard to provide supportive care in the hopes that she might outrun bad luck one more time.

Early the next morning, Jess received the news that dear Pingu had passed away.

There are no words to convey the sense of emptiness and sadness that descended over the staff at this loss. I can still see her playing with the dog (whose head was larger than Pingu's entire body), snuggling with Jess, and running through the house like a maniac.

Rest in peace, baby girl.

<sup>1</sup>"Thrifty" is a medical term meaning "Growing rapidly or vigorously."

<sup>2</sup>"Feline infectious peritonitis" (<https://www.tabbysplace.org/fip-information>)



# Happy Endings: Tempura

Lisa Lauria, Development Associate & Samantha Levy, Adopter

At just six weeks of age, Tempura was found alone, outdoors, and unable to walk.

With a hearty appetite, a sweet disposition, and a large number of parasites, the tiny orange girl with the mysterious condition would need a series of diagnostics and tireless affection. She found both at Tabby's Place. A skilled staff member welcomed Tempura into her family as a foster kitten, and we scheduled a visit to a world-class specialty hospital.

Tempura's inability to walk



Tempura is treasured by her family, feline and human alike

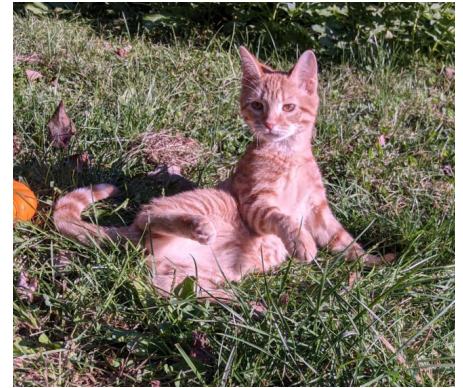
was accompanied by tremors, and the only way to conclusively diagnose her condition was to seek the assistance of a veterinary neurologist. An examination and MRI resulted in a diagnosis of cerebellar hyperplasia, a condition that impacts Tempura's fine motor skills and mobility. She thrived in foster care until a very special person reached out to us, hoping to offer Tempura a forever home in sunny Florida.

Tempura's family writes:

"Tempura has been such a blessing in our lives since the very moment we brought her home. I can't believe that we will be celebrating one full year of joy with her very soon!

Tempura has bonded with both of her brothers and has shared many cuddles and playtimes with them. Our veterinary team has bonded with her, too!

She is a feisty



Tempura sees life as a big field of fun

little fighter. Tempura does not see herself as 'special' or 'different,' and neither do we. She has gone through hydrotherapy classes to help strengthen her muscles, and now she walks through the house like she owns the place! Every day is a new day with Tempura, and every day we see just how amazing she continues to be.

When it comes time for treats, she is always the first one there. Sometimes, if we are lucky, we get to hear her 'sing' during treat time."

Tempura would like to use her beautiful voice to encourage you to support more kitties like her by contributing to the [Linda Fund](#) at Tabby's Place.

## THE 2021 LINDA FUND MATCHING CHALLENGE

PLEASE GIVE YOUR HEART TO THE CATS TODAY:

YOUR DONATION WILL BE  
MATCHED THROUGH 10/7!

