



Tabby's Place®

A CAT SANCTUARY

Newsletter 20.1
Spring 2022



New Beginnings: Rawlings

Angela Hartley, Development Director

With his golden heart and stuffed-animal smile, Rawlings deserved a bed of roses. But life was less than kind to our pudgy Valentine.

When his caretaker moved away, Rawlings was helpless. A team of

angels conducted Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) on his abandoned colony, building the cats their own heated haven. But despite receiving faithful care, the grey giant was constantly sick.

Through it all, Rawlings lavished his caretakers with love. It was as though his only concern was making sure everyone else felt special.

But the selfless cat with Special Needs was about to hear his own love song. Tabby's Place's mission is to save cats from hopeless situations – the ones “no one else wants” – and Rawlings' plush heart belonged in our arms.

Our vet team repaired Rawlings' entropion and continues to treat his stubborn upper respiratory issues, as well as possible diabetes¹.

Our colossal-cheeked sweetheart is ready for a snuggly Valentine's Day at Tabby's Place



Rawlings recovering from entropion surgery

Healing and happy, Rawlings reigns as King of Hearts, delighting in each skritch of his magnificent cheeks.

Thanks to people like you, the rest of Rawlings' life will be one long Valentine's Day. Thank you for your generous love!

¹ As of this writing, it's uncertain whether or not Rawlings will be persistently diabetic.

2021 Financial Summary

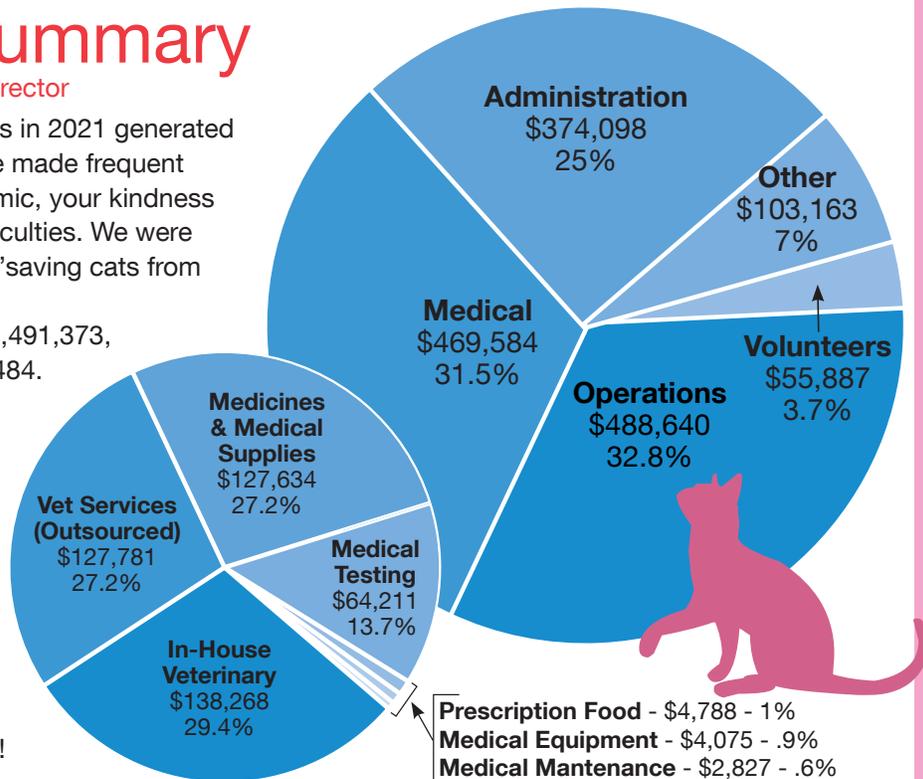
Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

Your unprecedented generosity to the cats in 2021 generated a record income of \$1,959,857. And, while we made frequent adjustments to cope with the ongoing pandemic, your kindness meant that the cats were oblivious to any difficulties. We were able to continue – and grow – our mission of “saving cats from hopeless situations” without interruption.

Our operating expenses for 2021 were \$1,491,373, leaving us with an operating surplus of \$468,484.

This will serve us well as we begin 2022 and continue work on our Quinn's Corner Expansion project.

Notwithstanding the pandemic, I am anticipating a spectacular 2022, as we work with you to expand our mission to the most vulnerable cats of all: cats with FeLV and neonatal kittens. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jr@tabbysplace.org or 908-237-5300 ext 226. Thank you for your extraordinary compassion!



Once a Tabby's Place Cat, Always a Tabby's Place Cat

Angela Hartley, Development Director

Love is meant to last a lifetime. But choppy seas can shake our little boats, and some "forever homes" are not meant to be.

Tabby's Place is a harbor for every cat we've loved, wherever their voyages may take them. Our lighthouse flashes a promise: "Once a Tabby's Place cat, always a Tabby's

Place cat."

Whether you're a feral in our TNR program or an alum whose adopters can no longer keep you; whether we last saw you five days or fifteen years ago; if you run into the shoals of strife or sickness, you're immediately welcome back into our arms.

Sometimes circumstances cause an adopter to feel they can no longer keep their kitty. It's not our place to judge, only to love. There's grace for everyone involved... and a hero's welcome for every cat who returns.

That welcome is a warm bath for cats like Marley, who came back after three years in an adoptive home. Now elderly and a bit apprehensive, Marley met an ocean of affection and patience at Tabby's Place.

Our promise extends to cats who have scarcely stepped



Conga's adopters were no longer able to keep him, but Tabby's Place kept our promise to this gentle boy

foot inside Tabby's Place. When we conduct TNR, we assure each of our feral friends that, should they ever develop health problems, they'll find a tidepool of tenderness under our roof, as well as the same matchless medical care we give every one of our cats.

Life is uncertain, but no tempest can thwart our devotion to every cat we've cherished. Thank you for helping us to keep the promise, "once a Tabby's Place cat, always a Tabby's Place cat!"



Marley has landed in the lap of love at Tabby's Place



You can support our cats with confidence.

Charity Navigator gives Tabby's Place four stars!

An Early St. Patrick's Celebration

Angela Hartley, Development Director & Lisa Lauria, Development Associate

You might not call four kittens with feline leukemia virus (FeLV) "lucky"...but something greater than luck has their eyes smiling.

This winter, Tabby's Place welcomed six kittens from a local TNR project. We dubbed the wee ones for Irish towns: two girls, Adare



and Kinvara, and four boys, Dublin, Doolin, Donegal, and Dunmore. Out of the cold and into warm arms, it seemed the kittens were "in clover."

But we were about to learn just how much these sprightly shamrocks would need the luck o' the Irish. All four boys, nicknamed "the Dublin Dudes," tested positive for FeLV.

Their (FeLV-) sisters have been adopted, but the Dublin Dudes' jolly jig continues at Tabby's Place. The brothers are lucky in love, leaping like leprechauns and enjoying world-class medical care. We hope that, like our previous



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“felvies,” the Dublin Dudes will be adopted into loving homes.

But most FeLV+ cats are not so



FeLV can't keep Donegal and his brothers from rejoicing

lucky. The disease is transmissible by casual contact and poorly understood, and infected cats are typically euthanized at shelters. Even Tabby's Place has, until now, had limited space for these wonderful cats, who require specialized housing.

But felvies will soon be shouting “top o’ the mornin’!” as a new day dawns at Tabby’s Place. Our Quinn’s Corner expansion will provide safe, loving accommodations for FeLV+ cats like the Dublin Dudes. Click [here](#) to learn more and to [help](#).



Dublin delights in the luck o’ the Irish and the love of a lifetime at Tabby’s Place



Smidgens vs. Seniors: Choosing the Right Cat for You

Angela Hartley, Development Director

If you’ve ever gotten starry-eyed over the Tabby’s Place Adoptable Cats page, you know there’s a whole Whitman’s sampler of hearts to consider, from young to old.

But choosing your next family member is no small matter, so consider these “conversation hearts:”



Kittens fill your world with zany zest. If you’re looking for rowdy romance, a tiny cupid (or, better, two) may be your match. But ask yourself: are

you prepared for a squirrel-sized supernova with endless energy? It’s healthy for kittens to run, leap, and push boundaries day and night. This may mean the greatest fun of your life...or great frustration. If you travel often or don’t have the patience to be your new babies’ playmate, consider a calmer cat.



Raising a kitten is joyful work – but it is work. Be prepared to guide them – perhaps hundreds of times a day – to make “good choices.” Kittens attempt to chew and scratch everything, and they elevate “toppling trinkets” to a fine art. Are you willing to risk a few knick-knacks and to “baby-proof” your home?



With an adult cat, “what you see is what you get.” If you want to be sure



Adults like Oscar have (mostly) mellowed out of madcap kittenhood



Snuggly seniors like Ralph have traded in hijinks for hugs

that your new beloved will be a lap cat, a talker, or any specific quality that makes your heart sing, get to know some seasoned adults. You’ll know what you’re getting into from day one.



If you crave a steadfast cuddle-buddy, consider a senior. Elderly cats are often the most affectionate. With their wild days behind them, seniors live at a slower pace and are more likely to doze in your lap than to rampage through your home.

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An older cat is generally closer to encountering chronic health problems. We're smitten with seniors and know they're just as deserving of love as their younger counterparts. But ask your heart: are you prepared (emotionally and financially) for medical issues in the nearer term? While there are no guarantees with any living creature, medical issues should be on your radar if you're considering a senior.



Everything above is just a guideline. There are sleepy, slowpoke kittens and sprightly, goofball elders; a young cat can develop costly health issues, while a sixteen-year-old may reach age twenty before needing any medication (Exhibit A: Tabby's Place's late, great Bucca).

Whenever you open your heart, you open your life to uncertainty... and the incandescent joy that makes life worth living.



Zesty toddlers like Rodeo will fill your home with chaos and laughter

Forever Loved: Sophia

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

Each of the 3,500 cats¹ we have seen over the years is special, and I have loved them all. But, once in a while, a cat instantly triggers in me a deep sense of empathy.

Sophia was such a cat. She arrived in 2016 from animal control, marked as a feral: her left ear was tipped, indicating that she had been trapped and sterilized before rerelease outdoors. She was not aggressive but scared. Frankly, she was not thrilled with other cats, either. She seemed lonely and frightened. My heart went out to her.

Sophia encountered people daily living in our Community Room. Over the years, she began to tolerate having her long fur brushed. She slowly came to enjoy human

attention and even seek it out.

She seemed happy to me. Looking back, I think she was.

After Sophia had been with us several years, our sharp-eyed medical team noticed a lesion on her nose. This turned out to be cancer, and, given Sophia's advanced age (at least 14 at the time), there was no feasible treatment. Nonetheless, Sophia continued to thrive, having now moved herself to the Lobby for some inexplicable reason.

Then, a second, unrelated (and untreatable) cancer appeared on her back. Sophia began to visibly decline. My heart broke as I watched as the cancer advance, while she slowed down.



Nasal cancer did not diminish Sophia's beauty, nor her spark

During her final months, I discovered Sophia's immense love of cat treats, which established a new tradition. Whenever I entered the Lobby, she would rise from wherever she was resting and look my way with anticipation. I would lock eyes, say, "Hi, beautiful," grab a handful of treats, and lay them out for her. This was the high point of many of my days.

I would never be ready to let her go, but one day, Sophia let us know she was ready. She went gently, surrounded by people who loved her more than life itself.

I miss you every day, baby girl.

¹ As of 02/01/2022



Always stunning Sophia



Sophia was loved from the hour of her arrival

Profile in Wonderful: Diana Garibaldi & Steve Wilber

Diana Garibaldi, Donor & Adopter

Unexpected, wonderful surprises: this is our theme.

Tabby's Place was just such a surprise when my husband Steve and I moved to NJ. We were thrilled to realize this remarkable sanctuary was only five miles from our home, but we decided that, no matter where we lived, we would be forever devoted to Tabby's Place.

After leaving high travel jobs, our dream of having cats together came true. Two rescue cats turned to four, then five: one big, happy family! Over the years, the Tabby's Place staff got to know our Finn, Raven, Cleo, Sophia and Callie through holiday



Thanks to Diana and Steve, life is a grand adventure for Max and Simon

cards, conversation, and letters.

As we endured losses, Tabby's Place was there for us. I remember sitting in the Lobby mourning Raven, marveling at how the cats eased my pain and how blessed I felt. We continue to draw comfort from visiting our cats' beautiful bricks on the Memorial Walkway.

Last fall, we were excited to meet with Jonathan, Angela and Lisa to learn more about Quinn's Corner... a dream-come-true haven for FELV+ cats and newborn kittens. We jumped at the opportunity to help by securing a Naming Opportunity.

Our visit brought another surprise, as we met two angel kittens, Chestnut and Strider. We hadn't been planning to add to our family, but we immediately fell in love and knew there was no going back.

The boys, now known as Simon and Max, are thriving! We thank Tabby's Place for rescuing them from hopeless situations and allowing us to be their new parents.

Being part of Tabby's Place is a special gift in our lives. Like the cats, the Tabby's Place people make us feel appreciated and special. The cats' stories of survival and hope prove that our donations are well spent.



Simon, Max, and their smitten mama Diana

Words cannot fully express our gratitude for everything Tabby's Place does for the cats. We look forward to the opening of Quinn's Corner, and I know we'll cry joyous tears as we celebrate this miracle!



The look of love is in Max and Simon's eyes...because Diana is behind the camera!

Feline the Love: Sponsor Your Sweetheart

You have so much love to give... but only so much room in your house.

If your heart throbs for a feline Valentine, have no fear: Tabby's Place is here.

For \$14/month or more, you can welcome a purry soulmate into your

life as a Special Needs Sponsor. At any given time, over 30% of Tabby's Place's cats have chronic medical conditions like diabetes, paraplegia, or heart disease. While it's our hope that every one

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Rose promises to bring you more joy than a dozen blossoms

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of our residents should be adopted, Special Needs sweeties are typically with us for an extended time.

You can make that the time of their lives by signing up as a sponsor. Your monthly donation will nurture a cat like Faye, Rose, or Boobalah, and your new sweetheart will send you monthly “love notes” in the form of email updates.

If you’re still looking for the perfect gift for your human Valentine, consider a gift sponsorship. We’ll send updates on your chosen kitty to

both you and your recipient, so you can share in love-filled adventures every month.



Boobalah beckons you, ‘be mine!’



Faye longs to be your feline Valentine

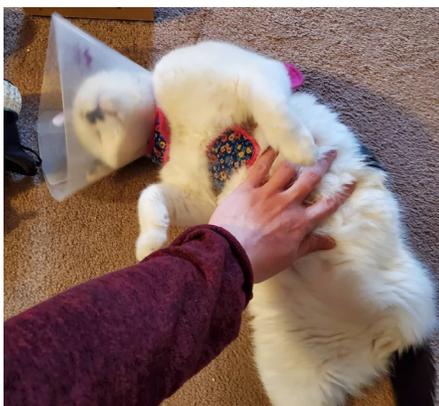
Happy Endings: Benny

Angela Hartley, Development Director

Each cat is a diamond, precious and unprecedented. But even among a species of standouts, “Benny from Beirut” stands apart.

Like every Tabby’s Place cat, Benny was plucked from a “hopeless situation.” Benny gave that phrase new meaning: he and his buddies had been injured in the 2020 Beirut, Lebanon port blast...and Benny’s injuries were extreme.

Fortunately, people and cats all over the world know Tabby’s Place as the ultimate haven for the neediest cats, and Benny crossed the sea to join our family.



Benny and Matt are the very best of friends

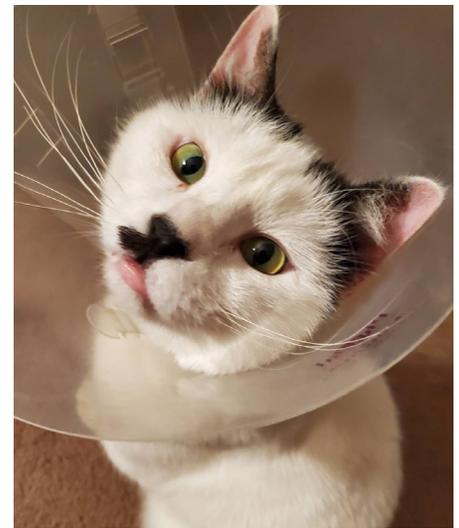
Benny required months of intensive care at a world-class specialty hospital. Multiple surgeries, leg amputation, and daily bandage changes made Benny the ultimate beneficiary of the Linda Fund, our special reserve for emergency and specialty care.

As Benny’s body healed, his spirit only grew sweeter and stronger...and so did a world-changing bond.

One of the gifted veterinary technicians who tended to Benny’s wounds found himself falling in love. Matt couldn’t bear the thought of not having him in his life. And so, Benny from Beirut became Benny the Beloved. Matt writes:

Upon first meeting Benny, I bonded with him quickly and realized I needed him, even though everyone at the hospital wanted him as their own. He became the hospital mascot and had a huge farewell send-off the day I brought him home.

Now, Benny greets me at the door every day, and I can hear him call out to me from the bottom of



Benny can barely believe how beautiful his life has become

my hallway! He spends copious amounts of time snuggled up with me and throws himself on his back to demand belly rubs.

Benny and I are inseparable. We have been an emotional support system for each other, and I don’t know what I would do without him.

At Tabby’s Place, we don’t know what we’d do without golden-hearted adopters like Matt, or generous donors like you. Thank you for making this love story possible!

PS: Check out Benny’s Instagram!

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