



New Beginnings

## New Beginnings: Kiko

Angela Hartley, Development Director

“Very sweet...very unstable.”

Such was the initial report on Kiko. But first impressions never reveal a cat’s full glory.

A world away from Tabby’s Place, Kiko was in a world of trouble. Born with cerebellar hypoplasia (CH), a congenital neurological condition

hobbling his motor control, the dizzy tabby survived off the kindness of strangers, tottering through the streets of Beirut.

But the globe – and Kiko’s tale – were about to take a turn for the glorious.

When Kiko crashed into the arms of Animals Lebanon, his selfless rescuers knew what to do. Clearly, this sweet-as-custard cutie was a “Tabby’s Place cat.” And so, Kiko packed his bags for the place where he’d bloom like a morning glory.

One trans-Atlantic flight later, Kiko has joined a long line of cherished CH kitties at Tabby’s Place. He takes the classic proverb “Fall seven times, stand up



Kiko, our little champion

eight,” and rewrites it, Kiko-style: “Fall seven times...turn it into a dance of joy.”

His “dance steps” may be unsteady, and his litter box accuracy imperfect, but Kiko loves being Kiko...and he loves being loved.

Thanks to you, Tabby’s Place is the hope and glory of cats like Kiko all over the world. And thanks to you, Kiko’s future looks “very sweet...very stable!”



Kiko is on a campaign to become the king of all hearts...starting with yours!

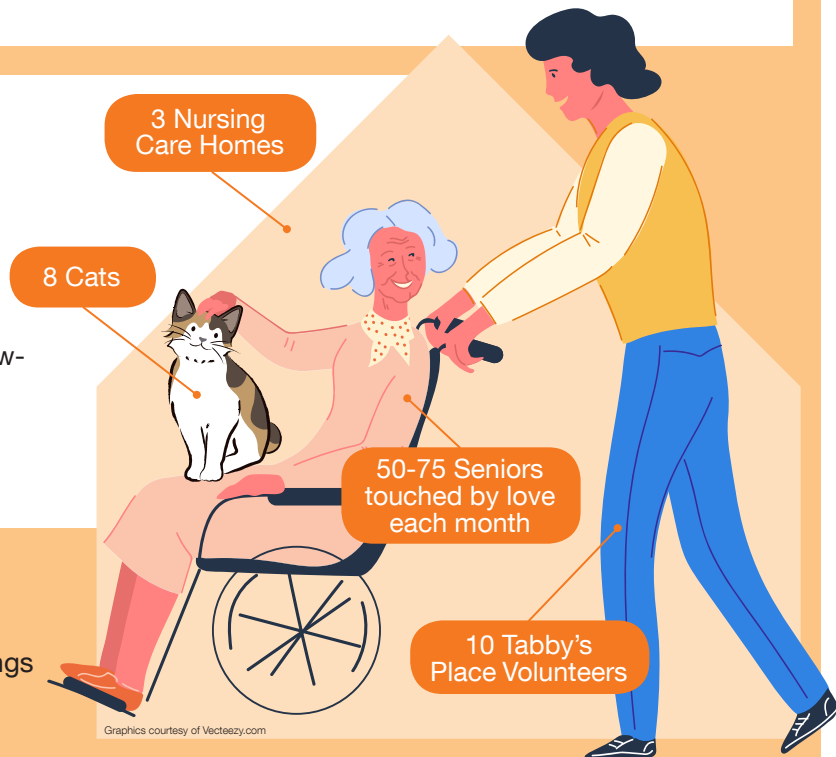
## A Golden Jubilee

Angela Hartley

You know every cat has boundless love in her heart. But did you know the Tabby’s Place cats have so much love to give, they can’t contain it inside our walls?

It’s true...and a special team of our residents are on a mission of joy. Every week, Tux, Ralph, and friends paw-deliver love and joy to neighbors in their golden years.

Turn the page to read more about our cats’ “love deliveries,” and check out their impressive accomplishments:



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# Love on the Loose

Angela Hartley

With apologies to DoorDash®, the Tabby's Place cats have the most delightful delivery service in the land.

Every week, a hand-selected band of cats hops into strollers and sets out on an adventure. Their mission: comfort and joy. Their success rate: 100%.



Anka, one of Aged to Purrfection's ambassadors of joy

Since 2018, Tabby's Place cats have been taking their love on the road to nursing homes. Accompanied by volunteers, our compassionate cats shower seniors with whisker kisses and bedside purrs.

For many seniors, these visits are the huggable highlight of their week, and we're often told that our cats rekindle the candles within lonely hearts. Eyes light up with fresh hope as Carrot cuddles up close; laughter fills the room as kittens somersault like tiny clowns.

As our feline caravan has resumed its travels post-COVID, we've also taken on a few new adventures, including visits with cancer survivors. Everywhere they go, the cats bring life and light.

It's yet another reminder that, as much as we think we're the ones



Love is Carrot's mission, and he always succeeds

doing the "saving," our selfless cats are truly our teachers. Quite often, it's the cats who have suffered the most – Special Needs sweethearts like Pepita, or public shelter survivors like Angelo – who seem the giddiest to give of themselves.

In the school of love, we all have a long way to go, but cats from hopeless situations are showing us what it means to give hope.

Your donation to Tabby's Place will help us to heal the healers, so they never have to miss a "delivery."

May we all be a little more like our loving cats!

Positively Lovable

## Positively Lovable

Angela Hartley

*Editor's note: Welcome to our newest column, celebrating our newest residents: cats with feline leukemia virus (FeLV). Our Quinn's Corner expansion will soon house up to 50 of these magnificent cats, who previously had nowhere in the world to turn. Join us as we champion these purring pioneers.*

You may have heard that feline leukemia virus (FeLV) is a terrible tragedy.

You may have heard that "feleuk" cats are sickly, suffering, and short on time.

You may be excited to hear a new, true song...and Durin and Miriel

would love to sing it for you.

Affectionately named for *Rings of Power* characters, Miriel and Durin are living their own fantasy story... but it's utterly real. When these snuggly friends were abandoned by their owner, they faced a foe far worse than orcs: a positive FeLV test.

In many shelters, the novel would slam shut on that very page. Most FeLV+ cats are immediately euthanized, as their disease is poorly-understood, difficult to predict, and easily spread among cats by grooming or sharing bowls.

But for the fellowship of "feleuk"



Mighty Durin

cats, there's a land lovelier than Tolkien's Lothlorien: Tabby's Place's

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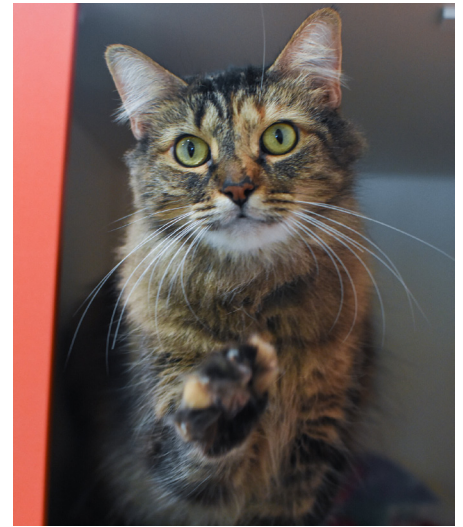
Quinn's Corner. Unique in the world, Quinn's Corner will be a kingdom of compassion where FeLV+ cats can thrive all the days of their lives. And, contrary to popular misconceptions, these living legends can flourish for many years, as strong as dwarves and as happy as Hobbits.

Durin and Miriel must have heard about Quinn's Corner from an eagle passing overhead, because they arrived a little early (we expect the new wing to be open in spring 2023). But they've already been merrily enfolded into the Tabby's Place tale,

settling into a small suite for our first handful of FeLV+ friends.

Sweet as a song and more magical than an elven queen, Miriel is pure beauty within and without. Her buddy Durin was dealt a doubly daunting hand, as he's also tested positive for FIV, but neither of these autoimmune conditions has dimmed his spirit.

It's a triumphant new chapter for two cats who want nothing more than to be cherished. Thanks to you, they've settled into the sweetest shire on earth, where their days will be ringed with the power of love.



Magical Miriel

Profiles in Wonderful

# Profiles in Wonderful: T. & L.

Angela Hartley

You could sail the seven seas and visit every star in the Milky Way, but never find hearts as big as "T. and L.'s".

They're blushing a thousand shades of scarlet as they read these words, but they are as true as their love for cats...and a daily inspiration to us at Tabby's Place.



The late, luminous Lacey, one of T & L's first Special Needs sponsorees

T. first came into our lives as a sponsor of Special Needs cats. From Lacey to Edward, Nuttin' to Luna, they each found a home in T.'s vast heart. Sitting on the floor with T. in Suite FIV, delighting in his delight in the cats, I was glimpsing the rarest kind of heart, and the kind of courage that gives love its strength.

Unafraid to love the most fragile, T. and his wife L. gave their hearts, over and again, to cats who they knew would pass too soon, leaving them grieving but grateful, wrecked but richer for having known them. To this day, they carry each one in their hearts' pockets.

Given their compassion for the most vulnerable cats, T. and L. have been lead supporters of our annual Linda Fund, which provides emergency and specialty care for little ones in crisis. And when Tabby's Place announced our first expansion, Quinn's Corner, T. and



Noble Nuttin' thought T's visits were absolutely everythin'

L. were early and exuberant angels, making a leadership gift that will save hundreds of lives in the years to come.

If Tabby's Place should ever open a satellite sanctuary in a distant star cluster, we'll still never find hearts like T. and L.'s. Stay tuned for our next issue, when they'll personally tell you what Tabby's Place means to them.



# YOU DID IT!

## You Made This The Biggest Linda Fund Matching Challenge In History!

Your dazzling donations, totaling \$295,000, will save the most fragile cats in the whole world over the next year. Thank you for your selfless love!



The matching challenge may be over, but you can still save the cats who need you most. [Click here to give your love and save a life today.](#)

# The Cats Who Would Be Kings

Angela Hartley

“How do you handle the cats who...well, hate cats?”

It’s a question we hear all the time. The answer is as unique as the oddballs we adore.

We wish our love could create a blanket over Tabby’s Place, wrapping all our residents in good vibes and gentle friendship. But try though we may to set a good example, we’re always blessed with a few “little kings and queens” who simply must rule over all who purr.

While we can’t give them their own private castles, we recognize their majesty and accommodate them accordingly. Depending on the cat, that may include...

- **“Small Community” housing:**

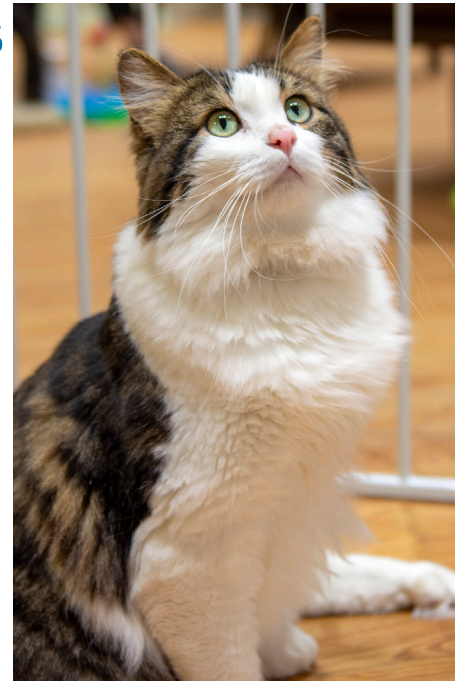
In our main suites, 10-15 cats rub shoulders. But in areas



Mighty Max enjoyed a private suite for much of his 2009 - 2019 time at Tabby’s Place

like our Lobby and Community Room, cats can choose a bit more distance from their own species. Staff offices house 1-5 cats, making them another piece of prime real estate for cat-averse cats. All Community areas facilitate socialization by staff and volunteers.

- **Musical suites:** It’s our earnest ambition to ensure that every cat at Tabby’s Place is housed where she will thrive. It’s not uncommon to go through a bit of trial and error with some of our more assertive cats, as we try them out in different “neighborhoods” until we find the kitty crew with whom they can live in peace.
- **Distracting riches:** Many of our cats benefit from stroller rides through our garden, vigorous play, and puzzle toys to stimulate their brilliant, imperial minds.
- **Behavior medication:** In some cases, a cat isn’t suffering from “hatred of cats” so much as anxiety. Medication can take the edge off his stress, enabling him to live among fellow felines.
- **A room of one’s own:** It’s only been necessary twice in Tabby’s Place history, but there are rare cats who cannot safely live with others. Currently, Anka reigns in his large fenced-off area in our Lobby. Even such formidable Lobby cats as Olive have learned



We’ve worked out a deal with Anka: we give him his own personal (fenced-in) palace in our Lobby, and he permits other cats to live

to give Anka’s empire a wide berth. But Anka is as happy as a grizzly bear on his own mountain, and as cuddly (with humans) as a teddy bear, so we’re more than happy to bow before his needs.

How do we handle cats who “hate cats”? We love them...exactly the way they are.



Frankie (more on him on page 6) saw himself as the cat who would be king



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Bring the love that only you can give. [Click here to sign up.](#)



# Love Never Ends: Bequests to Tabby's Place

Angela Hartley

If you're reading these words, you're a person who's led by love. As you consider the story you want your life to tell, we hope you'll write the cats into your heart's pages...and your estate.

Bequests are the largest, most impactful donations Tabby's Place receives. We depend upon these donations, and a generous estate gift can change the course of our year.

Your bequest to Tabby's Place can save

hundreds of lives. Please consider including our cats in your will and writing a beautiful future for the little ones who need you so much.

*Note: If you've already included Tabby's Place in your estate plans, we would love to sing your praises (and it would be helpful for us to note this in our records). Please contact Angela at [ah@tabbysplace.org](mailto:ah@tabbysplace.org) for more information. Thank you for your larger-than-life love for the cats!*



Your bequest can wrap cats like Pepita in love for many years to come

## Forever Loved

# Forever Loved: Faye

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

Pure white cats are highly prized. Throw in long hair, and you have a rare jewel, who is sure to be adopted quickly. This is a self-evident truth in the cat world.

But Faye was a rule-breaker. She was, indeed, pure white, long-haired, and strikingly beautiful. She was also prone to inappropriate elimination, which is why she ended up at Tabby's Place in 2015.

We welcomed her with open arms, and she quickly became a favorite, despite her "spicy" attitude. Faye knew she was the reincarnation

of a powerful queen ... probably Nefertiti or Cleopatra.

She carried herself appropriately, staying perched above the riffraff she was forced to live with. She accepted human affection, as long as it was brief, or accompanied by food. She was quick to dismiss unwanted attention with a flick of her scepter, which she apparently kept behind her claws.

The dinner hour was the only time she dropped her royal attitude, her screams increasing as the minutes ticked by. She became frantic if the food delivery was delayed until 4:15.

There was something reassuring about seeing Faye every day, (almost) never losing her dignity and holding court, even as her roommates changed frequently. I never failed to smile when I walked



We all still see Faye with our hearts' eyes in Suite B

into the suite and saw her. She seemed so permanent.

But, of course, "Everything that has a beginning has an ending,"<sup>1</sup> and Faye was no different. In 2019, the medical team discovered GI lymphoma.

In consultation with an oncologist, we started her on chemotherapy.

Faye tolerated the treatment well, and continued to thrive for nearly three years. Once again, she appeared permanent.

Once again, of course, she wasn't. Her decline was precipitous. Maybe this was a blessing. Her departure was fit for an Egyptian queen, surrounded by her loyal servants and caregivers.<sup>2</sup>

When I enter "her" suite, I still look for Faye. When I recall that she is no longer with us, I feel pang of sadness ... followed by a little smile. She is permanent, after all, in my heart.



She may have dazzled all who gazed upon her...



but Faye's truest beauty lay within

<sup>1</sup> Jack Kornfield, *Buddha's Little Instruction Book*

<sup>2</sup> We did, however, forgo the tradition of burying them with her.

# Home (In Your Heart) For The Holidays

Angela Hartley

Your house may be full. Your heart, on the other hand, is boundless.

You are exactly the person the Special Needs cats dream about.

For your donation of \$14/month or more, you can add a cat to your family today. Your gift will nurture your little one each month, providing life-saving medical care and daily doting. We'll send monthly updates and photos of your baby, and gleefully introduce you in person if you can visit.

You can also "gift-wrap" a kitty for a loved one by giving

a gift sponsorship. We'll send the monthly updates to both you and your dear one, so you can share the love.

Your big heart is needed in a



Radiant Rose would love to be your sponsoree

big way at Tabby's Place. Please sponsor your new best friend today!



Ponce de Leon promises to be the perfect pen pal for you or a loved one

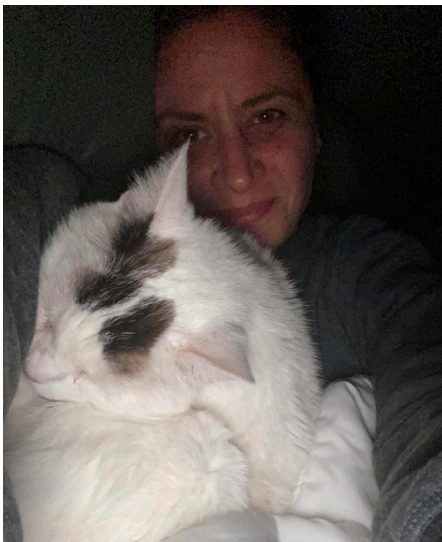
## Happy Endings

# Happy Endings: Frankie

Angela Hartley

It had to be him. And he just had to be loved all the way.

He was the living embodiment of the song "My Way." He was the saddest-eyed cat with the happy-go-luckiest spirit in Tabby's Place



Frankie's new mom tells us, 'he's the greatest, and we mesh so well together!'

history.

And he just couldn't seem to get himself adopted...or out of trouble.

From the hour of his arrival, Frankie was a legend at Tabby's Place. As long as a stretch limo, as white as the first snow, and as bold and blue-eyed as another New Jersey Frank, the old cat had lost his owner, but not his bravado.

Quite the opposite. And that was quite the problem.

Zesty Frankie zoomed through our Community Room with the energy of ten kittens. Full of fun, with a heart bigger than the moon, he seemed to sing, "you make me feel so young!" with every step. When it came to humans, Frankie never met a stranger, only a new best friend.

But Frankie wanted all felines to remain strangers in the night. Brassy and bossy with his furry neighbors,



Frankie reigns in his forever home, where he has apparently learned to open all the cabinets

Frankie assaulted unsuspecting cats for little reason other than sharing his space. Adopter after adopter walked away from our complicated crooner.

Until there was Erin.

At last, through the power of viral posts on Reddit, Newsweek, and TikTok (click here for the video seen 'round the world), Frankie found the person who would come fly with him.

At last, Frankie is loved exactly for who he is – and, might we add, not in a shy way. The best is yet to come!

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