



CHANGING THE WORLD FOR HOMELESS & AT-RISK CATS
IN CENTRAL NEW YORK - FOUR PAWS AT A TIME.

CNY Cat Coalition

September 2008

P.O. Box 6182

Syracuse, New York 13217

ADOPTION TALES

MR. CLANCY FANCY PANTS

Clancy hitched a ride home with Donna and Pat Chambers last Christmas, after hanging around the apartment of a relative who was in no position to keep him. He bided his time at PetSmart waiting for the "right" person to come along.

His wait was worthwhile as a woman fell in love with Clancy. After his adoption, she wrote that he is quite the character. Renaming him Mr. Clancy Fancy Pants, she says he is very tidy – as he washes his stuffed toys several times a week in his water dish and then leaves them out to air dry, where she always manages to step on one when she is half asleep. This may be his alternate method of seeking attention because he is too polite to really demand playtime. Clancy will gently tap her on the arm until she awakens to pay attention to him. It sounds like he really hit the jackpot when he found his new "mom."



"Clancy" - Photo courtesy of Donna Chambers, © 2008



"Mel and Helena" - Photo courtesy of Donna Chambers, © 2008

THE LOVEBIRDS

Helena and her kittens came to Pat and Donna Chambers last summer. Helena was very scared and spent most of her time hiding in the rafters. She loved to be petted but was easily frightened. The Chambers' feared she wouldn't get adopted.

Mel was found wandering in a parking lot and went to stay with Pat and Donna as well. When there was an opening, Mel went to the PetSmart adoption center, but no one expressed interest in him. Both Helena and Mel were listed on the Petfinders web site without any responses. Helena seemed to gather courage just by being near Mel, her "big strong protector." After awhile, Mel and Helena became quite close and were listed on Petfinders as "lovebirds."

Eventually, the Chambers' were contacted by a woman, who had been looking at their listing for weeks and really wanted to see them. She arrived for the "meet and greet" with carriers in hand, certain that these were the kitties for her! Introductions went well, and Mel and Helena went to their new home.

Letters from the woman revealed that Mel made himself right at home immediately, and Helena is coming around bit by bit. With her hero at her side, she can do anything!



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I have been president of the CNYCC for two years now, and I just want to take this opportunity to acknowledge all of the folks who have helped me keep going through this period. Just when I don't think I can listen to one more story or track one more thing or when the kitty poo is just too much, others, who seem to do it all, give me a reason to keep going. The joys of working with the cats themselves provide a reason to keep going, but sometimes it's the guys who can talk back who help as well. I won't name names, but you'll recognize yourselves, I am sure.

So...I am in awe of those truly dedicated to the care and rescue of our furry friends – those who spend the night in their car or some other uncomfortable place waiting for the trap to close and go back when they realize there is more than the one reported cat, or just keep waiting if the critter is just too clever to step right in the trap. Or maybe these individuals crawl under a porch or climb on a roof or squeeze into the shed to save mom and her kittens taking refuge there. They may arrange care for the many, many cats and kittens, which we get calls about everyday – sometimes in their own homes (and oh, the daily time that takes), or in other foster homes (and oh, the tracking and supplying that can take). How can I do less in my efforts?

But they are only the top of the inspiration pile. There are our many volunteers who give what time they can – a couple of hours caring for the cats at PetSmart, passing out fliers to inform the public that spay and neuter help is out there, pouring beer at the SU games, transporting animals, answering the phones – each one giving what and where they can to help. Then there are the foster homes, which open up and take in those who are waiting for adoption – some who need special care to become healthy or friendly enough for adoption and then pass those kitties on to forever homes. WOW!

And not the least, there are all of you – sending in your hard earned money; a little or a lot as you are able. Or calling to find out how you can help the cat on your porch or in your neighborhood and using that information to make a difference. Or talking your neighbor into calling us and fixing their pets. Or providing temporary care until more room is available in foster homes or adoption sites.

Every time I am too tired or overwhelmed to try to make things work, I remember some of you and think “OK, I'm not alone in this, and I can do what needs doing.” And, hopefully, someone, hearing what I have been able to do, will also step forward to make a difference. Thank you all for every thing.

-- Michelle Powers, President

Monthly Meetings

Please join us on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Bellevue Manor senior residence, 4330 Onondaga Blvd. (between Western Lights Plaza and the Taunton Fire Department). Detailed directions on our web site.

Meetings are casual, and you're invited to share a light meal. For November and December date changes due to the holidays, check our web site or call our Helpline at 315-289-2287.

You too can help the cats!

No time to pour beer or space to foster cats? There are many other ways you and your friends and family can help support the cats.

- Set aside monies collected from bottle and can returns.
- Turn in your printer cartridges (see separate article).
- Have the kids rake leaves in your neighborhood and donate the proceeds.
- Have a budding baker in the family? Think about a homemade cookie sale.
- Go creative! Make catnip toys to sell at your local store (check in advance for permission)

You may not think a little makes a difference, but with everyone helping, it all adds up! Have Fun and Thanks!

PLAYERS FOR PETS

The Cat Coalition was very fortunate to be chosen as one of the beneficiaries of the 2007 Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Assn. Upstate Conference's TYCVT (This Years Charity Volleyball Tournament). Several players and sponsors selected CNYCC to receive funds from the conference tournament, which was run in conjunction with the Syracuse University Men's and Women's Volleyball Clubs. Thanks to all who supported our mission.



MEGA RESCUE

The Cat Coalition was recently involved in a very unusual endeavor for the group. You may have heard about the trailer at Casual Estates, whose owner became ill, and the overwhelming cat situation that came to light. The Coalition is not set up to “take in” cats. We have no shelter and our foster home network is always full, due to the rescue efforts of our volunteers. We usually try to provide assistance and information to help people resolve their own cat situation without removing the cats. But, we got a call from another rescue group, and several of our volunteers agreed to help.



Surfer

Some of our volunteers helped to catch and trap the many cats and kittens living inside. It was smelly and dirty, and cats were everywhere. The poor animals were scared – having their home invaded by a bunch of strangers moving everything around, grabbing them and sticking them into small containers and then taking them OUTSIDE (most had never been out of the trailer). But once they had time to settle down in clean, safe places, we found that most of the cats were quite friendly.

Credit should be given to the woman’s nephew, who, once he realized what was happening at his aunt’s, refused to give up until he had found help for the cats, and helped with their removal. Local firefighters, police and code officers made it possible for the rescuers to work in the trailer and helped on the first day of rescue.



Esther



Emily

We quickly realized that there were more cats than could be placed into foster homes immediately. Fortunately, a temporary location became available, which allowed us time to work on homes for them all. Volunteers from several organizations came in daily to clean, feed and reassure the cats. We were able to enlist several new foster homes to help with those cats our regular volunteers could not foster. We used the Spay and Neuter Syracuse clinic to provide basic physical exams, flea treatment and testing of all of the adult cats. We sent adult cats to the CNY SNAP clinic in Cortland to be spayed and neutered. Dr. Marco Coronado of Cazenovia treated some of the cats with more serious conditions. Several of the local pet stores - PetSmart, Pet Supplies Plus and PetCo - provided emergency supplies through their corporate grant programs.



Oscar

A total of ninety cats and kittens were removed from the trailer park. The Coalition’s foster homes are caring for 79 of those animals. To date, we have adopted out ten adults and ten kittens and will continue to work on finding homes for all. Such a large rescue has, of course, strained our finances and current foster home network. We welcome all donations to help offset the large financial outlay made for these kitties, and also welcome new foster homes for the dozens of calls we get each week about individual cats, litters and colonies that need help. For further details about fostering, call 289-2287 or check our volunteer web site page.

FOSTERING FALLOUT

One of our new foster volunteers dove into fostering with a passion. She started by bottle-feeding four orphaned kittens, which were abandoned in a box in a rural suburb of Syracuse. Two of the kittens, Tom Thumb and Thumbelina, were adopted by a woman who wrote that they were her constant companions during recovery after surgery. She said that “Tommy” is the most loving animal that she and her husband have ever seen and needs to be loved 100 times a day!

In addition, she referred a friend to our volunteer after he found six kittens abandoned at his barn. Through the foster volunteer and the Coalition, he received advice and help with veterinary care. During recovery from their spay and neuter operations, he became so attached that he adopted all six into his home!



Left - Tom Thumb making himself at home.

Below - Dora, Wuss, Tom Thumb and Thumbelina are shown by others how to eat on their own!



A REVOLVING FOSTER HOME

The Cat Coalition received a call from a single mother of three children, who was trying to feed all of the neighborhood cats which were either left behind when their owners moved or were kittens born to these abandoned cats. She was overwhelmed and needed help to spay and neuter them and to place some in good homes. The surgeries took place as soon as appointments could be scheduled, but since there were no foster homes available, the cats were returned to the woman’s home.

A friend of someone who was currently fostering a litter of kittens became interested in our foster care program. Carol Van Tassel had one cat herself and really loved cats, but felt she didn’t want to take on the long-term responsibility of adopting another cat herself. It was decided that she would foster the cats from the multiple cat home. While one kitty was in PetSmart waiting to be adopted, another one would be tested and placed with her. As one was adopted, another moved into the “pipeline.” So far, four cats have been fostered and adopted through this revolving foster home. What a wonderful way to make a difference in the lives of so many cats!

SOCIALIZING A SHY KITTY



Cindy and Brian Travis, utilized their sunny enclosed porch, outfitted with a large cage, toys and other kitty treasures, to foster one of the rescued trailer cats. Seeley, a black shorthair young adult male, was initially very scared.

Cindy reports that he has made great progress in trusting them and now has the run of their porch. Seeley peeks through their window watching for Brian to bring him his special treats.



HAPPY ENDING!

Jessie and Alissa Reid are new to the fostering scene, but have provided a temporary residence for four kittens and one adult since offering to help the Cat Coalition. Jessie is also a regular volunteer at the Fairmount adoption center, often taking home bedding to wash as well.

Two of their foster kittens came from very different backgrounds, but bonded so well at the Reids that we hoped they could be adopted together. Wicket was part of a feral litter born under



Wicket

the porch of a restaurant to a friendly female stray cat. The rest of the litter was socialized by the restaurant staff who also adopted them. But Wicket was more scared than his siblings and refused to be caught despite several attempts. Finally, he trusted one person at the restaurant enough to be put in a carrier. He then headed off to the Reids, where his mom was already being cared for. Initially Wicket kept hiding when anyone came into his room, but gradually, as Alissa and Jessie spent time playing with him, Wicket became comfortable enough to be held and loved.

Penelope (or Penny until she grows into that name) was the last surviving kitten in a house where there were seven breeding females and two males—all unaltered. At the time of the call to a Coalition volunteer, there were three nursing litters there. As each of the cats was neutered, they were returned to their owner, who wanted to keep some of them, but couldn't decide which ones. Two litters went to another rescue person, but as soon as Penny was eating on her own, she went to the Reid's home where she was kept separate from Wicket until she was old enough for a viable feline leukemia test.



Penny

Wicket's mom had been adopted at PetSmart, and he needed a playmate. After a clean bill of health for Penny, the two kittens were introduced to each other.

Wicket seemed to blossom with Penny around, and both were placed in PetSmart for adoption. Their new adopter wanted to keep them together as well. So they went from different backgrounds to one great home – thanks to the involvement of a caring foster home.

THE HONEYMOONERS

Luke drifted in from who knows where and started to eat outside one of our new foster homes. He was friendly and had the best personality! Unfortunately, he tested positive for feline leukemia and had to be kept separate from the other cats in foster care there.

By coincidence, this volunteer was helping another person to trap strays around her store, and one of the cats, Pauline, also tested positive. Two cats - both in isolation. That shopkeeper recently moved to the country where her new place had a small guesthouse. Luke and Pauline were introduced and are now inseparable in their new "honeymoon cottage."



BY THE NUMBERS

The CNY Cat Coalition has a wide-ranging list of programs that help people to help their cats in many ways. In 2007, our volunteers:

Distributed or fed to foster felines 30,520 pounds of low-cost nutritious dry food;

Arranged for 822 Spay and Neuter surgeries;

Adopted out 373 cats and kittens through the PetSmart adoption centers; and

Through our partnership with the North Shore Animal League, traveled to the NSAL shelter on Long Island a total of seven times, bringing 145 kittens and cats to be placed up for adoption in the Tri-State area.

STOP THE LITTERING

The CNY Cat Coalition primarily participates with two low-cost spay/neuter clinics.

At the CNY SNAP clinic, the statistics from January 14th through August 25th of 2008 are: 245 female cats and 172 male cats altered. At the SANS clinic to date in 2008, 78 female cats and 39 male cats were altered.

In 2007, the Coalition assisted in getting a total of 484 female cats and 338 male cats altered. CNYCC does not own a vehicle; volunteers use their personal vehicles and absorb most travel related expenses. These cats were transported to and from various veterinary clinics in Upstate NY. Each cat is examined and vaccinated for rabies and distemper, as well as treated for fleas, ear mites and other minor medical conditions if necessary.

This spay and neuter assistance is extended to pet, feral, stray and free-roaming cats. By working with a number of County agencies, other humane organizations and the public, numerous cats throughout the region have gone through the Coalition program. The CNYCC has no paid staff, and volunteers spend countless hours on the phone, year round, addressing various stray cat situations and scheduling appointments, as well as providing pickup service if the owner has no car.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all of the volunteers who are drivers, schedulers and who man the phones. Without you, none of this would be possible. The spay/neuter programs' continued progress moves CNYCC closer to its goal of NO MORE HOMELESS CATS.

SPOOKY

Let me introduce you to Spooky, one of the many felines helped by the Coalition. Spooky used up a couple of his 9 lives recently when he was shot three times – in his head, hip and front leg, which was shattered. The vet estimated that he wandered his neighborhood for 2-3 weeks before anyone took notice and called the Coalition. By that time, his front leg was so badly injured and infected that it had to be amputated.

Spooky never lost his trust in people though, staying extremely friendly throughout the ordeal of cleaning and caring for his damaged leg. All he asked was a little attention and to be petted during treatment. About a year old, Spooky is a black shorthair male, who is up for adoption. If you would be interested in giving this loving kitty a home, please call 289-2287.



And remember that Spooky wouldn't be here today, if some concerned person hadn't stepped forward to help him. If you see a situation of an animal in need, please be that caring individual who offers it help.



TEACH ONE TO REACH ONE

The Education Committee recently conducted a poster contest based on Responsible Pet Care. Students at the Roberts K-8 School in kindergarten through 8th grade submitted original drawings illustrating one important message from their assigned Grade Level Theme. Posters were judged by Coalition volunteers on originality, creativity, message and visual effectiveness. The winner of each grade level received a family membership to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo.

The contest, prizes and educational materials were made possible by these generous supporters: Dr. Natalie J. Woodall, Kathryn Laubengayer, Ms. Joanne Paino, Giannina DeFuria, Joelyn Cornwell, David and Tamara Danner, The Stedman Family, Oliver Brown, Cynthia Jones and DJ VanKeuren & Family.

Our winners were:

Louisa and Michaela Reitzel, Ellie Mayberry, Clayton Markhas, Mairead McIntyre, Katie and Allison Anderson, Aaliyah Randall, Miranda Kramer, Hallie MacKnight, and Mya Maring.



Winning posters were exhibited during the Greater Strathmore Neighborhood Association's "Art on the Porches" event on June 14th, 2008. Congratulations to all of the winners, and thank you to all of those who supported this educational event.



Standing below their winning poster in the kindergarten level are twins, Louisa and Michaela Reitzel.

BECOME INVOLVED!

Agnes is now a spunky little orange kitten with cute ear tufts – which look like angel wings, but she's just plain lucky to be alive. A Coalition volunteer got a call saying that a sick kitten was spotted in a cemetery, but the people calling were not giving it food or water. It turns out that Agnes wasn't only sick, she was literally starving to death. She had no strength to even get away from the flies around her or move when the volunteer showed up to get her.

With a matted coat, ribs showing and suffering from an upper respiratory condition, she required

immediate medical attention, including fluids and antibiotics.

Her two brothers were not as lucky – they weren't reported as soon as she was, and, as a result, one has permanent eye damage from an infection. They have all regained their health and are ready to be adopted, but, with earlier intervention, their recovery would have been less intensive and, perhaps, without permanent injury.

Please become involved when you see an animal suffering. If you won't, who will? We need everyone's help to make a difference.

IN HONOR / MEMORY OF:

The people below have shown their appreciation of loved ones with a contribution to the CNY Cat Coalition. We thank them and all our other donors.

If you would like your contribution to celebrate a relative or friend (of any species), send your check along with a note, or designate the reason for the contribution on the donation form. Send to CNYCC, P.O. Box 6182, Syracuse, NY 13217.

<i>Lucky and Buddy</i> Dawn Jorgensen	<i>Tiny - a very precious kitty</i> Inez M. Gozzi
<i>For our many beloved cats who are no longer with us</i> Ruth Keach	<i>Jake and Sasha</i> Mom and Dad-Patricia and Earle Edwards
<i>Aletea Ralko Decuffa</i> Maria Ralko Szkotak	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Marc Woodroe</i> Patricia P. Shuhart
<i>Nicholas, a grateful kitty rescued and adopted from PetSmart, for his friends at CNYCC</i> Saundra Macidyn	<i>Aslan, Pywaaket, Heckatge, Calisto, Garomeade and Id - several lucky felines</i> Mary Therese Dean
<i>Elton B. Burnham</i> Ruth Burnham	<i>Alfie - a very lucky feline</i> Karen Adams
<i>the beloved Josie</i> Sylvia Matousek	<i>Pat Smith</i> Dianne and Sal Villano Ann Jamison CNY Developmental Services Jan Markarian
<i>Dancer</i> Martha Galanis	<i>Ruth Kotsch</i> Allan and Karen Minnig
<i>Ben and Shane</i> George and Jean Borasky	<i>Our Dads on Father's Day</i> George and Jean Borasky
<i>Ellie and Rudy adopted in January of 2003</i> Robert LaBelle	<i>Marie Horan</i> Sally Gould
<i>Furball - beloved cat of David Patterson</i> Judith Ruta	<i>Mom on Mother's Day</i> George and Jean Borasky
<i>Gwen and Penny</i> Bennett and Grace Levine	<i>Mary Jane Woodard</i> Mark and Linda Burdick
<i>Lillyapricot and her kittens, abandoned and rescued from #2 Road in Manlius, and placed in loving homes</i> Dr. Robert and Terry Flower	<i>Ray Pickering</i> Mark and Nancy Skipworth
<i>Pepper and Tramp</i> Bonnie Renaud	<i>Dad Flera</i> George and Jean Borasky
<i>Tigger</i> Elizabeth Thatcher Keck	<i>Thelma Fasen and Mickey</i> Sam and Judy Felicia
<i>the resident zoo animals Amos, Simon, Reggie, Andy, Stella, Stasha and Nutmeg - the lovely felines. Seamus & Josey - the kitties attentive guard dogs</i> Sharon and Raymond Tuthill	<i>Thelma Fasen</i> George and Jean Borasky
<i>Angus, Gwedon, Briana, Douglas, Patrick, Llewellyn, Gwenyth, Bridget and Brady with love. And in honor of Rowan, Connor and Neila - all wonderful cats</i> Jane and David Miller	<i>Cowbear</i> Victoria Blackwell
<i>Annette Sherwood</i> a Christmas Gift from your sister-in-law Katherine MacDonald	<i>Indy Indiana</i> George and Jean Borasky
<i>Tommy and Thumblina - two orphan kittens that originally didn't stand a chance</i> Robert and Beverly Thorp	<i>Oreo</i> Jenny Spencer
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Marc Woodroe</i> John and Deborah Berigan	<i>Mom and Dad Flera</i> George and Jean Borasky
	<i>Molly</i> Jennifer Anderson

FOSTER GRANT PROGRAM

Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll see articles highlighting some of our foster care people and the kitties they have helped. Part of this was accomplished through a wonderful grant the CNY Cat Coalition received from PetSmart Charities, Inc. We committed to setting up 20 new foster homes where we planned to process between 240 and 320 cats and kittens during the grant period from May 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008.

Some of these new homes were so designated because the Coalition did not have any available places to care for the pet or neighborhood stray, which the people wanted to surrender. They then agreed to care for the cat with the Coalition providing food, litter and start-up equipment like a litter pan, some toys and a scratcher. Cages were also loaned, if needed, to confine young kittens or a skittish cat for socializing. Other new foster people were enlisted specifically to care for situations which long-time foster people run across, but could not personally handle. The

established foster people became mentors for the new foster homes, answering questions, delivering supplies and coordinating veterinarian care until the felines could be put up for adoption or go to North Shore Animal League. In a few cases, ferals were released back to a monitored colony.

Our bottom line at the end of the grant period showed we exceeded our goal with a total of **335 cats and kittens** taken into **37 new foster homes**. Was it work? Sure it was! But we feel that this grant allowed that many more cats and kittens to be helped. Not all of these people wish to continue with foster care, so the Cat Coalition is again searching for people with a little time, a spare room and a lot of love to give those unwanted kitties a safe place to live during their transition to a fur-ever home. If you'd like more information on becoming a foster home, please call Carolyn at 315-469-6569.

SU FUNDRAISER

SU is back in session and that means sports, and that, to us, means pouring beer! This is one of our major fundraisers for the year. We pour beer for the first half of each home football and basketball game. Then we get a "Dome" meal and can either go home or watch the end of the game. The more people we can provide, the more money we can make.

There is a dress code – no shorts, sleeveless shirts, no open shoes or sandals.

So if you'd like to help cats without even seeing one or would just like to watch the games, give us a call at 289-CATS (2287).

Handy Reference

CNY Cat Coalition:
Spay/Neuter Line: 420-SPAY (7729)

Helpline: 289-CATS (2287)

Web site: www.cnycatcoalition.org

On-Line Adoption Sites:

www.Petfinder.org

www.Pets911.org

www.adopt-a-pet.com



Name _____

Address _____

Amount Enclosed _____ **E-Mail Address** _____

Donate in memory or honor of a beloved human or animal.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

I would like to volunteer _____ **Telephone** _____ **Cell** _____

Please send donations to CNY Cat Coalition, Inc. P.O.Box 6182, Syracuse, NY 13217

CNYCC is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

09/08

SPAY & NEUTER EDUCATION

The Northside of the city has been the focus of the Coalition's Educational Committee. Brightly colored fliers, highlighting the dangers of not having pets altered and the benefits of having them fixed, list the Cat Coalition's spay/neuter number along with information on two low cost clinics – Spay and Neuter Syracuse (SANS) and the CNY Spay And Neuter Program (SNAP). Volunteers are buddying up to spend an hour on a number of Saturday mornings leaving fliers at homes and businesses in this economically depressed area. So far, 1500 fliers have been handed out.

Since starting this distribution, calls to the Coalition's spay/neuter line have jumped from 1 to 2 per day to about 7 per day. This is very encouraging, as the best way to stop the unwanted cats and kittens is through getting them spayed and neutered.

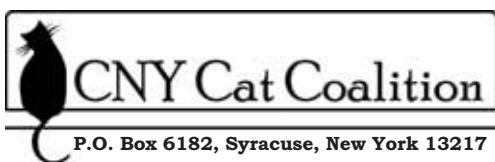
If you have a little time and want to get good exercise as a bonus, please leave a message at 420-7729 or email to justcrin@aol.com to volunteer for this effort. Indicate that you are calling to volunteer for the flier distribution. Thanks!



Printer Cartridge Recycling

An ongoing program helping to support the Coalition is the recycling of empty printer cartridges. Depending on the cartridge, the Coalition can receive up to \$2.00 for each one. Pre-paid mail bags are available, as well as collection boxes for any participating business or office. Contact Caren at justcrin@aol.com or 289-2287 for details.

A copy of our latest annual report may be obtained, by accessing our volunteer web site at: <http://www.orgsites.com/ny/cnycatcoalition> or upon request, by writing to: New York State, Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271



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